increased from zero to 50 kg/ha per year but differences were only statistically significant when nitrogen levels were more than 200 kg/ha per year. This effect did not occur on the topsoil or USGA constructions and almost certainly reflects less vigorous grass growth on the pure sand rootzone where phosphate had not been applied.

**Effects of cutting height** It is inevitable that ball roll should increase as the turf is cut more tightly, but very little work on the effects of cutting height on ball roll has been published in the United Kingdom, so I have to refer to American studies to assess the magnitude of the effect. Work from the New Jersey Agricultural Experimental Station and the USGA showed that reducing cutting height from a quarter inch (6.4 mm) to three sixteenths of an inch (4.8 mm) increased distance rolled by 13% for upslope puts and a massive 57% for downslope puts. Their results also showed that ball roll measured in the direction of cutting was between 7-15% greater than roll strength against the direction of cut.

Research from Penn State University published a year later showed that mowing at three thirty seconds of an inch (2.4 mm) increased distance rolled by about one third compared with mowing at three sixteenths of an inch (4.8mm). They also found that mowing seven times per week, instead of thrice weekly, increased distance rolled by about 15%.

**Effect of other maintenance practices** There appears to be very little published work on the effects of other management practices on green speed. A recent trial at Bingley showed that although variations of irrigation rate from up to 40% above and below the theoretical evapotranspiration demand had major effects on hardness and ball impact properties, the effects on ball roll were small.

American work from the University of Rhode Island in 1981 showed some differences associated with varying top dressing programmes and for example turf receiving a sand-soil mix based on loamy, coarse sand every four weeks had significantly lower green speeds than turf receiving twice yearly top dressing treatments.

Light rolling can also increase green speed without the need to reduce cutting height and many tournaments now have rolling as part of the preparation programme e.g. the use of a Turf Iron. Work from Penn State University published in 1994 showed that light-weight rolling increased Stimpmeter readings by an average of 38 cm. The effect was short-lived (less than 24 hours) and the amount of thatch present may have an effect on how much green speed is increased. The results from Penn State showed no significant effects on infiltration rates or bulk density but this perhaps needs to be examined over a wider range of soil types and in studies of longer duration than their 95 day project.

There appears to be very little work on the effects of mechanical treatments such as verticutting and scarifying on green speed. This is perhaps surprising in the light of the fact that thatch accumulation is often listed as one of the main factors responsible for slow green speeds.**

**KEEPING THE GREENS UP TO SPEED**

In a recent study - Greenkeeper International March 1997 - we concluded that Stimpmeter values between 1.6 m and 2.8 m were normal for the United Kingdom and that values below 1.5 m were too slow. A practical upper limit of 3.0 m was suggested because it is felt that with current technology and grass types available in this country sustaining ball roll values above 3 m would have long term consequences on the quality of the putting surface.

Nevertheless it should be an objective to achieve firm, fast putting surfaces and the research summarised in this paper suggests that there are a number of ways to accomplish this without recourse to major reductions in cutting height.

Firstly ensure that greens are not over-fertilised. For the majority of soil dominated greens around 100-200 kg/ha of nitrogen are needed on an annual basis to sustain reasonable growth and for sand dominated rootzones this figure rises to about 250 kg/ha of nitrogen. For phosphate and potassium levels the key is to keep values on the low side.

Secondly, do not over-water. In hot, dry weather around 20-25 mm of water will be required to replace evapotranspiration losses. In cooler conditions this figure will fall substantially and allowance must also be made for natural rainfall. If there are any localised dry areas it is better to rely on hand watering, selective spiking and the use of wetting agents, rather than risk over watering the entire green.

Finally, although there is perhaps little research evidence on this point it is essential to control thatch development. Moderation of fertiliser and irrigation inputs discussed above will certainly help in this respect but a good aeration programme and regular grooming and verticutting will help deal with procumbent, matted growth.
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Looking back

Terry Buchen takes us through his career and reveals that the accomplishment of which he is most proud is becoming a Master Greenkeeper.

I have had a fun career, having grown up on a golf course in the Chicago suburb of Glenview under the mentoring and guidance of my father and grandfather, both Golf Course Superintendents for most of their lives. After graduating from Penn State University in agronomy/turfgrass management in 1968 and the University of California-Irvine with a certificate in golf and park facility administration in 1974, I have worked in all four corners of America and most areas in between, having grown every type of turfgrass used on golf courses, including Kikuyugrass fairways at storied Riviera Country Club in Los Angeles.

