

Cameron is about to take over running the country. It will be interesting what the effects this new government will have on the country and how it will hopefully help the golf business somewhere down the line.

All the best for summer.

Steve Beverly, Immingham Golf Club

South East



Surrey

Thursday May 6. We should all be voting today so will one Party win outright or will David, Nick and Gordon be playing Deal or No Deal with each other to form a Hung Parliament? If hung, it is a bit like television's Masterchef, with three cooks inventing a menu or, in our Leaders' case, inventing a manifesto.

Three Leaders, one being told you are not staying and leaving the other two to cook a new menu, and not the books, as in the same old way. Of course, by the time you read this all will be decided and so will our fate for the next five years.

Golf at Laleham on April 27 was a fun Texas Scramble followed by a running buffet. Thanks to John Ross and his merry men for being game enough to have such an event so early in the year when growth has been so slow, due to the cold and dry conditions. My team (Willmott's Bankers) played a steady game but could not get anywhere near "Christie's Cockerels", who took first prize. Dave Guy's team were runners up. Dave did tell me the team's name but modesty forbids me from repeating it here. Longest Drive was hit by Wayne Sewell and Nearest the Pin was struck by Gary Rowe.

Baby of the Month, Jude Galloway, 8 lbs. 4 oz was delivered to Donna and Lee Blackburn, Blackmoor GC, on February 8. Congratulations to both mother and father and the stork for being on time.

Jason Hunt was missing from his usual team (Christie's Cockerels) at Laleham because he was getting married to Melissa Brady, in Orlando, on April 20, followed by a honeymoon in St.

Lucia. Due to the volcano dust Jason and Melissa were delayed but are by now a happily married couple.

Wednesday May 5. Golf again and this time Burhill GC was the venue. Excellent and with greens so slick and borrows so difficult to read, Ron Christie's gross 75 was easily enough to win the scratch prize. The nett competition was won by Gary Pitfield, 71, second place Roger Glazier, 74 and Paul Bacon again 74 on countback. National Championship, sponsored by Kubota and Charterhouse Turf Machinery, qualifiers are Gary Pitfield and Wayne Sewell. Longest Drive winner, Rob Surgey and Nearest the Pin, Stewart Clayton. Next competition is the Cresta Cup, June 15, at Hoebridge GC.

Remember, there is space available in the July edition for any news, views or humorous happenings. Please let me know, or my holiday memoirs will start re-appearing. You have been warned.

Brian Willmott



Kent

Now that the spring has finally arrived, all seems well again in the world of golf.

Tiger Woods is back on the scene, albeit with his (proverbial) tail tucked firmly between his legs. Warmer weather has also returned after an all too long stay of absence and my golf clubs have actually seen the light of day! Indeed, my first round for several months saw me hitting the woods better than ever, but I had terrible trouble getting out of them! And my irons found the water hazards so regularly that I'm thinking of getting my ball retriever re-gripped.

I have never been one to go overboard on practising, however, and the distinct lack of input on my part certainly showed at our second golf day of the year. The venue was the majestic Wildernesse Golf Club for our National Qualifier and despite some iffy weather prevailing leading up to this event, the clouds parted and the sun shone down on Kent's finest as we made our way to Mark Todd's great course.

On what was polling day for our new National Government, our members decided to vote with their feet and take up nearly all the available slots that Wildernesse had offered us. Kev did his best to organise the start sheet, prizes, bacon rolls and score cards and, despite many of us offering moral support, steam was billowing from his ears soon into his day's duties. Kev was also charged with being official photographer on the 1st tee and took action shots of everyone as they started their rounds. Vic, from Ernest Doe's, also made a welcome return with his junior snack wagon loaded with fizz pop and candy bars. Unfortunately for most, Kev's new hi-def camera exposed the effects of what eating too many candy bars can result in around the waistline area. Pictures should be online by now on our website. If you would like yours removed, and you are willing to make a donation to my favourite charity, give us a call!

Although, as I've said, the standard of golf was not great on my part, we had a great time at Wildernesse. Larry Pearman gave us the laugh of the day when he asked us to keep an eye on his ball when attempting to play a shot 12 inches behind a pond then proceeding to drill it under the water three feet in front of him!

The course was in pristine condition as ever and it was interesting to talk to Lee Relf, Mark's deputy at Wildernesse and (once) owner of an extremely dodgy handicap, about the changes that have been instigated at the club on all the woodland areas. Our group certainly took full advantage of getting a close look of pretty much every tree on the course as one duff drive after another headed straight for the lumber yard! At the end of our round came a great meal and we would like to thank everyone at Wildernesse for a fantastic day. Local knowledge played a big part in the results as you'll see: 1. Mark Todd, Wildernesse; 2. Steve Gunner, Wildernesse; 3. Malcolm Gofkin, Hadlow College. Trade Prize was won by Neil Pullen who also achieved the Longest Drive

In a couple of weeks we'll be posting an application form for our next event at Herne Bay so please get your entries in early to secure your place as our increasingly popular group visit

the North Kent coast. Before that I'm sure we'll all be glued to our tellys watching England's latest attempt to win the World Cup (for the first time since West Ham won it). So enjoy your work, your golf, pray for an England victory and fly the flag for our team.

