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The 2013 Open at Muirfield was truly memorable. The agronomic and playing performance of the course was superb.

The course was kept as dry as was considered to be reasonably possible, resulting in the firmest and fastest Open greens in recent times. Accurate, objective measurements informed Colin Irvine in his decision making and the maintenance operations were superbly and skilfully implemented by Colin's team of dedicated greenkeepers.

Working with the Muirfield staff for two weeks, it was abundantly clear we were working with a team of greenkeepers at the very top of their profession.

Despite the agronomic challenges presented by the hot and dry conditions, the course was universally praised.

The quality of the leaderboard reaffirmed Muirfield's status as a superb golf course which presents its greatest challenge when played in traditional firm and fast links conditions.



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Join the BIGGA Open Support Team at The Open 2014, at Royal Liverpool

Applications are now open for a place on BIGGA's Open Support Team for the 143rd Open Championship at Royal Liverpool Golf Club next July.

We require full BIGGA members to join our team behind the scenes. They will be supporting the home greenkeeping team at Hoylake by raking bunkers alongside the players during the four rounds.

You may also be required to complete early morning preparation work and evening divot repairing.

It's a real development opportu-

nity from both a professional and personal point of view. You will gain an understanding of the technical preparations from the home greenkeeping team and sample the atmosphere of one of the world's greatest golf tournaments.

You will also spend several days with greenkeepers from across the UK and the world with many remaining firm friends for years to come.

You will receive accommodation, a food allowance, daily transport to and from the course, a waterproof

suit and polo shirts – all you have to do is make your way to Liverpool. The 2014 tournament proper begins on Thursday 17 July with the winner crowned on Sunday 20 July.

To apply, just fill in the application form on the opposite page and return by post to Rachael Duffy at BIGGA House, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF by Friday 31 January 2014. We'll announce the team in February and the successful applicants will then be allocated various roles within the team. Good luck!

Name

Golf Club

Position

Age.....

BIGGA Membership Number

Home address

.....

.....

Email Address

Mobile Number

.....

Passport photo attached?.....

Waterproof measurements; waist.....leg length.....

Polo shirt measurement; chest.....

Are you available for the Early Morning Prep team from Monday 14th July?

Sunday final night (20th July) accommodation required? ..

Any specific dietary needs?.....

If so please state

I have applied for/appeared on the team at:

	Applied	Successful
Muirfield, 2013.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Royal Lytham & St Annes, 2012.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Royal St George's, 2011	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
St Andrews, 2010	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Turnberry, 2009	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

I have been a BIGGA member for more than three years Yes No

I serve, or have served in the last three years, on a Section/Region Committee.....

I am an active member of the BIGGA CPD Scheme

I have attended three of the last five BTMEs.

I am/have been a member of the PGA Championship Support Team.....

I am willing to be a mini bus driver (You must have held a full driving license for three years and be over 25 years of age.).....

I am an overseas Member.....

IMPORTANT INFO

Note: A place on the team is open to all full BIGGA members but priority will be given to the more active members. Subject to the availability of sufficient numbers of experienced team members no regular team member will be selected for more than three teams in succession. A limited number of places will be made available to younger members and overseas members. **Please ensure that you have spoken to your golf club or Course Manager prior to applying and have arranged the time off.** To apply please fill in the application form and enclose a passport photograph and send to Rachael Duffy, BIGGA House, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF. **Closing date is 31st January 2014.** You will be notified in February if you have been successful.





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



Around the green



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



CENTRAL
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NORTH
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WEST
Stuart Taylor
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Events Coming Up

Central

With BTME taking place in January we don't have anything arranged for the immediate future but we shall try and get something set up for around the middle/end of February and will notify members by the usual method.

News

Central

Over 40 members turned up for the seminar at Auchterarder GC on 10 December where the five speakers gave interesting presentations on a range of subjects. Our thanks to them for and to the Golf Club for the use of the facilities, a small report on the day is on our website www.biggacentralsection.org.uk

Please see the Newsdesk section of the magazine for a tribute to David Wilson.

West

First of all, can I wish everybody a Happy New Year. I will start with a meeting set up by John Young, chaired by myself to look into possible changes with golf events in the Scottish region. The idea is to try and encourage more participation and revamp certain tournaments all section secretaries were in attendance along with the administrator and Scottish chairman. Proposals are being developed which will be put forward to the Scottish Board for approval before any alterations are carried out.

