

What's the funniest/weirdest thing you've seen a player do/say?



■ "A golfer hit a train and then told the driver that he would not have hit it if the train was on time. And someone once mistook a mushroom for the top of his ball. It exploded into bits when he hit it."

■ "A golfer hit two balls into a pond off the 1st tee, then threw his clubs and bag into the pond in frustration. He returned 10 minutes later to retrieve his bag and collect his car keys from inside, before throwing the bag straight back into the pond!"

■ "The funniest thing I've seen was a golfer knocking his tee shot into a bin that was level with the markers. It was a highly-impressive two-yard straight right flop shot with a driver, and it went in without touching the sides."

■ "There was someone who was trying to show off with his remote control trolley and he put it in a pond."

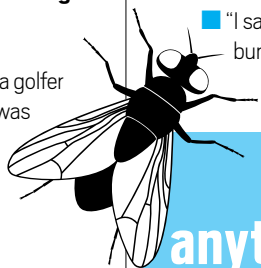
■ "A male golfer walking down a fairway with his pants down because his drive didn't make it past the ladies' tee."

■ "A golfer once asked if we spray the stripes on the green."

■ "We were once asked to remove four new signs from around the putting greens which read 'no chipping onto putting greens' because they didn't say 'please!'"

■ "A member with an injured leg playing a round of golf on a bicycle."

■ "I saw a golfer take a trolley into the bunker and then rake the footprints but not rake the wheel marks once



"Is there anything you can spray to get rid of the flies around the 2nd tee?"

he'd played his shot. He was a bit put out when I pulled him up for it but said he was sorry and played on. A few days later I saw him with his trolley in the bunkers once again. His explanation was that he thought I was upset that he didn't rake out the wheel marks, not that he had the trolley in the bunker!"

■ "A lady golfer at a local club was seen hitting her ball from the turf when fairway mats were in operation (she had been given a mat by the pro shop). The greenkeeper approached and said she must use the mat supplied. He then observed as the lady stood precariously on the mat and hit her next shot off the fairway. You couldn't make it up!"

■ "Two ladies taking their tops off and running through the sprinklers on the green on a hot day (and I have the photo to prove it)."

■ "Once when I was fertilising the tees I heard one golfer ask their playing partner what we were doing. The partner replied, 'they're feeding the birds, that's why we have robins!'"

What's the best conditioned course you've seen in the UK?



More than 40 courses were named in the survey with championship venues and links courses understandably taking the majority of the votes. It seems Scotland has the best greens with Carnoustie, Royal Aberdeen and Loch Lomond leading the standings with six votes each and Turnberry with four. The top English course was Wentworth (four votes) and The Brabazon at The Belfry, Royal Porthcawl, St Andrews, Sunningdale, The Grove and Hankley Common notching three.

WHAT DO YOU DO TO HELP EDUCATE YOUR MEMBERS ON YOUR ROLE AND THE CHALLENGES YOU FACE?

Every greenkeeper who took the survey is making efforts to communicate with their club members, improve knowledge of what they do and keep golfers updated on the course. It's our responsibility to make the most of these opportunities so we can understand their role and take better care of courses ourselves.

"We have monthly members meetings in the clubhouse, a YouTube channel and members can email us and arrange a meeting. We use the bar so it's informal."

"I tried an open day invitation at our workshop and only two people attended – me and my deputy!"

"I communicate all the time. I don't like problems left to fester. If I hear of an issue, big or small, I will resolve it as soon as I can. I talk to members and submit monthly reports."

"We've just started to do a greenkeepers blog so that I can explain any work we do. Before, it was me telling the greens convenor and hoping he understood and then properly communicated it on."

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



CENTRAL

I'd like to start this month by saying thanks to all the companies who sponsor our website as it is their continued support which allows us to run the Section and stage a variety of events at minimal cost for the members. If you go to www.biggacentralsection.org.uk you will see the different sponsors' logos on the top left of the home page. One click takes you to the sponsors page and another click on a company's logo will take you to each ones website. Also on our website you can find the results of the members survey we carried out last year.

Congratulations from everyone in the section to Lee Strutt and Sami Collins on their recent marriage. Everyone's best wishes also go to John Robertson who has just retired from Richard Aitkens. John has been a "weel kent" face to so many greenkeepers in this area and further afield and will be a hard act to replace! John, we hope you keep in touch and we continue to see you around.

Gordon



EAST

We start off this month with a look back at another successful BTME, seemed a very good steady turnout over the 2 days that I attended. The show had some fantastic educational seminars to take in. I thought

Ryder Cup presentations were first class and this was the big highlight. I also attended the 'James Bond night' and that reminds me I need to get myself some of that gold body paint for my new tee markers!

The theme went down well, we had a great meal and then the fun began with the casino and the very competitive Aston Martin simulator.

There was a slight downer on the night though – we left 20,000 chips in the careful hands of Stuart Taylor.

Unfortunately he invested them into the wrong market on the roulette table and cheerfully informed us the next day that we had lost the lot, so much for an older head.

I would like to welcome on board a couple of new patrons to our section, they are SPS Groundcare and Angus Horticulture, many thanks for your support. Other things going on in our section, European Tour player and former Open Champion Paul Lawrie is redesigning Whitekirk, should be an even better track once it done.

Still waiting on some feedback from the section on your interest in our spring meeting being played at Seahouses on 23 April, again if interested in attending please advise asap and we can sort out travel plans, we have a bus option available if required. Looking forward to the Scottish conference at Dunfermline at the beginning of March, report to follow in next month's magazine.

