

tron, Ransomes and Headland. Thanks again Haverhill Golf Club. Sorry I missed it.

Pause for thought. My old boss, Phil Staines, passed away last week. In 1964 I was his apprentice at Maylands Golf Club in Essex. I became his first assistant four years later under his guidance, expertise and patience. One day early on, I asked him what a committee was – he'd had a bit of a run in with the chairman. He said "It was the unfit, appointed by the unwilling, to do the unnecessary". No change there then. God bless you mate.

Mick Lathrope



## Kent

If I could write songs I would be penning one right now entitled "I got those post Olympic blues".

The unbridled joy of watching a multitude of diverse sports thanks to the BBC's superb coverage has converted me totally to the worlds of gymnastics, athletics, archery, cycling and, of course, beach volleyball.

Before these momentous games the scaremongers in the media had us all believing that the whole event would be a disaster because of issues surrounding security, transport and tickets but Britain truly delivered the best games ever on every single level to confound and silence the most hardened critic. A wave of pride swept the nation as the medal tally grew out of all proportion to the geographical size of our country as the public embraced the unbelievable achievements of our athletes. A heady cocktail of success, pride and excellence has left many of us hungover after the greatest two weeks of sport ever witnessed.

It wasn't just a success for our athletes either. The now proven organisational capabilities of a driven committee who refused to be bogged down in a sea of scepticism and bureaucracy was a credit to the nation.

The expected lull in green fees during the games never materialised either. Many of

us, through some ingenious marketing were able to capitalise on the period by having Olympic themed events and products on our courses. With golf featuring in the next Olympics it never need suffer again.

Go Team GB!!

On to news from our section and our summer pairs knock-out competition is well under way with early preliminary rounds seeing the progression of Russ Bain and Adam Marable from Chislehurst who beat Darren Burdis and Alan Harvey from West Kent 3 & 2. Also last years' champion, Tim Maynard now paired with Lee Austin of Wildernesse scraped to victory against myself and Darren Child. Obviously, two weeks of watching beach volleyball did my golf swing no good whatsoever!

Good luck to our victors and everyone still involved in the competition.

We have another golf day approaching on September 27 at Boughton Golf Club. Please let Kev or I know asap if attending so we can make the necessary catering arrangements.

I'll leave it there for now but don't forget to check our website for up to the minute news and events. Enjoy the rest of your summer and may the very best of British fortune shine on us all.

Rob Holland

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



## South Coast

As you read this another season is drifting by, lets hope we get a settled end to the summer. It has just started to rain "again" so I thought I would profit and write this article.

Not much to report on the golf side, only the annual match against the Wessex Secretaries for the coveted Course Care Cup. This year we played at Rushmore Park where the course was presented in excellent condition, well done to Clive Browning and his team for their great work. Clive and Tony Crouch both retire from the greenkeeping team at Rushmore this year so may I

take this opportunity to wish them both the best possible retirement doing whatever they like.

Back to the match where the Greenkeepers triumphed again 3 games to 2 to take the tally for the cup to 9 ½ to 6 ½ well done all of the team, especially the final pairing of Robert Hogarth and Ed Carey who were 4 down with 5 to play and won! As always our thanks go to Course Care for their generosity in sponsoring the event, long may it continue. Finally thanks to Rushmore for their hospitality and excellent food.

The next match against the S Westgreenkeepers at SWilts GC on 20 September so if anyone wants to play let me know. The Autumn tournament is on 4 October at Weymouth GC. As usual contact Kevan Glass with your entry [glassy2003@hotmail.com](mailto:glassy2003@hotmail.com), the cost will be £25, please remember to pay well in advance of the day. If food is booked for you and you don't turn up, there will be no refund, as we are charged for the booked number.

The committee are working on next years seminar that will be held at Milton Abbey school again, an event not to missed, more on the speakers in the next issue.

Here at Barton we have just got through the club championship weekend, very warm with a strong easterly wind, no better conditions for a cliff top location. Aerating this week to help relieve the stress we put the greens under last week and then it rains again! Think I might go fishing to take my mind off the golf course, that is if I can get the beach hut door open for the first time this year. Until next month, keep on cutting.

Tony Gadd



## Surrey

Wednesday August 15. It's raining for the first time after summer has visited us for several days and therefore the erection of my gazebo must cease until it stops. Chateau Willmott is still being renovated and I am never anything but busy.

## Assistant Profile

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

### Name:

John Day

### Age:

37 years old

### Club:

Gaudet Luce

### Golf Club,

Droitwich

### Position:

Assistant Greenkeeper

### Nickname:

Big John



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

16 Years

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

Working in the outdoors

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

Merchandise sales or roadie for rock and metal bands on tour

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

Cutting greens. This is often the most important from a golfer's perspective and a job well done creates a good impression and sets the standard for the whole course.

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

There isn't any particular task that I dislike.

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

Sun all year round!

### 7. Hobbies?

Concerts, films and Ebay

### 8. Favourite Band?

Can't choose one favourite but it is between Aerosmith and Megadeth

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

The A Team! (remember that?!)

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

Losing 5 and a half stone and becoming a helper at my local slimming club.

