

12. Getting That Job

“Too much competition”, “jobs being filled internally without advertising”, “I don’t have the skill set for the type of course”, “no private club or proprietary business experience”, “I have never been a Course Manager”, “I lack interview experience”, “my spouse/family does not want to move”. These are just some of the obstacles identified by prospective Course Managers during our Continue to Learn workshop. So you are not alone, you have to overcome these obstacles by process of elimination. Whatever the barriers are, reduce them.

By the way, I am not suggesting you leave your spouse! Make a sideways move if necessary to gain specific experience. If you hear of a vacant position be proactive, submit a CV and explain why you would be a good choice, don’t wait for an advertisement. The main trait that will overcome these hurdles is confidence, a lot of the perceived obstacles above are born out of a lack of confidence in your ability.

The more experience, knowledge and skills that you gain the more confident in your abilities you will be, there is no escaping this fact. It is the person who is fully prepared, persuasive, determined and goal focused that gets the job. All the things that a good Course Manager should be anyway then!

13. Marketplace

This is included because if you are going to move up in your career you have to know the market you are in.

Do your research and look for jobs in the marketplace that fit your skill set. If you feel the marketplace is crowded for certain course management roles, be prepared to go for a job that you may find less appealing but also has less competition.

It is about getting that first manager’s role that sets you on your way. Aim at clubs that might be looking for new ideas and enthusiasm, find out what their problems are and formulate plans to help them. Most of all make sure you are ‘marketable’ and are able to meet the prospective job’s specification.

14. Networking

Get yourself out there in the industry, get to know course managers, club managers, professionals, consultants, Association officials and staff, trade members

about the author



Kevin Munt

Kevin Munt is Principle Consultant at KMgc. Forty years ago he started his greenkeeping career during which time has been the Course Manager at the Hankley Common, Royal Dornoch and Wentworth Golf Clubs. Kevin has also project managed golf course constructions and been Operations Manager Buckinghamshire Golf Club

www.kmgcgolfconsultancy.com
krmunt@kmgcgolfconsultancy.com

and peers. Get yourself known (professionally!) on social media such as Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter.

Get on greenkeeping and turf management forums and ‘turf clubs’. It is often not what, but who you know. Aged 20 I was the secretary of the BB&O section and ended up on the steering committee for the formation of BIGGA, all things that got me noticed. At least two of my major career moves were facilitated because of personal recommendation from industry professionals. I didn’t see these relationships as networking at the time but there is little doubt they could be described as such.

15. Curriculum Vitae

A CV won’t get you a job but it can get you that all important interview. Firstly it needs to be read and that means it must be engaging. Make sure yours is professional, up to date with no time gaps, succinct, and get it proofread by someone who can spell. There is so much information on the internet on how to prepare a CV and plenty of seminars from BIGGA too, so there are no excuses. A CV equals a professional profile, so make sure it presents you in the best possible light.

Break down your CV into the following sections:

Personal details – Name, address, age, marital status, contact details

Profile – Brief summary of experience, character and suitability

Key Skills/Achievements – Eg agronomy, people, quality, presentation, IT

Key Characteristics – Enthusiasm, motivation, leadership, organisation, resilience

Career Summary – From today back to the start of your career

Career Detail – Key achievements in each role

Interests – Professional and recreational

Getting an interview is dependent on the quality of your CV so do not fall at the first hurdle with a mediocre representation of yourself.

16. Interview Ability

A good handshake, smart appearance, eye contact and a quiet but assured confidence works every time. I know this because I have been in many interviews on the employer’s side of the table so I know what engages me. Note all of this ‘information’ is gained before a question has even been asked, so first impressions do count.

If you are short on interview experience practice with someone with experience, carrying out roleplay is the only way you are going to ready yourself for the real situation. Yes there will be the dynamics of the interview room to deal with as well as those ‘killer questions’, so get yourself prepared and be well versed in your answers. This means researching your prospective employer, you want to find out the following:

- Club information
- Type of business
- Type of course
- Future aims
- Staff levels
- Membership numbers
- Financial position
- Course condition
- Resources

One unforgivable mistake I’ve seen repeatedly at interview is the candidate not walking or playing the course. What sort of interest in your prospective employers’ club do you think this demonstrates? So again this is about preparation and research.

17. Implementation

At the end of it all, once you have a Course Managers job, you are employed to implement. Using the resources at your disposal you have to implement your plans within budget and in line with the agreed course management policy. In other words you have to deliver on all of the skills and knowledge you have gained in steps one to sixteen. It is one thing finally getting a Course Managers job but it is through efficient implementation that you will keep it.

18. Review

Lastly reflection. You should review all of the implemented plans and work, checking progress, learning, benchmarking and adjusting accordingly. This review does not just apply to the work produced by your staff and yourself, but of your progress as a manager and the progress of your chosen career. You will often find that you need more learning, sometimes you may find that you have made the wrong move, or that you need to test yourself in a more demanding role. A review will ensure your career as a Golf Course Manager stays on course.

I wish you the best of luck and look forward to seeing and hearing of your progression in the golf course industry.

Photographic competition

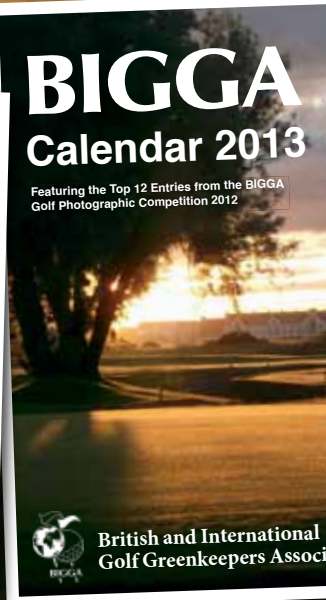
How you can win our coveted members' competition, and see your photography grace Greenkeeper International and the BIGGA Calendar 2014, following in the footsteps of recent winner – Craig Boath, Head Greenkeeper of the Carnoustie Championship Course

Are you a BIGGA member and do you fancy yourself as a budding photographer? The competition offers you the chance to portray your course in a variety of publications, with the winner receiving a full course feature in GI

Our industry offers terrific oppor-

tunities for stunning photography across the year – and now is the time to send in the images many of you have captured from the autumn and winter. The forthcoming weeks also offer another chance for great spring and summer shots.

