

chance of a prize there is to be a slight change this year in the way such are distributed: There will be an overall 1st, 2nd and 3rd, plus the next best in handicapped categories 1, 2 and 3 (I hope that makes sense). Please see our website at [www.biggamidlandsection.com](http://www.biggamidlandsection.com) <<http://www.biggamidlandsection.com/>> for an entry form, or ring Rhys Thomas on 07775 581 615 or Gary Cunningham on 07780 953 764 to enter. It would be lovely to see some new faces this year, why not come and see if you enjoy it? You will be made very welcome.

This month's calendar page sponsor is our old friend Osprey. To add a shot of sense to your water management and distribution needs please see their website: [www.ospreywmg.com](http://www.ospreywmg.com) <<http://www.ospreywmg.com/>>. Our thanks to Osprey.

Many congratulations to Paul Woodham, who has left Gay Hill G.C to start a new career with the STRI. Paul started with the STRI on March 1 and we wish him all the best on behalf of the committee and members of the Midland Section.

My thanks to our Chair, Ed, for the above. If, however, you would like a little more to our notes then please email me on [sean.mcdade@homecall.co.uk](mailto:sean.mcdade@homecall.co.uk) with any news. I look forward to your many emails (yes, it is the first!).

And yes the trout season's open, and what a shame that Grayling take the same flies.

Sean McDade



## East of England

Finally, two weeks without rain, no sign of any snow, temperatures above 5 degrees (just!) and, dare I say it, a sight of the sun. Maybe things are finally looking up after the long trek of a winter we have had.

Our Section had its Spring seminar on March 10, at Newark Golf Club. The day included presentations from Graham Williams, John Deere Irrigation; Gwyn Preece, John Deere Sprayers; Peter Wisbey, talking about working in Portugal and Spain (appealing after this winter!); Alan Martin,

Mansfield Sands, about the process of getting topdressing and topsoil from the quarry to the golf course; and a course walk from Course Manager, Graeme Macdonald, showing some of his re-construction work and heather generation projects. Many thanks to all speakers for an interesting and informative day, and to Newark Golf Club for their hospitality, especially the "Cow Pie".

Our golf fixtures for the season have been finalised, with one change of venue to last months post. The fixtures are;

Newark Golf Club

Thursday May 27, tee off 1pm; Tydd St Giles Golf Club, Thursday, July 15, tee off 1pm; Lincoln Golf Club, Wednesday, September 22, tee off 1pm; Match vs Trade, Louth Golf Club, Thursday October 14, tee off 11am; AGM, Sleaford Golf Club, Thursday, December 16, tee off 11am; Christmas Bring and Win

All members are invited to the golf days and we look forward to seeing some new faces this year.

Many thanks.

Steve Beverly, Immingham Golf Club.

[steveimmingham@aol.com](mailto:steveimmingham@aol.com)

## South East Region



### Surrey

Sunday March 7. I hope you all enjoyed Ron Christie's 2010 newsletter and his attempts at humour at the expense of his fellow members. I did and thought I would never start laughing. Poor John Ross has never had a face that looks like Adversity, whoever she may be, and to ask us all to share in the Section's support, that who knows who wore last time, can only lead to a potential pandemic on the same scale as bird or swine flu. Then on to blaming yours truly for Surrey not winning the Tri County Match in 2009 when you all know that my card must have been tampered with for I am sure the 4 and the 1 must have been reversed by some ill meaning and envious person or persons unknown.

Scotland v England and the

shortest paragraph in the newsletter. Just imagine how long that it would have been if the win had gone Scotland's way, not a paragraph more a book!

The section on Education I liked and if only its curriculum included English Grammar then maybe our Secretary in his Magazine section, when referring to my joining the Chipolatas, would realise that an apostrophe is only needed in the possessive case. And lastly, everyone knows that the so called photograph of me must have been altered, it's definitely my body but whose old bald head have they put on top? Thanks Ron 10 out of 10 for effort.

The Gentleman's Dinner at Walton Heath was a great success, the course was excellent, the weather was warm and sunny, an unexpected delight in early March and the meal, as always, very good indeed. One of my playing partners was Derek Farrington, a kindly but somewhat absent minded old chap who in his latter years really likes an electric trolley to help him round a golf course. He hired one from the pro shop and all went well until our 9th hole when the trolley appeared to run out of power. No amount of wriggling wires got it going and with regret Derek decided to leave it at the tee. He put his bag on his back and mumbling obscenities directed at the pro and all electrical goods continued on his merry way. We arrived at the green but before putting out we looked in astonishment at the said trolley as it raced driverless towards us. We thought that the next group had managed to repair it and sent it on its lonely journey but no we were told later that they had not. It had apparently decided, as they were approaching the tee, on self repair and rushed off, ran into the rough, toppled over, righted itself, hurtled between two bunkers and returned to Derek like a lost dog delighted in finding its master. It had a few more unplanned stops but did finish the round and if I could buy a trolley with that amount of intelligence I'd swap it for my sat nav any day.

Sorry almost forgot to report that the winner of the Ray Day Memorial Trophy was our very own Secretary, Mr W R Christie Esq'.

Yesterday March 6 was the Wedding day, in Leatherhead,

for Sara Worden and Course Manager Neil Gilham, Reigate Hill GC. Congratulations to you both from Surrey Greenkeepers.

Application forms for auditions for the Chippendales can be obtained from any committee member except myself. For the Chipolatas just forget all about stardom, wrap yourself in bacon, find a friendly turkey and wait for Christmas

Brian Willmott

Email [brian.willmott@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:brian.willmott@hotmail.co.uk)



### Essex

Another dismal month on the weather front, though over the last few days it seems to have picked up a bit so lets hope we are through the worst of it.

We have just had our second committee meeting of the year and feel that we have made some good decisions. Firstly on the golf day front, and the most important, I'm sure, is the cost of the golf days. Entries for the rest of this year are capped at £15 Greenkeeper members and Section Sponsor's and £20 for Trade (Non Sponsor) & Guests.

We have standardised the prizes, making a much fairer system. With the same prize values give out for the division winners and also runs throughout the four main events. We have done the same for the overall winner, who not only gets his place at the National Championship but gets the same value prize at each event. Trade and Guest prizes have also received the same treatment.

