Drives: Belts
Modern belt drives usually have an automatic tension system - where these are not fitted the belt will require checking regularly and adjusting accordingly. New belts tend to stretch so should be adjusted to the correct tension once they have bedded in. A slack belt is not only an inefficient source of power transference it also generates a great deal of heat and in some instances catches fire.

Cylinders
As this system is similar to the action of a pair of scissors it is vital that the cutting surfaces match. Whilst back-lapping a cylinder helps to maintain this, grinding achieves the ultimate. Once the cutting system has been ground, then regular checking and adjustment are standard practice. A majority of readers will be knowledgeable and competent in performing this operation. A badly set cylinder, apart from producing a poor finish is more vulnerable to damage from small foreign bodies such as grit, stone or twigs, which can easily become jammed between the two surfaces.

General
Most machines on the market have sealed units such as transmission systems and drives. Oil on the floor of the storage area is an indicator that an investigation is needed. Where hydraulic hoses are fitted, regularly inspect for signs of chaffing or leakages from couplings and fittings.

Chains
Where belts there is generally some form of adjustment, for taking up any stretch. Where a cutting cylinder is chain-driven the adjuster will need to be slackened before setting the unit. Once the blades-to-bedknife are correct then the chain can be re-tensioned. A chain can vary throughout its length, so before locking everything up, check there is no point where it over-tightens when the driver is turned. If this does occur then it will need re-adjusting.

From the safety aspect, all belt and chain guards should be securely in place and any damaged ones replaced.

Cutting systems
These come in four basic forms: circular, rotary, reciprocating and flail.

Cylinder Mowers
As this system is similar to the action of a pair of scissors it is vital that the cutting surfaces match. Whilst back-lapping a cylinder helps to maintain this, grinding achieves the ultimate. Once the cutting system has been ground, then regular checking and adjustment are standard practice. A majority of readers will be knowledgeable and competent in performing this operation. A badly set cylinder, apart from producing a poor finish is more vulnerable to damage from small foreign bodies such as grit, stone or twigs, which can easily become jammed between the two surfaces.

General
Most machines on the market have sealed units such as transmission systems and drives. Oil on the floor of the storage area is an indicator that an investigation is needed. Where hydraulic hoses are fitted, regularly inspect for signs of chaffing or leakages from couplings and fittings.

Check all safety guards are not damaged and are secure, and make sure nuts and bolts are tight.

Throttle, clutch and brake cables will benefit from regular lubrication. Inspect the outer cover signs of any damage to which may impair the action of the inner cable.

Always be on the lookout for signs that could avert a problem.

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GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL November 1994 21
‘A first class show... difficult to better but easy to spoil’

by Colin Hegarty of the Golf Research Group

BIGGA members don't want to lose what they've got at Harrogate. That is the clear message from a survey conducted by an independent research organisation, the Golf Research Group.

BIGGA commissioned me to survey members' wishes after the Association was approached by P&O Events with a proposal to combine the BTME with other grounds maintenance sectors and move the new 'unified' show to London's Olympia.

A two-page, 10-question survey was mailed to 1,474 members who are head greenkeepers. A covering letter asked them to consult with their staff, who are members, before replying. Twenty-five percent (370) of these questionnaires were returned within the deadline - considered by pollsters to be an excellent response rate.

The survey found that:
♦ 70% of BIGGA members have visited the BTME at Harrogate at least once;
♦ Half the membership are in favour of continuing the exhibition at Harrogate, compared with 25% whose preferred location was Olympia;
♦ Of those members who have been to Harrogate, 64% said it was their preferred location, while only 16% said they would like to see it moved to Olympia;
♦ Of the members preferring Olympia the vast majority, not surprisingly, came from the south. But it is interesting to see that their second choice was Harrogate and not the NEC at Birmingham;
♦ 67% of northern greenkeepers would prefer the show to be at Harrogate, and only 8% of northern greenkeepers want it to be in London;
♦ A question about 'where and how members learn' at the BTME showed that 36% of their time is spent talking to the exhibitors on stands, 32% of their time is spent talking and learning from other greenkeepers, and 32% of their time is spent learning more formally from the seminar programme which is run in conjunction with the show;
♦ Nearly a quarter of members who attend the BIGGA week stay for three days – 19% stay for one day, 14% for two days, 22% for three days, 5% for four days and 11% for the full five days;
♦ Of the 56% of members who have visited the IG's show (this year called SALTEX), most go for just one day and only 1% attend on all three days;
♦ 9% of BIGGA members are also members of IG.

