

Stapleford Park on May 12, 13 and 14. Matthew Edge is looking for volunteers to help prepare the course. There will be many of the old favourites playing so will be a good experience for all who attend. If you are interested in helping Matthew out, then please contact him on 07989 356 145. Everyone by now should have their pair's fixtures; it is shaping up to be a good year this year with some new courses in the competition. Once again if anybody has any news then please contact either myself or Andy de Wet.

Matthew Wormald



Midland

Firstly this month I would like to apologise for the lack of notes for both February and March of this year, such was composed and emailed to H.Q. but unfortunately they did not receive such, for some unfathomable reason! "It's only milk". However, there is, of course, the cream that our Section is so reliant upon, such being the kind sponsorship of our many golf and educational events, and of course our wonderful calendar. My greatest apologies must go to those kind calendar page sponsors who were featured in the missed publications. Such being: January's page, Abbey Mowers, please consider them for your machinery needs, especially regarding Toro products www.abbeymowers.co.uk. February's page, Turner Groundscare, also for your machinery requirements, particularly John Deere machines www.turnergroundscare.co.uk. And March's page, Matt Gresty/Professional Amenity Grass Seed (specialist). Please email Matt for all of your seed requirements on matthew.gresty@limagrains.co.uk. For those interested in the two missing back instalments, such can be found on our Section's website; www.biggamidlandsection.com.

Our fixtures for the fore coming season are; Spring: Trentham Golf Club, May 17 (late entries will be accepted due to the above cited, please call Gary: 07780-953-764 to book your place). Summer: Edgbas-

ton Golf Club, July 19. Autumn: Beau Desert Golf Club, October 7. Christmas: Woburn Golf Club, December 2. Our thanks to these most generous Clubs for affording us such opportunity to play what can only be described as four delicious venues straight out of the top draw. Also thanks to Rhys for yet again instigating and organising such. With such wonderful courses on offer I hope that you will support our Section by attending these both enjoyable and networking educational days with the added bonus of maybe wining one of the many great prizes on offer as provided by our many generous sponsors. Talking of sponsors, our thanks to Burrows Grass Machinery for this month's calendar page. For your Ransomes and Jacobsen sales, service and spares please call: 0870-242-6952.

It is with great happiness that I can report that two of our members have had a visit from the old stork, and I don't mean margarine.

Firstly, Mark Cutler, of Edgbaston, and his lovely wife, Sara, with a bouncing baby girl, Lucy. Well there goes your golf, Mark. Secondly, our Chair, Ed Stant, and his ever suffering wife, Tracey, (sorry I got it wrong last time lass) have had a big lipped (not my words) crackling girl, Jemima. Ed you look nothing like Jagger, your belly's too big for a start, and as it's your second your golf is already out of the window (is that the round one!). Seriously though, welcome to the world, Lucy and Jemima, and congratulations to their proud parents.

And finally, just time to remind all to get their entries for this year's Scotts Doubles Knockout Competition in by the spring tournament, where the draw will as usual be conducted. I do suspect that us mere mortals will stand a greater chance this year as the dynamic partnership that has almost dominated this event for many years has been forced to split. So please get your entries in and support this long running popular event. With the final being the wonderful prize of playing at Wentworth and as a guest of our fine sponsors for the day by Scots such is surely £6 well invested

Sorry for reiteration,
Sean McDade.

South West and South Wales Region



South Coast

To begin with I have to mention that South Coast Section Spring Comp is fast approaching and that the info will be sent to all Section members very soon. Just a reminder that the winners on the day gain automatic entry to the National Championship, sponsored by Kubota and Charterhouse Redexim, later in the year.

The venue is the beautiful and picturesque Bramshaw GC, on Thursday May 13, (I'm sure Jason and his team are looking forward to it!). We will be playing 9 holes on the challenging Forest course before lunch; then 18 holes on the Manor followed by dinner and presentation, the price yet to be confirmed will be around the £22 mark. I'm hoping we manage to get the excellent support we had at the Turkey Trot.

With no other news to pass on, if your ready for your sleep at tea break then continue reading as I'm going to tell you a bit about life at Brockenhurst Manor during this seemingly endless winter.

After the continuous rain of November, the freezing temperatures and ice of December, and the snow in January, it gave me a chance to embark (excuse the pun) on our much needed Woodland Management programme, although the majority of the work is hopefully going to be carried out by tree specialists, John Nicholson Associates. We have spent many frozen hours clearing around greens and tees to improve air circulation and sunlight, the feedback from members has been encouraging, especially as we now have some stunning views of the New Forest, while standing on some tees instead of the previous walls of holly and very little light.

I did manage to unintentionally find a way to get the green staff back into shape after the festive period, when we had a rogue herd of new forest ponies

demolishing my garden fence and roaming around the golf course to seek pastures new. The horses must of thought it was Christmas...well it was! So with the help of some of members we did eventually manage to turn them out in the torrential rain, but at the expense of some serious damage to the greens and some tired and fed up green staff.

On a personal note. I attended a two day presentation skills workshop at BTME, I had the pleasure of the company of the then BIGGA Chairman elect-Paul Worster; Stuart, from St Annes Old Links, and Alec, from Newbury/Crookham. We spent a lot the time learning and putting together presentations and we found out a bit about each other through them. Sorry guys you had to listen to me talk about the famous Rams (Derby County FC) for five minutes. Oh yeah, Mr Chairman, I will get my revenge on you one day...you know what I mean eh! Joking aside best wishes during your time in office, Paul.