On 24 October the West section held its AGM at Haggis Castle Golf Club, 26 people attended and they were treated to a couple of

talks, one by Alistair Eccles of British Seed Houses, and the other by Gary Smith of Sherriff Amenity thanks to them and to all who attended. Thanks to Haggis Castle for hosting the event and most of all to the new recruits on the West section committee, Ronnie Miles as Vice Chairman, Bruce Cruickshanks and Kerr Rowan, it's nice to see new blood.

Some training days took place recently, which appear to have been well attended. Firstly STRI organised 4 days of workshops at Loch Lomond of which I had a couple of guys attend and they thought they were excellent. The subjects covered were pests and diseases, turf management, construction, and turf science, so well done STRI and long may they continue.

Next was the course walk over Loch Lomond, the two people I sent came back full of praise for the course, the organisation, the facilities, and the quality of the staff information, it just goes to show what can be achieved with the correct resources and knowledge. Loch Lomond is to be congratulated, many thanks to David Cole and Peter Heggarty for their help on the day and David McBride for arranging everything.

The Christmas night out was held at Qui Italia on 22 November courtesy of Gerry Bruen our Chairman. Most people left at a respectable time only a few diehards stayed until the end, no names mentioned. Next year we will try a different venue to keep things lively.

I had a few staff members take part in the Movember campaign. Next year you might get a couple of other willing helpers considering it all goes to a charity (prostate cancer). My staff members were Craig McLean, Gerard Broadley, and Bryan Ramsey.

Congratulations to Bryan Ramsey on winning the Patrons award. The award is given for supporting the section events over the years both at outings and educational days; I was privileged to be asked to the Patrons award dinner held at Gleneagles Hotel on 5 December. Well done to John Young for organising the event and thanks to Scott Fenwick for his talk on preparations for the Ryder Cup next year, Gleneagles proved to be an excellent location.

On a sad note may I pass on my condolences to all those at Scotlube after hearing about the death of Stewart Clayton, Stewart was a great supporter of the Scottish region attending as many events as he could throughout the country so it was very sad to hear of his passing, our thoughts go with all his family and company members.

I would also like to mention the passing of Andy Wills who worked with Nairn Brown; Andy delivered machines for 10 years with the company but sadly passed away suddenly after a heart failure. Our condolences go to all those at Nairn Brown and his wife at this very difficult time.

Finally can I say best wishes to Aitkens on successfully completing 50 years in the business, long may they continue serving the country with their needs and I hope you have another 50 prosperous years.

Best wishes to all for the new season, and remember to check out the West section's blog.



Northern

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



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Events Coming Up

North East

Course walk arranged at Rockcliffe on February 14 check Facebook and Twitter pages for full details.

North Wales

There still may be spaces left for the coach to BTME on 22 January, please contact me asap if you are interested in booking a seat.

News

Cleveland

A bit of catching up in the news department as it's been a while since the last update so here goes, the Boulby potash mine trip went well and the guys who went down are a lot braver than me! Remember these trips can be organised as often as we want it's just the numbers that are limited. So if you fancy it give Pembo a ring on 07791 695768.

Olly Shepard is in the news again. He has recently started a new job as a fly fishing coach - good luck Olly.

News around the clubs: Mount Oswald Golf Club has closed but they've bought Hallgarth Hall, Darlington. Rockcliffe held the English Senior Open and will be returning on 29 - 31 August 2014.

The section AGM was held at Teeside Golf Club on 21 November. Kevin Scarce was guest speaker and presented an overview of the online management systems available on the market. One major outcome was the appointment of Barry Walker as the new chairman. Kevin has stepped down due to work commitments.

The annual Richmond 'Ryder Cup' challenge against the club pros took place and my team comprehensively beat the pros for the second time in three years, a 10-6 win, and I recorded my first round of golf in a long while with a 5 and 4 win over the club pro! Roll on next year!

Get in touch with Anthony McGeough on amcgeough@aol.com or Ian Pemberton on ispemberton@ntlworld.com.

North Wales

Gareth Woosnam ex of Oswestry Golf Club has taken the position of Head Greenkeeper at Keele Golf Centre, Staffordshire; we wish him all the best in his new position.