We have also dropped the Longest Drive in favour of two Nearest the Pins. This is a much more open way, allowing more players the chance of a prize.

Secondly, we have decided to have a blind pairs competition at our second event at Channels. The way this will work is that every player, plays his own game and then after everyone has finished the cards will be shuffled and drawn to find your partner. (a) It's a bit of fun and (b) it gives everyone a fair chance of winning if you get a good draw. The winning pair wins a place at the National.

You should by now have received your fixture book for the season (if you lose it, you will be able to download a new one from the website). We have done it this way to cut down on the postage cost. Over the last year we sent out a minimum of six mail shots which was at a big cost to the section. So this year we are sending out just the new fixture book, which will contain all the entry forms for the coming year. We will then remind you by email, nearer the day of the event. It's important to us that you let us have your current email address so we can contact you quickly, so please if you have not yet done so, let me have them.

We have purchased a new laptop and digital projector, to keep records of the golf scores and it can also be used when we have any seminars or talks. We have also decided to project the starting times and results. So watch out at the golf days, from now on your scores will be in highlights, so you'd better get out on the range and hone that game to avoid embarrassment.

We welcome five new sponsors to the section this season, Advantage Environmental, BFS (Billericay Farm Services) BMS Products, Chaingreen Ltd (Sea Nymph) & Old Forge Mowers. I will publish the full list of all our sponsors next month.

The website has moved forward in leaps and bounds. I think we are nearly there with the main structure; I will from time to time make changes as and when is needed. Sponsors will have their own page as well as a link to their site. The interesting thing for us is that you will be able to see any special deals or tips they might have at the touch of a key. The addition of a new style photo gallery will make for some interesting comments I'm sure. There will be one for every event through the season.

The Forum with a Login is now working and although I have had a few glitches, I think it is all right now, try it and see if it is still giving a problem get in touch.

Plans are still ongoing for an education seminar later in the season, but watch out on the website for training courses that Paul will be running throughout the year.

I understand that Antony Kirwan did very well at the

Walton Heath Gentleman's Dinner event the other week, finishing in second place in the 0 - 10 category and taking the Longest Drive to boot. Well done Antony and well done to the others from our Section that made the trip, I understand it was a good day out.

Ben Scrivener, long time deputy at Benton Hall, is on the move, taking the Head job at New Malton Golf Club near Royston, in Hertfordshire. Well done Ben and good luck in your new position, I for one, know you will do well. We hope to see you at some of our events, when you've got yourself established in your new position.

I look forward along with the rest of the committee to seeing as many of you as possible at our first Golf day at South Essex Golf Club.

Tuesday, April 27. Smart Casual Dress. 12.30pm, Start time. One tee Start. Full details can be obtained from the website.

If you have any news for this magazine or the website please contact me by email: [essex-bigga@talktalk.net](mailto:essex-bigga@talktalk.net)

Arnold Phipps-Jones  
Press Officer.



## Kent

There are many things in life which are uncertain and very often, unlikely. Such as Millwall winning a trophy, for instance. And we often say, "That'll happen when hell freezes over", never really understanding or appreciating what that could actually be like.

Well, few would have believed that a humble group of greenkeepers from Kent would ever grace the links of one of the greatest golfing regions in the world, but, on a day when hell actually did freeze over in a continuous blast of ferocious, arctic winds that had brass monkeys crying as if they'd lost certain vital organs, the men of Kent played Princes Golf Club.

On arrival at Princes, we were greeted by an odour so bad in the car park that we were, at first, appreciative of the wind to stop us all from being violently ill. The order of the day as far as attire

went was to get as many layers on as possible to protect yourself from the cold and not to worry too much about what having the flexibility of a breeze block what do to your golf swing.

The course itself was fine, albeit in a very much "under construction" state as pretty well every bunker was undergoing a major re-vamp. Recent rains in these areas had produced the best revetted ponds I've ever seen. It was, however, firm and fast as any true links should be. A prospect for any budding inventors soon became apparent not too long into the round. After picking my bag up for the umpteenth time after it had yet again blown over during my backswing, it became apparent that at such wind prone venues a traditional two-legged bag stand is woefully inadequate. So if someone could design a sturdier option, and I'd recommend something with guy ropes, I reckon they could corner the market.

On reaching the halfway point and discovering that there was no hot refreshments available we manfully willed ourselves on to do further battle with the back nine. The wind at this point had reached such an intensity that even the seagulls had upped sticks and gone somewhere far more sensible. Unfortunately, an extremely notable absentee at this point was Vic Maynard, from ErnestDoe, who regularly patrols all the venues we visit offering sustenance in the form of various tonics and refreshments to help us survive whatever nature throws our way. At Princes, Vic's wagon was deemed inappropriate making battle with the elements all the harder. Playing golf in any shape or form was now becoming almost impossible as the wind got colder and bodies stiffened up. 36 brave men managed to complete their rounds, however, and after defrosting in the showers for an hour or so, were rewarded with a lovely dinner. Results as follows: 1. Adam White, North Foreland GC 34 pts; 2. Steve Gunner, Wildernesse GC, 34 pts (count-back); 3. Michael Roberts, Knole Park GC, 33 pts; Longest Drive, Mark Roach, Redlibbits GC, and Nearest the Pin to Darren Child, Hawkhurst.

I would also like to thank Matt Pledsted and Kevin O'Neil, of Muswell Hill GC, for being two very welcome guests on the day.

Our usual post match dinner couple of pints was cut surprisingly short at Princes unfortunately. Indeed, we had barely put our spoons down from pudding when Kev was ushering us out the door as he was designated driver for the day therefore, if he can't drink, no-one can!

One low point of the day was the cost incurred to the Section by eight members, who had promised to attend four days before the event, but decided not to go, for whatever reason, after we had confirmed numbers with Princes. The club, rightly, charged us for the numbers we queried them and, as a result, it cost the Section several hundred pounds of your money. After a long discussion with the committee we have decided that, in order to safeguard Section funds for everyone's utilisation, we shall now be asking for payment up-front for future events. I know this decision will not bother our regular attendees who appreciate the efforts we go to as a committee and the importance of sponsors contributions which have bailed us out on more than one occasion.