COME ON ENGLAND!

All the best

Rob Holland

www.kentgreenkeepers.com



Essex

The Spring Trophy at South Essex Golf Club went off like a dream. The nice warm weather that greeted us on our arrival made the day even more enjoyable and the forecasted rain stayed away.

Our thanks go to South Essex Golf Club for a day that ran smoothly, the food and hospitality was excellent and the course was in a condition that the staff should be proud of. Our thanks to Peter Dawson and his team. The full results are on our website but the main winners of the day were as follows: Spring Trophy Winner. Anthony Kirwan, 41 pts Division 1 (0-15 handicap). 1. Ray Clark, 35 pts; 2. Dominic Rodgers, 34 pts; 3. Stewart Rogers, 32 pts (count back). Division 2 (15-18 handicap). 1. Dougie Fernie, 37 pts; 2. Mark Stopps, 36 pts; 3. Sam Anderson, 35 pts. Trade. 1. Neil Peachy, 36 pts; 2. Mick Fance, 31 pts (count back); 3. Ian Denny, 31 pts. Guests. 1. James Tuckwell, 43 pts; 2. Barry Larcombe, 40 pts; 3. James Lilly, 36 pts. Nearest the Pin. Stewart Rogers and Simon Barber.

An improved prize list and raffle prizes, with a first prize worth winning, rounded the day off nicely and our thanks once again go to all that helped make it an enjoyable event. We intend to follow the same format of prizes and raffle for all our events this year.

The website continues to improve with pictures from our first golf day, a small number of pictures from the BMW at Wentworth. A full list of results from the Spring Trophy, the Order of Merit so far, plus the Knockout Draw and job section.

This this month brings us the

Around The Green

Summer Trophy, June 22, which is being played at Channels Golf Club. It's a Blind Pairs competition with the pairing drawn after play has finished so that makes it good fun and gives you a chance of winning even if your round was not up to scratch. Plus we are having a Bar-B-Q afterwards so get your entries in and come and have a great day. There are also three stabs at getting to the National later this year with the blind pairs and overall winner receiving a place.

Book early as it looks like it will be well attended and you would not want to miss out on this one.

The following month July 20. P. Tuckwell Ltd are holding the Tuckwell Golf Team Challenge to be held at Bentley Golf Club, you should all be getting an entry form through the post very shortly if you have not yet had one. Details from Neil Peachey.

Please note that inadvertently the following Sponsors were left out of our fixture list: BMS Products Ltd, contact Matthew Corbould - 07973-155.408 and Blade Amenity, contact Richard Lewis - 07715-588.861 we apologise for any inconvenience.

If you have any news for the website or for GI please contact me on 07764-862.337 or via e-mail essexbigga@talktalk.net

Arnold Phipps-Jones
Press Office

South West and South Wales



South Coast

Hello everyone and welcome to the South Coast Around the Green. It seemed like a good idea in late 2009 to share the writing of these articles between the committee but as I've left it to the last minute I'm not so sure now, but here goes.

We are currently constructing a facebook page, so look under bigga south coast and join the group - get involved.

We will have had our first golf outing at Bramshaw Golf Club by the time you read this so the results will be in next month's magazine.

At Moors Valley we have put

in a planning application for the construction of another nine holes and a new clubhouse, so if successful, it looks like we will be busy, sorry, busier for a while.

That's all the news I have for now, Tony Gadd is your columnist next month so if you have any news, give him a call.

All the best for the rest of the season or as an old guy I worked with in Scotland used to say "Never weaken, don't let the ----- grind you down".

Ian Noble
Moors Valley Golf Course



South Wales

Hi Everyone

I regret that I have to start this column with some bad news. My old colleague and friend from my days at Mountain Ash Golf Club, Andrew Matthews, lost his long battle with cancer and died on April 17, just short of his 40th birthday. Andrew worked as an Assistant Greenkeeper at the club for 20 years and I can honestly say that he was a pleasure to work with.

We both had a similar taste in music, Andrew used to tape some of his Cd's for me (What with me being too tight to buy them myself!). He could sometimes be late for work, even though he only lived 50 yards from the sheds! Andrew leaves behind a son, Christian, who was probably the tallest person at the funeral, and who wore a Liverpool shirt to the service to honour his dad's devotion to Liverpool FC and who often took the trip up the motorway to watch his beloved reds. Condolences also to his dad, Geoff, who was Secretary at Mount for many years, and all his family, including his uncle Bernard, Head Greenkeeper at Tredegar and Rhumney GC. Rest in peace mate!

