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Section Notes

Please email your notes to
info@bigga.co.uk
by the 10th
of the month

All the latest news from your Section

Around The Green



Scotland



Central

We had a good turnout for our seminar on 21 March to hear James Cobb tell us about the species of trees he has planted at Craill GC and the habitat they provide.

We have potentially another couple of seminars lined up for the summer.

Eric Lyons from Guelph Uni in Canada and John Kaminski from Penn State are visiting in June and July respectively and we are trying to fix up evening presentations for them.

Information will appear on the website and an email will be sent out as soon as we have more details. Members can also get the information from our Facebook page.

If you haven't been receiving emails from either Gordon McKie or me on a regular basis, then check the website where we will have a list of these names and you can contact us.

We will update this periodically, maybe we have typed it in wrongly or you have changed your email address and forgotten to notify BIGGA.

As I write this in early April, just before our spring outing at Craill, winter seems to have returned with a vengeance after the balmy March.

Twenty teams entered the pair's competition this year so we had to change the format slightly.

The results will appear regularly on our website www.biggacentralsection.org.uk

Gordon Moir



East

I should start this article by reporting our spring meeting at the Glen Golf Club, but as you all know, the weather beat us with rain, snow and cold winds and is to blame for the postponement.

Our secretary Mr Ferguson made the re-scheduled date for Tuesday 24 April, so I hope all who were due to play, can make this date, plus more if possible?

The section committee met last Tuesday to discuss business and there are several ideas that should interest our membership, both educationally and socially; thanks to the guys for getting that together for discussion.

We shall arrange future dates for these proposals and give details so that you can plan well in advance.

Mr Philip Butler, our education member, is to be married this year and our congratulations go to him and his fiancée. Remember to text me the relevant details Phil.

I heard of a greenkeeper, who's name I don't know yet, down in Kelso who was injured in an accident going to his work, but the details are very sketchy at the moment.

We all wish him well and a speedy recovery. If anyone has any information regarding this incident please let me know.

So, see you all on the 24 April at the Glen Golf Club and bring your shorts and sun cream as I booked plenty of sunshine this time.

Stewart Crawford
s.crawford@live.co.uk



Northern

As I am writing this report at the beginning of April there is several inches of snow lying on the ground, which is a shock to the system especially as the last week of March was breaking records for how hot it was, but that is mother-nature for you.

There is some movement in the greenkeeping world again; Chris Wilson has left Huntly Golf Club for Turriff Golf Club to become Deputy Head Greenkeeper and Michael McLeod has joined Huntly Golf Club after previously working at Spey Bay Golf Club, so I wish them both every success in their new jobs, and also my old work mate Steve Still of Newmachar Golf Club is leaving to start up his own business and I wish him every success.

I am looking forward to the Barenbrug open day at Castle Stuart Golf Links as I have not been there yet and it will be very good to get a walk round.

I will have all the results from the spring outing at Royal Aberdeen Golf Club in the next issue.

Also it was good to hear that the Scottish Open has secured its future short term, which is good for the game in Scotland, lets hope it can stay in the North of Scotland.

That's all for now but feel free to get in touch with me if you have any news because it's difficult sometimes to get enough in the magazine report some months, you can get in touch with me via my mobile or the Facebook page, which is BIGGA North Section, and hopefully we can get more people liking the page.

Ross Macrae, 07588896635.
ross.macrae@hotmail.com

Northern Region



North East

What do we have in store for this months report, I'm afraid not very much, but it's better to have some than none at all, I like to try and have some in no matter how small.

Firstly, let's welcome the following new members to the section, those being Jack Maddison of Arcot Hall, Garry Morse of Close House and the return of Steve Cram of Slaley Hall.

We are slowly getting more members from Close House, but I thought I would have had more since I had dropped several membership forms off as I had heard that about six were wanting to join, ah well let's hope they change their minds in the near future.

Next, congratulations to Ashley Marshall of Matfen Hall GC, having been chosen to work with the support team for this years Open, now that's an experience in itself; long hours but good rewards seeing the best golfers in the world, and best of all making new friends while you're there.

And lastly, I bet the greenstaff at Hexham GC are pleased that they have finished working on the second hole, The Somme as they had nicknamed it for obvious reasons from the end of October through to mid March.

This was the last hole to have the bunkers re-shaped and an extra one added as well as widening the path and altering the bankside too.

That's it for this month,
Jimmy Richardson



Northern

Afternoon chaps. At last the summer has arrived and I'm enjoying the lovely sunshine up in Halifax... I spoke too soon I'm afraid, the next week we got a foot of snow!

Hope you all are well and getting ready for a good golfing year. By the time these notes appear we will have played Easingwold and got the difficult medal out the way!

I would like to pass on my best wishes to Peter Larter, our regional admin chappy, who retires this summer. Since I've got back into the industry and the committee Peter has always been there to give advice and help me. He is a great bloke and will be missed.

Also a big thank you goes to my old buddy at Otley, Adam, who has had to stand down as treasurer for the section. Another great bloke who will also be missed. We will hopefully fill Adams position very shortly, but until then myself and John Watts will look after things.

