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All the latest news from your Section, in your new-look notes pages...



Around the green

Scotland

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



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Events Coming Up

Ayrshire

Symbio seminar at Dundonald Golf Club on 18 February contact Jim Paton or a Symbio rep for more details.

Central

Although the Pairs competition for 2014 has still to be confirmed by the Section Committee expect to hear notification of it by the end of February along with entry details and the format. The Spring outing this year will be at Kinghorn Golf Club which is one of the Fife Golf Trust Courses and will be on Tuesday 29 April.

Although there have been a few wet and windy days over the past month, compared to many places around the country our area seems to have escaped the worst of the weather and I know many of the coastal courses at least have made great progress with their winter work programmes. With the mild start to 2014 I've heard reports from golfers all around the area compliment the greens at their particular course, long may it continue.

Welcome New Members

David McPherson, Student, SRUC (Elmwood), Daire Higgins, Student, SRUC (Elmwood), Jamie Reynolds, Greenkeeper, Drumpellier Golf Club, Samuel Steele, Student, CAFRE - College of Agriculture Food & Rural Enterprises (Ireland), Simon Dexter, Student, SRUC (Elmwood), Jonathan Duggan, Greenkeeper, Deeside Golf Club, Gary Innes, Student, SRUC (Elmwood), Rory Acheson, Greenkeeper, Largs Golf Club.

Northern

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ITINERARY

9.00am - 9.30am	COFFEE & REGISTRATION
9.30am - 10.30am	THE IMPORTANCE OF OXYGEN/AERATION PRESENTED BY DAVID SNOWDEN
10.30am - 10.45am	BREAK FOR COFFEE
10.45am - 11.15am	UNDERSTANDING FERTILISER APPLICATION & PLANT NUTRITION
11.15am - 11.45am	THE ROLE OF AN AGRONOMIST PRESENTED BY DAVID STANSFIELD
11.45am - 12.45pm	CAMPEY TURFCARE MACHINERY DEMONSTRATION - AIR 2G2/IMNANT SHOCKWAVE
1.00pm - 1.30pm	Q & A / LIGHT LUNCH

This event will qualify for 3 CPD Points and a Certificate of Attendance will be awarded

- LEEDS: 25/02/2014: Cookridge Golf Club
- CHESHIRE: 26/02/2014: DeVere Mottram Hall
- ROTHERHAM: 27/02/2014: Grange Park Golf Club

Northern

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



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Events Coming Up

North East

6 March Chester le Street GC - Seminar with speakers Greg Evans, Henry Bechelet, Lee Strutt MG and Pete Newton. This is limited to 50 places so book early to avoid disappointment.

Spring golf comp at South Shields GC on 12 March tee off from 12noon.

Cleveland

Cleveland/north east section course walk and guest speaker at Rockcliffe Hall in February with the exact date and details to be confirmed. If you have never been to Rockcliffe Hall it is well worth the trip.

Slightly off subject but on Friday 20 February there will be an England counties team playing Ireland's club teams at the Darlington Mowden Park Arena. Tickets are £7 on the night. It would be great to see the Cleveland section there to support Ian Dunnabie in his role as Head Groundsman.

I know this is a little early but we are looking for a venue for the autumn tournament. Any volunteers? If you have any news no matter what let me know and I'll put it in. I can be contacted on 07974 458640 or amcgeough@aol.com

Northern

Fixtures 2014 - Spring date and venue TBC. Presidents day - West Bradford GC on 18th June tee off 1pm. Sheffield match up is at their gaff this year date and venue TBC. Invitation day is at Dewsbury GC on 27 August tee off 1pm. Also in August is the trade v greenkeepers date TBC. Autumn gig - Masham GC on Tuesday 16 September tee off 1pm. And finally the Xmas day out is at Rawdon (Leeds) on 10 December. A final flyer will be sent out asap.

Sheffield

Following the success of BTME our aim to provide more education at Section level is progressing well with The Greenkeeping Seminar by Agronomic Services Ltd at The Grange Golf Club on 27 February. The Northern Region Conference is on Thursday 6 November with the theme of Pests and Diseases - so the year is getting off to a good start. Further events will be scheduled between our golf days so keep an eye on your section news.

