

Sonning GC while Harewood Downs GC v Deanwood Park GC make up the second semi final, good luck to all four teams!

In other news from around the section the Midlands Section Conference is being held at Forest Hill Golf Club in Leicester on 6th November.

Malcolm Peake is still demonstrating the 'Greenstester' if anyone wants to arrange a demonstration he can be contacted on peakes@hotmail.co.uk or mobile tel: 07801 239790.

If anyone has any news, views or ideas they would like to see for the BB&O section then please don't hesitate to get in touch: bboscribe@gmail.com or contact the committee/Matt Nutter: bbosecretary@gmail.com

Alternatively keep up to date with what is happening in the BB&O section by following us on Twitter, Facebook and the web site: www.bbogreenkeepers.co.uk



Mid Anglia

We are well and truly heading into autumn/winter as the temperatures have really dropped off and hopefully most of the leaves will be doing the same as it's always a frustrating time of the year clearing up the continual deluge day in day out.

We will have played our Autumn Golf Day at Verulam GC by the time you get this so let's hope we get lucky with the weather.

Our final Golf event of the season is the Texas Scramble hosted on 4 December at Dunstable Downs GC so please get your entries for your team of four in nice and early as this is always a very popular event and a fantastic golfing test.

Prices are £30 for Members and £40 for any non members.

Lastly we have some good news from one of our boys flying the flag for our section.

Oly Browning (23) of Stocks Golf Club has just won the biggest competition of his life, the Bigga National Championship at Irvine Golf Club on the Ayrshire coast.

He won with a score of 146 over 36 holes medal play.

Playing off of scratch he beat 66 other entrants to the title.

Over the past 4 years he has won the club champs at both Stocks and Ivinghoe golf clubs respectively.

Oly hopes that one day he will make the grade and play on the European tour.

Just a word of warning, don't play this guy for money! Well done Oly! Any chance of giving me and all the other choppers out there a few lessons? That's all from me and hope to hear from some of you soon.

Darren - d.mugford@rigby-taylor.com

SOUTH EAST REGION



Surrey

Monday October 15.

Just had a text from Chris Gosden, course manager at St Georges Hill GC, giving the sad news that his mechanic Steve Bush died suddenly yesterday.

Steve, a keen lawnmower racer and winner of many events over the past years, leaves his wife Sharon and daughters Rachel and Hanna.

I have asked Chris to pass on our condolences to Steve's family.

Richmond GC was the excellent venue on October 11 for the annual contest for the Cresta cup.

Thanks to Les Howkins and Richmond GC for allowing us courtesy and also the chef for providing everyone, except me, with an exceptional curry.

I had a delicious roast beef dinner because I, unlike the rest of the world, hate curry.

Tony Bremer, that much loved bandit from Dorking GC, walked away with the cup, easily beating Ron Christie, the runner up and Gary Ogilvie.

Gary, an infiltrator from Sussex section, remained dry and missed taking a dip in the pond even though I tried to divert his attention by hitting a bad tee shot in his direction.

Fortunately for Gary, my ball went into the pond and unlike at Gatton Manor GC, he did not.

Jason Hunt won nearest the pin.

Should any member like to join the Surrey committee please contact Les or Ron before the AGM, which takes place at Dorking GC, after the Turkey Trot.

My last scribbling for this excellent magazine will be in the December edition as I am retiring from the committee after some 15 years.

I know you will all miss my adventures on the Isle of Wight but I am just a phone call away should any of you feel the need for an update.

I must apologise for the mistake in last month's edition as the match greenkeepers v the reps took place at Hankley Common GC and not at Richmond GC as stated.

I was not chosen to play for the reps and so the result, a draw, could have been averted had I been involved.

I will not comment on the possible outcome had I played, except to say that it is probable that I would have used all my golfing expertise to ensure a greenkeeper's victory.

It is apparent that either the baby carrying stork is dead or that all members are of a certain orange variety that has no pips.

Father of the month, a usual feature of my monthly jottings, has not appeared for some time and needs to be used on a regular basis.

So come on lads, do your best and provide the new writer of around the green with news of your efforts to repopulate the world.

Brian Willmott



Kent

What a day we had at Boughton Golf Club.

Our hardcore group of thirty odd of Kent's finest greenkeepers certainly picked the best day of that particular week to play at Gary Debenham's superbly presented course, especially when you factor in the recent weather.