My travels have included being the Golf Course Superintendent during growing in on 10 new golf courses, designed by such famous architects as George & Tom Fazio; Pete Dye; Ted Robinson; Tom Weiskopf and Jay Morrish, Robert Bruce Harris and Jack Nicklaus, in the three distinct growing medians in the US. Being an agronomist for the PGA TOUR was a grand experience, setting up 47 tournaments on the regular tour, in 20 different states and one in Canada, as I shall always treasure this as a very important milestone in my further learning of the art of greenkeeping.

The accomplishment that I am most proud of was being awarded the Master Greenkeeper Certificate by The Right Honourable The Lord Griffiths, MG, during BTME ‘94 in Harrogate. It was my first trip across the pond and my wife, Debbie, an I had loads of fun as we made many new friends in the process and had many, many laughs with the nice people of the UK.

I keep very busy as a contributing editor for Golf Course News magazine while writing the monthly column titled "The Savvy Superintendent" and other feature columns and as an advisory board selection panelist for Golf Digest magazine for all of their rating contests, such as America’s 100 Greatest Courses and The Best New Courses. Also, I and on the GCSAA Certification Committee for the Musser International Turfgrass Foundation, Green Section Committee for the United States Golf Association, and a Research and Advisory Board Member for Total Quality Management (TQM) in Golf & Country Clubs. One of my proudest moments was while I was golf course superintendent at the Double Eagle Club in Columbus, Ohio, Golf Digest magazine in their May, 1995 issue ranked Double Eagle the 2nd best conditioned course in America, Augusta National was ranked in first place. Golf magazine, in their June, 1996 issue ranked in first place.

"Last year I decided to give full-time agronomy consultancy a try"
A round the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

SCOTTISH REGION
Elliott Small
Tel: 01259 731445

East
The quiz night at the Black Bull in Dalkeith had to be cancelled due to lack of interest. Is the social committee wasting their time? Next on the agenda is the spring outing at Winterfield GC. In Dunbar, a great day was had by the 50-plus members and trade who attended. There are a few people to thank – the captain and council for courtesy of the course, the club master and club mistress for the refreshments (by the way, that Belhaven best is something else) kitchen staff for the meals – they were extremely good. Last but not least Craig Penny, Head Greenkeeper and his staff. The course was a credit at this time of year, it was in excellent condition. Craig, keep up the good work. To the trade thanks for your support, raffle prizes etc. Also to Tom Murray and Graham who look after all your cards on the day and kept everything running smoothly, thanks lads.

All scores and names are below, one thing to mention though, trade representative Tom Brannan, from Souters of Stirling, had a hole-in-one on the par-3 4th (it bounced along the fairway onto the green then into the hole) Tom was jumping about and shouting so much I thought Celtic had won something. Congratulations to him and a quote from Tom himself – "It cost me more that night than it did when my twin daughters were born a few months ago." (PS: Tom, wait until they both decide to get married. You ain't seen nothing yet!)

Next golfing on the calendar is the Summer Tournament, on 24 June at Harburn GC, which is teams of two playing a Stableford. Partners will be drawn on this day the this is so members will get to meet different people in the Section. This is something new, the committee are trying this year as well as making all outings afternoons only this gives you time to get some work done on your courses in the morning before you head to of the section event.

BIGGA is a golf club friendly association. It was also good to see a lot of new faces at the spring outing, the committee hope that this continues. If you think different to any of the above or have any views of your own give me a call or drop me a line.


At our committee match at Gullane Golf Club on May 20, a great day was had by all the Committee (so I was told). We also had Paul Sago, Course Manager, and Bill Robertson Head Greenkeeper both from Gullane. The weather on the day has to be the worst I have played in for a long time, it was torrential from the night before and still when we left the club that night, not ideal for golf. The winner of the Eddie Holt Trophy this year was Craig Penny, so well done to him. By the way Craig I will get it back off you next year. Yet again a different name on the trophy – no committee person has won it twice since it was first played for back in 1991, and we hope that how it will remain. Eddie would have liked it for everyone to get one for a chance of winning. The Chairman v Vice Chairman for the Shield was won by the Vice Chairman's team.

Thanks must go to the Gullane GC for the courtesy of the course, Paul Sago/Bill Robertson for the condition of the course(s), they were in great shape considering the weather. Also the club house staff for the meals and refreshments which was indulged in considerably over the day and thanks to our sponsors for the day Lothian Tractors. A big thank you to Suzanne Gillies, Lothian Tractors, who played golf with us that day. Thanks to you and the company.