The competition is judged by a panel of experts including profes-



sional photographers Alan Birch and Eric Hepworth – and the winner will receive a framed image of their choice from Eric's super selection of golf course photography (www.hepworthgolfphotography.com), as well as one of your own entry. Two runners-up will receive an unframed print, and the final 12 will all be featured in next year's calendar.

To enter, please send your images to comps@bigga.co.uk - the closing

date is the 31st July 2013.

Please write "BIGGA PHOTO COMP 2013" is the subject header of your email, and label your entries with your name, club/college currently at, membership number and a brief caption of the course.

Images need to be high resolution and landscape shape (at least 30cm wide at 300dpi) suitable for an A3 calendar.

Please avoid reducing the file size as this will reduce the quality – we

recommend one image per email if file size becomes an issue – or use a compression facility such as winzip or an ftp site such as www.mailbigfile.com

There is no limit to the amount of images you can send us., but please seek permission of the club before sending your entries – we are sure they will be delighted with the potential coverage.

Only BIGGA members are eligible to enter. Good to luck to all.



Craig Boath's stunning early morning shot of Carnoustie's Burnside Course

Section Notes

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



All the latest news from your Section

Around The Green

SCOTLAND



AYRSHIRE

It's been a long time since the Section has had anything in the magazine and I would like to do a bit of catching up. The Section committee is now: Chairman - Jim Paton, Vice Chairman - Euan Grant, Past Chairman - George Morrison, Secretary - Derek Wilson, Committee members - Iain Barr, Frank Clarkson, Graeme King, Martin Lothian, Stephen Higgins.

The Section Spring outing was held over the links at Dundonald at the beginning of May. Thanks to the Frank and his staff for presenting the course for the day. There was an improved turnout this year and the Committee hope that this level of support will continue and even improve at the Autumn outing at Prestwick St. Nicholas on 1 October. Prize winners were as follows.

First Class: 1 Gregor Wilson; 2 Stephen McBlain; 3 Derek Wilson. Second Class: 1 Martin Lothian; 2 Iain Barr; 3 Kevin Wason. Trade: John Condron.

There will be a new name on the Harry Diamond Jug as last years' winner Iain MacDonald did not compete in this event.

The Section Committee would like to encourage members to get involved again in Section activities and as such are trying to arrange some small educational days.

These would take the format of around an hour's talk by selected speakers which will be arranged during the later months of the year.

Bernhards Grinders have agreed to come up and give a

demonstration of techniques in this line of machinery. This will provisionally be 10 or 11 September.

Rigby Taylor will arrange a visit to see round the training facility at Murray Park for anyone interested, date to be confirmed also.

Aquatrols are also willing to provide a speaker for a talk on wetting agent properties and a date for this will also be confirmed when we can tie up with a visit to this country by one of the company executives.

On the happy side of things since our last report, congratulations to our past Chairman George and Maggie on the birth of their second child Abbie, and also at about the same time George had his fortieth birthday. He hasn't been too well recently so get well too George. That's from Iain especially. Largs host the Scottish National tournament in June. If anyone has anything they would like included in the Section Report then please contact me on my mobile:

07840 724435 or by e-mail at jimp54@btinternet.com.

Jim Paton



CENTRAL

By the time you read this hopefully the weather will have improved and the second round of the pairs competition will have been completed. It's been a good start to this competition with everyone enjoying visiting each other's courses as well as the competitive element. The results are posted on www.biggacentralsection.org.uk after each round.

On the education front, we're hoping that John Kaminski of Penn State will give a seminar

on 23 or 24 July when he is over and once this is confirmed we will notify people in the normal way. Congratulations to Euan Kay on being awarded the best NC student in greenkeeping at Elmwood for 2012/13. Euan is currently working in a summer position at The Castle Course. Well done also to all the other students who have successfully past their respective courses.

Gordon Moir



EAST

Last month we held our Spring golf outing at Seahouses Golf Club, it was good to see a turnout of 26 golfers who made the longer than normal journey.

The section had put a bus on for this event to travel down and the banter was flowing both ways on the bus, we hope to repeat this for next year's outing to Goswick if we have plenty of interest.

Thanks to Seahouses for their hospitality and the warm welcome extended to our members, Alistair Holmes and his team had the golf course in great condition, and given the recent weather they have had in the area the course played very well indeed (

The mere Zephyr made scoring difficult on the day here are the results: Scratch Ross Prowse 76; 1st Class winner Kenny Mail 76 nett (bih); 1st Class runner up Scott Corrigan 76 nett; 2nd Class winner Chris Yeaman 76 nett; 2nd Class runner up George Thomson 78 nett; Trade winner Ian Lauder 70 nett; Veterans winner Alistair Holmes 80 nett; Best nett prize Sean Cunningham 80 nett; Nearest the pin prize Ryan McCulloch, Longest drive Grant Moran (think the wind died down to be

fair?) and our Guest prize went to Derek (over golfed) Scott from Scoonie GC.

Following the golf we had a short presentation from James Whittick (Greenbest Ltd) on their Purity soil improver, thanks James for a very informative talk.

It was also good to see our Scottish Chairman Andy O'Hara in attendance, it is much appreciated by our section and we hope to see you again later in the year.

