

James de Havilland takes a closer look at the intricacies of current machinery

# The anatomy of...

## Kubota Grand L5240 GST Tractors

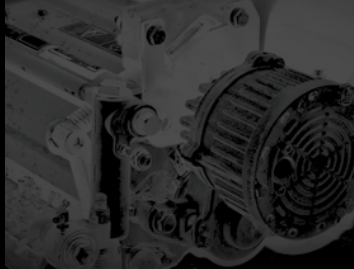


When considering any make of model of tractor, it pays to look at the key specification choices, including the transmission. These days there is more than a simple choice between mechanical and hydrostatic drive

Looking for a clutch-free alternative to a mechanical transmission? Kubota Grand L40-Series tractors, first launched in early 2008, include the nominal 50hp L5040 with a choice of mechanical 16F/16R or clutch-less GST 24F/16R transmissions. Adding £700 to the bottom line, what does GST offer apart from creep speeds over the standard gearbox?

# Step-by-step Analysis...

Kubota Grand L5240 GST Tractors



Last year we took a closer look at Kubota's HST Plus system, a hydrostatic transmission that can be set using the Cruise function so it in effect 'locks' to match the forward speed and engine rpm, just like it is with a mechanical drive.

The key feature claim is that HST can offer the same repeatability as a mechanical transmission but matched to the benefits of a hydrostatic drive.

Kubota is not claiming this fixed' drive ability is a unique HST Plus feature. Both the John Deere eHydro hydrostatic and New Holland EasyDrive CVT transmissions offer similar abilities. But not everyone wants this type of transmission, preferring instead a mechanical



The dash of GST transmission models features a power shuttle lever to the left. The clutch pedal can be used when inching up to hitch attachments but otherwise can be pretty much left alone; drive engages as the engine is throttled up, with no need to use the clutch to swap ratios.



The IntelliPanel on GST L5040 tractors shows the selected gear on the left. In work, the gears can be swapped without using the 'clutch'. When the power shuttle is used to change direction, the clutch is again not required.



Swapping ratios on the GST transmission is simple; just move the gear selector to choose the desired ratio. This does not mean the tractor can be started in any gear but it does mean the operator can swap ratios on the move without using the clutch.



Creep speeds are selected via the separate lever above the main shift and provide a forward speed as low as 0.20km/hr. Once in the creep range, all eight speeds on offer are available.



Glide Shift Transmission, GST, will only mean something if you take the trouble to find out what it offers. If you want the right tractor and transmission for the job you need to be prepared to ask suppliers a few questions. Do not always rely upon brochure specs as specifics may vary.

## Outline specification: Kubota L5040 tractor

<b>Model</b>	L5040
<b>Engine type</b>	E-TVCS 4cyl diesel
<b>Max power ECE-R24 (kW/hp)</b>	36.0/48.3
<b>Transmission</b>	GST 16F/8R
<b>Speed range (km/hr)</b>	0.20 – 30.34*
<b>2 and 4 wheel drive</b>	Selectable
<b>Guide gross weight (kg)</b>	1885
<b>Guide rear linkage capacity (kg)</b>	1750
<b>Dimensions (L : W : H) (mm)</b>	3245 : 1470 : 2375
<b>Minimum Turn radius (m)</b>	3.20
<b>Fuel tank capacity (litres)</b>	54
<b>Standard turf tyres (F:R)</b>	29x12.00-15 : 475/65-D20

### List price

£22,900  
\*Creep speed range from 0.20km/hr 1.00.



driveline that provides a 'real' direct link between the selected gear and engine speed.

It is here where Kubota suggests its GST transmission comes into play. In broad outline, the transmission is actually pretty much like a conventional mechanical system. The key difference is that each gear can be selected without the need to first depress the clutch. This action is taken care of by an electro-hydraulic system that employs a sensor on the lever to first activate the clutch and secondly shift to the selected gear.

In work, the operator selects a gear and then engages the dash-mounted clutch-less forward/reverse shuttle to take up the drive. The next ratio, up or down, can then be selected by shifting the gear lever without depressing the clutch pedal. It is as simple as that.

The system should not be confused with a powershift transmission though; for starters there are no automated features such as auto-transport.

The operator has to select the gear for the job and the transmission will not shift from that ratio by itself. Also, the transmission cannot work miracles. Expect an easy take-off after selecting the top ratio and you will be disappointed.

But in everyday use, GST is really simple to get to grips with. When it comes to precision work, it also makes getting the right speed for a given task more straightforward than it might be with a conventional mechanical transmission. Take operating a tined aerator. Where precise hole spacing is called for, the transmission and engine speeds can be adjusted to deliver the desired result as it is easy to slip between gears; the lower gear steps are 0.20, 0.28, 0.36, 0.46, 0.54, 0.68, 0.80 and 1.0 km/hr. These eight speeds should be close enough to allow a good match between the engine set at the most desirable PTO speed and a forward speed to suit the job.

There is a great deal of choice in the sub-100hp tractor market, so it pays to know what you want from a tractor perhaps more now than ever before. This is because you can get bogged down in looking at power and lift capacities as well as transmissions rather than homing in on key features you must have. If a key job includes precision work such as delivering precise hole spacing when aerating a green, you need to ensure whatever tractor you look at can deliver this. Although 'clever' hydrostatic and CVT type transmissions may claim to deliver

this consistency you need to ensure the package on offer meets your needs.

