

# Step-by-step Analysis... Electric mowers



John Deere retains mechanical power to the drive roller on its 220E pedestrian greens mower. The cutting unit is of the same design to that fitted to the ride on 2500 series, the floating head offering a fully variable clip rate. Note ridges on catcher. These aid sighting when aligning bout passes.



Allett has invested a great deal in making the ELMOW not just quiet and efficient but also easily fine tuned to suit conditions. The mower's controls allow the forward speed of the mower to be readily adapted to suit the operator without impacting upon the quality of cut. So operators who walk at a different pace can easily adapt the mower to suit without alerting the clip rate.



Battery powered pedestrian mowers are not new, but what has changed is the sophistication of modern units. A key emphasis is upon quality of cut, electronics enabling great precision when it comes to clip rate. Modern lead acid batteries also pack more power and staying power, reducing the risk of running out of puff half way through a job.



John Deere retains mechanical power to the drive roller on its 220E pedestrian greens mower. The cutting unit is of the same design to that fitted to the ride on 2500 series, the floating head offering a fully variable clip rate. Note ridges on catcher. These aid sighting when aligning bout passes.



In full electric form, the Jacobsen Eclipse E322 is powered by six 8 volt batteries – two are mounted under the main pack of four - with a single point top up system making maintenance easier. A full charge should deliver 3 ¾ hours of running.

**John Deere introduced its 2500E 'hybrid' ride-on greens mower in 2005 and with it helped re-kindle wider interest in the use of electric power.**

Like the well-established Jacobsen pedestrian E-Walk 100 electric greens mower and the Ransomes E-Plex of the 90's, the 2500E benefitted from the ability to deliver precise and repeatable speeds for the units, quality of cut listing among these mowers key selling points.

John Deere, however, continues to retain hydraulic drive to the



traction motors of the 2500E, arguing its hybrid system delivers the right balance between proven technology, affordability and ease of use. Although the 2500E is now recognised as being able to deliver improved fuel economy when compared to its all-hydraulic 2500B alternative, consistent quality of cut has helped the 2500E win over those who perhaps were wary of switching for proven hydraulic s to electric motors. By 2010, Deere suggests its hybrid and all-hydraulic ride on models were selling in pretty even numbers in the UK.

Ransomes-Jacobsen, in the meantime, had been looking to develop a ride-on greens mower that eliminated any form of hydraulics. The result was the Eclipse 322, with UK sales starting to take off last year. Not only does this mower have electric traction motors, the steering system is also electrically powered and the units are raised using motorised screw jacks too.

What makes the Eclipse 322 even more interesting is that because it has no hydraulics it also can be offered in all-electric form. So where the 'hybrid' is powered by a 2-cylinder liquid cooled 13.3hp Kubota diesel, the all-electric model is driven by six 8 volt deep-cycle lead acid batteries. Ransomes-Jacobsen suggests these will deliver a run time of up to three and three quarter hours from a single overnight charge. This

should be sufficient to cut up to 21 greens in good going, reducing to up to 12 holes if grooming with roller brushes. The batteries should have a life span of between 750 to 1,000 charge cycles.

Back to pedestrian models, and John Deere's 'hybrid' 220E pedestrian greens mower has enjoyed increasing sales thanks to its ability to deliver a consistent quality of cut - Deere has adopted a fully floating cutting head for the mower as standard as this is easier to achieve with electric drive. Like its ride-on sibling, the 220E uses an internal combustion engine to generate the power to drive the cutting unit, but retains mechanical drive to the roller.

Again, Ransomes-Jacobsen has taken a different route, its Eclipse 122 models launched in 2008 featuring full electric drive. This enables the mowers, which are offered in standard 122 fixed and 122F floating head variants, to again be either battery or engine powered.

#### Other developments

In development for several years, the all-British Allett ELMOW electric fine-turf mower also benefits from advances made in battery, motor and controller technology. A key aim was to develop a mower that not only produces an exceptionally high quality finish but also does so in near-silence with low Hand Arm Vibration.

So what is Toro up to? In short, the company will unveil its new 'hybrid' and battery powered models later this year. Importers Lely UK has been working hard to ensure the new mowers will be up to the prevailing conditions in the UK, making no secret of the fact that the all-new Greensmaster Triflex is to be offered in both conventional and hybrid forms.

The company will also introduce new pedestrian models, the forthcoming Greensmaster coming in 18 and 21in versions with a choice of petrol or, in an industry first, eFlex lithium-ion battery power. Although these new models have been launched in the US, it is perhaps premature to go into too much detail ahead of their UK launch as some details may change.

What is clear is that the use of electric motors and battery power is increasing. And it is not confined to 'greens' mowers either. The John Deere five-gang 7500E hybrid fairway mower is currently selling as well as its conventional hydraulic 7500 sibling (and its 8000E and 8500E are not doing badly either). To suggest we are seeing the beginning of the end of hydraulic drive for some categories of mower would of course be wrong.