# Around The Green

## **BIGGA welcomes the following new members**

### **Scotland**

Ryan Shannon, Ayrshire Section  
Michael McLeod, North Section  
Scott Crawford, West Section  
Neil Paris, West Section

### **Northern Region**

Stephen Millar, North West Section  
Daniel Drake, Northern Section  
Matthew Alderton, Sheffield Section  
Christopher Hill, Sheffield Section

### **Midland Region**

Robert Andrews, Berks/Bucks & Oxon Section  
Adam Lovejoy, Berks/Bucks & Oxon Section  
David Patterson, Berks/Bucks & Oxon Section  
Mark Carter, East Midland Section  
Gavin Keyworth, East Midland Section  
Bradley Blacker, Mid Anglia Section  
David Collins, Midland Section  
Matthew Emslie, Midland Section  
Emma Kilby, Midland Section  
Gareth Waite, Midland Section  
Kenny Wright, Midland Section

### **South East Region**

Robert Barnard, East Anglia Section  
Andy Spetch, East Anglia Section  
Grant Hedley, Surrey Section

### **Sth West/Sth Wales Region**

Martin Cornish, Devon & Cornwall Section  
James Jones, Devon & Cornwall Section  
Robert Sadler, Devon & Cornwall Section  
Paul Dutton, South Coast Section

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

I thought that I had reached an age when life slowed down and warm summer afternoons were spent sipping champagne on the lawn. No, at a time when I should relax I find that am still laying said lawn, decorating and writing next month's article for this fine magazine. Sipping champagne is a pipe dream and will have to wait until my first harvest of grapes is picked, fermented, bottled, and left to age in my cellar. Of course, you've realised I am joking, I do not have a cellar and the garden shed will have to do.

The McMillan tankard at Sunningdale GC was played for on July 16 and was won by Steve Alabaster and Mark Brookes was runner up. Anthony Freeman secured the longest drive and the nearest the pin was again Mark Brookes. Many thanks to Sunningdale GC for allowing us our yearly visit and also many thanks to Jack McMillan who presented the tankard and prizes. The barbecue that followed was burnt by yours truly with the aid of Paul [Oliver] Weston and the only cases of food poisoning left the local dogs determined never again to beg from strangers.

Brian Willmott

Brian.willmott@hotmail.co.uk



### **South West**

I want to say a huge well done to all the support workers that were involved at Royal Lytham & St Annes for this year's Open championship. During some very tough times weather wise and with over 200 bunkers, you guys did us very proud.

On Friday 10 August captain Wayne Vincent took his team to Royal Porthcawl GC, and this was unfortunately coming on the back of a defeat. Not playing myself (getting that part in early...) the team travelled over the bridge and onto Porthcawl

in high hopes! This being a very hot day, I hear that some of our guys left their clubs at home and thought their sun lounges would be a better option. I hate to say this, but we lost this very important fixture 4-2, however I have been promised this won't be happening again next year.

I write this while watching the closing ceremony from London 2012, and it made me realise that as a nation we really do know how to put on a show. The opening ceremony was fantastic, during the games Great Britain were awesome, beating any previous medal count. I'm sure many of you spent hours watch the games, and found it equally motivating. With the games closing in such a great fashion, we come together as a nation. Very proud times!

As for the section, Thursday 4 October will be our next event, this is our AGM and will take place at Bristol & Clifton Golf Club. I 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.

I would like to finish on a very positive note, and one that the section is very proud of. Chris Sealey is now BIGGA vice chairman, this is very well deserved. Chris, as a section we wish you all the very best in your future role, good luck!

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

07732503855



### **Essex**

After a couple of months of inactivity in the section we are back with a vengeance.

Tom Smith, Ben Scrivener

and I went up to the Open Championship as part of the support team and what a time we had, long days, up early and to bed late but a feast of memories to stay with us for many a year.

The Olympics are a thing of the past, and what a joyous period it was, more medals than were expected and some surprises to boot.

Grass seems to keep growing and that dormant period around July, August has not materialised, at least for the time being the rain seems to have subsided.

We have just held our Summer Trophy and National Qualifier, Rochford Hundred Golf Club was the venue and what a day they had, the course was set up by Head Greenkeeper, Dave Rand and his staff, comments such as fantastic were regularly heard and every one there thoroughly enjoyed the event. The sun shone and so did the golf as the results show.

Results for the day are as follows.

Division 1. 1st Antony Kirwan, 40 points. 2nd Andy Cracknell 36 points.

Division 2. 1st Dougie Fernie, 40 points. 2nd Ross Bennett, 38 points.

Trade/Sponsors. 1st James Tuckwell, 35 points; Guest. Tony Rand; National Qualifier: Dougie Fernie

The next golf day is the Autumn Trophy at Stoke by Nayland Golf & Spa on Wednesday 26th September, entries to: Antony Kirwan by 20th September please. At - Play Golf Colchester, Bakers Lane, Colchester, Essex, CO3 4AU. Entries are £20 Members/Sponsors and £25 Guests.

It's just a short one this month, but exciting news to come next month, on two seminars to be run by the section and our overdue trip to the Hurlingham Club.