The spring tournament will take place at The Grange Golf Club on 15 May which will be an invitation day where you can invite a committee member along.

The summer tournament will take place at Stocksbridge Golf Club on 10 July. The autumn tournament will take place at Hallamshire Golf Club on 9 September

News

Cleveland

Must be something in the water up here as we have another future greenkeeper! Marc Kerr and his better half Samantha are celebrating the birth of their first son Luca Solomon weighing in at 6lb 2oz, congratulations.

I have some very sad news regarding Tony Burge, retired Head Greenkeeper at Richmond Golf Club. He passed away on Tuesday 7 January after a long illness. Tony was my first Head Greenkeeper and as a baby faced 16 year old he took me under his wing and helped me get to the position I am at today. He was Head Greenkeeper at Richmond for over 25 years implementing countless improvements and will be missed by everyone in the greenkeeping industry. My sympathies go out to his sons Adrian and Simon. For details of the funeral you can contact me on amcgeough@aol.com Northern

We have the section mobile up and running so we can send you guys all the news and fixture updates over the season. Please text me on this new number 07443 643497. I will store your details on this but you can still get me on my mobile.

Results

Cleveland

Christmas golf day at Cleveland GC. The day was as good as ever with the course in excellent condition. Ian Pemberton and his staff did it again and produced a course that most people would be happy with in the summer let alone a couple of weeks before Christmas! Format of the day was a stableford team event with the best two scores counting.

1 Ian Pemberton, Glen Baxter, Nik Blesic, Ian Dunnabie 89pts, 2 Anthony McGeough, Simon Olver, Dave Athold, Richie Hood 80, 3 Doug Avey, Pete Newton, Geoff Ward 71, 4 Paul Legg, Aiden Coates, Derek Thompson 70. Longest Drive Simon Olver. Nearest the pin Pete Newton. Thanks to Sandra Raper for her moral support and her ability to decipher score cards!

Thanks to Sponsors

Cleveland

Christmas Golf Day was sponsored by TACIT and was attended by the regional representative Nik Blesic. Sheffield

We would like to thank Mike Brears from Rigby Taylor for sponsoring our Christmas event held at Worksop Golf Club the day was well attended. We would like to thank Ben and his staff for the good condition of the course and also the catering staff for the Christmas dinner. Thanks to all the sponsors in 2013 for their support and hope they will support us in 2014- Thank You!

Welcome New Members

Adam Mavin, Greekeeper, Bedlingtonshire Golf Club, Derek Millar, Course Manager, Matten Hall Golf Club, Grant Burton, Greenkeeper, Northumberland Golf Club, Richard Roberts, Course Manager, Hart Common Golf, Daniel Beckett, Student, Myerscough College. Billy Leech, Assistant Greenkeeper, Westhoughton Golf Club, Liam Armstrong, Assistant Greenkeeper, Burgham Park Golf Club, Sam Greenhalgh, Assistant Greenkeeper, Flixton Golf Club, Harry Barbour, Assistant Greenkeeper, Henlle Park Golf Club.

Midland

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



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EAST MIDLAND
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Events Coming Up

Midland

Please remember there is the Spring Education day at Little Aston Golf Club on 18 March 10am start. Neil Baker will be talking about the changes being made at Little Aston and his passion for all things Colt. Please see the Section's website for further details of how to book your place.

Mid Anglia

Now that BTME has been and gone we are hopeful that Mid Anglia Section are able to host an educational seminar sometime in the near future. If all goes ahead as planned a venue and a date with details of speakers and subjects will be with you all asap, please try to make it as always good to meet up and learn something new.

News

BB&O

Alec MacIndoe has decided to step down as Chairman of the BB&O Section after 8 years.

Midland

It is my great pleasure to be able to report that Adam Jones (Handsworth Golf Club), and his fiancé Lucy have had a baby boy, Bobby Christopher Jones weighing 8lb 15oz on 13 December 2013. Congratulations to you both, and welcome Bobby.

