

Midland Region



East Midland

Ah, the long dry summer.... Seems a distant dream now! I blame myself. I was foolish enough to write my summer newsletter to my members at the end of June, where references to drought were made. As I am writing this the dry summer has been broken by three weeks of wet and cool conditions, but by the time you are reading this let's hope summer has returned? I do wonder though just what we as greenkeepers would prefer, long dry hot summers, or wet and cool?

Back to the activities in our Section now, and first details of the Summer Tournament and second National Championship qualifier that was held at Rothley Park. Thanks as always to our sponsors for the day, which were, Countrywide farmers, Henton and Chattell, Banks Amenity and Tacit. Winners were Cat 1, Paul Frith, 38pts; Cat 2, Mitchell Jordan, 33pts. The trade prize went to Mick Marvell, with 33pts. Longest Drive and Nearest the Pin both went to Paul Frith. Paul's good day saw him qualify in Cat 1 for the National Championship, with Pete Smith (that's me) putting in another solid display to clinch the qualifying spot in Cat 2.

The course was in fantastic condition and thanks go to Nigel Colley and his team, on another note thanks again go Nigel, due to various reasons he has now stepped down from his role on the committee as Vice Chairman for the Section, we would like to take this opportunity to wish him well and thank him for all his hard work. Congratulations are also due to former committee member Craig Watt, Deputy at Glen Gorse GC, he and his wife, Amye, are celebrating the arrival of son, Isaac, on July 13, Isaac weighed in at a healthy 9lb 4 oz.

The Headland Pairs competition is coming to its conclusion with some semi finalists already decided, more news on the semis and final will hopefully be available in the next update, likewise no news as yet on who is taking the blame between myself and my partner for our

appalling performances in the competition. News on that, as it breaks!

This year's Autumn Education day is to be held at Birstall Golf Club on Thursday, November 18. Subjects for the day are being finalised and places will be limited so watch out for your invites/registration forms soon. Greg Skinner, my colleague on the education front, is very close to finalising Excavator Training, although I think he is having trouble convincing his committee that having 20 trainee digger drivers at Forest Hill GC is a good idea!

It's not always easy finding things to write about, so in an effort to avoid 500 words of drivel next month, anybody with any news from within our section can contact me at pds1@btinternet.com, you have been warned!

Regards to all
Pete Smith



Midland

Well it never ceases to amaze me the many differing conditions that can affect sports turf, and our wonderful ability to diagnose such influences and respond to such. However one that was recently of puzzlement to me, was slight desiccation to the sward with no other apparent factors. Unbeknown to me, a helicopter had landed and taken-off on the said sward. I wonder whether the STRI will include such in their revised book regarding "Turf Grass Pests, Diseases, and Disorders". Such could take the name/condition of: "Helicopter exhaust desiccation syndrome".

Anyway, now down to the real news and my thanks to our Chair, Ed, for the following (I hope that you have recovered from that food poisoning mate). Edgbaston Golf Club held the Summer Tournament on Monday, July 19. Our thanks to Eddie Mills and his team for producing a great looking golf course. The windy conditions made us feel like we were at St. Andrews! Thanks too for Edgbaston's hospitality for allowing us the day.

Thanks to New Holland

Tractors and Simon Gumbrill, of Campeys, as the main prize sponsors for the day.

Thanks as always to our President, John Hammond, for starting us off at the 1st tee.

Thanks to Kev, and Turner Groundscare, for the refreshments before and half way around.

Thanks to British Seed Houses, Sherriff Amenity, Whitemoss and Crocodile Golf Products for Nearest the Pin prizes.

Results: Gross: 1. Mike Hughes, 31pts; Nett 1. Mike Large, 40pts; 2. Paul Jeffries, 38pts; 3. Jim Gilchrist, 38pts. Div 1. Mike Hughes; Div 2. Dave Fellows; Div 3. Andy Brougham. Trade. Peter McCrainor.

Nearest the Pin Winners. P. Jeffries, C. Woodall, E. Stant, J. Ganley.

Lovely to see three new faces at the golf, Mick Large, Wayne Banner and Anthony Wilkes. Please come again, gentlemen!

Congratulations to Vince Gilroy on his appointment as Course Manager at Gay Hill Golf Club.

Can all members and trade alike look to the website for information. All new members are required to bring a handicap certificate if they have one and don't forget we always require a jacket and tie for our sit down meal after the golf.

Please look on website for the next BIGGA Breakfast Club meeting. The last one was held at Great Barr Golf Club on Wednesday, August 18 where the STRI were demonstrating their Performance Measuring tools and the benefits of recording this data.

And now just time to mention our wonderful sponsors of this month's calendar page. Such being our long term sponsors of the Section Scotts. Please consider them for your fertiliser etc needs, and visit their web-site with your enquires; www.scottspromotional.co.uk <<http://www.scottspromotional.co.uk>>. Also, good luck to those remaining in the Scotts Doubles Knockout Tournament.

Don't forget to get your entries in for the Autumn Tournament to be held at the wonderful venue that is Beau Desert Golf Club on October 7. Start time 10am at only £20. Also, don't forget that our AGM is also to be held there with a start time of 5pm. All of

course are welcome to attend. Your thoughts and council are of great importance to the committee, indeed without such it is all most impossible to serve you, but we do. Impossible we do, however miracles take a little longer!