Members were also given the opportunity to expand their views.

Typical comments from members included:

"Harrogate is a compact, friendly venue and has a good reputation. The NEC could be a bit impersonal – and what about accommodation? Olympia has parking problems, expensive accommodation, even travelling from the outskirts of London can be a problem."

"Olympia is much closer to my home address but I am not sure the accommodation would be available to keep the close-knit companionship which is always available at Harrogate."

"Why oh why should we greenkeepers 'North of Watford' have to succumb to the industry's notion that London is the best venue for everything? Harrogate is centrally located for all greenkeepers, making it more likely that our Scottish 'cousins' will attend. Harrogate is a success, I don't ever remember sitting on a motorway slip road there for over an hour watching the exhibition from afar."

"I see this proposal as further erosion of our independence."

"A first-class show marked on every greenkeeper's calendar. Difficult to better but easy to spoil."

♦ See also Grass Notes, Page 50
BTME formula is just right: the correct decision has been made

To the Executive Director,
I have just received a copy of your press release regarding the decision to continue with the BTME in Harrogate. May I just say how pleased I am that this decision has been taken - your formula for your show is right.

As a company we look forward to another successful exhibition with you in 1995 and many more in the years to come.

Lance Bassett, sales director, Allen Power Equipment Ltd, Didcot, Oxon.

Editor's note: We look forward to seeing you and the other 130 or so exhibitors at next year's BTME - and even more companies the following year. The number and location of shows seems to be the big issue at the moment and we'd love to hear the views of other companies, especially if they are members of the AEA.

Occasion to remember

May I take this opportunity to say a very big thank-you to everyone involved in the Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year finals at Aldwark Manor. Both the sponsors, Toro and the PGA European Tour, with the support of BIGGA, laid on a very memorable few days for myself and fellow finalists: bucks-fizz; smoked salmon sandwiches; fresh fruit in the rooms; what seemed like a very long, brandy assisted, wait leading to the eventual results; 8p a car toll bridges; and friendly debates with Bruce Jamieson of the European Tour on new courses, POA! and fertiliser programmes (do greenkeepers ever stop talking shop?)

I feel very honoured to have been chosen as the winner of the Toro Scholarship to the Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year.

From bad to verse

Working for a club that has never had, or will consider, a No Start Before Time rule to allow greenkeepers an uninterrupted pair of hours in the morning to complete our greens cutting programme and be off the 'front nine' thus not annoying or interrupting the golfers' morning round, it has inspired me to compose the following verses of the daily confrontation between greenkeepers and the 'O-Dark 100' golfing set.

I hope it will bring a knowing smile to the faces of other greenkeepers who are in the same position or a sigh of relief from those who are lucky enough to enjoy the luxury of a No Start Before Time cushion in their daily toil.

A KEEPER OF THE GREENS

The sun was just out, there's no one about as the greenkeeper cut the first green. His Ransomes it flew and with a good heavy dew it was easy to see where he'd been.

When out of the blue, a golf ball flew down the line on the green he was cutting had the wind covered 'Ore' the Yell of a 'fore' or was the golfer a rush to be putting.

At the end of the line he stood as he should have been waiting for the golfer to put. How nice it would be, to be sat drinking tea with all the greens finished and cut.

With putter in hand the golfer did stand assessing the borrow and breaks be sure to be up, just right of the cup don't want to make any mistakes.

He took up his stance, this was a par chance and struck the ball at the hole. But he hit it too hard, no par on the card as on and on it did roll.

Now by the way of compensation, there's a fact known by golfers all when out of the blue a golf ball flies when the wind covered the green.'Ore', is the Yeli of 'fore' as the greenkeeper cut the first green it was easy to see where he'd been.

So glaring at the offending greenkeeper to the next tee he strode away loudly muttering that green cutting shouldn't be done at this time of day.

The greenkeeper walked down the line he had cut from his pocket he took out a tee and removed the pitchmark from the green that the golfer had left, unintentionally!

