EAST OF ENGLAND
Kenwick Park GC, Louth, was the venue for the Rigby Taylor Trophy and our thanks are extended to head greenkeeper Ian Morton and his staff for the super conditions we enjoyed at this new course. Thanks also to Brain Booth and Stuart Jeffs, representing our sponsors, who presented some great prizes.

RESULTS: 1st Mark Dance 35 pts, 2nd John White 30 pts, 3rd Graeme MacDonald 27 pts, 4th Ian Morton 26 pts, 5th Mike Finney 26 pts.

It is hoped to organise a trip to Hardi Sprayers, Hinkley, Leicester, the proposed date being 18 November. Section members should now have received their voting card for this event, trip, but if for some reason you’ve been missed – please contact me.

Finally, if you have any news, views, opinions or problems – get in touch.

MIKE FINNEY

NORTH WEST

It is with regret that I report sad news. Graham Walker, representing our sponsors, who pre-sented some great prizes.

It is with regret that I report sad news. Graham Walker has died after a long illness. Graham moved to this new course. Thanks also to Brain Booth and Stuart Jeffs, representing our sponsors, who presented some great prizes.

On a better note, the Autumn Tournament at Alresford GC, 7.00 pm. - David Winchester, Alresford GC.

I spent a small fortune in 'phone calls attempting (we missed!) while this work is undertaken.

Talking recently to Tom O’Brien, head greenkeeper at Cavendish GC Buxton, is on the move and is going over the ‘Big Hill’ to take responsibility for maintaining the course at Tytherington GC. Mike has been at Cavendish for nine years and tells me they are a great club to work for. I’m sure that Cavendish will be sorry to lose him as he always kept the course in good condition. The vacancy at Cavendish is being filled by Julian Snape, latterly head greenkeeper at Marple GC. Good luck to both men in their new posts.

Some news of ‘the trade’: Graham Walker (GAME) has been promoted (he’s been given a new car) and the new GAM rep is Alan Wilson. Congratulations to you both. Whilst writing about GAME, I am in the process of organising a trip to Gem’s plant in the winter, details later. Glen Hardcastle, who many will know from his days at Trident, has now parked his car and returned to greengrassing, taking the post of course manager at Leeds Golf Centre, Wike Ridge GC. I wish these folk all the best and look forward to meeting them during our winter lecture series.

Finally, I am pleased to welcome the following new members: Barrie Darley, Grimsby GC, Alastair Cobbett, Mid York GC, Christopher Berry, Allerthorpe Park GC, and Alan Spiegh, Michael Stockhill, Richard Revell and Wayne Briggs, all of Redhall Services, Redhall Estate. If any new member requires any information please call me on 0274 568128.

PAT MURPHY

Around the Green

Stockport, SH12 1HX. Please include your deposit of £10. Latest date for entries 5th October. Any complaints or queries, please call me on 051 724 5412.

BERT CROSS

SOUTH WEST

August is the holiday month and I’m on mine – currently enjoying some rare sunshine in the Lyme Regis area of East Devon. The weatherman has just appeared on the TV screen, he smiles confidently, but half way through his forecast we realise that he is cunningly standing directly in front of a large area of low pressure and the smile is looking more apologetic by the minute. As he finishes – is that a bead of perspiration on his brow? – the kids start squabbling, the wife bad-temperedly packs away the beach gear and starts thumbing through country house brochures. I can hardly wait. Still, having dined a game of golf last week. I played a reasonable shot to the first green and affluently marked the ball with a pound coin. My elder son looked horrified as I carried my bag to the edge of the green and bellowed “Dad, you’re not going to leave that pound there, are you?”

May I take this opportunity to welcome the dozen or so new members who have taken advantage of the half-year discount and recently joined the section. Entry forms for the autumn – winter programme will be in the post soon, and the event? Best of luck to you both. I’ve also heard that Bob Raistrick, head greenkeeper at Queensbury GC, is retiring and that Martin Shaw is taking over. I wish you both good fortune and may all your problems be little ones. I also learned that Ron Gaul at Kirkbymoorside GC retired recently. I wish him a long and happy retirement.