Similarly opting for a mechanical drive is a safe choice for precision work, but you also need to make sure the transmission has a good overlap of creep speeds. As models change so too can the specifications. So you need to check what is offered. Some brochure figures can also be misleading as UK specifications may not be listed in market-

**There is a great deal of choice in the sub-100hp tractor market, so it pays to know what you want from a tractor perhaps more now than ever before**

ing material prepared to meet the demands of all English speaking markets. As an example, Kubota lists creep speeds as an option on the L5040 with a GST transmission when they are in fact a standard feature on UK market models.

It is for these reasons that it is important to try and take the time to actually find out more about a given tractor than just looking up its specifications online.



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## Section Notes

Please email your notes to  
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by the 5th  
of the month

All the latest news from your Section

# Around The Green



## Scottish Region



### East

Well it's mid-March and the temperatures are improving, birds singing and grass is growing. Unfortunately the winds are blowing and the bunker sand is moving. Still, the new season is approaching with earnest and let's hope for a good one. Talking with Richard Windows last week at the Scottish Conference, he mentioned that East Lothian had been hit hard with the dreaded Fusarium. North Berwick has got off lightly with small areas visible although they are responding to treatment and the dry weather helps.

We have two new additions to our small Section committee, Scott Corrigan and George Oliver will be helping us at the Spring Outing at Craighelaw on April 19. We welcome them both. Tam Murray has left us and he will be missed greatly at committee level, his experience was vast and our thanks and best wishes go out to him. Scott will take over as education convener and you can contact him at [scottcorrigan4@aol.com](mailto:scottcorrigan4@aol.com)

Keith Burgon is on the move and takes over at The Hirsell, near Coldstream. Good luck and all the best Keith.

Dates for your diary are:

Secretaries' Match, May 3, Glasgow Gables;

Scottish Tournament, June 15, Dukes Course;

Willie Woods Tournament, August 9, Mortonhall GC;

Autumn Tournament, September 14, Braid Hills GC.

Good luck to you all at Craighelaw and anyone with news can contact [s.crawford@live.co.uk](mailto:s.crawford@live.co.uk)

Yours in golf

Stewart Crawford



### Central

The rules night seminar held at Elmwood on March 9 was well supported and Grant Moir, of the R&A, gave an excellent presentation. A more detailed report on the night is on the website [www.biggacentralsection.org.uk](http://www.biggacentralsection.org.uk). You will also find the results of the Spring Outing, at Ladybank, held on April 28, on the website as the deadline for this report was well before the event and a report on the Stan Zontek seminar which was held on April 21. The final of the inter club pairs for 2010 was finally completed and Crieff were the winners over Leven by 1 hole over the two legs. Well done to them (eventually).

This year there is a new format which you should all have been notified about. At the time of writing this there was a healthy entry and by now those who entered should have received word of the draw/1st round. The final seminar before summer is a presentation by Adam Pound, of Tillers Turf, scheduled for 7pm, on May 11, at the training room, Elmwood College. Again more details on [www.biggacentralsection.org.uk](http://www.biggacentralsection.org.uk). On the move is Paul Armour, who has left Leven Links to take up the position of Head Greenkeeper at Lochgelly GC. Our best wishes go to Paul.



### Ayrshire

It is with great regret that I inform you all of the recent passing of Danny Gardiner, of Beith Golf Club. Danny was the club's first full time green-

keeper worked extremely hard at a time when Beith was only nine holes, Danny saw the club he loved grow into an 18 hole course one to test the very best of golfers among us. In my own time at Beith, where I served as apprentice greenkeeper, I spoke with Danny on a number of occasions and what I can say is that he was a true gentleman. Danny will be missed by all at Beith. Our thoughts are with his family and friends at this time.

Things have been looking good on the weather front these days with the daffys in full bloom and the sun streaming down on us all. The courses all around are beginning to take shape all thanks to the lads involved. Keep up the good work! I've not heard of any mishaps or horror stories. Time yet. Next month will bring the results from the Spring Outing and of course as mentioned every issue I remind you that this is your Section, so please get in touch with any news. Let's keep the Section going. Til next time... Cheers.

John Mair

[johnmair982@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:johnmair982@hotmail.co.uk)  
07500874449



### West

On this bright sunny day I sit to type the monthly article enjoying the warmth and benefits such a day provides. I'm looking forward to the future growth induced by these higher than normal temperatures, already I've noticed the hedgerows starting to bud; a sure sign spring has sprung.

Let's hope the start of the season continues in the same vein as the last month, as my early disease scars are now filling in very nicely surprisingly enough. I hope all those affected

in the same way are seeing progress in this area.

Not a lot happening in the last few weeks other than the seminar at Loch Lomond held on March 23. This proved to be a very informative excursion, with the continued update on developments in relation to measurements of organic matter, firmness, soil moisture, speed and smoothness.

STRI is to be praised on the content of the day's discussions, the presentation of the material, and the venue. In attendance something in the region of 40 people enjoyed the day's proceedings with a good diversity of the industry present, and nice to see a few different faces.

Thanks to Loch Lomond Golf Club for allowing the day's events to go ahead and for providing the soup and sandwiches.

Just a few events to bring to your attention: The Spring Outing at Cowglen Golf Club, on May 19, entries will be posted soon, thanks to Michael Slack for accommodating the Section, and the other item is the Scottish national event at the Duke's Course in St Andrews, on June 15.