News from the Section now. On Wednesday, April 14, around 80 people attended The Celtic Manor Resort as part of the Section's series of evening lectures. It was a very interesting night with Director of Golf, Jim McKenzie, giving the gathering of Greenkeepers and Groundsmen an insight into the preparations for the big event (No, not Jim's forthcoming

wedding! Though good luck and best wishes to Debbie and Jim for that.) No, The Ryder Cup, the third biggest sporting event in the world, and it's coming to Wales! It was a great night and a great way to round off what has been an excellent series of winter evening lectures. Thanks to Jim, Chris Sealey and Martin Nash for their presentations. Also to The Celtic Manor Resort for their hospitality, and finally to Martin Townsend and Peter Holstrom, of Countrywide, for their continued sponsorship of this Section via the evening lectures. May I take this opportunity to assure all companies that sponsor this Section that they will never be taken for granted and that all will be thanked at both Section meetings and in this column.

The Spring seminar at Royal Porthcawl GC was a big success, with over 40 attendees. There were some really informative presentations on preparing courses for major tournaments given by some excellent speakers. So a big thank you from the section to Huw Morgan MG, Richard Windows of STRI. Gordon Moir, of St Andrews Links Trust; Ian Kinley, of Royal Porthcawl, and Jim McKenzie, of The Celtic Manor Resort. Also thanks to Steve Chappell for all his hard work in organising the event; to John Reynolds for demonstrating the Verti Go drainage system on the putting green; to Royal Porthcawl GC for hosting the event and providing an excellent lunch and finally to Jonathan Harmer, David Binks and Peter Lacey, of Farmura Environmental, for sponsoring the day. Gerald Orme sent his apologies as he was unable to make along the event.

The following night saw the return of the IOG Dinner and Dance which was held at Taff's Well RFC. A large attendance, including a 'Fact Finding' delegation from our Section, were treated to a lovely meal and an exciting raffle. There was then a performance by Graham Cox, or 'The Singing Greenkeeper' as he is known locally. Graham thrilled many (and startled some) with his singing, and I have to say that his rendition of 'Danny Boy' and 'Nessum Dorma' were truly memorable.

Good Luck to Ian Kinley, of Royal Porthcawl GC, in preparation for the Ryder Cup Wales Seniors Open which is being staged there this month and

also to Huw Morgan MG of Ashburnham GC who are staging The Welsh PGA Open, also this month.

Have a great June!
Ceri Richards 07831 168645



Devon and Cornwall

Hello all. It's our quiet time so no events to report. The next event will be the Summer meeting at St Mellion on Tuesday, June 15. There will be a Golf Match between Devon and Cornwall. If you prefer, Mike Bush, Courses Manager, will be leading a Course Walk, showing off all the new redevelopments on both courses and facilities. This will be followed by presentations and a BBQ on the terrace. Those who haven't already put their name down, please let me know asap, as I'm sure it is going to be very popular.

One of our stalwart members, Buster Lewer, has retired at the age of 65. Buster is very well known in the Section and has supported many BIGGA events since moving to the region. Buster was Head Greenkeeper at Dainton Park, Devon, having been appointed at the very start of its construction back in September 1991. Coming from Wells GC with a strong recommendation from Nigel Pring, Oake Manor, who had worked with Dainton's owner David Wood, he has worked tirelessly to grow and mature Dainton Park to become one of Devon's most popular clubs. Inheriting an "Arable desert", Buster has helped plant 20,000 trees and install up to 5,000 Railway sleepers as well as a period of endless stone picking, all in-house. David Wood described Buster as having a tremendous work ethic, second to none. The whole Section wishes Buster every happiness in his retirement and we still hope to see you at future events. Also, best wishes and every success to Alan Potter in taking over as Head Greenkeeper at Dainton Park.

Again, any notes, stories or events you would like me to include, please let me know.

George Pitts
Section Secretary
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South West

Hi people, hope all is well! You'll all remember me talking about a new set of workshops, that I'm sure will become available to you all, these being the work of Lawrence Pithie. In the South West the first workshop took place at Minchinhampton New course. This workshop was titled "Planning & Budgeting". It covered all aspects of the golf course a manager would need to take into account, from leadership skills to making your budgets in all the areas on and off the course. I attended the workshop myself and have to say how great it was and I'm sure that it will only help me to better my career (as it would for anyone who attends I'm sure).

This month we also reintroduced our Section's greenkeeper amateur. This was held at Woodlands Golf Club. At Woodlands they have 36 holes and we had the pleasure of playing the "signature course". It's just a shame that we played in heavy showers, although this did not affect a great day enjoyed by all. Woodlands is mainly a pay and play golf, this is clear to see that it is set up this way. With little rough and fewer bunkers and a huge fleet of golfing buggies, it makes for an enjoyable round of golf for all levels. This is by no means a criticism, far from it, David Knight (the owner of Woodlands golf club) has done a fantastic job in achieving such a popular venue for golfers in Bristol. I had the pleasure of partnering with Kyle Knight, playing alongside Chris Sealey and his Greens Chairman, Pete Schrader, I can only say that the weather on the day was more consistent than our golf, but we still had an enjoyable day, cheers guys.

