

with yet another fantastic turn-out. A special mention must go to Brett Moggridge and his team at Kirtlington who produced superb playing surfaces and a cracking course, which presented a great test and golfing challenge. After some strong scoring throughout the field and despite recent shoulder surgery, Adam King was crowned the winner (on count back) with 36 points, second was Dan Lightfoot, and third place going to Phil Beeny. The nearest the pin on the 4th went to Graham Gardener, nearest the pin on the 16th went to Paul Young and the longest drive on the 18th went to Phil Beeny. A big thank you must go to the John Deere dealerships of Godfreys Golf and Turf and Farel's who jointly sponsored the entire day. Their support is greatly appreciated and without them the golf days could not happen. Full results can be viewed on the section website: [www.bbo-greenkeepers.co.uk](http://www.bbo-greenkeepers.co.uk) In other news from around the section, Peter Larter is retiring at the end of the month and so steps down from his post as Northern and Midland Regional Officer.

We would like to wish him well and thank him for all his work and effort over the years supporting BIGGA and in particular the BB&O Section. The BIGGA Midland Regional Educational Conference had to be postponed, however it is to be rearranged for a date later in the year. The Buckinghamshire Golf Club is hosting The Ladies British Masters 15-18 August and is looking for volunteers to help with the support team. Anyone who is interested please contact the Course Manager: [andy.ewence@buckinghamshiregc.co.uk](mailto:andy.ewence@buckinghamshiregc.co.uk)

The next Section golf day is to be held at Temple Golf Club. Dates, entry forms, including the Rigby Taylor pairs knock-out competition, jobs and information can be found at the BB&O website.

If anyone has any news, views or ideas for the BB&O section then please don't hesitate to get in touch: [bbo-scribe@gmail.com](mailto:bbo-scribe@gmail.com) or contact the committee/Matt Nutter: [bbosecretray@gmail.com](mailto:bbosecretray@gmail.com)

Or keep up to date with the BB&O section by following us on Twitter, Facebook and the website: [www.bbo-greenkeepers.co.uk](http://www.bbo-greenkeepers.co.uk)

## South East Region



### East Anglia

Here we go again then. Our rather small, but perfectly formed band braved the wind and the rain and all had a very good day at Waldringfield. My personal memories of Waldringfield were three portacabins and a course in its infancy. An absolutely terrific clubhouse has replaced the portacabins and the course has developed into a good test of golf, which is maturing nicely – (just like me some say, others tell the truth!) Thanks in no small part to Keith Tishall and his crew.

Some managed to stay out of the gorse, unlike me who is still pulling thorns from my backside. They are as follows:

0-9 Handicap: 1st Jonathan Smart, 36 Points, 2nd Nick Brewster, 35 Points. 10-18 Handicap: 1st Chris Davies, 37 Points, 2nd Toni Thacker, 33 Points. 19-28 Handicap – Real Golfers: 1st Andy Baker, 40 Points, 2nd Keith Tishall, 37 Points. Trade & Guests: 1st Trevor Hurn, 40 Points, 2nd, Steve Creasey, 39 Points. Nearest Pin: Nick Brewster. Longest Drive: Chris Davies. Loo Seat – Mike Virley: While practising thinned one and nearly destroyed the Pro shop. Nice one!

The main sponsors of the day were Bartram and Ransomes Jacobson and the prizes were presented by Nigel Church.

Other sponsors were Aitkens, Tacit, Toro, Collier Turf Care, Brian Lindores and Headland.

Thanks again Waldringfield for a lovely, if a little damp day, Steve Creasey for his welcoming speech and the catering staff for the welcoming meal.

Pause for thought: I recently heard of a professional taking over the running of a course. The person telling me said: "Well he is a professional and he should know how to make good greens"! My reply was "Bobby Charlton was a great footballer, but I bet he couldn't mark the pitch out".

Mick Lathrope



### Surrey

Monday May 7. Where has this month gone too? It seems only yesterday that I wrote last month's report. So, to stop me saying the same thing next month, I ought to write July's tomorrow! If that hasn't confused you, it has me. They say that no news is good news, but when one has to keep avid readers happy every month it isn't, so come on all of you lot out there give me news, news!

Anthony Freeman has been appointed course manager at Merrist Wood GC and I am sure that he will make it a successful move. Best wishes from all members of Surrey section.

Chelsea beat Liverpool in the cup final; you have only yourselves to blame when I have to resort to football results. Tony Bremer has only just recovered from deep depression after watching the game while Ian Sellers is still buying everyone drinks.