The annual match against the secretaries is scheduled for the May 3, at Glasgow Golf Club, Gales and I will report on how that went in the next issue.

Finally on a very sad note I have to announce the sudden death of Ian McMillan, who was a very well kent face in green-keeping circles over the years. Ian, of course, was the son of Jack McMillan, now retired, and at this time the Section wishes to express our deepest sympathies to him, his wife and all his brothers for their loss.

Another bereavement in the Section with the passing of Sid Adam, of Hamilton Golf Club who died in his sleep recently. Sid was only 39 years old and leaves a wife and two children. Our thoughts are with them at this difficult time.

Please pass on any interesting



facts or events which might be of interest to others around the country as it's quite surprising who reads the snippets.

My Email is [stuart.taylor@glasgowgolfclub.com](mailto:stuart.taylor@glasgowgolfclub.com) or my mobile is 07790823914, or the landline is 0141-942-5554.

Stuart Taylor

## Northern Region



### Northern

Hello everyone hope you are all well. As I sit here writing these notes looking out on a grey sky and hoping we might get a shower of rain to water our newly turfed areas. It seems such a short time ago we were sick of wearing wellies and waterproof trousers. By the time you read these notes I hope to have seen some of you at our spring golf at the K.P. Club. Our next fixture is at Moortown GC on the June 22, 1st tee 10am. The price is £20 per person. Please book early as places might be limited. Sorry there is no more news or gossip this month, if you have any please pass it on to me, Frank Stewart: 72 West Park Grove, Roundhay, LS8 2DY. Email [frankstewart3@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:frankstewart3@hotmail.co.uk). Mob: 07947401278.



### North West

As we spring into summer, our attentions are now onto cutting frequencies as the growth is now with us and we are all hoping for a favourable season. April started off warm and dry here in Southport and the thought of watering some of the turf laid later than wanted was saved by a few heavy showers, Augusta has come and gone and with that the usual Augusta comments.

The spring tournament was held at Hesketh and as the event has not taken place as I write this I'm gonna guess. The weather was extremely wet but the course just managed to stand up against all the rain, the wind was also present and many found it difficult to walk down 6 and 7. The course itself was passable, apart from the

rain, the crazy pin positions and the lack of growth on the greens, but all in all it was a good day and it was nice to see everyone at Hesketh. Thanks to the Members and Council of Hesketh for allowing us to play.

The next event this year is the NW v N. Wales match at Heaton Moor GC on June 16. This is followed by the summer tournament at Grange Park on June 29.

On behalf of the North West Section, I would like to pass on the condolences to the family of Ian McMillan who passed away early April, Ian was known to many people in the North West and our thoughts and prayers are with his loved ones.

Peter McVicar  
[pdmv@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:pdmv@hotmail.co.uk)  
07885347818



### North Wales

I hope I find you all suitably rested after extraordinary amount of bank holidays we've had recently. Spring is now well and truly here with good growth and, hopefully, if we get the weather to deal with it our courses should shine.

The spring tournament took place at Denbigh Golf Club on April 13. A full run down on results and the day will be posted in next month's column.

Elliott Small has been tasked with assisting BIGGA with putting on a display at BTME 2012 on 100 Years of Greenkeeping Associations. So we need to gather and collate as much information and materials towards the display and we have been asked to make enquiries where possible from some of the older members of our Section, whether they may know of any even older guys who may have old photos, magazines, diaries etc. One of the areas that we would hope to show would be greenkeeping families who may have generations of greenkeeping in them, so if you think you or your families can help please contact any of your committee members and we will happily pass anything on.

Terry Adamson, of Sheriff Amenity, is holding talunex/phostoxin training seminars in the near future. If you think you could use this please contact Terry directly. I think that's

about enough for now, I'm looking forward to hearing from you and about your personal or professional news, feel free to contact me I'm only too willing to put your good news into our column.

Pete Maybury  
e-mail [petemayb66@aol.com](mailto:petemayb66@aol.com)  
or mobile 07756001187.



### North East

This month's news is all about movement within the Section. Firstly Craig Parkinson, of Slaley Hall and former Course Manager and Director of Golf at Matfen Hall, has rejoined the rank of Course Manager at Diamond Country Club in Vienna, Austria. The course currently holds The Austrian Open and is on the European Tour. Working alongside Craig is also another former greenkeeper of Slaley Hall, Gerry Clancy.

In these times of uncertainty surrounding our industry it's good to hear a positive news story of one of our members who had lost his job due to financial

constraints affecting his club.

Tony McLure, who will be familiar to most in the North East, was formerly a Head Greenkeeper before falling to the axe of redundancy. He has taken the positive step in setting up his business supplying various products to golf clubs.

TM Amenities Ltd was established by Tony in March 2011 selling a varied range of products, on an agency basis, direct to the golf industry and these are some of the companies he represents: Parsaver Golf - All aspects of course furniture score cards etc; Turf Care Supplies - Equipment contract hire, Air-Seal Products, ASL Agronomic, Northern Lubricants - Waste oil removal.

Tony is working hard to establish his company in the market place and his office is now his car as he trawls around the north-east in search of business. He is contacting Club Secretaries and Head Greenkeepers to arrange to meet with them to outline in more detail the cost saving benefits he can bring to your club. When you hear from Tony please try to give him some of your time to listen to what he has to offer.