The section can confirm that we have arranged a course walk over Muirfield Links to look over and discuss the preparations for this years Open Championship, this walk will be held on Tuesday 2 July at 2.30pm and will be CPD registered, the walk will consist of a tour of the course and a Q&A session with the Course Manager Colin Irvine.

This event has just 40 spaces, please get in contact with the section asap to place your interest in attending as this event will be open to all sections.

On a personal note I made the transition to the dark side if you like when I attended the Ayrshire spring golf meeting held at Dundonald Golf Links at the beginning of May, I was made very welcome and had a great days golf over a very good course, met some new colleagues and even managed to win a raffle prize which is unusual for me.

The section would like to welcome our newest member Robert King Mortonhall, we hope you enjoy BIGGA and we look forward to seeing you at our functions.

Until next month, I have a trivia question for you with a prize to the first person to email the correct answer, can you the name our Scottish member who has travelled more than Ernie Els to play golf this season, and to give you a clue, he always wins the raffle?

Scott Corrigan scottcorrigan4@aol.com or 07877098237



NORTH

Not a great deal for this month as it has been a bit quiet but we did have the Spring outing at Duff House Royal Golf Club so here are the winners:

Nearest the pin at the 6th Roy Donald; 9th Pat Allan; 13th Blair Young. Moving on to the sweep: 4; Gordon Leslie Duff House; 3rd Blair Young Aitkens; 2nd Lewis Valentine Moray; 1st Mike Braidwood Royal Aberdeen.

Trade Winner Blair Young Aitkens. The Committee trophy was won by our Chairman Robert Patterson.

Veterans: 2nd Roy Donald Oldmeldrum; 1st Brian Hunter McDonald.

The Apprentice trophy was won by Lewis Valentine Moray Golf Club. Class 3: 3rd Stephen Cocker Peterculter; 2nd Lewis Valentine Moray; 1st Mike Braidwood Royal Aberdeen. Class 2: 3rd Mark McClaren Royal Aberdeen; 2nd Kevin Spowart Royal Aberdeen; 1st Roy Donald Oldmeldrum. Class 1: 3rd place Robert Patterson Royal Aberdeen; 2nd Fraser Downie Peterculter; 1st Gordon Leslie Duff House. Scratch: 2nd place Neil Sadler; 1st Gary Tough from Letham Grange.

The Committee would like to thank Head Greenkeeper Gordon Leslie and his staff for a course presented in first class condition.

A big thank you to everybody you turned up and contributed to a great day those of you who were unable to attend missed a great day played in good spirit and in brilliant sunshine.

Some other news is Ross Macrae's apprentice at Turriff Golf Club was first in the BIGGA 2nd year student award so very well done to him.

Ross Macrae and myself travelled down to Douglas Park Golf Club in Glasgow to represent the North Section in the BIGGA v Secretaries.

Unfortunately we lost by one hole but the team won overall and retained the trophy.

Please get in touch if you have anything to report with Robert Patterson mob 07931639548 or Dale Robertson mob 07784517534

NORTHERN



NORTH EAST

As I had too much news last month's issue I can finish off talking about Michael McKenna's move to his new job in Dubai.

This comes after three years travelling the world working at the best courses home and abroad and talking with top turf professionals advancing his career.

He said he always believed from an apprentice just starting in this profession you have to work with the best at top courses to advance your career - this has been helped by two Head Greenkeepers.

Firstly David Simpson of Tyneside GC who was a great inspiration to him as an apprentice and Malcolm Lathan of Hexham GC who spent time educating him in modern methods he said he cannot thank them enough.

David Cole and Peter Haggerty at Loch Lomond advanced his understanding to a new level before taking the Internship in the States, during his time at Scioto CC he worked with Bob Becker who helped his chemical application skills.

He would also like to thank the following Carson Kamps of Lake Nona in Florida, Brendan Allan at The Hills in New Zealand and finally Mike O'Keefe Programme Manager at the Ohio State Global Intern Program.

He says he would recommend his program to anyone looking to advance their career.

After another course visit we have managed to recruit a few lads from Close House after explaining all of the benefits of joining BIGGA.

From a personal view I don't think you can beat the personal touch of explaining everything that members can get ranging from legal assistance to education plus much more.

We also have two new members from Percy Wood Country Park who have recently completed level 2 in Sportsturf. Their boss Simon Olver is coming to the end of his first year of a

sports turf degree through Myer-scough College - he says it's a lot of time and effort but worth it all. I think it's great many of our section members are taking full advantage of all the educational opportunities, keep pestering your boss to assist you with all these opportunities.

After a disappointing turnout of our recent Spring Competition an idea has been put forward by Simon Olver Course Manager of Percy Wood Golf & Country Retreat to have the summer golf day on a Saturday more people turning up.

Definitely a good idea but I wondered who would let us play on their course on a prime time and day and give us courtesy with out upsetting their members, so I asked Simon and now Percy Wood is booked for August 17 tee time is 10-12noon.

This competition is for BIGGA members, non-members and anyone involved in the turf industry.

Local companies are to be asked if they would like to sponsor this event, and play in this unique competition or just come along and enjoy the day.

Lloyds and Rigby Taylor are already on board, if anyone has any queries please call me on 07910 641745.

Jimmy



NORTH WEST

By the time this gets published everyone should have had a fixture list for this year. Please try and attend one of the events as it gives you a chance to meet fellow professionals and catch up.

Next is the summer tournament at Ormskirk golf club on 1 July, I expect this will be popular and would ask you to put your name down early to get a booking.

Please contact Phil Dewhurst on 07768180604 for details. The cricket match against the North Wales Section will be on 24 July please contact Nick Gray for details.