If you have anything for inclusion 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

# BTME is back

for it's 24th year, at the Harrogate International Centre

► BIGGA TURF MANAGEMENT EXHIBITION ► 22-24 JANUARY 2013





# Diary of Events

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

Date	Event	Venue	Contact
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>			
Sep 5th	BIGGA Seminars	Saltex, Windsor Racecourse	BIGGA House, 01347 833800 option 3 or info@bigga.co.uk
Sep 11th	North Wales Section Event	St Melyd Golf Club	Jez Hughes, Tel mobile: 07876 776265 or email: jezpro69@aol.com
Sep 13th	North West Section Event	Penwortham Golf Club	Chris Sheehan, email: jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk
Sep 13th	East of England Section Event	Blankney Golf Club	Bruce Hicks Tel mobile: 07931 714922 or email: brucehicks1@gmail.com
Sep 13th	Scottish North Section Golf Day	Granton-on-Spey Golf Club	Dale Robertson, email: daleturnberry@aol.com
Sep 18th	Scottish West Section Golf Day	Fereneze Golf Club	Fraser Ross, email: Karen.ross@tesco.net
Sep 19th	North West Section Event	Penwortham Golf Club	Chris Sheehan email: jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk
Sep 19th	Scottish East Section Autumn Event	Murrayfield Golf Club	Stuart Ferguson, email: stuferg@btinternet.com
Sep 19th	Scottish Central Section Golf Day	Piperdam Golf & Leisure Resort	Gordon Moir, email: gmoir@standrews.org.uk
Sep 20th	South Coast Section v's South West Section	Salisbury & South Wilts Golf Club	Alex McCombie, email: southcoastsecretary@gmail.com
Sep 20th	East Midlands Section AGM and Texas Scramble	Glen Gorse Golf Club	Nick Miles Tel: 07842 960686
Sep 26th	Essex Section Event	Stoke-by-Nayland Golf Club	Antony Kirwin, Tel: 07887 780065 or email: antz16@btinternet.com
<b>OCTOBER</b>			
Oct 4th	South West Section Event	Bristol & Clifton Golf Club	Adam Matthews Tel: 07732 503855 or email: adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk
Oct 4th	East of England Section Event	South Kyme Golf Club	Bruce Hicks Tel: 01205 353925 or mobile: 07931 714922 or email: brucehicks1@gmail.com
Oct 4th	South Coast Section Autumn Event	Weymouth Golf Club	Alex McCombie email: southcoastsecretary@gmail.com
Oct 8-9th	BIGGA National Championship 2012	Irvine Golf Club	Sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota. Contact Rachael Duffy at BIGGA HQ 01347 833800 option 3 or email rachael@bigga.co.uk
Oct 10th	North East Section Autumn Event	Tyneside Golf Club	Jimmy Richardson Tel: 0191 413 5232 or mobile: 07500 528542 or Email: jamesrichardson217@btinternet.com
Oct 11th	Midland Region – Whitemoss Inter-Section Golf Day	Greetham Valley Golf Club	Sandra Raper Tel: 07866 366966 or Email: sandra@bigga.co.uk
Oct 16th	East Anglia Golf Day	Ely City Golf Club	Ian Willett Tel: 07929 205398 or Email: info@biggaeastanglia.co.uk
Oct 17th	Northern Region Inter-Section Golf Day	Bingley St Ives Golf Club	Sandra Raper Tel: 07866 366966 or Email: sandra@bigga.co.uk
Oct 18th	BIGGA & GCMA Educational Seminar	Chipping Sodbury Golf Club	Karen Drake, Weston super Mare Golf Club, Email: wsmgolfclub@eurotelbroadband.com
Oct 18th	Midland Section Event	Druids Heath Golf Club	Andrew Smith Email: andysmithace@hotmail.co.uk
Oct 23rd	East of Scotland NPTC Update	Murrayfield Golf Club Edinburgh	Stuart Ferguson Tel: 07961 630553 or Email: stuferg@btinternet.com
Oct 25th	Mid Anglia Section Golf Day and AGM	Verulam Golf Club	Richard Saunders Tel: 07773 206553

# Greenkeepers Training Committee

David Golding, GTC Education Director, with a monthly update



This month David updates us on how the UK's Further Education Colleges once again have to cope with more funding cuts from the government

**The GTC is constantly monitoring the situation to ensure there is still access to specialist greenkeeping education and training courses for all levels of greenkeepers.**

For many years the sports turf sector has relied on traditional land based colleges throughout Britain, to deliver a variety of education and training courses, all leading to the formal accredited qualifications.

The highly acclaimed Apprenticeship Scheme continues to provide the sector with many of today's top Course Managers and with distance learning and an on-line Degree available, you might think our employers and greenkeepers are well set for the long term.

In terms of a suitable range of formal qualifications the UK is fortunate as there are the vocational work based and higher education options delivered in a variety of modes.

The Centres have certainly tried their best to meet our industry's request for flexibility for learners to gain access to formal certificates and qualifications.

They've featured the very popular delivery of qualifications for learners in their workplace, to the traditional part-time option, plus distance and online learning.

In recent years we have also seen several private companies enter into the delivery of greenkeeper training, hence, the GTC's policy to introduce the Quality Assured Scheme of Centres and Training Providers.

Many readers will be aware of the various changes within Further Education colleges in recent years.

Mergers, often prolonged and unsettling for the staff, have affected almost all parts of Britain and very often policy changes at a

college has resulted in sports turf courses being subject to ongoing viability reviews.

Sadly for many friends working in the colleges, despite their best efforts, delivery of quality programmes has become increasingly difficult.