Indeed, in glorious sunshine, many of us were able to make hay while the sun shone whilst

Assistant Profile

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

Name: Ashley Marshall
Age: 35
Club: Matfen Hall
Position: Assistant Greenkeeper
Nickname: Dish dash



1. How long have you been greenkeeping? 19 years

2. What was it about the career that attracted you? Working outdoors and job satisfaction

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

4. Which task do you most enjoy doing and why? Drainage work, correcting something that needs fixing

5. Which task do you least enjoy doing and why? Pumping water from flooded areas

6. What one thing - other than a pay rise - would improve the greenkeepers' lot? Managers understanding what is needed to run a golf course

7. Hobbies? Football, going on holiday to the Middle East

8. Favourite Band? Black Eyed Peas

9. Which team do you support? Newcastle - the Toon Army!

10. What is your claim to fame? Spending four days with Kenny McDowell in Dubai driving him round the golf course after he fell and hurt his knee, also met GMac who is a top man

BIGGA welcomes the following new members

Scotland

Kenneth Niven, Central Section
David Bruce, Central Section

Northern Region

Neil Proudlock, North East Section
Joseph Henderson, North East Section
William Brown, North East Section

Midland Region

Ritchie Nicholls, Midland Section
Anthony Whitehall, Midland Section

South East Region

Glenn Stone, London Section
Su Hodgson, Surrey Section
Jordan Pannone, Surrey Section

South West/South Wales Region

David Gray, South Coast Section
Kevin Arnold, South Coast Section
Alun Hughes, South Wales Section
David Smith, South Coast Section
Michael Littlecott, South Coast Section

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

one member of my playing group just enjoyed a good walk through it!

Boughton was certainly a challenge to anyone not aware of the layout.

There seemed to be a lot of dog-legs and blind shots to tucked away greens.

Then again, maybe it was just the strange lines I was approaching them from! A quality bit of beef (with optional seconds!) and a very hospitable bar ensured the day was finished off perfectly in the company of our friends and peers.

Results as follows: 1st Russ Bain 37 points; 2nd Wayne Syers 37 points (countback); 3rd Dave Bass 36 points and winner of an almighty longest drive down 18th; Nearest Pin-Pete Leeves.

Our section would like to wish the very best of luck to one of our regular attendees, Michael Roberts of Knole Park, who is representing Great Britain in the World Deaf Golf Championships.

Michael is a fantastic player and an all round good guy who I'm sure will do this great nation proud.

The section were very proud to give you some sponsorship to take to Japan where he will compete for the World Championships.

We would like to congratulate Aaron Launchbury of North Foreland Golf Club who recently won the regional final of Toro Student of the Year.

He has just returned from the finals where, unfortunately, he was pipped at the post but has done fantastically well considering he has only been in the industry for sixteen months.

On behalf of Dan McGrath, North Foreland Golf Club and everyone in your section a massive well done to you Aaron. You are a credit to us all. Unfortunately, another one of Dan McGrath's staff at North Foreland has been less fortunate.

Darren Burton, star of the Trilby Tour, has managed to break his thumb whilst playing football. This has rendered him out of action for some time while he gets some internal bionics attached.

Maybe he'll learn that goal-keeping is a job for the professionals!

In a couple of weeks, 29 November to be exact, we shall

be bringing the curtain down on another great year by having our Turkey Trot and AGM at the fantastic venue of Redlibbits Golf Club.

Kev has really raised the bar this year when it comes to presenting a course and I'm sure you will all enjoy this great event.

We shall also have our AGM following the golf so if you have any issues you would like to raise then please let us know.

Also, if you would like to stand for election to our committee then just stick your hand up! You should have got an invitation e-mail by now to this event.

Please let us know if you will be coming so we can make the necessary arrangements.

Finally, we would like to wish our Regional Administrator, Clive Osgood well.

Clive is one of the most genuine guys I have had the pleasure to meet in this great industry and we hope that you are soon up and mobile again.

I would normally sign off here by saying 'Best of British' but after a fantastic Ryder Cup weekend I shall on this one and only occasion say:

Best of European!

Rob Holland
Premier Golf
07545 424880
www.kentgreenkeepers.com



Sussex

Hi all!

Our Autumn Tournament was held at Crowborough Beacon Golf Club with a very poor show of members turning up.

The weather forecast may have been part to blame but the rain didn't really materialise to any significance.

Instead it was fog that nearly stopped play.

However, we all soldiered on and I still haven't seen the fantastic views promised.

Perhaps next time.

The results were: Nearest the Pin at 3rd and 8th- Glynn Pollard; Nearest the Pin at 13th - Pete Smith; Individual best score - 1st to Glynn Pollard with 37 points and 2nd place went to Pete Smith with 33 points.

The team event went to Pete

Smith, Trevor Townsend, Steve Vogells and Eric Green.

But the big news from the trade scores was that Steve beat Jon by 3 points.

We thank all at Crowborough Beacon for a great day and offer many, many thanks to our sponsor for the day, Collier Turf.

We'll get Chris out on the course next time.

Thanks again Chris.

BREAKING NEWS....

Glynn has had his handicap cut by three.