I can be contacted on 07840706738 or at jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk

Chris Sheehan



NORTHERN

The season's golf got underway at last at Hornsea Golf Club, they gave us a lovely welcome and looked after us, the weather held too for those brave souls who made the effort and a massive thanks to Mel for his dedicated support to the section and jumping in at short notice to co sponsor the event with Bathgate Sands. Mel and Mark Price (the MD of Bathgate) were great hosts and provided a fantastic prize table for the winners.

Div 1 winner Dave Collins; 2nd Bob Turner; 3rd Nigel Coultash; Div 2 winner Nigel Booth; 2nd Rob Walker; 3rd Andy Slingsby. Div 3 winner Ken Christie; 2nd Richard Smith. Nearest the pins went to Joe Walsh and Tracey Maddison from HQ. Trade winner was Ian Collett from Rigby Taylor.

And finally on the day another thank you to Mel for making sure Mr Jackson got home safely, the only thing missing was the old stalwart, our president Mr Cockburn who sadly could not make it as he was looking after his poorly wife.

She's now on the mend. Scarthingwell is next up then followed by our traditional match with our friends from Sheffield section in July. Anyone wishing to play please let me know. August 19th is the invitation day at Wetherby 2pm tee off. Autumn comp is on September 19 at Woodsome Hall tee off 1.45, and finally Christmas at Baildon December 12th with a 10am tee time. Congratulations to Andy Stanger for his appointment at Headingley Golf Club as new course manager.

Andy 07506407867 Andy.slingsby98@googlemail.com



SHEFFIELD

I trust that you are all well and as the season is in full swing you are all being lavished with the

Around The Green

praise that you rightly deserve. As you may have noticed in last month's magazine I am no longer able to serve as Secretary and that we have been looking for a member to fill this position.

After we had whittled the applicants down we were able to undergo an interview process to select the best possible candidate. I am pleased to announce that your new section Secretary is Neil Peters.

Neil stood out with his energy and drive to move the section forward. I hope that you will all give Neil your support and I also would like to wish Neil the best of luck.

Also with Neil now being a member of the committee we will have more time with him to study and reduce his handicap.

I hope that you have all received your fixture cards for the upcoming season and are personally looking forward to getting out on the course to see how your fellow greenkeepers are doing as the season goes on. Our first fixture of the year was held at Bondhay GC. There will be a report of this next month.

We'll be trying some different ideas through the 2013 golf season such as a variation of prizes on offer to our winners and also developing a two tier division to allow everyone a chance of winning a prize. As a committee we hope this may bring more members to events and when they do attend they will realise what they have been missing.

James Stevens



NORTH WALES

Starting with events, the North Wales/North West match was played on 31 May, I hope the best team won.

Our spring tournament was played at Bull Bay and the results are: 1 Andy Peel (home advantage!); 2 I Cooper; 3 Carl Crocher, Andy Peel and I Cooper qualify for the National later in the year, a big thank you goes to Andy Peel and everyone involved in giving the section a great day's golf and hospitality.

Other news, the golfers at Vale of Llangollen and Denbigh golf

clubs will hopefully be able to relax now knowing that I and John Ellis have successfully passed our first aid at work refresher and are qualified for another 3 years.

Our best wishes go to Gareth (bronco) Williams of Porthmadog Golf Club who recently had an operation; we all hope you have a speedy recovery. Please remember to keep checking not only our Facebook page but also the main BIGGA website for the latest events and news.

Pete Maybury 07756001187. E-mail petemayb66@aol.com Facebook, North Wales BIGGA.

MIDLAND



MIDLAND

The first golf day of the year was held at Robin Hood Golf Club on 14 May with 40 competitors. Despite the rain, the course was enjoyed by all, which is a testament to the talents of Course Manager Andy Wood and his team.

Andy has undertaken an extensive programme of redevelopment at Robin Hood, which is evident as you wander through the much changed parkland course. The greens were first class, both quick and free draining.

The day was sponsored by Banks Amenity Products Ltd, with Simon Banks presenting the prizes to the lucky winners: 1 S Scott; 2 D Stanley; 3 C Bromley; 4 S White; 5 A Wilkes; 6 A Brougham; 7 K Allen. Nearest the pin prizes were donated by Sherriffs, Countrywide, White-moss and Redtech and won by E Stant, N Ashman, C Bromley and J Moverley. The trade prize was won by Tony Cheese, Rigby Taylor. As always, many thanks to those who sponsored the event including Farols for the much needed drinks and snacks around the course.

Future events to look out for on the website include a trip to the FA's new National Football Centre at Burton on 17 June, a trip to the Bathgate quarry with Sherriff Amenity on 3 July and the Everris doubles draw. All

information including contact details are available at www.biggamidlandsection.co.uk

Many thanks to this month's calendar sponsor ALS. Please consider them when ordering course equipment, products and contract work, and finally, for all those who want to play at Penn GC in the summer tournament on 10 July, get your entries in to Rhys Thomas as early as possible, including payment. We would encourage pre-payment to make life easier on the day. All entry sheets including payment details are available on the website.

Ed Stant



EAST OF ENGLAND

Once again apologies for the lack of writing last month. I did have it all ready to go, however computer problems prevented me sending it. Next month I will type it on my iPhone!

Our annual seminar was held on 28 February at Newark Golf Club. Once again an excellent line up of speakers was on offer. Dan Lightfoot MG of Bearwood Lakes gave an interesting presentation about his club and course and the best ways of communicating renovation and improvement with the membership.

Stephen Kateley then demonstrated the latest in spray nozzle technology in particular the benefits of "low drift" nozzles.

The discussion with Ian Macmillan from The Great Turf Company about the benefits of activated microbial management and work carried out on course construction in Europe certainly proved the most thought provoking of the day.

