

South East

Contact your Section correspondent with news, events or anything else for Around the Green...



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Events Coming Up

London - Next is the Xmas tournament at Verulam Golf Club on 12 December sponsored by Everris. Hoping for a good turn out as Xmas is such a good time to come together after a hard year's work and enjoy some good greenkeeper company. This will be followed by the AGM. Entry forms will be posted out or you can email Lee Cox on l.cox15@btinternet.com

Kent - Our annual Turkey Trot where a good time is pretty much guaranteed followed by the AGM to moan about it if you don't shall be held at Redlibbits GC on 28 November. You all know how enjoyable this event is so be sure to get your entries in asap.

Kent - We are very proud to be hosting the South East Regional conference on Tuesday 19 November at Hadlow College. News on times and speakers to follow next month but visit our website for updates

News

East Anglia - Lovely day at King's Lynn GC. I think it's the first time the Section has been there and it was terrific thanks largely to Colin Robinson and his team. Sixty souls turned up - results below.

East Anglia - I heard a rumour that a golf club has a member who has been at the club for 80 years, continuous membership.

It was suggested that it would be nice to give them life membership as a reward. No problem you might think.

Three committee meetings later, they decided against the idea as it might set a precedent! You could not dream it.

London - The summer tournament was played at Sudbury GC on a wet summer's day but Jim Easton had the course in excellent condition and very much appreciated by the guys from Stanmore GC as they claimed the first 3 places, with Mark Lambert first followed by Jack McCormack and Daniel Cowley.

Kent - Many thanks to everyone who made our Autumn event at the delightful Sene Valley GC such a great occasion.

It's always a pleasure to welcome new attendees to our events too so a warm welcome to our fold to James Boorman and Jamie Tomsett of Lydd GC.

The course at Sene Valley was fantastic and very scenic even if the English Channel didn't look too appealing on this particular day!

It's fair to say that this particular club is one which local knowledge could save you at least half a dozen shots by knowing where to aim!

The welcome by all the clubhouse staff was exceptional and we would like to thank all the management at the club for allowing us to enjoy your facilities on the day.

It's fair to say the early starters enjoyed the best of the conditions as us tail-enders endured monsoon conditions scuppering any chance of a spot on the podium but who cares when you're amongst friends eh!

A thoroughly enjoyable event, great food, great friends, great laughs on a great course.

Thanks Sene Valley. Hope to return soon.

Movers and Shakers

Kent - Congratulations to Darren Burton who, we are reliably informed, is soon to be the father of twins!

London - A couple of appointments to mention, first Trevor Smith of Brookmans Park GC has been promoted from Course Manager to Club and Course Manager and secondly David Purdue has been appointed at The Buckinghamshire GC as Club Mechanic.

Finally congratulations to Ricky Goodman deputy at Hendon G C on the birth of his son George

Results

East Anglia - 0 - 9 Handicap - 1st: Michael Buck (Who else?) 39pts, 2nd Peter Howard (Must try harder) 38pts

10 - 18 Handicap - 1st: Peter Ervine 36pts, 2nd: Howie Jenner 34pts

19 - 28 Handicap - Real Golfers, 1st: Martin Brightwell 31pts, 2nd: Richard Mitchell 30pts

Trade & Guest, 1st: Philip Jones, 2nd: Mark Keysel

Longest Drive - Ian Robinson; Nearest Pin on 3rd - James Brown (Feels Good!); Nearest Pin on 12th - Jerry Scott; Loo Seat - Ian Willett cos no one else wanted it! Thanks again King's Lynn, would love to return one day.

Kent - Autumn Golf Day Results: 1 34pts James Boorman, 2 34pts Michael Roberts, 3 33pts Steve Sutill; Nearest Pin was by Pete Leaves and Longest drive by Dan McGrath.

Thanks to Lister Wilder for bringing some additional prizes and for Darren Burton for bringing some welcome liquid sustenance to the bedraggled late finishers.