I could have joined the Army, the Navy or Marines but I volunteered to soldier here as a "keeper of the greens".

GOD GIVE ME PATIENCE

J MacGregor, greenkeeper, Exmouth

Wormkiller plea

An open letter to chemical companies,

Please make a wormkiller as good as Chlor-dane.

To the powers that be, a reprieve for Chlor-dane would be the best news possible to all British golf clubs.

Bruce Burnell, Cleveland section

Using Norton to control Poa?

If you are, Jon Allbutt offers this warning

As the fight to maintain pure bentgrass and rescue/bentgrass swards approaches desparation, many greenkeepers are using some herbicides 'off label', sometimes based on established practises in other countries, to curb the march of Poa.

It is true that there is an approval for the use of Norton (ethofumesate) in amenity turf, but before you rush out and place your order pause a moment and look at the product label. There are currently no label recommendations for the use of Norton in amenity turf; its use for this purpose must therefore be at the risk of the user.

The amenity approval was based on work that established a broad tolerance to the product by L. perenne in established ryegrass swards. However there is, as yet, insufficient field trial work to be sure of this phytotoxic affects on lower rated grasses. As with many pesticides there will be variation in the tolerance of the cultivars within a given species. Trial work is needed with different cultivars, at different rates, in different soil types, and also at different stages of growth before a label recommendation can be given with confidence.

What is clear, however, is that Norton must not be used on non-ryegrass swards established for less than 12 months, or at the full label rate on even established fine turf species.

Ethofumesate is absorbed by both shoots and roots. As it is non-volatile, uptake always occurs from the aequous solution. For some susceptible species, the most effective route of uptake is via the emerging shoot as it passes through the layer of treated soil. However, for other species root uptake of ethofumesate is also important to give effective control. As for all soil applied herbicides, the activity of ethofumesate can be affected by soil conditions. Ethofumesate activity may be reduced where there is insufficient soil moisture or by a high soil organic matter content.

Ethofumesate has a reasonable degree of residual activity (several weeks depending on conditions) and it is also effective against some broad leaved weeds.

Some preliminary work would suggest that there is good control of Poa annua with sequential treatments at lower rates, but the approval holder AgriEvo is adamant that more work is needed here to establish varietal tolerance in the many cultivars used in fine turf seed mixtures.

So greenkeepers take note, you run the risk of causing significant damage to your precious turf when experimenting with application rates; remember too that dose rates found to be successful in, say the USA, cannot be safely applied under UK ground conditions. Soil formation and moisture content are critical factors for the successful use of this type of herbicide.

You have been warned!
Our Christmas meeting will once again be held at Oakhampton GC on Wednesday December 14. As last year, numbers will be limited to the first 80 members who reply by the closing date. The day will commence with a greenstone stip end competition for the PJ Flegg Trophy. As usual our non-golfing members will have the now customary tour of the course before returning to the clubhouse for some festive spirit! The comedian this year — back by popular demand — is Tank Sherman. Once again your region has been able to offer its members a Westurf-subsidised trip to the 1995 BTME which is held in the splendid town of Harrogate. If you haven’t been able to attend the show and seminars in the past and are considering attending the regional trip but would like to know more about it, please give me a call. I’m sure you will feel you can’t afford to miss this event which will only cost members of our region £99 for three nights B&B, entry to all seminars and return coach travel.

RICHARD WHYMAN

SOUTH WEST

A warm welcome is extended to two new members — David King, assistant greenkeeper at Woodspring GC, and Leonard Bates, an assistant from the Manor Golf Company. The section anticipates your future support with an invitation to forthcoming events.

As some people start their greenkeeping careers so it is for others to take life a little easier. I am referring to Les Johnson from Saltford GC who reached retirement recently. Les joined Mangotsfield GC in 1974 where he assisted in its original construction before moving to Woodlands GC again helping in its setting out and establishment. He left in 1980 to join Lansdown GC where he spent 11 years before taking an assistant’s position at Salford GC. On behalf of us all, I wish Les best wishes in his retirement and look to his continued support to section events as has been the case over the previous years.