Thank you Mr Guy for your emails...

That's it for now folks, any news or goss please let me know.

Andy Slingsby
07506407867 slingsbyfamily@virginmedia.com



North West

Hi all. Firstly let me welcome a new starter at Davyhume GC, Peter Hartley has started an apprenticeship under the guidance of Nick Marner the Head Greenkeeper. So good luck Peter and I hope all goes well with your chosen career.

We have literally had all weathers in March from top temp's of 23°C to -1°C this morning on the 4 April, thankfully all that feed that went down had the desired effect and we are certainly off and running here at Penwortham GC.

It's the spring tournament here in a couple of weeks, so fingers crossed for good weather, and hopefully I will meet a few

people who I haven't seen for the winter months who will be able to give me some information to make the column a little more interesting.

Spencer Lloyd-Pye
spencer@lloyd-pye.freeserve.co.uk



North Wales

What a late winter and early spring we faced, one of the hottest March's on record followed by a reminder that winter hadn't quite given by giving us snow and frost to start April off!

The spring tournament took place at the Vale of Llangollen golf club on 25 April, as always this column goes to print before the actual day so a full write up will be in next month's column but if you're impatient, pictures of the day will be galleried on our Facebook group, North Wales BIGGA.

There are a few upcoming events to bring to your attention, firstly the North Wales / North West match taking place at Lymm golf club on 11 June, secondly there's the inaugural North Wales v South Wales match on 27 July at Aberdovey golf club, I hope that most of our best players will be available for these dates to help prove how good our Greenkeepers are at playing as well as being good at their work. Finally we also have an evening cricket match at Ashley cricket club on 18 July, we have 6 players but we still need more, please contact me or Nick Grey of Bathgates if you would like to join the North Wales team.

I'm sure you all join me in wishing Emyr Price of Royal St Davids golf club a speedy recovery after he suffered from a heart attack back at the end of March.

I think that's about it for now, so all the best until next month.

Pete Maybury, e-mail petemayb66@aol.com

Mobile calls and text 07756001187 Facebook group, North Wales BIGGA.

Midland Region



East Midlands

Wednesday 28 March saw the Toro sponsored East Midlands Section Go Karting event held at Wymeswold in Leicestershire. Andrew Humble of Lely hosted the evening and thoroughly looked after all of us that raced on the night.

After the abnormally high seasonal temperatures that week everyone was just itching to pull on a sweaty race suit and helmet and bomb around the indoor track for an hour! It was a Forest Hill one, two and three on the podium, with Sam Voss the overall winner. At times he reached speeds of over 50 mph in his cart, second was Pete Thornton, and third Conner Gamble.

Unfortunately all three of them forgot who their boss was as I was bumped and nudged into fifth place, an issue that may be raised at their next appraisal.

Go Karting has traditionally been a very popular social event for the section and due to Andrew Humble and Toro's generosity we have always been able to offer great deals for our section members. With this year's event we offered two hours of racing plus fish 'n' chips and a pint for just £20, an offer we felt was incredible value? However the very poor response suggested otherwise and leaves future plans for social events in a very questionable position. Non golfing members of the section have always asked for non golfing events to be organised, yet when this happens there is little interest and sends a message to the committee that its efforts are perhaps best spent concentrating on golf competitions where attendance is far better. Food for thought? Any comments on this are welcome to biggaeastmid@gmail.com

As I write this article the players are preparing to have their final practice round at The Masters, and members and golfers around the UK are preparing their comparative comments to their clubs and Augusta. I do enjoy the questions and suggestions that the first major of the year brings.

Should I mention the

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Around The Green

weather? Everyone else does. Ah yes, the weather. It's impossible to go a day without something on the television or radio referring to the weather, or rather its unpredictability.

The South East is now officially part of the Sahara, river levels are at 1976 levels, rainfall is at 1921 levels, bore hole licences are being revoked, whereas the North West is sloshing around in a plentiful supply. It's a shame that fuel prices aren't comparable to the prices in those years too!

We had record temperatures in March enabling an earlier than usual chance to gain a 'man tan', and just as it was turning a nice golden colour snow swept southwards from Scotland in the first week of April! Bonkers.

Whatever the weather throws at us I'm sure we'll find a way around it. At the moment the freezing North Easterly wind is lashing sleet and rain against our sheds, time to see the status of my kettle finger.

Greg Skinner
07970 095264



Midland

I would like to firstly congratulate Mr C.Beet (C.M. at Stourbridge G.C.) on passing his H.N.C. with "A" grades at Elmwood through its distant learning opportunity. I myself also embarked on such at the same college in 1996, the first time H.N.C. was made available via distance learning. Such was of course then via mail and hand written.

Imagine the amount of times a spelling error forced re-writing! I soon parted with £360(then) for a fancy word processor, which would now be considered as stone-age, but it greatly reduced the time spent on errors and thus afforded more time to actually study. I note that Andy Cole was featured in last month's G.I. and stated that "Greenkeepers" are the best educated within our field.

Andy greatly helped me, and Craig, within our proud accomplishments of education, at his own wish and personal time. My thanks Andy. And Craig, once

again, well done, I know the commitment required.