There was also a stump grinding demonstration which was eye opening to people who had never seen one of these machines used before. Once again the famous Newark Cow Pie was well received by all at lunchtime. Many thanks to all the speakers on the day and again to Newark Golf Club for their hospitality.

Our golf days for this year have now been finalised: 22 May Market Rasen; 25 July

Newark; 19 September Norwood Park (near Newark) - match vs secretaries; 16 October Spalding - section AGM; 13 December Lincoln (Torksey) - Christmas Invitation Texas Scramble. Details of tee off times are still to be finalised but should anyone wish to play in these fun golf days should contact Bruce Hicks.

Steve Beverly



BB&O

As we approach the halfway mark in the year and with two of the golfing Majors completed hopefully everyone has got their courses through spring and maintenance renovation work, and can now enjoy the benefit of some decent conditions with clubs seeing a welcome boost in golfer numbers after what has been a tough couple of years for the golfing business.

Newbury and Crookham GC played host to the BB&O Spring meeting at the beginning of May.

The event sponsored by John Deere Dealership Farol's was well attended with over 50 people turning out on the day. Steve Austin and Peter Helps of Farol's welcomed everyone to the first tee and provided refreshments at the halfway point.

A big thank you must go to the Staff at Newbury and Crookham who were excellent hosts and in particular Alec Macindoe and his team who produced a cracking course which presented a great test and golfing challenge.

Rob Catlin of Amenity Technology returned as winner with 37 points followed closely in second by Adam King with 36 points, third on count back was Kevin Day 36 points and fourth place going to Brian Whitney 35 points. Nearest the pin was won by David Lyons and the longest drive went to Mark Hancock.

Swan Golf Designs and Countrywide sponsored the nearest the pin and longest drive. Once more a huge thank you must go to our sponsors for their continued support and commitment to the section.

The golf days simply could not happen without them.

The next event will be the

confirmed shortly and will be played in either August or September which doubles as the qualifier for the National Finals at our very own Frilford Heath G.C. Please check the website for details and entry forms www.bbogreenkeepers.co.uk

If anyone is interested in training be it chainsaw or spraying courses then please get in touch with our Regional Administrator Sandra Raper - sandra@bigga.co.uk

If anyone wishes to have their email address added to the BIGGA HQ system then please drop Sandra an e mail with your contact details.

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

The Stick



SOUTH EAST



SURREY

The great British Spring can be extremely fickle and can blow hot or cold, wet and windy. This year we have experienced many surprises, with a few warm spells encouraging a welcome boost in growth on the golf course, to a rapid change where temperatures have tested our sanity, leaving us to ponder what delights the weather has in store for us in June.

On the 18th April, the section headed for Epsom Downs GC where the golf, as well as the views, is absolutely stunning with the Capital seemingly only a few seven irons away.

Inspiring, challenging and never ordinary, a links on top of the downs renowned for its testing, undulating greens, and revered for the extraordinary friendliness of its members and staff gave us all a warm welcome on and off the fairways as we competed in a Spring Texas scramble.

The Richmond Rovers, led by Les Howkins, putted on greens that are legendary, consistent and very true. This demanding test of surprising speed and undulation gifted the Rovers a victory to savour on the downs.

Striking the longest drive with a Commando, Big Boy Russell, waltzed his way down the 11th with a Jumbo drive. Well-struck, Jim.

Kevin Boxhall whipped up a shot on the 17th dance floor to tie up The Nearest Pin at 4ft 8" - a short distance mentioned by many on the day.

To enter the Clubhouse is to take a step back in time. The Victorian Snooker table, the wooden panels that adorn the room, the ancient scoreboard, and the pictures of the Club Captains representing more than a century, all conspire to create an ambience which exudes history. Only the billows of cigar and cigarette smoke, that would surely have immersed the room in the early days, are missing now.

For lovers of golf and its history, Epsom is a club to visit,

not only to enjoy the traditional downland challenge it offers, but also to soak up the atmosphere of bygone days in the clubhouse. We look forward to going back in time - another time.

Mark Day



KENT

We are very blessed in our fair county to have, I honestly believe, the finest complete range of different golf courses in the land. They range from the famous tournament links venues to the rolling parkland courses the majority of us tend to on a daily basis.

Very few, however, could be described as so delightfully quirky as Chislehurst Golf Club that a strong contingent of us have played. Set in the middle of possibly the richest area of real estate in the region under the gaze of the imperious clubhouse which in a former life was Napoleon Bonapart's stately home, sits this superbly presented course.

Luckily, I think we managed to get around without upsetting anyone too much and we were soon sunning ourselves on the terrace trying to work out where it all went wrong again. One common suggestion as to why many of us struggled today was that for once we had to make do without Vic Maynard and his well stocked Ernest Doe's refreshment wagon. Vic was away on business on this occasion apparently but sorely missed. We look forward to seeing you soon mate!

After a lovely dinner in the very ornate dining room it was on to the prizes and usual good laugh with each other. One interesting topic of discussion was Foot Golf (check it out on You Tube). Corinthians Golf Club (formerly Fawkham Valley Golf Club) have now set up a Foot Golf course which has just opened.

This is really cracking fun and not as easy as you would think! Give it a go at Corinthians. We are planning a summer evening Foot Golf do in June or July followed by a barbecue so let us know if you will be up for it.

Nearly forgot to say that

Wayne Syers (who's had more clubs than Nick Faldo but now at London Club) won on 38 points. Well done to Nick Leech and Paul Rudkin who won Nearest pin and Longest drive respectively. Many thanks to Chislehurst Golf Club for hosting us and we look forward to taking you up on your offer of a return visit in a few years time.

Next week Kent's finest return to Upton Park as defending Home Counties football champions to defend their title against BB&O. After a resounding victory against an experienced Essex team last year we hope to retain the Toro/Lely Trophy.