There are still colleges, private companies and individuals who are totally committed to delivering quality education, training and qualifications for our sector.

The GTC intends to work closely with them and to promote their courses and workshops to employers and all levels of greenkeepers.

Clearly the Government's policy of the early nineties, to encourage industries to become involved in vocational qualifications, required a total rethink by the colleges.

Some did, and still do promote, manage and adapt to deliver quality programmes, but sadly many failed miserably across many sectors.

Fortunately many of today's top Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers fully understand the range of courses and qualifications available.

As funding in Further Education colleges continues to be reduced, we as an industry have to work with these Centres to not only support them with students but to discuss the best options for them to deliver the various courses and qualifications.

Through the GTC's employer representative bodies, we hear that the majority of golf club employers will pay for quality education and training as long as it is relevant to their staff and business development needs.

There is still Government funding available to specific age groups, plus approved courses and qualifications including the apprenticeship scheme and the

## GTC QUALITY ASSURED CENTRES

**England**  
Bridgwater College  
Contact Jake Waites Tel: 07912 555592

**Duchy College**  
Contact Ron Skinner Tel: 01579 372220

**Myerscough College**  
Contacts Stewart Brown, Centre based courses Tel: 01995 642305

**Newcastle College**  
Contact Wayne Reid Tel: 0191 200 4704

**Oaklands College**  
Contact Andy Wight Tel: 01727 737735

**Plumpton College**  
Contact David Plumpton Tel: 01273 890454

**Reaseheath College**  
Contact Gareth Phillips Tel: 01270 613236

**Scotland**  
Elmwood College  
Contact Mike Clark Tel: 01334 658 800

**GOSTA Training**  
Contact Leslie Lowrie Tel: 0141 556 3999

**Wales**  
Bridgend College  
Contact John Sullivan Tel: 01656 302691

**Deeside College**  
Contact Jenny Pitts Tel: 01244 831531

## QUALITY ASSURED TRAINING PROVIDERS

**Bernhard & Company Ltd**  
Contact Ben Taylor Tel: 07720 460026

**Cutting Edge Training**  
Contact Jason King Tel: 01473 276205

**Frank Newberry - Seminars for Golf Clubs**  
Contact Frank Newberry Tel: 01908 520202

**John Nicholson Associates**  
Contact John Nicholson Tel: 0191 384 2556

**Jon Allbutt Associates**  
Contact Jon Allbutt Tel: 0208 325032

**Sports Turf Research Institute**  
Contact Carolyn Beadsmoore Tel: 01274 567201

**Swan Golf Designs**  
Contact William Swan Tel: 01277 896229

**Symbio**  
Contact Martin Ward Tel: 01428 685762

**TORO**  
Contact Dave Jackman (Lely) Tel: 01480 228600

**Turf Master One Ltd**  
Contact Laurence Pithie Tel: 01666 505233



The GTC is funded by:



colleges and private companies will continue to assess whatever funding support they can.

The GTC's Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers, all dedicated through formal courses and informal workshops, are looking to serve our sector and we should look to support them.

Many will remember when there were over thirty "GTC Approved Training Providers" offering greenkeeper training courses but following a 2010 review the GTC has currently seven Quality Assured Centres in England, two in Wales and two in Scotland.

In summary, the GTC are continually working with the Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers.

We want to ensure there are not only the formal qualifications and apprenticeship available but also short course.

These are often the employers' preferred training courses for their staff not ready for a more formal full qualification e.g.

Level 2, 3, 4, HNC or Degree.

## Contact Details

David Golding  
GTC Education Director

01347 838640  
david@the-gtc.co.uk

GTC  
Aldwark Manor  
Near York  
YO61 1UF

www.the-gtc.co.uk



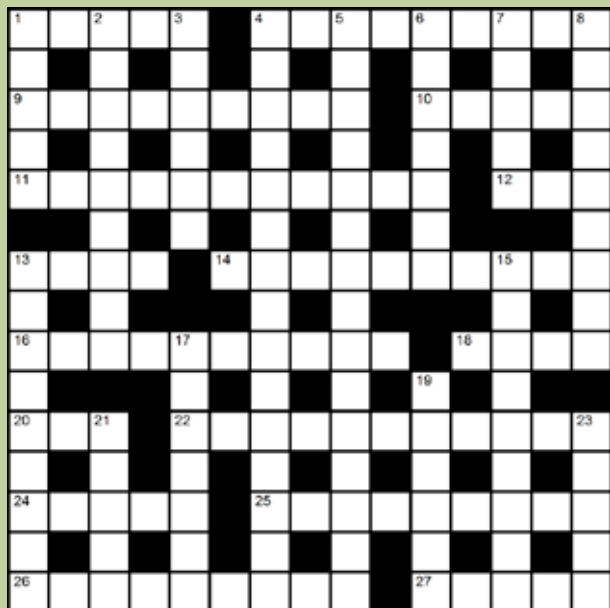
You can follow the GTC on  
Twitter @TheOfficialGTC