Now then, what have we coming up in our events? Nothing less than the great opportunity of playing the wonderful course at "The Chase Golf Club" on 23 May. Start time of 12:30. Please ring Gary for your late entries: 07780 953 764.

Hoping that June brings me more news, you know the numbers, they are on our excellent calendar, which, this month is sponsored by our old friends T.H.White Grasscare. For your Jacobsen/Ransomes machinery please consider them. They can be contacted at www.thwhitegrasscare.co.uk

Sean McDade.



East of England

Here we are in May already, I'm not quite sure where the year is going. As I write the Masters is in full swing on the TV; that green oasis of golf being broadcast on HD into everyone's homes just to make life easy for us all! But hey, at least with HD TV you can now find that one blade of grass left out of place!

We now also have a hosepipe ban in place, cue the wettest spell of weather this year. Let's see what the summer brings.

Once again it was good to see a good turnout from our Section members at Harrogate for BTME. Our Section Cocktail Party for all our Trade sponsors once again proved popular, despite there not exactly being a cocktail in sight.

Many thanks again to Gary Cooper of STG Amenity Supplies for his continued sponsorship of this event and also to all our sponsors that support us throughout the year.

A belated congratulations from our Section to all at BIGGA that helped with the organising and running of yet another excellent show.

Our Winter Section Seminar day this year was held on Wednesday 29 February at Newark Golf Club. The day was kindly sponsored by TORO and thanks go to Nigel Lovatt for his continued support. The day started with Mark Hunt from Headland Amenity talking

about how climate change will influence spring maintenance practices and also gave us an insight into weather forecasting and interpreting weather charts.

Clive followed him from TORO reel maintenance and spoke about the importance of regular reel maintenance and the benefits it gives to the presentation of the golf course. Newark Golf Club's famous Cow Pie did not disappoint everyone for lunch.

This was followed by Les Howkins MG, Course Manager at The Richmond Golf Club talking about his club's bunker renovation project.

Les told of the numerous processes involved in the ambitious project to change every bunker from the unmanageable poorly designed 90s style bunkers they had, to return them to the style of bunkers that were present when the course was first built.

The amount of work involved was immense, however the results achieved are stunning.

The day finished with an outdoor demonstration from Tom Shinkins of Blec. He brought along their Multi-Vator and their Multi-Seeder 2, two excellent machines for ground and turf renovation.

The Multi-Seeder was even demonstrated in reverse by Newark Course Manager Graeme Macdonald! Chris Sellars also brought along the Sweep 'n' Fill brush, again an excellent piece of kit for brushing in topdressing especially. An excellent and informative day was had by all, and once again thanks to Newark Golf Club and all the speakers, demonstrators and sponsors for the day.

Our first golf day this year is at Cleethorpes Golf Club on Thursday 24 May, tee off at 1PM. Please contact Bruce Hicks if you are able to play. I am sure that Rob will have the greens lightening fast for us, and the Fish & Chips normally goes down well after doing battle with the wind!

Think that is all for now. I have been told to write more in this piece so if anyone has anything then let me know, otherwise I will have to enlighten you in the technical details of my new hobby, tropical fish keeping! A whole lot more than a bowl of water and a few fish!

Steve Beverly, Immingham Golf Club.

South East Region



Surrey

Thursday April 5. Will my redecorating never end?

Yesterday the lounge/dining room ceiling, 2 coats of the finest matt white emulsion and my neck is killing me.

The rear garden has recently been turfed just in time for the hosepipe ban but it's the first time that my lawn has no weeds, moss or buttercups and with little rain expected in the next few weeks, probably no grass.

Epsom GC was the venue for our spring meeting and a beautiful, warm and sunny day for the Texas scramble.

The greens were excellent and a great credit to Mark Harvey and his team.

My playing partners, Messrs Weston and Pennells, studied every green, admiring the fine grasses and excellent putting surfaces, but it was little help to us when we had to get that little ball in the hole.

Derek Cunliffe captained the winning team, with the Davey Bros' team a close second. Nearest the pin was Rob Barrow and the longest drive was Kevin Boxall.

There are two daddies of the month and congratulations go to Aran and Caron Crittenden and their first daughter Kacey, 7lb 8ozs, born on March 28, and to Ashley and Nicole Allpress on the birth of their second daughter, Gemma Rose, 9lb 7ozs, on March 16.

Some of you will have received an unusual email supposedly from me but my computer has been hacked by persons unknown.

This has been dealt with and I am safe again.

My apologies if this has caused any problems.

You will all be pleased to read that my next visit to the Wight Isle is next week so curb your anticipation, as my full report must wait until next month.

Brian Willmott.

Brian.willmott@hotmail.co.uk



Essex

As reported last month in this magazine we have lost a very dear friend in John Farrell (Baileys of Norfolk), The Essex Section wishes to express its sympathy to the family and work colleagues of John. He will be sadly missed. John lectured at very short notice at one of our seminars held at Stock Brook a couple of years ago, and through Baileys of Norfolk supported the section as he did others in our Region.