Northern

The Xmas bash at Baildon Golf Club should have been a great test of golf for us but unfortunately mother nature decided to take the mick! As we arrived it was blue sky with no wind and the bar was open, but within minutes the thickest fog came in and never moved! So the day

ended early to the disappointment of all but we could not do anything else.

On behalf of the committee I would like to thank all you guys who attended the golf days and your support over the year. We try as always to deliver a great day out for us all and have a good fixture list to look forward to for 2014.

For next season we will be getting a mobile phone for the section so we can send text messages, reminders for golf days and any other section held functions to your mobiles. Send me your number and I'll add you.

Results

Cleveland

The Autumn tournament at Sharpley Springs Golf Club was played and I would just like to take this opportunity to say what a wonderfully presented course it is. The greens were excellent and a credit to Richie Hood and his staff. I hope we get the chance to play there again.

Div 1: 1 Paul Walton 34pts, 2 Martin Woods 34, 3 Paul Legg 32. Div 2: 1 Ben McGratten 40, 2 Tony Bell 37, 3 Liam Atkinson 31. Div 3: 1 Ian Pemberton 34, 2 Liam Dover 31, 3 Daniel Egan 27.

Trade winner Jamie Applegarth 30pts. Longest drive Phil "the beast from bishop" Graham. Nearest the pins Paul Legg, Liam Atkinson and Ian Pemberton.

North East

Dunstanburgh Castle Bring a bottle winter comp. Firstly thanks must go to Stuart Imeson and his team, who must be the youngest set of greenkeepers in the country! They set the course up fabulously for this event.

Results: Cat 1 S Cram on count back from D Wilkinson. Cat 2 G Baxter. Cat 3 J Thorpe. Well done to D Wilkinson who had a hole in one on the 4th. Thanks also from myself and S Olver to Ian Pemberton (secretary Cleveland section) for the invite to play their section's bring a bottle, would be nice to see both sections working closely together next year.

North Wales

The results of the Christmas tournament at Royal Liverpool, Hoylake are: 1 Michael Hughes, John Corbett, Peter Lacey and Miles Todd 82 pts, 2 Craig Gilholm, Jim Croxton, Carl Crocher and Andrew Cornes 81, 3 Alan Kelsall, T Oates, Terry Adamson and Charlie Land 80.

Thanks to Sponsors

Cleveland

Big thank you to the Autumn tournament's sponsor Kevin Diamond of GREENLAY and all the other prize sponsors Amenity Technology, TSL, Rigby Taylor and Aitkens.

North East

For the winter bring a bottle comp - Greenlay for sponsoring the food. Ramside Course walk - Roger Shaw Course Manager for his time and expertise during the walk. Sherriff Amenity for the after course walk fertiliser presentation and Michael McKenna for his insight into warm season grasses and his experiences of maintenance practices in Dubai and USA.

New Members

Guy Webster, Greenkeeper, Hallgarth Golf and Country Club, Shane Donald, Greenkeeper, St Annes Old Links GC, Steve Swindell, Greenkeeper, Phoenix Sports & Social Club, David Thornton, Greenkeeper, Tunshill GC Ltd, James Cram, Trainee Greenkeeper, Slaley Hall GC (De Vere), Gareth Tibbetts, Trainee Greenkeeper, Rhuddlan GC.

Midland

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



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Events Coming Up

Mid Anglia

As the nights draw in and the temperature goes down we are getting ever closer to the annual pilgrimage to BTME in Harrogate.

Hopefully many from the section will attend as it's always good to catch up with some old friends and learn something new at the same time.

News

East of England

It is with great sadness we learned of the passing of Stewart Clayton from Midlube last month after a long battle with illness.

He was well known within the section as an avid golfer and excellent supporter and he will be truly missed. Our thoughts and condolences go out to his family and friends at this sad time.

Results

Midland

Our Christmas Tournament was held at Blackwell Golf Club on 4 December with 28 playing golf.

The course was in fantastic condition, and a real credit to competition secretary Rhys Thomas and his highly skilled team, for the presentation of the course on what was a very pleasant winter's day.

Well done Rhys and a big thank you to your Club, especially the Captain, Ashley Cox who joined us for dinner. Results of the day were: 1 N Tyler & S Banks 40pts, 2 J Fox & H Middlebrook 40, 3 R Thomas & A Lane 39, 4 C Woodall & C Allen 39.

