

Expectations in life bear heavily on us all and if you or I failed so miserably to meet required standards we could expect to be in a lot of trouble. Messrs. Rooney, Gerrard et al will, however, no doubt return to their cosy lives oblivious of the despair they left behind in their wake.

It is proving to be another difficult year to meet expectations on golf courses too. The long suffering economy and extreme weather conditions (whatever happened to springtime?) are putting many of us to the test and, being the resourceful bunch that we are, most of us have been able to adapt and overcome many of the resulting issues imposed. Obviously, one of the major concerns is the most valuable resource of all, water. Strains on supplies of this sustainer of all life are being stretched to the limit and golf and leisure facilities are sure to be first in the firing line once restrictions start being imposed. I fear for those who do not have some water holding capacity on site. I'm sure that as many of you jet off to even sunnier and warmer climates over this holiday period, the scarcity of water will become even more apparent. Maybe we should be learning how to cope better from our Mediterranean friends.

I hope that as many of you as possible were able to join us at Herne Bay GC for our summer event on July 27. I know that one notable absentee would have been our Chairman, Kev Morris, who was busy in his duties of grandfather taking the little ones to Disneyland. Knowing Kev, he probably had more fun than anyone else there! Results and reports from Herne Bay will now be online at our webpage below. If Kev lets me have some pictures of him with Mickey Mouse, they'll be there too!

I shall let you get back to tending your brown and pleasant lands and wish you the best of luck in all your summertime activities. Make the most of your visits to the beach, barbeques and outdoor pursuits because, remember, this is still Britain so the sun won't last forever!

Best of British one and all.

Rob Holland

www.kentgreenkeepers.com



East Anglia

Diss Golf Club – 17 June 2010

Diss must be the place – well, Diss Golf Club to be more precise. Lovely course in pristine condition thanks to Robert Ransome and his crew. Nice to hear some skylarks.

About 55-60 lost souls turned up and it was well worth while. One or two trophy hunters scored 40 points, but I think the course won the day.

Scores were as follows: -0 – 9 Handicap: 1st Ben Wallis 36 pts; 2nd Danny Pearson 36 pts; 3rd Graham Hurren 35 pts; 10 – 18 Handicap: 1st Ali Barber 40 pts; 2nd Tony Thacker 38 pts; 3rd Mark Clements 37 pts; 19 – 28 Handicap – Real Golfers; 1st David Driver 42 pts; 2nd Steve Crab 39 pts; 3rd Pat Swinn 35 pts; G & T's: 1st Ian Weller 39 points; 2nd Andy Culdron 38 points; 3rd Basil Warren 37 points; Longest drive - 17th, Danny Pearson; 6th, Ali Barber; Nearest the pin, 4th, Graham Hurren; 15th, Ben Pearson.

Guess who won the loo seat? You guessed, Ian Willett. Hit the telegraph poles from 6 ft, twice!

Earnest Doe was the main sponsor of the day and the first prize was two Spurs tickets won by David Driver. I'll bet he's an Arsenal supporter!

Prizes were presented by the Club captain, Chis Castle.

The other trade supporters were Scotts, Headland, Aitkens, Sherriff, Rigby Taylor, Bartram Mowers, Ben Burgess, Collier Turf Care, Baileys of Norfolk, Tacit, Tomlinsons, Ransomes.

Our thanks once again Diss Golf Club for a first class day.

Picture this – you're in your Mess Hut, nice cup of tea, you've come through a dry summer, the coldest winter since '63, spring didn't turn up and you're in another dry spell. All in all, your course ain't too bad. You think!

In comes the Secretary: "Thompson" he says, "the Greens Committee would like to know why there are some bare patches around some of the greens. Why were they not seeded earlier?" You try to explain the conditions that have prevailed to no avail and then you remember that the cuckoo was also about six weeks late this year. The Secretary asks "What's that got to do with anything?" The reply comes as quick as a flash – "Well it seems the cuckoo has more sense than the Committee!"



John Pemberton
Chief Executive

Another Open comes and goes and congratulations are due to Gordon Moir, Gordon Mckie and the remainder of the greenkeeping staff at St Andrews for their superb presentation of the course. The television did not do it justice especially when seen in the early morning or late evening sunlight (when we had it!). The longer shadows accentuated the contours of the fairways and added something special to the approaches and greens, at such times I defy any golfer not to wish that this could be their home course to play as often as they like.