The results for the greenkeeper amateur are as follows: 1. Tim

Morgan & Colin Snell, 44pts; 2. Simon Pearce & Mike McGarr, 43pts; 3. Roger Neale & Kieran Hector, 41pts. The Nearest the Pins were won by Tim Morgan, at the 15th, and Mike McGarr, at the 17th. It was great to see a rather impressive turn out for this event. Great stuff guys!

Remember that our next golfing day is at Lyme Regis, on June 23. Lyme Regis was featured in last month's Greenkeeper International, (read it, it's pretty impressive). Set on edge of Dorset, built on the biggest land slip in Europe. This will be our Summer tournament and as always a place for the National Championship is available to the winner. This year National Championship, sponsored by Kubota and Charterhouse Turf Machinery, will be played at the Berkshire.

For those of you that don't know, but I'm a football referee in my spare time. On the bank holiday Monday I had a trip to Luton Town v York City, in the blue square premier play off second leg. This fixture really was the most amazing experience I've had on a football pitch. In front of just under 10,000 screaming fans, the noise, the atmosphere.....everything was just amazing! The ground is set up so the crowd are right on top of you. The noise just echoed. I remember walking under the tunnel and onto the pitch and it just hit you, I had the hairs on the back of my neck standing on ends. I can't really comment on the game too much (nor the afterwards... as it went by before I knew it. You go the whole season wondering, is this really worth it, so much time, so much travelling, sometimes working with people who just hate referees...yes it's worth it, every minute of it. More of this please!

Look forward to hearing from you guys.

Adam Matthews
adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk
07732503855



John Pemberton
Chief Executive

More and more I see the term 'One show' being bandied about in relation to BTME and SALTEX, almost as if it is a foregone conclusion that the two events are going to merge.

The reality is that a number (as yet to be quantified) of companies are finding the current market place in turf management difficult and are therefore looking at ways of spending less, while at the same time trying to raise product awareness.

Pitchcare, wishing to broker a solution to the exhibition debate, invited exhibitors from BTME and SALTEX to a meeting at the NEC in March so that concerns by 'the Trade' could be aired. I hasten to point out that I had a senior member of the BIGGA staff attend merely to listen to what was being debated and not as a measure of support. Following the meeting I have had representations by a number of companies that were deeply concerned about the direction the meeting took and are not at all in support of the proposals made on the day. There remains a great deal of support for the status quo and I do not go along with the claim that there is an overwhelming support for a single show.

The industry is divided I admit but in some ways that is the nature of the industry. Everyone is looking for something different and as I keep on saying there is no one solution that will suit all. I know from my own research that the major manufacturers (often colloquially referred to as 'the Big Boys') would like to see one show but they are settled into a pattern of alternate years and are not pushing the issue. BIGGA and the IOG have been invited, somewhat under duress, to attend a meeting with this anonymous group styled 'the Trade' to listen to their concerns and discuss the options, although I understand that we are going to be presented with the option of moving towards one show or 'the Trade' will abandon thoughts of attending BTME and SALTEX and form its own new event. We have agreed to meet 'the Trade' and a date has been set for late July.

In the meanwhile plans continue as normal for Harrogate Week 2011. There are already a significant number of stands sold and if at any time you wish to see who is attending then visit www.harrogateweek.org.uk where there is a floor plan. The site can also be accessed from the home page of BIGGA's main website.

Bigger and better things are in the pipeline on the education front, building on the success of the event earlier this year with some high profile international speakers already booked. The full programme will be available in due course but it is guaranteed to contain something for everyone.

A word of caution to those companies that think it is clever not to book a stand but prefer to mix with the visitors and sneak sales talks in at every opportunity. That is not playing the game fairly and we will not hesitate to ask anyone caught doing this to leave.

One show or two shows it really does not count for anything if the visitors do not attend with their enquiries or cheque books. Over the years BIGGA has done a tremendous amount of work for the greenkeeping profession which has helped improve the status of the job and the quality of facilities. Has BIGGA really got it that wrong or do we need a wake up call to the members, their non member colleagues AND their employers about the consequences of holding back support?

Around The Green

Please send your notes to Scott MacCallum by the 5th of the month. Email: scott@bigga.co.uk



The National Championship 2010

at The Berkshire Golf Club

The BIGGA National Championship 2010 is back again this Autumn; taking place at The Berkshire GC on the Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th of October. To play at the event, please fill in the form below...



Please select the relevant category:

- Full Member
- Affiliate Member

The entry fee of £95 includes all golf fees, lunch both days and dinner on Monday evening. Please note that there is no accommodation provided.

Name

Address.....

.....

..... Post Code.....

Mobile

E-mail.....

Membership Number

Handicap.....

BIGGA Section.....

Payment method (please tick)

- I enclose my cheque made payable to 'BIGGA' value £95
- Please debit my Mastercard / Switch / Visa / Delta card with the fee of £95

Card number

Start Date

Expiry Date.....

Last 3 security digits.....

Issue No. (Switch/Delta only)

Signature.....

Date

Or E-mail your details to:
sandra@bigga.co.uk
Ensure you receive confirmation of entry by return E-mail.