East of England

Christmas Invitation Texas Scramble at Lincoln Golf Club, Friday 13 December. 1 Carl Chamberlain, Rob Newas, Andy Davis, John Venters. 2 Graeme Macdonald, Alex Clarricotes, Nigel, Charlie. 3 Adi Kitchenson, Russ Moody, David Grundy, Andy Hill. Nearest the pins: Steve Brattan, Alex Clarricotes.

Many thanks to Adi, Russ and the team for producing a course in fantastic condition and to the catering staff at the club for an excellent Christmas dinner!

Mid Anglia

On December 11 we had our Christmas Texas Scramble at Stocks GC. Although it was a touch foggy for the opening couple of hours many

played better than normal not being able to see!

Thanks to Steve Mason and his staff for presenting the course in superb condition and to all the staff and owners.

It was very much enjoyed by all and was a fantastic end to our golfing season for 2013. Some quality golf was played and here are the results:

1 C Petherick, R Webb, S Kelly, R Howson, scored 57 (14 under gross with a handicap of 2) Par 73. 2 O Browning, A Fulcher, M Finn, J Frampton, scored 58.2. 3 N Broadwith, K Armstrong, W Anthony, G Merrison, scored 58.4. Nearest the Pins: Oly Browning, Frank Scullion, James Camfield, Michael Finn.

Thanks to Sponsors

Midland

Many thanks to Mark Silk and Working Turf for their sponsorship of the main prize table at Blackwell Golf Club on 4 December. Thanks also to Whitemoss, Sherriffs, Global Sales and Countrywide who provided nearest the pin prizes.

Thanks also to all the trade reps who provided raffle prizes. The half way house was provided by Farols, many thanks to Kev Pugh for the refreshments which were greatly received, as always!

Finally, our biggest thanks to John Hammond, our President who gets there early at every tournament despite coming from Cheshire. John writes out the cards for the day, does the starting on the tee and regularly brings a raffle prize. He rarely gets a mention so it's about time he did.

Well done John, you are a fabulous addition to our section and long may it continue.

This is our seventh year of production of the Section's excellent Calendar, our thanks to all sponsors over the years, and indeed this year's. I feel this year's is our best to date, to which credit goes to Rhys Thomas almost solely.

This month's calendar page is sponsored by ESD Waste2Water. Please consider them for your wash-off/cleaning systems. Email: info@waste2water.com. A happy New Year to all.

East of England

Many thanks to Rigby Taylor and Mansfield Sands for sponsoring the Christmas Texas Scramble.

Many thanks to all the companies that have sponsored us and helped out in many different ways this year.

We are grateful for your continued support and help and hopefully this will continue into 2014.

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 helped us 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 for the coming months and beyond into 2014.

New Members

Louis Waldron, Greenkeeper, Leen Valley Golf Centre, Shaun Kench, Greenkeeper, Heythrop Park Resort, Mark Stevens, Greenkeeper, Blackwell GC, Harley Ward, Trainee Greenkeeper, Blackwell GC, Keiron Blackwell, Trainee Greenkeeper, Blackwell GC, Ian Handyside, Trainee Greenkeeper, Alnmouth GC, David Harman, Greenkeeper, Sonning GC, Michael Gibbons, Greenkeeper, Caversham Heath GC, Ben Millson, Greenkeeper, Caversham Heath GC, Joshua McCallum, Greenkeeper, Caversham Heath GC.

South West & South Wales

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SOUTH WALES
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Events Coming Up

South Wales - Fixture cards will be sent out soon confirming events for 2014. Remember to attend BTME.

Results

South Wales - Results for our Christmas meet at Pyle & Kenfig GC will be shown next month.

News

South Wales - Thanks to all the speakers at the regional conference covering many topics a very informative day.

New Members

Kyle Trewin, Trainee Greenkeeper, Players Club (The), Tristan Moon, Greenkeeper, St Mellion Hotel G&CC, Timothy Fry, Trainee Greenkeeper, Manor House Golf Club at Castle Coombe.

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South East

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



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ESSEX
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LONDON
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Events Coming Up

Kent

A full fixture list for 2014 is now online at www.kentgreenkeepers.com and on our Kent Greenkeepers Facebook page. We start in March with a trip to the Holy Grail of courses in this country. We shall be making our pilgrimage to Royal St Georges on 11 March so advise us early if you wish to attend this limited numbers event.