Back at BMGC due to more heavy rain this week our Maintenance Week has been cancelled.. more headaches....I'm sure things will improve soon and by the time your reading this it will be too warm for us and the grass will be going mad. I wish you all a great season ahead.

Kevan Glass



South Wales

Hope you are all well.

I will start off by bringing you a report on two recent evening events that were organised by our Section and the South Wales branch of the IOG.

First was a trip to The Swalec Stadium for the rearranged talk by Keith Exton, Head Groundsman at the ground. Keith gave a very good presentation entitled 'In at the deep end' on the work carried out at the ground in preparation for the Ashes test. There then followed a Q&A session with some searching questions from the attendees, then guests were treated to a lovely buffet. Thanks to Keith for his excellent presentation, to the South Wales IOG for organising

the rearranged event, to everybody (about 20) who turned up and to Peter Holstrom and Countrywide for sponsoring the event.

Next was the visit to Ffos Las Racecourse, where about 30 people braved the inclement weather to enjoy an interesting evening in the company of Mr Tim Long, Clerk Of The Course, who gave us an informative guided tour of the course and all its state-of-the-art facilities. A great evening was rounded off with a powerpoint presentation on the construction of the course and then a nice buffet! Thanks again to the IOG and Countrywide for their organisation and support for this event and to Tim and Alwyn Morgan, Head Groundsman, and everyone at Ffos Las for their hospitality.

The Section's first golf day of the year will take place at Trefloyne GC on Friday, May 21, and is once again sponsored by Tower Sport Europe, so thanks in advance to them for their continued support. Tee off is at 1.30pm. The schedule for the day will be different this year in that there will be a running buffet so you don't have to wait a long time for your meal if you happen to be one of the first out. Also there will be a 'smart casual' dress code. So if you have been asking for these changes in routine then please support the idea with your presence! It's up to you!

Also, this event has been scheduled for a Friday, so that it could be turned into a social event with people having a night out in Tenby with the possibility of discounted accommodation at Trefloyne. You are more than welcome to bring your loved one too if you wish (or failing that, the wife!) Again, it sounds like a great idea, but needs participation. So if you are interested then please give Steve Chappell a ring.

That's it for this month! By the time you've read this then hopefully either Cardiff City or the Swans will be in The Premiership, and some of their fans, if they meet in the play-offs, will not be in jail! The mighty Scarlets, however, will be out of the Heineken Cup for next season and will instead be playing some 'pop and crisps' cup! Never mind, at least (after a recent visit to The Liberty Stadium) our fans can sing and are not too busy eating prawn sandwiches!

Anyway, here's to an enjoyable and stress free growing season for you all!

Ceri Richards
07831 168645
celticceri@aol.com



Devon and Cornwall

March's Meeting at Mullion Golf Course down on the Lizard peninsula was a great success. 40 members made the trip to Mullion, which for many was a long trip. It was worth every mile though, as Gordon Tamblyn, Course Manager, had the course in superb condition. On a dry but windy day (apparently just a breeze for Mullion) the course played extremely well and the views from the bottom holes were outstanding. 25 members joined Gordon on an extremely interesting Course Walk. We all met back at the very friendly and accommodating Clubhouse for what was a very welcome lunch. The Carvery and desert was plentiful, leaving 40 very satisfied customers. After lunch, Brian Robinson, Rigby Taylor, Director of Grass Seed Research, gave a fascinating and in-depth insight into grass seed research and in what direction the industry is being lead. Enthesis was placed on reducing inputs and improving carbon footprints and how it will play a huge part in the future management of amenity areas. Many thanks to Brian for making the long trip and for giving such an enthusiastic and thought provoking presentation.

The Golf format for the day was individual Stableford with prizes sponsored by Bayer. In first place was Mike Ellis, Lake View GC, with 35 pts, second was Andrew Dunstan, Newquay GC, with 32 pts and third was Tim Ellis, Mullion GC, with 31 pts. There were 2x Longest drives and 2x Nearest the pin. One set sponsored by Farmura and the other very kindly sponsored by Gordon Tamblyn, Mullion GC. Longest drive on the 4th and Nearest the pin on the 16th was won by Keith Kemp (West Cornwall), Nearest the pin on the 11th was won by Des Bickle (Bigbury) and Longest drive on the 18th was won by Shaun

Warren (Staddon Heights). Well done to all and many thanks to all the sponsors.

The next meeting for us will be the "Devon v Cornwall" Match on the 15th June at St Mellion International. More details to follow.

Good luck to everyone for the season.

George Pitts
07929 754401
gpitts.yelverton@gmail.com



South West

Hello everyone, I trust you're all well. I'm sure you'll all agree when I say how great the weather has been the last week or so... (I do hope it remains while you read this) After the winter we had, this weather is the least we deserve, if you ask me a little bit of the Caribbean sun would be just fine.

As with most of you, I'm sure, we've just started to spread a little bit of the magic stuff to help everything grow, this always seems like a pretty good idea at the time only to realise we have a four day weekend just around the corner. Mind you it'll still be there on the Tuesday so, I do hope you all have/had an enjoyable Easter bank holiday!