Many belated congratulations to Andy Brougham for securing his first Head position as Head Greenkeeper at Wolstanton Golf Club. Andy started in November and we all wish you the best of luck in your new position.

Andy's replacement at Trentham is James Fox. Many congratulations to James who becomes Assistant Course Manager at Trentham Golf Club. Make sure you look after your boss James!!

Thanks to Sponsors

Midland

Adam Jones is represented again, as this month's picture on your Section calendar features Handsworth Golf Club, which I must say is looking very good. The sponsors this month are our old friends ALS. They provide many services within our industry, please consider them for your needs: Tel: 01952 641949, or Email: sales@amenity.co.uk

Mid Anglia

A massive thanks goes to ALS, Farmura, Avoncrop Amenity, Amtech Amenity, Tuckwells Machinery, Vassgro Amenity, Rigby Taylor Ltd and Headland Amenity for your continued support with funds towards the Mid Anglia Section which has made our section run successfully in 2013.

Banks Amenity also sponsor our Golfer of the Year Trophy again this year so once again your support means a lot and please consider these suppliers for your requirements the coming months and beyond into 2014.

Welcome New Members

Guy Champion, Darren Jones, Russ Tomlinson, Matthew Gilks, Kevin Pugh, Stephen Austin all Affiliate members (Group), Farol Ltd, George Page, Greenkeeper, Gaudet Luce Golf Club, Thomas Dixon, Assistant Greenkeeper. Forest Hill Golf & Country Club, Stuart Carter, Assistant Greenkeeper, Windmill Village Golf And Leisure Club. Adam Fulcher, Greenkeeper, Stocks Golf Club, Dean Knight, Assistant Greenkeeper, The Belfry Golf Club, Nigel Walker, Assistant Greenkeeper, Newark Golf Club, Ryan McKee, Assistant Greenkeeper, Cliftonville Golf Club.



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South East

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talktalk.net



LONDON
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.com

Events Coming Up

London

We have educational days to offer in February. After the first on Chemicals and Tank Mixing which took place on 5 February at Mill Hill GC, the second is at Oaklands WGC on Tuesday 18 February titled the 'U's. Cost £12.50, there are four speakers. Rob Philips Course Manager Sandy Lodge GC [under-budget] Jon Lockyear Course Manager Roehampton GC [U-turns] Murray Long Golf Course and Estate Manager Sunningdale GC [up in the rankings] and last but not least Stuart Yarwood MG Course Manager Lymm GC [under construction] this is a day not to miss and great value for money!

Third one is again at Mill Hill GC on Thursday 27 February at 12.30 and the subject is Sands for Bunkers and the types of bunker construct, with the man of sands Simon Banks offering knowledge and information. No cost and 1 to 2 hours duration.

Golf this Season - Spring is at Northwood GC, Summer is at Hendon and Xmas is at Essendon with dates next month.

Essex

First golf day this year is at the Essex Golf & Country Club, Thursday 27 March. Please get your entries in early, as it is always a popular venue. Entries to Antony Kirwan: at "Play Golf Colchester" Bakers Lane, Colchester, Essex. CO3 4AU or antz16@btinternet.com by Saturday 22 March please.

News

Sussex

The Sussex section would like to congratulate Giulio Vazza on his recent appointment as Estate Manager at Mannings Heath Golf Club.

Essex

Great to see so many of you guys at Harrogate last month. What a fantastic conference and show, a real shame if you missed it.

Ben reports that the Barenbrug trip this month is oversubscribed, which is good news, considering the last couple of events he arranged were the exact opposite. Ben is always willing to hear from those seeking further education.