Rob Holland
Premier Golf

www.kentgreenkeepers.com



EAST ANGLIA

Ufford Park got us off to a cracking start for the 2013 season. The course was in excellent condition thanks to Adrian Hollins and his merry men. The main sponsors for the day were Bartram Mowers, Ramsomes and Jacobsen who looked after us very well. Thank you. Those that bothered to practice through the winter are:

0 - 9 Handicap: 1st, Michael Buck, 35 Points; 2nd, Graham Hurren, 34 Points; 10 - 18 Handicap: 1st, Nick Chase, 35 Points; 2nd, John Andrews, 34 Points; 19 - 28 Handicap - Real Golfers; 1st, Andy Baker, 27 Points; 2nd, Richard Mitchell, 21 Points; G & T: 1st, Mark Bartram, 39 Points; 2nd, Terry Mills, 33 Points; Nearest Pin, 3rd Trevor Hurn, 10th Brian Lindores, 16th Brian Kemp; Longest Drive, Michael Buck

The two players going to the nationals are Michael Buck and Nick Chase. We wish them well. Other sponsors for the day were Aitkens and Toro. Thank you Ufford Park for a super day. Next stop Stowmarket 27 June.

NB - Ian made a very interesting speech!

The first topic was about us all getting involved more in environmental projects on our courses and taking part in the STRI competition. Bat boxes, bird boxes, wild flower areas

MID ANGLIA

Hello all and once again just as we seem to be turning the corner it decides to go cool on us which considering we are in mid may isn't ideal. Everywhere I go everybody is bemoaning the lack of growth. I'm sure things will improve and by the time you read this we will be in glorious mid summer.

Once again please make contact if you have any news and check our Facebook page for info on upcoming events such as our Summer event at Brookmans Park GC on August 6. We will have played at Beds & County GC so let's hope we are lucky with the weather and from what I can gauge will be a well-attended event.

Once again please advise us if you have any educational needs for your clubs or are interested in visiting the Arsenal FC training ground as numbers will be limited so get in asap to avoid missing out.

Darren

– anything like that makes a difference. The second topic was a viagra trip that went a bit wrong! Still he didn't fall out of bed!!! (Too much information)

Mick Lathrope



ESSEX

Our first golf day of the year was held at Frinton Golf Club, with 26 members and guests taking to the course. Andy Cracknell and his team have brought the course up to an exceptional standard, with fine slick greens and fairways that were nearly as short. To break with tradition we held lunch before we played golf, after which our Chairman Ian Wood presented last year's Chairman Mark Stopps with a small gift as a token of our appreciation for all he did for the section during his term of office.

The section would like to thank all those involved in making our day at Frinton such a pleasant experience. Results: Greenkeepers 1 Stuart Rogers 37 points; 2 Joss Neale 32 pts; 3 Liam Springett 32pts CB; 4 Andy Toomey 32 pts CB. Sponsors Larry Pearman 35 pts (Toro). Guest Paul Beecroft 34 pts. Nearest the pin 6th Hole Arnold Phipps-Jones; 13th Hole Craig Serafin.

The next golf day is on Thursday 15 August at Channels Golf Club for the National Qualifier. Bacon roll and coffee from 11.00am, 18 hole Stablford, plus a BBQ afterwards, £20 members/sponsors. £30 guests.

Membership clarification will be required prior to your playing at all events this year please. Details are on the website, under Competition Rules 2013 this is within the golf section of the section website. We have also decided to sell our raffle tickets before you play, rather than badger you afterwards. This we hope will speed things along and allow you all to site down for your dinner quicker upon your return from the course. Tickets will be on sale when you collect your scorecard.

In this, the last of the Section News as you have known it for

the past umpteen years, I would like to say, "That's all from me this month", look out for a new style of news in the next edition of GI Magazine.

Contact details 07764-862.337 or at essexbigga@talktalk.net plus our website www.essexbigga.co.uk

Arnold Phipps-Jones

SOUTH WEST & WALES



SOUTH WEST

Greetings from the South West section, great to see things moving on all of our courses after a period of "warmer" weather that verged on summer conditions over the bank holiday weekend, a rare occurrence indeed for a bank holiday.

A fantastic day was had by all at the first Section event of the year at Minchinhampton New Golf Club on 24 April.

After a nail-biting conclusion that required a countback 1st place was Nick Pusey & Mike Wootton on 47 points, 2nd were Ali Turner and Nathan Heavens also on 47 points and 3rd place went to Chris Sealey & Pete Schrader on 45 points.

Thanks to all competitors who turned out and most importantly a huge thank you to all at Minchinhampton for putting on a great day for everyone who attended.

The next events coming up are Section v Secretaries on 29 May at The Manor House Golf Club and Section Summer Tournament on 12 June at Kingsdown Golf Club. Remember that the Summer Tournament start time has been pushed back to 1pm so get your entries in to Adam as soon as possible to ensure your place in the field at this fantastic venue.

Finally, welcome to new section member Kevin Wilkins from Tewkesbury who has recently joined the section. Keep the news coming and hopefully we will see as many of you as possible at the upcoming events.

Jaey Goodchild
(07984422295 j.goodchild@bowood.org)



SOUTH COAST

As I write this in mid-May it's 11 degrees and raining again, hopefully by the time you read this it will be summer!

Here at Barton on "Britain's sunshine coast" we managed to get through the early May Pro-Am during the only decent spell of weather so far this year. A couple of light top dressings, speed rolled in a drying easterly wind and the stimp reading was right up where I wanted it.

One pro five putted so we must have got them right! Since then it's been back to routine, trying to keep everything cut and well presented.

Our next golf event is at the Army Golf Club near Aldershot on 4 July, this is another great venue and if you haven't played there make the effort to go – it's well worth it.