Well that's me, off in five days for six and a half, can't wait! SW-Alan, Caersws pal, the land of 4lb wild Browns 3lb Grayling, Salmon, oh and of course the odd Chub.

Sean McDade



Mid Anglia

Hello all, it's been a long time since I've had to do this article, but Craig and his wife have just had their second child and they're a little busy, as you can well imagine! Congratulations to the both of you from us all.

I hope you're all praying for some much needed rain, but only between 6pm and 6am! Its nice to have a prolonged spell of dry, warm weather, it's been a few years of wet summers and I hope your courses are holding up well.

Our Summer comp was held at Stocks Golf Club and we managed to get 33 players to attend at such short notice, as we had to bring it forward due to a cancellation from one of our Charity events.

Of those who made it, all had a great day, played well, ate well, drank well and with the relaxed dress code, felt more comfortable on a warm summers night.

I would like to thank my boss, Mr Harris, for allowing us to hold our event at Stocks as we don't normally have Corporate or Society days.

Our sponsors for the day were Tacit, and what a prize table, thanks go to Tim Webb and Mark Day for their generosity, also a big thank you goes to Michael Payne, Steve Bush, of Ernest Doe, and his wife for hosting the BBQ all day and putting on a great spread for us. To Nigel Church, of Ransomes Jacobsen, for providing the on-course refreshments too and all our other trade members who support our Section so well.

I personally want to say thanks to my staff for presenting the course in probably its best

Around The Green

condition over the last few years, well done lads.

The results for the day were as follows: 1. P. Crouch, 43pts; 2. M. Lambert, 40pts; 3. G. James, 39pts; 4. S. Mason, 39pts. Trade, M. Payne, 41pts. Nearest the Pin. S. Banks and, finally, Longest Drive. G. Bruce.

I hope everyone enjoyed the day and I'll try again in a few years to hold another comp, but with a clubhouse this time.

Some dates for your diaries, the Autumn meet is at Berkhamsted G C on October 20 followed with the AGM and the Christmas Scramble is at Ashridge GC on December 15. Please get your entries in early as this one is sure to fill up very quickly.

That's all for now, if you have any news at all that you want aired through this article, then contact one of the committee and we will get it in the next available publication.

Steve Mason.



East of England

Our second golf day of the year was played on July 15, at Tydd St Giles Golf Club. The day was sponsored by Collier Turf Care and Burdens Groundcare, many thanks to them for their continued support.

The results were as follows: 1, G. Macdonald; 2, B Robinson; 3, D Beba

Nearest the Pin, J P Bowers; Longest Drive, G Macdonald

Many thanks to all at Tydd St Giles for their hospitality, the food provided and the condition of the golf course.

Our next golf day is the eagerly anticipated Greenkeepers vs

Trade, this year to be held on September 22 at Lincoln Golf Club. Please email your notes to scott@bigga.co.uk by the 5th of the month, to ensure inclusion in the next issue. Steve Beverly, Immingham Golf Club

South West and South Wales



South Wales

Hi Everyone!

Firstly, Here's hoping that you are all well and are looking forward to your Autumn renovation and the subsequent comments of approval and encouragement for your members!

The Summer tournament was held at Glynneath Golf Club in July and around 25 players enjoyed the warm (after a wet start) summer weather and a golf course that was in great condition, which was a credit to HGK Kevin Griffiths, Darryl Jones and the rest of the Greenstaff. The buffet meal was excellent, as were the prizes, which were provided by the day's sponsors, Tacit, represented by Steve Milton. Thank you for sponsoring our section once more. The results were as follows: 1. Darryl Jones, Glynneath, 37 pts; 2. Nigel Ruck, Glynhir, 31 pts (bih); 3. Wayne Benger (Glyhir, 31pts. Nearest The Pin: Nigel Sandquest, Glynhir; Longest Drive: Mark Wilshire, Newport.,

Trade: Peter Holstrom, Countrywide. The prize for the most frantic search for a raffle ticket went to Gary Rose, Corus.

Commiserations to Mal from Glynhir, who was the only attendee from his club not to win anything!

Our sincere thanks go out to Glynneath Golf Club for their hospitality, to Steve Chappell for his work in organising the event, to Jane Jones, Regional Administrator for BIGGA, to Peter Holstrom and myself (!) for the raffle prizes and to everyone who attended.

As I write, preparations are on course for October's Ryder Cup. Everyone I have spoken to who are on the Greenkeeping Support Team are looking forward to the event immensely. So good luck to Jim McKenzie and everyone involved. Please God, let it stay dry! And if it does then be sure to point this out to Nick Faldo if you see him, but he may be laying low for a while!

The annual Greenkeepers V Secretaries Golf match will be held this month, details weren't

available at the time of going to press, so if you would like to play then please contact Steve Chappell.

I do know that it will be again sponsored by CWC so thanks to Alan Abel for their continued support.

The next golf day (and AGM) will be held at Brynhill GC on October 14. Invites will be sent out but if you haven't received one then please contact Steve Chappell.

Finally, on a rather sad note, I learned that three Head Greenkeepers from the section have recently lost their fathers. So to Harvey, Julian and Steve, I quote an old proverb. 'Say not in grief 'He is no more' but live in the thankfulness that he was'.