Deadline for entry is 31 August 2010.

Completed entry forms should be sent to:
BIGGA National Championship, BIGGA House, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF

The main tournament for the Challenge Trophy will be played over 36 holes, medal play, with the best overall gross score producing the BIGGA National Champion. The player with the lowest nett score will be presented with the BIGGA Challenge Cup. Affiliate members will compete for the BIGGA Challenge Bowl.

There will be prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd over 36 holes in both the nett and gross categories, additionally after each day of 18 holes there will be prizes for winners of handicap divisions. The BIGGA Regional Team Cup and prize will be calculated from a minimum of 4 best nett scores over the first day of play. If you have a poor first day an alternative Stableford competition will be held on the second day of play.





Diary of Events

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

More upcoming dates can be found at www.bigga.org.uk
Just click on events

Date	Event	Venue	Contact
JUNE			
Thursday June 3rd	South West Section Event – Match v's Secretaries	Dainton Park Golf Club	Adam Matthews at adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk or mobile: 07732 503855
Wednesday June 9th	North Wales Section V's North West Section Golf Match	Carden Park Golf Club (De Vere)	Jeremy Hughes at jezpro69@aol.com or 01978 860109 Mob: 07876 776265
Monday June 14th	BIGGA Annual Golf Day	Aldwark Manor Golf and Country Club	Sandra Raper at Sandra@bigga.co.uk or 01347 833800
Tuesday June 15th	Surrey Section – Cresta Cup	Hoebridge Golf Club, Old Woking	Ron Christie at lazyassron@btopenworld.com or 020 864 43061
Tuesday June 15th	Devon v Cornwall Golf Match and Course Walk followed by BBQ	St Mellion International, Cornwall	George Pitts at gpitts.yelverton@gmail.com or 07929 754401
Thursday June 17th	Scottish National Tournament	Murcar Golf Club	Peter Boyd at p.j.boyd@btinternet.com or 0141 616 3440
Thursday June 17th	East Anglia Section Event	Diss Golf Club	Ian Willett at info@thorpeness.co.uk or mobile: 07929 205398
Tuesday June 22nd	Essex Section Event	Boyce Hill Golf Club	Dominic Rodgers at domrogers@talktalk.net or mobile: 07929 205398
Wednesday June 23rd	Central Section Event	Old Course, St Andrews, Course Walk start 4pm	Andrew Mellon at AMellon@Elmwood.ac.uk or mobile: 07780 995602
Wednesday June 23rd	South West Section Summer Tournament	Lyme Regis Golf Club	Adam Matthews at adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk or mobile: 07732 503855
Wednesday June 30th	Northern Section Event	Scarborough North Cliff Golf Club	Frank Stewart at 07947 401278
Wednesday June 30th	Midland Region Golf Management Trophy	Erewash Valley Golf Club	Peter Larter at petelarter972@aol.com or 07866 366966
JULY			
Wednesday July 7th	North West Section Event	Blackpool North Shore Golf Club	Chris Sheehan at jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk or 07840 706738
Wednesday July 7th	East Midlands Section Event	Rothley Park Golf Club	Andrew de Wet at biggaeastmidlands@hotmail.com or 07730 713895
Wednesday July 7th	Sheffield Section Event	Hillsborough Golf Club	James Stevens at jimmy_jams20@hotmail.com or 07738 719614
Wednesday July 14th	Northern Section v's Sheffield Section Event	Woolley Park Golf Club	Frank Stewart at 07947 401278 or James Stevens at jimmy_jams20@hotmail.com or 07738 719614
Thursday July 15th	East of England Section Event	Tydd St Giles Golf Club	Bruce Hicks at brucehicks1@gmail.com or 07931 714922
Thursday July 15th	South Coast Section Event	Stoneham Golf Club	Chris Bitten at chrisbitten@btinternet.com or 07796 887633
Thursday July 15th – Sunday July 18th	The Open Championship	St Andrews, Scotland	http://www.opengolf.com/
Wednesday July 21st	London Section Event	Muswell Hill Golf Club	Matt Pledsted at matt.pledsted@hotmail.co.uk or 07818 410333
Tuesday July 27th	South West Section – Scotts Management	Marlborough Golf Club	Adam Matthews at adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk or mobile: 07732 503855
Thursday July 29th – Sunday August 1st	Ricoh Women's British Open	The Royal Birkdale Golf Club	http://www.ricohwomensbritishopen.com/



Membership

Tracey Maddison, Head of Membership, provides a departmental update

BIGGA Website It's here.....the new BIGGA website has arrived!

Look out for the redesigned BIGGA website, it's packed with new features, improved navigation, new content and enhanced design. The website includes an improved security login and members will soon have the facility to make online payments including membership renewals.



Section Events – Why attend a Section event?

Last month Sami Collins and I were invited down to the South Wales Spring Seminar held at Royal Porthcawl Golf Club.

What a great day this was, well done to Steve Chappell and the Section for organising a very informative day.