Just recently I received a very nice e-mail from Ian Hugglestone. Ian been an Associate Member with BIGGA for four years now, and comments on the great times he's had during this time. Last year Ian took a break from work. However this summer he would like to offer his services and maybe help out on a golf course with you (this would be within the Bristol area). With such a busy time of year coming up, I'm sure some of you may need every little help you can get on the golf course. Please contact me if you may have an interest in his services.

I'll be honest with you this month people, I am a little short of things to write about (this is where I ask for your thoughts/stories or even a little light banter that you may like to share with us).

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

South East Region



Kent

As life slowly returns to our courses after the longest winter ever an increasingly smile seems to be re-appearing on the faces of Course Managers I meet, who are all relieved to be out there cutting grass again.

It's amazing the difference 12 months can make. In previous years my watering system was being used on a regular basis at this time as the summer season began. This year has seen a return to more traditional seasonal weather pattern forcing the retreat of the global warming brigade and their preachings of doom and gloom. There's always a bright side eh!

Not much to tell you about this month. By the time you read this we would probably have played our National qualifying tournament at Wildernesse on May 6. Full report on all the day's events to appear in this column next month.

I would like to thank Neil Metcalf, and his team at Royal St. George's, for his hospitality a couple of weeks ago when a group of us were given the privilege of the freedom of his immaculate course. Neil's chat with us beforehand (despite the noise from the skip lorry!) was a great insight into what goes into maintaining such a prestigious venue. Even though we only had a walk round the course, the incredible level of difficulty players face from the back tees was off the scale. Thanks also to Glenn Kirby for his efforts in organising the day.

Like I said, just a short one this month but please check our webpage now it is being updated regularly. We have now added a forum, which I would really appreciate your comments, stories, experiences etc. on.

Back to cutting grass now.

Best of British

Rob Holland

www.kentgreenkeepers.com



Surrey

May 6, its official, by now you could have voted for my new political party 'BALLS' and given me a retirement present that will keep me in luxury for many years to come. My Political Manager, wee Dougie, has assured me that his recent fact finding mission to Trinidad was two weeks of non stop hard work and should we win he has chosen his and my beach-side second home in a convenient position only 12 hours from Westminster. Please remember our slogan 'You play ball with us and we'll supply the referee'.

Darcey Eve Rowe will be almost four months old this month and wondering why your's truly did not mention her birth, 7lb 13ozs, on January 16 in an earlier edition. My excuse is that the information given to me by daddy Gary, Banstead Downs GC, was put in the wrong pocket and was retrieved only just before the offending piece of clothing visited the washing machine. Apologies to mummy Elaine, baby Darcey, and daddy, Gary. Had I left this news any longer Darcey could have read the paragraph all by herself.

My first kick boxing bout went well and that the cut to my forehead is healing well. My opponent was not so lucky as the cuts she received cannot be repaired and her tights were a complete right off. Sorry, of course, I don't mean that her tights came off, I mean, oh you know what I mean. What I really mean is don't trip and head butt a window frame it hurts.

Still, no holidays booked and few ideas so please when I next call have some holiday destinations ready for my perusal and a subscription to 'BALLS' the party that looks after number one.

Brian Willmott



Essex

By the time you get to read this, the first of our golf days will

be over. Well done to the winners and I hope you all enjoyed the day at South Essex Golf Club. Results will be posted next month.

I mentioned last month that I would be giving you a full list of our sponsors for the 2010 season, the underlined are the new sponsors who have joined us this year they are as follows:-

Advantage-Environmental; Billericay Farm Services; BMS; Chaingreen Ltd (Sea Nymph); Old Forge Mowers; Avoncrop Amenity Products; Bailey's of Norfolk; Banks Amenity Products; Blade Amenity; CMW Equipment Ltd; Collier Turf Care; Ernest Doe & Sons; Fieldfare Amenity; GM Amenity; Golf Mats UK; Grasshopper (Horticultural) Ltd; Headland Amenity Products; Limagrain UK; Prime Irrigation Ltd; Rain-bird Europe; Rigby Taylor Ltd; Scotts Professional; Tey Farm Systems; P, Tuckwell Ltd and Writtle College. All their contact details are on our website. We welcome them all to our Section and thank them for their support.

I hope you all like the new look website?

It would be nice to have any constructive comments on the site, as it is there for your information and not just for me to play with in my free moments.

Our next golf day is Tuesday, June 22, at Channels Golf Club there is a new format for the day and a Bar-B-Q afterwards. It should be fun so put it on your list of things to do, £15 entry fee, which is real good, value for a day's golf and the meal after. We all look forward to seeing you there.

April 27 Spring Trophy at South Essex GC; June 22, Summer Trophy at Channels GC; July 13, Essex Greenkeepers v Captains of Essex at Romford GC (Invitation); July 20, The Tuckwell Golf Team Championship at Bentley GC. (Invitation); August 12, Essex Trophy at Boyce Hill GC; September 29 Autumn Trophy at Benton Hall Golf & Country Club; October 14, The Doe's Triangular, Essex/ Sussex/Surrey at Three Rivers Golf & Country Club (Invitation); December 2 AGM and Team Event at The Essex Golf & Country Club

Mobile 07764-862.337 or essexbigga@talktalk.net

Arnold Phipps-Jones
Press Officer & Webmaster



John Pemberton
Chief Executive

By the time you read this we should have launched the updated and much improved BIGGA website that incorporates many new features including a payment gateway, a calendar of local and national events, an improved Classified Adverts section and improved log-on security. Take time to explore the site and take advantage of the wealth of information that is available, all designed to help keep you in touch with the industry, improve your knowledge base or do your job more effectively.