At our last committee meeting we laid down a list of educational subjects that we felt might interest the membership, more of these in the coming months. For more information about any educational subject

please contact Ben at gingermunky@hotmail.com

Welcome New Members

Spencer Adams-Dunstan, Greenkeeper, Langdon Hills Golf Club, Dean Fidler, Greenkeeper, Northwood Golf Club, Dean Eckett, Greenkeeper, Datchet Golf Club

Freddie Wright, Greenkeeper, Datchet Golf Club, Conor Reilly, Greenkeeper, Wisley (The) Golf Club Plc, John Drew, Assistant Greenkeeper, Epping Golf Course, Keith Murray, Greenkeeper, The Wentworth Club, Stanley Mycroft, Assistant Greenkeeper, The Buckinghamshire Golf Club, Andrew McCormack, Jack Percival, Aran Harris, Matthew Tinwell, Matthew Daniels, Damien Puxted all Students at Hadlow College, Simon Tunn, Greenkeeper, Birchwood Park Golf Centre, Mark Bell, Course Manager, Birchwood Park Golf Centre, Callum Smith, Assistant Greenkeeper, Essex Golf & Country Club.

Welcome New International Members:

Jason Honeyball, OslerBrook Golf & Country Club (Canada), Lars Overgaard, Casper Burkari Skandinavian Golf Club (Denmark), Guillaume Cadic, Golf National (France).



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South West & South Wales

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



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CORNWALL**
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SOUTH WALES
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Events Coming Up

South Coast

Really important date 19 February at Milton Abbey School - the South Coast Section's Annual Seminar, Sports Turf Management. Some great speakers from Golf, Football and Cricket. More information see the flier or contact Alex McCombie on southcoastsecretary@gmail.com - Price to members is just £20

South West

This year's event calendar is coming together nicely with most venues and dates confirmed.

We will be providing all section members and patrons with a fixture card but in the meantime here are the early ones:

24 April: Am/Am at Enmore Park Golf Club

19 June: Summer Tournament at Farrington Golf Club

Additionally we are in the process of organising two course walk afternoons which we will ensure everyone is aware of once they are finalised, watch this space.

News

South West

Thanks to Cotswold Hills Golf Club for their support in hosting the section Christmas event and thanks to everyone who attended.

The day was a sell-out success with over sixty golfers attending, well done all let's keep it up this year. Top job on the course Wayne, many thanks to you and team.

Welcome to Lucy Sellick and Joe Curtis who are taking positions on the section committee, great to have you both on board.

Results

South Coast

Winners of the Turkey Trot held at Weybrook Park GC: Kevin Tigg, Ryan Hyder, Tim Webb. 2 Jon Worrall, Andy Lewis, Tony Gadd. 3 Tony Crouch, Matt Burton, Colin Hutt. Longest Drive David King, Nearest the Pin Bill Ridgeley.

Thanks to Sponsors

A special word for our section Patrons whose continued support is invaluable. A big welcome to two new supporters who have come on board this year.

Sportsmark Group based in Melksham who supply sports ground and golf equipment and contracting services and TH White Grasscare Knockdown Depot.

Great to have you with us and we look forward to seeing you at our section events.

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Welcome New Members

Charles Brierley, Affiliate with magazine, Tiverton Golf Club, Roy Key, Affiliate with magazine, Mason Kings, Geoffrey Roberts, Affiliate with magazine, Mason Kings, Andrew Bowey, Affiliate with magazine, Mason Kings, George Simpson, Greenkeeper, Burghill Valley Golf Club, Gerald Turnbull, Assistant Greenkeeper, St Athan Golf Club, Simon Ryall, Assistant Greenkeeper, Sherborne Golf Club.



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Lifeline View 55G0011

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- Automatic daily, weekly and monthly circuitry tests.
- 5-years battery standby life with visible and audible low-battery warnings.
- Oversized buttons and clear voice prompts ensure simplicity of operation.



Lifeline AUTI Defibrillator 55G0016

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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

For this month's GTC Quality Assured feature David Golding, GTC's Education Director invited GOSTA's Managing Director Lesley Lowrie to give a background to her company and as the only non-college GTC QA Centre, explain the various programmes they offer



David remembers Lesley saying "We are here to stay!" when he first visited her on an approval visit to GOSTA some 22 years ago, and so it has proved! She takes up the story...