Take Care

Ceri Richards



South Coast

Hi all,

Hope your summer is going well, as I write this in early August the weather forecasters are saying that rain is on the way with a cooler changeable week, we will see.

Firstly, the results of the summer tournament held at Stoneham Golf Club in July. This is our invitation day sponsored by Tacit, the prize table consists of wine (lots of it). Results: 1. Chris Bitten and Clive Cook, Stoneham; 2. Tony Gadd and Graham Hodgkinson, Barton on Sea; 3. Stephen Christopher and Stephen Rayment, Barton on Sea

Longest Drive. Chris Bitten. Nearest the Pin - Tony Crouch.

Hole in One. Ben Bishop.

What a day! First the weather took a massive change and blew a gale, at least it didn't rain. Wonderful to see some old faces returning to the section Alan Rideout, Tony Crouch and Tony Locke. Also great to see some new faces Beverly Blair, from Southwick Park GC, Sadly Beverly's day was ruined when she fell and broke her ankle while out on the course.

We all hope you are making a full and rapid recovery, looking forward to playing Southwick next year.

The course was in excellent condition, thanks to Vince and

his team for all their efforts. Lastly, thanks to the sponsors Tacit for their ongoing support, (you can see who the wine drinkers are as the same names crop up each year)!

The annual match against the S. West will be held at Sherbourne GC, on October 6. If you want to play contact Kevan Glass by email glassy2003@hotmail.com its only 10 a side so be quick. Following that on October 19 we have our Autumn tournament at Broadstone GC, this is our AGM day so we need good support. Once again contact Kev on the above email or phone 01590/622643.

Here at Barton we are still incredibly dry, I am being accused of always top dressing the greens on ladies day and watering one of our members who was on the course too early one morning. My excuse is my age, I can easily forget which day of the week it is and as for watering with the remote control with all those codes you have to put in its easy to get the wrong green! Anyway my wife tells me I am in a mid-life crisis as I keep looking at motorbikes!

Lastly, and on a very sad note Ian Noble, Course Manager at Moors Valley, has been made redundant after 23 years service. I'm sure that all of you that know him will join with me in wishing him well in whatever venture he chooses.

Tony Gadd



Devon and Cornwall

Hello all. Not much to report regarding events as this is our quiet time! We now have a full fixture list for the forthcoming 2010-2011 season of events. Fixture cards have been sponsored and printed courtesy of Martin Ward at Symbio. The first event for your diary will be our Golf Day and AGM at Stover Golf Club on Wednesday, October 6. The fixture cards will be sent out to all Devon and Cornwall members very soon. In the meantime, please check on forthcoming events via the events sections of the GI magazine and the BIGGA website.

Many thanks to Symbio for the sponsorship of these fixture cards.

Congratulations to Gavin Moore, from Launceston Golf Club who has earned himself a place in the national final of the Toro student of the year 2010. On behalf of the section I would like to wish Gavin every success in the finals at Aldwark Manor in September.

Steve Hasell, Cannington College Lecturer/Programme Manager, is to retire after 37 years. Steve will be a familiar face to most Greenkeepers throughout the South West and beyond. Anyone who has attended Cannington on a training course or as a student from NVQ to HE level courses would have been taught by Steve who specialised in Mechanisation.

Steve also spent many hours organising the Greenkeeping training as Programme Manager. Anyone who has met or been taught by Steve has known of his passion and enthusiasm for education and what a fantastic character he is, once met, never forgotten! I had the privilege of studying under and later working alongside Steve at Cannington and I would personally like to congratulate him on all he has done for Greenkeeping Education. If it wasn't for Steve, Greenkeeping courses may well have been lost at Cannington College! I know Steve would like to think he has had a positive impact on his past students and would like to thank them for being so attentive in Class (well mostly!) and wishes them all the best for their future. From the Section, we would like to wish Steve every happiness in his well-earned retirement.

Catch up with you all soon,
George Pitts



South West

What a great week that was, not sure that Paul Casey would agree, I'm not sure that Lee Westwood had the time of his life and I'm pretty sure that Tiger Woods was hoping for a little more... However, for the greenkeepers that were apart of the BIGGA Support team that really was a great week. Just recently I was fortunate enough to be a part of the 2010

Open at St Andrews.

This month I want to tell you about my time at The Open. Most people arrived on the Wednesday which was of course the main practice day, those that wanted to go and have a look around the Old Course, St Andrews could do so. This is when I realised that I was totally unprepared for the weather conditions in "sunny" Scotland, I still don't understand why I thought it was a good idea to leave my waterproofs behind! But anyway, I was walking around one of the greatest places in golfing history, I was not going to let the weather ruin this, just wished that some of the golfers were as brave. By the time we were ready to enjoy watching some of the big names play their practice round the weather changed all of this. However, I managed to find my way to the driving range, I was like a little kid in a candy shop, watching the pros "smash" balls for fun, however, I did have to laugh when I witnessed Sir Nick Faldo thin one!

That evening we had our pre event meeting and we were given our matches for the Thursday. My first group for the Thursday was with Todd Hamilton, the 2004 Champion. For me, this was rather a quiet morning, it wasn't until the 11th hole, a testing par 3 that I was called into action.

I had to wait to rake the bunker while the match putted out, by this time John Daly and his group were standing on the tee, no pressure I thought, I'll just have to hold him up, it's only the big John Daly and he only had a few thousand people watching...