I don't want to finish on a low note so I will just say a big thanks to Clive Osgood for organising another fantastic Annual Gentlemen's Dinner at Walton Heath Golf Club. Ian McMillan's course was, as ever, absolutely superb (and the weather was good!).

Roll on Spring  
Best of British  
Rob Holland  
[www.kentgreenkeepers.com](http://www.kentgreenkeepers.com)



## London

The season is just around the corner and it won't be long until we are all moaning about heat and lack of water. I for one can not wait for the season to start.

Not a lot to report this month, just one month to go before our first event which I think we all know is at Ealing Golf Club. To be held on May 20 and if you have not entered yet, make sure you do it soon. Greg Evans is going to show us the course at its best I am sure. The cost of the day includes golf plus a meal for just £20! This tournament is

getting full already with a second list of entries for other section members. Remember this is also the National qualifier. The first and second place winners will get their expenses paid trip to the National Championship at The Berkshire. After all the debate don't miss your chance to have a closer look!

Here is a reminder of fixtures coming up in the section-  
2010 Fixtures

The spring tournament, May 20 at Ealing Golf Club

The Summer Tournament will be held on July 21 at Muswell Hill Golf Club. We will have a BBQ after the golf with golf dress welcome all day, so no need for your shirt and tie. Also the club's Brewery is going to be supplying a bar on the course, plus Sherriff Amenity will also be there with another halfway hut!

The Turkey Trot will be held at Wyke Green Golf Club on December 2. This will be another great day in the calendar.

Please if you have any questions or suggestions on the section please contact us.

You can call or use the web site [www.biggalondonsection.co.uk](http://www.biggalondonsection.co.uk).

## South West and South Wales



### South Wales

As I write this column, it is still bitterly cold and I am sure that most of us turf professionals are still wondering when spring is going to come along and thaw our greens out! Mind you, by May you will be so busy that you may meet yourself coming back and your summer strimmer boys have, with no warning at all, gone to Glastonbury for a long weekend!

I am also typing this and sending it up to HQ quickly before March's edition of GI comes out, as I did poke fun at a few people last month and want to get April's column to print before I get advised to 'tone it down a bit'. On reflection, it did seem a little harsh to infer that Gerald Orme looked like a gnome as he doesn't have a beard, or to my knowledge, any interest in

angling. Sorry Gerald!

Anyway, back to the Section. Here's what events are taking place in April:

April 14 - Evening lecture visit to Celtic Manor 2010 Course. Tour of facilities with Jim McKenzie before return to maintenance compound for a comparison between the upcoming Ryder Cup and the last Ryder Cup at Valhalla. Jim will be joined by Chris Sealey & Mike Nash who worked on the support team during the Valhalla Ryder Cup. Meeting at 5:30 to 8:30. Event as always sponsored by Countrywide Turf & Amenity. Our thanks to Martin and Peter for their continued support.

April 22 - 'When the Circus Comes to Town' South Wales Spring Seminar at Royal Porthcawl Golf Club. This year's topic is preparation and recovery from tournament golf and we have lined up four top course managers to give us a 12 month calendar covering all aspects of preparing for, hosting and then recovering from a tournament. The speakers are Gordon Moir, St. Andrews Links Trust; Huw Morgan MG, Ashburnham GC; Ian Kinley, Royal Porthcawl GC, and Jim McKenzie, Celtic Manor Resort. They will be joined by Richard Windows, from the STRI, who will be discussing the Open Championship and the STRI & R&A's input from an agronomic point of view. The tournaments featured will be The Open, Ryder Cup, European Seniors Open & Home Internationals. This year's event is sponsored by Farmura Environmental so our thanks go to Jonathan Harmer, Gerald Orme, David Binks & Peter Lacey for their continued support of our Section. The day starts at 9:30 and will finish at 3:30 and the cost is £20 per ticket limited to 50 places.

A personal thanks go out to everyone (about 40) who attended the recent Avoncrop Amenity Seminar at Ashburnham GC. Feedback I've received so far has been very good so I am glad that people enjoyed it. So a big thank you to Huw Morgan MG and everyone from Ashburnham and to all the speakers.

Thanks go out from the section as well to Martin Townsend and Peter Holstrom, from Countrywide Turf And Amenity, for their sponsorship of the evening lectures again this year. I have learned my lesson about pre-



**John Pemberton**  
Chief Executive

The problem of exhibitions has raised its head again, this time thanks especially to the efforts of Pitchcare. As you may have read on my recent posting on the Open Forum section of the BIGGA Bulletin Board, Pitchcare's Managing Director, Dave Saltman, is brokering a move by the trade who demand a unification of BTME and SALTEX, with the new show taking place at a new venue, the one suggestion being the National Exhibition Centre (NEC), Birmingham.

Just who is represented in this broad use of the term 'Trade' we have yet to discover, but it is a matter of fact that a number of current exhibitors at either BTME or SALTEX have become unsettled and now seek change. This where the dilemma starts with no real consensus as to what suits the majority of exhibitors. The options floated are endless: an annual show; a biennial show; indoor; part indoor, part outdoor; at the NEC, elsewhere in the UK, retain BTME and SALTEX, before Christmas, after Christmas, to be run by BIGGA and/or the IOG, run by the 'Trade'.

But what of the visitors, what are they looking for and what will they support? Clearly the IOG and BIGGA have some serious thinking to do and perhaps we will need to do some in depth market research of our own.

I am pleased to confirm that Kubota (UK) Limited and Charterhouse Turf Machinery Limited will be the principal sponsors for the National Championship for the second year running. Their financial support in these difficult times ensures the viability of this popular event that this year will be held at the Berkshire Golf Club at the beginning of October.

I am working with the Board to produce a formal document on the Governance of the Association and this will be available shortly. The initial draft will be published in the Members' area of the BIGGA website and it will be built upon over the coming months. There will also be published full details of the Board and the Sub Committees and I hope that this will facilitate improved communications and a better understanding of how the Association works.