A final big well done to Stephen Gallacher on his win at the Emirates Golf Club on the European tour last month and good luck Stephen with your newly formed Golf Foundation, the most recent venue to host the foundation was North Berwick West Links in February. Till next month guys, take care. Scott Corrigan scottcorrigan4@aol.com or 07877098237



NORTH

By the time you get this report the Scottish Conference will have passed so hopefully there was a good turn out from the North Section. Paul has sent out the 200 club tickets so hopefully you have them all by now and will have noticed we have 2 sponsors again this year Fairways GM and Sherriff Amenity so thanks very much to them for their support.

The Spring outing is at Duff House Royal on Thursday 25 April sorry to keep mentioning it every month but it is important we have as much support as possible. Speaking about the Spring outing I should remind you that a decision was made at the last committee meeting that there would be no more guests allowed at our outings just members and trade.

There has been some movement in the section with Chris Watson leaving Peterculter Golf Club and moving to the Paul Lawrie Golf Centre and Adam Lindsay leaving Inchmarlo Golf Centre and moving to Peterculter Golf Club, Also Matthew Smith from Newmachar Golf Club is sadly leaving the industry but good luck to them all in their new positions.

Hugh McLatchie got in touch to say he has now been Head Greenkeeper at Peterhead Golf Club for 25 happy years so I am sure all the members pass on their congratulations and I am sure he could tell a few stories after all that time.

Hugh has been in hospital for an operation on his hip so best wishes on a speedy recovery but not too quick as it might give someone else a chance to win the committee trophy at Duff House. Remember to get

in touch if you have any news, no matter how small. Thanks for now Robert Patterson mob 07931639548 and Dale Robertson 07784517534.



WEST

A couple of reminders for those inclined to attend the various educational events, the scheduled conference at Dunfermline is planned for 5 March and you will have received notification about this by the time you read this article, I will report on how things went in the next issue.

The walk arranged for Loch Lomond back in December which was cancelled has been re-arranged for 22 March as a provisional date but please contact David McBride regarding this he will be contacting those people who had intimated their intentions to go previously first of all and then open up to others when spaces are available.

The spring outing is confirmed for 25 April at Buchanan Castle golf club and thanks to Ronnie Myles for arranging that I will look forward to playing it as this is a venue I've never experienced.

The Autumn outing is 19 September at Eastwood golf club, which will be interesting considering all the changes that have been made as a result of the new M77, thanks to Neil Lindsay for arranging the course.

Congratulations to John Garioch in securing the position of head greenkeeper at Elderslie golf club, I hope all goes well and you have every success for the future.

I have been approached to organise a game of football and would like to have a muck about game first to select a team

and thought it might be okay to organise the south of the river against the north so I will be looking for some candidates and will be in contact with the month for names. Finally, if anybody has some information they wish to share or you are interested in the football then please contact me on 07790823914, or stuart.taylor@glasgowgolfclub.com.

NORTHERN REGION



NORTH EAST

What a show this years BTME was, first class education and what made it special to me was the amount of greenkeepers from our Section who travelled down and attended seminars. A couple attended the workshops from Alnmouth here is a golf club that sends their staff down on a regular basis year in year out.

Myself, Craig Kilgour and Jack Hetherington from Ponteland stayed overnight and took in the seminar presented by Curtis Tyrrell MG, this was well attended and very interesting. As the week continued more greenkeepers from the section arrived this time from Tyneside GC who all attended the Syngenta seminar with ourselves to listen to Henry Bechelet and Simon Watson again another packed house.

Other news - in January 2012 Tyneside GC embarked on a programme of restoration work due to the heavy rainfall last year. In November 350metres of 9in drainage was installed running through three fairways tying in and fixing broken damaged drains.

Frank Pont the Dutch architect returned in January to oversee the re-building and installation of 5 new bunkers on the 17th, and tying them into the newly installed drain. The existing greenside bunker at the 11th has also been re-shaped, several other drains have been installed and repaired and trees have been cut back.

It's a very busy time at Tyneside but the green staff have enjoyed the work especially

restoring the Colt bunkering which gives the course a unique look in the area.

Also Michael McKenna returned from an 18 month internship in the USA at top courses such as Scioto and Lake Nono. He's now moved to New Zealand to work at The Hills - another top rated club.

I've managed to enrol the following members to the section committee: Michael Gunn, James Parker and David Wilkinson the new Course Manager at Whitley Bay so expect a few things to be lined up over the next few months, further details will be in published in the magazine.

April 11th an Education event will be held at a local golf club with two top speakers on behalf of the section between 7pm - 9pm, details will be sent out to members over the next few weeks non-members are welcome as are anyone from the Cleveland Section.

Nearly forgot - a section match will be arranged against the Cleveland section around June/July which will be a eight man team or similar. Jimmy



NORTHERN

I'm sat in glowing sunshine looking out to blue skies and thinking this time last week I was knee deep in snow!

A few days of dry weather is forecast so we can get on with some much needed work on the course. Interesting times for me at the moment as we are having our sheds rebuilt so we have been busy moving the machines out and sifting through 25 years of stuff, you know that stuff the old boy as stored away and "will come in handy that will one day".

Back to the real world and we had a little committee meeting a few weeks ago to chew things over, golf past and present and any matters arising and welcome Ade Holroyd from Bob Wild to the section as trade rep.

As before with Mike Brier from Rigby Taylor it's great to get their thoughts and ideas regarding issues and I look forward to working with Ade. On our section days we strive

to get great courses to play on and give you guys a good day out and I'm delighted to say we can keep these events at £20 as last year. As always we must insist that jacket and tie are worn at all these functions. Finally as stated in last month's notes I could not attend BTME but feedback has been positive. Please get in touch if you have any news. Andy Slingsby 07506407867 andy.slingsby98@googlemail.com



CLEVELAND

News from the City of Newcastle Golf Club. Finally a little respite in the weather means Turf Care have started getting their teeth into our rainage which involves three greens and we'll be putting the dinghy back into storage for a while, but it might make a little longer to get rid of our webbed feet!