As I had an early tee time, this meant I had most of the afternoon to kill, so returned to the driving range, this time it was even better, Tiger Woods turned up, I was stood about 10 metres away from him, watching him hit balls for about 30 minutes, and still not even sure he noticed me, probably because I'm not blonde with a nice cleavage.

Friday was the day play was delayed, I happened to be at the furthest point away from the clubhouse, which was not fun! I was grouped with an amateur on the Friday, he was playing really well, -1 thru 11 holes, looking like he may make the

cut, however, play restarted and he never looked like the same player and unfortunately started to drop shots. A real shame, I'm sure he will be back to play again one day.

The Saturday was rather uneventful, being paired with two Americans who didn't seem to care that we were even around and after raking four bunkers for one of the players... never mind, that's just the way some people are I guess.

The Sunday was the best day, this time I was with Ricky Fowler and Matt Kucher, two of golfers at their finest. Without being rude, I'd never heard of Ricky Fowler before, people reassured me that he was the next big thing and everyone in the US loved him. Dressed in all orange to represent his uni colours.

Watching him play was amazing, his ball striking was so pure, I don't even recall him missing a green on the front 9. I know that he didn't go in any bunkers all week.

I would like to thank everyone who attended The Open. Being with such a great bunch of people for the week was fantastic.

To more "real life" matters now then I guess. The South West Section Golf Management competition was recently played, sponsored by Scott's Turf Professional. Held at Marlborough GC, which I hear was in fantastic condition! The overall winners were Chipping Sodbury GC, scoring 86 points, well done JK. Second was Saltford GC with 81 points and third was Chippenham GC club with 78 points. Nearest the pin was won by M Horler and the longest drive went to Gwen Spear.

Thank you everyone who attended this event, I trust you all had a wonderful time.

Just another reminder guys that the South West Section has its own Facebook page. This was set up by Jamie Acton, and it is already becoming a big success. I encourage all of you that are on Facebook to check this out, and if you're not on Facebook, its time you logged on.

Hope to see you all very soon. As always keep in contact, it's great to hear from everyone one of you.

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Assistant Profile

Our monthly look into the life of an assistant greenkeeper...

This is not the first time that 'Sheeno' has been featured in a magazine. This pool-playing poet once had a poem published! He also follows the Blue half of Glasgow...

Name: Stephen Sheehan
Age: 24
Club: East Kilbride
Position: Assistant
Nickname: Sheeno



1. How long have you been greenkeeping?
Five and a half years.

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

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

4. Which task do you most enjoy doing and why? Cutting rough or raking bunkers on a summer's day.

5. Which task do you least enjoy doing and why?
Hollowcoring! Millions of cores feels like it's never going to end.

6. What one thing - other than a pay rise - would improve the greenkeepers' lot?
There should be a rule banning members from playing before 8am.

7. Hobbies? Pool, snooker, watching footy

8. Favourite Band? Kenny Rodgers

9. Which team do you support? Glasgow Rangers

10. What is your claim to fame?
Once had a poem published in a magazine.

South East Region



Kent

You know how it is. Sometimes things that seem implausible just happen.

There I was toiling away at Birchwood when a call came through inviting me to play in a Pro-Am for an Ernest Doe & Sons team at Sittingbourne Golf Club the following week! After several seconds of um-ing and ah-ing, and being brave enough to make a decision without consulting the wife, that was it. The day was in the diary and nothing was going to stop me. The lead up to the event should have been a heady mix of fine tuning, putting, pitching, driving and grovelling to the wife but before I knew it the day had arrived and none of the golfing practice side of things had materialised although several excursions with the Hoover had fortunately appeased the initial misgivings of the marital spouse.

Sittingbourne Golf Club was fantastic. Almost unbelievably green in the current 60 day plus drought, Dave Horne had presented the course brilliantly for the pros and the likes of me to enjoy. It goes without saying that my golf didn't live up to expectations or do the course any justice but, I'm pleased to say, our team came second overall so thanks to my playing partners, Tom Smith, Colne Valley, and Andy Turbin, of Ernest Doe. Less said about our pro the better.

Many thanks to Ernest Doe & Sons for the invitation.

Of course, this event should have stood me in good stead for our latest Kent Greenkeepers' event at Herne Bay Golf Club. The latest in our epic annual tour of the magnificent county in which we are proud to live. I have to say that one of the abiding memories of going to Herne Bay was the welcome we received from the golf club. They were extremely courteous hosts and, obviously with Phil Hirst, John Fullager, Steve Ellis and Sam Brearly presenting to the course to its optimum level, I would like to thank them for all the efforts they made for us on the day.

The course played deceptively

difficult despite a fairly innocuous appearance. After opening with a good par my round fell away rapidly as I (again) got caught up enjoying the company of my group too much to worry about the golf. Thanks to Barry Bradshaw, Mark Roach and Pete Leeves for making the round so enjoyable and to Steve Vogels, from John Shaw Machinery, for bravely winning a (hopefully substantial) bet by wearing the comedy shorts on the day.

Local knowledge proved to be key (not surprising bearing in my mind some of the pin positions) and the results were as follows: 1. Phil Hirst 33 pts; 2 and 3 were the Dynamic Duo from North Foreland of Adam White and Lee Company.