Entries for our first Golf Day at Ilford Golf Club (11.00am start, and dress code is smart/casual) Wednesday 16 May, are now due, if you have not already done so. Entry forms to: Antony Kirwan at Play Golf Colchester, Bakers Lane, Colchester, Essex, CO3 4AU or by email to antz16@btinternet.com.

If you wish to enter the Team Knockout this year, entries are FREE. All you have to do is get your entry to Antony by 16 May when the draw will be made on the evening at Ilford.

We are again being treated to a stroll around West Ham's ground for a game of football. The match this year is against the Kent Section. Venue is again at West Ham United's Upton Park ground on Monday 21 May, arrive at 1.00pm for a 2.00pm kick off. Satellite Navigation: Set address and post code to Green Street, Upton Park, London E13 9AZ.

Last year we played the Sussex Section and what a fantastically close game we had. It was a great afternoon for both players and spectators, thanks to the support of sponsor Toro and West Ham.

This year we would like to see more of you there to support the teams, so if you're not playing come along and support the boys.

There is news soon to come of a trip to have a look around the Hurlingham Club with Peter Craig. This will most probably be mid-year. Later we will have a couple

of one-day seminars with Howard Swan. The first will be sometime in the autumn. If demand is high we will then run a second seminar in the early part of 2013.

We have three new sponsors this year; Toro, Farmura and Billericay Farm Services joining our section. Along with continuing sponsorship from: Amenity Technology, Bailey's of Norfolk, Banks Amenity Products, Blade Amenity, CMW Equipment Limited, Collier Turf Care, Ernest Doe & Son, Everris, GM Amenity, Golf Mats UK, Headland Amenity Products, Irrigation and Water, Limagrain, Otley College, Paynes Turf, Philip Liverton, P. Tuckwell Ltd, Premier Plan, Prime Irrigation, RainBird, Rigby Taylor, Sea Nymph (Chaingreen Ltd), Tey Farm Services, Toro, Writtle College.

The Essex Section would like to thank all of the above for their help with running our golf days and the education seminars that we run for the benefit of the section members.

Just a reminder to all those members collecting CPD credits, you need to have a minimum of 10 credits by the end of June 2012 to qualify.

If you have anything for inclusion in Greenkeeper International or on the Sections Website www.essexbigga.co.uk please contact me on 07764-862.337 or at essexbigga@talktalk.net

Arnold Phipps-Jones



Kent

There's a couple of events to tell you about this month. Firstly the South East Region's Annual event at Walton Heath superbly organised, as ever, by Clive Osgood.

A glorious course beautifully presented in the early spring by Alan Strachan and his crew awaited over a hundred of the Region's finest greenkeeping talents. The work Walton Heath has undertaken to dramatically regenerate the heather is nothing short of incredible.

And, despite my own personal best efforts to thin it out, will be a lasting legacy to the club and its exceptional management of today's course and completely restoring its historical values.

It was great to see very many old friends on the day and enjoy their company well into the evening. Well done to my playing partners, Neil Peachey, Roy Spong and 'The Colonel' for such an enjoyable game and also to Gareth Roberts on winning the Ray Day Memorial Trophy. Notable victories from our Section on the day were from Darren Child who shot 39 points to win the 0-9 handicap category and to Kev Morris who picked ticket number 328 to win the raffle. A worthy mention for the comedian too. I was laughing all week.

Our Kent Section has just played our first event of the year at one of the best courses in our region, North Foreland Golf Club. Unfortunately, I had to sit out my first event for seven years so the following report was prepared for me by Kev Morris:

North Foreland Golf Club, what can you say? A credit to everyone involved, from Tony Adams, the General Manager, Dan McGrath, the wonderful Course Manager, all the dedicated Greenstaff to hunger busting catering staff.

With the sun beating down on the assembled field, with Vic Maynard, of Ernest Doe, and his trusty "beverage wagon" on hand to quench even the fiercest thirst, the day began.

The Course was presented in pristine condition and was appreciated by all. The greens were great, tricky to read, but putted perfectly, unfortunately I didn't!

The weather remained glorious all afternoon and was even being enjoyed by the 2 wheeled dog!

The days' triumphant winner, on count back, was the emigrating, well Cornwall bound, Steve Gunner with 36pts, who pipped Forelands own Daz Burton, with Melvyn Tassell in 3rd place with a very creditable 35pts. Longest Drive went to Wayne Syres and nearest the pin to Russ Bain.

We would like to extend a

Assistant Profile

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

Name: Seb Cavilla

Age: 27

Club: The Manor House Golf Club, Castle Combe

Nickname: Sebbyl!

How long have you been greenkeeping?

Five years, plus a previous two as a groundsman

What attracted you to the career?

The attention to detail required on the course

If you weren't a greenkeeper what would you be?

Probably a chef!

What task do you most enjoy and why?

Double cutting fairways - it has one of the biggest visual impacts on the course, and done well, looks fantastic.

What task do you least enjoy and why?

Pressure washing! Spent nearly a month doing the golf club and hotel patios over the winter

What one thing, other than a payrise, would improve a greenkeeper's lot?

More respect and recognition from golfers for the job we do

Hobbies?

Trips to Anfield, and cooking

Favourite band?