The Turkey Trot at Worthing Golf Club will be on Friday 30 November with details to be sent out shortly.



Essex

This month's report has quite a lot of information for section members, with news of two educational events in the section, the forthcoming AGM, plus results from our Autumn Trophy.

Firstly the section is running two educational events and the region is running their annual conference.

Our first event is a seminar day run by Howard Swan, entitled Golf Course Design.

The first was on 30th October, but if you are quick and numbers allow, there could be a place on the second one, to be held at Colne Valley Golf Club on 6th November.

Contact Ian Wood 07952-470861 for information and availability.

The next event we are running is to be held at Channels Golf Club on Tuesday 20th November.

A machinery day when the three major manufacturers will be showing three similar machines from there range, allowing greenkeepers and committee to see and try the best out there, members will be split into three groups allowing around 45 minutes with each company, then we will have a break for lunch followed by a question and answer session, where you can ask your questions of the Big Three.

Members are encouraged to attend this event, as it will be a good chance for you to have your say in the open forum.

The Regional Conference is

Section Notes

Please email your notes to
steve.castle@bigga.co.uk
by the 15th
of the month

being held at Thorpeness Golf & Country Club 14th November if you're interested contact Clive Osgood, ASAP on 07841-948410.

Stock by Nayland was a port of call for our Autumn Trophy and Blind Pairs competition; this was our first visit to this fine club since its inclusion in the Essex Golf Union area and what a day we had.

Most of us started in light rain but this soon passed over to give warm dry conditions.

Our thanks go to the owner of Stock by Nayland and staff for their hospitality.

Also thanks to Course Manager, Kevin King and the Gainsborough Course, Head Greenkeeper, Campbell Murdoch and his staff for the presentation of the course.

The scoring was reasonably low for our first visit, which was not a surprise, as most were unfamiliar with the course.

This made for a challenge in itself.

Scores for the day are as follows:

Cards drawn on the day paired the following players; 1st Campbell Murdock & Michael Fance, 65 Points; 2nd Peter Craig & Antony Kirwan, 65 Points back nine; 3rd Neil Peachey & Nick Spong, 61 Points; Nearest the pins 9th Liam Springet; 18th Neil Peachey; Overall individual winner Antony Kirwan 37 Points.

Our next event is the AGM and Winter team event, to be held at The Essex Golf & Country Club on Thursday 6th December.

Again this year the AGM is before the golf and members are encouraged to attend at 9.00am.

The election of officers this year is for a Chairman, as Mark Stopps has decided to stand down and for one committee member to replace Andy Cracknell.

Also the Trade representative's position is up as Neil Peachey has finished his two year stint and a replacement is sought.

Nominations for the Chairman and Committee positions should be sent to Mark Stopps at mark@bentleygolfclub.com plus nominations from the trade to the same email address please.

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

SOUTH WEST & WALES



South West

Things don't get any easier do they, with this said we recently visited Bristol & Clifton GC for our section AGM.

The week running up to the event was possibly the worst it has been all season.

I think this would be a perfect time to thank Matt Hawker and his staff for presenting the course in such a positive way making it a truly brilliant for all that attended.

With 30 playing and 35+ for the AGM, another impressive turn out for the south west section.

The competition winners for the day are as follows; 3rd place Joe Curtis 35pts; 2nd place Paul Garland 36pts; and the over all winner was Steve Cubley 37pts, a little local knowledge can go a long way.

With some slightly disappointing news now, the latest section match had to be cancelled.

We were due to play the south coast at Salisbury G.C but due to lack of numbers this fixture could not take place.

I realise that 2012 has been a very difficult year, however let's try our very best in 2013 to attend at least one section match.

Captain Wayne Vincent works extremely hard to get his team together, very often having to chase people just nights before, please help him out!

BTME is now just around the corner, just recently information packs would have landed on your doormats.

This is one of the most important events that happens in our calendar, your attendance is key to the show being a success.

Some fantastic workshops and talks are taking place this year.

Be sure to get your place booked, don't be that person this misses out!

See you all at Bath G.C on 12 December for our Christmas golf day...you know that this is

the highlight of the calendar, Ill see you there!

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 fingertips.

See you all very soon,
adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk
07732503855



South Coast

Hi all,

What a week, coring the greens in the rain, well done to all my staff for sticking at it and finally getting the job done.

Just waiting for the members to ask why the holes are not yet filled!

The Autumn tournament was played at Weymouth Golf Club followed by the AGM.

First thing I have to say is it was the poorest turnout we have ever had with only 17 players.

It is a long journey for some but those that didn't get there missed a delight.

The course was in great condition well done to Rob Bayliss and his team for presenting it so well.

Our sponsors were Rigby Taylor, thanks as always to them for their continued support.