As the first three months of this year slip by, somewhat quickly it seems to me, then our attention in the golfing calendar turns to Augusta and The Masters. No doubt greenkeepers everywhere can expect the usual complaints as golfers compare the condition of their course with that of Augusta. You have my sympathy. Let's hope that we have a good Spring and Summer and then we may see some optimism emerging for the future welfare of golf clubs and the game.

Finally, keep an eye on the BIGGA website, the redesigned version is shortly to be released and will have many new features including enhanced security and the facility to make on line payments, including membership renewal.

**John Pemberton**  
Chief Executive

dicting what some events will be like before they happen!

So I will have a full report on the Swalec Stadium talk and the Ffos Las talk in next month's GI. Weather, fire, crowd trouble and act's of God permitting!

Hwyl

Ceri Richards

celticceri@aol.com



## South West

Good day people, Firstly, let's get straight to business.....Laurence Pithie MG, was once one of Europe's busiest greenkeepers. This said Laurence still has a huge passion for his industry. Laurence, left Minchinhampton in 1992, went on to spend a number of years in America as Director of Maintenance for Crown Golf. During this time he had overall responsibility for the budgets, work programmes, equipment purchasing, national accounts and so so much more. During these years in the green-keeping world Laurence also surveyed over 100 golf courses, from countries such as Spain, Portugal, France and Ireland. Laurence spent this time to formulate plans and budgets along with recommendations to financial directors..... I must say, this is only a very small insight into what Laurence has given our industry, he has now moved on set up "Turf master one". Turf Master one is a personnel service which can help in both training and consultancy work. This takes me on perfectly to announce that Laurence will be presenting a workshop at Minchinhampton new course on April 15. What better person could give such a workshop. The workshop is titled PLANNING & BUDGETING, this will be aimed at people in or moving into a management position. This is the first of many to come, so watch out for others to follow.

Back at Minchinhampton, I turned up for work last Monday, stepped into the office to have the morning discussion with Paul and Dave. Paul looks up and says the machine will be here around 9am (deep drill machine, 18 inches), I thought to myself, thanks, just what I wanted to hear on a Monday morning.

However the machine turned up and we carried out the task covering three greens in four days in what could be by far the best weather we have had this year. For those of you who are unaware of this machine, it has 60 drill pieces being 18 inches in depth, when you first see the machine in action, I must say it is pretty impressive. We have done a number of greens over the years mainly on the Cherington course, and I have to say the improvement is pure brilliance.....trust me your not thinking that while carrying out the work though

Our Section's fixture list will be you shortly, I do realise that it can be difficult to attend some of these dates, but please make every effort come along to as many possible. You all know how good these events are and I'm sure you all enjoy catching up with everyone! Our first golf date will see the return of the greenkeeper amateur, look out for you invitation for this..... I'll look forward to seeing you there.

As always people please feel free to contact me with any short story you have.

adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk

07732503855



## Devon & Cornwall.

At the time of reading this, our winter season of events will have been completed with our last meeting at Mullion Golf Club in March. It has been an extremely successful calendar of events and the numbers have been very healthy. A huge thank you from the section for all your support.

It was a very busy February for the Section starting with our Section meeting at Torquay Golf Club on Thursday, Feb 11. Even the "English Riviera" didn't escape the winter conditions with frozen soils and a biting cold wind. Nevertheless, Tim Martin (Head Greenkeeper) and the team provided an extremely tidy and well-presented course, which was enjoyed by the 65 strong crowd of attendees, 38 of which were led by Tim on an extremely interesting yet chilly

course walk. A very welcome "Carvery" lunch, enjoyed by all the attendees, was followed by a presentation by Laurence Pithie (Turfmaster One). Laurence, who is extremely well respected throughout the industry, gave an educational presentation on Effective turf management "Getting the Basic's Right!" The presentation showed photographs and case studies from Laurence's vast portfolio of experiences overseeing many courses through his career. Many thanks to Laurence from the Devon and Cornwall Section for finding the time and making the trip down to us. The Golf format for the day was individual medal, with three handicap categories receiving the prizes. Category 1 - Jason Brooks (Net 71), Category 2 - Steve Green (Net 69) Both from Torquay. Category 3 - David Daw (Net 65) from Porthpean. These three all qualify for a place at the National Championship at The Berkshire Golf Club, in October, paid for by the Section. The Stableford points winner for the day was Tony Hursey (39 pts). The day was an extremely successful one and many thanks to Torquay Golf Club for making everyone feel so welcome and providing such fantastic facilities. A big thank you to Tim Martin (Head Greenkeeper), Jason Brooks (Assistant Head Greenkeeper) and the rest of the team for all their hard work on the day and leading up to the meeting.

On February 17, 70 Greenkeepers and Sports Turf Managers from across Devon and Cornwall attended the second seminar jointly organised by the Devon and Cornwall Section and Duchy College. The theme of this seminar aimed at developing the audiences understanding of Greenkeeper management techniques and the resultant impact on golf and sports turf playing surfaces. In the morning session Steve Gingell, Regional Area Manager STRI, took the attendees through the principles of the STRI's "Disturbance Theory". Steve presented a detailed case outlining the balance and implications between turf maintenance operations and their results on named turf grass genera and species with their own individual and specific preferred growing and habitat requirements. The afternoon speakers developed this theme through taking a detailed look at

the soils, root zone and growing conditions needed by grasses. Andrew Turnbull, from Allturf Management, explained the function of sugars and carbohydrates within the plant and the consequences to the grass plant and the soil life in his lecture titled "Carbohydrates/The Brix of Life". Mark Atkins, from Soil Harmony, in his talk titled "Life Beneath Your Feet" developed this theme further emphasising the symbiotic relationship between the turf grass plant and the soil life.

On February 25 there was an "Environmental Policies" Workshop, held at the Duchy College. Mathew Worster, from Minchinhampton Golf Course, and this year's winner of the Conservation Greenkeeper of the Year Award, explained that he was employed as Environmental Officer within the Club as well as a Greenkeeper, allowing him to action the environmental policy, which has been in place for 10 years and has all round support from the golf membership. The second speaker was Graeme Gallimore, Launceston Golf Club Course Manager, who spoke about the early stages of writing and presenting his environmental policy to the Golf Club Committee for their approval. He had significantly less resources available than Minchinhampton Golf Club but had a long list of actions that he was keen to implement.

