

we were as ready as we were ever going to be for the match. However a five-minute warm up then ensured we weren't.

We feared an early onslaught from the more experienced Essex team but a combination of poor long-range shooting and cat-like reflexes of the incumbent Kent man between the sticks kept the Northerners at bay. Then, hitting them hard on the break a superb cross was powerfully headed home by Wayne Syers to put us 1 up. Further great defending and attacking saw Mark Todd put through just before the break to put us 2 up.

After the break play resumed and Kent's defence was finally undone by an Essex free kick from the corner of the penalty box. The low, in-swinging shot was pushed onto the post by the Cat but only to bounce straight back out in front of goal to the following Essex attack who were more alive to the ball than our defence. A simple slot in put the score at 2-1. Shortly after, Kent's defence were left scratching heads again after a quick short corner by Essex and the attack shot through the legs of a multitude of players stood in front of the unsighted keeper, 2-2 and game back on.

Ten minutes or so before the end another Kent attack broke down the left saw Zaffer the Turk fire home a great left foot volley to put the score 3-2 to us and, despite Essex throwing everything at us to re-level the scores, Kent hung on to seal victory.

Many thanks to all who took part, the Essex section for hosting and especially to Larry Pearman and Lely UK for sponsoring the event including suitable post-match refreshments in the Billy Bonds suite.

We also had a golf day last month. This was held at the lovely West Kent Golf Club superbly presented for us by Darren Burdis and his great team at West Kent. Despite most of us having never visited this fine course before many managed to score well on a very hot day on a course that demands high levels of accuracy and fitness!

Everyone I spoke to was very complimentary of the great course and welcome extended to us by the club. A great dinner too rounded off a great day for us at West Kent. Many thanks

for being such gracious hosts. Results as follows: 1st Ian Rawlings (36pts), 2nd Aaron Launchbury (36pts), 3rd (Paul Larsen (35pts), Trade Prize won by Rob Holland, Near pin by Darren Burdis and Longest Drive by Jamie O'Connell.

We've taken loads of names now for our summer pairs knockout tournament but still open for more if you would like to take part. You don't both need to be from the same club and trade members are welcome to join in too. Please get in touch ASAP to be part of this great event.

More details and pictures from the football on our website: [www.kentgreenkeepers.com](http://www.kentgreenkeepers.com)

Best of British  
Rob Holland

## South West and South Wales



### South West

I hope that everyone is well. This month is going to be a little shorter than usual, this is me hinting at you guys to forward me some short stories about what is happening around the section.

I don't like doing this, but I have to start on a sensitive subject...the section visited Clevedon Golf earlier this month, captained by the steady, clam and collective Wayne Vincent. As always, the section took a strong team, on what was a steaming hot day, we just didn't match up to the weather, losing 5-1. However, I would like to thank the secretaries for a great match, and we will be see you again next year. This isn't normal for us, I can ensure you it will not happen again...sorry captain!!

Our next match is with the Welsh section and will be played at Royal Porthcawl on Friday 10 August. If you are keen to play please contact section captain Wayne Vincent, after our last performance... there is a good chance you will get a game.

As for the section, Thursday

4 October will be our next event, our AGM and will take place at Bristol & Clifton Golf Club.

Now for the important subject that is happening in the world at the moment, Euro 12, what a great start...magic is the word! I am tipping Germany to win with Gomez top goal scorer?

We would also like to thanks our patronage partners for 2012, Farmura, Countrywide, Headland, Eco-solve, TH White, Irrtech Ltd, Avoncrop.

We also have a Facebook page for the southwest section, that will make it much more convenient for you all to use, you don't have to do anything, just enjoy this amazing feature you have at your fingertips.

[adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk)



### South Wales

Good Morning South Wales. In my time in South Wales I have seen many visitors to our golf courses including the Royals, International sports stars and many more celebrities but our latest visitor tops the list for me. Bryn Meadows Golf Club played host to one of the unlikeliest visitors in history an EMU!! Second in size to the ostrich it popped in for a few holes over the weekend of 21 May, unfortunately she was asked to leave because she didn't have a handicap certificate! Eventually she was reunited with her owner who was based at a small holding just a mile away.