Winners; 1 Rob Mabb 37pts and a gross 72; 2 Mike Gulliver 36pts; 3 Pete Corrick 35pts also gross 72; 4 Chris Bitten 31pts (backnine); 5 Kevan Glass 31pts; 6 George Briggs 29pts.

Nearest the pin went to Pete Corrick and the longest drive probably by fluke because everyone else missed the fairway went to Kev Glass!

The AGM was held before the meal and ran smoothly with little feedback from the floor.

Future AGM meetings will not be held after the Autumn golf event, the committee propose to make this a separate event.

More in a later issue.

The section committee last met at the end of September and were unanimous in their decisions.

The cost of postage is now exorbitant and therefore the fliers and entry forms will stop with immediate effect.

All of our fixtures and information will be posted on the website well in advance of a competition or educational event.

The section secretary Alex will email an entry form to all our members prior to the event.

If Alex has not got your email send it to him on southcoastsecretary@gmail.com.

The fixture card will continue to be sponsored and will be available as soon as possible.

Please also note that payment on the day is not acceptable, we need to know exact numbers well in advance of the day as we are charged for the numbers quoted by Kev a week before the golf.

This happens so often, people call to say put me in and don't turn up on the day, then we end up paying for food that no-one had.

The committee were also unanimous in voting for Joe Cooper to be nominated for a trip to BTME.

Joe has given hours of his own time for the committee and the preparation of his place of work for the seminar, a worthy candidate.

The Turkey trot will be at Hayling Golf Club on Tuesday 4th December, format as last year will be a Texas Scramble in 3's.

Contact glassy2003@hotmail.com for more information and to book your place.

If you haven't got a 3 ball we will attempt to put a team together.

Lastly, don't forget the Regional Conference on 15th November, some great speakers, if you want to go or for more information contact jane@bigga.co.uk.

That's it for this month, I better pacify the team with some new waterproofs!

Tony



Around The Green



Devon & Cornwall

Hello all,

Our October meeting was held at East Devon Golf Club on Thursday 11 October.

The day consisted of Golf or a Course walk followed by lunch, a presentation by Paul Newcombe (Head Greenkeeper) and then our AGM.

Unfortunately the weather was not being kind and torrential rain greeted in the morning followed by fog, but nevertheless the golf and the course walk went ahead and all attendees braved the elements.

The course was in fantastic condition and testament to Paul and his team for all their hard work.

In total, 46 members and guests attended the day, with 24 playing golf and the rest on the course walk.

Paul led the course walk and took us to some of the holes that have needed to be moved and redesigned due to the cliff top erosion.

The main aim of the club is to ensure that holes are moved inland sufficiently enough to safeguard the future of the course for another 100 years.

The holes that have been affected have been moved and designed sympathetically to ensure that the unique heathland feel has been kept and the integrity of the course not compromised.

This has certainly been achieved, with a stunning new par 3, 13th hole that with new tees will measure approximately 200 yards.

Indigenous heather turf has been transplanted from the site to achieve heather mounds as standalone hazards and on bunker banks to give a natural feel to the new holes.

Paul's obvious enthusiasm for the game and the course can be seen during the course walk and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the tour.

The golf format for the day was Individual Stableford playing for the "Don Hunt" trophy.

1st place went to Martin Cornish (Launceston) with 30 points, 2nd went to Gary Tuckett (Wrangaton) with 28 points and in 3rd place was Cameron

McMorrin (East Devon) with 26 points.

Nearest the pin on the 10th went to Gavin Moore (Launceston) and Longest Drive on the 12th went to Mark Downing (Launceston).

Congratulations to all those that took part in what were very testing conditions.

Prizes for places were sponsored and presented by Mick Higgins and Jonathan Skelton of Sibelco.

Nearest the Pin and Longest Drive prizes were sponsored and presented by John Palfrey of Avoncrop Amenity.

Huge thanks to our sponsors for the day and for their continued support of the Section.

After a wonderful Carvery lunch, Paul Newcombe gave a short presentation talking through his collection of photos kept during the redevelopment of the course.

This was a great insight into how the decisions in terms of design and construction were made by the club with Paul's influence and guidance.

A huge thank you to Paul, his team of greens staff and all the staff at East Devon GC for their wonderful hospitality throughout the day.

The Section AGM took place after this.

Two changes to the Committee this year, with Tony Gooch (Great Torrington), who is yet to be replaced.

The other change within committee was that Colin Webber (Portmore Park) will be taking over as Treasurer from Steve Harris (Ashbury).

Steve will remain on committee as a Devon representative.

Major topics raised were encouraging members to get involved with CPD and training opportunities and to communicate to the Section and the Association any training needs required.

Also, it was explained to the members how some of the funds that have been building up in the Section had been used to help subsidise training opportunities including travel up to Harrogate.

Thank you to all who attended the AGM.