# in the shed

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

## CROSSWORD



### ACROSS

- 1 Lightweight wood whose name is Spanish for 'raft' (5)
- 4 Vehicle's instrument panel; fascia (9)
- 9 Island south of the Malay Peninsula, also the name of its capital (9)
- 10 Norfolk-based manufacturer of sports cars, owned by Proton (5)
- 11 Telly addict (5,6)
- 12 Enemy (3)
- 13 White inner skin of eg an orange (4)
- 12/14 Famous George Bush quote from his 1988 Republican National Convention speech (4,2,4:2,3,5)
- 18 Capital city whose name is also part of the NATO phonetic alphabet (4)
- 20 A complication (3)
- 22 Expert in, or collector of, old objects (11)
- 24 Forced labour camp of the Soviet Union (5)
- 25 The common people, from the Greek meaning 'the many' (3,6)
- 26 US state known the Garden State (3,6)
- 27 Instant message service launched in 2003 (5)

### DOWN

- 1 Elementary; unsophisticated (5)
- 2 The first professional cricketer to captain England in a Test match (1952) (3,6)
- 3 1960 instrumental #1 single whose B-side was Quatermaster's Stores (6)
- 4 In one way, to speak somewhat lazily (4,4,7)
- 5 In horse-racing, examination of evidence after a race (8,7)
- 6 Gallery above the dress circle in a theatre (7)
- 7/23 80s/90s synthpop group featuring Anne Dudley and Trevor Horn (3,2,5)
- 8 Medical name for indigestion (9)
- 13 Title to given to an ancient British tribal chief (9)
- 15 At first (9)
- 17 Noisy dispute (7)
- 19 English-based regional dialect of, especially, Jamaica (6)
- 21 Underneath (5)
- 23 See 7

## QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ

1. Man City player seen 'caddying' by the BIGGA Open Support Team at Royal Lytham
2. Which team (and manager) won 5-0 away on the opening day of the new Premiership season?
3. New Spain forward signed by Arsenal
4. These two international Premiership players were recently fined for actions at Euro 2012 for France
5. Top scoring Southampton forward who came off the bench to score within minutes of the first home league game at Man City
6. Name the four first team forwards at Man Utd, plus the 5th who seems headed for the exit

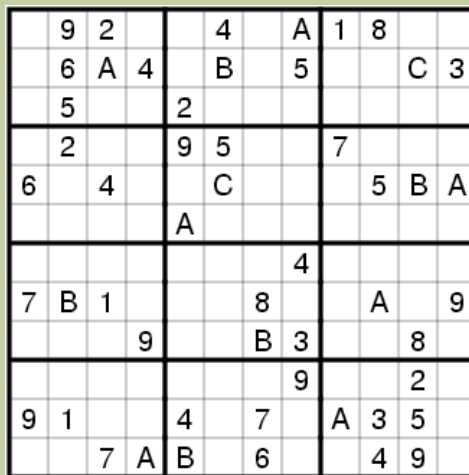
**New Season Soccer Special**

door, and the 6th who is looking for a new Premiership club.

7. Name the top three in the Championship for 2011/12 (in order)

8. Which team came runners up in the League Cup final, and what decided the outcome?

9. What number shirt does Gareth Bale currently wear for Tottenham?



## 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.

**Puzzle Answers on page 65**



## Greens rolling

**Like many turf maintenance operations, the rolling of putting greens has yo-yoed in and out of fashion over the years.**

As technology and the design of rollers have advanced from those used in years gone by, the rolling of golf greens has grown in popularity again. This is the result of the demand for consistently quicker greens, as well as the reduced risk of surface compaction and potential turf damage as a result of using modern rollers.

Rolling has a number of benefits in the preparation of golf greens. Both research trials and practical experience has shown that rolling putting surfaces leads to increased green speeds without having to reduce the height of cut and all the possible negative effects associated with excessively low mowing heights. In addition to the benefit of increased green speed, rolling also tends to improve surface smoothness, as any small inconsistencies associated with immediate turf surface are ironed out.

If the desired green speeds can be achieved through a combination of mowing and rolling it is possible that the frequency of cut could be reduced. Some of the existing research on greens rolling has demonstrated that alternating between rolling and mowing can lead to speed improvements without the need to mow every day.

However, there are a number of pieces in the rolling jigsaw that are still missing. Whilst we understand that rolling increases green speed and smoothness we don't have any consistent data on the optimum conditions for rolling. It is hard to imagine that the conditions under which rolling is carried out will not significantly affect the end result. The key questions that we currently don't have scientifically rigorous data on include:

- *How do ground conditions, especially soil moisture content,*

*influence the effect, the magnitude and longevity of effect of rolling?*

- *Does the optimum window for rolling, in terms of ground conditions, vary based on construction type (sand-based greens versus natural soil greens)?*

- *What effect does moisture presence on the leaf blade at the time of rolling have on the resultant green speed and smoothness? Does rolling when the leaf blade is moist affect the longevity of any improvements in green speed?*

- *What is the effect of different roller types under any given set of conditions? In other words, do different types of roller perform at their best under slightly different conditions or is their performance similar under all conditions?*

- *Does the use of plant growth regulators with an alternating rolling/mowing regime lead to reduced plant stress, whilst producing the same, if not improved, level of performance at a reduced cost?*

- *How consistent are the effects of rolling, in terms of surface performance improvement, and what factors influence these effects?*

If we could answer these questions we'd certainly be in a better position to optimise rolling regimes to get the best out of this important maintenance operation.