London

The committee are keen to know of any training required by section members, so please contact John Wells with your ideas j.wells1@sky.com. We are due to run 2 afternoons in February, one at the start of the month and one at the end, details to follow.

Our main Educational day of the year is at Oaklands WGC on 18 February costing £12.50 per person, 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 Stuart Yarwood MG Course Manager Lymm GC [under construction] this is a day not to miss and great value for money!

The London section are running a coach to BTME on 22 January from Mill Hill at 6am and returning late evening, the cost is £10 per person as the coach is being heavenly subsidised by the section. If you wish to go please contact Adam McColl on 07886 513975 or email adamccoll@hotmail.com and £10 will be collected on the day.

Essex

This year's golf events, dates to follow: March – The Essex, June – Stock Brook The Country Club, August – The Warren, September – Colchester Golf Club, December – TBA.

Surrey

The biggest event every year is always BTME. If you have not been before this event will have you hooked year in year out, great time to set goals and kick start further education programmes.

Walton Heath GC Regional Dinner to be held on March 7.

News

Sussex

Firstly, a Happy New Year to everyone. A very good turnout of 72 attended the Turkey Trot on at Worthing Golf Club. The course as always was in immaculate condition. Thanks to George and his team

for presenting this prestigious course so well for the competition, well done all.

Everyone was very well looked after throughout the whole day and the golf was followed by a lovely meal in the clubhouse.

5 December saw the section's AGM, held again this year at the Dyke Golf Club. The business was preceded, as is now the custom, by 9 holes of golf. Although the strong wind brought an unpleasant chill to the day, the course was in spectacular condition and the cloudless skies rewarded players with stunning views. Many thanks to Dyke Golf Club for the golf, meeting venue and vast quantities of refreshments.

The election of officers is as follows: Chairman, Rob Hudson, Vice Chairman, Mike Poole, Secretary/Treasurer, Pete Smith, Committee Members, Tony Wooley. Eric Green, Dave Allen, Trade Representative, Chris Humphrey. Thanks and appreciation was given to last years committee for all their work over the past year.

East Anglia

The AGM went well. Colin just needs someone to take over fixture responsibilities and Ian needs some suggestions from us to organise a seminar – ie education management, ecology, anything you're interested in. Please let Ian know.

Pause for thought - did you know that light travels faster than sound, which is why someone can appear bright until they open their mouth? No comment.

Kent

At the AGM not much changed. Kev and I shall be continuing in our roles of Chairman and Secretary but Anthony Stockwell of Hadlow College has joined our committee as education spokesman.

We were honoured to be able to make a donation of £280 raised from our very generous colleagues to give to the 'Smiley Steps' charity which supports Tim Maynard's young son who has cerebral palsy.

Tim and his wife were extremely appreciative of this gesture. Thank you all.

We were extremely saddened to hear the news that one of our original, most loyal sponsors and regular event attendee, Stewart Clayton of Greensman had passed on. Stewart was not only a supporter of our section, he was a good friend to us who will be missed by all that had the good fortune to meet him.

Our thoughts are with his family and friends at this time.

London

The tournament was followed by the AGM and this went smoothly with Matt Plested containing as Chairman and a fine committee to support him.

Essex

The following committee members were elected for the coming year at the AGM. Chairman, Ian Wood, Treasurer, Tom Smith, Secretary, Arnold Phipps-Jones, Competitions, Antony Kirwan, Education, Ben Scrivener, Committee, Campbell Murdoch, Trade Representative, Richard Freeman, Toro UK Ltd.

Our education officer, Ben Scrivener would like to hear from any member that has an educational need.

For more information about any educational subject please contact Ben at gingermunky@hotmail.com

Surrey

Ashley Allpress has been in hospital for an operation on his arm, updating the website might be a problem at the moment, everyone wishes Ash a good recovery.

The Surrey AGM was held on 6 December at Guildford GC. David Langhiem Wimbledon Park GC, Lewes Birch Sunningdale GC and Phill Mayes Merrist Wood GC join the

committee. Chairman Les Howkins gave an in depth report on section affairs and thanked Ron Christie, Brian Willmott and Gavin Kyle for dedication and time served on the committee.