Hopefully everyone enjoyed their trip down to the BTME which I found to be informative and worthwhile. The highlight for me was the online turf management system called TurfKeeper. I've been assured that even me - a technophobe, - can work this system.

It's almost time for our Spring Tournament which will be held at Brancepeth Castle Golf Club. Always a good day; plenty of bad shots, prizes galore and good craic.

On a more serious note, a worrying trend that seems to be developing in the area to supposedly save money is the removal of Head Greenkeepers, leaving the day to day running of the golf course to an elected Committee from within the golf club.

This to me is false economy because of the reduction in staff on the course as well as the loss of expertise, leadership and guidance in all aspects of course maintenance.

We are all aware of the current financial climate, but what is forgotten is that people come to a golf course to play golf. The upkeep of the course should always be the priority for any golf club. So to all Greenkeepers - keep up the good work! Barry Walker



SHEFFIELD

Time flies for me these days as I'm sure it does for many of you. I find it quite unbelievable that having battled across the Woodhead Pass in the snow today I'm now writing notes for the March magazine. I'm sure that many of you are ready for the warmer temperatures and the possibility of a bit of growth to try and establish some signs of a golf course after all the inclement weather. When some of us are next together we could possibly try and create a weather dance, we could all take part in it so we might hopefully get a summer were we can create a golf course to be proud of - or maybe I will just practice it on my own! On the section front we are hoping to hold a lecture at the end of this month which you should have all received info on. Golf fixtures for the year and fixture cards should be reaching you soon. Thanks once to all the clubs who have given us the use of their courses in the year.

Having spent three days at BTME this year I had first-hand experience of the quality of the show and the seminars. Unfortunately I didn't see too many guys from in our section - I'm sure due in part to the weather again - but if there are any other reasons then please feel free to contact me or someone at HQ. That's all from me, have a good month and I hope the weather gets things moving for you all. James Stevens - 07738719614 - jimmy_jams20@hotmail.com



NORTH WALES

The season starts here whether you like it or not, weekend comps and weekday visiting parties now start filling our diaries. The North Wales and North West late winter seminar took place on Wednesday 13 February at Deeside college and on a suitably snowy day, we were treated to some very interesting and in some occasions quite

Around The Green

passionate talks by Alistair Beggs, Dr Su Hodgson, David Williams and Deeside college. Edward Ainsworth was unwell so not available to attend, let's hope he will be able to give his talk in next autumn/winter's seminars. We have to give a big thank you to Deeside College for hosting the seminar, a great venue.

This year's three competition forms have now been approved to be posted out, with Bull bay golf club being our first port of call 23 April and I'm sure Andy Peel will give us all a great day, please remember to post your forms and cheques to Carl Crocher ASAP. In other news Harry Barbour posted on our Facebook group that he was looking for employment and has now secured a place for the season with Huw Roberts at Henlle Golf Club. Sadly Fred Grundy parted company with Maesdu golf club after 25 years in their employment we all wish him all the best in his future endeavours.

If you have any news you wish to share please feel free to contact me. Pete Maybury petemayb66@aol.com 07756 001187 Facebook North Wales B.I.G.G.A

MIDLAND REGION



EAST MIDLAND

I was struggling for inspiration this month for my notes, what with snow laying on the ground for two weeks during BTME and the following week, then considerable rainfall melting it and washing it away when suddenly the news broke.....'Of course of course a Kingdom for my course!'

It was Richard III after all, he'd been laying undetected for over 500 years under a tarmac car park in the historic city of Leicester. Richard is now up there with some very illustrious names from the city, Daniel Lambert, Willie Thorne, Gary Lineker, Mark Selby, Dave Bartram and of course the legend that is Gok Wan. With historical figures of such stature the village of York's claim over Richard doesn't really

stand a chance, so hands off our King. I've already booked my front side seat for the ceremony in Leicester Cathedral! The section will be hosting events this year at Beedles Lake (Spring) on 10 April, Kedleston Park (Summer) on 1 August, Lutterworth (AGM) on 31 October and Kilworth Springs (Christmas) on 4 December plus of course the Par 3 competition at Nailcote Hall in July.

You will be notified in plenty of time about the details of these fixtures and can I encourage as many members as possible to update their email addresses with Nick Miles by contacting him at biggaeastmid@gmail.com This will help the flow of information from the section to its members to be as smooth and efficient as possible. On April 14 I will be running in the Brighton Marathon.

I shall be running this year for Leukemia & Lymphoma Research in memory of a friend of mine, Paul Glennon who died in 2012 aged 56. I have a Just-Giving page set up www.Just-Giving.com/Greg-Skinner1 so anyone who would like to support me can donate via the JustGiving.com page. Honestly though, anything that you feel generous enough to support this charity with will go towards an extremely worthwhile cause. 'Show me that tush girlfriend' - just a little Gokabulary to sign off with...Greg Skinner 07970 095264 greg.skinner92@btinternet.com



MIDLAND

Finally, we're the right side of winter. A year of rubbish weather is hopefully behind us all. Our first event is to be held at Robin Hood Golf Club on 14 May. Please get your entries to Gary ASAP - you never know I might come out of retirement, as Robin Hood was my grandfather's favourite club in the Midlands.

We are in the middle of arranging a trip to the new FA Academy, St. George's Park at Burton, which should be during April. The date is yet to be confirmed so please keep your eye on the section website www.biggamidlandsection.co.uk for further details. This month's calendar sponsor is Redtech. A new company, but headed and supported by old trusted friends: - Service Graham Hall: 07702 154987 - Backed by Kevin Blake in Parts: 01676 523287. They have given nothing but excellence and I do not say that lightly. Sean McDade

for their contribution to the day, and to Sandra Raper for an excellent job with the raffle. Our golf calendar for this year has been finalised and should be here next month. All the best for 2013. Steve Beverly, Immingham Golf Club.