The title of the day was 'When the Circus Comes to Town', an intriguing title which involved Huw Morgan, Course Manager at Ashburnham Golf Club; Gordon Moir, Director of Greenkeeping, St Andrews Links Trust; Richard Windows, STRI; Ian Kinley, Course Manager at Royal Porthcawl Golf Club, and Jim McKenzie, Director of Golf Courses and Estates Management at Celtic Manor Resort.

All of these speakers provided the audience with a very interesting insight into the preparation for, management during and recovery from a top golfing event.

I was invited to play Royal Porthcawl Golf Club the day before, thank you to Ian Kinley and his team, the course was in fabulous condition and the weather was perfect.

I found myself in what I can only describe as a dream three ball; I was in the esteem company of Jim MacKenzie and Gordon Moir (thanks Gordon for the pot bunker lesson!).

At one point I found myself stepping back and listening to them both chat about the trials, tribulations and the pride of being

involved at the highest level of running two of the most prestigious golf tournaments to be held this year!

It then occurred to me that here I was playing golf and chatting with two guys who, arguably are at the top of the career ladder, but were, with respect, two regular guys chatting about their families and jobs and had a passion for the same thing, managing a golf course!

I realised then what a special professional membership association BIGGA is, there are no real airs and graces, these guys are prepared to chat to all members and share advice and experiences at all levels, Section, Regional and National.

So, the moral of the story.....

You never know who you are going to meet and what you are going to learn at a Section event, so why not go along to one?

I guarantee you will always be made to feel very welcome and find somebody who you have something in common with.



BIGGA is now on Facebook

With over 350 million users worldwide we didn't want to be left behind.

If you have a Facebook profile why not search for us by typing in the search field British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association and join the BIGGA Group.



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South West & Wales

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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

BIGGA welcomes the following new members

Scotland

Colin Berry, Ayrshire; Christopher Boyd, West David Braid, Central; Mike Braidwood, North
Iain Cameron, Ayrshire
Keith Donald, North; George Gunnell, West
Darren Henderson, Central
Ross Hodge, Ayrshire; Philip Pelham, North
Ross Prowse, East; James Sharp, Central
Gordon Smith, East; Blair Somerville, West;
Brian Toall, East

Northern Region

Gary Anderson, Northern
Ryan Blemings, North East
Kevin Burke, Cleveland; Alan Connor, Northern
Mark Davies, North West
Ryan Finch, North West
Christopher Harding, North West
James Heap, Northern
Christopher Lewis, North West
Nicholas Raine, North East
Graeme Sanders, Northern
Ken Ward, Northern; Stuart West, North East
Phillip Young, Northern

Midland Region

David Anslow, Midland
Andrew Barker, East of England
Michael Barnes, Berks/Bucks & Oxon
Jon Brownsell, Berks/Bucks & Oxon
James Burberry, East Midland
Mark Elliot, East Midland
Gavin Hackley, Midland
Steven Hardy, Midland
Billy Hayes, East Midland
Christian Houghton, East Midland
Stewart Jeffs, East of England
Tom Mapes, Mid Anglia
Brett Moggridge, Berks/Bucks & Oxon
Gary Moore, Mid Anglia
Andrew Rafferty, Midland
Daniel Robinson, Midland
Lyndon Shaw, Midland
Brian Steele, Berks/Bucks & Oxon
Paul Trafford, Midland; John Walshaw, Midland
Ian Whiteley, Midland
Oliver Woodcock, Mid Anglia

S East Region

Darren Baker, Essex; Paul Barry, London
Joseph Blake, Surrey; David Burrows, Sussex
Ashley Churchill, Surrey
Richard Hill, Surrey; Jack Medicott, Surrey
Andrew Nye, Surrey; James Rattenbury, Essex
Scott Roberts, Surrey; Michael Taylor, Surrey
Stephen Thompson, Essex; Tom Wear, Kent
Richard Wood, Essex

S West/S Wales Region

Sean Bennett, Devon & Cornwall
Benjamin Bishop, South Coast
Sebastian Cavilla, South West
Andrew Day, South West
Joseph Frampton, South Wales
Daniel James Cornish, South Coast
Kevin Sturney, South Coast
Gareth Thomas, South Coast

Northern Ireland

Peter Roberts

Overseas

Bradley Anderson, USA
James Graham Prusa, USA

Assistant Profile

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

Senõr Fluffy knows how to look after himself and enjoys throwing himself out of planes!

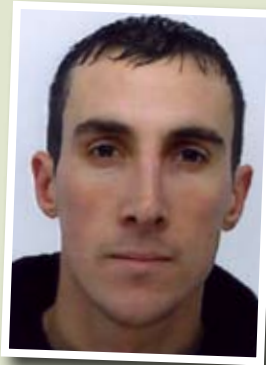
Name: Paul Healy

Age: 27

Club: Worlebury GC

Position: First Assistant

Nickname: Senor Fluffy (Thanks to Frank Newberry!)



How long have you been in greenkeeping?

11 years.

What was it about the career that attracted you?