Thanks are due to the many volunteers drawn from the membership that formed the BIGGA Open Support Team and who represented the Association in such an excellent way. Personally it was nice to meet some new faces as well as catch up with members that I had met on some previous occasions. The Team had an unexpected extra duty to perform when called out at short notice to divot fairways at 4.30am on Saturday morning as a consequence of the delay in play the day before. Undeterred by the prospect of such an early start they took it in their stride, reinforcing to the R&A the value of the Team to the event.

Friday was memorable not just for the chaos that it caused in the pace of play but also for the presentation to Cecil George of the BIGGA Lifetime Achievement Award. This took place, quite fittingly, in the BIGGA marquee and was witnessed by many of his lifelong peers and supporters. Cecil has done so much for greenkeeping and greenkeepers as you will read elsewhere in this magazine and when I started with BIGGA in 1993, subsequently taking over the arrangements for the 'Bunker Rakers' as the team was known as in those days, Cecil and Jimmy Neilson were in charge of BIGGA's presence on the 1st tee, a role they were to continue for several more years.

By the time you read this column I will have had a further meeting with Dave Saltman (Pitchcare) and his fellow representatives from 'the trade' who are seeking to develop a one show strategy for the industry. As I write it has yet to be revealed to me just exactly which companies make up this group referred to as 'the trade' but I am sure I will be enlightened in due course. BIGGA and the IOG are in discussions about a closer working relationship on certain projects but I can assure our members and our supporters that this does not currently include abandoning Harrogate Week and Saltex in favour of a unified show. BIGGA is working hard to make its event at Harrogate meet the expectations of both exhibitors and visitors and the Board and Staff are determined to shake off and counter the criticisms of 'same old show, same old visitors'. We're up to something but you will have to wait to see what! Watch this space as they say.

John Pemberton
Chief Executive



Membership

Tracey Maddison, Head of Membership, provides a departmental update

Congratulations to the BIGGA Open Support Team

Well done to members of the Open Support Team in successfully supporting Gordon Moir, Director of Greenkeeping and Gordon McKie, Head Greenkeeper and their team in managing the Old Course at St Andrews during last month's Open Championship.

To be part of the Open Support Team is a fantastic opportunity to see golf at the very highest level from a privileged position – inside the ropes. It's hard work but worth the effort. To apply to be part of the team for the Open 2011 at Royal St George's look out for the invitation to apply in the December and January editions of GI or talk to Scott MacCallum or Rachael Duffy at BIGGA HQ.

NEW Membership Benefit

Check out the members area of the BIGGA website for the new "How To..." guides available exclusively to BIGGA Members on a range of Human Resource topics. These short, handy guides provide practical, step-by-step guidance on a range of subjects. The guides can be downloaded and used to help you develop your knowledge and implement new processes within your workplace.

Section and Region Events

Visit the 'Event's Section on BIGGA's website to have a look at what's on around the UK, www.bigga.org.uk select 'EVENTS' from across the top row.

Somebody asked me the other day if it was possible to be a member of two sections, unfortunately, not, but that's not to say that if you would like to attend an event in a different section just contact the Section Secretary and ask, I'm sure you would be made most welcome.

After all, each section is about the same thing, meeting new people, establishing new friendships and maintaining old ones, at the same

time as discussing all things greenkeeping and turf.

Temperatures set to soar this summer...

At the time of writing this months article most places have experienced very little, if any, rainfall to speak of and a fair bit of sunshine.

It's the sunshine I want to touch on, following on from John Mair's (Ayrshire Section) mention in his Around the Green column last month, "Remember to put sun block on and wear a cap if possible...especially those short on top!"

If we are going abroad on holiday we pack sun tan lotion, it's always high on our list of things to take; yet in this country we hardly give it a second thought.

Skin Cancer and the sun

Most skin cancers are caused by long-term exposure to the sun and research has shown that those who work outdoors are more at risk of skin cancer due to this fact. It is thought that there could be as many as 100,000 cases of skin cancer each year in the UK, but many aren't reported.