EAST OF ENGLAND

Apologies for the lack of writing the last couple of months, the laptop has been playing up, probably in protest at lack of use due to the purchase of an iPad! All seems to be working again now. Another excellent show and education programme were once again put on by all BIGGA staff at BTME again this year. Despite the best efforts of the weather to put people off, it seemed like another very good turnout.

Our final golf day of 2012 took place at Rutland County Golf Club and was held jointly with the East Midlands section. At the time it was a surprise to find any course open after the weeks of constant rainfall that had been endured. Credit has to go to Jamie Goddard and his staff for presenting the course for us in the most difficult of circumstances.

Despite the wind and cold weather a good turnout arrived for the Texas Scramble competition, which gives club members a chance to interact with other greenkeepers and hopefully realise that their club's problems are not just their own! Many thanks go to the sponsors for the day, Rigby Taylor, Mansfield Sands and Barenbrug who all supplied an excellent range of prizes.

The results were: 1 Nick Miles, Nigel Colley, Lee Secker, Nick Nottingham 2 Carl Chamberlain, James Dair, Ash Bulpitt, Ian Abrahams 3 Pete Fell, Gary Salisbury, Steve Hopkins, J Lippett. Nearest the pin were Ian Collett and Alex Clarricoates. Once again thanks to all the sponsors of the day and to all at Rutland County for their hospitality. Thanks also to all from the East Midlands section

for their contribution to the day, and to Sandra Raper for an excellent job with the raffle. Our golf calendar for this year has been finalised and should be here next month. All the best for 2013. Steve Beverly, Immingham Golf Club.



MID ANGLIA

I hope you are all well and in good spirits, living in the eternal hope that Spring may just be around the corner. I am starting to feel like Michael Fish in these reports as all I go on about is the weather. We were hit with yet another bout of heavy snow in February leaving all courses closed again for the 3rd time in quick succession.

This really isn't ideal and having seen many of you on my travels I know that we will all be pleased to see the back of this harsh winter and praying for some warmth and sunshine soon as most of us have forgotten what the sun looks and feels like. With that in mind if you haven't already please make time to see or contact some of the wonderful sponsors of our section and see if they have any new products, machines or advise that could make that little bit of difference to your course for 2013.

As we know times are tough so it is always good to check that you aren't missing out by shopping around. Once again please let me know if you have any news or info for the section as it really helps. Darren (Michael Fish) d.mugford@rigbytaylor.com

SOUTH EAST REGION



SURREY

San Diego is well known for having the best weather in the United States and one of the best climates in the world. It rarely gets too hot, never gets

too cold, and averages only 10 inches of rain a year, or so they say. So you can imagine my delight to get away and get a bit of sun close to the Mexican border while attending the GCSAA show.

The show proved a hit, while the rain gods gave us a few hailstones and a breezy taste of British climate from home, the downtown Gaslamp quarter filled with a cosmopolitan populace of greenkeepers and industry professionals, reveling with their international partners in the abundance of dining venues of which the area had to offer. What a great city!

Torrey Pines GC perched high on the tranquil seaside bluffs overlooking the Pacific Ocean is one of the nation's best municipals, and one I had the pleasure of playing on a very cold and windy day. The South course was home to the 2008 US Open and recognized by many as one of the greatest championships in history.

On the day, we were treated to magnificent views of the Pacific Ocean featuring deep canyons. Enough said. On 18 April, our host Mark Harvey and Co welcome you all to a Texas Scramble format at the wonderful Epsom Downs GC, which forms a natural topography for golf. It presents a course as nature intended, full of character and challenging golfers to use a full repertoire of shots.

So get your entry forms on the website and come along for a great day out.

Next month, a full and fascinating account on the travels of Gary Ogilvy's blazer, a well worn garment that can often be seen at all the golf days, on and off the course. Finally, congratulations to Sam Bethell, Greenkeeper at The Richmond GC, whose wife Jenny gave birth to their second daughter Caleigh on 16 February. Mark Day



SUSSEX

Spring is just around the corner, honestly! Should we

be expecting another hose pipe ban? I would like to start my report with the news that Richard Webb has moved to Purley Downs Golf Club as Deputy Head Greenkeeper after more than ten years at Copthorne Golf Club where he started on work experience. Another move this month is Jon Linser who has left Seaford Head Golf Course to start his own lawn care business, Telscombe Lawn Care (TLC).

I am sure that you will all join me in wishing them both all the best in their new ventures. Pete Smith has done sterling work in securing a large number of sponsors for this year's events with local golf clubs supporting the section and he has already arranged a full programme of golf at some excellent venues. Dates as follows: Spring Competition & National Championships Qualifier Venue: The Dyke GC Date: 23rd May; Sussex Section Away Day Venue: Littlestone GC Date: 19th June; Summer Competition Venue: Piltdown GC Date: 1st August; Autumn Competition Venue: Beauport Park GC Date: 20th September; Turkey Trot Venue: Worthing GC Date: 29th November

Make sure that you get these dates in your diary. If you would like any further information, please give me a call. I would be grateful if you could contact me with any news. Thanks, Chris Humphrey. Tel: 07912 669457 or chris@collier-turf-care.co.uk



ESSEX

After a delay of two months we have managed to hold our Christmas team event and AGM. Thursday 31 January dawned to a cool and windy day, overnight rain had left a few puddles around the course but few would complain. The snows of the previous week had gone and play was underway.