Congratulations again to Jim Mackenzie and his team for setting up a fantastic Handa Wales Open. The course, as always in magnificent condition and with the drying conditions prior to the event it made the course play in a slightly different manor with ball striking needing to be played to some tough pin positions set by the European Tour. Congratulations Jim in not only having a successful 13th Wales Open Tournament but also passing a personal milestone... the big 50 on the Thursday of the event, Happy Birthday.

## Assistant Profile

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

### Name:

Andrew Ross

Age: 36

Club:

Thornhill

Position:

First

Assistant

Nickname:

Floss



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

17 years

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

Working outdoors and being on a golf course all day

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

Firefighter (I do this on a retained basis just now)

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

Hand cutting greens, you get a nice early morning stroll

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

Strimming, hurts the back

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

More communication with members so they understand our job better

### 7. Hobbies?

Darts and Bowling

### 8. Favourite Band?

Iron Maiden

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

Nottingham Forest

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

Believe it or not but Im actually a qualified Financial Advisor aswell!

# Around The Green

Our spring competition was held over the well-manicured Greenmeadow Golf Course. Numbers for this event unfortunately hit an all-time low mainly in my opinion the weather changing and many of you guys having to play catch up in keeping the growth levels down nevertheless an exciting competition took place. Eventually Stuart Ross of Brecon Golf Club ran out clear winner with ever present Andy roach in second and Gareth Knight back in third. Longest drive was again one by Big D however it wasn't his normal massive best, struggling with a rib cartilage injury he struggled around the golf course and at the longest drive he hit the lowest worm burning drive I have ever seen which ended up 300yds plus! Nearest the pin was won by Clive Moran now of Tredegar Park. A big thank you to Green Meadow Golf Club for their generous hospitality shown and presenting the golf course in great shape.

Unfortunately a negative bit of news to report we have had to cancel the Rigby Taylor Matchplay competition for the first time since the event started over 15 years ago due to lack of teams to enter the event I guess

down to pressures of work and the weather not helping things again.

This year as most of you should be aware we have started the patronage scheme where all supporting trade companies pay a nominal fee rather than an individual company sponsoring golf and educational events, this would allow the section more money to spend on prizes at the golf days, to support an individual to attend BTME and to attract better speakers to attend education days or evenings. Without greenkeepers supporting all events it does make it harder to attract further sponsors and being able maintain the level of support the Trade companies give us. I know that time is precious in the work place and we therefore are looking at ways to tempt people back out to all events so please if anyone has any suggestions on how to improve what we are doing please contact myself, Gareth Knight or any of the patron companies to forward your ideas. Sorry to have a rant but that's all from me keep it green!!

Kind Regards  
Peter Holmstrom  
07732503855

### Dakota Turf Tenders



Spread light, heavy, wet or dry, nothing is easier to use or adjust than a Dakota Turf Tender



Dakota 410



Dakota 414



Dakota 440




Email us at:  
[info@campeyturfcare.com](mailto:info@campeyturfcare.com)

Visit our website:  
[www.campeyturfcare.com](http://www.campeyturfcare.com)



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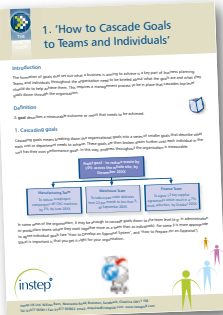
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These short, handy guides provide practical, step by step guidance on a range of subjects. The guides can be downloaded and used to help you develop your knowledge and implement new processes within your workplace.




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Development & Training

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

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# Diary of Events

Details of your Section's forthcoming events in 2012 can be found here...