Thanks to Sponsors

East Anglia - Ben Burgess were the main John Deere sponsors, ably accompanied by Nick Ashman, Aitkens, Rigby Taylor, Bartram Mowers, Ernest Doe, Collier Turf Care and Amtech Amenity Ltd.

We are all extremely lucky and grateful for all the support we get from the Trade.

It would, however, be helpful if they could just leave a card with their prizes then (perhaps) I would not leave anyone out.

Welcome New Members

Jimmy Heritage - Maylands GC, Shawn Granshaw-Payne - Colne Valley GC, Jamie Robertson - Chelmsford GC, Sam Gavin, Matt Sherwood - Ashford Manor GC, Casey Krahenbuhl - Beaverbrook GC, Martin Wilmshurst - Seaford GC.

South West & South Wales

Contact your Section correspondent with news, events or anything else for Around the Green...



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Events Coming Up

South Coast - Next Golf event the Autumn Tournament at Meon Valley GC on 9 October last entries need to be quick glassy2003@hotmail.com

South Coast - Toro Irrigation Roadshow at Sherborne GC on 23 October, not to be missed and incredible value at £10 for a full day with food. Contact Alex McCombie on southcoastsecretary@gmail.com

South Coast - Regional Seminar on 20 November at Oaktree Arena. Please contact our new Regional Administrator tracey.harvey@bigga.co.uk for full details of speakers and cost.

South Coast - Date of AGM 13 November at Wellow GC. This will be a half day with guest speaker and include a light lunch. Those wishing to play golf in the afternoon need to contact the club separately. Please email Alex on

southcoastsecretary@gmail.com if you want to attend. Support your committee please.

South West - Looking forward to seeing everyone at two upcoming events; the South West Section AGM at Filton Golf Club on Wednesday 16 October, tee times from 11.00am, and the Section Christmas Tournament at Ogbourne Downs Golf Club on 19 December.

Enquiries to Wayne Vincent (07958 630590) or Adam Matthews (07732 503855).

Devon & Cornwall - Our first meeting which is the AGM is at Lanhydrock on 24 October.

News

South Coast - Something completely different from golf congratulations to Rob Crouch our John Deere rep on completing the Iron Man Triathlon in an amazing 13 hours 20 mins. Fitness indeed!

South West - We are seeking interest in an excavator operation update training session to coincide with the five-year cut off from the last certification programme, please keep an eye on the BIGGA Bulletin Boards for details or contact Paul Worster directly.

South West - Best of luck from all of the section to Lee Whyte of Bowood GC and Paul Garland of Lansdowne GC who will be representing the South West at the BIGGA National Championships at Frilford Heath Golf Club on 7 & 8 October, c'mon boys!

South West - Once again the section will be sponsoring a place to attend BTME in January 2014 to include accommodation, transport and education. Please contact any of the committee members to express your interest in this fantastic opportunity.

Thanks to Sponsors

South West - Special thanks to all of our Section Patrons for their ongoing support: EcoSol, Greensman, Irritech, Headland Amenity, Countrywide and Farmura.

Welcome New Members

Timothy Burress – Playgolf Bournemouth, Michael Griffiths – Marriott St Pierre Hotel & Country Club, Colin Coleman – Overseas Member, The Grange Golf Club Australia.

BIGGA REGIONAL CONFERENCES

BIGGA Midland Regional Conference
– Wednesday 6 November at Forest Hill Golf & Country Club, Botcheston, Leicester LE9 9FH. £15 members, £25 non-members

BIGGA Northern Regional Conference
– Thursday 7 November at the Phoenix Golf Club, Brinsworth, Rotherham S60 5PA. £10 members, £20 non-members

BIGGA South West & South Wales Regional Conference – Thursday 21 November at the Oaktree Arena, Highbridge, Somerset TA9 4HA

BIGGA South East Regional Conference - Tuesday 19 November at Hadlow College near Tonbridge Kent TN11 0AL



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Ryder Cup stars sample EnviroBunker



Jack Nicklaus and two other former Ryder Cup stars recently experienced something they had never before witnessed on a golf course when they saw bunkers built from re-cycled synthetic material.