Some news of ‘the trade’: Graham Walker (GAME) has been promoted (he’s been given a new car) and the new GAM rep is Alan Wilson. Congratulations to you both. Whilst writing about GAME, I am in the process of organising a trip to Gem’s plant in the winter, details later. Glen Hardcastle, who many will know from his days at Trident, has now parked his car and returned to greengrassing, taking the post of course manager at Leeds Golf Centre, Wike Ridge GC. I wish these folk all the best and look forward to meeting them during our winter lecture series.

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PAT MURPHY

NORTHERN

I am pleased to report that there were no problems in the August newsletter this year to play in the ‘Battle of the Roses’. Only two members were unable to accept the invitation, as they were playing in the National at Dunbar. I am also pleased to report that the Northern Team looked splendid in their beautiful white sweaters, given to each team member by photo. Do you recognize the member without a white sweater? It is our chairman, Phillip Taylor, who was not playing golf. I must thank those who accepted the invitation to play for Yorkshire versus Lancashire and I am delighted also to inform of our team’s success, winning back the Shield from Bert Cross and his team. It was four years since Lancashire last won, in 1992, so lets hope it’s at least another four years before they win again! Well done the North, represented by Messrs Midgley, Lealman, Storey, Jarvis, Smith, Collins, Kirkbright, Gamble, Gee, Johnson, Waite, Spencer, Linley, Oxley, Potter and Mennell. I must thank Fulford Golf Club for extending the courtesy of their course to us, also our colleague Mark Mennell and his team for preparing the course. Any complaints or queries, please call me on 051 724 5412.

BERT CROSS

GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL October 1993 31
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426 GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL October 1993
For grass banks, the 'big blow' works wonders

One of the most enduring problems greenkeepers must face is the constant maintenance associated with sand bunkers. Edging is difficult enough, but of on-going concern is the continual build-up of sand on the greenside edge of bunkers caused by explosion shots. These massive amounts of sand can kill the turf by mere suffocation or by accumulating to such depths that severe drought conditions develop. It's a vicious cycle.

Many have tried various methods of removing sand from the grass faces of bunkers. Larry Gilhuly has shown you one technique (in a previous article - editor) using water to wash away the accumulated sand on a steep sand bank. It's a good one and it works. Mike Rewinski, superintendent at Westhampton Country Club on eastern Long Island, has found another innovative approach worthy of our attention.

While blowing out his irrigation system to prepare for winter, Mike found a large rented air compressor ideal for blowing sand from grass.

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33 • bunker banks back into the bunkers. He outfitted the compressor with a hose attached to four feet of 1/2-inch pipe. One person can easily blow the sand back into a bunker usually in 15 to 20 minutes. Some dried grass clippings will settle in the sand but are easily cleaned up with leaf rakes.

The nett result of this action is a neat, clean turf that can thrive very well and extend the life of the reconstructed grass banks indefinitely. Banks of little-used bunkers should be cleaned once a year. More heavily used bunkers should be subjected to the Big Blow as often as twice a year.

* This article first appeared in the USGA Green Section Record and is reproduced here with due acknowledgement and thanks to the USGA Green Section and author Gary Watschke.
The emergency first aid course, our first training course in 1993, was staged on August 20 and was a great success. We thank the staff of St. John Ambulance Brigade for the valuable information so expertly given. A better response for such training events is, I believe, required of section members in order that their education may be further improved and to also comply with current legislation. Remember, you are never too old to learn!

The regional seminar is at Hadlow College this month, so do try to attend. The winter seminar will be on 2 December at Oaklands College and the cost for the day is £5.00, including lunch. Please come along and invite your secretary or chairman to join me. I am sure gain considerable benefit from listening to the excellent speakers, all of whom will speak on subjects that are of importance to our industry.

The Turkey Trot will be held at Hadley Wood GC on November 11 commencing at 11.00 am. Entry forms will be sent to you for this last golf event of the year and members should note that the AGM will follow the meal. Nominations or propositions for the agenda are required (in writing) and should arrive 14 days prior to the meeting. Please forward such details to our secretary: Barry Mogridge, Flat 3, Hadley Wood GC, Beech Hill, Barnet, Herts. EN4 0JU.