One of the interesting questions that often gets asked is which roller is best, the dedicated ride on roller or the triple mounted vibratory roller. From experience, it seems that both types of roller can be highly effective but differences may exist in their optimum window for use, especially on different green constructions.

This is why it is important that we can investigate which factors need to be taken into account when it comes to implementing an effective rolling regime.

If we had more information we could give better advice to help greenkeepers make more informed decisions on when and how much rolling they do.



This kind of information can be gained for individual courses if enough monitoring is carried out to identify when the rolling is most effective. However, this is not really an option for many golf courses. We require universally applicable advice on the appropriate conditions and the effect that conditions have on rolling efficacy. This can be achieved by investigating, under controlled field trial conditions with an intensive testing programme, the influence of various environmental conditions on greens rolling. It would also allow a thorough examination of the effect of rolling on both the smoothness and trueness of golf ball roll.

If I can leave you with one key message from this column, it is that rolling can have real benefits on playing surface performance. The evidence is out there on many golf courses around the world. What we still need to do is make sure we are maximising the benefit from greens rolling by understanding the effect that surface and turf conditions have on its efficacy.

### about the author



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

STRI Agronomist



# BIGGA National Championship 2012

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

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

Fill in the form below to book your spot

The 14th green at The Irvine Golf Club

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

### Please select the relevant category:

- Full Member
- Affiliate Member

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

Name .....

Address.....

.....

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

Mobile.....

E-mail.....

Membership No. ....

Handicap.....

BIGGA Section.....

Golf Club .....

### Payment method (please tick)

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

Card number .....

.....

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

Last 3 security digits .....

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

Signature.....

Date .....

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

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

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

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

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





# Back in time

to this month in 1987

## BIGGA National Championship Special

*Back in time* looks back at cuttings of greenkeeping news from days gone-by. 2012 is a landmark year, being the centenary of Greenkeeping Associations, as well as 25 years since BIGGA was formed. Each month we usually look back at the current month, but in a different year, from over the last hundred. In this special feature, however, we are focusing just on the history of October's National Championship, from its conception in 1987, to the present day

**Not only is 2012 a milestone as we celebrate 25 years of BIGGA, and the centenary of Greenkeeping Associations, it also marks a quarter of a century of the BIGGA National Championship. This month's 'Back in time' focuses on the competition's longevity...**

October 1987 was the month of Michael Fish's notoriously inaccurate statement "there will be no hurricane" – hours before a devastating storm which brought down trees across the UK.

That month's cover of *Greenkeeper International* graphically illustrated this, featuring a photograph of a partially flooded course and a large tree lying horizontal close to the green.

Fortunately, the weather abated for the inaugural event – then called the 'BIGGA Annual Tournament' – at Verulam Golf Club in St Albans, and was proclaimed a "resounding success."

The tournament review stated: "More than seventy greenkeepers turned out over three days to take part over a course kept in fine fettle by head greenkeeper Geoff Smith and his staff."

Black and white images show "some of the competitors and their wives" enjoying the sunshine in front of the clubhouse.

By 1990 the tournament was well-established annually and had already become one of the highlights of the golfing calendar. Competitors basked in "baking sunshine" over three days at Ganton Golf Club in East Yorkshire.

The tournament – now called 'The Hayter Challenge' – celebrated its 10th birthday at the same venue in 1997, and all attendees compli-

mented Head Greenkeeper David Spurden on the outstandingly prepared course.

However, this was totally overshadowed by the tragic news just days later that David had died in a shooting accident on the course.

The turn of the century saw The Charterhouse/Scotts National Championship' held at the venue for this year's Open Championship, Lytham St Annes. Emerging triumphant from an extremely challenging course, and defying wet conditions, was 'Rain Man' Dustin Houghton from Seaford Head in East Sussex.

The 20th event was held across two venues – Dundonald Links and Kilmarnock Barassie, with David Simpson from Crieff Golf Club earning the title of BIGGA National Champion.

As the years have rolled by the championship has retained its huge popularity and prominence. 2010's tournament took place at the spectacular surroundings of The Berkshire and featured a similarly spectacular prize.

Any holes in one on the 10th (Blue course) or the 16th (Red course) would scoop a £20,000 Mini Clubman courtesy of Rigby Taylor.

Unfortunately, this went unclaimed despite "some gallant efforts".

This brings us to last year's event, held at West Lancs, and the current championship holder Jason Hunt from Addington Palace Golf Club near Croydon.

The 2012 National Championship, sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota, will be held at Irvine Golf Club in Scotland on 8 and 9 October.

