



#### **KENT**

I truly cannot believe that I am writing September's magazine report already - this year has just been a blur!

Lots to report on this month for a change. Firstly, yours truly is celebrating 25 years as a greenkeeper! I could wax lyrical for pages of this magazine about the many highs and a few lows I have experienced in my time on the four courses I have worked at but, in a nutshell, all the high points revolve around the many professional greenkeepers I have met in my career and our combined focus on producing a fine golf course for our guests. The best years, however, have been here at Birchwood. A combination of decent employers, employees, golfing clientele and, ultimately my involvement with BIGGA and you guys on the Kent Section have kept me going through the odd moments when the clouds have appeared. Long may it all continue and here's to the next 25 years!

On to golfing issues and what an Open Championship we have just witnessed at the truly magnificent links of Royal Birkdale. Congratulations to everyone involved in producing and hosting a memorable competition. Padraig Harrington was not even expected to play at the start of the tournament due to a wrist injury but his back nine on the final day was just perfect golf played by a true gentleman of the game. All of our courses get a boost when such a great Open Championship is staged, especially when it is won by such a popular British character, so many thanks to all who helped in it's success.

Back in Kent we recently played our Summer Tournament at Canterbury Golf Club. Many thanks to Mick McGarret and his team on producing a great test of golf for us on the day. Thanks also to our gracious hosts at Canterbury Golf Club for the courtesy of the course, a great dinner and for donating a couple of prizes. Results were as follows: 1st Wayne Syers, 42pts; 2nd Barry Bradshaw 39pts; 3rd Paul Rudkin 37pts; 4th Kev Morris 36 pts.

I wouldn't normally mention who came fourth but our esteemed Chairman, Kev, was truly gutted that he was beaten by one point to the prizes! The Handicap hatchet man will definitely be looking at Wayne Syers' 24 handicap before our next event. Barry Bradshaw also won Nearest the Pin and Duncan Kelso's prize for the Longest Drive of the day was a trolley. This wouldn't normally merit much of a mention but Duncan has never used a trolley in his life and he did his best to see how many people he could trip over with it by parking it strategically behind his chair at the post golf meal!

Although I played like an old donkey on the day, the practice obviously did me good as a week later I managed my first (and probably only) hole-in-one while playing with Kev Morris in his Captain's Day event at Redlibbits! Many thanks to Kev for the invitation to play on his superbly presented course and providing me with a memory to be treasured forever!

Don't forget our next event is now upon us and is to be played on the

links of North Foreland GC, on September 24. We are not due to meet up until 10.30 on the day so plenty of time for us guys "Way Out West" to make the very worthwhile trip across to this glorious section of Kentish coastline. Entry forms are, as ever, available online at: kentgreenkeepers. co.uk Please do fill them in and send them to me at Birchwood Park as we need to be able to confirm numbers with host golf clubs for their catering requirements at least a week prior to the event. Also we still have a couple of slots available if anyone would like to nominate themselves to host an event early next year. Please contact Kev or myself if you are willing to have us at your course.

I'm off on my summer holidays now down to the south of France.

Keep smiling guys! Best of British (and French!) Rob Holland



#### **ESSEX**

Only a few days to go before my staff and I entertain the Section at Three Rivers, this is made doubly hard as our sister club Stock Brook, The Country Club has their annual three day Pro tournament and Pro-am in the same week and staff from Three Rivers help out for the three days of their tournament. We shall over come as they say. Though by the time you have read this it will all be a thing of the past.

P Tuckwell Ltd, in conjunction with John Deere, have just hosted the Essex round of the John Deere Team Championship at Abridge GC, Hot of the press as I have just returned from the course that was presented in pristine condition and every one who played came away with only good things to say about the course Thanks to Geoff Smith and his team and Abridge Golf Club for a very enjoyable day and to James Tuckwell and Neil Peachey for entertaining us all so well. 20 teams took part on the day.