My new home in Dorking is improving daily and since no longer driving around the South East of England every day I have lost over a stone in weight. Is it a new diet? No it's since semi retirement I can't afford a decent meal!

My old 5th form class had a re-union after leaving school 50 years ago. Unlike me my class mates all looked so ancient as did our school. The building has the same floors, doors and central heating system as when we left it in 1962. The school is now all girls and several of us were interviewed by the pupils about life when we were inmates and how the capital punishment, cane, slipper and blackboard rubber were the daily norm and as our teachers said, would benefit us for future life. We even had a visit from our old history master, Brian Bunker; you can probably guess his nickname.

That's it until Blackmore GC for the next golf day and the result of which will occupy space in July's jottings.

Brian Willmott

[Brian.willmott@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Brian.willmott@hotmail.co.uk)

## Assistant Profile

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

**Name:** James Bledge  
**Age:** 32  
**Club:** gWest  
**Position:** Senior Greenkeeper  
**Nickname:** Bledger



**1. How long have you been greenkeeping?** 15 years

**2. What was it about the career that attracted you?** Being involved in golf, working out doors and working with tractors!

**3. If you weren't a greenkeeper what do you think you'd be?** I'd probably be a farmer, although I'd love to have been a golf course photographer or a musician!

**4. Which task do you most enjoy doing and why?** Using excavators during course construction, I get a great deal of satisfaction and sense of achievement from seeing the finished article.

**5. Which task do you least enjoy doing and why?** Picking stones, gWest is a new build and even though we have 97% grass cover they just keep coming to the surface! I have never seen so many stones! If I never see another stone again it will be too soon!

**6. What one thing - other than a pay rise - would improve the greenkeepers' lot?** In our region (Perthshire, Scotland) a little bit of decent weather wouldn't go amiss!

**7. Hobbies?** Golf, playing guitar and writing/recording music

**8. Favourite Band?** Oceansize

**9. Which team do you support?** Queen Of The South!

**10. What is your claim to fame?** My band opened the Main Stage at the Wickerman Festival, playing with the Buzzcocks and Spiritualized.

## BIGGA welcomes the following new members

### Scotland

Benjamin Hartley, Central Section  
Shuai Giuo, Central Section  
Mark McDougall, Central Section  
Dongli Meng, Central Section  
Joseph Smith, Central Section  
Darren Walker, Central Section  
Aaron Jack, Central Section  
David Watson, East Section  
Mark McLaren, North Section  
Jack Craig, North Section  
Craig Barr, West Section  
Darren Cooper, West Section

### Northern Region

Ian Graham, North West Section  
Harry Ingram, North West Section  
Andrew Watkin, Cleveland Section  
James Smith, Sheffield Section  
Mark Morgan, Sheffield Section  
Simon Harley, Sheffield Section

### Midland Region

Matthew Skelding, East Midlands Section  
Alex Roberts, East Midlands Section  
Shane Sweeting, East Midlands Section  
Paul Owens, East Midlands Section  
John Hall, Midlands Section  
Mark Grant, Midlands Section  
Kevin Stout, Mid Anglia Section  
Steffan Davies, Mid Anglia Section  
Luke Vincent, Mid Anglia Section  
Lewis Turner, Mid Anglia Section

### South East Region

Adam Tamplin, Surrey Section  
Matthew Warren, Surrey Section  
Neil Edwards, Kent Section  
Jamie O'Connell, Kent Section  
Neil Johnson, Sussex Section  
David Roberts, Sussex Section  
Dale Funnell, Sussex Section  
Jim Rathbone, London Section  
Mitchel Throughgood, London Section  
Lewis Blois, East Anglia Section  
James Barrett, East Anglia Section

### Sth West/Sth Wales Region

Michael Llong, Kent Section  
Derek Barrowman, South West Section  
Andy Littleford, South West Section  
Deborah Phillips, South Coast Section  
Rhys Hugglestone, South Coast Section  
Simon Gisby, South Coast Section  
Thomas Determann, South Coast Section  
Peter Laley, South Coast Section  
Scott McAuley, Devon/Cornwall Section  
Daniel Young, South Wales Section

### Northern Ireland

David Forbes  
Republic of Ireland - Colaiste Stiofain  
Naofa College  
Christopher Breen  
Ronan Curtin  
David Desmond  
Gary Healy  
Sean Holland  
James Keane  
Paul Kelly  
Mark Kingston  
Stephen Lawlor  
James Madigan  
James Maloney  
Mark Mulcahy  
Simon O'Brien  
Ken O'Connell  
Colm O'Sullivan  
Johnny Ryan  
Liam Tobin  
John Tully  
Frank Twomey