The cost of the day will be £25 with first tee off at 1pm, so everyone can go to work for the early morning routine tasks.

Entries as usual to Kevan Glass, Keepers Cottage, Brokenhurst Manor G.C. Sway Road, Brokenhurst, Hants. SO42 7SG, information glassy20003@hotmail.com, all payments to be received before the day please.

Congratulations to Jon Worrall on achieving his level 3 qualification in excellent time, I assume it will be with a distinction as I wouldn't expect anything else from you Jon!

Tony Gadd



SOUTH WALES

I have just read through what I wrote for ATG this month last year and it started "I feel it in my fingers I feel it in my toes" that famous Wet, Wet Wet song, the last six weeks couldn't be further from that.

In 2012 April was a complete washout cancelling many events, but this year the end of

April and through May has been beautifully warm and dry.

Our spring seminar held at Royal Porthcawl GC was a huge success, record numbers in attendance.

Comments included "one of the best seminars South Wales has hosted" and I would like to thank Gareth Knight for putting the day together, The speakers, Rhydian EnviroSports, Mark Hunt Headland Amenity, Adam Pounds Tillers turf, Richard Japes Sports Metals, Kevin Scares Turf Keeper and the one and only Steve Chappell of Gleneagles were terrific.

Thanks to the sponsors of the day Countrywide - and of course without you guys attending we could not hold these events.

As many of you reading this will already be aware our Secretary Gareth Knight will be moving on to pastures new albeit very sandy pastures. I and the rest of the section would like to thank you for the hard work you have put into our section and wish you every success in the future for you and your young family.

With Gareth's departure Paul Handy of Newport Golf Club will take the reins of Secretary and Steve Lloyd of Burghill Valley Golf Club will take the Chairman's role until the AGM held in October at Haverfordwest Golf Club where all members will be able to stand for all committee positions.

All members by now should have received an email or letter from Paul and Steve explaining their positions and how they are looking to push the section forward.

We hope all patrons will continue to support this section and we will continue to grow our membership base and bring back some elapsed members.

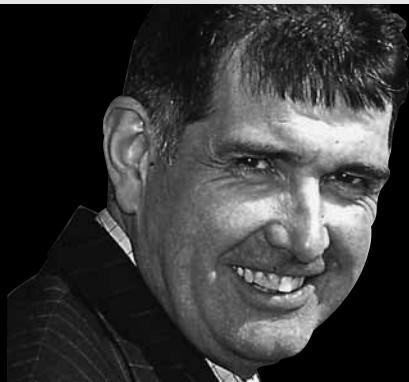
Contact Paul Handy on 07796 266925, Steve Lloyd on 07578 276082 and Peter Holmstrom on 07876 440599.

Our next golf meeting is the Rigby Taylor Matchplay Pairs, to be held at Radyr Golf Club on 4 July. Tee off 12pm the format is greensomes foursomes stableford.

The most points will become the new Rigby Taylor Champions.

Please contact any of the above to book your pair anyone looking for a partner please contact us and I will supply one.

Peter H



Greenkeepers Training Committee

David Golding, GTC Education Director, with a monthly update



This month David Golding updates us on the GTC's Quality Assured Scheme and how more employer-focused workshops are being planned

The GTC's Quality Assured Scheme includes Centres and Training Providers. In simple terms the Centres offer a range of Government accredited qualifications including the Greenkeeping Apprenticeship Scheme and the Training Providers offer training courses, workshops and seminars of a less formal nature.

Currently there are 10 GTC Quality Assured Centres; 2 in Scotland, 2 in Wales and 6 in England:

GOSTA Training and SRUC Elmwood Campus in Scotland; Deeside and Pencoed Colleges in Wales; and Cannington, Duchy, Myerscough, Oaklands, Reaseheath and Plump-ton Colleges in England.

All the latest information on qualifications, training courses and costs can be viewed on the GTC website – see Quality Assured Centres link. The Apprenticeship Scheme is still attracting excellent registration numbers throughout the country and with incentives for employers it is well worth checking with your preferred Centre.

Many of the GTC Training Providers are working with QA Centres to assist with the delivery of courses and provide modern resources for the college based qualifications.

In another initiative to bring the 11 QA Training Providers and Centres closer, autumn workshops are being planned using the Centres as venues. The GTC, with the ongoing support of the British Home Unions and BIGGA, has now hosted over 20 employer-focused workshops all aimed at improving communications within the club.

We were aware of concerns from some greenkeepers when we launched the Chairman of Green workshops and the fear the GTC were "training Chair of Green in golf course maintenance". But by using Laurence Pithie, a former Golf

Courses Manager, to give delegates an overview of all aspects of golf course maintenance, we know it was certainly pitched at the right level as the feedback has been excellent.

Laurence operates as TurfMaster One, is a regular contributor to GI and is a GTC Quality Assured Training Provider together with ten other companies and individuals.

The STRI has for many years been involved in training both through workshops and seminars and they also host bespoke employer-focused workshops as well as their traditional greenkeeping courses.

Just to digress for a moment, my apprenticeship involved three years working at Buxton & High Peak Golf Club. At the end I attended Bingley for a five-day mind-blowing educational course! Happy days...

The STRI, Turf Master One and all the other Quality Assured Training Providers are all available to you the greenkeeper or to your employer with workshops, training courses and in some cases bespoke courses held at your club. Toro/Lely, Ransomes Jacobsen/Cutting Edge and Bernhard & Co all offer excellent machinery maintenance training courses and their current dates and venues are all available on our website.

Frank Newberry is offering bespoke training courses and free initial consultation, with no obligation, to clubs on improving communication within the club.

Health & Safety is a key element of golf club management and staff welfare together with employer responsibilities.