The results are as follows: 1st Warley Park GC, Net 60; 2nd Lexdon Wood GC, Net 61; 3rd Abridge GC, Net 61 on count back; Nearest the Pin, Fernando Teixeria, Three Rivers; Longest Drive, Will Sjoberg, Epping. Abridge Golf Club go to the final at Turnberry as the first two teams contained Professionals.

The winter (why we call it the winter tournament, I don't know as we are still in autumn) tournament beckons and we descend on Bently GC on October 2. I'm sure Mark Stopps and his staff will have the course in top class condition for the day. Details and links to all our sponsors can be found on the website along with links to other interesting sites. With up to date information and other things.

Arnold Phipps-Jones www.essexbigga.co.uk Please contact me at essexbigga@talktalk.net or: 01206-852.353 / 07764-862.337

# und the Gre



#### **SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES REGION - SOUTH WEST**

I started last month's report with Education - Education - Education. I'm probably going to start this month's with Rain - Rain - Rain. Monday, July 28 - we had 27mm in just under 20 minutes and a mini-tornado to boot. Knocked the tops out of dozens of trees, and completely ruined all 120 bunkers. I had to close all the bunkers for the next two days for emergency repairs. Often after a thunderstorm or heavy rain, we'll get the odd bunker with washout - but never ever all of them. In 34 years on golf courses I've never seen anything like it.

Thank God for the petrol Sand Scorpion with a front blade. What a machine for dealing with the big bunkers. Smaller bunkers needed a layer of soil and stones scraping away by hand, and then the Mantis to loosen them up. This is probably only the first stage, as some of the sand is completely spoiled contaminated with sub-soil and stones. The only remedy is to remove it all in the winter, and start again. It did cross my mind that we could replace all the sand, and then get the next mini-typhoon to put it back to square one again. The bitter irony of this storm was that it came on the very day that we commenced a borehole pump test to investigate whether there is sufficient groundwater for fairway irrigation. Answer - yes - plenty!

Happily, conditions were much more benign for the Summer Tournament at The Bristol. This beautiful new course featured superb views of the two bridges into Wales, manicured fairways, firm fast greens, and good food. This was our first visit, and our thanks go to the Crown Golf Organisation and Laurence Pithie for hosting the event, and particularly to David and his team for the preparation of the course.

Grateful thanks on behalf of the Section. Unfortunately the turnout was a bit disappointing - my apologies also - however, this is your Section, your Association - please do use it. Getting together with other greenkeepers is so important.

More congratulations to the Section Team, captained by Wayne "The Special One" Vincent after the 4-2 trouncing of the South Wales Section at St. Pierre recently. As Wayne said - "always nice to go over the bridge and come back with the trophy!" Speaking to Steve Chappell earlier today, he said the course was fantastic, the food excellent, and plentiful, the weather for once was kind, and "the only thing wrong was the bloody result"! Nothing personal guys and see you next year. Our huge thanks to St. Pierre for allowing us the course yet again.

Thoughts are turning towards the autumn\winter education season. There will be the opportunity for further Excavator Safety Training courses - please let me know by email if you're interested. The first one is likely to be in Somerset so please let me know your early interest. I've been approached by a couple of Section members asking for a seminar specifically on the maintenance and renovation of Bunkers. (In view of the above - this mightn't be such a bad idea for me!) We hope to hold a day or half day on

the construction\reconstruction of bunkers hosted by Laurence Pithie and Richard Whyman early in the winter. Again, please let me know interest. Also - please suggest any other subjects which may be of interest. We would certainly consider further Management Training with Frank Newberry, but again, we need numbers so please let me know.

The AGM is at Marlborough GC in October. This is your chance to speak directly to your committee to try to change anything you don't like about the Section. It is also your chance to put your name forward to serve on the committee to definitely change anything you don't like. So please do make every effort to attend this day, and support your hard working committee. They, like me, are ordinary working greenkeepers who put up a lot of their time because they believe in a strong section and industry. Do please

Finally, if I could close on a personal note. Some private remarks made by me some time ago, have recently appeared in an article in a commercial golf magazine. The article appears to criticize BIGGA for offering poor education. As the BIGGA South West Section Education Officer, I find that rather an odd context in which to place them. My apologies for any embarrassment caused.