### Overseas

Mark Shannon, Netherlands

**For more information on new members log in to the Members' Area of the BIGGA Website.**



### Essex

After weeks of relentless rain we held our first golf day of the season on Wednesday 16 May. The heavy down pours of Monday and Tuesday, quickly undid the three days of fine weather we experienced over the weekend prior to our Spring Trophy pairs event at Ilford Golf Club, but as Wednesday dawned, the fine weather returned and we were greeted with warm temperatures, bright sunshine and a light breeze. Ilford's Head Man, Sam Young had laid the course out in spectacular fashion, considering the atrocious weather we have all been experiencing of late, the odd puddle on fairways and one or two in bunkers was all that remained.

Hard work had been put in to bring the course to such a standard and Sam had done most of it himself. Sam manages this south Essex course with only two members of staff. This 18-hole course, set in the centre of Ilford, is compact and would fit twice into most average 18-hole courses.

28 players showed for the start and some good scoring resulted, the first three places being split by only three points.

1st Dominic Rogers & Tommy Carr, 44 Points.

2nd Neil Peachey & Roy Spong, 43 Points.

3rd Liam Springett & Dan Simmons, 42 Points.

Nearest the Pin 6th Hole, Sean Isabella.

Nearest the Pin 11th Hole, Dan Simmons.

Our thanks go to the following, Sam Young and his team for their hard work, Ilford Golf Club for the courtesy of the course and the fine meal and hospitality put on by the staff and to Wayne Wilson of CMW Equipment Ltd for the halfway house, plus all of our sponsors, without them the day would not have been possible.

Hopefully there is news elsewhere in the magazine about our football match against the Kent section on Monday 21 May at Upton Park, home of West Ham United; Toro UK sponsored the event.

There is news at last of our planned trip to The Hurlingham Club on Tuesday 12 June. Peter Craig, who spoke at last year's Regional Seminar and Essex member, is giving us a guided tour of this extremely prestigious venue. Details are on our website and if you are lucky there may still be places available, though we are limited to a maximum of 20 places. Call Ian Wood on 07652-470.861 if you are interested. CPD points should be available for those that attend.

Our next golf day is at Rochford Hundred Golf Club, National Qualifier, 18-hole Stableford on Thursday 16 August, £20 entry fee for members and £25 for guests.

If you wish to include anything in Greenkeeper International or on the Sections 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



### Kent

At this time of writing, the severe drought is at its height and I again find myself working my way through my wife's 'To-do' list within the confines of the house rather than face the torrential rain, which has been relentless for the last month. Most of the fair weather variety of golfers (including me) have restricted their playing to the confines of the covered driving ranges rather than risk the wettest springtime weather ever recorded. Anyway, I hope you are able to get out onto your courses and deal with the excess surface water via aeration and soil penetrants and at least give your respective clientele the option of venturing out.

Here in Kent we will just have held our early summer event at West Kent Golf Club when you read this, so a full report to come on that and a certain football match against our Essex counterparts on the hallowed turf of Upton Park in next month's column.

One last thing before I sign off from a rather brief report this month, we are collating

teams now for our Summer Pairs Knockout tournament. This was hugely popular and successful last year so please contact me or Kev asap if you have not already done so to be part of this great event. More details are on our website below.

Best of British



### South Coast

Hi all,

As I write this we have just had another 22mm of rain and there is water everywhere. Kev from Brokenhurst has sent me a photo of his second hole with only the top third of the flag visible in the flood! It is quite likely that when you read this we will be in a heat wave!

The committee last met on 18 April and we have at last finalised the hand over to Alex with a new bank account that will give us an online banking facility. Those that wish to can pay for their entries to competitions online, all of which helps the organisers to keep tabs on numbers without the problem of collecting money on the day.

As always the committee could do with some new faces, this will not involve any specific tasks to begin with, just to sit in at meetings and be involved with planning events. Anyone interested should contact one of the committee members listed on the fixture card.

The spring tournament, more appropriately known as the Colin (chalky) White Trophy, was held at Dunwood Manor GC on 26 April. We were the last society to play the course before it shuts its doors as a golf course – very sad!

Considering the torrential rain leading up to the day the course was in great condition, Jason and his team certainly did us proud, well done to all of you. A choice of truly excellent food finished the day off. A big thanks to everyone involved for making it a memorable day. Also, thanks as always to Avoncrop for sponsoring the day and to Colins Mum and sister for their ongoing support.