Trade prize was won very deservedly by Pete Leeves and his magic putter.

By the time you lot read this, the next event will be only days away at the superb venue that is King's Hill Golf Club. We really have been very lucky this year to play so many great courses and I hope as many of you as possible will be able to join us on September 15. It goes without saying that we need confirmation of numbers a week prior to the event so please call me to let me know if you're coming. Guests welcome too.

Prior to that, I'm off on my holidays to Egypt where I'm hoping the sun will constantly shine while we get the rain we so desperately need at home.

Take care one and all
Best of British
Rob Holland
kentgreenkeepers.com
07843 410755



Surrey

Monday August 2, was my birthday and I can now sing that old Beatles song, 'When I get older, losing my hair' etc. Chris Rudkin, my new near neighbour, although still hairy is also qualified to sing and remember with me that tune, recorded many years ago, when 64 to us seemed very old indeed. Now 64 feels comfortable and I feel no older than when I started calling on you some 20 years ago.

Enough of this reminiscing - I

should not keep remembering the past, but look forward to the future and my holiday in Guernsey later this month. News of this will feature heavily in October's edition.

Epsom GC, managed by our new Dad, Mark Harvey, has been the scene of two mishaps recently. Unable to expedite the departure of a visiting Worthing representative, (no names of course), by conventional means, Mark finally persuaded him to leave by reversing his pick-up into the said representative's new car. An accident, some would say, but I have heard that it has been contemplated at other clubs in Surrey.

The second mishap was the complete demolition of Mark's irrigation water storage tank, by forces unknown. Surely the damage to a new car and the destruction of an old water tank in the same month must be a complete co-incidence.

Jaws, be afraid and very careful, for Les 'the fly' Coombes, Windlesham GC, is fly-casting the waters of Avington for the whopper trout that weighs over 20lbs. His best so far is 13.5lbs. Any trout that Les captures at 20lbs or above is not to be fried, baked or smoked but will be despatched to the taxidermist to be stuffed, mounted and then displayed in the comfort of Chateau Coombes along with Les' other antiquities and objets d'art.

Surrey bandits raided Sussex Section at Haywards Heath GC, on August 5, and successfully picked up second prize in a three-man team event. Yours truly, Anthony 'Tel' Freeman and Tony 'Lars' Bremer narrowly escaped incarceration and flogging before fleeing back to their Surrey homeland. Thanks to Peter Ray and his team for a course that was very enjoyable to play and because of some recent rain was showing signs of the normal green, green grass of home.

Addington Palace GC hosted a Suppliers' Day, on July 28, and the above team + an old Surrey member, Douglas Iolanthe Fernie played with all our usual endeavour to come nowhere. Despite our disappointment, we realised that the course, although dry, had excellent and fast greens, all due no doubt to the instructions left by the on holiday Course Manager, Ronnie Christie.

When Enid Blyton wrote the

Famous Five books, her characters didn't ride powerful motorcycles along country roads but sailed quietly in boats to secret islands and all returned safely to their mummies and daddies. Unlike them Surrey Section's Infamous Five, Jim, Terry, Anthony, John and Paul went to see bike racing at Silverstone but only three arrived. Terry went to hospital, having broken his arm and Jim had to go home in a recovery vehicle, having hit Paul's bike when Paul had stopped to help Terry.

The moral of this story is keep your distance and exchange your two wheeled conveyance for an armour-plated Land Rover. It may not be as much fun but you will always go home safely, like the Famous Five, to your mummies and daddies.

My last paragraph is to congratulate Lingfield Park GC, Lingfield Park racecourse, Marriott Hotels and sponsors Vines BMW on creating an exciting venue for an activity holiday and week-end break for those who enjoy golf, horse racing and hotel luxury.

Brian Willmott



Essex

May I firstly on behalf of the Essex Section, pass on our condolences to Neil Peachey. Our thoughts are with you.

Ian Wood reported on the match held earlier in the month when the Greenkeepers played the Essex Captains, at Romford. Unfortunately the Captains won the day, beating the Greenkeepers by 16½ to 6½. We lost again! That's at least 10 years - we'll have to arrange more BIGGA days to get some practice in!

Winning Captain - Steve Range, from Hartswood. Winning Greenkeeper - Stewart Rogers from Orsett. Both scored a very creditable 41 points.

Ian partnered Ian Denny and beat Ian Seymour, Romford Captain, and Ian Timpson, Essex Captain Society Captain, from Royal Epping. (A four times 'Ian' football - they had all the jokes.)

Craig Campbell, from Romford, partnered Jon Selwood and they beat two Past Romford Captains, Steve Baker and Brian Baker.

The Tuckwell Golf Team Championship was held at Bentley Golf Club; Tuesday, July 20 a warm day greeted the 26 three man teams that took part, with a greenkeeper and two club officials making up the team. First place went to Romford Golf Club with 57 points for the Texas Scramble format. With a tenth of the combined.

Ian Wood's 25 handicap with his team mates 3 & 4 giving a combined 32 and with just three shots to play with the end result was a great score.

I understand they had three eagles in their round. James Tuckwell thanked Bentley Golf Club and Mark Stopps and his team for a fine day and the compliments about the courses' condition flowed.