Colin Webber, Owner of Portmore Golf Club and Chairman of the Devon and Cornwall Section of BIGGA, was the final speaker of the day. He gave details of a number of environmental based projects that he had implemented and argued that it would be better to act voluntarily and all golf clubs would need to take this issue much more seriously in the future.

A big thank you to everyone who has been involved in putting together meetings, seminars and workshops this year. Special thanks to Graeme Gallimore, Colin Webber and also Ron Skinner and all at Duchy College.

As usual, I am always looking for stories and events to include in these notes each month. Please feel free to contact me.

George Pitts

Devon & Cornwall Section Secretary

07929 75401

gpitts.yelverton@gmail.com



# Diary of Events

Details of your Section's forthcoming events in 2010 can be found here...

*April*

*Thursday April 8*

Northern Region Seminar – "The Next Decade", Penrith Golf Club, Cumbria  
Peter Larter at [Petelarter972@aol.com](mailto:Petelarter972@aol.com) or telephone 07866 366966.

*Tuesday April 13*

East Section Spring Meeting  
Kilspindie Golf Club, Longniddry  
Stuart Ferguson at [stuferg@btinternet.com](mailto:stuferg@btinternet.com) or 07961 630553.

*Wednesday April 14*

Site visit to 2010 Ryder Cup Course  
Celtic Manor Resort, Newport, Gwent  
Steve Chappell at [chappell124@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:chappell124@hotmail.co.uk) or 01269 822032  
Mob: 07970 980899

*Wednesday April 14*

East Midlands Section Spring Tournament and National Championships Qualifier  
Erewash Valley Golf Club, Ilkeston, Derbyshire. Andrew de Wet at [biggaeast-midlands@hotmail.com](mailto:biggaeast-midlands@hotmail.com) or 07730 713895

*Thursday April 15*

South West Section Budgeting and Financial Planning Workshop  
Minchinhampton New Course, Glos.  
Adam Matthews at [adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk) or 07732 503855.

*Wednesday April 21*

Cleveland Section Seminar on Correct Blade Setting and Maintenance of your machines.  
Cleveland Section, Ian Pemberton on 07791 695768.

*Wednesday April 21*

North East Section Spring Competition  
City of Newcastle Golf Club, Gosforth  
Jimmy Richardson  
[jamesrichardson217@btinternet.com](mailto:jamesrichardson217@btinternet.com) or 01914 135232  
Mobile 07500 528542

*Tuesday April 27*

Ayrshire Section Spring Tournament  
Largs Golf Club, Largs, Ayrshire  
Derek Wilson at [derwlsn@aol.com](mailto:derwlsn@aol.com) or 01294 276177.

*Tuesday April 27*

Surrey Section Texas Scramble  
Laleham Golf Club, Chertsey  
Ron Christie at [lazyassron@btopenworld.com](mailto:lazyassron@btopenworld.com) or 020 864 43061

*Tuesday April 27*

Essex Section, Channels Golf Club  
Dominic Rodgers at [domrodders@talktalk.net](mailto:domrodders@talktalk.net) or mobile: 07929 205398

*Wednesday April 28*

North Wales Section Spring Tournament  
Caernarfon Golf Club  
Jeremy Hughes at [jezpro69@aol.com](mailto:jezpro69@aol.com) or 01978 860109 Mob: 07876 776265

*Thursday April 29*

West Section Spring Tournament  
Lanark Golf Club Gavin Jarvis on [jarvisgav@aol.com](mailto:jarvisgav@aol.com) or 01436 676976

*Thursday April 29*

South West Section Spring AM-AM Meeting  
Woodlands Golf and Country Club, Almondsbury, Bristol  
Adam Matthews at [adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk) or 07732 503855

*May*

*Tuesday May 4*

Secretaries Golf Match  
Montrose Golf Links  
Peter Boyd at [p.j.boyd@btinternet.com](mailto:p.j.boyd@btinternet.com) or 0141 616 3440

*Wednesday May 5*

Surrey Section Spring Tournament  
Burhill Golf Club  
Ron Christie at [lazyassron@btopenworld.com](mailto:lazyassron@btopenworld.com) or 020 864 43061

*Thursday May 20*

North Section Spring Tournament  
Deeside Golf Club Dale Robertson at [daleturnberry@aol.com](mailto:daleturnberry@aol.com) or 01651 863002

*June*

*Wednesday June 9*

North Wales Section V's North West Section Golf Match  
Carden Park Golf Club (De Vere)  
Jeremy Hughes at [jezpro69@aol.com](mailto:jezpro69@aol.com) or 01978 860109 Mob: 07876 776265

*Monday June 14*

BIGGA Annual Golf Day  
Aldwark Manor Golf and Country Club  
Sandra Raper at [Sandra@bigga.co.uk](mailto:Sandra@bigga.co.uk) or 01347 833800

*Tuesday June 15*

Surrey Section – Cresta Cup  
Hoebriidge Golf Club, Old Woking  
Ron Christie at [lazyassron@btopenworld.com](mailto:lazyassron@btopenworld.com) or 020 864 43061

*Thursday June 17*

Scottish National Tournament  
Murcar Golf Club Peter Boyd at [p.j.boyd@btinternet.com](mailto:p.j.boyd@btinternet.com) or 0141 616 3440

*Tuesday June 22*

Essex Section  
Boyce Hill Golf Club  
Dominic Rodgers at [domrodders@talktalk.net](mailto:domrodders@talktalk.net) or mobile: 07929 205398

**More dates  
for your diary  
next month**



# Membership

Tracey Maddison, Head of Membership, this month, highlights a new initiative

While writing this month's column, and occasionally glancing out of the window for inspiration, I find myself mesmerised by a very lively robin flying around a tree in the distance, I then notice that the sun is shining through the branches and it finally hit me...

Spring is here. I suspect I'm not the only one glad to see the back of winter. As Steve Beverly, from Immingham Golf Club, wrote in his East of England Section notes last month 'while the snow is nice to look at, the novelty wears off after a while...'. It sure does Steve!