The competition was run as a medal for the first time in years and proved difficult for some!

Winners: Gross Mark Davis Canford 69, Luke Elgie Rushmore Park 82, Dave Harfield Hockley 84, Nett Kevin Tigg Quindel 69, Colin Pardey Sherbourne 74, Beverley Blair Southwick 77. Trade prize went to John Mathis of Rigby Taylor.

Our next event is the annual match against the secretaries at Rushmore Park on 7 June, then the Management Trophy at Liphook GC on the 20 June. The summer invitation is on the 11 July at Blackmore GC, please remember to pay in full before the day. Entries to Kevan Glass [glassy2003@hotmail.com](mailto:glassy2003@hotmail.com).

I must get back to a little job of priming the watering system ready for when it does stop raining! Until next month keep on Greenkeeping!

Tony Gadd



## South West

Rain, rain, go away... come back another day! What is this weather all about, in March they gave us a hose-pipe ban and told us to use less water and come May we have flooding throughout the whole country, interesting! I'm sure that come August it'll be in the high 20s and we'll be asking for more rain, but until then... STOP RAINING.

Thursday 19 April, the section visited Thornbury golf centre for its annual AMAM. 46 turned out to play golf and 50 for the meal, to me that equals a great day, and that it was. Thornbury made us feel very welcome and with everyone teeing off during the clear spell in the weather, only one group made it round before the heavens opened with the course flooded in no time at all, it was as though the river Severn wanted to take on a new direction (or that's how it looked from the clubhouse). So after all this, we had to make it a 9-hole competition.

The competition winners were: 3rd place, Jamie Acton and his partner Steve Acton with 23 points, 2nd place, Ian Reed and his partner Jason Norman with 24 points and this year's winners for the south west section AMAM were Roger Neale and his partner Robin Herbert with 25 points.

Roger, I have to mention this, because after all the hard work and effort you have put in over the last 12 months (maybe longer) it really has been worthwhile! A new man stands before us, good work mate, good work!

PLEASE NOTE, section matches... Vs secretaries, 30 May at Clevedon G.C. Vs Welsh section, Friday 10 August at Royal Porthcawl G.C. Vs south coast, 20 September at Salisbury G.C. Please contact Wayne Vincent, section captain, to show your interest in playing in any match.

Below is a few important words from Tim Needham at Hartpury College:

Hartpury will be running Sports Turf Apprenticeships for 16-18 year olds starting in September this year. These apprenticeships will be fully funded, employers only pay the wages, and include a Level 2 Diploma, First Aid course, Pa1 and Pa6 and Functional Skills. If you are looking to take on or train an apprentice then give us a call, we may also be able to help match you up with someone suitable. Funding is also still available for 19-24 year olds right up to a fully funded Level 2 or Level 3 depending on your previous qualifications. For an information pack about any of the Sports Turf courses call Tim Needham on 07788148352 or 01452702376.

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

We also have a Facebook page for the southwest section, one 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 finger tips.

See you all very soon,  
[adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk)

07732503855



## Devon and Cornwall

Hello all,

Quiet time of the year for us in terms of events, but we have got two summer events coming up; Wednesday 30 May, Boringdon

Park GC, Section Championships and Wednesday 4 July, Launceston GC, Devon V Cornwall Match. The Section Championships at Boringdon will be the qualifier for the National Tournament at Irvine Golf Club in October.

We have also arranged an evening Course walk and talk at Trevoze GC on Wednesday 11 July at 6.30pm, meet in the Club Car Park. Jon Wood, Course Manager, will be giving our members the opportunity to walk the course and ask questions during the preparation and prior to the McGregor Trophy, English Boys Under 16 Open Amateur Stroke Play Championship.

The Committee will be holding a meeting at the Boringdon Event if anyone is interested in getting more involved with the Section, or if any of you would like to stage an event then please contact me asap.

A big thank you to Farmura, Ransomes Jacobsen and Huxley Southwest for their help towards sponsoring the Minibuses and fuel for the member's trip to Harrogate this year. The Section really appreciates this level of support to encourage and enable our members to make the trip. It also gave the opportunity for some of our Duchy Students to experience Harrogate too.

If any of the members have any news or stories they would like to share with the rest of the membership then please do not hesitate to contact me on the number and email below.