Following 20 years in the business, much of which in the capacity as a Head Greenkeeper,

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# Around The Green

Tony brings with him a high level of experience and professional knowledge to recommend and endorse the products he sells.

We wish Tony all the best in his venture and hope that he continues to show that there is definitely life after redundancy. And finally, those of you that don't know that the new course which has been constructed over the last two years, at Close House, opened on May 1.

Jimmy Richardson

## Midland Region



### East of England

Our re-arranged Christmas fixture was played on Thursday March 10 at Sleaford Golf Club. A good turnout of around 30 players did battle against the wind which did take some of the shine off what was an excellently presented golf course by Ian Batty and his staff. The day was sponsored jointly by Rigby Taylor and Mansfield Sands, who once again provided an excellent prize table.

The winners on the day were as follows: 1. Graeme Macdonald; 2. Bryan Robinson; 3. Steve Hopkins; 4. Ian Batty; 5. Rob Bemment.

Nearest the Pins: Graeme Macdonald and Robin Portess. Longest Drive: Rob Bemment.

Once again many thanks to all at Sleaford Golf Club for their hospitality and to the sponsors for their continuing support.

Our Section Seminar was this year held in conjunction with the Midland Region Seminar at Newark Golf Club on Wednesday March 30. The day was based around the headline 'Weather it's Ecologically Sound' and included presentations from Mark Hunt, Headland Amenity; Dr Keith Duff, golf environment consultant, and Ben Taylor, Bernhard & Co. The day was well supported and thanks go to Newark Golf Club for their hospitality.

Our golf fixtures for the year have now been finalised, they are as follows:

Wednesday, May 25 1pm, Immingham Golf Club; Thursday, July 28, 1pm, Stoke Rochford Golf Club; Thursday, August 25, 1pm, Boston Golf

Club vs Secretaries; Wednesday, September 14, Gainsborough vs Trade; Wednesday, October 12, Orton Meadows AGM; Thursday, December 8, Belton Park Christmas fixture.

As detailed above the next golf day is here at Immingham Golf Club on Wednesday, May 25 tee off 1pm. The day will be sponsored by LMS Lincoln. If anyone would like to play on this day then please contact Bruce Hicks.

Steve Beverly, Immingham Golf Club.



### East Midlands

Straight into news from our spring competition and first part of the BIGGA National Championship Qualifier, the event was played at the Nottinghamshire Golf and Country Club, the course was in excellent condition and many thanks go to Pete Billings, and his team. Results were as follows: trade winner was Kevin Haslam, with 30 pts; Cat 1 winner Chris Brown, with 33 pts and Cat 2; and overall winner with 35 pts, was Pete Smith. Other prize winners included Derek McJannet with Nearest the Pin, and Pete Billings with the Longest Drive. Longest Drive for trade was Kevin Kinser and a poor effort saw none of the trade hit the green for the Nearest the Pin!

Thanks to the sponsors for the day which were Aitkens, Tacit, Mansfield Sand, Barenburg and Sports Metals. Without these sponsors these golf days would not be possible, thank you all for your continued support.

On to more important news now, and it is important to all members of the East Midlands Section that you realise that without any more volunteers for the committee, this Section will close at the next AGM. Greg Skinner has stepped down due to work and personal reasons, and I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank him for his efforts on the Section committee. However this leaves just myself and Andy De Wet on the committee, WE CANT RUN THE SECTION with a committee of two greenkeepers! Being a member of the committee only entails approx six meetings a

year and attendance at most events. The events we put on are for your benefit and, as I have mentioned, without any more help the Section will cease to run after the AGM, anyone interested in helping out should contact myself at pds1@btinternet.com or Andy De Wet at biggaeastmidlands@hotmail.co.uk

The next Section event and second part of the National Qualifiers is to be held at Cavendish GC on Wednesday, June 29. I know this may be a long journey for some but it is a venue that is well worth the trip, I hope to see you all there.

Pete Smith



### Midland

As I sit here writing yet another stunning edition of our Section's notes, I gaze out of my window and give thanks that finally spring/summer is here at last. This, of course, means the return of the many varied blooming flora and fauna that we are blessed to see on a daily basis. However, a sight I recently experienced at some unearthly hour on a Sunday morning while mowing the greens, reminds me of that somewhat eccentric etiquette reserved to only those fools that are away from their cots at such an early hour. I could not help but sight an RAF transport aeroplane flying towards me at an altitude of approximately 400ft, as I gazed up in amazement at the fact that something so large could be airborne and travelling so slowly, it banked towards me to see what this fool was doing on a little red mower at such an hour, I then raised my arm as a "good morning" gesture and to my amazement the pilot then tipped his wings a couple of times in reply. That's one cool way to say good morning, it made mine, but then simple things please simple minds.

Now, what is it about starting up irrigation systems every spring that always seems to throw-up some form of problem that requires the investigative skills of Holmes and Watson? However, we always seem to manage it by hook or by crook,

and remember that "no problem can stand the constant assault of thought", coupled with a little help from our friendly irrigation specialists. One such being this month's kind calendar sponsor North Staffs Irrigation Ltd. Please visit their web site: www.northstaffsirrigation.co.uk. I dare say that they have a Sherlock for the case.

Sean McDade

## South West and South Wales



### South West

Hi everyone, I trust that you are all well and enjoying this mighty fine weather that is finally with us. Firstly, please allow me to explain the error that was in last month's events section. The incorrect date was in relation to your AM-AM competition, at Chipping Sodbury GC. The correct date would have been Thursday, April 14, (By the time you read this we would have already played). Apologies for any confusion that this may have caused!