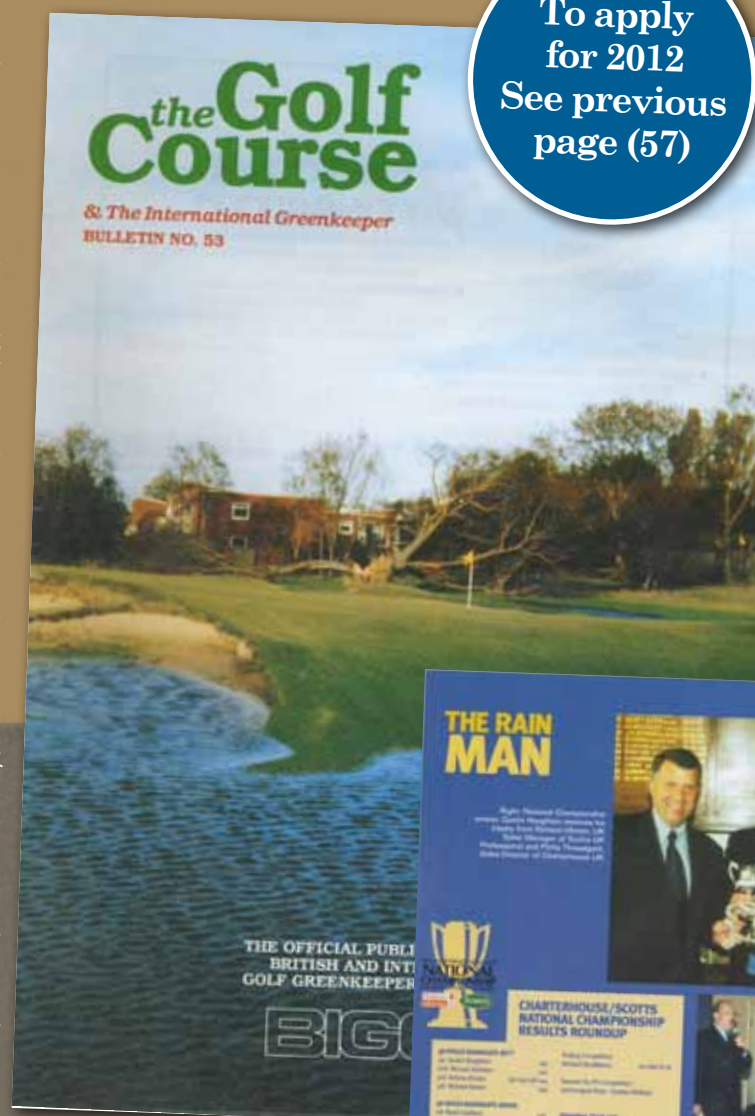
Do you have any old artifacts from days gone-by?

Perhaps your grandad was a greenkeeper and has something stored away in the loft? Maybe an Association tie, or a journal? If so we would love to hear from you. We are particularly interested in the early part of the last century but anything you have would be worth considering for future editions of this article.

Please contact us on 01347 833800 or email Elliott Small, BIGGA Past Chairman,

elliott.edna@hotmail.co.uk

To apply for 2012 See previous page (57)



As you will have seen in the last issue, the club celebrates its 125th anniversary so it should be a particularly special couple of days – keep an eye out for the November issue to find out the winner of the coveted prize.



# Survival of the fittest

Jason Hunt coped with the exacting conditions best of all to become BIGGA's 2011 Champion Golfer



The BIGGA National Championship 2011 is sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota



The wind was blowing hard and the formidable West Lanes course was having its considerable teeth, but one man stood firm to clinch the 2011 BIGGA National Golf Championship, sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota.

Jason Hunt, a 29-year-old Assistant at Addington Palace Golf Club, near Croydon, kept his cool and carefully two putted the final hole for a single shot victory and the biggest win of his golfing career. "I have won a few Open tournaments but the quality of the field here makes this the biggest win I've had," explained Jason, for whom it was the culmination of a fine year which has seen his handicap drop from two to scratch.

"These were the toughest conditions I've ever faced in a top tournament and it is one of the hardest courses I've played. I had to strap for every par," he revealed.

"I had it in mind that it was between our three ball on the second day, me, Garry Duncan, from Carnoustie, and Kevin Boodle, from Guildford. Kevin had a good front nine and was in front at that stage, but Garry was leading by the back nine. I just hung in and on the final green I thought I might have two for it and that proved correct," said Jason, who is self-taught, and who has never changed from the left hand below right grip he adopted when he took up the game.

The opening round was perhaps the difference when, in calmer conditions Jason shot a two over par 74 to hold the clubhouse lead by a single shot from Kevin, and two from Garry. It proved to be the difference when both Jason and Kevin shot 79s on the second round and Garry, dropping a few shots in the closing holes, shot 80 to complete the first second and third in the main competition.

"I thought West Lanes was a fantastic golf course and in superb condition. I'm looking forward to going to Scotland next year to defend my title at Irvine Duneside," said Jason.

"I'd like to thank West Lanes Golf Club, BIGGA and our sponsors, Charterhouse and Kubota, for making it such a wonderful event."

The handicap competition for the BIGGA Challenge Cup produced some real fireworks and one has to feel a little sorry for Mark Tucker, of Saunton Golf Club, who finished third, but had the same 151 score as Mark Blacknell and Gary Burgess.

He did lose out though to two players who, remarkably, both holed 4-irons during their second rounds.

Gary was the most spectacular as it produced that rarest of birds, an albatross! The Grange Park man, had exactly 200 yards to go on the 478 yard 5th hole and his 4-iron was pinpoint accurate.

"I watched it all the way and thought I saw it drop in but you can never be sure from that distance," said Gary, a three handicapper, for whom, needless to say, it was his first ever allstroke.

Mark Blacknell, who won the BIGGA Challenge Cup, was in a purple patch when he arrived at West Lanes, having just won his Club Championship at Leen Valley, but he could not have expected how his 36 holes would pan out.