The Essex Golf & Country Club was the venue and our President Martin Forrester and his team had turned the golf course out in great condition. Seventeen teams of four should have ventured out on

the course but unfortunately six teams withdrew, through work and other commitments. A Texas Scramble format was played with some interesting results, as always! 1st Stoke by Nayland – 2nd Colchester Golf Club – 3rd Frinton Golf Club – Golfer of the Year, Liam Springett – Trade Golfer of the Year, Neil Peachey.

The AGM was held, before we played and was attended by a good number of section members. Outgoing Chairman Mark Stopps gave an emotional report thanking all the section for their support over his period as Chair.

The treasurer's report and competitions report were read by Tom Smith and Antony Kirwan respectively. Mark read out the Education report on behalf of Ian Wood who was unable to attend due to work commitments. Mark thanked all our sponsors for their backing during the past season.

He stated that with the help of the following, our golf and educational days had been a great success. Amenity Technology, Baileys of Norfolk, Banks Amenity Products, Bilericay Farm Services, Blade, CMW Equipment, Collier Turf Care, Ernest Doe, Everris, Farmura Environmental, GM Amenity, Irrigation and Water, Limagrain UK, Otley College, Paynes Turf, Philip Liverton Ltd, P Tuckwell (John Deere), Premier Plan, Prime Irrigation Ltd, RainBird, Rigby Taylor, Chaingreen Ltd (Sea Nymph), Tey Farm Systems, Toro (Lely) and Writtle College.

The election of Officers to the committee resulted in Ian Wood taking over as Chairman, Martin Forrester (President), Tom Smith (Treasurer), Arnold Phipps-Jones (Secretary), Antony Kirwan (Competitions), Ben Scrivener (Education) and Richard Freeman (Toro UK, Lely) (as Sponsors Representative).

Martin Forrester thanked the outgoing Chairman and committee, for all their hard work on behalf of the section. Our thanks for the hospitality and good food we enjoyed from The Essex. It was a great day, with the rain staying away, just for once!

Last month we held a First Aid training day at Upminster Golf Club. It was filled well before the closing date, which

Assistant Profile

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

Name: Calvin Baldwin
Age: 30
Club: Gerrards Cross Golf Club
Position: Assistant



Greenkeeper Nickname: "Biggie" at work, or "Spit" at banger racing

How long have you been greenkeeping? 11 years

What was it about the career that attracted you? Working outdoors and finishing early

If you weren't a greenkeeper what do you think you'd be? A car mechanic

Which task do you most enjoy doing and why? Hand cutting greens, they look great once they're finished

Which task do you least enjoy doing and why? Using the Allen Nationals, I'm always getting moaned at for going the wrong way

What one thing - other than a pay rise - would improve the greenkeepers' lot? Better equipment, a decent pair of waterproofs and happy golfers that say hello

Hobbies? Football and Banger racing

Favourite Band? Don't really have a favourite band, listen to whatever is on Radio One

Which team do you support (football or otherwise)? The mighty Leeds United and my banger racing team "The Surrey Street Squad"

What is your claim to fame? I banger raced the ambulance that appeared in the film "Hot Fuzz"

BIGGA welcomes the following new members

Scotland

John Cunningham, St. Andrews Links Trust, Central Section
 Euan Kay, SRUC (Elmwood), Central Section
 Peilun Zhong, SRUC (Elmwood), Central Section
 Danyu Li, SRUC (Elmwood), Central Section
 Charlie Shewan, Nairn Dunbar Golf Club, North Section
 Martin Smith, Nairn Golf Club, North Section

Northern Region

Paul Thornhill, Davenport Golf Club, North West Section
 Craig McKenna, Hillside Golf Club, North West Section
 Jonathan Baggley, Brough Golf Club, Sheffield Section
 Matthew Foord, Old Padeswood Golf Club, North Wales Section

Midland Region

Matthew Healey, North Worcestershire Golf Club, Midland Section
 Marcus Davies, Stratford-on-Avon Golf Club, Midland Section
 Ian Davies, Ingestre Park Golf Club, Midland Section
 Ashley Rycroft, Cleethorpes Golf Club, East of England Section
 Andrew Watts, Thamesvalley Lawn Care, Berks/Bucks & Oxon Section
 Martin Field, Harewood Downs Golf Club, Berks/Bucks & Oxon Section
 Mark Willis, Vectra Landscapes, Berks/Bucks & Oxon Section
 Simon Willis, Vectra Landscapes, Berks/Bucks & Oxon Section
 Adrian Harris, Hellidon Lakes Hotel & Country Club, Mid Anglia Section
 Scott Waddell, Harpenden Golf Club, Mid Anglia Section

South East Region

Samuel Sexton, Coulsdon Manor Golf Course, Surrey Section
 Daniel Regan, Buckinghamshire Golf Club (The), Surrey Section
 Alan Sheppard, Royal St George's Golf Club, Kent Section
 James Briggs, East Sussex National Golf Club, Sussex Section

South West/South Wales Region
 Tom Parsons, Dudsbury Golf Club, South Coast Section
 Phillip Attwood, Hampshire Constabulary, South Coast Section
 Anthony Daniels, Hampshire Constabulary, South Coast Section
 David Humphry, Hampshire Constabulary, South Coast Section
 James Weir, Hampshire Constabulary, South Coast Section
 Colby Engert, Parkstone Golf Club, South Coast Section

Overseas
 Sylvia Odihili Affiliate Member, Nigeria
 Jenz Laffert, Burgwedeler Golf-Immobilien GmbH & Co, Germany
 Juhani Koski, Arctic Nature Product Oy, Finland
 Jon White, Golf De Morfontaine, France
 Tom Malehorn, Aquatrols, USA

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

shows there is a need for such courses. More information can be gained from the website, on the training course we will be putting on in the near future.