But what we are seeing is real progress and development, with some interesting developments that could lead to remote mowing in the future.



Soon to be launched in the UK, the all-new Greensmaster Triflex is to be offered in both conventional and, as pictured, hybrid forms. Pedestrian models will also be offered in hybrid and full electric variants, the latter featuring lithium-ion batteries.



## TRANSFORM YOUR WORST GREENS INTO YOUR BEST GREENS



### DO YOU WISH TO HAVE PLAYABLE GREENS ALL YEAR ROUND?

If the answer is yes, you need to try the **Imants Sandcat**.

The Sandcat moves lightly over the playing surface, and introduces sand to improve and enhance the properties of the rootzone, leaving a firm playable surface.



**Campey**  
TURF CARE SYSTEMS  
QUALITY GROUND CARE EQUIPMENT



CAMPEY TURF CARE SYSTEMS  
MARTON,  
MACCLESFIELD  
CHESHIRE  
SK11 9HG

TEL: 01260 224568  
FAX: 01260 224791  
EMAIL: [INFO@CAMPEYTURFCARE.COM](mailto:INFO@CAMPEYTURFCARE.COM)  
WWW.CAMPEYTURFCARE.COM



**LASTEQ**

Zero Turn articulating mowers  
Patented belt-drive for easy and low cost maintenance  
Efficient and economical



Model 3300  
2.5M CUTTING WIDTH  
FOLDS TO 2M FOR TRANSPORT

**The Articulator**

High definition mowers for a world that isn't flat  
'wide-cut' productivity with 'push mower' quality

Tel: 01622 812103 Fax: 01622 815534

**ESD Waste2Water**

**If your Wash Pad is like this...**



Illegal Wash Area

*The Recycling Wash-Off System Specialists*

**You need one of these...**



The Berkshire Golf Club

**Have you heard about the new civil Variable Monetary Penalty (VMP) of up to £250,000!!!!  
Why risk a potentially huge fine?... Call us now for a FREE no-obligation site visit.  
We'll be delighted to supply all the knowledge, expertise and equipment you need.**

**ESD Waste2Water Europe Ltd.  
Tel : 01782 373 878 E-mail: [info@waste2water.com](mailto:info@waste2water.com) Web: [www.waste2water.com](http://www.waste2water.com)**

# DEALER OF THE MONTH

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

## DEVON GARDEN MACHINERY

### *Location and size:*

Torquay, Devon. Turnover is around £3 million.

### *Employees and size of premises:*

22 employees spread across sales, parts, service, hire and admin. We occupy a site of approximately three acres.

### *Number of service vans:* Three.

### *Brief history of company:*

DGM is a family business started 27-years ago by husband and wife team, Alan and Jeannette Dommatt. Previous to that, Alan had worked for a large horticultural machinery supplier for 25 years.

Initially specialising in garden machinery, the business gradually moved into turfcare, which led to DGM being appointed Toro distributor for Devon, Cornwall and Somerset. Alan's son, Steven, joined the business in 1990 and is now a partner, with Jeannette retired and Alan trying to retire! Steven's wife, Charlotte, also runs the accounts department.

The team at DGM is exceptionally experienced with many key members of staff having been with the company for over 20 years. The business has been built on traditional values and a passion for making sure the customer is treated in a friendly and professional manner.

### *Key services offered:*

New and used equipment sales, service, parts and hire of a large range of garden and turfcare equipment.

### **Franchises**

**Toro, Hayter, Iseki, Dennis, Sisis, Honda, Greentek and many more.**



### *Specialist services offered:*

Specialist sports grounds maintenance using our own operators who are ex-greenkeepers. These services include Verti-Draining, solid and hollow tining, overseeding, topdressing and deep scarifying.

### *How has the dealership changed?*

As our company name suggests, we started life as a garden machinery business operating in Devon. But for the last 20 years our emphasis has been more on specialist turfcare equipment, covering the whole of the southwest of England. Our operated specialist contracting work for natural and artificial sports turf surfaces is also growing, along with an increased demand for good reconditioned equipment.

### *What would you like to see changed?*

Funding for sport, especially at a junior level, to be protected during the government cut backs. Without encouraging kids into sport, the future of

our golf, football, rugby and other clubs – which are the lifeblood of our industry – will be seriously compromised. Keep them busy and they are also far less likely to get into trouble!

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

Yes, we provide comprehensive parts back-up as well as advice and service on more complicated issues.

### *Major customers:*

All our customers are important whether they are buying a spark plug or a fleet of new equipment. A selection of our customers include St Mellion International, Woodbury Park Golf & Country Club, Trevoze Golf & Country Club, The National Trust and Torquay United FC.

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



# Happy snapping

BIGGA's Golf Photographic Competition is back for 2011, so it's time to dust down your trusty camera, go out on your golf course and get snapping!



**The BIGGA Golf Photographic Competition, back for its sixth year, creates an opportunity for members to display their artistic flair, while also earning some publicity for their club.**

The winner will receive a full course profile in GI and a special prize, while the 12 best pictures will be selected for the 2012 BIGGA Calendar.