The 5 handicapper shot a 10 over par 82 on the first day, without making a birdie, but when he set out on the windy second round he soon made up for it.

A 6-iron to eight inches on the



## BIGGA ANNUAL TOURNEY A GREAT SUCCESS



Some of the competitors and their wives enjoying the sunshine in front of Yorkshire's clubhouse.

Annual... at Albans... was a... green-... three... course... heat... and... den with... which were... rman of... es. Mr... a keen... is. The... fated by... (Ford UK... Materials... Baker... in Strutt... as, SWS,

Sports Turf Institute, 5A1 Long Life, T F Parker of Worcester Park, the Golf Course, Golf Landscapes Ltd, Husleys, Brian D Pierson (Contractors), Digby Taylor, Farmura Ltd, DASF UIL, Lloyd's of Letchworth, Synchemicals, CMW Equipment, Kingston House (Mowers) Ltd and A T Oliver & Sons.

The greenkeeper's team for the 1987 Kubota Challenge, being held at The Belfry this month, was announced at the end of the tournament - the qualifiers being the first eight over 54 holes.

The team consists of - P. Wentworth (Handicap 14), I. Toon (9), E. West (9), M. Guy (6), R. Barker (5), N. Whittaker (16), G. Payne (7) and M. Sheeham (7).

### MAJOR PRIZEWINNERS

18 HOLES NET (GROSS) DASH  
1st: J. Hunt, 60  
2nd: P. Burgess, 67  
3rd: G. Payne, 66  
4th: D. Blacknell, 68

Over 60's  
1st: R. Hunt, 73  
2nd: E. Thompson, 79  
3rd: N. Gales, 90

60 HOLES SCRATCH  
R. Barker, 149

60 HOLES NET (9-11)  
1st: I. Toon, 139  
2nd: M. Guy, 140  
3rd: M. Sheeham, 141  
4th: M. Smith, 142

60 HOLES NET (12-14)  
1st: D. Roberts, 138  
2nd: P. Wentworth, 140  
3rd: M. Whittaker, 143  
4th: M. Smith, 146

JURIES CUP (3-A-SIDE TEAM)  
Northants, 423  
- M. Guy, D. Roberts, J. Hancock

CHIEFMAN UNDER "25" CUP  
R. Barker, 146

18 HOLES NET  
1st: M. Smith, 65  
2nd: R. Barker, 66  
3rd: P. Hunt, 65  
4th: M. Guy, 67

PART CHAIRMAN'S CUP  
D. Blacknell

60 HOLES PUTTING COMPETITION  
P. Hunt

## BIGGA NATIONAL TOURNAMENT

### BIGGA NATIONAL TOURNAMENT . . . BIGGA

David Wood's 61 proves too hot to handle



All set for the trophy table laden with "goodies" awaits the lucky winners.

I wasn't just the sun that burnt up the August Ganton course at the year's BIGGA National 54 hole Tournament.

David Wood set the course alight with a second day net 61 (gross 75) to scoop the Maxwell Hart 18 hole medal play prize, easily eclipsing Mark Lawren's score 69 and Dick Murtigh's 69.

A modest David gave credit to the course for his marvellous score. "The green really keeps you on the forebay, you just haven't play a fast shot off the line. And with the fairways so fast and the greens muzzing this everything just seemed to come off. I didn't miss a putt."

Home course head greenkeeper David Spurlin produced Ganton in top con-

dition, a fact both commented on and appreciated by everyone's local ground staff. David also did himself great credit returning net rounds of 77, 72, and 69.

Greenkeeping Management's Editor MIKE MCLENNAM, reports on the year's BIGGA National Tournament held at Ganton Golf Club, East Yorkshire, a tough, uncompromising but beautiful venue.

80 to put him well up on the leader board at 229.

Ganton's sunbaked the stability East Yorkshire venue, but a scorching breeze just managed to prevent the 63

competitors' leaders overlooking company. A cold beer afterwards in the clubhouse also did wonders!

"One set of delicate stemware brought from the head waters tournament" was a change - BIGGA Executive Director Neil Thomas, Chairman for Scores and Education Officer, David Dunning.

An overall goal to keep the tournament kicking over in a calm and organised fashion. All credit too to the local Rawcliffe boys who mowed the local in-

cont. on Page 13



HEAT UP... David Wood collects the Maxwell Hart Trophy and Pennington Cup from BIGGA Chairman Ivor Scores.



Mark Diment puts up the William Hargreaves (SWS) Trophy from Terry Dickinson.

Photographs by Alan Birch



# BUYERS' GUIDE



## Green innovation

Golf courses are facing challenges on three fronts - climate change, difficult economic climate, and environmental pressures. Selecting the right products that can stand up to these challenges is key. With this in mind, Lindum Turf has developed a range of high quality products to suit the particular needs of golf courses with a focus on innovation in grass technology.

### CHOICE OF TEES

With the renovation season fast approaching, Lindum can supply a choice of tees grade turf to suit your course and preferences. LT4 Smooth Stalked Tees is a high quality mixture of a fine bladed cultivar of smooth stalked meadow grass with fescues, combining fine appearance with hard wear and recovery. LT5 Rye Tees is a hard wearing mix combining the repair and recovery of wear tolerant ryegrasses with a dense smooth stalked meadow grass/fescue base.

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