**Paul Worster** paulw@mgcnew.co.uk



### **SOUTH COAST**

Greetings to all and welcome to my last Around the Green. What! No more notes from Joe!? So, why the sudden departure? Well I am glad to inform you all that I have been promoted at Vitax and now hold the position of Sales & Marketing Manager for their new Fine Turf Division. I've been so busy and travelling all over the UK the last few months that I am not getting the time to put the reports together the way I like to and also not catching the news and info. When the Golf Day at Burley took place I was in Scotland! The change also means, with much regret that I have to stand down from the committee. I would like to say a very huge thank you to Tony Gadd and all the guys for their help and of course to Jane Jones our fantastic Regional Administrator. But before I get too emotional I would like to add that I still aim to get to some of the Golf Days and would still like to offer my help at the Seminar and of course will still call in to see people at their clubs.

The Summer Tournament was held at Burley GC on Thursday, July 10. The day was an invitation day and as usual turned out to be a great social occasion. The staff and members at Burley were very friendly and helpful. The Section would like to thank Burley GC for their fantastic hospitality and courtesy of the course. A special mention to Alan the starter (so it seems my position for Mr. Starter is under threat!) and Anne who provided a great service with the starter cards. The sponsors for the day were Tacit and we would like to offer a big thank you to them for their continued support. The golf course was in excellent condition and much praise must be given to Tony



Locke and Derek Place for the hard work and effort put in to presenting the course. The food was absolutely amazing by all reports so a big thank you to the staff that served and cooked for us. It sounds like I really did miss a great day! The results were: 1. Tony Gadd & Ray Hunt (B.O.S Captain), 43pts on count back; 2. Kevan Glass & Tony Hindmarch, 43pts; 3. Tony Locke & Richard Moyle (President Burley), 41pts. Longest Drive – Dave Ross. Nearest the Pin – Rob Wills.

The next golf day is the Autumn Tournament which is to be held at Salisbury & South Wilts GC on Thursday, October 9. If you would like to play please contact our Tournament Organiser Kevan Glass at the following address: Apartment 1, Forge Side Court, Lepe Road, Langley, Southampton SO45 1SS or on mobile 07859 053054 or on email: glassy2003@hotmail.com.

I am really pleased to announce the return of Chris Sturgess to the committee and that he will be taking over the Around The Green article every month from now on so if you have any news for the section please contact Chris Sturgess on: 02380 492084 or Mob: 0777313 8409.

Joe Crawley

ne section please contact 313 8409. Jern gre 077

This workshop will help participants develop a more confident and relaxed approach to presenting. Participants will be more aware of their presentation style and how to adjust it to their audience. Simple techniques will be developed in order to improve self-confidence. Focus will be given on how to make the message of the presentation consistent and compelling. Help will also be given on deciding on the correct visual aids.

The workshop will take place on November 4 at Launceston GC. Cost is £60 (including lunch and refreshments). This course is kindly being subsidised by BIGGA thus offering you some excellent training at an extremely good price. Please contact Graeme Gallimore as soon as possible to confirm your place. A £30 deposit will be required.

Graeme Gallimore graeme.gallimore@btinternet.com 07782247472

Jerry Cole greenwaysjrc@aol.com 07764 224582

### **DEVON AND CORNWALL**

Since my last report we have had our summer meeting at Lanhydrock Golf Club in which we had a 'friendly match' - Devon versus Cornwall - where attendance was high on this eagerly anticipated day! The format was 4BBB in which Devon just came out on top winning four matches to three, well done all the Devon players and hard luck to Cornwall. We hope to make this an annual event as it proved to be very popular and enjoyable.

Our thanks go out to Martin Morgan, the Head Greenkeeper and his team, for the superb condition of the course and I have to say certainly one of the prettiest courses I've played, also thanks to the weather or perhaps Abi, our Secretary, for her foresight on the date chosen - we we're blessed with the best day of the year so far!