Digital pictures need to be high resolution, at the largest size capable by the camera, as it may ultimately be scaled up to A3 print size (42cm wide x 29.7cm high).

Please label your entries with captions - the name of the course plus a brief description (around 10 words). It would be great if you could also tell us the spec of camera it was taken on too.

Please try to avoid reducing the file size to fit on email as this will reduce the quality of the image.

If the file size is too large to send, we recommend using a compression facility such as winzip or a website such as:

[www.mailbigfile.com](http://www.mailbigfile.com).

Please note, cropping may occur if photos are to appear in the magazine or calendar. Also ensure digital photos do not show the time/date display!

Anyone wishing to enter should email them to: [tom@bigga.co.uk](mailto:tom@bigga.co.uk), entering 'BIGGA PHOTO COMP 2011' as the email subject header.

All entries need to be received by July 31, 2011, and only BIGGA members are eligible to enter.



Sponsored by **syngenta**

**BIGGA Calendar 2011**  
Featuring the Top 12 Entries from the BIGGA Photographic Competition



## Section Notes

Please email your notes to  
[scott@bigga.co.uk](mailto:scott@bigga.co.uk)  
by the 5th  
of the month

All the latest news from your Section

# Around The Green



## Scottish Region



### East

The first day of June has come and on reflection May has served up some extraordinary weather. Strong cool winds together with intermittent bouts of rain, have taken their toll on the links. It appears rather benign, with little growth from a month that usually has a flush of green grass.

Four greenkeepers from the Renaissance Course at Archerfield escaped serious injury when a tree was blown down on their car as they were leaving work. I believe there were broken bones sustained but thankfully they survived to tell the story. Good wishes from the East Section goes to them and hopefully a speedy recovery.

No hint of a text of congratulations have been received by me as the mightier Gers (some weeks ago now) sealed another SPL title (three in a row) from Mr Shaun Cunningham. A large rum might do the trick at your wonderful Mortonhall Golf Course (Willie Woods Tournament venue in August) would suffice my rival Old Firm fan.

The Norrie Whittock team will be confirmed next month and hopefully the East Section team will bring the trophy back home once again.

Richard Scott's (Sherriff Amenity) invitation to his Open Day was gratefully received and I, along with a good number of green staff from the East Section, enjoyed a view of fantastic machinery at Musselburgh Racecourse. Congratulations to him and his staff for a very successful day.

A phone call from George Stavert was gratefully received by myself and, yes George, we

look forward to seeing you at the Braid Hills Golf Course in the autumn. Your guests are very welcome on the day as well.

Yours in Golf and Football!

Stewart Crawford

Chairman East Section Scotland



### Central

The last education evening before the summer was held in early May where a small number of attendees were treated to a very informative presentation about Turf growing by Adam Pounds, of Tillers Turf. The new Pairs' Competition introduced this year got a healthy support of 16 teams which were split into four mini leagues of four teams. The first two sets of round robin matches should have been played by now and the results posted on the website [www.bigga-centralsection.org.uk](http://www.bigga-centralsection.org.uk)

We now have Facebook up and running in the Section and interest is slowly building. Leven Links has recruited Craig Berry, who has 'Jamp the dyke' from Lundin, and on Leven staff, Kevin Webster, is about to become a father for the first time and Gary McLaren a grandad. Must be something in the water down that way!

Things coming up are the autumn outing at Kingsbarns, in September and on Monday, October 3 Joe Vargas, of Michigan State University, will be giving a presentation at St Andrews Links. I would urge members who have not already done so to provide us with their email address as this is a much easier way for us to provide you with information going forward.

Congratulations to Section members Gary Douglas, Piperdam, Frank Aherne and Matthew Engwell, both St Andrews,

and also ex members Anke Perplies and Neville Wenhold who all won awards at Elmwood College's prize giving.

Gordon Moir



### Ayrshire

Hello to you all, hope you are all well. A false sense of security yet again with the weather! April was the driest in history with sun shining down on us and May has given us a taste of what we are used to - cold winds, heavy rain and dull days..... I'm sure it feels like winter out there! June has started slightly better and I really do hope it keeps up.

It saddened me very much to hear of the passing of such a golfing great in Seve Ballesteros - a great man, the one, the only Seve, at the age of 54. Seve was a true professional and true gentleman. The world has lost a legend and one who will never be forgotten. Three times Open Championship winner he will miss this year's Championship at Royal St George's where, I'm sure, there will be some sort of honour in Seve's name. He will surely be watching over the week's play and I fancy one of Seve's countrymen to rise to the top on the Sunday.

If this year's Championship is as good as it was at St Andrews last year then I'm sure we will all see a spectacular event! I wish all the BIGGA Support Team all the best for the week and hope they enjoy the experience. It really is an honour to be part of it all.

Well that's that for another month, you know what to do, any news, goss, anything... Get in touch!

Cheers.