They became involved to varying degrees in projects at opposite ends of the climatic and geographical spectrum last summer.

The projects at Trump National, Jupiter, Florida in the USA and Frosaker Golf and Country Club in Sweden now share a common interest, both having commissioned EnviroSports Ltd to construct bunkers using their patented EnviroBunker construction method.

The South Wales based company struck up a partnership with former Swedish Ryder Cup star Pierre Fulke last Summer having worked on a small construction project on a new 9 holes at Frosaker, a Championship venue in Sweden, where Fulke was acting as architect.

Such was his passion for the product, Fulke became a representative for EnviroBunker in Scandinavia, and along with the owners at Frosaker, commissioned a second stage build to complete all bunkers on the new 9 holes in May 2013.

The course opened in August of this year with Magnus A Carlson and former Ryder Cup player Per-Ulrik Johanssen playing alongside Fulke in the curtain raiser.

Christer Ral owner at Frosaker GC commented "EnviroBunker fits in beautifully at Frosaker and knowing that we will not have to re-visit these bunkers for 20 years or more is a very satisfying feeling. Equally important to us is that there is no compromise in appearance or performance"

Across the pond, EnviroBunker was seen by Trump National, Jupiter, as an ideal solution to the problems of maintaining bunker edges and higher faces in the heat of Florida.

In contrast to Frosaker, Trump National was a full 18 hole course rebuild managed by Nicklaus Design. The EnviroSports team worked closely with Senior Design Associates at the Nicklaus company over a six-month period ; initially providing input to the design and planning process, and then managing the construction of 17 large and strategically important bunkers.

Richard Allen, Co- Director of EnviroSports commented: "During the construction phase we worked alongside world class designers

and contractors , exchanging ideas and knowledge with some of the most experienced professionals in golf course construction, including Mr Nicklaus himself.

"We are delighted with the feedback we have received from Nicklaus Design, Superior Golf Concepts, Clay Batson (The Course Superintendent)and of course our client, Trump National. Moving forward we plan to do more work in the US and are responding to enquiries from regions as diverse as New Mexico, Colorado and New York State".

The project at the Trump National coincided with the granting of a US Design Patent, following earlier granting of the UK patent. Fellow EnviroSports Director, Rhydian Lewis explained the significance: "Envirobunker is a high quality product, which demands a combination of imagination, skill and precision at both design and construction stages.

"We are committed to maintaining and enhancing our reputation for quality and intellectual property is an important tool in that process'."





Dan McGrath
Master Greenkeeper

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Greenkeepers Training Committee

In a new series, the GTC has invited representatives from its Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers to discuss their particular specialism within the sports turf sector



This month the GTC has invited Andy Wight, Head of Work based Training at Oaklands College, to share his knowledge and experience on delivering the Apprenticeship Scheme for greenkeepers and why employers and Course Managers should consider recruiting or registering staff on this Government accredited scheme

“Apprenticeship” is the current buzzword and the government’s vision for the future of training in the UK. The numerous apprentice frameworks are currently under review and once again, industries are set for more changes. The government’s view is that apprenticeships should be a choice for young people i.e. equal to that of a college Further Education qualification or in the case of higher apprenticeships, Degree level.

What is an apprenticeship and how does it work?

An apprenticeship is a formal, agreed framework of education and training which has been set by a lead body on behalf of industry. In the case of greenkeeping, the Lead Body is LANTRA. The GTC represents both golf club employers and greenkeepers and have ably, for many years, ensured both employers and apprentices have a “fit for purpose” apprenticeship scheme which has become an exemplar for other sectors.