By now, every member should have received information on, and application forms for, both the regional seminar at Cannington College on November 30 and the four-day visit to BTME at Harrogate in January. Both events take up a considerable amount of Gordon and Marion Child’s time in organisation for the betterment of education throughout the region, and so it is up to everyone to show their support in attending, if possible. The BTME package is being offered at a heavily subsidised price (just £99 for members) compared to the figure for other regions, thanks to its sponsorship from funds. Congratulations to the South West Region on the third place achieved in the Hayter National Finals at Pannal GC.

Our final section event for ’94 is the Christmas Tournament on December 15 at Burnham & Berrow GC. A morning round of golf will be followed by Christmas dinner, a raffle and, for the first time, a comedian to round off the day’s festivities. See you on the 15th!

KEVIN GREEN

CENTRAL SCOTLAND

The section’s first five-a-side football tournament proved to be a huge success with 11 teams taking part. The football was fast and furious with everyone trying to prove that they were fitter than each other, but the games were played in the best of spirits and no yellow or red cards had to be used. The eventual winners were Aberdour Athletes who defeated Downfield GC in the final, with the other semi-finalists being Tulliallan Terrors and The Pars. Following the success of this tournament it is hoped to make it an annual event.

Congratulations go to Willie (Whitty) and Main Whitfield on the birth of their first child, son Jack. All three are doing well and Whitty is coping well with his new role as proud Dad.

With the news that the Open is returning to Carnoustie, congratulations are due to course superintendent John Philp whose efforts to present a course worthy of hosting the world’s no1 tournament are at last being rewarded. There is no doubt that John and his staff will produce a course which will make the world’s elite golfers realise what they have been missing by being away from Carnoustie for so long. Well done, John!

Two men on the move are Gavin Graham and Colin Wade, both from Haggs Castle GC. Gavin is going to the new course at St. Andrews University and Colin is joining Nairn GC. Congratulations go to course superintendent John Philp whose efforts to present a course worthy of hosting the world’s no1 tournament are at last being rewarded. There is no doubt that John and his staff will produce a course which will make the world’s elite golfers realise what they have been missing by being away from Carnoustie for so long. Well done, John!

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At Loch Lomond and Colin is going to Ailola GC. Every success in the future, I'm sure.

This is quite a busy month for events in the section with the British Seed House event at Aberdeen on the 8th, the annual dinner/dance at Ailola on the 25th and the STS lecture and the AGM again at Aberdeen on the 29th. Please remember that all prize draw tickets, sold or unsold, must be returned to me before the 29th.

JOHN CRAWFORD

SUSSEX

Our penultimate golf tournament saw us once again at Mannings Heath GC. Our last visit was some five years ago and, as usual, Roy O'Brien put on a great show. The prizes for all the events were kindly sponsored by Parker Hart.

Modal results: Greenkeepers - 1, Raymond Day; 69: 2, Bill Francis, 72: 3, Roland Hughes, 74; Trade/guests - 1, Jim Copper, 72: 2, Jeff Atkinson, 77.

Shaldon Drive - 1, James White, 41pts; 2, Jon Hill, 36pts; 3, Chris Reed, 36pts; Trade/guests - 1, Phil Clark 37pts; 2, Steve Darlington 35pts.

The day was thoroughly enjoyed by all, the course being a joy to play and the food provided by the catering staff was excellent. Once again, we were pleased to see that a good number of all the committee of Mannings Heath for allowing us the use of their course, and to the Antoliks for doing all the donkey work.

Our next meeting will be the AGM and all members will be informed in due course (hopefully before the AGM!). This will be followed in December by the foremost event of the year, the Turkey Trot at Littlehampton GC. This ever popular event will once again become a close first come basis, so when the invites go out don't expect a quick responce. "I'll leave the committee: priority goes to those members who played in at least one other event during 1994.

MARK WILTON

NORTH WEST

In March of this year I happened to call on Tom O'Brien at the Royal Birkdale GC and during our conversation I asked him if he would consider holding a tournament at Birkdale. He was in agreement and I also mentioned the proposed Autumn Cup. "I think," he replied, "you'd better get on with it now." So it was agreed that the Autumn Cup would be held on the 30th. Events were kindly sponsored by Parker Hart.

New members this month, whom I hope to see at forthcoming lectures, include: Michael O'Brien, David Williams, Gary Collier, Michael Newton, Richard Stanley, Derek McJanet, Simon Harley, Colin Fredwell, Paul Wylde, Nathan Taylor, Paul Green, Jason Williamson, Ryan Binns and Andrew Chapman.