The Skittles night in May was cancelled due to lack of numbers – we had only about seven members some with a partner so I wouldn't think that will be the demise of the Skittles nights, as that is the fourth one to be cancelled in a row. At £40 a time that is a total of £160 lost for four events. At the end of the day that is your money.

Next on the agenda is the Summer Tournament at Harburn GC on June 24 – report next month. Section member-

ship is continuing to go up – I don't have exact numbers to hand but if you know of anyone in the trade that is not a member get them to give our secretary a call on 0131-6603965 and he will tell them the benefits of joining BIGGA, and will also send them out an application form. So if you're a member get into BIGGA. It's worth it.

Myself, Steve Dixon, (secretary), and our wives were very pleased to be invited to the official opening of King Acre Golf Course on May 31. We would like to thank Tom King and his family for the very kind invitation, this is one of the best new courses I have seen for a long time. You would think it has been there for quite a number of years. All I can say is give Tom a phone call and get down to play it, but watch the lake at the left of the 18th! I would also like to congratulate George Purves and his team for the amount of work that must have gone on to have it ready for opening day. It was well worth it in the end. Well done to everyone concerned with Kings Acre Golf Course, it is a credit to you all.

If anyone has any news, information to pass on, simply pick up the phone (0131-4457165 office, 01620-842037) and drop me a line at Muirfield Drive, Gullane.

That all this month folks, see you next time.

Chris Yeaman

North

We have gained 18 new members so far this year, that's down on our target of one per week, so if you know of any

Duguid, Westhill, February No 114; Mrs P MacLeod, Coventry, March No 31; A. Dobbie, Boat of Garten, all £30. April £100 No 21; B. Cocker Jnr, Alyth.

The following members will represent the section in the Norrie Whytlock competition this August – H. McLaughie, S. Williams, C. Cumming, and C. Burgess, Forrest. Finally on the outing, this is the first time we have had to turn away entries so next outing your form back quick to ensure participation.

The Hayter Qualifier at Troon Lochgreen was not a great success for the Section with no qualifiers, Colin Mackay, Elmwood GC, and Chris Cumming, Fortrose, are reserves in Class 1 and 2 respectively. The Section dinner dance this year will be at the Clover Leaf Hotel, Bucksburn, Aberdeen, on Saturday November 22, price remains £12.50 and rooms are available at the hotel for £38.00 B&B for two. If members want this event to continue a good turnout is required, as friends and guests far outnumber members in previous dances and we are running this for members really, although others are more than welcome.

I hear Colin Forbes and Doug Boyle have moved from Aboyne to Terland we wish them well, also we wish Martin Dodds well in his new job in Aberdeen after leaving Cullen.

Iain Macked

Central
Apologies for there being no Section news last month, the reason being that I was in hospital at the time the magazine went to press. Thanks to everyone who sent their good wishes, I appear to be on the road to recovery and hopefully things will get back to normal, whatever that is, pretty soon.

No sooner do we welcome Jim Ellis's return to the Section when he ups and leaves for pastures new, in Germany. Every success in your new appointment Jim, I hope everything goes well for you. (Perhaps we may now get a contribution from Germany for the section news?)

While we are on about members it is great to welcome the following new ones, Scott Watson and Ben Durkin, both Aberdour; Marc Brownlie, Pitreavie; Gregor McNee, Glenervie; Craig Hopkins, Elmwood College; Andrew Crawford, Kinross; and Ian Smith, Bishopshire, and we look forward to meeting them at some of our forthcoming events.

We have gained 18 new members so far this year, that's down on our target of one per week, so if you know of any
greenkeeper near you who is not a member, encourage him/her to join. If you wish, bring them along to any of our events, as a guest and let them see for themselves what they are missing by not being part of BIGGA.

The first golf tournament of the season was held over The Dukes Course at Craigmount, St Andrews, in April. In some 55 members and guests enjoyed the courtesy of their excellent facilities. Our sincere thanks go to Course Manager, Owen Browne and his staff, for having the course in tip top condition on the day, a great achievement when you consider it is a new course and the terrible weather conditions in the early part of the year, a special thanks to Heidi Orr, Golf Administration Manager, for all her help in making the arrangements and for helping to make sure everything ran smoothly on the day — that includes granting extra tee times for those who did not return entry forms!