EAST ANGLIA

I've always said that greenkeepers would end up in Happy Valley.....well our lot ended up in Fynn Valley, which is pretty close. Being there, it was hard to believe that two years ago we would have been walking in a cornfield. Praise was given to 'Toddy' for the layout and condition of the course, this coming in particular from the owner, Mr Tony Tirrell, who was there to welcome us. Praise must also go to Mick Offord, the head greenkeeper, for presenting the course in such excellent condition.

The results: (0-18) 1st Peter Howard 38 pts, 2nd Sam Sylvester 37 pts, 3rd Richard Pride 36 pts, (19-28) 1st Steve Davison 40 pts, 2nd Kevin Bunn 39 pts, 3rd Steve Millard 38 pts Guest prize: Cyril Puller 42 pts. Prizes were donated by CWM, Toro, CWM, Does, CMW, Hayter, CMW, Rushbrooks, CMW, and Parker Hart. That should make up for all the times I've left CMW off the list in the past – sorry Mike! It seems once again it's all to be Happy – sorry – Fynn Valley!

Our second report is from Sam, reporting from Thornton Park (as I was again on holiday). An excellent day was enjoyed by a band of 32 players, Weather good, hospitality superb (they're a good lot, those Essex boys). The course was in super 'nick' and Sam reports 'the greens were too fast', though he wasn't complaining and, of course, was in amongst the prizes again.

The results: (0-17) 1st Peter Howard 38 pts, 2nd Sam Sylvester 37 pts, 3rd Richard Pride 36 pts, (18-28) 1st Steve Davison 40 pts, 2nd Kevin Bunn 39 pts, 3rd Steve Millard 38 pts Guest prize: Cyril Puller 42 pts. Prizes were donated by CWM, Toro, CWM, Does, CMW, Hayter, CMW, Rushbrooks, CMW, and Parker Hart. That should make up for all the times I've left CMW off the list in the past – sorry Mike! It seems once again it's all to be Happy – sorry – Fynn Valley!

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Around the Green

DEVON & CORNWALL

Five candidates competed for the honour of representing Devon and Cornwall in the forthcoming ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year award. In scoring, the section committee decided to use the Master Greenkeeper assessment paper to mark each of the five courses, and these were visited by Jeff Mills and Steve Redman.

Only half a point separated first and second place and our congratulations go to Lauchlan Miller, head greenkeeper at Dawlish Warren GC, who went forward to represent the section in the regional final, selected subsequently to represent the region in the ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year finals, to be held on Dec. 6-7 at Aldwick Manor. I am sure Lauchlan will be an excellent representative for our region and we wish him good luck in the final.

Our AGM will be held at Torquay GC on Wednesday November 17 and, as usual, this day will commence with golfing members competing for the Torro Trophy, with prizes kindly donated by DGM and Lely. The section's AGM will follow lunch, and this year we will be seeking three new committee members as our current serving chairman (Bill Pile), vice-chairman (Brian Summers), and president (Don Hallett) will not seek re-election. On behalf of all section members I would like to thank these gentlemen for all their hard work, put in over many years. The section will require one member from Cornwall, one from Devon, and one from the trade, all to be elected to the committee. RICHARD

WHYMAN

NORTH EAST

On 20 July we held our annual match against the North East secretaries at Foxton Hall GC, the result being a halved match at three all, thus giving the greenkeepers retention of the salver! Our thanks to the committee for granting us courtesy of the course, and to the head greenkeeper and his staff for excellent playing conditions. A personal observation, I hope the Foxton hall secretary takes heed next time he sees swallows swooping low on the fairways, for this action means it is going to rain, not what he thought!

Well, there are quite a lot of people on the move in the section, starting with me. I've moved to a new 18 hole development at Matten Hall and can be contacted on 0661 886084. Needless to say, any member who wished to visit Matten Hall will be most welcome. Congratulations to Clive Parmer ton, formerly of Arcot Hall, who has returned to the Isle of Man, also to David Jennings, formerly of Newbiggin, who is now first assistant at Morpeth. Finally, I believe Glen Barter, latterly of South Shields, has taken the job of head greenkeeper at Seahouses – best of luck to you, lads. May I also congratulate Caroline Malone, who worked at Alnwick in the past, on joining the greenkeeping ranks once again. Caroline, I wish you well in your new role.