John Mair

[Johnmair982@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Johnmair982@hotmail.co.uk)  
07500874449



### North

As I write the Section news for July the weather in the North seems to have settled down. There doesn't seem to be any sign of the wet stuff so I would presume that we are all hand watering a lot of areas on the course.

I start with a kind of congratulations to the four greenkeepers who took part in the annual Trades competition that takes place at Hazelhead No.1 Course. George Mitchell has been running the Trade's Team now for a couple of years and together with Fraser Downie, Peterculter GC, Rossco Macrae and Dennis Grant, both Newmachar, came runners up in a very hard fought final. George and Fraser played out of their skins and won their match 4 up. Unfortunately, they hadn't banked on Rossco and Dennis losing their match by 5, which meant that they lost the match by a hole. Never mind lads hopefully you can go one better next year and break that duck under George. Well done, lads!

Congratulations to Derek Green, formerly of Royal Aberdeen, who has managed to land himself the job of Head Greenkeeper at Inverurie GC. On behalf of the Section well done and I'm sure you'll do a good job. Moving to Royal Aberdeen from Kirriemuir is young Mark McLaren. Well done on getting the job, Mark, and with the Walker Cup coming up in September I'm sure you will have a great time in preparing for the tournament. Jim McCormack will miss you greatly, so he said, but you know him better than me!

The Scottish National Tournament will have taken place by the time you read this and hope-

fully the North Section would have had a good turn out with plenty of winners. A report will follow in next month's magazine with all our winners!

Around the time you get the next magazine the Barclays Scottish Open at Castle Stuart will either just be teeing off or have finished. Good Luck to you all up in Inverness and we hope as a Section that everything goes according to plan.

That's all for this month's news ladies and gents but as always you can contact me on 07813889374 or email me on benbrookes@yahoo.co.uk

Ben Brookes

### BIGGA SCOTTISH REGIONAL CONFERENCE

6 March 2012, Carnegie Conference Centre, Dunfermline  
Contact Peter Boyd, RA, 0141 616 3440

## Northern Region



### North Wales

I start with an apology there wasn't a column last month as my computer crashed on me and I was unable to even check my e-mail never mind do anything as interesting as the column. Luckily I've now borrowed a laptop to keep me going until I get my relic of a tower system fixed. Now to start catching up on the news of the last two months and perhaps one or two things to look forward to.

On April 13 we held the Spring Tournament at Denbigh Golf Club, I believe this was just at the start of the hot and dry start we had at the beginning of the season. I must say the course was beautifully set up, a complete joy for all 43 competitors to play and showed how much care and attention it receives from Karl Parry and team, we also have to thank the bar and catering for spoiling us with a three course lunch and excellent service.

The results for the day were; 1. Simon Ashford, 37pts; 2. Ben Hall, 35pts; 3. Paul Gator, 33 pts; 4. Neil Oxton, 33 pts. Best gross went to Rhys Butler

with a score of 74 off a scratch handicap.

The day was also a qualifier for the BIGGA National Championship sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota later on in the year and with best nett and gross scores Simon Ashford and Rhys Butler take the hopes of the Section with them. On June 15 the annual North Wales/North West match took place at Heaton Moor Golf Club more about the day and results in next month's column. In other news Johnny Evans has moved to a new job in Nottingham at a course called Ramsdale Park, with moving so far he also has had to give up his position on the Section committee, our thanks go to him for his invaluable help on committee and our best wishes to his new and most probably exciting new position. There is a 20/20 cricket match taking place in the beginning of July full details on our Facebook group North Wales bigga. I think that's about that for now so all the best until next month!

Pete Maybury

e-mail petemayb66@aol.com  
mobile 07756001187



### Northern

Hello everyone hope you are all well and enjoying the prolonged spell of hot and dry weather. I have just returned from a holiday in Menorca, with temps in the 30s, it was a bit of a shock to come home to our typical bank holiday weather. But back to matters golf, on July 21 the Northern Section plays the annual match v the Sheffield Section, to be hosted this year by Renishaw Park GC. The 1st tee is at 1.30pm. I am looking for 12 golfers to make up the Northern team, anyone wishing to take part please get in contact with me to put your name down. Sorry I have no news or gossip this month, if you have any please pass it on to me, Frank Stewart, 72 West Park Grove, Roundhay, LS8 2DY, Mob: 07947401278, email frankstewart3@hotmail.co.uk  
Frank Stewart.



### Cleveland

Not much to mention. News has been like the rain, very little in the way of it.

We had our spring tournament at Middlesbrough (Brasscastle) Golf Club on April 6. The day was kindly sponsored by Lloyds of Bishop Auckland, in association with Toro.

Thanks goes to Alistair Whitby, of Lloyds, for his help with this and his continuous behind the scenes support of the Cleveland Section. There was also other sponsors on the day, and of which I don't have details of but will follow in next month's news.

I will apologise on my behalf because I was unable to attend due to spring maintenance.

Unfortunately I don't have the results from the day, but they will follow in next month's news. I am told that the turnout was reasonable, given the time of year and everyone doing greens

maintenance.