One of the next measures that is currently being investigated is a web based Continuing Professional Development (CPD) software package that will enable Members to manage key elements of their CPD registration and, hopefully, the Membership Database. CPD is an important part of career development and we live in a world where qualifications are an essential building block towards that next job.

One of the Association's objectives is to raise professional standards through education and Members need to take on board the fact that experience alone will not be sufficient in the future. If you have not registered with Sami or Rachael at HQ for CPD then I ask "Why not?". More and more it will become a dominant feature of a great many career opportunities and the Association is looking at the feasibility of incorporating CPD into its membership structure.

If you are unsure of what CPD is or how it can help you progress then I suggest that you take a look at the following web site which is part of the Chartered Institute for Personnel and Development: www.cipd.co.uk/cpd/aboutcpd/whatiscpd.htm

I continue to be amazed at the total apathy that some people seem to demonstrate and wonder to what they aspire. Many are often quick to be critical of the success of others or complain that life has dealt them a poor hand of cards but rarely do they do something about helping themselves. It's true that we cannot all achieve that top job but we can all do better, we can all raise our self-esteem and confidence through learning. The golf industry is going through some very testing times and I think that the economy in general is far from close to picking itself up off the floor. A General Election this month will, in my opinion, only add to the country's problems with no clear and effective outcome. For all our sakes I hope I am proven to be wrong.

On a more positive note I am pleased to announce that Rigby Taylor have offered to sponsor a Hole-in-One prize of a car at this year's National Championship, sponsored by Kubota and Charterhouse Turf Machinery, in October.

If you want more details of the event then contact Sandra at HQ but be warned that available places are going quickly.

We have now completed three quarters of our new financial year and I am pleased to report that we are ahead of budget and should end the year with a small surplus, a very different result to the one that we anticipated. This has been achieved through a combination of careful control of expenditure and improved revenue. We are now working on the budgets for 2010/11 which will be a more problematic year.

Finally I would like to wish Kirstin at HQ and her husband, Andy, many, many years of happiness together following their marriage on April 23rd.

Join the Association for Sports Turf Professionals

Are you employed in the maintenance of sports turf at a sports facility?

Do you want to be taken seriously as a sports turf professional?

Do you want access to a wide range of bespoke education courses?

Do you want to be part of a large network of like-minded people where shared knowledge is a key ingredient?

Do you want to be part of a progressive association that actively works to enhance the professional reputation of sports turf professionals?

If you answered YES to any of the above questions then Membership of BIGGA is for you.

Why Join BIGGA?

- Industry specific, education and training
- Greenkeeper International – BIGGA's official magazine
- Careers advice and guidance
- Regional and national events
- Sports turf industry networking
- Commitment to CPD
- Maintain standard and quality within the profession
- Dedicated members' website

Look to your future by joining BIGGA today...

Tel: 01347 833800 select option 1,

email: membership@bigga.co.uk

visit www.bigga.org.uk



Promoting best practice in sports turf management



Diary of Events

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

MAY

Tuesday May 4th
BIGGA v's GCMA Golf Match
Montrose Golf Links
Peter Boyd at p.j.boyd@btinternet.com or 0141 616 3440

Wednesday May 5th
Surrey Section Spring Tournament
Burhill Golf Club
Ron Christie at lazyassron@btopenworld.com or 020 864 43061

Thursday May 6th
Kent Section Event
Wilderness Golf Club
Rob Holland at grassyars@hotmail.com or 07778 921606

Wednesday May 12th
Berks/Bucks/Oxon Section Event
Sandmartins Golf Club
Adam King at ajk@radley.org or 07778 569158

Thursday May 13th
South Coast Section Event
Bramshall Golf Club
Chris Bitten at chrisbitten@btinternet.com or 07796 887633

Monday May 17th
Midland Section Event
Trentham Golf Club
Andrew Smith at andysmith-ace@hotmail.co.uk or 01676 530114

Tuesday May 18th
Mid Anglia Section Event
Bedford & County Golf Club
Gerald Bruce at Gerald@berkhamstedgc.co.uk or 07774 921606

Thursday May 20th
North Section Spring Tournament
Deeside Golf Club
Dale Robertson at daleturnberry@aol.com or 01651 863002
London Section Event
Ealing Golf Club
Matt Pledsted at matt.pledsted@hotmail.co.uk or 07818 410333

*Thursday May 20th -
Sunday May 23rd*
The PGA BMW Championship
West Course, Wentworth Club
European Tour

Tuesday May 25th
Sussex Section Spring Meeting
Littlehampton Golf Club
Dave Allen at d38a@msn.com or mobile: 07515 428573

Thursday May 27th
East of England Section Event
Newark Golf Club Bruce Hicks at brucehicks1@gmail.com or 07931 714922

JUNE

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

Thursday June 17th
Scottish National Tournament
Murcar Golf Club
Peter Boyd at p.j.boyd@btinternet.com or 0141 616 3440
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 domrodgers@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 30th
Northern Section Event
Scarborough North Cliff Golf Club
Frank Stewart at 07947 401278
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
East Midlands Section Event
Rothley Park Golf Club
Andrew de Wet at biggaeast-midlands@hotmail.com or 07730 713895
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
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

*Thursday July 29th -
Sunday August 1st*
Ricoch Women's British Open
The Royal Birkdale Golf Club
http://www.ricohwomensbritishopen.com/

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 domrodgers@talktalk.net or mobile: 07929 205398

Thursday August 19th
(TBC, subject to change)
Central Section Event
Auchterarder Golf Club. Norrie Whytock Trophy
Andrew Mellon at AMellon@Elmwood.ac.uk or mobile: 07780 995602

SEPTEMBER

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
Cophorne Golf Club
Dave Allen at d38a@msn.com or mobile: 07515 428573

**More dates
for your diary
next month**



Membership

Tracey Maddison, Head of Membership Services, gives an overview of what a professional membership body is

With 23 years experience BIGGA has learnt a thing or two about running a membership Association.