Talking of Section notes (more commonly known as Around the Green), I would like to congratulate those who write the Section notes, I'm sure they will agree with me that it's not as easy as it looks. The difficulty is making the notes informative while being interesting at the same time.

Anyway, I enjoy reading them every month (yes I honestly do!); it is interesting finding out what members are up to. If you do have any news you would like to share, moving jobs, a special birthday celebration or any baby news then let your section secretary know so the news can be shared among your Section members through Around the Green. Contact details for all the Section Secretaries can be found on the BIGGA website, www.bigga.org.uk, select 'Contact Us' from the top line and then click on 'Contact List' and scroll down.

As the golfing season gets underway so do the section events. Check out the new 'Diary of Events' page for details of BIGGA Section and Region forthcoming events.

## Surrey Section Initiative - One year's membership of BIGGA FREE!

The Surrey Section are offering the opportunity for young greenkeepers (aged 20 years or under) who have never previously been a member of BIGGA to get their first year's membership for FREE!

If you know a young greenkeeper, working in the Surrey area, who is attending college or is in formal training working towards NVQ Level 2, is 20 years or under and has never been a member of BIGGA, then tell them about this fantastic offer. The offer is limited to the first 10 applicants on a first come first served basis.

For information visit www.surrey-bigga.co.uk to download an application form or contact section secretary Ron Christie on 02086 543061 Mob: 07778 170077.

## New Membership Benefits

We have been working hard at sourcing new membership benefits. The survey undertaken in Jan, 2009, showed that members were keen to find out more about personal health insurance, watch this space for more details.

On that note if any member has any suggestions for new membership benefits or services please contact us at traceymaddison@bigga.co.uk.

## Email Addresses

Electronic mail, or email is the most frequently used service on the Internet. People can send messages any time, anywhere, they can send a message to multiple recipients, forward information to people without re-typing, email is fast, files can be attached including electronic documents, video clips, music and photos, messages can be distributed around the world very easily. Not surprisingly then that over two million email messages are sent every second!

But probably more surprisingly a recent survey highlighted that social network sites such as Facebook and MySpace are more popular than personal email.

To ensure you are kept up to date with information from BIGGA, make sure we have your email address on file.

Watch this space for more information on BIGGA and social networking.



## Contact Details

Tracey Maddison  
traceymaddison@bigga.co.uk

Brad Anderson  
brad@bigga.co.uk

Tel: 01347 833800  
(option 1 for Membership)

## Regional Offices

### Scotland & Northern Ireland

Peter Boyd  
Tel: 0141 616 3440  
Mobile: 07776 242120  
pj.boyd@btinternet.com

### Northern & Midland

Peter Larter  
Tel: 01476 550115  
Mobile: 07866 366966  
petelarter972@aol.com

### South East

Clive Osgood  
Tel: 01737 819343  
Mobile: 07841 948410  
cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk

### South West & Wales

Jane Jones  
Tel: 01454 270850  
Mobile: 07841 948110  
janejones1@btconnect.com



Peter Boyd Peter Larter



Clive Osgood Jane Jones

## OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

(Full Members only)

Personal Accident Helpline  
02075 603013  
Greenkeepers Legal Assistance  
0800 177 7891  
Greenkeepers Support Services  
0800 174 319  
Debt Counselling Helpline  
0800 174319

## Welcome to this month's New Members

For more information on new members log in to the Members Area of the BIGGA website:

[www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk)

...and select 'Welcome New Members' from the Menu on the left hand side.

## Scottish Region

Paul Armour, Central  
Kevin Peace, North  
Graeme Pearston, Central  
Las Rae, North  
Ryan Stirling, West  
Marcos Vich Roadhouse, Central  
Kevin Webster, East

## Northern Region

Travis Benedict, North West  
Lee Jones, North Wales  
Martin Jones, North Wales  
Wayne Lazenby, Sheffield  
David Lewis, North Wales  
Jake Petch, Northern  
Paul Ramsey, Cleveland  
Damian Roberts, North Wales  
Marc Wilcock, North Wales  
Iwan Williams, North Wales

## Midland Region

Paul Davies, Midland  
Nicholas Edwards, Midland  
Sam Hall, Midland  
Richard Haseler, Berks/Bucks & Oxon  
Matthew Height, East of England  
Paul Howard, Midland  
James Kirkby, Midland  
John Latocha, Midland  
Ryan Leightwood, Midland  
Liam Lewis, Midland  
Graham Pidcock, East Midland  
Simon Pigott, East of England  
Justin Waterhouse, Midland

## S East Region

Ross Austin, Essex  
Steve Chicken, East Anglia  
Stuart Cochran, Kent  
Stephen Cousins, Essex  
Sam Farrow, Essex  
Ben Grainger, East Anglia  
Matthew Green, East Anglia  
Paul Halsey, Sussex  
Daniel Hampshire, Kent  
Steven Hughes, East Anglia  
Stuart McDowell, Sussex  
James Morris, London  
Wayne Mulcock, Kent  
Neil Peachey, Essex  
Peter Preston, Essex  
Charlie Simper, London

## S West/S Wales Region

Paul Clarkson, South West  
Jason Hampton, Devon & Cornwall  
Graham Hastie, South Coast  
Patrick Hobbs, Devon & Cornwall  
Jack Willis, South Coast

## Overseas

Troy Russell, USA

# Assistant Profile

Each month we take a light hearted look into the life of an assistant greenkeeper...

Gary is a darting superstar who has achieved something very few have...



**Name:** Gary Salisbury  
**Age:** 31  
**Club:** Burghley Park GC  
**Position:** Assistant  
**Nickname:** Gaz

**1. How long have you been greenkeeping?**

Started when I was about 5 as my dad is Head Greenkeeper but have been full time for eight years

**2. What was it about the career that attracted you?**

Working outdoors. The job had been in my mind since I was a child.

**3. If you weren't a greenkeeper what do you think you'd be?**

Probably a policeman

**4. Which task do you most enjoy doing and why?**

Construction work. You always improve the course

**5. Which task do you least enjoy doing and why?**

Changing holes. It's boring

**6. What one thing - other than a pay rise - would improve the greenkeepers' lot?**

Most clubs could do with more equipment and improved equipment

**7. Hobbies?**

Darts, football, golf and reading

**8. Favourite Band?**

Green Day

**9. Which team do you support (football or otherwise)?**

Tottenham Hotspur

**10. What is your claim to fame?**

I am the only person in the Stamford Darts League's history to get a nine dart finish and I am soon to be playing World Champion Martin Adams.