George Pitts  
07929 754401  
[gpitts.yelverton@gmail.com](mailto:gpitts.yelverton@gmail.com)



## South Wales

"I feel it in my fingers I feel it in my toes" the opening line to a famous WET, WET, WET song and my god have we been wet. Over 35mm in 12 hours in West Wales and over 5 inches in the month of April for the boys in East Wales. Forecasters have stated that it was the wettest April since records began! Who knows what we're going to get next?

Our Regional Spring Seminar,

in association with Farmura Environmental, was at The Royal Porthcawl GC. Nearly 50 delegates undertook educational seminars from John Philip MBE Links Superintendent Carnoustie Links, Richard Windows STRI, Johnathan Harmer MD Farmura Environmental, and Demie Moore of Aquatrols. Topics included the history of the golf ball and how course management has had to change to combat this. Water management the history of soil surfactants and where they are now with new technologies. We also had an update from Richard Windows on the STRI programmes and their data analysis.

A huge thank you must go out to Farmura Environmental for again supporting the event, Royal Porthcawl GC for hosting the event, all of the speakers for giving their time to come down and talk with us and lastly the greenkeepers, without your attendance to these events it is very difficult to organise and select speakers to come to talk to us so please keep coming back for years to come. Thanks all.

By The time most of us get to read this another Wales Open would have gone and passed I would just like to wish Jim and all his staff a very successful Handa Wales Open and maybe even a Welsh winner? All the best guys.

Our 2012 Fixtures: Spring Meeting, May 16, Greenmeadow GC, 1.30pm Tee Off. Rigby Taylor Qualifier, June 14, St Mellons GC, 1.00pm Tee Off. Tacit Golf Management, June 28, Newport GC, 10.00am Tee Off. Summer Meeting, July 11, Creigau GC, 1.00pm Tee Off. North v South, July 27, Aberdovey GC, 2.00pm Tee Off. Rigby Taylor Final, Sept 14, Glynneath GC 9.30am Tee Off.

Autumn AGM&Meeting, Oct 11, Clyne GC, 11.00am AGM starts. Winter Meeting, Dec 14, Southerndown GC, 10.00am Tee Off.

That's it from me; praying for some sunshine, who knows??

Regards,

Peter Holmstrom





# Diary of Events

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

Date	Event	Venue	Contact
<b>JUNE 2012</b>			
June 11th	Rigby Taylor Qualifier South Wales Section	St Mellons Golf Club	Gareth Knight Tel mobile: 07595 988512
June 20th	South West Section Event	Cumberwell Park Golf Club	Adam Matthews email: adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk
June 20th	BIGGA Scottish National Tournament	Ratho Park Golf Club	Rachael Duffy Tel: 01347 833800 or email: rrachael@bigga.co.uk
June 21st	East Anglia Section Event	Haverhill Golf Club	Ian Willett email: info@thorpeness.co.uk
June 21st	South Coast Section v's Wessex Secretaries	Rushmore Golf Club	Alex McCombie email: southcoastsecretary@gmail.com
June 27th	Northern Section Event	Scarcroft Golf Club	Andrew Slingsby email: slingsbyfamily@virginmedia.com
June 28th	Tacit Golf Management Trophy – South Wales Section	Newport Golf Club (Gwent)	Gareth Knight Tel mobile: 07595 988512
<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: andysmithace@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	Trevose Golf & Country Club	George Pitts Tel Mobile: 07929 754401 or email: gpitts@yelvertongolf.co.uk
July 12th	Northern Section Event	Meltham Golf Club	Andrew Slingsby email: slingsbyfamily@virginmedia.com
July 27th	North v South Match – South Wales Section	Aberdovey Golf Club	Gareth Knight Tel mobile: 07595 988512



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# Sports Turf Update

A new column providing the latest news from STRI's Research Team

## Soil organic matter ...friend or foe?

**Welcome to STRI's Research column. My objective with this column is to highlight current research issues and to stimulate discussion on a wide variety of scientific topics relating to the management of the playing surfaces around the golf course.**

I thought I'd open with an old chestnut, yet still a very current and problematic issue; soil organic matter accumulation in golf greens. This is still one of the top three issues commonly encountered when visiting golf courses and discussing the playing qualities of putting surfaces.

As a soil scientist, I can appreciate the importance of organic matter within the soil profile. It is a key component of a soil and plays a vital role in the recycling of nutrients. Organic matter provides an important habitat for a huge variety of the soil micro-flora and fauna. A large number of these little bugs and beasties are involved with breaking down the organic matter, thereby releasing nutrients that can be taken up by plants. As a result, organic matter plays a very important role in promoting a healthy soil and therefore a healthy growing environment.