Some Sun Smart advice

- Make sure you never burn
- Aim to cover up with T shirt, hat and sunglasses
- Use factor 15+ sunscreen (sun cream)

Cheap sunblocks are usually just as good as expensive ones. They are all tested the same way and it is the level of protection they give you against the sun that matters most. This is the 'sun protection factor' or SPF.

The SPF tells you the amount of protection the sun cream gives against UVB radiation.

Cancer Research UK recommend at least factor 15. This is because it gives the best balance between protection and cost.



The Open Support Team 2010

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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

BIGGA welcomes the following new members

Scotland

Ryan Brennan, West
Dean Cormack, West
Steven MacLeod, North
Mark McManus, West
Greg Ronald, East
Callum Wark, West

Northern Region

Nathan Connor, Northern
Stephen Dale, Northern
Daniel McGuckin, Cleveland
Rick Sagar, Northern
Miles Skehan, Northern

Midland Region

Andrew Clark, Mid Anglia
Jonathan Farrell, Mid Anglia
Vincent Gilroy, Midland
Michael Kemmett, Mid Anglia
Alex Kinnaird, Berks/Bucks & Oxon
Richard Lloyd, Midland
Naomi Wallace, Berks/Bucks & Oxon

South East Region

John Bartlett, Surrey
Jay Clark, Essex
Daniel Crow, Essex
Garath Ellis, Sussex
Jeff Foulger, London
Adam Frampton, Essex
Ian Gosling, Sussex
Dan Harrison, Surrey
Chris Holdham, Sussex
Oliver Homewood, Essex
Andrew Rogers, Essex

South West Region

David Chammings, Devon & Cornwall
Tim Harmer, South Coast

Northern Ireland

Adrian McCullough, Northern Ireland

Overseas

Ulrich Kayser, Germany
Maurizio Russo, Italy
Brian Anderson, USA



Diary of Events

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

Date	Event	Venue	Contact
AUGUST			
Thursday August 5th	Sussex Section Event	Haywards Heath Golf Club	Dave Allen at d38a@msn.com or mobile: 07515 428573
Wednesday August 11th	East Anglia Section Event	Eaton Golf Club, Norwich	Ian Willett at info@thorpeness.co.uk or mobile: 07929 205398
Thursday August 12th	Essex Section Event	Benton Hall Golf Club	Dominic Rodgers at domrogers@talktalk.net or mobile: 07929 205398
Tuesday August 17th	East Scotland Section – Willie Woods Tournament	Gullane Golf Links (No 2 Course)	Stuart Ferguson at stuferg@btinternet.com or mobile: 07961 630553
Thursday August 19th (To be confirmed, subject to change)	Central Section Event	Auchterarder Golf Club. Norrie Whytock Trophy	Andrew Mellon at AMellon@Elmwood.ac.uk or mobile: 07780 995602
Saturday August 21st	South West Section Race Night	Lansdown Racecourse	Adam Matthews at adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk or mobile: 07732 503855
Thursday August 26th	BB&O Section Event	The East Berkshire Golf Club	Adam King at ajk@radley.org.uk or 01235 543119 or mobile: 07778 569158
Friday August 27th	South West Section Match v's Welsh Section	To be advised	Section Captain Wayne Vincent at wayne.vincent@googlemail.com
SEPTEMBER			
Monday September 13th	Sheffield Section Event	Silkstone Golf Club	James Stevens at jimmy_jams20@hotmail.com or 07738 719614
Wednesday September 22nd	East of England Section Event	Lincoln Golf Club	Bruce Hicks at brucehicks1@gmail.com or 07931 714922
Tuesday September 28th	Sussex Section Event	Copthorne Golf Club	Dave Allen at d38a@msn.com or mobile: 07515 428573
OCTOBER			
Monday October 11th	North West Section Autumn Tournament	Bolton Old Links Golf Club	Phil Dewhurst on mobile: 07768 180604
NOVEMBER			
Wednesday November 3rd	BB&O Autumn Section Event	Deanwood Park Golf Club	Adam King at ajk@radley.org.uk or 01235 543119 or mobile: 07778 569158
Monday November 29th	Sheffield Section Event	Lindrick Golf Club	James Stevens at jimmy_jams20@hotmail.com or 07738 719614
DECEMBER			
Thursday December 2nd	North West Section AGM & Bert Cross Trophy	Wilmslow Golf Club	Phil Dewhurst on mobile: 07768 180604