I liked the idea of working outdoors.

If you weren't a greenkeeper what would you be?

I've always liked the idea of being a sky diving instructor.

Which task do you enjoy doing and why?

I've always enjoyed mowing fairways, particularly before a big event.

Which task do you least enjoy doing and why?

I've never enjoyed vertidrainning fairways. It can be a long and boring job.

What one thing, other than a pay rise, would improve the greenkeepers' lot?

As a single man I'd have to say some slightly younger, female members!

Hobbies?

I enjoy golf, sky diving, kick boxing and long distance running.

Favourite Band?

I don't have a favourite band but Michael Jackson is a legend in my eyes.

Which team do you support (football or otherwise)?

Not a big fan of team games. I prefer my more dangerous sports!

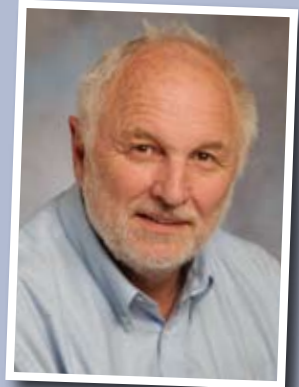
What is your claim to fame?

I once held a couple of kick boxing titles here in the south west and, as a result, appeared in some fighting magazines.

What's your Number?

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

Mike Coleman of Fuschia Exhibition & Conference Services comes under the spotlight



What is your position within the company?

I founded Fuchsia Exhibition & Conference Services and have been Chairman/Managing Director. I am handing over to my son, Nick, but will remain as Chairman.

How long have you been in the industry?

I became involved with SALTEX when it first moved to Windsor and BTME from the first exhibition in what is now Hall A!

How did you get into it?

By chance, we were doing PR for a company when their stand builder did a midnight flit - we stepped in.

What other jobs have you done?

I demonstrated Land Rovers in Trinidad; joined the British South Africa Police, in Rhodesia. I launched newspapers in Buckinghamshire; was Group Production Controller for Haymarket Publishing and Publisher.

What do you like about your current job?

Not knowing what the next call or e-mail is going to bring.

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

Cutting a wheat field with a scythe; asking the operator to connect me, cutting grass with a Royal Enfield Mower. A lot has changed.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Member of a drama group, Chair of the Friends of my Church, 18 years as Chair of Govenors of local Primary School, also sailing a 37ft Bavaria out of the Canaries.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?

Hopefully sailing more and I might give up a lot of the physical side of exhibitions.

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

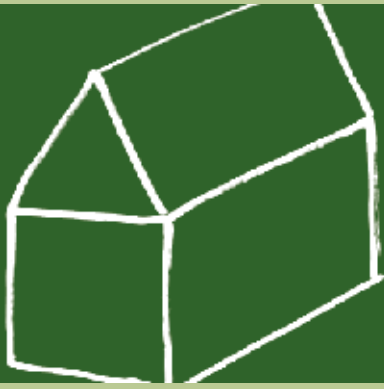
I am not a great believer in 'best friends' or classifying friendship by degrees.

What do you consider to be your lucky number? . 7.

Always has been. As I get nearer to the big 70 I would like it to remain so.

Pick a number. 21

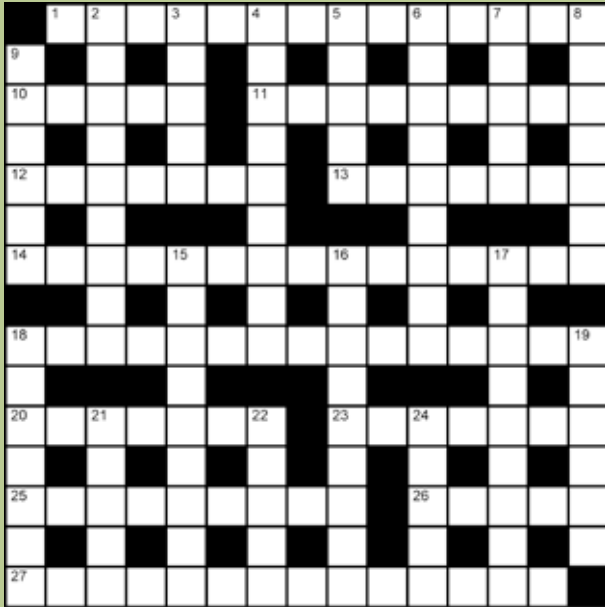
*You've chosen...
Mike King of Vitax!*



in the shed

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

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 Type of festive song (9,5)
- 10 Edible according to the principles of Islamic law (5)
- 11 Play featuring Eliza Doolittle and Professor Henry Higgins (9)
- 12 Rocks and minerals used primarily in the making of steel (4,3)
- 13 South American river (7)
- 14 The first words spoken by God (3,5,2,5)
- 18 Bust, waist and hip measurements (5,10)
- 20 Chooses (7)
- 23 One not seeking payment for his services (7)
- 25 Voice of the people (Latin) (3,6)
- 26 To urge (5)
- 27 As used by the foul-mouthed and blasphemous (6,8)