The framework includes:

- * **the main work based qualification (Level 2 or 3 Greenkeeping)**
- * **functional skills in maths and English**
- * **personal thinking and learning skills**
- * **employer rights and responsibilities**
- * **on and off the job training**

This list includes some on the job and independent assessments. On the job training happens

every day at work - learning to use a mower, lay turf etc. Off the job training does not necessarily mean the apprentice has to attend college. It could be at work using an office but it must not be part of the apprentice’s normal routine. It could also be studying online using the employer’s computer.

Many apprentices enjoy the flexibility of the scheme but a key component is that there must be an agreement between the employer, the apprentice and the Centre, of who does what and when.

This is done through an agreed Individual Training Plan. Equally it could be part of a day or block release course at a local college, which has been the traditional delivery method for many years. Modern technology and the important role Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers have in the apprenticeship scheme has given employers and the apprentices choices on their preferred delivery method.

Greenkeeping apprenticeships are available on two levels; one includes the Level 2 work based diploma, SVQ in Scotland qualification and one includes the Level 3 Sports turf qualification. Young apprentices will always commence on the Level 2 apprenticeship as the Level 3 includes supervisory skills.

Why are apprenticeships good for the employee?

The employee has employment for the duration of the framework and gains a set of skills and qualifications that they can use to progress in the industry.



The GTC is funded by:



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You can follow the GTC on
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Why are they good for the employer?

Government funding support is often available for apprenticeships. Employers in England can currently receive a grant of up to £1500 for each apprentice they take on.

Scotland and Wales often have funding incentives and support to encourage an employer to recruit a young person who will bring fresh ideas and skills into the workplace.

Apprentices can make an organisation more effective, productive and competitive by addressing its skills gaps directly.

Apprenticeship training for 16 to 19 year olds is free of charge to the employer. Note – the funding of apprenticeships is subject to

change and it is advisable to check with your chosen GTC Quality Assured Centre for the latest information.

Is an apprenticeship for everyone?

In essence yes, there are no age restrictions on apprenticeships at present (although currently only 16 to 19 year olds are fully funded).

The only requirement is that the apprentice must pass the English and Maths requirement of a framework.

In a few cases, where the person may have a learning issue such as dyslexia or extremely low English or Maths skills, a Centre will offer additional learning support before signing up an individual onto the apprenticeship scheme.

How apprenticeships can work well - a case study

Simon Torr, a greenkeeper at Bearwood Lakes Golf Club, is a mature level 3 apprentice, studying with Oaklands College. For Simon, the apprenticeship offered him and his employer a cost effective method of gaining his level 3 Sports Turf work based Diploma qualification (formerly NVQ).

Simon uses the Smart assessor e-portfolio to upload his evidence. He likes the freedom this gives him to monitor his own progress and see what tasks he still has to cover. In addition, he can communicate with his assessor and have his work assessed at any time by his tutor without the need for a face to face meeting.

The key to ensuring an apprentice progresses well through the scheme is a good initial assessment by a Centre. For example, Simon completed English and Maths tests as well as a skills scan to look at the areas he was competent in and those he was not. This initial assessment and close liaison between his tutor and Dan Lightfoot, his Course Manager, meant that everyone was aware which skills he needed to gain.

This allowed the Centre and Dan to ensure Simon received the training and practice to become competent in the areas of work required by the Standards within the qualification. School exam certificates can assist greatly in this initial assessment and prevent duplication of training within the scheme.

Simon commented: “An apprenticeship has enabled me to get the qualifications I need and the functional skills remind me of some skills I have not used fully for a while but will require as I progress up the career ladder”.

Dan added: “Apprenticeships offer me a suitable way of reducing training costs and I benefit from giving a valued member of staff a career enhancing experience”. So the message from employers and apprentices is that when it works well an apprenticeship is a valued experience.



“An apprenticeship has enabled me to get the qualifications I need and the functional skills remind me of some skills I have not used fully for a while but will require as I progress up the career ladder”

Simon Torr, Bearwood Lakes GC

Read more at
www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/34708/richard-review-full.pdf
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