Date	Event	Venue	Contact
<b>JULY 2012</b>			
July 4th	Devon & Cornwall Section Event	Launceston Golf Club	George Pitts email: gpitts.yelverton@gmail.com
July 4th	North West Section Event	Stand Golf Club	Chris Sheehan email: jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk
July 11th	Summer Meeting – South Wales Section	Creigau Golf Club	Gareth Knight Tel mobile: 07595 988512
July 11th	North West Section Event	Ashley Cricket Club near Tatton Park	Chris Sheehan email: jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk
July 11th	Midland Section Event	Oxley Park Golf Club	Andrew Smith email: andysmithhace@hotmail.co.uk
July 11th	South Coast Section Event	Blackmoor Golf Club	Alex McCombie email: southcoastsecretary@gmail.com
July 11th	Evening Course Walk – Devon & Cornwall Section	Treose Golf & Country Club	George Pitts Tel Mobile: 07929 754401 or email: gpitts@yelvertongolf.co.uk
July 12th	Midland Region Golf Management Event sponsored by Tacit Golf UK	Gay Hill Golf Club	Sandra Raper on Mobile: 07866 366966 or email: sandra@bigga.co.uk
July 12th	Northern Section Event	Meltham Golf Club	Andrew Slingsby email: slingsbyfamily@virginmedia.com
July 15th – 22nd	Open Championship	Royal Lytham & St Annes	<a href="http://www.theopen.com/">http://www.theopen.com/</a>
July 25th	Northern Region Golf Management Event sponsored by Tacit Golf UK	Bingley St Ives Golf Club	Sandra Raper on Mobile: 07866 366966 or email: sandra@bigga.co.uk
July 27th	North v South Match – South Wales Section	Aberdovey Golf Club	Gareth Knight Tel mobile: 07595 988512
<b>AUGUST 2012</b>			
August 1st	East of England Event	Belton Woods Hotel & Golf Club	Bruce Hicks Tel mobile: 07931 714922 or email: brucehicks1@gmail.com
August 1st	East Anglia Golf Event	Royal Norwich Golf Club	Ian Willett Tel. Mobile 07929 205398 or email: info@biggaeastanglia.co.uk
August 9th	Midland Region Golf Management Event sponsored by Tacit Golf UK	Verulam Golf Club	Sandra Raper on Mobile: 07866 366966 or email: sandra@bigga.co.uk
August 15th	South West Section Golf Management	Bowood Golf Club, Wiltshire	Jane Jones, Tel: 01454 270850, Mobile: 07841 948110, jane@bigga.co.uk
August 16th	Scottish Team Event Golf Day	Auchterarder Golf Club	Gordon Moir Email: gmoir@standrews.org.uk
August 16th	Essex Section Day	Rochford Hundred Golf Club	Arnold Phipps-Jones Tel mobile: 07764 862337 or email: essexbigga@talktalk.net
August 22nd	Scottish East Section Tournament	Mortonhall Golf Club	Stuart Ferguson Email: stuferg@btinternet.com
August 22nd	Northern Section Event	Horsforth Golf Club	Andrew Slingsby Email: slingsbyfamily@virginmedia.com
August 22nd	Northern Region Golf Management Event sponsored by Tacit Golf UK	Birchwood Golf Club	Sandra Raper on Mobile: 07866 366966 or email: sandra@bigga.co.uk
August 22nd	Northern Region Golf Management Event sponsored by Tacit Golf UK	Birchwood Golf Club	Sandra Raper on Mobile: 07866 366966 or email: sandra@bigga.co.uk



# BIGGA National Championship 2012

The quest to find BIGGA's best golfer returns in 2012 when the National Championship moves to The Irvine Golf Club, Bogside, Ayrshire, on October 8-9, 2012

(Visit the club website at [www.theirvinegolfclub.co.uk](http://www.theirvinegolfclub.co.uk))

Fill in the form below to book your spot

The 14th green at The Irvine Golf Club

## BIGGA National Championship 2012, The Irvine Golf Club, October 8-9 • Entry Form

### Please select the relevant category:

- Full Member
- Affiliate Member

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

Name .....

Address.....

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

Mobile.....

E-mail.....

Membership No. ....

Handicap.....

BIGGA Section.....

Golf Club .....

### Payment method (please tick)

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

Card number.....

Start Date .....Expiry Date .....

Last 3 security digits.....

Issue No. (Switch/Delta only) .....

Signature.....

Date .....

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

### Deadline for entry is 11th September 2012.

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

The main tournament for the Challenge Trophy will be played over 36 holes, medal play, with the best overall gross score producing the BIGGA National Champion, who must be a greenkeeper member. The greenkeeper player with the lowest nett score will be presented with the BIGGA Challenge Cup.