What a great seminar we had at Chipping Sodbury this past month. Working closing with our friends GCMA (Golf Course Managers Association) we held an educational seminar which was very well supported by both secretary managers and course/deputy managers, or the ins and outs of a golf course as I like to call them. Titled 'In Touch', the day was a great success. In the first session I followed STRI, and enjoyed a very exciting presentation by Richard Windows. Showing us a huge range of tools and how we can all get the very best out of our greens. Course Manager, John Keenaghan, very bravely allowed STRI to invade his putting green to show us the wide range of tools they use to carry out their tests. The tests are used to help us improve the playing qualities which, in turn allow us the increase the playing season. When all is said and done, we (as golfers) want outstanding performing greens at a consistent level.

The seminar also included a detailed presentation from



health and safety advisor Jon Allbut. Jon explained to us the importance of a golf buggy policy and how improving the access for disabled members is now important within golf course development. An impressive presentation was given by Jim McKenzie, Course and Estates Manager, at Celtic Manor. I'm sure that many of you would have already seen a Jim McKenzie presentation, however this was my first one and it was great to see the how the Ryder Cup was really won. An inside look at the at the 2010 course...IMPRESSIVE!

Away from the golf course, the football season is coming to a close and in the premiership, for once, there is everything to play for at both ends of the table, could this be the most exciting season...My predictions for the title are 1- Man Utd, 2- Arsenal, 3- Chelsea, 4- Man City? Who goes down...West Ham, Blackpool, and Wigan??? What do you think??

I would like to thank our patronage partners for all of their support for 2011: Ecosol, Irritech Limited, Countrywide, British Seed House, Headland, Avoncrop and Martyn Lane Golf Signs. Your support is very much appreciated by the whole Section.

Remember that we also have our own South West Section Facebook page, proving to be very useful, only for it grow as more of you become involved. If you are not a member of the page, it's time you were. Ask for the link and I'll happily forward it to you.

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



## South Wales

Firstly, I have details of the Section's golf fixtures for the year. Thanks to Steve Chappell for providing me with this information.

The fixtures are as follows:

Spring Competition: Glynthir Golf Club, Thursday May 12, sponsored by DEAL and Textron.

Summer Competition: Wenvoe Castle GC, Wednes-

day July 6, sponsored by Tacit; Autumn Competition: Trefloyne GC, Friday, October 14, sponsored by DEAL and Textron; Christmas Competition: Royal Porthcawl, date and sponsors TBC.

Match v South West: Chippenham GC, Friday, August 12, sponsored by Inscapes;

Match v GCMA: Neath GC, Thursday, August 25, sponsored by CWC.

Rigby Taylor Qualifier: Neath GC, Thursday, June 16.

Golf Management Trophy: Morryston GC, Wednesday, June 29, sponsored by Tacit.

Obviously, you will be notified of any changes to the dates above. Thanks in advance to the sponsors; the Section would be difficult to run without your help.

Thanks to all those who attended Jim McKenzie's Ryder Cup talk at Pencoed College back in March. The attendance was good and attendees were treated to a first class presentation. Thanks Jim!

Good Luck to John Phillips, Head Greenkeeper at St David's City GC, on his forthcoming retirement.

Finally, this will be my last 'Around the Green'. Over the last two and a half years I have written 30 columns! So I think it's a nice round number to end on and about time that someone else is given a chance! And preferably a greenkeeper! I have really enjoyed the experience and hope that my efforts have helped out the section that I have been proud to have been a member since the late eighties. Thanks for all the complimentary words about the column that I received while 'on my rounds', they were greatly appreciated!

Right! That's it from me! Hopefully I will see you soon, maybe at one of the above golf events where I will prove that my golf is as bad as my jokes!

Ceri Richards



## Devon and Cornwall

Hello all,

Our March meeting was held at Merlin Golf Club, North Cornwall. 30+ attendees

enjoyed a cracking day. Richard Gerrard, Course Manager, led a course walk around this relatively new course which was in fantastic condition. The Golf competition was won by Anthony James (Jacko), from Killiow GC, receiving the "Bayer Cup", 2. Andrew Prouse, from Porthpean; 3. Mike Ellis, from Lake View GC. Both Nearest the Pin and Longest Drive were won by Mike Ellis too! Many thanks to our two sponsors for the day: Bayer and Famura. The afternoon educational speaker was Mark Hunt, from Headland Amenity. For those of you that know Mark would know that the attendees were given an expert and very professional presentation by someone who is extremely passionate about our industry. The feedback we have had from this presentation has been glowing. Many thanks to Mark for making the journey and taking time out of his busy schedule to deliver the presentation. A big thank you to Richard Gerrard, and everyone at Merlin GC, for their wonderful hospitality.

John Mitchell, of Perranporth GC, has retired after 47 years at the club. John started working at Perranporth GC in 1961 although he left again in 1973 for a job at the clay pits for a lot more money, enabling him to buy his house and get married. He returned again in 1976 at the request of the club when his brother, Billy Mitchell broke his right leg fib & tib, with an equivalent salary to which the clay pits paid him. He finally retired in March having worked with his brother for 47 years. An amazing achievement. For those of you who know Billy and John down at Perranporth, you will know that they are both fully deserving of all accolades and tributes they receive. The Club held a retirement party for John on Friday, April 1, and presented him with a golf bag & honorary life membership. An excellent evening, the bar took nearly a thousand pounds which more than paid for the food they put on. Keith Kemp, West Cornwall, and Scott Gibson, St Enodoc, attended the evening to represent the industry. Well done John, we hope to still see you at forthcoming meetings and we hope you really enjoy your well-deserved retirement.