Arnold Phipps-Jones www.essexbigga.co.uk 07764 862337 essexbigga@talktalk.net

SOUTH WEST & WALES



SOUTH WEST

The weather must be mentioned - after one of the wettest Decembers on record, a solidly frozen January and a wet, cold and dark start to February (some might call it winter!) there are glimmers of a respite on the horizon. This morning the sun is shining, temperatures are up ever so slightly and there is a touch of spring in the air, long may it continue.

On 5 March the section is hosting a brilliant event at Chippenham Golf Club. The day will involve a course walk in the morning hosted by Course Manager Chris Sealey who will give everyone a tour of the recently constructed holes and detail the trials and tribulations that challenged the club during and since construction. Following on in the afternoon there will be five presentations given by greenkeepers from across the region, most of which you will know.

As promised last month the years fixtures have been finalised and are as follows: Wed 24 April, AmAm Minchinhampton GC, Wed 29 May Section V Secretaries The Manor House, Wed 12 June Summer Tournament Kingsdown GC, Thurs 15 August Section v Welsh Chipping Sodbury, Thur 26 Sept Section v South Coast North Wilts GC, Wed 16 Oct AGM Filton GC and finally Thur 19 Dec Christmas Tournament Ogbourne Downs GC. Please note that the Summer Tournament tee times have been pushed back to 1pm with light lunch before to enable more of us to make it after a morning at work.

We will get all of these dates onto BIGGA South West Facebook and also they will be coming out via email mailing list. If anyone is not receiving Section emails please email Adam or myself and we will get your address onto the list (adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk). It was great to see such a strong contingency of South West greenkeepers in Harrogate for BTME. A great week

was had by all and some of us even found time to catch up with mates both old and new following long days in both the show and Continue to Learn. Keep up the support, see you all at the upcoming Section days and keep the news coming in. Jaey Goodchild (07984422295 j.goodchild@bowood.org)



DEVON AND CORNWALL

Our February meeting was held at Thurlestone Golf Club, South Devon. After some very wet overnight conditions including snow within a few miles away, we were very pleased to complete this event and thank you to the 50 attendees who made the journey. The golf format for the day was individual Stableford playing for the Toro trophy. Results: 1 John Welsford (Warren) 34 points, 2 Pete Newman (Wrangaton) 33pts, 3 Gordon Tamblyn (Mullion) 31 pts. Gordon also won longest drive and nearest the pin.

The remaining members were taken on a course walk led by Vic Dyer (Head Greenkeeper). Vic has been at Thurlestone for 18 years and has been Head Greenkeeper for seven years. The attendees saw all parts of the course which was in fantastic condition and a credit to Vic and the team. The walk culminated in a visit to their brand new maintenance facilities. The new complex has been extremely well designed and laid out taking into consideration visual impact and economy of space. I would strongly suggest that if anyone were considering upgrading their facilities to visit Thurlestone.

A huge thank you to our sponsors for the day, Devon Garden Machinery and Martyn Lane Golf for sponsoring the day and the prizes. Also, a big thank you to Vic, the Greenkeeping team and all the staff at Thurlestone for helping it become a very successful and enjoyable day.

Section Minibus was taken up to Harrogate again this year, sponsored by Famura and Sheriff Amenity a big thank you to both for supporting the Section. Nine members made use of this including Kevin Paterson (Tre-

vose) sponsored by the Region, Martin Cornish (Launceston) selected and sponsored by Duchy College. Special mention to Anthony "Jacko" James for driving the bus again, especially with the wintery conditions, thanks Jacko!

Our Spring Seminar this year will be at St Mellion on Wednesday 13 March, details of which should have been sent to you before now. If you have not already secured a place, please contact me asap!

Our Summer Meetings to put into your diary: The Point at Polzeath Wednesday 22 May, Section Championships. Teignmouth Golf Club, Tuesday 2 July, Devon v Cornwall match.

George Pitts 07929 754401 gpitts@yelvertongolf.co.uk



SOUTH WALES

Good Morning South Wales, I'll start by saying WOW what a fantastic BTME this year. I have never seen the show as busy as it was Tuesday and Wednesday considering some of the machinery guys were not in attendance and more importantly the horrendous driving conditions on the way up.

I've never seen so many guys from South Wales make the over 500 mile round trip (even the Cradoc team) to join and support the show. Without you guys attending and supporting the trade stands many of the things we are able to do within BIGGA wouldn't be possible.

Good old Welsh weather! With the snow finally melted the following week saw over 150mm of rain in places making what has already been a dreadful winter even worse. "Please the man upstairs can you please give us a nice, warm, sunny summer we need one please."

I can now report our first golfing fixture will take place on March 29 at Fairwood Park GC near Swansea, the event is a stableford format so hopefully we can get as many of you guys attending as possible. Please ask all members of your team to come and take part, please book your places with Gareth Knight as usual.

Kind Regards, Peter H



Diary of Events

Details of your Section's events in 2013 can be found here...