There will be prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd over 36 holes in both the nett and gross categories, additionally after each day of 18 holes there will be prizes for winners of handicap divisions. The BIGGA Regional Team Cup and prize will be calculated from the 8 best nett scores over the first day of play. If you have a poor first day an alternative Stableford competition will be held on the second day of play.





# Greenkeeper Training



**A guide to the range of training provided throughout the UK**

**BIGGA is actively involved in raising the standard of Greenkeeper Training. The Association is a member of the Greenkeepers' Training Committee and strives to enhance the level of education through various means, including Section, Regional and National workshops, seminars and conferences.**

The range and quality of training now available throughout the UK means there is a training course for every greenkeeper. This should improve the quality of greenkeeping and help to produce better quality golf courses to the benefit of all within the industry.

Golf Course Managers should ensure that their staff are trained to the highest standards. This begins by selecting a training provider that meets the criteria laid down by the GTC. There is a clear link between education, training and economic success and all clubs should invest in the education of their staff.

There are now a number of GTC Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers identified by the GTC Quality Assured logo



**Sami Collins**  
Head of Learning & Development  
BIGGA

**01347 833800**

**sami@bigga.co.uk**  
**www.bigga.org.uk**

## SCOTLAND



**Cupar, Fife, KY15 4JB**

**Contact: michaelclark@elmwood.ac.uk**

Full-time and Part-time National Certificate Greenkeeping, Block release/fast track and workbased learning options for SVQ Level 2 and Level 3. ILM Level 3 & 4 Management. HNC and HND Golf Course Management available both online/ distance learning and full-time/ part-time options. HNC/HND Golf Facility Management. Sportsturf Courses available. SVQ Level 2 & 3 in Landbased Service Engineering and Golf Course Mechanics Courses. Abrasive Wheel, BTLIA/NPTC Irrigation Course, Chainsaw, Tree Climbing and Rescue Techniques, Spraying and Noroso Certification/Courses.



## ENGLAND



**Askham Bryan, York, North Yorkshire, YO23 3FR**

**Contact: Central admissions 01904 772211**

**enquiries@askham-bryan.ac.uk www.askham-bryan.ac.uk**

Extended Diploma and Subsidiary Diploma in Horticulture. Foundation & Extended Foundation Degrees in Sports Surface Management, Horticulture, Landscape and Garden Management or Arboriculture. All available full or part-time.

*Block release courses:* WBL Diploma Levels 2 & 3 Greenkeeping WBL Diploma Levels 2 & 3 Groundsman Sportsturf Maintenance.

*Short courses:* FEPA spraying, irrigation, chainsaw and brushcutter courses.



**50 Brook Street, Glasgow, G40 2AB**

**Contact: Lesley Lowrie 0141-556-3999**

**Fax: 0141-556-4999 learn@gostatraining.co.uk**

SVQ Level 2 and 3 and Modern Apprenticeship in Greenkeeping/ Sportsturf and Landscape. Attendance Day release or Distance Learning. SVQ Level 4 Management is available with flexible learning options. Lantra and NPTC Industry related short courses with certification include Pesticide courses, Chainsaw, full range of Machinery training, First Aid and many more. Candidates may use their Individual Learning Account to fund many of the courses. Training courses are available in Glasgow and Edinburgh areas throughout the year.



**BRIDGWATER**

**Bridgwater College (Cannington Centre for Land-based Studies), Cannington, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA5 2LS**

**Contact: Helen Goodland; Tel: 07786311429;**

**Fax: 01278 444363**

**Email: goodlandh@bridgwater.ac.uk**

**www.bridgwater.ac.uk**

Level 2 and 3 apprenticeship and work-based learning schemes available as well as full time BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Sports Turf. Additional short courses include PA1, 2 and 6, Spraying, Chainsaw, First Aid, Manual Handling and PAT Testing.



## ENGLAND

### GTC QUALITY ASSURED CENTRES AND TRAINING PROVIDERS



A full list of GTC approved training providers can be obtained from the GTC. The Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC) are continually reviewing the approved status of centres and training providers offering greenkeeper training courses.