Anything from Radiohead to Braintax

Football team?

LIVERPOOL!

Claim to fame?

I have a football signed by Pele



BIGGA welcomes the following new members

Scotland

Christopher Thomson, Central Section
David Angus, North Section
David Inglis, North Section
Sandy Lays, North Section
Christopher Polson, North Section
Jordan Shaw, North Section
Dougie Elrick, West Section
Graeme Stoddart, West Section
Barry Walker, West Section

Northern Region

Jack Maddison, North East Section
John Baines, North West Section
Timothy Dixon, North West Section
Allen Foster, North West Section
David Lippiatt, North West Section
Mark Odgen, North West Section
Daniel Ashelby, Northern Section
Harry Daighton, Northern Section
Paul Dookerty, Northern Section
Jonathan Hill, Northern Section
Graham Oxley, Northern Section
Daniel Thornton, Northern Section
Colin Handy, Cleveland Section
Richard Bee, Sheffield Section

Midland Region

Bradley Birch, Midland Section
Jon Lewis, Midland Section
Norman Lovell, Midland Section
Jonathan Webster, Midland Section
Andrew Dormer, BB&O Section
Stuart Giddings, BB&O Section
Simon Hole, BB&O Section
Michael Nianko, BB&O Section
Craig Sinclair, BB&O Section

South East Region

Joshua Thomason, Surrey Section
Daniel Banks, Sussex Section
James Grimstead, Sussex Section
Ben Wright, Sussex Section
Joshua Reely, London Section
Vernon Beeby, East Anglia Section
David Jackman, East Anglia Section
David Byron, Essex Section
Richard Freeman, Essex Section
Nicholas Horsewell, Essex Section
Tom Platt, Essex Section
Chris Weaver, Essex Section

South West/South Wales Region

Shaun Radford, South West Section
Kyle Stubble, South Coast Section
Andrew Weeks, South Coast Section

Northern Ireland
Adam Davis, Northern Ireland Section

Overseas
Allan Tolan, France
Thomas Sonnenberg, Germany
Julio Garcia DeTejada, Spain
Morteza Shamsai, Sweden
Anders Stalberg, Sweden
Burak Curuk, Turkey
Melissa Lopez, USA
Sean Tully, USA
Robert Vaughey, USA

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

special thanks to Mark Day and Tacit for sponsoring the day and laying on an impressive array of prizes. We would also like to thank the catering staff for the sumptuous carvery, including seconds, and subsequent pudding!

Thanks North Foreland! And thanks Kev.

Don't forget that we are continuing on last year's success of our Summer Pairs Knockout Trophy so please put your names forward as soon as possible for what turned out to be such great fun last summer.

See the website for details.

Finally, the big one! I learned yesterday that the Essex Section have challenged Kent's finest to a football match which shall be played in May at the absolute mecca of football, Upton Park! Obviously, Big Sam has been alerted to the fact that the cream of greenkeeping talent will be lovingly caressing the hallowed turf at the Boleyn Ground so the presence of some scouts (and possibly some Girl Guides) will be inevitable.

At this time of writing we are still in the early stages of assembling a squad so please call if you wish to be a part of such a momentous occasion.

And, if anyone could provide an outsize kit I may have a friend who requires one...

Thanks to all for making this section such a pleasure to be associated with.

For more details of all of the above please visit the website.

Best of British,
Rob Holland
www.kentgreenkeepers.com
07545 424880

South West and South Wales



South Coast

As I was getting ready for work this morning I could hear the rare sound of rain hitting my kitchen window which brought a smile to my face.

Once up at the maintenance

block I discovered we had the grand total of 2mm.

Wow, wettest night for 8 weeks, who knows by the time you're reading this we could be praying for sunshine...

Overall the weather has been kind to us along this part of the south coast, in an average winter we could lose 20 days to closure with Brokenhurst being on a typical clay soil structure, but with us losing just 4 days, 2 of them due to snow, the membership are happy, so that's one less thing to worry about.

On a personal note I'm now a qualified retained fire-fighter at Brokenhurst fire station.

In my time away from managing the golf course, being on call for evenings/weekends when I can, I'm really enjoying being part of it all and helping the community.

On another note I'm looking forward to being part of the Open support team again, this time at Royal Lytham, it's hard work, but great being there inside the ropes and rubbing shoulders with the best golfers in the world as well as getting to meet fellow greenkeepers from all over Europe.

Well enough about me...

The South Coast Spring comp at Dunwood Manor GC is 3 weeks away.

This will be a rather sad day for all involved as we will be one of the last societies to ever play there as it closes its doors on May 1 for good.

Hopefully we will have a good turnout to say goodbye to a lovely course and unique clubhouse.

A couple of dates for your diaries; please can we have good support.

The Tacit Management Trophy rolls into Liphook GC on Wed 20 June, I'm sure Mr Murdoch will be setting the golf course up to his excellent standards (with no worries of lack of irrigation this time).

The following day, great organisation as usual, the annual fixture between South Coast Greenkeepers vs Wessex Secretaries sponsored by Course Care is being held this year at Rushmore Park GC, please make yourself available if possible and let myself or Tony know.