Scottish Chairman, Sam Morrison, made the long journey down from Aberdeen and we appreciate the support Sam gives to Section events. I would also like to thank all our Patrons and everyone who contributed to the raffle prizes and helped to make the day a great success.


The Inter-Club Tournament is now under way and with an entry of 16 teams the competition to stop Auchterarder from winning the trophy three years in a row looks even tougher this year, although Archie and James will be all out to make it a hat trick of victories.

Congratulations on their recent marriages to Owen Browne, of The Dukes Course, and Robin Hadley, of Pittreavie GC. Unfortunately I don't have the names of their spouses so have to remain rather formal. Anyway, best wishes for the future Mr & Mrs Browne and Mr & Mrs Hadley from everyone in the Central Section.

Arrangements are being made to organise some of the events which were on the list sent out earlier this year, although going by the number of forms returned (36 out of 240) it would appear that events are not going to be that well supported. John Bashford will be organising the fishing on Loch Leven during the season so there maybe some interesting stories being told at the Autumn Tournament, at Auchterarder in September. Andy O'Hara is hoping to organise a further football match, but unfortunately it will not be representative of the Section as only seven members showed an interest in forming a Central Section team. Kevin Brunton is helping to arrange a visit to Parkhead stadium, Glasgow, which will allow members to see the work involved in the renovation and preparation of a pitch prior to the start of a new playing season. Details of all Events will be mailed out as soon as possible. (Probably only to those who took the time to return there forms). So if you failed to return your form you may miss out!

John Crawford

Hayter Challenge Scottish Regional Final

The Scottish Region had another glorious day for the Regional final of the Hayter Challenge. The Loch Green course was in excellent condition all thanks to Bill Fletcher and his staff and it certainly provided a very stern test for the competitors. We were pleased to have Kim Macfie, Sales and Marketing Director of Hayters, joining us. Mind you he was only coming home as Troon is his home town. It was also nice to have our BIGGA Chairman Pat Murphy and John Pemberton from HQ with us for the day. With Hamish Macfie and then Pat Murphy acting as starters everything ran exactly to time, (Cecil and Harry look out) and the last three teed off on the dot, pale faced greenkeepers these three, obviously spending too much time in their offices. It was a long way round for many of the lads over 6500 yards and between the heat and the strong breeze, yes it was, just a breeze up here, there were a few weary travellers at the end. The first pint never touched the sides, and so to the results; Cat 1. 1. D. Leith, St Andrews, 73-1-72; 2. S. Taylor, Killermont, 74-1-73; 3. D. Wilson, Irvine Boganse, 81-6-73; 4. C. McKay, Elmwood, 79-6-73; Cat 2. 1. A. Wilson, Kirkhill, 86-14-72; 2. J. Johnston, Turnberry, 86-13-73; 3. A. Torrance, King James, 86-11-75; 4. C. Cumming, Fortrose, 87-12-75. Cat 3. G. Shearer, Balmore, 91-22-69; 2. S. Carmichael, Fincs GC, 92-22-70; 3. D. Nelson, Brunston Castle, 91-21-70; 4. A. Robertson, Grangemouth, 91-29-71.

So what a team we have this year everyone dedicated to giving the team manager a winning finale to his time as Administrator, yes I'm sure they are! Elliott Small

NORTHERN REGION

Bob Lupton
Tel: 01782 750539

North West

A good attendance at the spring tournament ensured good competition to qualify for the Hayter regional final at Malten hall on Wednesday July 9. The spring tournament was at Didsbury Golf Club on Thursday May 1, and although I was otherwise engaged and could not attend, I was assured that Alec Davis and his staff had the course in excellent condition. The qualifiers for the Hayter regional final are: Cat 1.1. P. Pearse; 2. S. Moon; 3. F. Piatt, Cat 2. 1. L. McAndrew; 2. A. Bennett; 3. J. Turner, Cat 3. 1. S. Moseley; 2. J. Fitzgerald; 3. A. Davis.

I would like to thank all the companies who provided prizes for the day. Unfortunately Alec Davis has the list of companies, and he's in Florida at the moment, but I will name the companies in my next Section news. On Monday August 4 we have a match against the Northern Section. I require two teams of 16 players, and both matches are sponsored so the day will cost you nothing, both matches will be played to win, but at the same time are always very enjoyable.

There are several supervisory and management courses both at Aldwark Manor and regional, if you are available for the golf matches or require a further information about the courses contact me on 0151 7245412.