For more information contact the GTC on: 01347 838640 or visit: [www.the-gtc.co.uk](http://www.the-gtc.co.uk)



**Bilsborrow, Preston, Lancashire PR3 0RY**  
**Contact: Stewart Brown 01995 642305 [www.myerscough.ac.uk](http://www.myerscough.ac.uk)**

Myerscough College is a pioneering centre for Sportsturf Education and Training in Europe. Courses are available at all levels from Introductory Diploma to Honours Degrees in Sportsturf Science and Management. There are options for full-time and part-time study with our FdSc Sportsturf and BSc Sportsturf Science courses uniquely available ONLINE also and having students enrolled throughout the UK, Europe and the USA. A new "Top-Up" BSc Degree in Sportsturf Science and Management is now available for those already holding FdSc or HND qualifications in Sportsturf. Our Work Based Training group offer NVQ's in the workplace from levels throughout the UK.



**Stoke Climsland, Callington, Cornwall, PL18 8PB**  
**Duchy College, Rosewarne, Camborne, Cornwall, TR14 0AB**  
**Contact: Liz Clarkson 01579 372345/07785 105087**  
**[liz.clarkson@duchy.ac.uk](mailto:liz.clarkson@duchy.ac.uk) [www.duchy.ac.uk](http://www.duchy.ac.uk)**

Duchy College offers a range of courses throughout the South West including Level 2 and 3 workbased Diplomas and Apprenticeships in horticulture including Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship. NVQ 4 Amenity Horticulture (Management). Level 2 and 3 Diplomas in Horticulture (Including Sustainable Horticulture) FdSc and BSc (Hons) Horticulture. RHS Level 1, 2 and Advanced Certificate. We also offer Institute of Leadership and Management courses to Greenkeepers and short courses in pesticides, plant machinery, vehicles, forestry and arboriculture.



**OAKLANDS COLLEGE**  
**Smallford Campus, Hatfield Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL4 0JA**  
**Contact: Andrew Wight 01727 737735**  
**[andy.wight@oaklands.ac.uk](mailto:andy.wight@oaklands.ac.uk) [www.oaklands.ac.uk](http://www.oaklands.ac.uk)**

Full time courses: City and Guilds Level 2 Diploma options in Greenkeeping/Sports turf and Horticulture.  
 Work Based learning- Level 2 and 3 Diploma in Greenkeeping and Apprenticeship routes.  
 Short courses: NPTC PA 1/2/6

### HADLOW COLLEGE

Tonbridge, Kent, TN11 0AL

Tel: 0500 551434  
 E-mail: [enquiries@hadlow.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@hadlow.ac.uk)  
 Website: [www.hadlow.ac.uk](http://www.hadlow.ac.uk)



City & Guilds work-based qualifications at Levels 2 and 3 in Greenkeeping, Groundsmanship and Landscaping for apprenticeships for all ages. We also offer a range of short courses, such as Health & Safety, COSHH, Chainsaw and Pesticide Application.

Additionally full and part-time courses (post GCSE through to degree level) are available in horticulture and a variety of other land-based subjects.



**Plumpton College**  
**Ditchling Road, Plumpton, NR Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 3AE**  
**Tel: 01273 890454 Fax: 01273 890071**  
**[enquiries@plumpton.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@plumpton.ac.uk) [www.plumpton.ac.uk](http://www.plumpton.ac.uk)**

Foundation Degree: Garden Design. Levels 2 and 3, Diploma in Horticulture. Part time courses: Work based Diploma: Level 1 and Level 2: Greenkeeping, Groundsmanship and Landscaping and Horticulture. Level 3: Greenkeeping, Groundsmanship and Landscaping and Horticulture. Parks, Gardens and Greenspace. Also RHS Level 2. Short courses available. FEPA Spraying and Chainsaw. Bespoke Training, following Training Needs Analysis (TNA).



**Worplesdon, Guildford, Surrey GU3 3PE [www.merristwood.ac.uk](http://www.merristwood.ac.uk)**  
**Contact: Philip Mayes 07896 67 47 89 [pmayes@guildford.ac.uk](mailto:pmayes@guildford.ac.uk)**  
**or Andrew McEvoy 07896 67 47 86 [amcevoy@guildford.ac.uk](mailto:amcevoy@guildford.ac.uk)**

Part-time courses: New Sports Management NVQ Level 4 - on-line distance learning course, Sports Turf Diploma Level 3 - on-line distance learning, Sports Turf Apprenticeship Diploma Level 3, Greenkeeping Apprenticeship Diploma Level 2, Groundsmanship Apprenticeship Diploma Level 2, Automatic Turf Irrigation Systems NPTC Certificate, NPTC courses including Safe Use and Operation of Mowers, Tractor Driving, Hedge Trimmers, FEPA Spraying and others. Please contact us for up-to-date listings, qualifications and advice on courses and funding. Open evenings are held regularly at the College.



**Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 6DF**  
**Contact: Gareth Phillips 01270 613236**  
**[enquiries@reaseheath.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@reaseheath.ac.uk) [www.reaseheath.ac.uk](http://www.reaseheath.ac.uk)**

Block release industry tailored courses include Level 2 and 3 Work Based Diploma in Horticulture / Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship. Also: NVQ Level 4 Sports Turf (distance learning) and apprenticeships plus full-time Level 2 / Level 3 Diplomas in Horticulture. Short courses include pesticide application, chainsaw operation, safe use of mowers. Bespoke courses and overseas programmes available on request. Campus facilities include a commercial golf course, rugby and football pitches and Crewe Alexandra training grounds.

## ENGLAND

### GREENKEEPERS & GROUNDSMEN



#### Further your career with a qualification...

With a range of full and part-time courses, work based learning opportunities and apprenticeships there is something for everyone including:

For more information contact Helen Goodland on

or visit [www.bridgwater.ac.uk](http://www.bridgwater.ac.uk)

Bridgwater College Cannington Centre,  
Cannington, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA5 2LS



## Mydegree

### Full-time and online study

Myerscough College invites applications for our popular range of Degree courses starting in September 2012.

Foundation Degree in Sportsturf

BSc (Hons) Sportsturf Science and Management

BSc (Hons) Sportsturf Science and Management – top-up programme for students with an HND or Foundation Degree

R&A Bursaries available to many students



Myerscough College's Degree programmes are validated by the University of Central Lancashire



Myerscough College

Myfuture My studies Mydegree Myerscough

For more information call **01995 642211**  
or visit [www.myerscough.ac.uk](http://www.myerscough.ac.uk)



Moreton Morrell, Warwickshire CV35 9BL

Contact: Laura Savage 01926 318261 Fax: 01926 318300  
[employers@warkscol.ac.uk](mailto:employers@warkscol.ac.uk)  
[www.warwickshire.ac.uk](http://www.warwickshire.ac.uk)

Warwickshire College offers apprenticeships in Sports Turf Management with routes in groundsman and groundkeeper. Apprenticeships are a great way for students to earn and learn and a fantastic opportunity for employers to take on a member of staff who is still in training.

The college also offers short courses in pesticide application including the PA2 for amenity users, chainsaw certificates, landscape design, first aid and many more. Bespoke training packages are also available for employers on request.



Sparsholt, Winchester SO21 2NF

Contact: Admissions  
01962 797280  
[enquiry@sparsholt.ac.uk](mailto:enquiry@sparsholt.ac.uk)  
[www.sparsholt.ac.uk](http://www.sparsholt.ac.uk)

Apprenticeships in Amenity Horticulture (Sports Turf). Short courses are available in C&G NPTC Chainsaw Operations, tree felling and clearing, operating brushwood chippers, MEWPs and other machinery operation, and safe handling and application of pesticides.

# BE SEEN HERE

Your training provider could appear here, as an advert or listing, in our next edition of Greenkeeper Training

Get in touch with our Sales team on 01347 833800 to find out more





# Greenkeepers Training Committee

Donald Steel, GTC Chairman, takes over the GTC seat at GI for this month...



In all walks of life, we should all try to have a better understanding of other people's predicament...

**"We specialise in miracles. The impossible takes a little longer". That has always seemed an appropriate motto for greenkeepers, an impression more than confirmed by the meteorological events of 2012.**

One of the instinctive skills that cannot be taught is the ability to identify weather patterns, and to adjust to them, but the warmest March, the wettest April, the coldest May and the windiest June have posed unprecedented problems.