We were very sorry that Neil could not be with us on such a great day, he was greatly missed. Robbie assisted James in the running of the day and we all enjoyed the fine hospitality that we were given. Our thanks once more to, P. Tuckwell Ltd and Bentley Golf Club.

I spent five very happy days up at the Open Golf Championship's in St Andrews with the

BIGGA Open Support team. I thoroughly enjoying the experience, meeting up with old friends and learning one or two things to boot, the camaraderie and friendship is something I will never forget, thank you to all those that made it such a worthwhile trip. What a course! If you ever get the opportunity to play or walk the course, grab it with both hands, it really is the true test of golf.

The knockout competition is down to the semi-finals stage and we will have a new winning team this year, with the overall winner's prize a trip to the National Championship, sponsored by Kubota and Charterhouse.

Next month I will have the results of our golf day at Boyce Hill Golf Club for you, plus some other information from the Section.

If you have any news for insertion in this section of the GI magazine or on our website www.essexbigga.co.uk then please contact me at essexbigga@talktalk.net or on 07764-862.337.

Arnold Phipps-Jones
Press Officer



John Pemberton
Chief Executive

September already and it is noticeable how the nights are beginning to pull in with the start of Autumn just around the corner. A depressing thought and with this year's New Year resolutions now a distant memory there is not enough time left in 2010 to make up for lost time. I wonder how many of you have managed to fulfil your own ambitions in these very testing times.

As you will read in the Chairman's Column, BIGGA attended a meeting at the NEC to discuss the future of trade shows in response to pressure from a number of companies. There is no doubt that exhibitions in general are not as strong as they used to be and both the IOG and ourselves need to look at how we can evolve and adapt to suit a changing market place. A further meeting has been scheduled and we will keep members updated on a regular basis.

The Continue to Learn brochure, that outlines the education programme at Harrogate Week, next January, will be released at the start of next month and I hope that as many of you as possible, take advantage of the opportunities on offer. It is equally important that clubs recognise the value of Continuing Professional Development and encourage their staff to participate in Harrogate Week, in the quest to improve the standard of both their own performance, as well as that of their team. I am hoping that by working more closely with some of the other major bodies in golf that this message can be delivered to golf club owners and committees with greater conviction, better success and that participation in the event will be understood to be a must.

Times are difficult and I don't think we are anywhere near being through the worst of the economic struggle. However, I never fail to be amazed at the actions of some clubs. The golf course must unquestionably be the club's most valuable asset and yet we so often see greenkeeping staff being the first resource that is targeted in a budget cut. More worryingly, the victims of cuts are sometimes the Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper, mainly because they tend to be the higher paid members of staff, and yet it is they who have the greatest skills, the very skills needed to give the club that competitive edge.

Perhaps it is time that BIGGA, the GCMA, the Home Unions and the PGA got together to create some form of business advisory service to ailing clubs. Now there's a thought!

BIGGA will be exhibiting at SALTEX and a warm welcome awaits you on our stand. We will also be pleased to welcome non-members and talk to them about the work that we do and the benefits of being a member.

BIGGA is working closer and closer with the IOG and so please support their event if you can. It is however paramount that Harrogate Week 2011 is a success - the success of the Association and the success of your future membership depends upon it. Many companies are still sat on the fence and have not committed to exhibiting because they do not feel that the membership is supportive enough of their Association's key event.

Tell them they are wrong. Prove to them that they are wrong!

John Pemberton
Chief Executive

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Visit www.bigga.org.uk/events to view the list in full



Diary of Events

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

Date	Event	Venue	Contact
SEPTEMBER			
Thursday Sep 2nd	West Scotland Section	Helensburgh Golf Club	Gavin Jarvis at jarvisgav@aol.com or 07725 363715
Monday Sep 13th	Sheffield Section	Silkstone Golf Club	James Stevens at jimmy_jams20@hotmail.com or 07738 719614
Wednesday Sep 15th	Kent Section	TBA	Rob Holland at grassyars@hotmail.com or 07843 410755
Thursday Sep 16th	North Scotland Section	Huntley Golf Club	Dale Robertson at daleturnberry@aol.com or 07711 274525
Wednesday Sep 22nd	East of England Section	Lincoln Golf Club	Bruce Hicks at brucehicks1@gmail.com or 07931 714922
Thursday Sep 23rd	East Scotland Section	Liberton Golf Club	Stuart Ferguson at stuferg@btinternet.com or 07961 630553
Tuesday Sep 28th	Sussex Section	Cophorne Golf Club	Dave Allen at d38a@msn.com or mobile: 07515 428573
Thursday Sep 30th	Ayrshire Scotland Section	TBA	Derek Wilson at derwlsn@aol.com or 07770 734360
Thursday Sep 30th	North Wales Section	Mold Golf Club	Jeremy Hughes at jezpro69@aol.com or 07876 776265
OCTOBER			
Friday October 1st – Sunday October 3rd	The 2010 Ryder Cup	Celtic Manor Resort	http://www.rydercup.com/2010/
Monday October 4th – Tuesday October 5th	BIGGA National Championship	The Berkshire Golf Club	Sandra Raper Tel: 01347 833800 or Sandra@bigga.co.uk
Wednesday Oct 6th	North East Section Event	Gosforth Golf Club	James Richardson at jamesrichardson217@btinternet.com or 07500 528542
Monday Oct 11th	North West Section Autumn Tournament	Bolton Old Links Golf Club	Phil Dewhurst on mobile: 07768 180604
Wednesday Oct 13th	East Anglia Section	Saffron Waldon Golf Club	Ian Willett at info@thorpeness.co.uk or 07929 205398
Thursday Oct 14th	East of England Section	Louth Golf Club	Bruce Hicks at brucehicks1@gmail.com or 07931 569158
Tuesday Oct 19th	South Coast Section Autumn Event and AGM	Broadstone Golf Club	Chris Bitten at chrisbitten@btinternet.com or 07796 887633
Wednesday Oct 20th	East Midlands Section Event and AGM	Hinckley Golf Club	Andrew de Wet at biggaeastmidlands@hotmail.com or 07730 713895
NOVEMBER			
Wednesday Nov 3rd – Thursday 4th	IoG Scotsturf	Royal Highland Centre, Edinburgh	http://www.scotsturf.com/
Wednesday Nov 3rd	BB&O Autumn Section	Deanwood Park Golf Club	Adam King at ajk@radley.org.uk or 01235 543119 or mobile: 07778 569158
Monday Nov 29th	Sheffield Section	Lindrick Golf Club	James Stevens at jimmy_jams20@hotmail.com or 07738 719614
DECEMBER			
Wednesday December 1st	North Wales Section Event and AGM	Mile End Golf Club	Jeremy Hughes at jezpro69@aol.com or 07876 776265
Thursday December 2nd	North West Section AGM & Bert Cross Trophy	Wilmslow Golf Club	Phil Dewhurst on mobile: 07768 180604