However, from a putting surface performance point of view we know that organic matter tends to hold onto water and, if present in too great a concentration, can lead to soft and spongy greens. Conversely, when these same greens dry out they tend to become too firm and run the risk of becoming hydrophobic. Rehydrating dry organic matter can be very difficult indeed! Consequently, greens that contain excessive organic matter will tend to be less consistent through the year, particularly under changeable weather conditions. If this

wasn't bad enough, there is a correlation between greens with excessive organic matter content and incidence of turfgrass diseases.

Coming back to my title, is organic matter a friend or enemy? Well it looks like it can be a bit of both (a bit of a cop out I know!). We need to maintain a certain amount of organic matter to stimulate soil microorganisms and thereby maintain soil health. Where it is present in too great a concentration there can be significant detrimental impacts on the playability of putting surfaces.

How do we know where the optimum organic matter balance lies? Well, perhaps we need to visit how we measure it. The most common method employed by soil laboratories is to measure the total amount of organic material by loss on ignition. This may sound complicated but it is relatively straight forward. You take a known weight of dry soil, burn off the organic matter and the loss in weight gives you the proportion of your soil that was organic. These data, when measured at different depths down a soil profile, can provide a potent tool to establish not only if you have a problem, but also where it is located. If we can measure the amount of organic matter in golf greens, we can then evaluate how effective our maintenance programme is at controlling its decomposition or accumulation.

As is often the way with science, when you answer one question others pop up that challenge our current understanding. A lot of effort has been focussed on understanding how much organic matter is too much, but as we start to understand more about the relationship between organic matter and surface performance it is becoming clear that we need to know more about the nature of



organic matter itself. What are the key types of organic matter? Do they all behave in the same way and have similar effects? To give one example, it is becoming increasingly clear that there are differences in the composition of organic matter formed under different grass types and that these differences might directly affect the degree to which organic matter influences surface performance. We need a better scientific understanding of the characteristics of different types of organic matter (cellulose dominant, lignin dominant or well humified material). It is imperative that we have scientific evidence on how these different forms of organic matter directly and indirectly affect, not only surface performance, but also soil and turf health.

This is where I think we need to focus some of our research effort as an industry. If we can better understand the complex inter-relationships between the composition of organic matter, soil organisms and playing quality, we will be in a better position to evaluate the effectiveness of our golf green maintenance programmes. I hope this has provided a little food for thought.



Dr Christian Spring BSc (Hons),  
PhD, Soil Scientist  
STRI

# Greenkeepers Training Committee

David Golding, GTC Education Director, with a monthly update



This month, David reviews the most recent GTC's "employer" focused workshops and how he witnessed how the Senior Managers within some golf clubs present, are clearly committed to ensuring the business is a success through a team effort

**During 2011 the GTC introduced a pilot programme of three "Chairman of Green" workshops in England, aimed primarily at improving the relationship between the Chairman of Green and the Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper, by giving delegates an overview of the maintenance and management programmes, based on best practices that a club should be looking to implement.**

Expertly delivered by Laurence Pithie MG, Turf Master One, the workshops certainly proved to me that the GTC had started to seriously address a problem which I am sure many clubs could learn from.

From the very first workshop it was evident that some clubs wanted their Chair of Green and/or Secretary and Course Manager to attend.

Whilst Laurence had prepared his workshop to be aimed at the "employer", he has, some 10 workshops later, expertly managed to tailor the day to ensure that it not only hugely benefits the employer but arguably also, the vitally important relationship between the employer and the Course Manager.

The workshop content is based on the highly acclaimed Scottish Golf Union's Practical Guide for Green Conveners, which can be downloaded from: [http://www.scottishgolf.org/files/Green\\_Convener\\_2008.pdf](http://www.scottishgolf.org/files/Green_Convener_2008.pdf)

The GTC are planning more of these workshops with the Golf Union of Wales due to confirm two venues and England Golf has

fully committed to endorsing and promoting more events in the autumn.

The delegate feedback has been excellent from the workshops and this has encouraged the GTC to host more workshops, still an employer focus but introducing new subjects.

One important aspect of golf club and course management is ensuring the employer and Senior Managers have up to date information on Health & Safety legislation.

During May the GTC engaged two of its Quality Assured Training Providers to deliver a Health & Safety workshop at The Mere Golf & Spa Resort in Cheshire, with Jon Allbutt and Ian Sumpster, Toro's European Training Manager as the trainers.

Gwynn Davies, the host Course Manager and Cheshire Turf Machinery, the local Toro dealers, were in attendance and provided the facility and support to a very successful workshop.