Our next meeting will be

## Assistant Profile

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



### Name:

Gary Fraser

### Age: 31

Club: Rockcliffe Hall

Position: Qualified Assistant

### 1. How long have you been greenkeeping?

Eight Years

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

Working outdoors and being involved in golf

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

Still in the Armed Forces

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

Particularly enjoy pedestrian mowing – but all aspects of the job really

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

Any tree work

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

Education

### 7. Hobbies?

Golf and Football

### 8. Favourite Band?

Foo Fighters

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

Inverness Caledonian Thistle

### 10. What is your claim to fame?

Worked on a number of pro tournaments

# Around The Green

our summer 'Devon v Cornwall' match at Dartmouth G&CC on Wednesday, June 15. Full details will be posted on the main BIGGA website and invites will be sent out to members during May.

George Pitts  
Section Secretary  
BIGGA Devon & Cornwall  
07929 754401  
gpitts.yelverton@gmail.com



## Kent

I do apologise for not writing this editorial for the last couple of months, I've had a few major changes going on in my own life which have been, ultimately, very rewarding but very hectic and stressful. Yes, after nearly 15 years of service and devotion to Birchwood and making it the successful and thriving business that it is, I have moved on to other ventures which I am hoping be equally rewarding.

I would like to express my thanks to all my fellow, learned professionals who have offered support for me while I made the transition to my new career. I have not left the industry, however, just exploring a new avenue where I'm hoping the grass will be greener! More details to follow.

On to news from the rest of the Kent Section. We recently enjoyed one of the best golf days I believe we have ever had. On March 16 a strong contingent of us left the thick fog that covered most of the region on that morning and headed for the coast at Lydd Golf Club where we were greeted by bright, benign conditions and genial hostess, Irene. The course, despite some fairly major remodelling of the back nine, was a joy to play. The early starters definitely enjoyed the best of the conditions as a stiff breeze began to blow late into the round compounding this author's attempts to make it onto the leaderboard. I really hope we can re-visit this great course again in few years in order for me to do it more justice! Results were as follows: 1. Darren Burton, 37 pts; 2. Duncan Kelso, 36 pts; 3. Steve Gunner, 35 pts. Longest Drive was by Darren Child and Nearest Pin by Eric Green.

Sincere thanks to all who made this most enjoyable of days.

We are now looking forward to our next event which shall be played on May 26 at Knole Park Golf Club, near Sevenoaks. Good luck to host Course Manager, Gavin Kyle, in preparing for his peers and if you can arrange a decent bit of weather mate that would be great! We are also still collating teams for our Summer Pairs Knockout. This will be running throughout the summer months (obviously) and will be in place of our usual mid-season golf day which always conflicted with people's holidays. If you have not already entered and wish to do so with a fellow greenkeeper, then call me or Kev asap as we shall do the draw for the first round of matches at Knole Park.

Many thanks to all those companies who have pledged their support to our Section again this year. Your names are proudly displayed on our website with a link to your home pages.

One important additional I would like to make here is the sadness that I'm sure many of us felt when we heard of the sudden passing of Ian McMillan recently. I had known Ian for many years having worked with his brother, Bobby, for seven years at the outset of my career.

His outstanding work at Hankley Common and Walton Heath shall be a lasting legacy to his ultimate professionalism. Our thoughts are with his family at this most difficult of times.

Rob Holland  
[www.kentgreenkeepers.com](http://www.kentgreenkeepers.com)



## Surrey

It was with great shock and sadness that we all learned of the death of Ian McMillan.

To try and write about Ian is one of the hardest things to do. How do you put into words how highly he was thought of by his peers, his popularity with members of all the clubs he worked at over the years, his great sense of humour, his laugh when he caused a bit of mischief or just the pleasure of having a chat over a pint.

Ian was far more than just a golf course manager, his professionalism, unbridled passion and enthusiasm were obvious

to everyone who came in contact with him and he willingly gave his time sharing his vast knowledge with others. He was a mentor, colleague and a loyal friend to many and was held in the highest esteem in the industry and beyond. We both had the privilege of becoming friends with him when we became Ian's deputies at Hankley Common Golf Club. For us it was a beautiful relationship that lasted over 20 years.

Moving to a new area to take up a job can be daunting but moving to Hankley to work with Ian you became part of his extended family. He and Karen went out of their way to make you and your family feel at home.

Working with Ian was easy to say the least. We all worked hard and played hard which made our greenkeeping days fun. I think we all have a story to tell of a time when we were in Ian's company and could probably fill the whole month's magazine.

Many young greenkeepers trained under Ian and fair to say that everyone who he had under his wing went on to be successful in their own right.

Ian was never happier than when preparing for one of the prestigious events his clubs hosted, including many British Open Regional Qualifiers, US Open Qualifiers and many other major amateur events. The list stands testament to his expertise in this area. He was also first to offer help to other course managers in their preparation, volunteering at Augusta for the US Masters, Kingsbarns for the Dunhill Cup, Royal County Down for the Walker Cup to name but a few. I'm sure many of you will, like us, have great memories of working alongside him and several tales to tell.