Those of you that have seen Crane Valley's head greenkeeper Mark Gordon recently

will have noticed that he has removed the famous long locks of hair and is now sporting a new look.

The ceremonial cutting took place in the clubhouse and aimed at raising as much money as possible for CLIC sergeant, which is a fantastic charity raising funds to help children and young people with cancer, also their families, either in hospital or in the community.

Well done to Mark who raised over £500 for this wonderful cause as well as raising awareness of the charity.

Knighton Heath's assistant greenkeeper Mark Diment has also been in the news and was on the front cover of Carp Talk after catching the first 50lb carp of 2012 in Britain.

Mark landed the carp near Blashford and although very proud of his efforts is quick to tell about the one that got away! Congratulations Mark.

That's all from me for now, so goodbye and happy watering... if you can!

Kevan Glass
Tel 07729 373065
Home 01202 246590
Email southcoastsecretary@gmail.com



South West

What crazy weather we have been having recently...

Record breaking temperatures for March, even having to use the irrigation system for a couple of nights...

THEN they forecast snow in April, what's this all about...

I promise you, my dreams aren't even this wild! Joking a side, it has been a great couple of weeks and I do hope that you have enjoyed them.

Many of you will remember the golf day that was arranged by T.H.

White last year, and I do believe that it was a great day that many of you enjoyed.

With this mind T.H. White has decided to organise another day for this year, being at Marlborough G.C, dates and times will be with

Section Notes

Please email your notes to
info@bigga.co.uk
by the 10th
of the month

you shortly I'm sure, look out for your invitation!

As I was driving around in one of the golf carts the other day, with another member of staff, I realised that he wasn't smoking! Nothing unusual about that I hear you say, but this guy had made smoking his hobby over the years, but for the last 4-5 has battled through and to date not smoked a single "fag".

I had found this pretty impressive!! This left me thinking, I wonder what I could give up that could help me to improve my lifestyle? I'm finding it difficult to think about something to give up, I just wonder how difficult it would be to actually continue with this? Chocolate, no way, I need that in my life! I'm going to go with takeaways, unhealthy food and being too lazy not to cook.

I'll keep you all posted on how this goes.

In the meantime, why don't you think about something that you could "give up" to help improve your lifestyle, look for inspiration to, the before smoker has inspired me and I've seen the improvements that has come from him giving up!!

We would also like to thank 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, 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 07732503855



South Wales

Good morning South Wales, I must start by saying well done to our rugby team.

Our battle hardened youngsters winning in Dublin then London and finally beating the French on what was an outstanding pitch in Cardiff I can say I am very proud to be Welsh.

I have been enjoying these

last few weeks, as many of you know my trading area heads across the border to our neighbours and it is always nice to cross over when we win!

With greenkeeping news fairly quiet at the moment I will, unfortunately, have to tell you about the 6 & 5 golfing defeat that Ian Kinley and Big D inflicted on myself and Paul Handy at Cardiff Golf Club.

Unfortunately the golf course was in fantastic condition, it's just a shame I couldn't keep the ball inside the playing areas instead of heading them off into nearby front and back gardens and just missing the odd car passing by! This small match was just a warm up as the 4 of us have signed up to take part in the golfs longest day challenge, which consists of 72 holes to be played in one day in aid of Cancer Research UK.

We will be asking for donations and sponsors' throughout the year, so if you could spare a pound or two to any of us (or any Sudocrem for myself) that would be fantastic.

Spring Seminar, in association with Farmura Environmental:

Royal Porthcawl G.C
Wednesday 19 April 9.00AM Meet

Spring Meeting: Green Meadow G.C, Wednesday 16 May 1.30PM Tee

Rigby Taylor Qualifier: St Mellons Thursday 14 June 1.00PM Tee

Summer Meeting: Creigau G.C Wednesday 11 July 1.00PM Tee

North V South Match: Aberdovey G.C Friday 27 July 2.00PM Tee

Match Against The South West: Royal Porthcawl G.C Thursday 16th August 2.00PM Tee

Rigby Taylor Final: Glynneath G.C Friday 14 September 9.30AM Tee

Autumn AGM: Clyne G.C Thursday 11 October 11.00AM

Autumn Meeting: Clyne G.C Thursday 11 October 12.30PM Tee

Winter Meeting: Southerndown G.C Friday 14 December 10.00AM Tee

Please contact Gareth Knight if you would like any further information on 07595988512
Kind Regards

Peter Holmstrom

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SHARPER SOLUTIONS

Greenkeepers Training Committee

David Golding, GTC Education Director, looks at club investment in training



There is little doubt that whether it is golf course playing conditions in Britain, or the "other" sports turf playing surfaces, great strides have been made in recent years to maintain and present both sustainable, all year round playing surfaces and pleasing on the eye.

Not always easy, with increasing restrictions on water use, increasing costs of products, all of which are designed to assist the Course Manager meet the demands for his or her course, to attract members and visitors and to keep the business healthy.

We often focus on how continual greenkeeper education and training is a must for any golf course to survive. Few can argue with this statement, however, what about the employer's continual education and training?