While it's not easy trying to keep 6,000 individuals happy, and we are not that naive to think that we can, we'd like to think that we can provide something of interest for every member whether proactive or passive. As a membership Association we are more than just a society or a club where 'members' can subscribe to a website or a newsletter, we are about providing our members with a wealth of opportunities which will help them retain and develop their professional development and promote best practice in sports turf management.

In the past BIGGA has quite often been referred to as a Trade Association (TA) but a TA is commonly made up of companies rather than individuals. A good example of a TA is the Federation of European Golf Greenkeepers Association (FEGGA) which has 21 Greenkeeping Associations, in Europe, as members.

BIGGA offers members the opportunity to take part in a CPD scheme, provides education events, training courses and training tools and as membership categories are linked to a minimum qualification BIGGA are classified as a professional association (more commonly known as a professional body or membership body). We are not too dissimilar in our operations to the Chartered Management Institute, Institute of Leadership & Management or even the Association of Accounting Technicians. Regardless of the industry the one attribute we all have in common is that we are all professional membership bodies.

Secretariat

Membership bodies usually have a secretariat, a permanent administrative office that can handle various administration tasks. The secretariat works closely with the membership to make sure it is providing the services and benefits the members want.

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

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

Scottish

Stephen Andrew, North
Neil Campbell, North
Andrew Connor, East
Ray Crawford, Central
Steven, Dalg, North
Val Graham, West
Gary Harkin, West
Markus Klausmann, East
Ross Mitchell, North
William Spark, North
Aden Speed, Central
Gavin Taylor, Central
Ryan Woolfries, West
Richard Young, East

Northern Region

Colin Brown, Northern
Sam Cassidy, Northern
Martin Corner, Cleveland
Simon Hardcastle, Northern
Mark McEvoy, Northern
Nick McKenna, Northern
Alan Purves, Northern
Graeme Regan, Northern
Richard Wing, Sheffield

Midland Region

Mark Allard, East Midland
Ken Barber, East Midland
Simon Barnaby, Midland
Robert Crocker, Mid Anglia
Colin Crowther, East Midland
Niall Edmond, Mid Anglia
Graham Fullager, Berks/Bucks & Oxon
Matthew Gibson, East Midland
Stephen Gilford, Berks/Bucks & Oxon
Robert Gull, Midland
Andy Gurney, East Midland
Greg Holden, East Midland
Glen Howard, East Midland
Simon Keeble, Midland
Russell Morton, Midland
Wendy Robinson, East Midland
David Senior, East Midland
John Shiel, Berks/Bucks & Oxon
Colin Turner, East Midland

Anthony Wilkes, Midland
Daniel Wilkinson, East Midland
David Williams, Mid Anglia

S East Region

Steven Adams, Essex
Chas Ares, Surrey
Edward Baker, Essex
Calum Chinchin, Surrey
Richard Fry, Essex
Peter Harsum, Sussex
Abbie Holland, Sussex
Jamie Honeyman, Kent
Scott Horsburgh, Surrey
Elliot Lloyd, London
Martin Maytum, Kent
Roger Mills, Sussex
George Pickett, Surrey
Stephen Squires, East Anglia
Lee Stephens, Essex
Richard Stillwell, Sussex
Nicholas Thompson, Essex
Liam Webb, Surrey

S West/S Wales Region

Mark Davies, Devon & Cornwall
Adam Edwards, South Coast
Kevin Farrell, South Coast
Andrew Grabham, South West
John Hazell, South Coast
Simon Kendall, South West
Richard, Le Moignan, South Coast
David Melvyn Leech, South Wales
Neville Wright, Devon & Cornwall

Overseas

Shane Buckley, Republic of Ireland
Colum Cawley, Republic of Ireland
Hubert Cooke, Republic of Ireland
Steven Crowley, Republic of Ireland
Liam Curtin, Republic of Ireland
Timothy Dennehy, Republic of Ireland
Finian Doonan, Republic of Ireland
David Finn, Republic of Ireland
Peter Hannon, Republic of Ireland
Graham Harris, Republic of Ireland
Fintan Kirwan, Republic of Ireland
Ronan MacCarthy, Republic of Ireland
John McBride, Republic of Ireland
Sean McDonagh, Republic of Ireland
Liam Mooney, Republic of Ireland
Breandan O Gairbhi, Republic of Ireland
Kevin O'Dwyer, Republic of Ireland
Kevin O'Neill, Republic of Ireland
Tony Rappeneau, Republic of Ireland
Paul Rourke, Republic of Ireland
Ian Wiseman, Republic of Ireland
Graham MacNiven, Germany
Miguel Vidaor, Spain
Simeon Liljenberg, Sweden
Nastaran Gorazd, Slovenia
James O'Brien, USA
Frank Zamazal, USA

BIGGA Website

It's on its way.....the new BIGGA website!