Tee times were in the afternoon so we had a hot and cold buffet early in the evening which was most enjoyable, our thanks to the catering staff and all at Lanhydrock for a wonderful day. Thanks as usual to our sponsors, Symbio and Toro for the day.

Our first autumn/winter meeting will be at St Mellion, in October, where we have a free trip to BTME as our main draw prize. On the subject of St Mellion, a big thank you to Mike Bush (Course Manager), for his time showing us around in August with all construction work and changes that they are currently undergoing!

Finally details of the workshop in November: Autumn Workshop 2008 - "Communicating with committees"

### **Section Notes -**

Can all notes be emailed to: melissa@bigga.co.uk by the 5th of the month prior to publication please. Suggested word guide: 500

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#### **CROSSWORD**

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#### **ANSWERS:**

- 1. Liverpool
- 2. Mary Decker
- 3. 13
- 4. Lazio
- 5. Kevin Keegan
- 6. 15
- 7. Cricket
- 8. Graham Taylor
- 9. Minnesota

#### MONSTER SUDOKO

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### **SQUIGGLY SUDOKO**

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# **BIGGA MEMBERSHIP**

# Greenkeeping can offer you a career for life and a lifetime of learning

Student Membership of BIGGA (for those studying full-time)

Greenkeeping is a rewarding and challenging career choice for all ages and abilities from school leavers to those considering a career change, let BIGGA help you develop your career as a greenkeeper by becoming a Student Member.

### Membership of BIGGA will provide you with: -

#### **Greenkeeper International**

The Association's much read magazine packed with up to the minute information and features providing you with valuable research and perhaps even helping you with your assignments. Delivered FREE to you door monthly.

#### **Membership Handbook**

Providing you with an extensive guide to the products and services relating to the fine turf industry and the contact deails of the major companies supplying those products and services. The Handbook also includes a comprehensive greenkeeper membership section.



#### **Harrogate Week**



Entry to a world class trade event. The Trade Exhibition has over 200 exhibitors and 8,500 visitors. There can be no better place to 'Continue to Learn' than

taking part in the education programme. Students will find much that will demand their attention including seminars of specific interest. On production of your Student membership card you can attend the seminars FREE of charge. Not to mention the fantastic networking opportunities available throughout the whole of this week, another valuable way of learning...from those already in the industry.

#### **On Course Field Guides**

To aid with your study further, Student members are entitled to receive a FREE copy of each of the field guides available in the series. Produced in a handy to use and read format. Thanks to the contributors to the BIGGA Education and Development Fund there are five in the series: -

- · Golf Course Grasses:
- Identification and uses of the main grasses found in golf course rough;
- · Identification of trees and shrubs on the golf course;
- Identification of damage caused by mammals and birds;
- · The major diseases and pests of fine turf.

# **BIGGA Lending Library**

Can't find the book you require in your local library or College Resource Centre? Why not check our library listing to see if the BIGGA lending library stocks the title for which you are looking? The lending library is available to all BIGGA members, allowing them to borrow up to two books for up six weeks, the only cost is return postage.

#### **BIGGA Website**

Check out the latest Jobs online by visiting www.bigga.org.uk

Application Form - for an application form either download a form from the BIGGA website at www.bigga.org.uk/join/membershipforms/ or contact the membership team on 01347 833800 option 1 for membership.





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Please apply in writing together with a full CV to: The Course Manager, Lilley Brook Golf Club, Cirencester Rd, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham, Glos GL53 8EG

# **Preston Golf Club**

### ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Applicants should have a minimum of 2 years experience, have or be working towards NVQ level 2 or equivalent and be enthusiastic and motivated. Spraying and Chainsaw certificates would be desirable.