IAN COLLETT

EAST SCOTLAND

Congratulations to Tom Murray of Raloth Park GC who has won through to the finals of the ICI-sponsored Greenkeeper of the Year. This is a great honour for Tom and to Scotland, and is the second year running that an East Section course has reached the final stages. Last year it was Graham Wood of Loch Lomond, now going all the way as the ICI Greenkeeper of the Year.

Dates for your diary: November 30 - The annual South West and South Wales seminar at Cammington College, Bridgwater, Somerset, sponsored by Levinington Horticulture with talks by David Grimid and Jim Arthur. December 14 - Christmas competition and AGM at the Pyle & Kenfig GC with evening entertainment by comedian Colin Price.

PETER LACEY

SHEFFIELD

Our Autumn Tournament took place at Retford GC, a very testing course in good condition after all the rain. The new half of the course was laid out with some very good holes. I especially thank to Andrew Hepenstall, the head greenkeeper, Nigel Storey, his deputy, and the rest of the staff at Retford.

The event's main sponsor was Purdy's of Retford and we thank, in particular, Les Purdy and Chris Burbidge for their excellent table. Contributions were also kindly donated by Mr. Fall of Aitkins, Mike Burrell of Trident, Alan Dyson of Gern and Steve Burroughs of Amenity Turf Supplies. Also present were Mark Osborne of Jacobsen, Ivan Seaman and our president, Mr Arnold. We thank you all for your continued support.

The weather was nice and sunny which enabled us to have a round of golf in shirts sleeves for a change, although the course was testing, there were a few good scores in: 1, Colin Hopper, Town Moor GC, 37pts; 2, Kevin Hazlehurst, Lindrick GC, 35pts; 3, Ian Collett, Brough GC, 35pts.

We would like to thank you for coming from Leicestershire and joining us for dinner at the local hotel. It was a most enjoyable evening.

New members this month, whom I hope to see at forthcoming lectures, include: Michael O'Brien, David Williams, Gary Collier, Michael Newton, Richard Stanley, Derek McJanet, Simon Harley, Colin Fredwell, Paul Wylde, Nathan Taylor, Paul Green, Jason Williamson, Ryan Binns and Andrew Chapman.
never missed. This year, lads, your fares will be paid for.

The annual Autumn Tournament was held at Uphall Golf Club. A very good attendance on a very wet day. Head greenkeeper PeterOrmston and his staff had the course in first-class condition. This is the first time that the Association has played here, but hopefully it won't be the last. Our thanks as always go to the captain and council for the courtesy and to the bar and catering staff for the excellent food and service. During the presentations it was announced that our old friend Richard Dugan had recently retired after long service at Glen-course GC. A presentation was made on behalf of the members and for the first time in his life Richard was stuck for words. May we all wish him a long and happy retirement. The new head greenkeeper at Glencourse is Ian Bell, formerly of Duddingston GC and we all wish him well in his new job.

Pat Humphrey, late of Dalmahey, has also moved to Mil- ton Road. Good luck, Pat.

Another season has now gone. Hopefully it has been a good one for all, but don't forget the full calendar of events still to come during the winter. Check your fixture cards for all lectures etc. The annual dance on December 3 is a complete sell-out with a waiting list for tickets. The social committee has done an excellent job on choosing the venue. Almost all the rooms have been taken over – I wonder who booked the fourth poster seat? Our guest of honour that night will be our Scot-tish chairman Gordon Moir and his charming wife Pauline. Gordon has never asked of the form, just where the county will go.

WILLIE BLAIR

SOUTH WEST AND WALES REGION

Several things are happening in the South West and South Wales regions, but here are just one or two reminders before you start thinking about the Christmas crackers to come.

Our regional seminar to be held at Cannington College, Somerset on November 30 is sponsored by Levinton Horticulture Ltd. Entries must be received by November 20. There will be a night's bed and breakfast, seminar programmes and entry to the exhibition. Please ring 0800 844055 for further details of both events.

GORDON CHIL.