Our thoughts are with Ian's wife Karen, children Callum, Hannah, Daniel and other members of the McMillan Family.

Farewell good friend! You will never be forgotten.

Gareth Roberts and Jim Russell.



## Essex

We ran a one day first aid course at The Burstead Golf

Club on April 5, a very successful day which was well attended. Further dates are to be arranged for this course.

We are also looking to run other one day courses, so if you have any ideas or you need a specific course, then please contact Ian Wood our Education Officer by email: [ian.wood@romfordgolfclub.co.uk](mailto:ian.wood@romfordgolfclub.co.uk)

The new golf season starts at Forrester Park, Thursday, May 5 for the Spring Trophy.

Please come out to support the Essex Team at our football match against the Sussex Section on Monday, May 23 at Upton Park. Home to West Ham United Football Club. Kick off is at 2pm sponsored by Toro.

This should be a nice afternoon out to support the boys and savour the atmosphere of a Premiership Stadium.

We have been lucky to attract eight new sponsors this year and along with some of last year's sponsors, we now have 28 sponsors for the coming season.

We are hoping to intensify our education programme as a result of this.

Many thanks to our 2011 sponsors: Amenity Technology; Bailey's of Norfolk; Banks Amenity Products; Blade Amenity; CMW Equipment Ltd; Collier Turf Care; Ernest Doe & Sons; GM Amenity; Golf Mats UK; Headland Amenity Products; Irrigation & Water; Limagrains UK; Old Forge Mowers; Ottery College; Paynes Turf; Philip Liverton Ltd; P Tuckwell Ltd; Premier Plan; Prime Irrigation; Rainbird Europe; Rigby Taylor Ltd; Scotts Professional; Sheriff Amenity; Town & Country Turf Ltd; Sea Nymph Chaingreen; Tey Farm Systems; WJ Green Ltd and Writtle College.

The Essex Section would like to thank all of the above for their support.

Our New Look website is now running and I hope you have all taken the opportunity to have a look; any comments on the content or things you think should be added, then please contact me at the email address below.

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  
Press Officer & Web Master





# Diary of Events

Details of your Section's forthcoming events in 2011 can be found here...

Date	Event	Venue	Contact
<b>MAY 2011</b>			
May 3rd	BIGGA v's GCMA	Glasgow Gailes Golf Club	Peter Boyd at pj.boyd@btinternet.com or telephone 0141 161 3440/07776 242120
May 5th	Essex Section Spring Trophy	Forrester Park Golf Club	Dominic Rodgers at domrodgers@talktalk.net or telephone 01245 252345 or mobile 07798 641529
May 12th	South Wales Section Spring Competition	Glynhier Golf Club	Steve Chappell at chappel124@hotmail.co.uk or 01269 822032 or mobile 07970 980899
May 12th	Midland Section Golf Event	Bewdley Pines	Andrew Smith at andysmithhace@hotmail.co.uk or 01676 530114 or mobile 07977 145091
May 19th	South Coast Section Spring Competition	Liphook Golf Club	Chris Bitten at chrisbitten@btinternet.com or 02380 769272 or mobile 07796 887633
May 19th	West Scotland Section Event	Cowglen Golf Club	Gavin Jarvis at jarvisgav@aol.com or 01436 676976 or mobile 07725 363715
May 19th	North Scotland Section Golf Day	Montrose Golf Links	Dale Robertson at daleturnberry@aol.com at 01651 863002 or mobile 07711 274525
May 25th	East of England Section Event	Immingham Golf Club	Bruce Hicks at brucehicks1@gmail.com or telephone 07931 714922
<b>JUNE 2011</b>			
June 8th	South West Section	Long Ashton Golf Club	Adam Matthews at adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 07732 503855
June 15th	Scottish National Golf Tournament	Dukes Golf Club	
June 16th	North West Section v's North Wales Section	Heaton Moor Golf Club	Chris Sheehan at jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk or telephone 07840 706738
June 16th	South Wales Section Golf Day	Neath Golf Club	
June 22nd	Northern Section – Presidents Day	Moortown Golf Club, Leeds	Frank Stewart at frankstewart3@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 07947 401278
June 22nd	Essex Section Summer Trophy Competition	Nazing Golf Club	
June 29th	North West Section Summer Tournament	Grange Park Golf Club	Chris Sheehan at jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk or telephone 07840 706738
June 29th	East Midlands Section Summer Golf Day	Cavendish Golf Club	Andrew de Wet at biggaeastmidlands@hotmail.com
June 30th	South West Section Summer Tournament	Knowle Golf Club	Adam Matthews at adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 07732 503855

## New Sponsors For Golf Management Trophy Competitions 2011

**The Golf Management Competitions this year have a new sponsor, National Authority Golf Course Equipment company TACIT have agreed to become sponsors for these events for the next three years.**

Winning teams from each section event will receive a full set of embroidered logo flags for their club together with individual prizes for players of the first, second and third placed teams. Together with this the winning team and the runners up will go forward to a National Final. The day will be provided by TACIT and will be complimentary for the teams. The winners of the National final will receive a full set of aluminum hole cups and tournament flagsticks together with the Golf Management Competition Trophy.