Minutes are available from the Section Secretary.

Our Christmas meeting this year will be staged at Ashbury Golf Club on Thursday 13th December and will run along the

same lines as last year.

Details will be sent out nearer the time.

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



South Wales

Good Afternoon all, where do I start? The weather! How is it possible to have so much rainfall in one season and we haven't even entered winter yet! It is a frustrating time for all of us both trade and for you guys out there trying your very best to just even get the golf courses open never mind trying to get perfect shades on fairways and greens.

Members turning up with their latest power caddies wanting to take buggies out if many of you have still got hair I'm sure your pulling it out.

But however much it gets us down just think of the American Ryder cup team 10-6 up at home going into the singles and the Sunday and getting beat 14.5-13.5 that must surely put a smile on our faces!

Our Autumn event has just taken place at Clyne Golf Club I say taken place well I managed 3 holes some played 2 holes some even 9 but 1 group played all 18 holes (they must have been mad) the rain was relentless just 10mins after we teed off in all fairness to Tony and his team's efforts in placing pins in high spots we had no chance of getting around without carrying a squeegee with us even then the rain was constant for 5 hours.

For me it was a first look out onto the course at Clyne and I can't wait to come back and play with better weather.

Thank you Tony for all your efforts in setting up the course and fingers crossed we can all come back soon and finish what we started.

The results though are as follows in 3rd place with 29 points Harvey Tribe fantastic to see Harvey back playing golf with us, 2nd place with 34 points Andy "I had to finish" Roach and in 1st place with 35 points Mark "I'm not coming in with a score

like this" Tucker congratulations all winners.

There has to be two more mentions, Emyr Nickels did complete the 4 ball but unfortunately did not get in the prizes but after 2 years without playing due to shoulder injuries a great effort, and finally a welcome to Alan Hughes from Blackwood golf club a new member to BIGGA and hope he enjoyed the company on the snooker table after the golf rather than the 15mins on the golf course welcome Alan.

Before the golf we held our AGM the committee is to stay the same with no changes for the following season the only changes are to be made to the golfing calendar.

With pressures of work we feel that it is only right that we reduce the number of golf tournaments to 3 from 4 and move them to late October, December and the end of February/ early March to coincide with the easier cutting periods.

We will have matches against the South West and North Wales during the season but exact times and dates to follow.

Also the Rigby Taylor Match-play event will have a new look, it will still be a pairs format but will all be played in one day, full rules and dates TBC.

I would like to close on a few thank yous firstly to Clyne Golf Club for being very hospitable hosts with a fantastic meal after golf.

To Gareth Knight for the continued work he has done this year from pulling patrons together to organising the golf matches and our new annual dinner and dance, our Patrons of the section without the support you and effort your companies put in we couldn't run the way we do now and last but not least you guys the greenkeepers.

Without your time and efforts to attend golf and education events it wouldn't be worth doing! Thanks everyone.

Many Thanks for reading any news or views please contact me at any time.

Kind Regards
Peter H





Diary of Events

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

Date	Event	Venue	Contact
NOVEMBER 2012			
November 6th	Golf Course Design Seminar, Essex Section	Colne Valley Golf Club	Ian Wood Tel: 07952 470861
November 6th	Cylinder Maintenance & Grinding Techniques/ Benefits of Enviro Bunker	Turnhouse Golf Club, Training Room, Maintenance Facility	Scott Corrigan Tel: 07877 098237
November 6th	Midland Regional Conference	Forest Hill Golf Club, Leicester	Sandra Raper Tel: 07866 366966 or Email: sandra@bigga.co.uk
November 7th	Devon & Cornwall Section Event Bayer Cup	Bowood Golf & Country Club	George Pitts Tel: 07929 754401 or Email: gpitts.yelverton@gmail.com
November 7th	Northern Regional Conference	Phoenix Sports Club, Rotherham	Sandra Raper Tel: 07866 366966 or Email: sandra@bigga.co.uk
November 12th	STRI Regional Training – Pests, Weeds & Diseases	Moor Allerton Golf Club	Rachael Godfrey Tel: 01274 565131 or Email: training@stri.co.uk
November 12th	STRI Regional Training – Technical Turf Management – Part 1	Best Western Gleddoch House Hotel & Golf Spa – West Scotland	Rachael Godfrey Tel: 01274 565131 or Email: training@stri.co.uk
November 13th	STRI Regional Training – Technical Turf Management – Part 1	Moor Allerton Golf Club	Rachael Godfrey Tel: 01274 565131 or Email: training@stri.co.uk
November 13th	STRI Regional Training – Technical Turf Management – Part 1	Castleknock Hotel & Country Club	Rachael Godfrey Tel: 01274 565131 or Email: training@stri.co.uk
November 14th	South East Regional Conference	Thorpeness Golf & Country Club	Ian Willet Tel: 07929 205398 or Email: info@biggaeastanglia.co.uk
November 15th	South West & South Wales Regional Conference	Oaktree Arena, Highbridge, Somerset	Jane Jones Tel: 01454 270850 or Mobile 07841 948110 or Email: jane@bigga.co.uk
November 15th	Midland Region TEAM CHALLENGE	Burton on Trent Golf Club	Sandra Raper Tel: 07866 366966 or Email: sandra@bigga.co.uk
November 15th	North West Section Event	Wilmslow Golf Club	Chris Sheehan at Email: jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk
November 20th	Machinery Supplier Day, Essex Section	Channels Golf Club	Arnold Phipps-Jones Email: arnold.phipps-jones@threeriversclub.com
November 21st	North Wales Section Event	Oswestry Golf Club	Jez Hughes Tel: 07876 776265 or email: jezpro69@aol.com