Date	Event	Venue	Contact
MARCH 2013			
March 13th	Devon & Cornwall Spring Seminar	St Mellion G&CC, Saltash	George Pitts Tel: 07929 754401 or Email: gpitts.yelverton@gmail.com
March 15th	NAsOR – Keep It Clean & Legal, City & Guilds	City & Guilds Office, Glasgow	City & Guilds, email: ltptraining@cityandguilds.com
March 21st	Woodland Management Workshop	Easingwold Golf Club	The GTC, David Golding, Tel: 01347 838640 or email: golf@the-gtc.co.uk
March 29th	South Wales Section Event	Fairwood Park Golf Club	Gareth Knight Email: garethknightuk@yahoo.co.uk
APRIL 2013			
April 16th	South Coast Section Spring Tournament	Remedy Oak Golf Club	Alex McCombie, Tel: 07561 001299 or Email: southcoastsecretary@gmail.com
April 17th	North East Section Spring Competition	Heworth Golf Club, Gateshead	Jimmy Richardson Tel: 07910 641745 or Email: jamesrichardson17@sky.com
April 23rd	Scotland, East Section Outing	Seahouses Golf Club	John Young, Tel: 07776 242120 or Email: johnyoung@bigga.co.uk
April 23rd	North Wales Section Spring Tournament	Bull Bay Golf Club	Carl Crocher, Tel: 07702 316886
April 24th	South West Section Golf Day	Minchinhampton Golf Club	Adam Matthews, Tel: 07732 503855 or Email: adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk

BIGGA Regional Conferences

Midlands - 6 November 2013. Forest Hill Golf & Country Club, Leicester.

Contact Sandra Raper
- 07866 366966

North- 7 November 2013 at Phoenix Sports Club, Rotherham.

Contact Sandra Raper
- 07866 366966

South East- 2013 date and location tbc.

Contact Clive Osgood
- 01737 819343 / 07841 948410

South West & South Wales - 21 November 2013 at Oaktree Arena, Bristol.

Contact Jane Jones - 01454 270850 / 07841 948110



Greenkeepers Training Committee

David Golding, GTC Education Director,
with a monthly update



This month David Golding - GTC's Education Director - explains how a call to a GTC Quality Assured Centre can free up funding for training

In recent years it has become increasingly difficult for the GTC to monitor the Government's strategy for education and training.

But through our involvement with the Lantra Sector Skills Council we ensure the sector has an accredited set of National Occupational Standards (NOS) from which a range of qualifications for greenkeeping are developed. The Governments for England, Scotland and Wales all have different funding strategies and the priority groups can change with little or no warning.

We do endeavour to ensure the Greenkeeping Apprenticeship including the content of the work-based qualifications remain the same throughout Britain however funding support and cost for training courses through the GTC Quality Assured Centres can vary depending on their delivery method.

There seem to be accidental barriers created by the various Government funding agencies which prevent employers and potential apprentices from accessing the help that is repeatedly advertised relating to apprenticeships.

I strongly suggest looking at the GTC Quality Assured Centres and seek their advice on recruiting an apprentice, there is up to £1,500 of funding available plus tremendous support for the apprentices' education and training programme.

I have written many articles on the advantage of the Greenkeeper Apprentice Scheme and since my apprenticeship back in 1966 the scheme has developed and become much more detailed.

The current structure gives the employer and the apprentice a multi-skilled, knowledgeable individual well capable of maintaining a golf course and a tremendous platform to progress through a

career path to the very top of the profession.

I often call on today's top Course Managers to attend Career Fairs at schools and colleges as they are obviously the right people to promote the profession of greenkeeping to youngsters looking for a career which can take you anywhere in the world.

Sadly many careers advisors have no idea on what is involved in golf greenkeeping and course management but given the opportunity to attend events in schools your assistance as a Course Manager or Head Greenkeeper would be appreciated to spread the word.

Taster days at golf clubs would also be good. Health and Safety restricting the use of equipment and machines would have to be strictly adhered to but this all helps promote greenkeeping.

Often a new apprentice greenkeeper can be found within the Junior Section at a golf club. But it often takes a short presentation by the Course Manager so the juniors actually appreciate there is a career available in golf other than becoming the next Rory McIlroy!

The Golf Foundation, PGA and Golf Unions are all looking to promote the greenkeeping profession through their roles in promoting careers in golf which will all help. The Apprentice Scheme is available for all ages however please check with your chosen Centre for the most up to date information on funding support.

As a general rule across Britain the 16-19 year old group are the Government's priority for funding support but age is no barrier to becoming a greenkeeper.

The GTC and BIGGA regularly receive enquiries from people looking to change career and these are often keen golfers looking to work in a healthier environment.

There is a structured career path

National
Apprenticeship
Week 11-15 March
2013
visit [www.
apprenticeships.
org.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk)

The GTC is funded by:



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

for school leavers, career changes and the Apprenticeship Scheme is the perfect pathway to join a profession which offers global opportunities.

From the apprentice scheme there are seminars, workshops, other further education courses and access onto Higher Education Courses and qualifications all helping to get to the very top of Golf Course and Club Management. For further information on apprenticeships contact one of the GTC's Quality Assured Centres:

- England:
Bridgwater College: Tel: 07912 555592 Contact: Jake Waites
Duchy College: Tel: 01579 372220 Contact: Ron Skinner
Myerscough College: Tel: 01995 642193 Contact: Lee Price
Oaklands College: Tel: 01727 737735 Contact: Andy Wight
Plumpton College: Tel: 01273 890454 Contact: David Blackmur
Reaseheath College: Tel: 01270 613236 Contact: Gareth Phillips
Scotland: GOSTA Training: Tel: 0141 556 3999, Contact: Lesley Lowrie
Elmwood College: Tel: 01334 658 800 Contact: Mike Clark
Wales: Deeside College: Tel: 01244 831531 Ext 6132, Contact: Jenny Pitts, Pencoed College: Tel: 01656 302691, Contact: John Sullivan

Finally a great supporter of the GTC and the Greenkeeping Association Mr Alan Gamble has sadly passed away at the age of 83.

Alan is probably best remembered for his time as Head Greenkeeper at Pannal Golf Club, Harrogate and the tremendous support he gave to establish a greenkeeper training system as a volunteer on the BIGGA and GTC during the 60's, 70's and 80's.