DOWN

- 2 Instrument used to reflect the sun's rays in a constant direction (9)
- 3 Traditional dwelling of the Inuit (5)

- 4 1984 film starring Val Kilmer in his first feature film role (3,6)
- 5 In relation to those originally from Angeln, Germany (5)
- 6 Collar bones (9)
- 7 Name of the hamster in 2008's Bolt (5)
- 8 Method of restarting the game in rugby union not used in rugby league (4-3)
- 9 High-pitched and piercing (6)
- 15 Coin worth two shillings and sixpence (4,5)
- 16 A military unit, usually commanded by a Lieutenant Colonel (9)
- 17 The first to experience an experimental procedure (6,3)
- 18 Face to face (3-1-3)
- 19 Move text across or down a computer screen (6)
- 21 Egyptian city built on the ancient city of Thebes (5)
- 22 The head bone (5)
- 24 A farewell remark (5)

QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ World Cup Mania

1. Against which team did David Platt score a famous last minute goal to enable England to progress to the quarter finals in the 1990 World Cup?
2. Name the goalkeeper who was widely held to have cost England their place in the semi finals of the World Cup after the holders had gone 2-0 up against West Germany.
3. In the same World Cup which player scored in every game on the way to his country's victory?
4. Who scored England's goal in the Maradona's famous Hand of God game in 1986?
5. What was the final score in the Scotland-Holland 1978 match which featured Archie Gemmill's famous goal?
6. On what exact date did England win the 1966 World Cup.
7. Against whom was Gazza playing when he famously burst into tears?
8. Who won the very first World Cup?
9. Excluding Penalty Shoot-Outs what is the greatest number of goals a World Cup winning team has scored in a final?

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

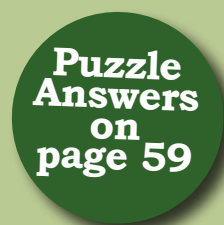
MONSTER SUDOKU

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.

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

SUDOKU

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





Safety Management System

The BIGGA/GCMA Safety Management System, sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen, has been developed to:

- Make golf clubs safer
- Introduce best practice
- Standardise Health & Safety throughout golf
- Reduce costs for golf clubs

Why do you need a Safety Management System?

Because:

- It incorporates all your legal requirements to comply with Health & Safety Legislation
- Clubs have responsibilities
- There are penalties for not complying – up to £20,000 fine and/or course closure
- Golf clubs are hazardous places to work

The Safety Management System contains help and guidance to enable golf clubs to:

- Set a Health & Safety Policy
- List hazards and assess risks
- Plan for the future
- Introduce audit and review procedures

The Safety Management System is accessed through the Members area of the BIGGA website (www.bigga.org.uk) and the GCMA website (www.gcma.org.uk)

sponsored by



RJ International Golf Course



in the shed answers

QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. Belgium
2. Peter Bonetti
3. Brazil's Jairzinho
4. Gary Lineker
5. 3-2 to Scotland
6. July 11
7. West Germany
8. Uruguay
9. Five, Brazil 5-2 Sweden in 1958

CROSSWORD



MONSTER SUDOKU

Monster Daily Sudoku: Wed 19-May-2010 medium

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

SQUIGGLY SUDOKU

Squiggly Daily Sudoku: Wed 19-May-2010 easy

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

BUYERS' GUIDE



Irritech Limited

Irritech Limited is an independent irrigation consultancy practice specialising in existing irrigation system appraisal/evaluation, and new irrigation system design.

Irritech operates throughout the UK, Europe, and the middle East working with existing golf courses who need advice regarding irrigation upgrades or new golf courses who are seeking to install an irrigation system.

A full irrigation system appraisal and evaluation covers all aspects of system operation from watering sourcing and storage, through to sprinkler uniformity and system efficiency, enabling the client to pinpoint areas of concern and implement changes to improve operation and fine turf quality.

Recent projects include St Mellion Golf & Country Club, The Berkshire Golf Club, Aintree Racecourse, and Liphook Golf Club (where all aspects of irrigation system operation including borehole prognosis/water storage reservoir design have been undertaken to ensure a bespoke solution for the Client).

The role of an independent irrigation consultant is to allow the Client to procure the correct products for the golf club through a fair and even tender process; using a specification provided by the consultant, the Client can go to the 'market place' and achieve like for like competitive pricing.

Irritech is an established practice (approximately 9 years old) that have offered tailored designs and appraisal packages to over 350 Clients, improving irrigation system operation and in many cases reducing operating costs, for example Wildernes Golf Club which has procured a borehole and 600m³ water storage tank to supplement their mains water supply - this in the event of a hosepipe ban will act as an insurance policy, protecting the Club's investment in the fine turf areas for many years to come.

Irritech can be contacted on:-
Tel: +44 (0)1823 690216
Email: info@irritechlimited.co.uk

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- IRRIGATION
- IRRIGATION CONSULTANTS
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- RUBBER CRUMB
- SLEEPERS
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