January 22nd – 24th

The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition

register NOW to avoid the queues

visit www.bigga.org.uk

Greenkeepers Training Committee

David Golding, GTC Education Director,
with a monthly update



Learn while you earn?

David Golding addresses the 'old chestnut' of why clubs looking to save money within budgets do so by first by reducing or withdrawing any staff training

Many readers will be familiar with the phrase "learn while you earn" and I have referred to it before in this column.

However, this is another timely reminder to golf clubs as well as greenkeepers that, whether it be through a Distance Learning Course or an Online course, gone are the days when you would have to leave your workplace in order to gain knowledge relating to your job.

Several of the GTC Quality Assured Centres offer courses and qualifications through a variety of delivery options.

Online learning is clearly becoming increasingly popular as technology has evolved with the internet.

Both vocational and higher education qualifications such as the HNC/D in Scotland and the Foundation Degree are being achieved by greenkeepers and Course Managers whilst they continue to work.

Distance Learning whereby learning packages are mailed out from a college to the student, and returned for marking, is still a great option.

I know for a fact that two of the GTC's Quality Assured Centres are reporting interest from all corners of the globe for their online and Distance Learning courses, which is a great testimony to their programmes and the British qualifications.

More and more of the GTC's QA Centres offer online learning for those registering on work-based qualifications including the apprenticeship.

Some still prefer the off the job/classroom style of acquiring knowledge but, as long as everybody has access to learning, the GTC believes the greenkeeping profession is in safe hands through QA Centres and Training Providers.

To support its Quality Assured Centres, the GTC is updating its Learning Materials which will be launched and available at BTME 2013.

The learning materials, based on best practices, have been reviewed through a special project which has been partly funded by The R&A and GTC and which will be available in hard copy, CD Rom and Pdf formats.

The learning materials are also circulated to all GTC QA Centres, with much of the information being compiled through specialist subject writers including Quality Assured Centre staff and Training Providers.

With so much access to good quality information on greenkeeping being freely available, and Centres and Training Providers offering everything from short courses to an Online Degree, it might be thought strange to hear that some golf clubs have actually stopped any staff training and now have no allocation of funds within their budget for training.

I find this puzzling but we have seen it all before.

When the economy crashed previously, it was those companies who invested in their staff that came out of the crisis strongest and quickest.

It isn't as if thousands of pounds are required for a greenkeeping staff development programme.

Course Managers now, as the norm, train their staff on the job often with the aim of work-based qualifications supported by their chosen Centre while the more senior staff can apply for a scholarship through BIGGA or a Bursary from The R&A to gain higher Level 4 and above qualifications.

Initiative funding schemes for employers to train staff - including

apprenticeships - all help as the GTC continues to work within the Government framework.

Many courses, offered by Centres, are, indeed, subsidised.

The GTC does not expect all education and training to be free.

"Some golf clubs have actually stopped staff training and now have no allocation of funds within their budget"



The GTC is funded by:



Employers acknowledge they should contribute but it is a false economy not to encourage any staff development at any level.

It need not cost a fortune.

Training can be a tremendous morale booster for an individual and additional skills and knowledge will always contribute to a team's performance thereby adding productivity to the business.

I still hear the cry, "we train them up and then they leave".

Well, that is not the end of the world.

The message that needs emphasising is that everyone is a valuable member of the team.

So, look after them and, if some move on, there is comfort that they are going because they have been well trained and that their replacements are similarly well qualified.

The opportunity of recruiting a new apprentice is all part of the cycle of greenkeeping.