The course was said to be in fantastic condition, with the greens running in top order, so well done to Course manager, John Talbot, and the rest of his team. A very big thank you also to the staff and officials at Middlesbrough GC for allowing us courtesy on the day and for providing a lovely meal afterwards.

Just a little brief news to follow, Martin Mccrirc, from South Shields won the Durham County Strokeplay title.

A great achievement Martin. Well done.

On a sad note, Nick Bisset, of who many of you will know was the Head Tutor for Greenkeeping at Askham Bryan College, in York for many many years sadly passed away in late May due to illness.

I had the privilege of being taught by Nick when I started my apprentice in 1997 and he was a great guy who always lightened the mood with his great sense of humour, but at the same time, could help you out with anything due to his great knowledge and experience

## BUNKER EDGER CUTS YOUR TIME



The Atom Bunker Edger from DJ Turfcare is the smart way to keep on top of bunker work. Time-saving and cost-effective, this tough machine is easy to use and maintain.

Trusted by golf greenkeepers throughout the UK.  
**Ask the turfcare experts. Call us today.**

**DJ Turfcare: 01483 200976**  
**www.djturfcare.co.uk**



of the industry. I am sure many of you will have had the same privilege.

Nick was also a Chairman of the GTC's Technical Committee in recent years, as well as being an agronomist at the STRI.

Our thoughts are with Nick's family.

That's it for now

Any news contact me on 07921817857 or kevscarce@aol.com

Kevin Scarce



## Sheffield

Firstly, I would like to thank everyone at Sickleholme GC for a fantastic day at our Spring competition. Everyone who played had a great day despite the weather and said the course was in fantastic condition.

Results: 1. S. Pigott 31pts on count back; 2. A. Unwin 31pts. Trade. T. Dodson 29 pts. Nearest the Pin R. Binns

Also a massive thanks to Proturf for their generosity once again in sponsoring the event, as we say time and time again these days would struggle to go ahead without the help of all our sponsors.

I'm sure that many of you will have heard of the tragic death of Danny Cavill, who worked at Sitwell Park GC. All our thoughts are with his family and friends at this sad time.

On a whole the Section is running well and your committee is constantly seeking ways to improve the Section we hold meetings regularly to discuss issues and ideas. If anyone has any ideas then feel free to get in touch and the ideas will be discussed.

Section polo shirts are still available for a small fee anyone thinking of refreshing their wardrobe for the summer should definitely think about adding on to their collection.

I hope everyone is managing to cope with the prolonged dry spells we have aced this year and our courses are facing up to the demands. At least we can finally justify our irrigation systems!

James Stevens

07738719614

jimthegreenkeeper@hotmail.com

## Midland Region



### East Midlands

Sorry for the lack of an update in the last issue, somebody decided to throw in too many bank holidays into the normal spring rush! And I hear we are all going to be enjoying another extra "long weekend" next year for the Queen's Jubilee, maybe we could celebrate the jubilee by closing our courses! Rant over!

Moving on we have some changes to announce to the way your Section is run and by whom. Firstly Andy De Wet has stepped down as Section Secretary, we would like to thank Andy for all his hard work, and wish him well for the future, coming back onto the committee is Nick Miles, Nick will be taking on Andy's role as Section Secretary, and acting as our regional rep, The Section email is now biggaeastmid@gmail.com, all results in the Pairs' Competition should now be emailed to this new address. Also coming back onto the committee is Greg Skinner and Nigel Colley, Greg and Nigel will be filling the roles of Vice Chairman, Golf Co-ordinator and Education Organiser, I will be continuing as Chairman and Scribe to the magazine as well as taking on the Treasurer's role. Finally, Carl Chamberlain will continue as the Trade Representative.

We hope that by the time you are reading this you will all have received communications relating to the new email address to contact the Section on, and mailing address to send competition entries to.

Onto events now, and again by the time you are reading this we would have played our summer competition at Cavendish GC, (I hope the rain holds off) and be due to play our inaugural Par 3 competition. Results from both of these next month.

The Pairs' Competition is up and running and results are trickling in, the deadline for the group matches to be played has been extended to the end of July, we are also delighted to announce that Headland have again agreed to sponsor this event, and we are hoping to be

playing the final at Bearwood Lakes GC, with overnight accommodation included. Unfortunately I do not think that my partner and I will be troubling the receptionists at the hotel. Our first match saw a heavy loss to Chris Weir and Lee Wenlock, although the whole reason for writing this piece is to tee myself up to tell you all about Chris Weir's air shot on the 1st, never before have I seen such a shot, the full "Have it" swing followed by triple loop, finishing with a flat dive face first onto the floor, brilliant! Told you it would go in the mag, Chris!