NORTH SCOTLAND

The autumn outing at Murrayshall was a great success. Glori- ous weather greeted the 71 golfers on the day and the winner were as follows: - Scratch 1 - J Uchuraph, Tain; 2 - G Tuff; Montrose; 3 Class One - K Peace, Inverness 76-5=71; W Robertson, Blairgowrie 78-6=72; 3, E McLaren, Blairgowrie 74-4=72; Class Two - I - A Reid, Letham Orange 79-11=68; 2, S Griffiths, Tain 77-9=66; 3, S Mclain, Nigg Bay 82-10=72; Class Three - I - L Rae, Montrose 92-24=68; 2, P Wood, Newmarch 89-20=69; 3, S Rodgers, Fraserburgh 99-26=73; Veteran - 1, G Grant, retired 86-9=77; 2, W Forster, Royal 90-12=78; Appin - 1 - L, B Cameron, Inverurie 82-10=92; 2, B Cocker Jnr, Ayr 89- 16=73; Trade - P Allan, Stewarts 73-6=67; Guest - M Brown, Newmarch 74-6=69 (apologies for missing you out on the day, prize in the post); Boozy - G Asher, Kenmore; Longest Drive - G Tuff; Nearest the pin – G Burrell, Forres; Aggregate trophies – Meldrum, K Peace 141; M & M Veteran, W Forsyth 152; Committee Trophy – G Moir, St Andrews 81- 6=75; The BIGGA Blazer was won by Morriss Rodgers, Fraser- burgh, who was making his last outing appearance before moving south to a new job, we wish him well.

The 200 Club winners were as follows. May 30 - Jim Hamilton. Inverness; June 30 - Isobel Walker, Stonehaven; July 40 - Colin Deliny, Aboyne; August 160 - Steve Simp- on, Fraserburgh. It was great to see a lot of new faces at the outing and thanks must go to all at Murrayshall for helping to make the day so good.

AGM notices should be out and about now. The format for the day is the annual golf match in the morning, free lunch lecture and the AGM at 3pm. Anyone wanting to stand for section secretary as numbers are needed to warrant a coach. Forthcoming events include the Turkey Trot at Kingswood Golf and Country Club on December 3, lunch at 3pm. Anyone wanting to stand for section secretary as numbers are needed to warrant a coach. Following events include the BIGGA Turf Manage- ment Exhibition in January at Harragorge, please contact your section secretary as numbers are needed to warrant a coach. The Autumn Greenkeepers' Dinner on November 19 at Cannington College has been sponsored by Levinton Horticulture Ltd. Entries must be received by November 15. There will be a night's bed and breakfast, seminar programmes and entry to the exhibition. Please ring 0800 844055 for details of the events. In the Tattoo on November 10 at Crowham Hurst GC. Sadly the wooden spoon went to A Mil- lard of Windmill GC. Another great outing was held at the Bothy near Fettercairn in the Northern Region.

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The Christmas Competition will be held at Llangollen GC on December 1. The cost is £11 for members and £16 for non-members. All entries should be sent to Terry Adamson, 27 Beryvyn Ave, Penyffordd, Chester by November 25.

Finally, congratulations to Northop Country Park on the success of the Welsh Open held there. — ANDY CAMPBELL

**MID ANGLIA**

The section had three representatives in the Midlands Regional team which came second in the Hayter Challenge Tournament final at Penall GC. These were Jon Moorhouse and John Blair of Brocket Hall GC and David Forsyth of Mid Herts GC. Jon also managed to win his handicap category (0-9) and finished second overall on the day. Well done, lads!

The Midland regional seminar will be held on November 20 at the same venue as last year, Sketchley Grange Country Hotel and Conference Centre, Hinckley, Leicestershire. Speakers include David Golding and David Stansfield, and the cost is £20 which includes a meal.

By now all section members should have received a fixture list for next year, and an entry form for the Christmas Texas Scramble. If, for any reason you haven’t, please get in touch with Gerald and I’m sure he’ll send you one.

Events for next year include a safe handling course with Jon Altibit in January and a course visit to Brocket Hall, hosted by John Wells, course manager, in February. The spring and summer tournaments are at Royston and Brickendon Grange respectively, both over 36 holes. The former is the qualifier for next year’s Hayter Challenge Tournament and all entries for the Christmas Texas Scramble on Tuesday December 6, at the Family Golf Centre, should be sent to Chris Brook at the usual address. This will however be Chris’s last tournament as fixing over this position. Please get your entries in early and ensure all your team members bring a gift for the prize table. The Family Golf Centre is situated at Gravely, just off the Stevenage junction (A405) of the A1.