For all the latest information on greenkeeper training including Distance Learning and Online courses, Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers visit www.greenkeepertraining.com or www.the-gtc.co.uk

Contact Details

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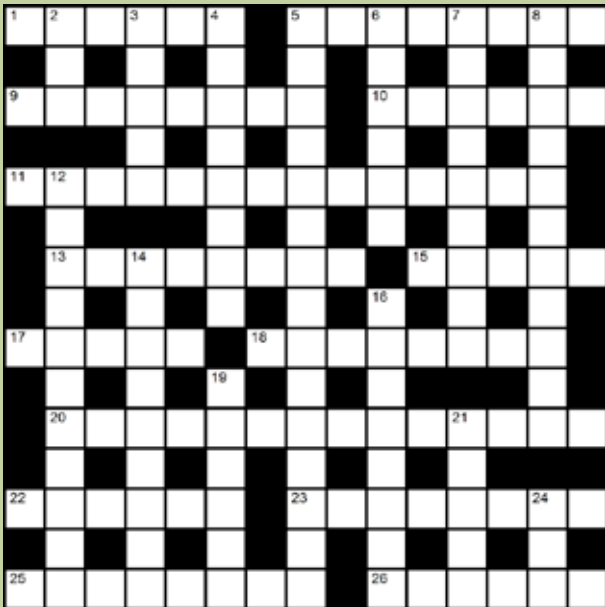


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in the shed

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

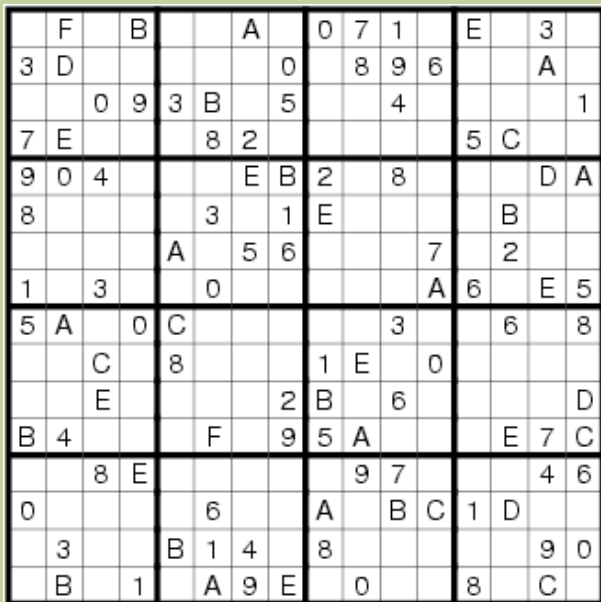


ACROSS

- 1 Location of which Macbeth is thane prior to Cawdor (Shakespeare) (6)
- 5 Plants providing edible roots similar to carrots (8)
- 9 1964 hit by Petula Clark (8)
- 10 British comedy drama starring Dennis Waterman as Terry McCann (6)
- 11 Mainly (3,3,4,4)
- 13 Inappropriate to reality (8)
- 15/17 Church of England envoy held hostage in Lebanon from 1987-91 (5,5)
- 18 Comedy series set in the fictional French town of Nouvion (4,4)
- 20 British newspaper launched in 1986 (3,11)
- 22 Colloquially, anything achieved or made (6)
- 23 Neapolitan song whose title translates to 'My sun' (1,4,3)
- 25 --- boy, the favourite of a group (4-4)
- 26 Capital of Zambia (6)

DOWN

- 2 Fifth sign of the zodiac (3)
- 3 Artist whose painting Impression, Sunrise created the term Impressionism (5)
- 4 Ancient Russian city destroyed in both Napoleonic Wars and WWII (8)
- 5 Light blue Monopoly square worth (traditionally) £120 (11,4)
- 6 Distant (6)
- 7 Model of excellence or perfection (9)
- 8 Legendary Christian king identified with the King of Ethiopia (7,4)
- 12 Famous Yellowstone National Park geyser (3,8)
- 14 Graceful and supple (9)
- 16 1996 UK hit for Swedish pop rock band The Cardigans (8)
- 19 Bigheaded, stuck-up (6)
- 21 Sediment at the bottom of a liquid (5)
- 24 To annoy or exasperate (3)



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

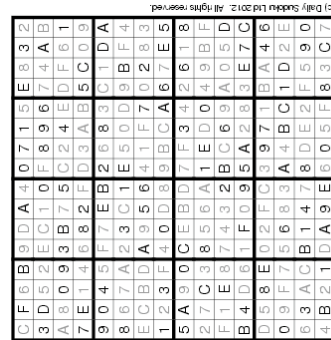
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 9 box shape contains the numbers 1 to 9.



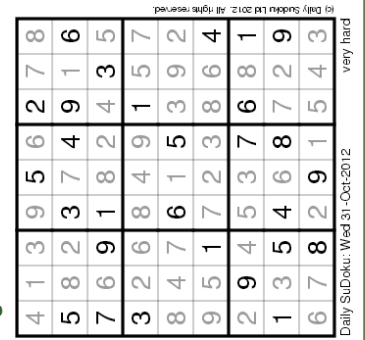
CROSSWORD



MONSTER SUDOKO



SQUIGGLY SUDOKO



Water management

Managing any kind of plant whether it is a food crop, plants in your garden or sports turf, water is critical to sustain plant health.