Look out for the redesigned BIGGA website, it's packed with new features, improved navigation, new content and enhanced design.

The website will also include improved security log in for members and the facility to make online payments including membership renewal.



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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

Assistant Profile

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

Jennifer Aniston will no doubt soon be receiving a bunch of flowers all the way from Scotland...

Name: Colin Kearney
Age: 25
Club: Drumpellier GC
Position: First Assistant
Nickname: "Sumo"



1. How long have you been greenkeeping?

9 years – feels like 30

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

I am an outdoor person who likes the fresh air and enjoys golf

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

Rich! A racing driver but probably, more likely, a joiner

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

I like cutting the semi rough and getting a tan in the sun while listening to the radio

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

Hand mowing greens as it leaves you tired for the rest of the day

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

Free membership of the golf course

7. Hobbies?

Football, golf and snooker... oh, and beer.

8. Favourite Band?

The Rolling Stones would have to top the list

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

The number one team in Glasgow... Partick Thistle. No, only kidding. Glasgow Celtic (‘mon the Hoops)

10. What is your claim to fame?

Not got one as yet but hoping to date Jennifer Aniston some time soon

What's your Number?

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

Nick Darking, of Charterhouse Turf Machinery, comes under the spotlight



1. What is your position within the company?

UK Sales Manager

2. How long have you been in the industry?

I joined Charterhouse in 1989, so 21yrs

3. How did you get into it?

In truth a visit to the job centre.

4. What other jobs have you done?

Removal man when I left school and fitting kitchens, oh and a few months on a golf course.

5. What do you like about your current job?

I love sport and always have so visiting any sporting venue is a bonus, not to mention some of the characters you meet, I'm also very lucky to work with a great team of people at Redexim Charterhouse.

6. What changes have you seen in the industry?

The level of professionalism within the trade, and the education available to greenkeepers and groundsmen alike.

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

Spare time! Hmm... I have a ten year old daughter so she keeps me busy, but I do love a game of golf.

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

With a 5 at the beginning of my age instead of a 4.

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

Got some great friends in the industry, but will always have a soft spot for the original team at Charterhouse, 20 years ago.


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

Any order number given to me, still get a buzz from them

11. Pick a number. 23

Nick has picked Mike Coleman of Fuchsia Exhibition & Conference Services

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Looking ahead...

Ed Philips discusses new latest Pesticide initiatives with Jon Allbutt

Two days before the General Election on May 6, industry consultation closed on a raft of proposed EU regulations to become law next year.

Less trumpeted than the fateful date when Britain voted, May 4 nevertheless marked another stepping stone along the way to controlling what plant protection chemicals the sport and amenity sector can apply and how it manages them.

The new government has the task of overseeing the progress of the measures – uninvitingly dubbed Pesticides and the Environment – A Strategy for the Sustainable Use of Plant Protection Products and Strategy Action Plans.

Although pesticides particularly have continued to be withdrawn steadily over the last few years, June 14, 2011 marks the date when these regulations come into force across all EU member states.

“To keep things on track, we are expecting the next stage to be a public consultation period on the draft regulations to begin in autumn 2010,” says Jon Allbutt,

“But the actual timing will only be set when the new Minister takes up his or her post.”

As former Chairman of the Amenity Forum Jon helped spearhead consultation with the UK Government and the European Parliament over several years to the point where the Forum was the principal body representing the sector and putting across the wishes of end users, such as greenkeepers and sportsground contractors

Although now independent, he was the Forum’s representative at UK and EU levels in talks set up to allow the industry to provide feedback on the proposed changes.

“The Forum is now automatically included in consultations,” Jon adds.

“We’re beginning to have more input in discussions, which we hope will mean the government begins to gain a greater understanding of what we want as an industry.”

Despite the turmoil of a sector in transition as it prepares for the onset of new legislation, Jon insists that the changes will not affect the UK as significantly as other member states.

“It’ll be a question of making adaptations to the existing rules; the impact here will be much less. The sustainable use regulations particularly will have minimal implications.”

For some time, the Forum has promoted the idea of a self-policing system for the UK, which focuses on handling plant protection chemicals in a sustainable way. That modus operandi has given us a head start on most EU states,” Jon argues.

Essentially, much of the new body of legislation is merely laying in law practices and restrictions that are already in place.

It’s not all plain sailing, however, with changes in training set to see the most significant implications for the sector, he predicts.

“The impact on operators will be relatively

small as the UK already has very good regulations. It is changes to certification that will cut deep.”

“There are planned changes to Pa1Pa2, a certificate currently used for knapsack and boom sprayer applications. At present, it’s a certificate for life but due to the introduction and success of the NRoSO Scheme, that will alter,” Jon adds.

It is proposed that users will have to update certification either through professional development (CPD) schemes via their employers, or every three years be required to resit examinations to regain their certificate.

“It will be dependent on the size of the organisation as to which will have a better cost benefit,” he explains.

Large organisations will find it easier to update three yearly on the whole but if you’re a self-employed contractor and not a member of a larger organisation, the CPD scheme might be difficult as you will not know how long staff will stay, so costs could mount up. It does though highlight the importance of belonging to your professional organisation, BIGGA for example, as certification can often be funded through it.”