Finally, anyone wishing to help out on the committee or with any ideas for future events can contact me at pds1@btinternet.com or Nick at biggaeastmid@gmail.com

Regards to all

Pete Smith



### Midland

Well, did you spy me on "Midlands Today" news programme last month? And no it was not in a criminal sense, you heathens. The programme was doing a piece about Birmingham City Ladies' football team and their new home ground of Stratford Town FC. I, of course, was simply mowing the pitch on a Toro Sidewinder. I, and my colleague, 12 months ago became involved with maintenance of the pitch and at that time he stated that he had just been on a seed educational trip to France and had said to a Head Groundsman of a famous Football ground "What, looking after a hectare of Rye Grass? How hard can it be?" Both he and I now know just how difficult it is. "Very" is not the word. We poncey Greenkeepers complain about pitch marks, Groundsmen have to rectify Le Somme in the winter twice weekly. It just shows how difficult similar would be professions really are and that each has to deal with many difficult problems using basically the same science, products and machinery.

Now talking of machinery, this month's kind sponsors of the calendar is our Toro dealers Abbey Mower Supplies Ltd, I don't know what I'd do without

my Sidewinders, whether it be for golf or football! For all your Toro supplies please visit Abbey's Website: [www.abbey-mowers.co.uk](http://www.abbey-mowers.co.uk).

The Midland Section played their annual match vs the Presidents team of Handsworth Golf Club on Tuesday, May 10. The Handsworth team was very strong, eventually winning the match 7-1. Thanks to the 12 members of the Greenkeeping team for giving their time to this long standing match, and, of course, to John Hughes and his green staff for presenting the course in such good condition, despite the recent reduction in staff numbers.

The Spring Tournament was held at Bewdley Pines Golf Club, Worcestershire on Thursday, May 12. Unfortunately the day was not supported as we would have liked, with numbers our lowest in memory at 28. This is a shame, especially when you consider the great day enjoyed by the players that make the effort. Our thanks to New Holland for sponsoring the prize table on the day. Thanks also to Sherriff Amenity x2, White-moss and Rigby Taylor for the four Nearest the Pin prizes on offer. Snacks around the course were provided by the lads from Farols. Thanks to all our sponsors as always, which add to the enjoyment of the day.

Results were as follows: 1. K. Baker, 38pts; 2. P. Evans, 38pts; 3. E. Stant, 35pts. Div 1. V. Gilroy; Div 2. A. Brougham; Div 3. P. Jefferies. Trade. A. Lane.

Our Summer Tournament is at Kenilworth Golf Club on Monday, July 11, 12.30 start. Please find an entry sheet to all our tournaments on our website [www.biggamidlandsection.com](http://www.biggamidlandsection.com)

Well that's all for this month folks. If you have any news please email me: [sean.mcdade@homecall.co.uk](mailto:sean.mcdade@homecall.co.uk). Come on, give us a few words would you? Fishing tales next month, I promise.

Sean "The Pandecks Kid" McDade



### East of England

Our latest golf day was at Immingham Golf Club on Wednesday, May 25. The golf course was in excellent condi-



tion, especially when considering the extremely small budget it is run on.

Results were as follows: 1. Rob Bemment, Immingham; 2. Russ Moody, Torksey; 3. Chris Goodall, Elsham; 4. Bryan Robinson, Belton Woods. Trade prize, Gary Cooper. Nearest the Pin was John Hewson, Market Rasen. Unfortunately Nearest the Pin in 2 was hijacked by someone called Phil McCracken. A joke that went unnoticed until the prizes were about to be given out! A mention must also go to Jim Dempster for a hole-in-one on the 12th.

Thanks also go to the Immingham catering staff for providing an excellent meal after the golf. Also thanks to Dave Hampshire and LMS for the sponsorship of the day, and for the loan of their Eclipse mower!

Our next golf day is on July 28, at Stoke Rochford Golf Club. All are welcome, please contact Bruce Hicks if you would like to play.

Many thanks,  
Steve Beverly, Immingham Golf Club.



## Mid Anglia

Hello everyone. It is my task to put pen to paper once again.

I have just returned from a most enjoyable Spring Tournament at Brickenden Grange, Hertford.

The weather was kind, not so some of the pin positions though. Thanks to Trevor and his team for turning out a well presented course during this testing dry spell and let's hope for some much needed rain soon! Didn't think we'd be saying that this early in the year.

Results on the day as follows: 1. L. Matthiole, with an outstanding 43 pts; 2. A. Cussen, 36 pts; 3. S. Wooley 34 pts. Longest Drive. L. Matthiole and Nearest the Pin N. Phelan.

It would be nice to see a few more faces, old and new, at the next meeting which is being held at Mount Pleasant Golf Club, on July 28. After match refreshments are likely to be a

BBQ, so a casual affair, no need for dressing up, if that's what's putting some of you younger members off! More details to follow before the event. Hope to see you there.

A couple more dates for your diaries, Autumn Meeting, September 22, at St Neots, and Winter Texas Scramble, December 8, at South Beds.