The match against Cleveland will probably take place this month (October) – details to be advised. Finally, congratulations to Tony McLure (Whickham) on representing his country in the two-man team event staged in August, England v France.

JIMMY RICHARDSON

EAST SCOTLAND

Dunbar Golf Club was, as you all know, the venue for the BIGGA/ICI National Tournament, played on a course presented to the highest order in true Scottish links fashion. Our grateful thanks go to the captain & committee of Dunbar GC, and in particular to Graham Wood and his staff for wonderful playing conditions. A great number of people left with fond memories, for believe it or not, Dunbar is the driest part of the country and box-hunting is a regular sport in Scotland. This was certainly the case during the championship, with the wind cutting the grass and continually drying the course. Many of Graham's staff worked through the night, watering the greens constantly, though this all came to no avail when the winds rose at dawn, drying them out again. As Graham said: "That's sods law."

The tournament certainly was well run. 

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I am most grateful for the help which we received from BIGGA members during the course of the most recent Open Championship. They did, as I am sure you know, provide a most efficient team of bunkers raters and their efforts were very much appreciated. Although they did, too, tend to stand out from the crowd with their lilac shirts, which I am assuming is now the official BIGGA uniform.

I would be most grateful if you would convey our thanks of those of your members who were involved.

G E Watts, Secretary, Royal St George’s Golf Club, Sandwich, Kent

More on mowrah

Re Jon Allbutt’s letter (August) asking for information from ‘mature’ greenkeepers regarding the use of mowrah meal, although a mere ‘young upstart’ of 23, I believe I have something of interest.

The following was taken from GOLF COURSES, DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, AND UPKEEP Published in 1939: “Mowrah meal was recommended to be used at the rate of half a pound to the square yard. After the powder has been spread it should be thoroughly watered in, even if rain is falling at the time. It is useless to apply the powder when worms have been driven below either by frost or a prolonged period of dry weather. Nor does it aid the breaking of grass grass is in a young and tender stage of growth.

Mowrah meal also possesses some slight fertilising value. This product is the residue from an Indian Bean, known as Bassia latifolia, after it has been crushed for the extraction of oil. There are many grades of mowrah meal according to the degree to which the residue is ground. Coarse grades are of small value for killing worms, and although samples of such grades are offered at cheap rates it is uneco-nomical to purchase them as they may only be 50% effective. Mowrah meal can also be used to eradicate small grubs that feed upon grass roots, the most common of these being Bibio.

It would appear therefore that mowrah meal was only a by-product from the manufacturing of the compound of nylon utilise and a change in the coolant cycle, not the original tool that has been made that actually manufactures the hole cup. Our original patented drawings for the hole cup clearly show the diameter should be 108mm.

The problem has now been resolved and a new quality control procedure put into place to ensure that all hole cups are manufactured to the specification set down by the R&A. The small batch with the size differential problem has been sourced and returned to the manufacturer. I have also been assured by the Rules Committee that the hole cups used at The Open, supplied by Pattisson, measured 108mm. I am pleased also to announce that the R&A’s mini quality control measures are all part of procedures as the company embarks on BS750. May I also point out that Mr Pattisson is a valued customer of Pattisson since the early seventies.

M H Shackley, Managing Director, Pattisson & Co Ltd, Luton, Bedfordshire

Picture this

I must have been in one of my bubbly moods when I read the July issue, for I took exception to no less than three pieces of advice from Page 22: Why not a full group picture of the greenkeeping staff, instead of Japanese golfers? Surely the locals deserve better recognition. Page 19: The redesigned bunker at Sandwich is an eyesore, and the most un-natural man-made obstacle I've ever seen on a golf course. It's not the contractors fault, but the club's, and I trust they have considered the implications of accidents at work by the ordinary members. Page 15: The ‘pays a fine’ wonder, are today able to boast substantial price decreases?

Roger Tydeman, Croham Hurst Golf Club, South Croydon, Surrey
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