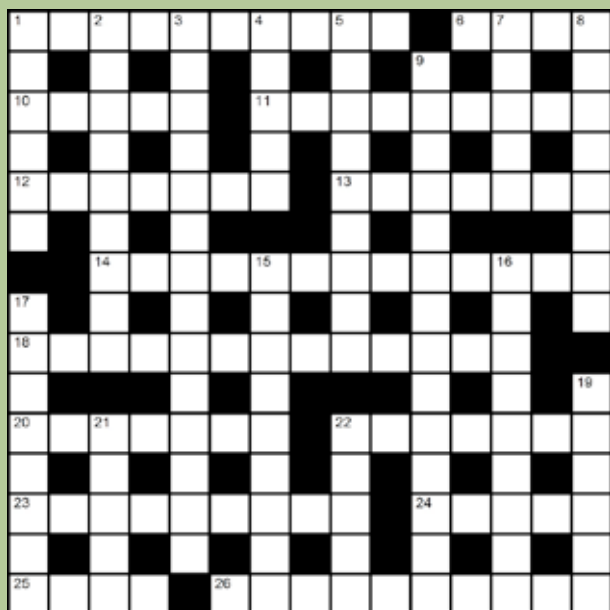
His son Richard is Head Greenkeeper here at Aldwark Manor and our thoughts are with Alan's wife and all of his family.



in the shed

Our monthly puzzle page to keep you entertained

CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 Handwritten or typed copy (10)
- 6 Sharpen by rubbing (4)
- 10 Lord ---, more familiar name of Richard John Bingham (5)
- 11 1986 hit for Robbie Nevil (4,2,3)
- 12 1983 hit for Tom Robinson, his first solo success (3,4)
- 13 Sweet liqueur flavoured with orange peel (7)
- 14 Gardeners' World presenter whose shows featured his own garden at Barnsdale (5,8)
- 18 Thick fillet beefsteak (13)
- 20 Crash helmet (4,3)
- 22 To strike dumb (7)
- 23 The action of attacking an enemy (9)
- 24 (Of the face) very pale (5)
- 25 Island of two main parts connected by La Coupée (4)
- 26 Lung disease associated with a particular incombustible material (10)

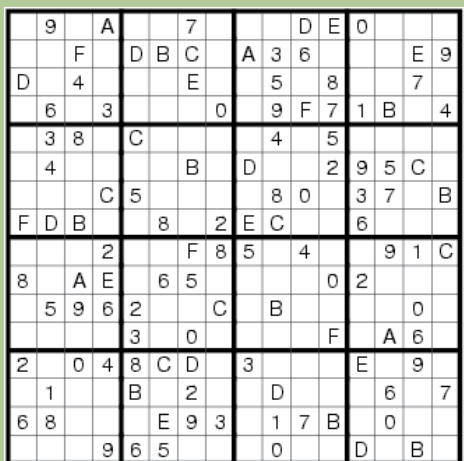
Down

- 1 African republic once called Nyasaland (6)
- 2 Country in which Daniel Ortega became president in 2007 (9)
- 3 Cocktail based on gin and cherry brandy (9,5)
- 4 Tottering, unsteady (5)
- 5 Baby buggy (9)
- 7 Word originally used as a signal cry to an attacking army (5)
- 8 Tract of upland pasture in SE England (3,5)
- 9 Character in The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, played by Bill Nighy in the 2005 film (14)
- 15 Metal casting workshops (9)
- 16 Poet Laureate 1984-98 (3,6)
- 17 Technique used in the high jump (8)
- 19 Handsome young man (6)
- 21 Entail as a consequence (5)
- 22 Co-writer and performer of the James Bond theme Skyfall (5)

QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ

This month's quiz has a distinct footballing flavour...

- 1) Name the six professional clubs that David Beckham has played for.
- 2) Gary Mills is manager of which football club?
- 3) Real Madrid recently drew 1-1 with Manchester United at the Bernebeu. Who were the scorers?
- 4) Which Premier League football team became the first top-flight team since 1987 to lose to a non-league club in the FA Cup?
- 5) Which club is moving from its Underhill base at the start of next season?
- 6) Which football club play at Rugby Park?
- 7) Who knocked Arsenal out of the FA Cup?
- 8) Which football club plays at Fratton Park?
- 9) Paolo di Canio recently resigned as manager from which club?



Monster Daily SuDoku: Tue 26-Feb-2013 very hard

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.



Daily SuDoku: Tue 26-Feb-2013 easy

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

BUYERS' GUIDE



Are you teed off...

...with the constant problem of short lived slip resistant solutions to comply with Health & Safety at your course ?

Gripclad Ltd have developed an affordable very long term solution which instantly eliminates slip hazards on railway sleepers and all types of timber steps and decking using GRP Composite CLEATS.

- These Cleats are resistant to Impact, Spiked Shoes, Frost, All Weathers, corrosion, Chemicals, Fire,
- Easy to install in minutes
- Superior strength and durability
- Excellent Anti-Slip Ability and extremely wear resistant
- Life span of this product is 40 years plus dependant on conditions.
- Various sizes available

"Highly recommend Gripclad for first class products and fast efficient service" – Gail Carpenter, MD Southport Golf Academy

"It is truly non-slip, easy to install and we are proud to endorse their product" – Simon Newland, Club Secretary, Hillside Golf Club

"This products makes the steps easy and safe to walk on in all conditions" – Jonathan Wood, Course Manager, Enville Golf Club

"The overall wear tolerance is excellent. I would recommend Gripclad to any golf club with slippery surface issues" – Scott Aitchinson, Deputy Course Manager, Royal Dornoch Golf Club

Avoid Slip Hazard liabilities by preventing them in the first place.

For free advice and information call:

Gripclad Ltd- Tel: 023 8040 6796

Contact Barry Eagle

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



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

ALL WEATHER SURFACES



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



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



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