#### Closing date 30th September 2008

Applications in writing with CV to

Andrew Merry, Course Manager,
Preston Golf Club,
Fulwood Hall Lane
Preston, Lancashire, PR2 8DD
or email greens@prestongolfclub.com

# WYKE GREEN GOLF CLUB require a DEPUTY COURSE MANAGER

Enthusiastic and committed person required to join our energetic and professional team. Team management skills essential. Opportunity for a confident, self motivated individual to develop his/her skills in an 'open minded' environment

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Please apply in writing with a CV to

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# ENMORE PARK GOLF CLUB Somerset, England



# DEPUTY COURSE MANAGER

The position will suit an experienced Greenkeeper who is able to deputise for the Course Manager; the position is hands on, reporting to the Course Manager you will join a green staff team of 6. Ideally you will have a rounded experience; at least NVQ L evel 3, with up to date spraying experience and general course maintenance; along with a good knowledge of Health and Safety and a keen desire to keep Enmore in peak condition, you will be remunerated well including pension and benefits.

Visit our website www.enmorepark.co.uk where you will find further details of the position; then send your cv with a covering letter outlining your suitability to

The Personnel Manager Enmore Park Golf Club, Enmore, Bridgwater TA5 2AN Closing date for applications 30th September 2008



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#### WHATEVER THE WEATHER

As I write we are only in the middle of August and we are getting into holiday season in terms of school holiday cover - the guys among you who are also parents will know what a hassle that can be.

At The Belfry we need to make the most of our quiet times, and August is generally a quieter month in terms of corporate golf, we also want the guys to have some rest-bite before tournament preparations for the Quinn Insurance British Masters in September.

We will be stepping up the hours from after the Bank Holiday in August until the end of the event.

I would like to thank the guys who applied to work at this year's event, we have now notified all the successful applicants and we have final numbers now going into the event.

It has been a strange year but I have been seeing all the bent grass population doing better than in previous years. The golf course is in good shape in terms of preparations, and mainly the bunker renovations are the biggest jobs, checking for sand levels is something that needs attention.

The main concern for the late September event is daylight hours and rainfall. Any delay due to weather means we could struggle to get the event through four days.

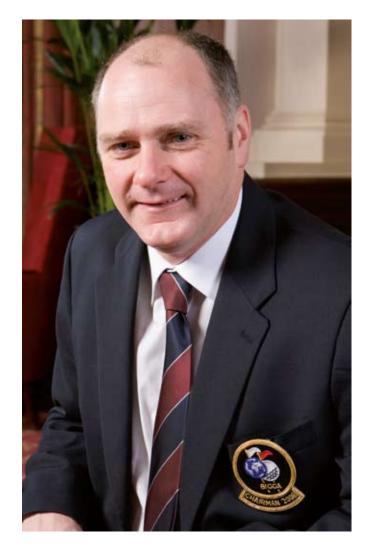
Weather wise, this month has been a complete wash-out for the first 15 days of August, we are now starting to see loss of revenue in terms of buggy and trolley use, it feels more like winter golf with rakes and roping off out there.

This is when you wish you were working on a links course or in warmer climates. As you all know in these commercial venues, these lines of revenue are crucial to the business and the decisions we have to make are not only greenkeeping agronomy based but also we have to take account of the business interests in terms of cash flow which pays the wages in a resort.

I would like to recognise Paul Woodham, Course Manager at Gay Hill GC, for the training workshops that he puts so much in to for irrigation and Health & Safety. Once again Paul has hosted a course and it has been really well received with people travelling from far afield which proves there is a big need out there for training. So thanks for that.

We have the IOG Saltex show at Windsor on September 2, 3 and 4. We hope to see many visitors this year on the BIGGA stand and a recruitment drive for new members.

I will be attending the Toro Student of the Year final at Aldwark Manor on Monday, September 15. I am very much looking forward to meeting future stars within our industry. It will be a great day.



I am sure we are all looking forward to the Ryder Cup, as it is not far away as all the Majors have now passed. We are now approaching the final qualifier at Gleneagles and I am sure Nick Faldo will have some thinking to do about his wild cards as it is getting very tight within the qualifying group. I would like to wish Scott Fenwick and his team at Gleneagles all the best for that tournament.

I am looking forward to seeing all our volunteers and anyone within the industry at the Quinn Insurance British Masters here at The Belfry. More about this in next month's column.

Kenny Mackay Chairman



Your next issue of GI will be with you by October 7th Visit our website for a full archive of BIGGA magazine issues at www.bigga.co.uk