The objective is to supply the plant with enough water, when it needs it, to ensure healthy growth.

This perhaps becomes more critical in managed turf, as frequent mowing and usage of the surface can lead to increased water loss.

When we consider sports turf, we also have to take into account that the amount of water in the soil or rootzone will directly influence surface performance and playability.

Too much water and we are left with surfaces that are too soft.

Too little water not only results in significant plant stress, but also the risk that the playing surface can become too firm.

Additionally, the excessive softening playing surfaces often leads to playability issues, in terms of increased wear damage as result of play.

This might be in the form of reduced grass cover due to foot traffic and to larger and more damaging pitch marks.

Yet another aspect of getting the water management in golf greens right is the impact that excessive water retention can have on agronomic characteristics.

The relationship between the invasion of annual meadow-grass and rate of soil organic matter accumulation with high levels of water retention has been well documented.

A vast body of research exists that has focussed on the management of water in the soil.

This varies from studies looking at different construction profiles and materials, through to the type and quantity of water retentive amendment mixed with sand to create sand-based rootzones.

All of this data is critical, as we need to understand the relationship between how greens are constructed and how they perform, in terms of water drainage and retention.

Less research exists on water inputs into golf greens.

Irrigation systems exist so that greenkeepers can have some degree of control over water inputs.

To be able to effectively manage playing surfaces, there has to be a balance between water draining through a soil and being able to add water to the turf to ensure optimum playing quality and healthy grass growth.

How the input of water is achieved is open to some debate, with regard to the little and often approach versus more heavy water inputs applied less frequently.

What I have tried to highlight so far is the importance of managing water inputs and output from the playing surfaces around golf courses.

A large portion of what greenkeepers do is to manage the soil water balance.

Of course the other factor that cannot be overlooked is the good old British weather.

This year has been, at least for some parts of the country, one of contrasting conditions.

The start of the year was significantly drier in some areas than usual.

What has then followed has been almost biblical in proportion! Rain, rain and even more rain.

However, what this variable weather has highlighted is the need to build in a degree of resilience into golf courses.

By this I mean creating and maintaining surfaces that can deal with heavy rainfall, whilst on the other hand ensure greenkeepers have the ability to apply water when they need to.

One of the challenges that we all face in the near future is trying to get the water balance right.



The technology is there to help produce better draining greens, but what is more problematic is securing a reliable source of water to be able to irrigate when the grass needs it.

We have to accept that the future regarding climate change is uncertain and that one of the likely outcomes is that our weather may become more unpredictable and extreme.

In this scenario, serious thought needs to be given as to how we can better utilise the resources available to us.

This means looking more closely at how water can be captured and stored on the course ready for use when drier periods occur.

It would also be interesting to look at how we can recycle more water, especially water already captured by drainage systems.

This is where further research could be focussed.

I believe there is a real need to look at how we can provide more water sources on courses themselves.

Of course these options are not cheap, but if we can study the practicalities and the associated costs perhaps we can develop a reasonably efficient and cost effective system for those occasions when you know you want to be applying water but are severely restricted as to how much you can apply.

about the author



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STRI Agronomist

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First Aid:

We have two first aid kits designed with outside working in mind. A remote First Aid grab bag kit designed for taking out on the course either attached to mowing equipment or utility vehicles. Our Remote Trauma grab bag kit is designed for higher risk tasks including Tree work or construction. Both kits can be found on our website.

Personal protective pouch: Provide protection for individual workers from the sun and insect bites. Instant eye care treatment on the course too.

Defibrillators:

It's hard to predict sudden cardiac arrest (SCA), because many victims do not exhibit symptoms. In fact, more than 50% of SCA victims have no previous symptoms of coronary heart disease.

It's important to know time is the critical factor in responding to a sudden cardiac arrest. According to the European Resuscitation Council (ERC), survival falls by 10 to 12% per minute. In addition, each minute the brain goes without oxygen diminishes the likelihood that the victim will return to normal neurological function. After 10 minutes, it's unlikely a patient will survive SCA. While CPR can extend this period, defibrillation is the only effective therapy for sudden cardiac arrest. We are providers of the Powerheart G5 defibrillator, a vital piece of equipment for remote locations including golf courses.

Rescue Position Indicator:

Ensure you can be found easily in an emergency by using the Tel-Tail rescue position indicator on a fairway or an area close to the casualty. This is included in both our remote grab bag kits described above but can also be purchased individually.

TRAINING:

First Aid and defibrillator training can be arranged through us. Quotes will be based on individual requirements.

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