The latest QA training company to join, mylearnadfriend (MLF) are offering online learning and a certification scheme. Britrisk Safety incorporating Jon Allbutt Associates offer on the job training courses as well as H&S advice and guidance.



The GTC is funded by:



Symbio are committed to educate more and more greenkeepers in a "what happens below the surface" series of presentations which all relate to "brining life to your soil".

Symbio also continue to offer their services to QA Centres and attendance at seminars and workshops.

The maintenance and management of woodland, heathland and SSI's can be very controversial and without proper training can be detrimental if not carried out to an agreed plan. John Nicholson has many years of experience in woodland management as have the STRI so help is on hand in these very specialist areas.

Swan Golf Designs have hosted course design and renovation workshops during Harrogate and now are involved in presentations to employers as well as greenkeepers.

It is the GTC's intentions to develop workshops using several QA Training Providers aimed at employers and Course Managers and England Golf have very kindly agreed to subsidise the events.

BIGGA will continue to focus on providing greenkeeping workshops and seminars whilst the GTC will continue to engage with more employers through England Golf, Scottish Golf Union and the Golf Union of Wales.

The GTC Quality Assured Scheme is not a selection of "colleges and companies joining an exclusive club for a subscription fee", far from it. Individuals, companies and colleges can all apply to join the GTC's Quality Assured Scheme whether they offer formal qualifications or are involved in informal training and education for greenkeepers.

The role of the GTC is to ensure the courses, workshops and seminars, available through the QA Centres and Training Providers, all promote the very best practices and principles in golf course maintenance and management which golf club employers and greenkeepers can all benefit from.

Contact Details

David Golding
GTC Education Director
and European Greenkeeping
Education Unit Standards
Director

01347 838640
david@the-gtc.co.uk

GTC
Aldwark Manor
Near York
YO61 1UF

www.the-gtc.co.uk
www.egeu.eu
www.greenkeepertraining.com

twitter
You can follow the GTC on
Twitter @TheOfficialGTC

BUYERS' GUIDE

jkSONICS
Remote First Aid Solutions
PPE and Safety Products

Suppliers of the G5 Defibrillator

First Aid Kits First Aid Refills
Personal Protective Equipment & Safety Products
Defibrillator Supply & Training

JK Sonics is a family run company whose aim is to provide affordable first aid solutions. We specialise in the supply of First Aid Kits specially selected for remote workers and activities as well as first aid kits compliant to the new British Standard BS-8599 for areas including the Clubhouse, Kitchen, Driving range and Maintenance Facility. In fact, any first aid item can be purchased from us so please contact us for a quote based on your individual needs. PPE and safety products are also available from us.

FEATURED PRODUCTS

First Aid: We have specific first aid kits designed with outside working in mind. A remote First Aid grab bag or a small first aid box 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. First aider pouches and personal protective pouches are also available including sun protection.

First aid site audits: Carried out to ensure you are covered anywhere on the site and fully compliant with first aid laws. Extremely cost effective for a one off audit fee starting from £30+vat. Clients receive continued support and refills when required only paying for the items needed.

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 iPAD SP1, Powerheart G3 or G5 defibrillators, a vital piece of equipment for remote locations including golf courses and cost effective.

TRAINING: HSE approved EFAW, FAW First Aid and defibrillator training can be arranged through us. Quotes will be based on individual requirements.

CONTACT US:

Phone: 0844 682 6055 or 07834 281432
Email: info@jksonics.co.uk
Or visit our website www.jksonics.co.uk

CATEGORIES

- AERATION
- ALL WEATHER SURFACES
- ARTIFICIAL GRASS
- ANTI SLIP
- BUNKER CONSTRUCTION
- CLOTHING/FOOTWEAR
- COMPACT TRACTORS
- CONSTRUCTION
- DRAINAGE
- FINANCE & LEASING
- FLAGS
- HEDGES/TREES
- IRRIGATION
- IRRIGATION CONSULTANTS
- LAKE CONSTRUCTION LINERS
- MACHINERY FOR SALE
- MACHINERY WANTED
- RUBBER CRUMB
- SOIL FOOD WEB
- TOP DRESSING
- TREE MOVING
- TREE CLEARANCE
- TURF RENOVATION EQUIPMENT
- USED MACHINERY
- VERTIDRAINING HIRE
- WASTE/WASHWATER TREATMENT

AERATION

TERRAIN AERATION

Turf and Trees
10" drill aeration
1m air injection
1m soil coring
Air excavation

Tel: 01449 673783
www.terrainaeration.com
terrainaeration@aol.com

ALL WEATHER SURFACES

Huxley Golf
PREMIER ALL-WEATHER SURFACES FOR GOLF



Top quality practice tees, golf course tees, putting & pitching greens, pathways, patios, cart tracks and lawns professionally designed and installed.

Tel: 01962 733222
sales@huxleygolf.co.uk
www.huxleygolf.com



ALL WEATHER SURFACES

Verde
SPORTS LIMITED
Established 1988

All-Weather Surfaces For Your Golf Club

- * Pathways
- * Tees
- * Putting Greens
- * Golf Mats
- * Fairway Mats
- * Accessories

Ensure the course is playable all year round



Tel: 01254 831666 Fax: 01254 831066
Email: sales@verdesports.com

www.verdesports.com

BUNKER CONSTRUCTION

blinder BUNKER LINER

The bunker lining solution
01344 621654
www.theblinder.com

CONSTRUCTION

Photo courtesy of Ridding Park Repton Short Course 'Signature Island Green'.

JOHN GREASLEY LTD
Specialists in Golf Course Construction
Tel. 0116 2696766

ADVERTISE HERE

from as little as **£250**
for a **FULL 6 MONTHS**,
full colour, please call
Jill on 01347 833 812 or
email
jill@bigga.co.uk