Les Howkins Chairman, Ron Christie, Roger Tydeman, Tony Bremer, Ashley Allpress, Scott Roberts and yours truly will serve the section for 2014 as your scribe.

Congratulations to Les Howkins who was voted on and will remain Chairman on the Surrey section for 2014. Les has accepted the honour of BIGGA Vice Chairman for the association and we wish him every success.

Results

Sussex

Turkey Trot: 1 Jon Hill, Kane Smith, Russell Riley, Paul Nessling 58pts. 2 Dave Allen, Alan Davey, Simon Wells, Jo Galwa also 58. 3 Gary Ogilvie, Ron Christie, David Murdock, Jamie Jacklin 56. Longest drive, Chris Ahies. Nearest the pin, John Holton, Kieran Laverty, Matt Hutchinson, Rich Godfrey.

Many thanks go to all of the sections annual sponsors again for their support on the day, and also to George Barr and Pete Smith for all of the organisation for the event.

East Anglia

The annual pilgrimage to Thorpeness (not Bethlehem) was an event that's better every year. Lovely weather, lovely course (cheers Ian and crew), lovely grub – what else could you want. Thirty-one teams of four entered the fray:

1 The Michael Buck Quartet 55, 2 Thorpeness Ramblers 57, 3 Rookery Park Roosters 57.4, 4 The Lemon Squeezers 57.8. Nearest pin in two on 6th Mike Virley. Nearest line on 8th Stuart Plummer. Longest drive 18th 0-14 HC Aaron Bowen. Longest drive 1st Paul Gauld. Nearest pin group, Mike Buck, Stuart Plummer, Terry Carver and Graham Shillings.

President's port prize was awarded to Andy Baker for services to 21st century greenkeepers. You will probably notice my name is not on the above list of golf's elite – that's mainly due to Ransomes Bartrams halfway house. I was playing badly until I got there then it just got worse, Courvoisier (lovely).

Kent

Many thanks to everyone that attended the Turkey Trot and AGM at Redlibbits. A fantastic turnout of our friends and colleagues enjoyed Kev Morris' superb course meticulously prepared by Kev and his crew for the event.

Results: 1 Ian Rawlings (wins Everris Shield), 2 Matt Daniels, 3 Paul Rudkin. Trade Prize Jim Russell.

There were a number of other prizes on the day so congratulations to all winners and thanks for making the Turkey Trot such a memorable occasion. One notable absentee on the day was our friend and Regional Administrator, Clive Osgood.

Clive has not been in the best of health recently so we wish him a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing him again soon.

London

The Xmas tournament was played at Verulam and Chris Carpenter had the course in excellent condition for December with low scores due to the wonderful roll on the greens, and thanks to the club for their hospitality.

Congratulations to Northwood, Wes Walker, Dean Fidler, Dylan Rennick and Glenn Stone on winning the Everris shield. 2nd were Ealing Greg Evans, Michel Throughgood, Stan Harrison and Brian Bezzant and 3rd Matt Plested, Lee Cox, Simon Banks and Gavin (Gary) Merrison.

Essex

Our AGM and Christmas Team event was held this year at Colne Valley Golf Club, a change of venue for as long as I can remember. 42 players started in our annual team Texas scramble, with Colchester Golf Clubs team of Keith Chinnery, Tony Rand, Sam Cook & Craig Serafin leading the field home, second place went to Orsett GC and third to a team from Banks Amenity

Products. Golfer of the year was Orsett's Stewart Rogers and Trade Golfer of the Year, Neil Peachey from P Tuckwell Ltd.

Our thanks go to Tom Smith co-owner of Colne Valley and his team of clubhouse and course staff for allowing us the courtesy of the course for our golf and AGM, the fine food and hospitality.

Surrey

Guildford GC hosted The Turkey Trot on 6 December. 1 Ron Christie, James Russell, Jason Hunt, Roger Tydeman 53pts. 2 Les Howkins, Dan Northworthy, Tom Newell, Pat Ridd 56.7, 3 Toby Bremmer, Matt Clarke, Mark Harvey, Anthony Freeman 57.4, 4 Paul Carella, John McPherson, Tony Bertram, Tim Lobb 59.2, 5 Paul Robinson, Wayne Sewell, Neil Davey, Mark Fry 59.7.