The GTC continues to maintain its Quality Assured Scheme of Centres and Training Providers, where apprenticeships, workshops, seminars etc. are all available to ensure golf clubs can access greenkeeper education, training and qualifications.

Colleges and private training providers all carry out a vital role to deliver quality education and training courses but they would all pay tribute to the increasing number of Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers, many of whom have gone through the modern training system in recent years, and who now are willingly sharing their knowledge and experience with their staff and at local and national events.

There was much criticism when vocational training appeared in the Sports Turf industry, but I believe the campaign that commenced in the early nineties is really paying dividends now.

Formal and informal on the job training is now very much taken for granted at golf clubs and carried out to National Standards, which are freely accessible for all to see.

Take a bow all of those Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers

who host in-house training sessions. Knowledge is so much more accessible and the suppliers, dealers and manufacturers are all there to support you with information, website links and attendance at seminars and workshops.

BIGGA local section, regional and national have all played a major role in educating greenkeepers as well as the formal qualification route. Turf Clubs are appearing, all driven by passionate, knowledgeable greenkeepers and I am sure these will also grow from strength to strength.

So, if we are relatively content that greenkeeper education and training standards are in safe hands why don't we also collectively look at how best we improve the Course Manager/greenstaff relationship with their employer?

Surely this relationship is crucial for the business to be successful?

We could add the Professional, Secretary Manager, and Catering Manager into this debate as they surely are the Management team at any golf club?

All the various Professional bodies from the PGA, GCMA and BIGGA in Britain, also have seen European Organisations emerge in recent years, all striving to ensure their members and member bodies are well educated, trained and qualified to the highest standards.

But what about the employers?

We all would like to think all golf club employers will recruit professional staff to manage their facilities and many do, however we have to respect the Proprietor and Committee person(s) who have the overall responsibility for the business.

During the last twelve months, the GTC with the excellent support of England Golf, has hosted seven

employer-led workshops with Laurence Pithie MG, Turf Master One, delivering the training on behalf of the GTC.

These pilot workshops were designed to give employers an overview of all aspects of course maintenance and management.

We report that all workshops had a mix of delegates from Chairman of Green, Secretary Managers, Golf Professionals and Course Managers!

Credit must go to Laurence for pitching all the workshops at a level that all delegates enjoyed the day.

The GTC Board of Directors are continually looking at engaging golf club employers into improving their business through investing in greenkeeper training



The GTC is funded by:



The feedback from all 100+ delegates has been very positive and plans are in hand to extend the workshop into Scotland and Wales with the support of the Scottish Golf Union and Golf Union of Wales.

The Home Unions are all working very hard to support the golf clubs and golfers they represent in many areas and Chairman of Green, Green Convenor workshops hosted in association with the GTC are proving very popular.

Now we are past the original pilot workshops, and taking into consideration feedback from delegates the GTC has already hosted a Health & Safety workshop courtesy of The Mere Golf and Spa in Cheshire.

Jon Allbutt, the respected Health & Safety Consultant and Toro were the QA Training Providers and were supported by the local Toro dealer Cheshire Turf Machinery.

Further employer focused Health & Safety workshops are being planned as well as the subject of Improving Communication within the golf club and Renovation and Design of the golf course being delivered by Frank Newberry and Swan Golf Designs respectively.

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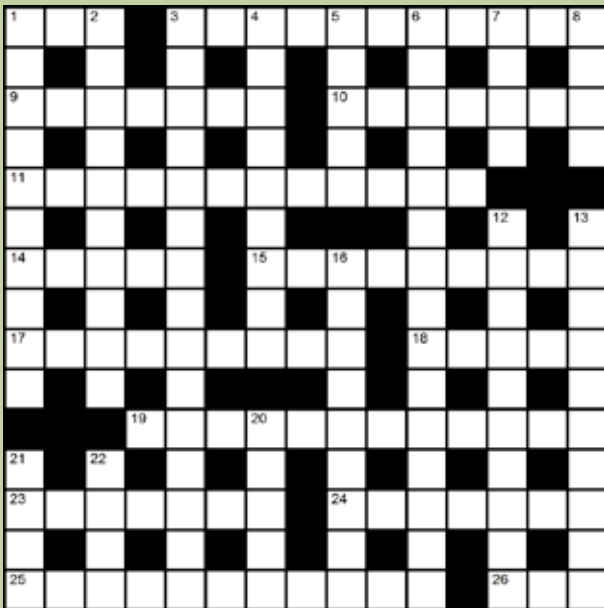
You can follow the GTC on
Twitter @TheOfficialGTC