# What's your Number?

Our regular and random profile of an industry figure continues with this month's lucky number...

Maarten de Vroom, of Greentoi, comes under the spotlight...



**1. What is your position within the company?** Sales Manager

**2. How long have you been in the industry?** 40 years

**3. How did you get into it?**

I am originally a Landscape Architect and moved over to sales from there

**4. What other jobs have you done?**

Project Manager of a big landscape firm in Zürich.

**5. What do you like about your current job?**

The unique product for the golf courses, and the contacts in Europe, because we are selling the Greentoi in Europe.

**6. What changes have you seen during your time in the industry?**

Great changes, too many to mention.

**7. What do you like to do in your spare time?**

To play golf and travelling

**8. Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?**

The same profession with the same passion for what I'm doing.

**9. Who do you consider to be your best friends in the industry?**

I have many many friends in the industry

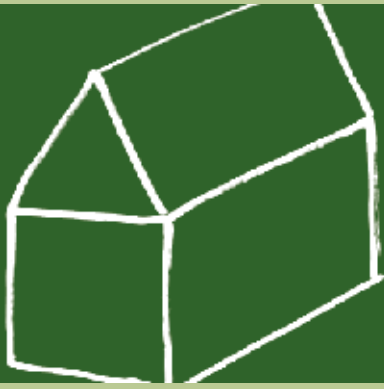
**10. What do you consider to be your lucky number?**

7

**11. Pick a Number**

32

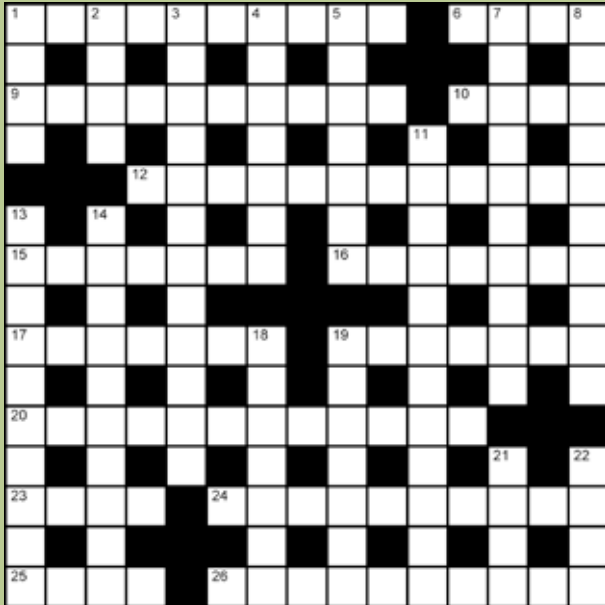
*Maarten has picked Nick Darking of Charterhouse*



# in the shed

Our monthly puzzle page to keep you entertained when you're forced indoors..

## CROSSWORD



### ACROSS

- 1 US artist shot non-fatally, two days before Robert Kennedy (4,6)
- 6 Egyptian goddess of motherhood and fertility (4)
- 9 Those who seek to overturn the decision of a court (10)
- 10 Judo training school (4)
- 12 Eisenhower's Vice-President (7,5)
- 15 Experiencing a sudden sense of danger (7)
- 16 Alfresco (4-3)
- 17 Subjected to a test (7)
- 19 The \_\_\_\_, three stacks of chalk off the Isle of Wight (7)
- 20 Actor who played Chekov in Star Trek (6,6)
- 23 Writers Kingsley or Martin (4)
- 24 Driven by lust (10)
- 25 Greek nymph who died, leaving only her voice (4)
- 26 The scientific measurement of the positions and motions of celestial bodies (10)

### DOWN

- 1 Football club from Amsterdam (4)
- 2 Deceive (4)
- 3 The most nominated film director in US Academy Awards history (7,5)
- 4 Arrived at (7)
- 5 Canadian province that includes Toronto (7)
- 7 The largest city in South Dakota (5,5)
- 8 A blushing crow for example, or a well-boiled icicle? (10)
- 11 Before noon (4,8)
- 13 Director of Frankenstein and Bride of Frankenstein (5,5)
- 14 A small, tropical marine fish, typically brightly coloured (10)
- 18 Small East African antelopes (3-4)
- 19 More wanting (7)
- 21 Michael \_\_\_\_, Labour Party leader, 1980-83 (4)
- 22 Catch sight of (4)

## QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ - Master the Masters

1. Who has won the most Masters titles and how many has he in his collection?
2. Who are the only people to have retained a Masters title?
3. Who holds the record for the most consecutive appearances in The Masters?
4. Who holds the record for the most appearances in the Masters overall?
5. Who famously holed a 235 yard 4-wood on the 15th hole for an albatross to hunt down and ultimately defeat leader, Craig Wood, in 1935 – the shot that was heard around the world.
6. Phil Mickelson has recorded the most birdies during a Masters. Is it 20, 23 or 25?
7. Which club did Sandy Lyle use from the bunker on the 72nd hole to set up his wonderful winning birdie in 1988?
8. How old was Tiger Woods when he became the youngest ever winner of The Masters in 1997 – to nearest year and number of months.
9. What is the lowest 18 hole score round Augusta National during The Masters?

		7		4				B	5	1
	B		8		9	7				A
A			4			B				C
				6				3		4
5		C			B	8	1	A		
							3	8		
			B	9						
		9		3	6	2		8		C
C		5					7			
	2			3				C		9
	7			C	4			B	6	
B	C	1				9		2		

## MONSTER SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 4x4 box contains the numbers 0 to 9 and the letters A to E.