With further chemicals set to be withdrawn under the sustainable use regulations, Jon stressed the need for UK markets and more importantly government to help move forward a more sustainable approach to reducing pesticides use.

“A good greenkeeper will try everything he can to control weeds before he looks at using any pesticides. They are a last resort. The new EU regulations will require the new Government to undertake research and initiatives to ensure that the UK culture of sustainable use is continued,” he insists before warning:

“It needs to decide a course of action quickly. As yet, no research has been done by any UK Government. We have no history in this country of looking into green approaches to reducing pesticides.”

Under the regulations, the UK will have five years to demonstrate that it is conducting research into green alternatives.

“So far, all the good work the industry has done to maintain sustainability as been done through our own voluntary initiatives, which was born out of previous governments proposing a tax for those that use pesticides. Taxation is not a solution to the problem and it’s time some serious research was conducted,” says Jon..

Most of the research quoted and used by the UK amenity sector has been completed in central Europe, with Holland conducting the bulk of it.

“To date, DEFRA have only put up some £60,000 into researching alternatives,” he reveals.

Stepping aside sustainable use, the most immediate effects on the UK will be substances no longer permitted to be used.

It is illegal under current and future EU law to store or use any pesticide that has been withdrawn, so a programme of effective communication about what chemicals can and cannot be applied is essential. “Ignorance is no defence in the eyes of the law,” Jon states.

“Good professionals should have no reason to dispose of pesticides as they should only need to buy what they need, not to store any.

“Carbendazim is to be withdrawn this December and is an important and widely used product for worm control by greenkeepers. By now, alternatives should have already been looked at, and the product phased out ready for the deadline.”

Proposed changes to the maintenance of small and large machinery under the new regulations have caused some concern, he continues, with issues of safety potentially at odds with proposals.

Conflict between EU and the UK amenity sector is a new thing but the

Amendments to regulations governing equipment testing could set the EU and the UK amenity sector on a collision course, Allbutt fears. Under current law, large sprayers require an MOT while hand-held sprayers fall outside the code because of the “prohibitively high cost” of testing them. Regular maintenance is still required under law, however.

In contrast, the latest EU proposals will entirely exempt small sprayers from testing. “It’s always been too expensive to MOT small sprayers, and in some cases it’s often more cost effective to simply throw them away,” argues Jon. “We’re still debating what we believe the best approach for smaller sprayers will be, as their use is a major element for amenity.

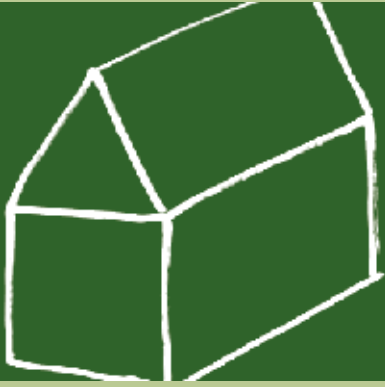
“We favour a voluntary approach to testing but ultimately we believe there should be some scheme in place to ensure testing is undertaken,” he insists.

“Small sprayers tend not to be as well maintained as larger ones, so we believe it’s vital to have something in law that will mean people can’t just avoid doing it.”

Calibration is another issue that he believes the UK amenity sector in general doesn’t do well enough and has voiced his concern about its potential repercussions in law.

“Everyone admits to having learnt about calibration but they tend not to apply it after passing the tests. The important questions end users need to ask themselves is, how do I apply pesticides correctly and am I doing it at the legal rate?”

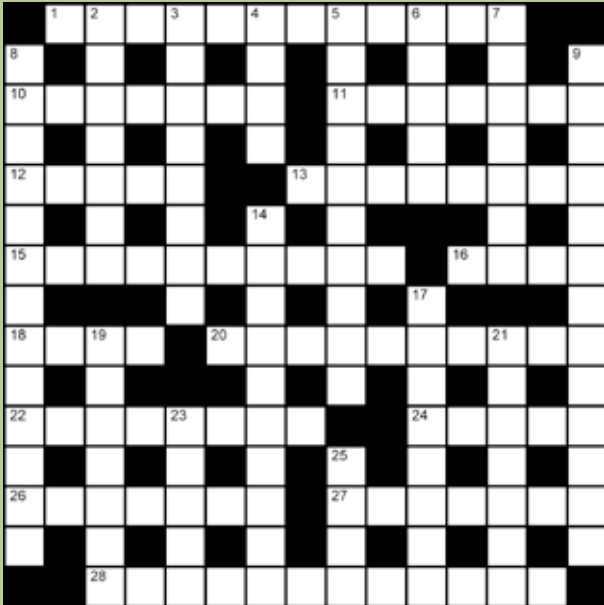
“Calibration is a highly technical process and pesticides application has to be an accurate method. Too much or too little and the effectiveness of the pesticide is put at risk. Calibration sheets can be sent out free either from me, from BIGGA or the GTC (Greenkeeper Training Committee), so there is no excuse for not doing it,” Jon cautions.