That's all the news I have for you this month. 'til next time,  
Nigel Phelan

## South East



### Surrey

Tuesday May 17. I am writing this very early because I am on holiday from tomorrow May 18. Sorry, but you will have to wait until the August edition to read about my adventures in the Eastern Mediterranean. As my movements, due to the present troubles in the area, are rather hush hush and on a need to know basis only, so be patient, the time will pass only too quickly until I am back and am able to divulge the daring details of my 'holiday'.

The qualifier for the BIGGA National Championship sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota took place at Mitcham GC on Tuesday, May 10. Paul Weston and Danny Murray had the dubious pleasure of my company and as there were only a few small ponds on the course Gary Ogilvie was most thankful to return to the clubhouse undipped. Many thanks to Mitcham GC for allowing us courtesy, providing an excellent meal and arranging for dry weather. David Willis, their good looking Head Greenkeeper, joined us for the meal and enjoyed the numerous compliments bestowed on him by one and all. Ian Sellers, a Past Captain at Mitcham, won Nearest the Pin [the most important prize normally the preserve of Ron Christie] and Kevin Boxall did his bit for the Longest Drive. Phil Beeny was 1st with a nett 66; followed by Gavin Kyle and Stewart Clayton, both with nett 67. Jason Hunt had the best gross score of 75.

The qualifiers for the BIGGA National Championship

sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota, due to various configurations and inability to attend, will be Gavin Kyle and Danny Murray.

Details of the golf day at Surrey Downs GC, on June 8 are understandably unknown to me today and as I am a particularly useless clairvoyant, will remain so until my return from far away places with strange sounding names.

Brian "Argonaut" Willmott



### Kent

Greenkeeping. What does it mean to you?

There are a number of reasons why so many of us are very proud and privileged to work within the industry.

Initially, for most, it is the enjoyment of being in the great outdoors and taking pride in helping to improve the piece of green and pleasant land that we are honoured to be custodians of. Many (single males) enjoy the perk of the abundance of golf on offer and take full advantage in lowering their handicaps. Once established in the profession, however, many of us come to realise the great community of like-minded souls who are also committed to achieving the ultimate golf course in their own back yards. It is fairly evident that the best courses are maintained by individuals who involve themselves fully in the local BIGGA community, by networking regularly with other professionals. There is an immense amount of pride that I take from the years that I put into being a greenkeeper. There will always be highs and lows in any walk of life but when you commit yourself to producing a quality product and pretty much achieve it, your worries seem a world away.

Our Section was honoured to be invited to play at the beautiful Knole Park Golf Club recently for our BIGGA National Championship sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota Qualifying event. A late tee time ensured a full turnout of nearly all our regulars to enjoy the pristine course that Gavin Kyle and his team of

## Assistant Profile

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



**Name:** Robert Bemment  
**Age:** 25  
**Club:** Immingham  
**Position:** First Assistant  
**Nickname:** Bemo

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

**2. What was it about the career that attracted you?** Working in sport and liking the game of golf

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

**4. Which task do you most enjoy doing and why?** Cutting fairways because after finishing it looks good.

**5. Which task do you least enjoy doing and why?** Raking bunkers because it always rains after we finish.

**6. What one thing - other than a pay rise - would improve the greenkeepers' lot?** Good machines to let us do a better job

**7. Hobbies?** Golf

**8. Favourite Band?** None. I like all music

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

**10. What is your claim to fame?** I met Adam Scott in a pub in St Andrews

# Around The Green

greenkeepers had managed to produce. Set against the stunning backdrop of Knole Park stately home and the dozens of deer that wander around every hole, the assembled group of us were able to make hay while the sun shone. Indeed, the sun had been shining, without respite, for pretty much the last two months,

that was, however, until my group reached the 14th tee, standing on one of the high points of the course we could see the rain coming what we didn't expect was a hail shower so hard that by the time we reached the green it was buried in half an inch of ice.

The lightning speed from the greens transferred to lightning in the sky, three of us huddled under the hopeless protection of Roachy's broly but as the rain got harder we quickly realised that a sturdier form of shelter was necessary. Golf became a tad tricky for the next couple of holes despite the sun re-appearing fairly quickly.

Standing on the 18th tee for his final tee shot, Kev suffered from the dreaded slippery grip/wet glove combo resulting in his driver actually going further than his ball. Despite the weather though, a really enjoyable golfing experience in a fantastic environment.

On return to the clubhouse, after thawing out in the shower for a couple of hours, we were treated to a very welcome curry. Results of the day were as follows:

1. Steve Gunner, 37 pts; 2. Chris White, 36 pts; 3. Glynn Pollard, 35 pts. Nearest the Pin was achieved by Gary Branchett and Longest Drive, by Dan McGrath. The Trade Prize was won by Stewart Clayton. Best of luck to Steve and Chris who will now go on to represent Kent in the BIGGA National Championship sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota.

Thank you to Knole Park for hosting the day. Thanks also to our trade members for their continued support, especially Greensman and Sherriffs for providing additional prizes on the day. But mostly thanks to everyone who attended for making our Section such a brilliant group. Can't wait 'til the next event!