Some golfers, who should have known better, took advantage of the situation to be critical of course presentation- one publicly. If only they had stopped to think about these problems, they might have made allowances. Jim Arthur always used to maintain that, in greenkeeping terms, April and May are winter months and that those preparing courses for important events before the arrival of summer are on a hiding to nothing. However, such are the standards that greenkeepers have set, and golfers have come to expect, that any criticism can be seen as a back-handed compliment.

Courses can rarely be prepared to order although deterioration and improvement can be rapid. For last year's Open championship at Royal St George's, they were praying for rain (which came in abundance). This year, Lancashire has prayed for it to stop but, in any event, Royal Lytham's rough, bunkers and the likelihood of wind have invariably proved capable of exacting adequate revenge on those straying from the straight and narrow.

Royal St George's and Royal Lytham have seen significant layout over the years but British and Irish courses are better able



Royal Lytham & St Annes GC

than most to remain playable no matter what the heavens send- or don't send. This is attributable to several factors not least the fact that traditional design offers a variety of shot-making that rewards ingenuity and invention. The wedge has long since become a standard, as opposed to a secret weapon, but great courses offer options. When shots are all-carry and the greens are firm, it is no wonder golfers cry foul.

On other types of course, there is less, if any, choice but the price for higher cost courses lies in the need for large numbers of staff and a huge resources budget. When times are hard, thriftiness is a virtue, a policy on which natural greenkeeping is based. A young Head Greenkeeper whom I met recently was a creditable product of the GTC, a good man joining the band with a career in mind as well as the prospect of authority at an early age. Seen as a legacy, staffs generally, are trained these days to develop multi-skills, the finest grounding employers can give them.

Costs of equipping a course with modern equipment is a sizeable investment but, as the game expands in parts of the world where organisation is not so far advanced, the knack of passing on knowledge is a growing responsibility. It is certainly something the GTC recognises and is working to promote in countries which, without

proper guidance, are in danger of adopting the wrong principles and framework.

Irrespective of climate and the different grasses to be found, there are several common denominators. Throughout the world, fighting thatch by regular aeration to establish vigorous root growth and to assist drainage is key among them. The feed and water brigade also need to be reminded of the folly of their ways although the volume of irrigation to be applied is governed by local factors.

The GTC's widening involvement is an obvious step as no other body has their qualification to assist. Their remit is through the channels of the European Greenkeepers Education Unit as there is still a preference for the production of a British-type vocational training system for the staff of European golf courses to complement the education of talented Course Managers.

Advice on course presentation is all part of any curriculum but greenkeepers can only maintain what architects design and, while some leading professionals may be able to cope with some modern challenges, the rank and file always need "somewhere to go". As Bobby Jones said long ago, "from the standpoint of the inexpert player, there is nothing so disheartening as the appearance of a carry that is beyond their best effort and that offers no alternative route".



The GTC is funded by:



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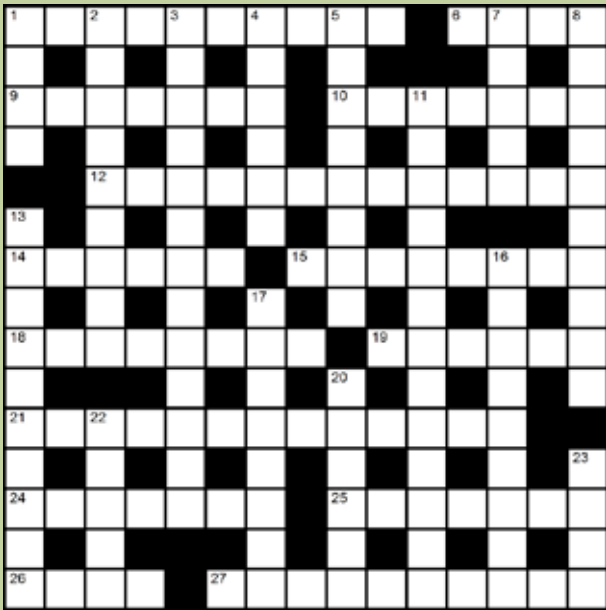
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# in the shed