More Health & Safety workshops are being planned also for the autumn.

Design and Renovation workshops have been delivered by Swan Golf Designs as part of the Continue to Learn programme during Harrogate Week, aimed at Course Managers and Deputies but again keeping on the employer focused "education" workshops, William and Howard Swan (SGD) in association with the GTC recently hosted a Design and Renovation workshop at Ripon City Golf Club.

Once again there were several excellent examples of employer - Course Manager "partnerships" in attendance.



There is a pattern taking shape at all of our workshops and that is more and more Chair of Green and/or Secretary/Proprietor together with their Course Manager/Head Greenkeepers.

It has been very rewarding to see clearly how Course Managers have truly benefitted from seeing their "employer" attend workshops. The workshops are all designed to improve the importance of understanding each other's roles and responsibilities in ensuring the golf course side of the business is run effectively and efficiently.

The GTC, following delegate feedback from its workshops, has also considered how best it can provide advice and guidance to golf clubs when the communication system appears to be not convivial to running a successful business.

A "communication triangle" workshop to be delivered by GTC Quality Assured Training Provider Frank Newberry, the professional management trainer has been developed to ensure the employer and senior managers are all working together and communicating effectively with their members/visitors/customers.

GTC Workshop dates and venues are all available on the GTC website or by contacting the GTC direct.



The GTC is funded by:



## Contact Details

David Golding  
GTC Education Director

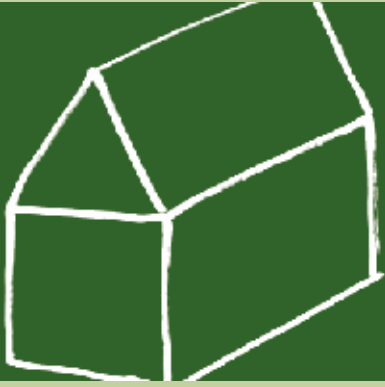
01347 838640  
[david@the-gtc.co.uk](mailto:david@the-gtc.co.uk)

GTC  
Aldwark Manor  
Near York  
YO61 1UF

[www.the-gtc.co.uk](http://www.the-gtc.co.uk)



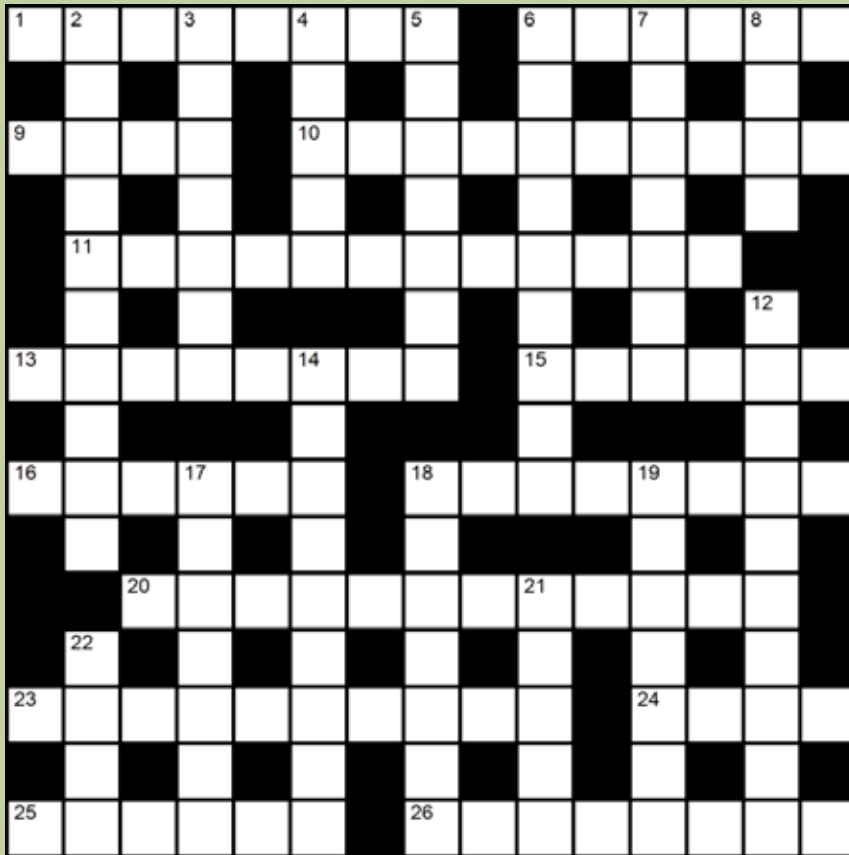
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# intheshed