— Paul Lockett

**EAST MIDLANDS**

Our section’s Autumn Tournament, held at well maintained Wellington GC, attracted 38 competitors. The category winners were: 0-9 – R Barker, Kirby Muxloe GC, 76-15=61; 10-19 – A Foulds, Uttoxeter GC, 85-10=75; 20-29 – A Bindley, Kirby Muxloe, 88-20=68; best nett and gross – C Chamberlain, Glen Gorse GC, 78-10=68; longest drive – R Barker; Nearest the pin – B Bindley.

This was certainly a day for being Bindleyed.

A thank-you goes to all at Wellington for their kindness and hospitality in making our day so enjoyable. Also thanks to all the trade for their kind donation of prizes for the day, especially Charwood and High-meres Lawnmower Services, our main sponsor. Also a special thank-you to all the committee members for all their hard work on the day.

Our next section event is the Texas Scramble at Ullesthorpe Golf and Country Club, followed by the AGM, on November 16.

Congratulations go to P Tatlow of Kidleston Park as this year’s winner of the Supaturf K/O Cup, defeating D Leatherland, also of Kidleston Park, in the final. Finally, the Christmas Tournament will take place on Wednesday December 14 and not the 16th as printed on your entry forms.

— Antony Bindley

**SOUTH COAST**

The section AGM is only a month away at 4pm on Tuesday December 6 at Royal Winchester GC. Could anyone wishing to stand for the committee please contact me as soon as possible at 45 Constable Close, Sholing, Southampton SO19 1EN. My home telephone number has changed to 0703 360195 or you can try 0264 334269 or 0506 400529.

The Christmas Stableford will be held on the same day as usual. All entries to Bob Cully, 63 Upper St Helen’s Road, Hedge End, Southampton S03 4LS or telephone 0489 782970.

The Hampshire GC opened a new 9-hole par 3 course in addition to the 18-hole course and driving range already open. Pop in if you are near Andover.

— Alan Mitchell

**EAST ANGLIA**

A cold and frosty morning gave way to a pleasant afternoon with a light breeze. And this was the scene that greeted East Anglia’s section members at Gog-Magog Golf Club near Cambridge.

Head Greenkeeper Lyndon Upham and his trusted staff produced an excellent course and a difficult putting competition, which was highly praised by the captain of the Gogs, Norman Benton and the rest of the group during the excellent evening meal.

As usual the trade were there in force and donated many prizes. We would like to thank Pattissions, CMW, Rushbrooks, Parker Hart, Turfacent, Sta-Brite, Rhone-Poulenc, Ernest Doe’s, Tollidays and all officials and staff from Gog-Magog for making it a memorable day.

The winners were: The Shield – S Pigott 39 points; 0-15 – 1, A Carter 35 points; 2, P Howard 34 points; 3, S Sylvester 30 points; 16-26 – 1, S Pigott 39 points; 2, J Willett 35 points; 3, P Mallow 35 points; Guest – K Bunn 36 points; Putting – A Carter; Longest drive – J Shelton; Nearest the pin – M Day.

The next meeting will be the Turkey Trot and AGM at Aldieghur GC on December 8. Members are reminded to bring a prize not more than £5 in value. Also, please come to the AGM so that any points you have to make about your section are heard.

— Ian Willett

Hanbury Manor in Hertfordshire was once a convent school. Now seven years and £28 million later there is a luxury hotel, restaurant, conference, country club and clubhouse complex with a challenging 18-hole golf course. But the work (and expense) hasn’t finished yet... the greenstaff are embarking on a massive tree-planting programme.

Here are 16 greenstaff at Hanbury Manor, an 18-hole golf course near Ware in Hertfordshire. This is down from a summer high of 22.

But golf course superintendent Simon Klausner, 36, needs every one of them as they strive to bring perfection to the three-year-old Jack Nicklaus Jr designed course, tweaking it here, replacing poorer quality turf there, extending a water hazard here, reshaping a green or fairway there.