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

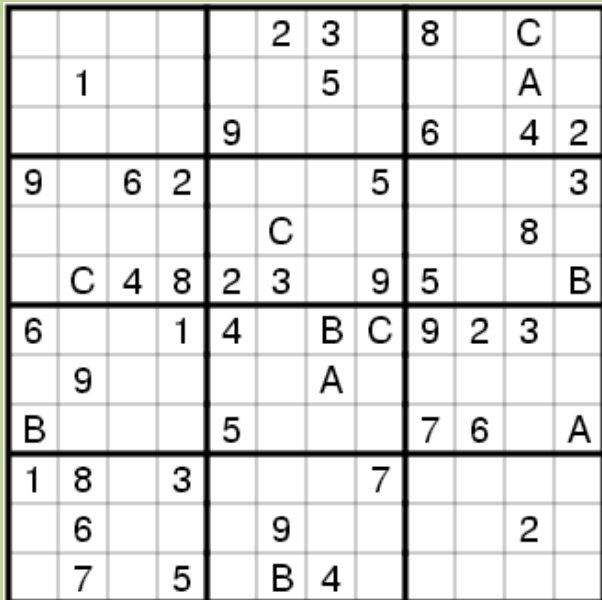


### Across

- 1 Conformity to law or principle (10)
- 6 Title of former hereditary Iranian ruler (4)
- 9 Bullet compartment (7)
- 10 Skilled craftsperson (7)
- 12 The last of the James Bond films to feature Pierce Brosnan as 007 (3,7,3)
- 14 Strip or cube of bacon used to add fat (6)
- 15 Italian bread made with olives and herbs (8)
- 18 Classification of plants or animals (8)
- 19 Occurred to (as an idea) (6)
- 21 Judicial process in which a fair trial is impossible (8,5)
- 24 Extremely pronounced (7)
- 25 Two-handled jar for storage of oil or wine (7)
- 26 The other 4-letter song title from the Spandau Ballet album True (4)
- 27 Body of soldiers usually abbreviated as OR (5,5)

### Down

- 1 Peanuts character noted for pulling a ball away from Charlie Brown as he is about to kick it (4)
- 2 Annual horse race held in June at Longchamps (5,4)
- 3 South African landmark originally called Taboa do Cabo (5,8)
- 4 Harbour area for small boats and pleasure craft (6)
- 5 One who collaborates on a written work (2-6)
- 7 Adherent of strict Orthodox Judaism (5)
- 8 Faintly improper sexual behaviour (5,5)
- 11 Religious event which forms the basis of the Eucharist (3,4,6)
- 13 German military tactic which translates as 'lightning war' (10)
- 16 UK game show adapted from the French original Des chiffres et des lettres (9)
- 17 Lacking power or ability; infertile (8)
- 20 Musical interval of 8 notes (6)
- 22 Relating to birth (5)
- 23 Type of guitar given prominence by eg Mark King (4)

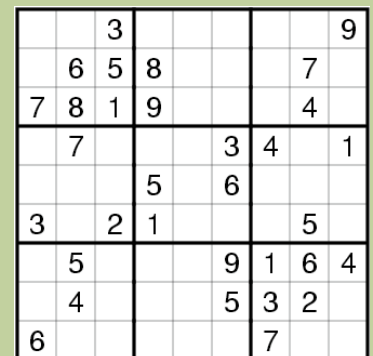


### MONSTER SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 4x4 box contains the numbers 0 to 9 and the letters A to E.

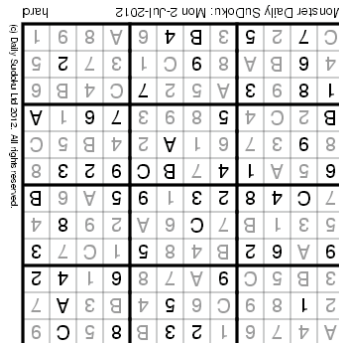
### SUDOKU

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

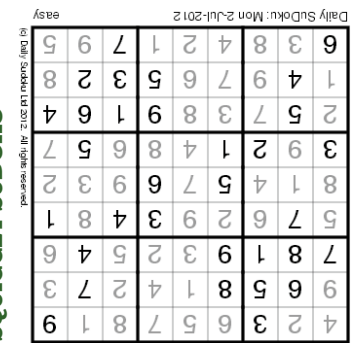


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