		3			7				
				8			9		6
		7		2	6				
2				9				6	
9		4					8		5
	1				4				2
				9	1	4			
7		1			2				
				5				3	

## SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 9 box shape contains the numbers 1 to 9.





# Thatch

**Many of you have heard of THATCH, many of our greenkeeping woes are centred on thatch. Whether it's preventing thatch, removing thatch or even removing the cause of thatch, it's an important factor throughout the golf course world. But what exactly is it? And why is it such an issue?**

In simple terms thatch or organic matter is the waste material of the plant. This is similar to fat or cholesterol in the animal world. If this is not prevented or controlled a build up of thatch can occur and similar to fat or cholesterol you will become unhealthy with a host of problems on your hands:

- Pest and disease – excessive thatch creates the perfect environment for many little critters.
- Winter Playability – wet thatch will produce softer,

spongy ground conditions. This will have a negative effect on the ball roll, bounce & speed. In severe cases the result may be unplayable surfaces and loss of revenue.

- Summer Playability – during dry spells, thatch can become water repellent (hydrophobic) and this can make the ground very dry and hard. In severe cases, a loss of grass can occur (dry patch).

- Plant health – the plant health will suffer resulting in more fertiliser, chemical and water usage. A vicious circle!

### The role of aeration.

The key to healthy turf is without doubt air. A good aeration plan is integral to thatch control. Aeration is like exercise; the more exercise we do the more our 'fat' decreases, the healthier we get, the better we feel. In the plant world this is the same.

We often talk about the living things in soil, well in truth, the

# committee corner

A new series aimed at offering information and advice to those golf club members who are elected to Green Committees

living things below our feet actually live in the air spaces in the soil. Aeration provides the air that helps all the beneficial organisms living below our feet, in turn those guys break down our unwanted thatch, root structure improves and here lies the foundation of a healthy grass plant.

### Hollow tine

This is similar to liposuction, physically pulling the fat or thatch out. This also provides the greatest amount of air in the soil and is a great way to exchange the unwanted thatch with free-draining top-dressing.

### Drainage

Good drainage is integral, if the soil is wet and waterlogged those beneficial air spaces

are filled with water, if it's full of water then we have no air, and no air means no life. Many times greenkeepers are pressurised into aerating during the wet winter months.

Whilst this can work on free draining sites, on poorly drained areas this can create more problems. Those lovely holes soon get filled with water and the air is pushed out. Again no air... no life!

At times aeration is an unpopular operation, but without this operation your course will suffer.

A healthy course will not maintain itself; similar to our own health we require food & water in moderation, plenty of exercise and air.

So the next time your greenkeeper is aerating the greens, think of the positives, think of the benefits and think about supporting.



## in the shed answers

### QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. Jack Nicklaus, with six.
2. Jack Nicklaus ('65 & '66) Nick Faldo ('89 & '90); Tiger Woods ('01 & '02)
3. Arnold Palmer with 50 1955-2004
4. Gary Player with 52
5. Gene Sarazen
6. 25, 7, 7-iron,
8. 21 years and three months
9. 63 – Nick Price (3rd round '86) and Greg Norman (1st round '96)

### CROSSWORD

E	C	H	O	A	S	T	R	O	M	E	T	R	Y
L	S	K	E	E	O	P							
A	M	I	S	L	I	B	I	D	I	N	O	S	
H	F	R	D	D	I	G							
W	A	L	T	E	R	K	O	E	N	I	G		
S	E	L	I	E	R	S							
E	S	S	A	Y	E	D	N	E	E	D	L	E	S
M	M	W											
A	L	A	R	M	E	D	O	P	E	N	A	I	R
J	D	A	E	I	T	F							
R	I	C	H	A	R	D	N	I	X	O	N		
X	E	L	L	C	A	A	J	O					
A	P	P	E	L	L	A	N	T	S	D	O	J	O
J	U	I	E	N									
A	N	D	Y	W	A	R	H	O	L	I	S	I	S

### MONSTER SUDOKO

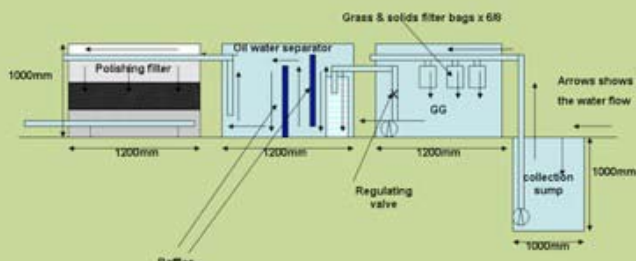
B	C	1	5	7	A	6	9	4	2	8	3
3	7	8	9	5	C	4	2	B	1	6	A
6	2	4	A	B	3	1	8	C	5	7	9
C	3	5	6	8	1	A	7	2	9	4	B
4	A	9	7	3	6	2	B	5	8	1	C
8	1	2	B	9	5	C	4	A	6	3	7
7	6	B	1	A	4	9	3	8	C	2	5
5	4	C	3	2	B	8	1	7	A	9	6
9	8	A	2	6	7	5	C	1	3	B	4
A	5	3	4	1	2	B	6	9	7	C	8
1	B	6	8	C	9	7	5	3	4	A	2
2	9	7	C	4	8	3	A	6	B	5	1

### SQUIGGLY SUDOKO

4	9	2	7	5	8	6	3	1
7	6	1	4	3	2	5	8	9
5	8	3	6	9	1	4	2	7
3	1	6	5	8	4	7	9	2
9	7	4	3	2	6	8	1	5
2	5	8	9	1	7	3	6	4
8	4	7	2	6	9	1	5	3
1	2	5	8	4	3	9	7	6
6	3	9	1	7	5	2	4	8

# BUYERS' GUIDE

## The Grass Grabber Flow Diagram



## Keeping it Clean

When it comes to washing down ground maintenance equipment after daily use, it's important to ensure you clean all materials in a safe way that prolongs the life of this essential and expensive equipment, whilst creating a safe environment for your staff and clients.

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The Grass grabber Range offers flexibility in overall design, installation and operation. To get your water as clean as possible, we have designed our system to have three treatment stages. Rest assured our expert team will advise on the best solution.

### The three treatment stages are:

**Grass & Solids Removal** - water flows to the collection sump which is then pumped into specially designed & manufactured filtration bags to remove grass and solids.

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For further information contact Hydrotech Solutions Ltd [www.hydrotechsolutions.co.uk/](http://www.hydrotechsolutions.co.uk/)

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