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

## CROSSWORD



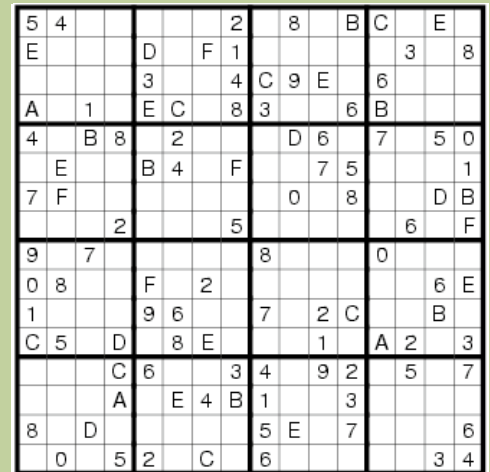
### ACROSS

- 1 Servant employed to do various jobs (8)
- 6 Arrogant, resistant to persuasion (6)
- 9 Programming language used for typically small web-based applications (4)
- 10 Tragic king of Thebes, the subject of a drama by Sophocles (7,3)
- 11 1986 single by Peter Gabriel (12)
- 13 Form of dirt track motorcycle racing (8)
- 15 Crude and unsophisticated (6)
- 16 Constantly (6)
- 18/20 New Zealand comedy series starring Bret McKenzie and Jemaine Clement (6,2,3,9)
- 23 Small dog named after a region of Poland (10)
- 24 To leave out (4)
- 25 Run naked in public (6)
- 26 Island whose capital is Saint Peter Port (8)

### DOWN

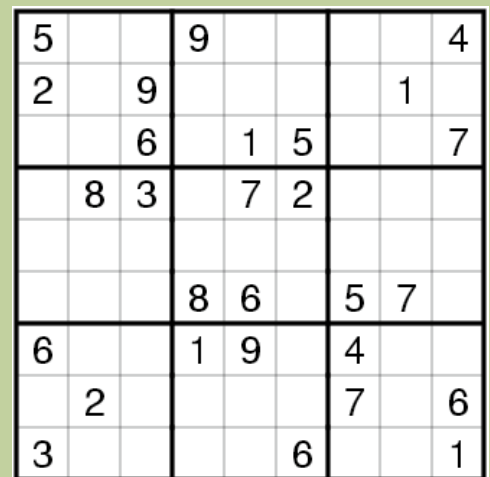
- 2 The thyroid cartilage of the larynx (5,5)
- 3 Swing used by circus acrobats (7)
- 4 Type of underwear, also a type of footwear (5)
- 5 Exploited, used to one's advantage (4,3)
- 6 Comedy series in which Frankie Howerd played the slave Lurcio (2,7)
- 7 French chemist who invented a food sterilisation process (7)
- 8 Irish band which launched the career of Van Morrison (4)
- 12 England's largest inland county (10)
- 14 Witty, often ironic, remark (9)
- 17 British group who reached #4 in 2005 with Wires (7)
- 18 The provision of finance (7)
- 19 Barb-pointed spear used for catching large fish or whales (7)
- 21 From this time (5)
- 22 Northern dialectical word meaning 'nothing' (4)

## SUDOKO CHALLENGE



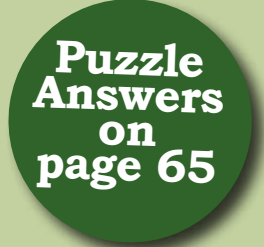
## MONSTER SUDOKU

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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- I enclose my cheque made payable to 'BIGGA Ltd' value **£95**  
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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.

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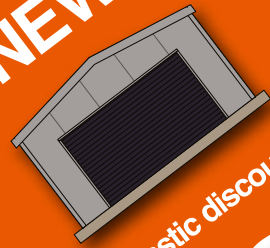
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# BUYERS' GUIDE



## Intelligent Watering

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Intelligent Watering now has several associates, and so has the ability to deal with several contracts which will all receive their full attention.

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Intelligent Watering excel in the following areas

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## BUYERS GUIDE CATEGORIES

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- ARTIFICIAL GRASS
- ANTI SLIP
- BUNKER CONSTRUCTION
- CLOTHING/FOOTWEAR
- COMPACT TRACTORS
- CONSTRUCTION
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- FLAGS
- HEDGES/TREES
- IRRIGATION
- IRRIGATION CONSULTANTS
- LAKE CONSTRUCTION LINERS
- MACHINERY FOR SALE
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