GI

NEW PRODUCTS

The latest products on the market reviewed

GI New Products has made a comeback! Please email your press releases and photography to: tom@bigga.co.uk

See page

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DEALER OF THE MONTH

A new series aimed at celebrating the great work done by dealerships up and down the country

GOLF AND TURF MACHINERY

Location and Size

Wakefield, Derby. £3 million yearly turn over

Employees and Size of premises

18 staff. 14000sqft of covered area spread over the two locations

Number of service vans: Six

Brief history of company

The GTM business was formed in summer 2006 by Glen Sawyer and John Passfield. They put together a small team of experienced grounds care industry professionals with a wealth of experience in the ground-care industry. Each team member is respected in their own field of sales and after care service with many years experience working for large dealers across Yorkshire and the Midlands. Soon after forming, GTM was quickly appointed the Ransomes Jacobsen dealer for South Yorkshire and then in October of 2009 had the selling area extended to South, West and North Yorkshire. Steven Nixon joined in November 2009 as the Sales Director to help develop sales in the Golf sector. In June 2010 the company moved into a new depot in Wakefield so it can service the new larger area better.

Key services offered

New and used equipment sales, spare parts, service department, Hire of equipment. Training .

Specialist services offered

Operated Hire of equipment. Training and advisory service offered



How has the dealership changed over the years?

We are a young company of only four years, so the company is growing and changing almost daily. Our recent investment in new IT software programs will improve our overall operation.

What would you like to see changed?

Greenkeepers and Groundsman to be given the professional respect by their members and committees allowing them to do their jobs better. Also for more customer and dealership association, forming stronger partnerships between the customer and dealership which would help them achieve their goals of keeping their golf courses and grounds in pristine condition.

Do you support customers who have in-house service facilities (ie OEM parts supply)?

Yes, we have no problem with customers who have in house service facilities, in fact we have supplied several Golf clubs with Grinding systems and with technical training to help them service their own equipment. More clubs will go down this route in the future and we support progression.

Major customers

No real famous Golf clubs in our selling area, we consider that all our customers are major!

Franchises

Ransomes Jacobsen, (inc Iseki, EZGO, Smithco, Turfco, Ryan) Wiedenmann , IPU products, Greentek, Boxer skid steer and Major .

and many more too numerous to mention

**To nominate a GI Dealer of the Month contact Scott MacCallum with your reasons why the dealer of your choice should be featured...
Email scott@bigga.co.uk**

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Fancy improving your IT skills?

BIGGA members can access an official Microsoft® Office 2003 Training Library that includes programs such as Excel, Word, PowerPoint and Outlook.

BIGGA are able to offer these practical and effective online courses at a discounted cost of £15 (+ VAT) (usually £20 + VAT) to BIGGA Members, and £30 (+ VAT) to non-members, thanks to support from the Learning and Development Fund. For further information contact the Learning and Development Department on 01347 833800 option 3.

Microsoft Office 2007 training is also available on request.



JOHN DEERE



ARC



HAYTER

Heath Lambert Group



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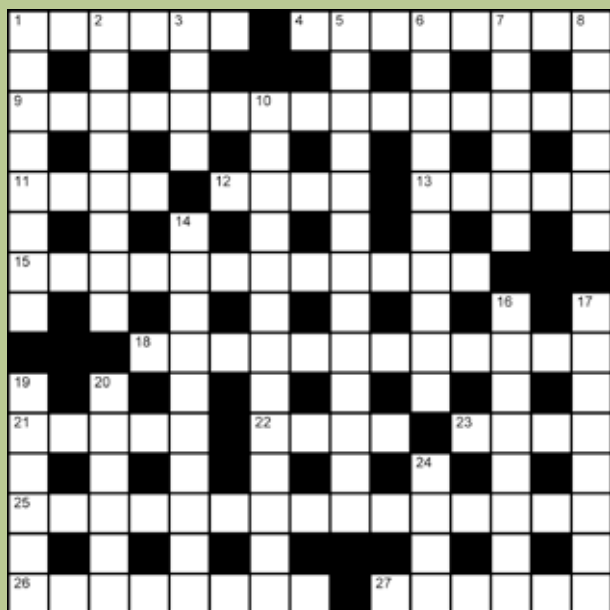