Longest Drive Kevin Boxall and Nearest Pin Peter Moore. Thanks to Matt for preparing first class surfaces and all the staff at Guildford GC for a warm welcome and ensuring we all had a great day.

Home Counties Secretary v Surrey Greenkeepers at The Berkshire. Secretaries won 4.5 to 3.5.

Hankley Common GC hosted the England v Scotland battle it out against the heather. This year the match was halved after a good contest.

Thanks to Sponsors

East Anglia

CMW were the main sponsors at Thorpeness, followed by Ransomes Jacobsen, Bartram Mowers, Aitkens, Rigby Taylor, Headland, Tacit, Ben Burgess, Toro and Tomlinson Groundcare. Our thanks again to Thorpeness and their captain, Trevor Youngs, for their superb hospitality.

Kent

Sincere thanks to all of our generous sponsors for helping to make this year's events possible.

Without your support much of what we provide in the way of golf and educational events would be impossible.

We wish you a prosperous 2014 and hope you can continue to sponsor your friends on the Kent Section.

London

Thanks to Everris main sponsor of the Xmas tournament and thanks to Ernest Does and Sherriff Amenity for refreshments.

Essex

The Essex Section would like to thank the following sponsors for their continued support over the past year.

Amenity Technology, Bailey's of Norfolk, Banks Amenity Products, Billericay Farm Services, CMW Equipment Ltd, Collier Turf Care Ltd, Ernest Doe & Sons, Everris, Farmura Environmental, GM Amenity, Golf Mats UK, Headland Amenity Products, Irrigation & Water, Limagrain UK, Otley College, Paynes Turf, Philip Liverton Ltd, P Tuckwell Ltd, Prime Irrigation, Rainbird Europe, Rigby Taylor Ltd, Sea Nymph (Chaingreen Ltd), Swan Golf Designs, Tacit, Tey Farm Systems, Toro (UK) Ltd, Writtle College.

The committee would like take this opportunity to wish all our members a prosperous and happy New Year.

Surrey

Thanks to all the trade who have supported us throughout 2013 these include Grass Roots, Avoncrop, Ernest Doe, Sherriff Amenity, JSM Ltd, WGM, Complete Weed Control, Rigby Taylor, Lister Wilder, Godfreys and Greensman.

Welcome New Members

Tony Dunstan, Course Manager, Langdon Hills Golf Club, Luke Richards, Trainee Greenkeeper, Ely City Golf Club, John Dixon, Greenkeeper, Windlesham Golf Club, Paul Boozer, Greenkeeper Austin Lodge Golf Club.



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

BERNHARD TRAINING HAS BECOME SYNONYMOUS WITH CPD

This month, David Golding, GTC's Education Director, has invited Bernhard & Co, a GTC Quality Assured Training Provider and a wonderful global supporter of greenkeeper education and training for many years, to update readers on their passion for training to support their products.

We talked to Ben Taylor, Technical Training Manager of Bernhard Grinders, to find out more about his role and how it can benefit greenkeepers.

Ben spends most of his year flying around the world, training people on how to use their grinders correctly, but also on how they can get the most out of them.

Fortunately he loves his job. He said that everyone he teaches, including well-seasoned professionals, put their hands up at the end of the training session, when he asks if everyone has learned something new.

He said: "Some people are really surprised to find they've learnt as much as they have – but in every industry and profession people continue to train, be they pilots or salesmen, nurses or greenkeepers. We all need to keep fresh and up-to-date, and we all need reminding of best practice. I would not be alarmist if I said that 80% of people who have grinders are not using them to the best of their ability."

So what do greenkeepers, mechanics and groundsmen get out of these training sessions?

Ben says that everyone, however well intentioned, however long they have been in the business, however professional and diligent they are, can get into bad habits. "These creep in over the years,



or people just forget, or need a refresher, a reminder of how to do things properly. It has been my experience that everyone benefits from training on how to get the most out of their grinders.

"They also, without exception, say how much they enjoy training alongside other groundsmen and greenkeepers. It gives them all confidence to admit what they don't know, and learn and benefit from each other, as well as learn from me."

Alongside the college and on-site training and workshops, the Bernhard factory-based training

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The GTC will be at BTME, Stand B29, and we look forward to discussing your education and training requirements. Our independent advice helps you whether you are a greenkeeper, golf club employer, committee volunteer or manager