intheshed

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

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

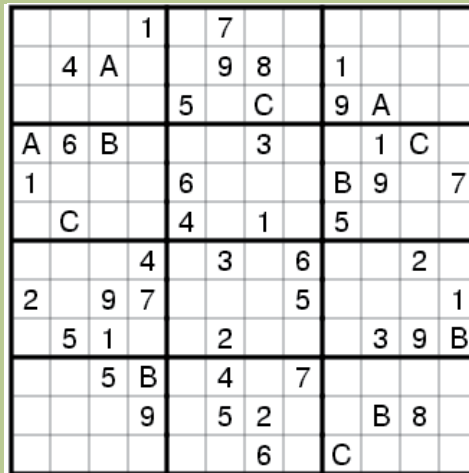
- 1 Novel, also known as 'The Modern Prometheus' (12)
- 10 US rapper, real name O'Shea Jackson (3,4)
- 11 The 19th US state admitted to the Union (7)
- 12 Less restrained (5)
- 13 Christian ____, former Fighting Talk presenter on 5Live (8)
- 15 Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces in Europe during WWII (10)
- 16 Let it stand (Latin) (4)
- 18 A duelling sword (4)
- 20 Exposed (3,2,1,4)
- 22 Chinese puzzle game (3-5)
- 24 Increase (3,2)
- 26 Endure or suffer (7)
- 27 Expanded as if by internal pressure (7)
- 28 Collection of ancient morality tales for children (6,6)

DOWN

- 2 Short, close-fitting jackets (7)
- 3 Elementary particle with a minuscule but nonzero mass (8)
- 4 'East of ____' by John Steinbeck (4)
- 5 Alert (8,2)
- 6 Peter ____, 2002 World Snooker champion (5)
- 7 Within the shortest distance or interval in space or time (7)
- 8 Operetta by Johann Strauss II, translated as 'The Bat' (3,10)
- 9 'Phiz' to Dickens' 'Boz' (6,1,6)
- 14 Small number of people whose opinions are gathered by researchers (5,5)
- 17 An underground, often labyrinthine passageway (8)
- 19 The spiny anteater (7)
- 21 Yield to one's desires (7)
- 23 Man-eating mythical monsters (5)
- 25 British comedy-drama on Channel 4, 2001-2004 (2,2)

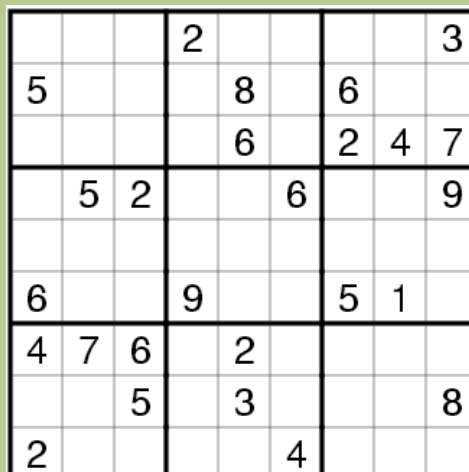
QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ - The month of May

1. Who took Tiger Woods, at the peak of his powers at the time, all the way to a play-off in the 2000 USPGA Championship?
2. Name the English born long jumper who represented Italy in the latter half of her career.
3. Who was the boxer who defeated Ricky Hatton in Las Vegas in December 2007?
4. From which club did Manchester United buy centre half David May in 1994?
5. Which County team did English cricketer, Peter May, play for 1950 to 1963?
6. Which English footballer was born on May 2, 1975, and shares his birthday with Engelbert Humperdinck?
7. In which county is Maywood Golf Club? Essex, Somerset or Derbyshire?
8. The BMW International Open is played in at the end of May every year, over which, recently remodelled course, is it played?
9. Misty May-Treanor is an American two time Olympic Gold medallist. In what event?



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.

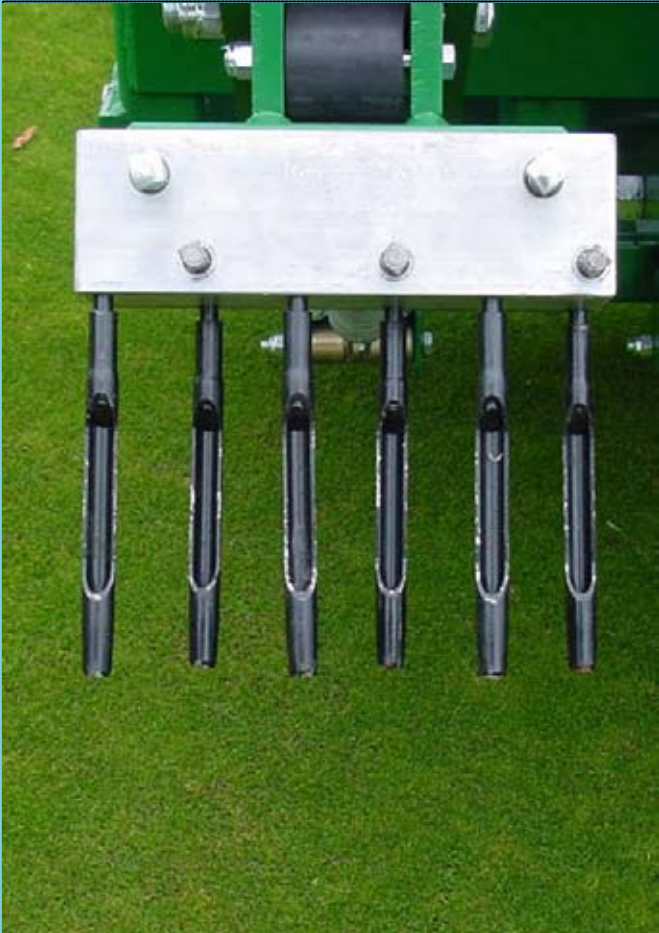


SUDOKU

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



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