The BIGGA South Wales and South West Region's events will take place at the following locations:-

South Coast Section – Stoneham Golf Club on Mon 20th June  
 South Wales Section – Morrision Golf Club on Wed 29th June  
 South West Section – The Players Golf Club on Thur 21st July

Details will be sent out to Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers at clubs within the sections. Should you be interested in entering a team in the South West and South Wales section's events please contact Jane Jones BIGGA Regional Administrator

Tel.01454 270850  
 or e-mail janejones1@btconnect.com





# Membership

Tracey Maddison, Head of Membership, provides a departmental update

## Membership Benefits Update



### Tastecard success

I'm pleased to report that quite a number of you took advantage of the tastecard offer last month, as advertised in last month's magazine and on the BIGGA Website.

We hope you enjoy treating the family to a great lunch or dinner at one of thousands of national chain restaurants around the country not to mention many local restaurants in your area and save money!

Don't forget if you have an iPhone or Android or Blackberry download your 'app' now (Blackberry coming soon)!

Or visit [www.tastecard.co.uk](http://www.tastecard.co.uk) website to search for your nearest participating restaurants.

We may offer this benefit again later on in the year, watch this space or visit the BIGGA Website for details.

### Brad Anderson, Membership Services Administrator is leaving BIGGA

After ten years with the Association Brad is moving on. He is taking up the post of Manager of a local pub in Harrogate where he has been working part-time on an evening for around two years.

I'm sure you will join me in wishing him all the best for his future career and thank him for all his hard work over the last ten years. Good luck Brad!

Please bear with us in the Membership Department until a suitable replacement is found.

We will endeavour to continue providing the high level of service to our members.

### Skin Cancer and outside work

I love this time of year as I look

outside my window at work I see all the trees starting to bloom and colour up, the different colours showing in the sunshine, so pretty, definitely signs of Spring and Summer.

However, the sun starts to increase in intensity and for people working outside this can be an issue.

Most skin cancers are caused by long-term exposure to the sun and research has shown that those who work outdoors are more at risk of skin cancer due to this fact.

It is thought that there could be as many as 100,000 cases of skin cancer each year in the UK, but many aren't reported.

### Some Sun Smart advice

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

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

The SPF tells you the amount of protection the sun cream gives against UVB radiation. Cancer Research UK recommend at least factor 15. This is because it gives the best balance between protection and cost.

*Prevention is better than cure.*

### Social Networking



Many of BIGGA's Sections now have a Facebook page or group, if you are a member of Facebook go and 'join' or 'like' a section group or page and keep up to date with what's going on locally not to mention the friends that you can make online through these Facebook groups.



### Contact Details

Tracey Maddison  
[traceymaddison@bigga.co.uk](mailto:traceymaddison@bigga.co.uk)

Brad Anderson  
[brad@bigga.co.uk](mailto:brad@bigga.co.uk)

Tel: 01347 833800  
(option 1 for Membership)

### Regional Offices

#### Scotland & Northern Ireland

Peter Boyd  
Tel: 0141 616 3440  
Mobile: 07776 242120  
[pj.boyd@btinternet.com](mailto:pj.boyd@btinternet.com)

#### Northern & Midland

Peter Larter  
Tel: 01476 550115  
Mobile: 07866 366966  
[petelarter972@aol.com](mailto:petelarter972@aol.com)

#### South East

Clive Osgood  
Tel: 01737 819343  
Mobile: 07841 948410  
[cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk)

#### South West & Wales

Jane Jones  
Tel: 01454 270850  
Mobile: 07841 948110  
[janejones1@btconnect.com](mailto:janejones1@btconnect.com)



Clive Osgood Jane Jones

## BIGGA welcomes the following new members

### Scotland

Garry Duncan, Central Section  
Carolyn Hedley, East Section  
Craig Mackay, North Section  
Kevin Smith, Central Section

### Northern Region

Richard Blackburn, North West Section  
Matthew Bulmer, Northern Section  
Shaun Embleton, North East Section  
Andrew Mair, North East Section  
Colin Parker-Rich, North Wales Section  
David Pinder, Northern Section

### Midland Region

Rowland Atkin, Berks/Bucks & Oxon Section  
Richard Impett, Berks/Bucks & Oxon Section  
Alan Oram, Berks/Bucks & Oxon Section  
Peter Richardson, East Midland  
Lee Secker, East Midland Section  
Martyn Snell, East of England Section  
Luke Taylor, Berks/Bucks & Oxon Section

### South East Region

Edward Barrow, Surrey Section  
Kevin Bolton, Kent Section  
Joseph Dormer, Sussex Section  
Gary Doyle, London Section  
Michael Fawcett, Kent Section  
Darren Gidney, London Section  
Andrew Hart, London Section  
Curtis Ripley, Kent Section  
Simon Shaw, Surrey Section  
Luke Turner, Sussex Section

### South West/South Wales

Richard Budd, Devon & Cornwall Section  
Matthew Devereux, South West Section  
Leighton Lunn, South Wales Section  
David Rodgers, South Coast Section  
Zak Thackeray, South Wales Section  
Philip Woolley, South West Section

### Colaiste Stiofain Naofa College, Republic of Ireland

Eddie Allen  
Tim Crowley  
Tony Desmond  
John Hickey  
Daniel Hickey  
Stephen Kearney  
Patrick Murphy  
Robert O'Brien  
Damian O'Connor  
Timothy O'Rourke  
Denis O'Sullivan

## 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



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