From 1982 until 2011 GOSTA Training delivered education to golf clubs in Ayrshire, Dunbartonshire, Renfrewshire, Forth Valley, Glasgow and Lanarkshire. In 2011 the company commenced delivery of training in the Edinburgh and Lothian areas also.

The opportunity to expand the business was met with both excitement and trepidation but three years on, the number of students has continued to increase each year.

The support and encouragement received from golf clubs in the Edinburgh and Lothian areas has been amazing and very much appreciated. The success has been aided by one of the most respected sports turf lecturers, Steve Miller, whose great reputation with many employers has spanned forty years.

A bit about our journey over 32 years...GOSTA Training started as a Training Provider to Golf Club Employers in October 1982 and for the first ten years delivered training to greenkeepers with the support of the local college. In 1993 there were many changes to education with the introduction of Vocational Qualifications and new Quality Systems, not forgetting a new government agency involved in the funding of the Scottish Vocational Qualifications. At the same time I took over as Managing Director and was charged with looking at the way forward for the company.

Challenges came with the territory. The main challenge was finding an effective delivery model which would take account of all the partners involved and ensure the Modern Apprenticeship Programme was effective. We needed to look at the best time of year and best location for the day release classes, and we also looked at what type of courses we would run to enhance the skills of the apprentices.

Feedback from those meetings

highlighted that employers preferred training to take place in the winter months. So in order to minimise down time for the employers, the 'off-the-job' education to gain the required knowledge and understanding would be best delivered from October to March.

This decision has stood the test of time and still exists today. It means the employee is away for day release when it tends to be (dare I say it!) a little quieter on the golf course. The benefit of apprentices meeting up in class is evident as they are not only learning from their lecturer but from their peers. I also know of many working relationships within the industry which have been created and will last a lifetime.

The training and practical skills are assessed at work, which is what you would expect. Where better than the realistic environment of a busy golf course?

The involvement of the Assessors/Supervisors in the workplace is of paramount importance and many of the Head Greenkeepers or Course Managers have been trained

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as assessors by the GTC. The practical evidence the apprentice brings forward for their qualification will be naturally occurring and realistic and will be countersigned by the appropriate person at work.

In order to compliment the training at the workplace, the day release education is delivered by the best and most appropriate people. Currently the company has three lecturers who teach classes every week and involve the students with classroom assessments. Between them, they have over a hundred years of sports turf experience and knowledge which they bring to our apprentices.

In Glasgow we have John Robertson, and Ronnie Bunting joined the team this year. Both John and Ronnie have been Course Managers so are fully aware of what will be required of apprentices in the industry. They are two of the most supportive people you could imagine, spending many hours sharing their knowledge and giving any additional guidance where required. Steve Miller, equally

knowledgeable and committed, looks after the students from Edinburgh and Lothian areas.

However, it is not about a disjointed approach to training with the employer doing practical skills and GOSTA the teaching. The company works tirelessly to build relationships at the highest level with our employers, apprentices and other partners and it is imperative that we constantly keep up to date with their requirements. To that end apprentices and their assessor/supervisor are visited at work every 12 weeks to document progress.

The lecturers or myself will then visit each employer in the summer to ensure that information is gained with regard to our delivery of the qualification and update the golf club on any grants, wage subsidies or current initiatives. Over the years feedback from these meetings has proved to be invaluable.

Often Skills Development Scotland will have funding available to support short courses which will mean the difference of training staff

or not. At the moment, with many golf club budgets being reduced, these initiatives are very well received. It also allows a refresher for the assessors to ensure that they are keeping their skills up to date.

So where are we now? GOSTA Training, as one of the main providers of the Modern Apprenticeship programme in Scotland and with an extensive portfolio of short industry related courses, will continue to listen to employers and students.

Hopefully, the successes and lessons learned in the past 32 years (as a private company) will enable us to go from strength to strength and continue to forge great relationships within the industry. In turn this will enable us to provide the type of training the industry needs to have a highly skilled workforce to take it forward.

In summary, GOSTA Training respects the work of organisations within golf including The GTC, BIGGA, SGU and The R&A and we are proud to be part of such a great industry.



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