in the shed

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

CROSSWORD



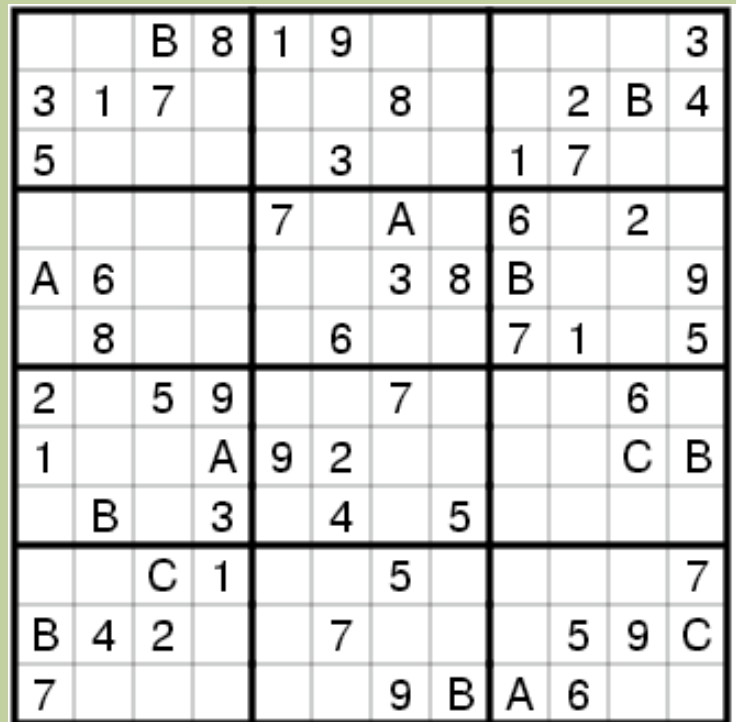
ACROSS

- 1 ..The alimentary canal (3)
- 3 ..Group who had UK hits in 1992 with Little Miss Can't Be Wrong and Two Princes (4,7)
- 9 ..Italian town in Lombardy, birthplace of golfer Constantino Rocca (7)
- 10 To plunder (7)
- 11 Germany's currency before the Euro (8,4)
- 14 Of an area or establishment, sordid or disreputable (5)
- 15 Bring back to union or friendship (9)
- 17 Skilled anecdotist (9)
- 18 Sharp mountain ridge (5)
- 19 Insensitive to criticism (5-7)
- 23 1962 instrumental single, the first by a British band to reach #1 in the US (7)
- 24 City whose soccer team was the first to be relegated from the English Football League in 1986-7 (7)
- 25 Spider-like, or cobweb-like (11)
- 26 Cathedral city of Cambridgeshire (3)

DOWN

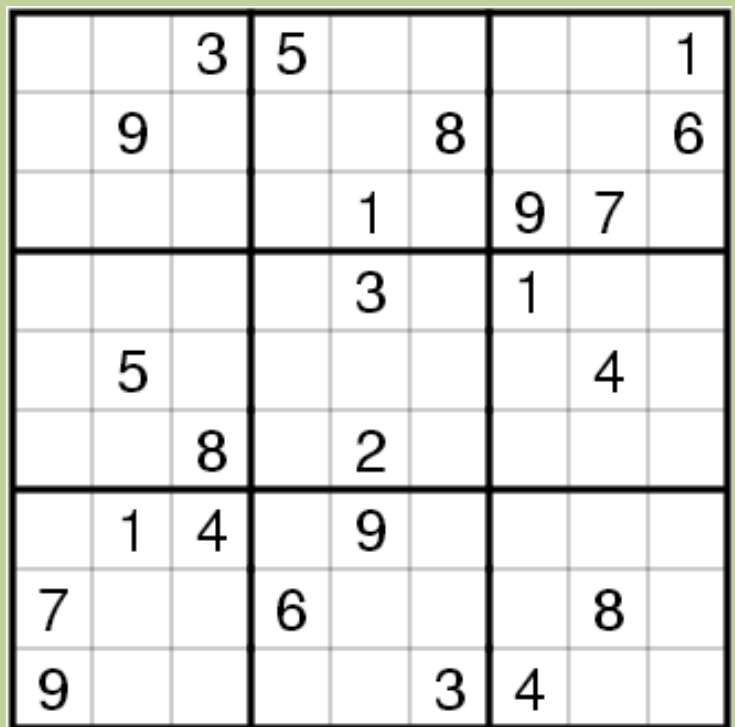
- 1 ..Vast arid region of China and Mongolia (4,6)
- 2 ..Irregular atmospheric air movement (10)
- 3 ..1970s US police drama series reprised in a 2004 film (7,3,5)
- 4 ..Early term for a steam locomotive (4,5)
- 5 ..Type of wheat commonly used to make pasta (5)
- 6 ..Aggressive, uncompromising (15)
- 7 ..Egg-shaped (4)
- 8 ..Follower of a religion established by former Hindus in the 15th century (4)
- 12 To classify rigidly, often without justification (10)
- 13 Excessive reliance (10)
- 16 Resembling a pupa (9)
- 20 Freight (5)
- 21 Covered colonnade of ancient Greece (4)
- 22 The larger of the two bones in the forearm (4)

Puzzle
Answers
on
page 65



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.

BUYERS' GUIDE



Pic 1: Before treatment (May 2011)



Pic 2: after treatment (December 2011)

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For further information please contact the office on 01296 468514,
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- DRAINAGE
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- IRRIGATION CONSULTANTS
- LAKE CONSTRUCTION LINERS
- MACHINERY FOR SALE
- MACHINERY WANTED
- RUBBER CRUMB
- SOIL FOOD WEB
- TOP DRESSING
- TREE MOVING
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