Membership

Tracey Maddison, Head of Membership, provides a departmental update

Are you stepping up into a Supervisory or Management type role?

There comes a time in everyone's career when "management" becomes necessary. No matter what anybody tells you there is no magic recipe for managing for the first time.

Why not prepare yourself now for what may be an eventual transition into a supervisory or managerial role, for many this is a natural progression, especially as we grow older. As a member of BIGGA you can now gain access to a range of "How To..." Guides which outline many Human Resource topics.

Which Management Skills Are Important - When?

A common question asked is do supervisors, middle managers and executives need the same leadership and management skills? Well the answer is yes and no!

A useful way to analyse this is to consider a team sports analogy. A successful football team performs as a single unit, with the efforts of individual players blending seamlessly together. With this level of teamwork, the defender can kick a ball into a spot and "know" that his favourite mid-fielder will be in the precise spot - at the exact moment - to collect the pass. Obviously, while this level of teamwork requires a great deal of natural ability, the players must also clearly understand their own roles and the roles of their team mates and how they all fit together.

Not only must each player understand their specialised role, they must also recognise that they need to undertake certain tasks, no matter what position they play, to help the team succeed. A manager needs to understand how various team roles fit together. Management is a team sport that makes similar demands on its players. It is important for a Course Manager to understand how their job fits into the organisational levels and functions of a golf club and to appreciate other managers' contributions.

"How To..." Guides - To help understand and aid performance within your team

1. 'How to Cascade Goals to Teams and Individuals'

Introduction
The formation of goals that set out what a business is aiming to achieve is a key part of business planning. Teams and individuals throughout the organisation need to be briefed about what the goals are and what they should do to help achieve them. This requires a management process to be in place that cascades top level goals down through the organisation.

Definition
A goal describes a measurable outcome or result that needs to be achieved.

1. Cascading goals
Cascading goals means breaking down the organisational goals into a series of smaller goals that describe what each unit or department needs to achieve. These goals are then broken down further until each individual on the unit has their own performance goals. It shows progress throughout the organisation is measurable.

Public goal: To reduce energy by 10% by September 2012

- Manufacturing Team**
To reduce energy consumption of their machines by 2% by June 2012
- Marketing Team**
To reduce print order quantity and to print less by September 2012
- Finance Team**
To reduce 12 day interest on finance paid on 17th bank reduction by October 2012

In other areas of the organisation, it may be enough to cascade goals down to the team level (e.g. in administration, if individual team members have work together they can be seen to be successful). For some it is more appropriate to give individual goals (see "How to Develop an Appraisal System" and "How to Prepare for an Appraisal"). What is important is that you get it right for your organisation.

BIGGA now offer members the opportunity to obtain these short, handy guides providing step-by-step assistance on a range of subjects to help to understand team roles.

For example, if you would like to set your team goals as part of the overall strategy for your golf club or sports ground, download the 'How to Cascade Goals to Teams and Individuals' document. Or if you want some advice on holding team briefings then download the 'How to Conduct Team Briefings'.

There are 19 of these guides to help you develop your knowledge and even implement new processes within your workplace. Go and have a look at the other 17 and see which ones can help you, visit www.bigga.org.uk log in to the Members Area and click on 'Member Resources' from the options on the left hand side and topping the list are the guides.

These guides are FREE and accessible to ALL members of BIGGA.

Membership Cards and Photos

If you haven't updated your photograph within the last two-three years please can you send in a new one? You can send it by email to brad@bigga.co.uk

Don't forget to tell us your name and membership number.