On the subject of the next event, as you all know we have dropped our usual summer

fixture in favour of a Summer Pairs' Knockout Tournament. The full draw and details of this are available on our website.

One other event to report is that Michael Wigstone, of Tenterden Golf Club, is due to become a dad again soon. Well done, mate.

Lastly, two great bits of news from the coastal region of our section. Obviously we are very proud to be hosting the Open Championship at Royal St George's in July. One new member of the greenkeeping team is one of Kent Section stalwarts, Adam White. Adam has made the move to Royal St. George's after sterling service to the North Foreland Golf Club.

We wish him well with his move and the greenkeeping team well for the forthcoming prestigious event. On the subject of North Foreland, the long serving Course Manager, Dan McGrath has just been awarded his richly deserved Master Greenkeeper accreditation. Well done mate.

Rob Holland  
www.kentgreenkeepers.com



## London

Firstly, on behalf of the London Section committee, we would like to apologise for the lack of content in Around the Green. An important London Section committee meeting took place at Mill Hill GC on May 26 and all present felt very passionate about moving the London Section forward.

We are here to represent members of our section so any information or feedback will be greatly received.

A big thank you to Andy Wight for the great part he plays in organising and coordinating the education seminars, along with his liaison committee. These have become popular events, which are greatly discussed and enjoyed by all that attend.

Many thanks for all your feedback from the event, the audio and visuals will be corrected for the next seminar with plans for the line up well underway.

We are looking to run a half day seminar at a local golf club towards the end of the season, about new relevant develop-

ments in the industry, look out for this in future Around the Green columns.

Thank you to all those who attended the Hadley Wood Golf Day and to Simon and his team for preparing the course for us, their hard work was evident.

Congratulations to the winner Kane Stone, runner up David Badham and qualifiers who will go on to represent the London Section at the BIGGA National Championship sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota. Many thanks also to AT Oliver & Sons for sponsoring the day.

The next golf day is at Finchley Golf Club on Wednesday August 3. Information will be sent out to all email addresses that we have. If you would like to be added to the mailing list then please use the email addresses below.

Any queries, questions or feedback please contact us at: [adamccoll@hotmail.com](mailto:adamccoll@hotmail.com) [l.cox15@btinternet.com](mailto:l.cox15@btinternet.com) [matt.plested@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:matt.plested@hotmail.co.uk)

Adam McColl



## Essex

Another dry month has passed us by and in Essex we pray for rain, as I expect you all do in many other parts of the country.

May has seen a couple of events in our Section/Region, firstly on May 5 Essex played a game of football against Sussex.

The score is immaterial as everyone who took part thoroughly enjoyed the game and the experience. 3 - 2 to Essex was the final score, the home side got off to a fast start and soon had the goals flowing into the back of the net but they were not to be out done as Sussex soon struck back and netted a couple of their own, well done to all the players and supporters that turned up for a splendid afternoons sport.

The match was set up and hosted by Toro UK, at none other than Upton Park home to West Ham United. Our thanks go to Larry Pearman and Richard Freeman, plus Toro UK Sales Manager, Jeff Anguige, who presented the trophies and Dougie Robertson, Head Groundsman at West Ham, plus the club for allowing us the experience.

We were graced with full FA referee and linesmen so it was as near to Premier League as we could get.

One very proud member of the Essex team was long time supporter of West Ham for 50 years, Martin Forrester. Martin attends nearly every match at home and I'm sure the odd away one.

His face was a picture, as he proudly walked out on to the pitch to take his turn in the side - talk about the cat that got the cream. Well that was Martin. Every picture tells a story and later, as he relaxed in the Manager and Player's seats in the grandstand, he looked right at home.

That's not to say that he was the only member of the teams to support West Ham as I saw quite a few team shirts being proudly displayed both before and after the match.

The second event I had the pleasure to attend, although not quite in Essex, was the BMW PGA Championship, at Wentworth. The course was a picture. Chris Kennedy and his team should be proud of all the hard work they have put in on the changes that were made to the course over the past year (well done guys).

I was lucky enough to draw Ian Poulter for both of my weekend rounds and although he did not figure at the top of the leaderboard he still finished in his best ever position in that event, his partner on the final day was Marcus Fraser, who came fourth overall, so I was treated to some very good golf. Thanks to Clive Osgood for organising us all and keeping us in check.

Images of both events are on the website [www.essexbigga.co.uk](http://www.essexbigga.co.uk).

One major movement this month is the appointment of Andrew Pledger to the head position at Chelmsford Golf Club, I'm sure that you will all join me in congratulating him of his new position..

By the time you read this we will have held our Summer Tournament at Nazeing Golf Club and I will bring you all the news and scores in the next magazine.

If you have anything for inclusion in Greenkeeper International or on the Section's Website [www.essexbigga.co.uk](http://www.essexbigga.co.uk) please contact me on 07764 862.337 or at [essexbigga@talktalk.net](mailto:essexbigga@talktalk.net)

Arnold Phipps-Jones