in the shed

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

CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 Ben ____, comedy partner of Alexander Armstrong (6)
- 4 Ancient mathematical devices (8)
- 9 Comic actor, inventor of Ali G and Borat (5,5,5)
- 11 Jet black (4)
- 12 A dull, yet persistent pain (4)
- 13 Make legally void (5)
- 15 Those living during the reign of Henry VIII's daughter (12)
- 18 Compulsorily or mandatorily (12)
- 21 The area closer to the centre (5)
- 22 1998 animated film featuring Woody Allen and Sylvester Stallone (4)
- 23 A Devon village; alcoholic drink (4)
- 25 1944 film directed by Billy Wilder (6,9)
- 26 Severe headache (8)
- 27 Foamy substance used in hair-styling (6)

Down

- 1 An incorrect or inappropriate designation (8)
- 2 Type of National Lottery line involving no personal selection (5,3)
- 3 Stylish elegance (4)
- 5 Distraught, especially in matters of love (6-7)
- 6 Place one's thumb on one's nose, and waggle one's fingers derisively (4,1,5)
- 7 Mythical creature with a lion's body and a human head (6)
- 8 Unattached (6)
- 10 A grant of formal recognition (13)
- 14 Duran Duran named themselves after a character in this 1968 film (10)
- 16 Often said to be nervous in cricket (8)
- 17 A spelling similarity in differently pronounced words, e.g., rough and through (3,5)
- 19 Common term for a centrist party politician (3-3)
- 20 Not heralded or celebrated (6)
- 24 Ballistic projectiles (4)

QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ

Can you unscramble the following letters and reveal some famous golf clubs?

1. CHEAP BELBBE
2. DRAMA LEVAR
3. WONT THREW
4. RAIL BREAK YOL
5. MOON DOLLCH
6. LATINO SAGA TUNAU
7. BLETHY REF
8. MANIC CLOTTER
9. PURSEN HIT



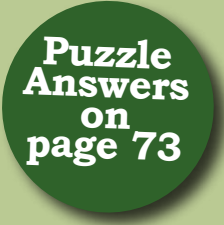
MONSTER SUDOKU

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.



SUDOKU

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



BUYERS' GUIDE

T&G Irrigation

For the past two years or so the Gods have conspired to make the life of all specialist irrigation companies extremely challenging. Wet summers have caused many golf clubs to review irrigation budgets and to postpone numerous major projects. The effect on some companies has been severe.



T & G Irrigation took the changing market conditions as a sign that it was time to diversify and set about finding alternative ways to maintain work levels for the staff. It has been rewarding to see that with a relatively small effort new doors opened and work has been sourced from a wide variety of places.

Several local councils have installed literally dozens of new bowling green irrigation systems having seen the whole life costings, producing savings in labour and improvements to the actual greens. Surprisingly, there has been great interest in private garden systems, especially for the upper end of the market. We recently installed a football pitch system for one Client at the bottom of his extensive garden. Landscape schemes for diverse private companies has also risen in popularity.

Now that the sun is back we find ourselves with a broader Client base and a greater range of schemes to offer our Clients. All of which proves that in the face of adversity if you are prepared to tackle the challenges you come out the stronger for it and as far as T & G Irrigation is concerned we are looking forward to a brighter future.

So, if there are any Clients who wish to have a bespoke scheme designed for any particular application they should contact Paul Curtis on either 07860 542616 or at the office on 01427 874200 and our staff will be pleased to help



BUYERS GUIDE CATEGORIES

- AERATION
- AGRONOMY
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- CLOTHING/FOOTWEAR
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- DE SILTING
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- GRINDERS
- IRRIGATION
- IRRIGATION CONSULTANTS
- LAKE CONSTRUCTION LINERS
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- PUMPS
- RUBBER CRUMB
- SLEEPERS
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16 - 20 January 2011

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18 - 20 January 2011

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Photo courtesy of Ridding Park
Repton Short Course 'Signature Island Green'.



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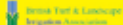
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