But, at the moment, the main thing on their minds is trees. They have started a programme that will see them planting 38,000 trees and shrubs on the 7,011-yard par 72 course over the next two years. The project will cost about £20,000 but they hope to get a half to two-thirds of this back in the form of grants.

Believed to be the biggest planting scheme of its kind, the trees are necessary to fulfil a dream. It was in 1985 that Hertfordshire businessman Paul Leach and local developer Jim Anderson had the idea of turning a convent school into a top-class leisure and golf resort, a London version of Gleneagles.
Hanbury Manor, as it is now known, was already comfortably nestled in mature parklands but, before its ultimate goal could be reached, adjoining acreage, much of it in the form of cavernous gravel pits, had to be reclaimed.

Construction of the course began in 1987 and the next couple of years saw hundreds of thousands of tons of fill being transported to the old gravel pits, and mountains of earth being moved, moulded and contoured into what has become a highly acclaimed, aesthetically pleasing championship-standard golf course. By 1990, the first nine holes had been established on the original parkland site where, earlier this century, Harry Vardon had designed a course. The following year, the other nine holes (which are now the front nine) emerged triumphant from the old gravel pits.

Now, three years on, the next stage of the development is under way. With one eye firmly on the environment and the other on the expectations of the golfer, Hanbury’s management looked to horticultural consultant Brian MacDonald of Boxwood Gardens for a tree planting programme that would provide more depth and form to each of the 18 holes and encourage wildlife to establish on the 206-acre site.

The final design – created in consultation with Jack Nicklaus Jr and Simon Klausner – will see the existing woodlands and coppices being extended and new coppices being created in the ex-gravel pits. They do not want to plant long lines of trees. Where there are thin rows of mature trees, such as round the boundary of the front nine, the straight lines will be broken up and given shape by strategic planting.

Such an ambitious scheme meant extensive research into the best species in terms of aesthetics, durability, transport, handling, short-term storage, and planting hardiness – no easy task. The answer was eventually found through a supplier which specialises in large scale production of trees grown from UK seed sources – Alba Trees. With its seed nursery in the rain shadow of the Lammermuir Hills, close to Edinburgh and the North Sea, this company consistently produces thoroughly hardened plants, well able to withstand the rigours of harsh conditions.

Using the latest methodology, Alba raises its trees in uniform cells called Rootrainers which, because of their compact nature,
Now for the trees

enjoy many advantages over traditionally raised bare-root plants. Rootrainers result in fibrous, well protected root plugs incorporating a slow release, temperature sensitive fertiliser which releases nutrients only when conditions are warm. This technique has the effect of avoiding leaching out, wastage and additional fertilisation, as well as contributing to a remarkable establishment rate.

At Hanbury Manor, all the trees are being planted at about 1.8m spacing in a Tubex Quill which not only offers protection against rabbits and weed killer but also encourages vigorous growth in the first growing season. Extremely compatible with the Rootrainer plug, the Quill offers highly cost effective protection in that no ties or stakes are required for support. With Alba's uniform cells, simple storage and handling systems, the trees are easy to plant. Hanbury Manor's greensstaff are undertaking the programme, with the areas marked out by Mr MacDonald. Austrian-born Simon Klauser then checked these from the maintenance point of view (i.e. shading of trees and greens and that they didn't interfere with the irrigation system). Jack Nicklaus Jr then came over to see how strategy would be affected.

Simon is used to working with Golden Bear Design Associates as he worked at Mount Juliet in Ireland and Muirfield Village in Ohio before coming to Hertfordshire three years ago.

With a degree in agronomy from an agricultural college in Salzburg, Simon believes in doing everything in-house. As well as tree-planting, his staff - which includes seven qualified greenkeepers and a full-time mechanic - have also constructed the buggy path, carry out extensions to the irrigation system, look after the country house hotel's gardens and even chop wood for the hotel's fireplaces. The ordering, invoice-checking and many other jobs which keep course managers and head greenkeepers tied to a desk are performed by Simon's own secretary. "It doesn't make sense to have a highly trained superintendent spending all his time in the office. He's better employed on the course doing what he's been trained for," he points out.

For a young course which has already seen more than 30,000 rounds this year, Hanbury Manor is in excellent condition. The new trees will only improve its appearance, enhance the environment, offer a new challenge to the players, and give the developers' grandchildren the inheritance of a fine dream.

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