Contact Details

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South West & Wales

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Mobile: 07841 948110
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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

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

www.bigga.org.uk

Scotland

Stuart Kelly, East
Calvin Cooper, East
Craig Paterson, West
Stuart Leek, West

Northern Region

Antony Hunt, North East
Michael Kelly, North East
Scott Reeves, North West
Philip Iball, North West
Jason Shuker, North West

Midland Region

Stephen Green, Berks/B&O
Paul Longman, Berks/B&O
Justin Sugg, Berks/B&O
Michael Luff, East Midland
Andy Bourne, East Midland
Jack Mayfield, East Midland
Ben Lowery, East of England
Tom Kennedy, Mid Anglia
Oliver Brown, Mid Anglia
Luke Dennis, Midland
Lyndon Day, Midland
Steven Connolly, Midland
Simon Whiteley, Midland
Callum Roberts, Midland

South East Region

Andrew Sheldon, Kent
Ryan Church, London
Stuart Porter, London
Jimmy Butler, Surrey
Gary Weston, Surrey
Daniel Saunders, Sussex
Richard Worsfold, Sussex
Sam Fuller, Sussex

S West/S Wales Region

Brian Stevens,
Devon & Cornwall
Mark Blake, South Coast
Mathew Darby, South West

Overseas

Mathias Lundgren, Sweden

BIGGA South West and South Wales Regional Conference

This year's conference is on Friday November 19 at Cannington Centre for Land Based Studies. The theme for the conference is "Changing Times".

The day will begin with a presentation entitled "The Effects Of Climate Change" and given by Felicity Liggins from the Metrological Office, Exeter.

This will be followed by Simon Watson or Rod Burke from Syngenta speaking on "The Changing Face Of Disease"

The final presentations in the morning will be made by Rhys Norville, Toro Student Of The Year 2009 and Matthew Worster, Conservation Greenkeeper of The Year

2009 both telling us about their "Experiences In The USA"

The afternoon session commences with Peter Todd, Course Manager at The London Golf Club who will be speaking on "A Modern Approach " and he will be followed by Dan Duffy, Head Groundsman at The Liberty Stadium, Swansea and Groundsman of The Year.

His presentation is "A Pitch For All Occasions" and this will give an insight into the diverse requirements of stadium today.

Entry for BIGGA members is £20 with non members £30. A reduced rate of £20 for a non member is offered if accompanied by a BIGGA member.

Places for the day are limited and booking details and information will be sent to all Head Greenkeepers / Course Managers in the region.

Anyone requiring further information or a booking form please contact Jane Jones, BIGGA Regional Administrator on: 01454 270850 or mobile 07841948110.

BIGGA Regional Conferences

All forthcoming conferences are as follows...

REGION	DATE	LOCATION	FOR FURTHER DETAILS, CONTACT...
Scotland	1 March 2011	Carnegie Conference Centre, Dunfermline	<i>Peter Boyd, Regional Administrator, 0141 616 3440</i>
North	To be announced	To be announced	<i>Peter Larter, Regional Administrator, 01476 550115</i>
Midlands	To be announced	To be announced	<i>Peter Larter, Regional Administrator, 01476 550115</i>
South East	To be announced	Plumpton College	<i>Clive Osgood, Regional Administrator, 01737 819343</i>
South West and South Wales	19 November 2010	Cannington College	<i>Jane Jones, Regional Administrator, 01454 270850</i>





THE HOW TO SERIES

Download and learn

- How to conduct a one-to-one meeting
- How to conduct a team briefing
- How to prepare for an appraisal
- How to recruit the right staff
- How to write a job description

Exclusive to BIGGA members

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Definition
A goal describes a measurable outcome or result that needs to be achieved.

1. Cascading goals
Cascading goals means breaking down the organisational goals into a series of smaller goals that describe what each unit or department needs to achieve. These goals are then broken down further until each individual in the unit has their own performance goals. In this way, progress throughout the organisation is measurable.

Profit goal - to reduce waste by 10% across the whole site, by December 20XX

- Manufacturing Team** - To reduce scrap/project components off CNC machines by 2% by June 20XX
- Warehouse Team** - To reduce part order deliveries from 22 per month to less than 5, by September 20XX
- Finance Team** - To agree 12 key supplier agreements which result in a 7% stock reduction, by October 20XX

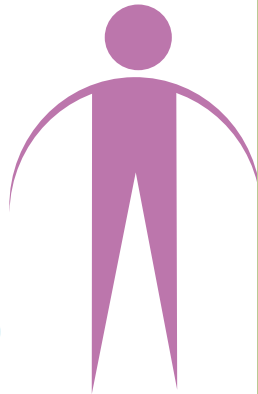
In some areas of the organisation, it may be enough to cascade goals down to the team level (e.g. in administration or production teams where they work together more as a team than as individuals). For some it is more appropriate to agree individual goals (see 'How to Develop an Appraisal System', and 'How to Prepare for an Appraisal'). What is important is that you get it right for your organisation.

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instep UK Ltd, Willow Barn, Newcastle Road, Blythston, Sandbach, Cheshire CW11 1SB
Tel: 01477 958111 Fax: 01477 958222 email: enquiries@instepuk.com www.instepuk.com

“How To...” guides are now 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.

To access the “How To...” guides, log on to the **BIGGA Members Area** at www.bigga.org and **click on Member Resources**.



The 'How To...' guides are a new benefit of BIGGA membership and are brought to you thanks to the continuing support of the contributors to the Learning and Development Fund.