Bert Cross

Sheffield

There is not a lot of news this month, but there are quite a few new members to the section they include John Evisan, Neil Vernon, David Ingleton, Paul Jarvis, Ian Scott, Geoffrey Wells, Glenn Hearn, Richard Evison and Colin Jessop all from Gainsborough GC. Jonathan Knowles and Mark Knowles from Rufford Park GC and John Darroch from Hirst Priory GC.

Our next event will be our autumn competition to be held at Sicklehome GC on September 22 at 1.30pm.

John Lax

MIDLAND REGION

Peter Larter
Tel: 01480 437507

Midland

July has come around quickly again bringing with it the usual concerns about water usage and all the grievances which seem to go hand in hand with this seasonal crisis. Well I suppose it could be worse, we could all have the troubles of Yorkshire water which never seem to be rectified. After all we have had one of the better starts to the season regarding weather for some time and actually being able to get a better degree of growth on those usually dormant areas.

On May 13 the annual President's Day took place at Handsworth GC. This always proves to be an enjoyable evening and this one was no exception. Many thanks to all the greenkeepers who took part and especially to Eric Thomas for organising the greenkeepers' team so admirably.

Can I remind anyone who is participating in the Rite Feed singles that the first round needs to be played before July 18? Also, to any pairs playing the Rigby Taylor to make sure that you get

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THE CHOICE OF CHAMPIONSHIP
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The first golf event proved very successful with 40 competitors battling it out for the prestigious prizes. Castle Royle proved to be a very good test of golf with nobody beating par on the day (very little work for our newly appointed handicap secretary!). Allan Collis and his staff are to be congratulated on the superb condition of the course.

The main sponsors of the day were Rigby Taylor and Hayter so many thanks to both companies.

Prize winners were as follows: 1. T. S. Patt; 2. T. Evans; 3. J. S. Socket. Longest Drive: T. Evans, second Richard Owen, Best Wests, 34 pts, Graeme Macdonald, Ryston Park, picked up nearest the pin. As usual the prize table was overflowing, a big thank you to Les Purdy for sponsoring a fine day on a fairly new course in good condition. Other prizes were donated by Peter Fell, Atkins, Leigh Siddon, Collins, Stewart Jeffs, Rigby Towers, and Roy Harrison, Stoke Rochford.

"Mac's on the Move" – I mentioned in my last report that Charlie Macdonald had left Newark to take up the post of Course Manager at Crieff Golf Club. Well, your secretary is also on the move, Graeme Macdonald is leaving Ryston Park Golf Club to take over from Charlie Macdonald at Newark. Graeme Macdonald

SOUTH EAST REGION

Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260956

Surrey

The Cresta Cup was held at West Surrey GC on June 10 on a very hot and humid afternoon. The course needless to say was immaculate, well done Mike and his team. We were treated royally by the management, for which we thank them.

The food under the helm of Mrs Kirkham was superb, a carvery no less, this was a first. The results were:-1. R. Tyderman (Mr Old Reliable) with 36 pts; 2. M. Todd also with 36 pts on count back and 3. D. Williams with 34 pts also on count back with about five others, don't do this to me lads, you know I have trouble. The next tournament is the McMillan Tankard at Sunningdale, I don't know yet the numbers Brian can manage, so get in quick, first come first served. You will receive the entry form shortly. A little news from around – Lee Strutt is now Course Manager at Richmond Golf Club and he has aboard with him David Patterson as D/CM Lee and Adam Hartley (RAD) have now joined the committee. The good news for some of you is that I am retiring on July 31, the bad news is I will still be around! The Drift have done me a great deal whereby I am still playing golf here and try to be useful as well. But I shall be out and about on my motorbike to keep an eye on you.

Ted Stiles

Sussex

I've just returned from a week of lying in the sun in Rhodes to realise it's time for another write-up. So as I have not had time to catch up with the news, I thought I would take the opportunity to broach another subject.

Education is always at the forefront of BIGGA's agenda. So before your Course Manager has spent all of his budget on summer fertilisation it might be worth talking to him about college courses to be taken over the autumn and winter months. Maybe your club would find it difficult to lose members of staff during the working day, if so why not approach your local college about evening courses. I, along with nine other greenkeepers, have just completed an NVQ course a Plumperton College. It consisted of an evening session once a week with projects and studying to be carried out in your own time. This is the first year the course has been run like this and I found it very informative. Apart from gaining a qualification, it keeps you in touch with other greenkeepers through the long winter months. On behalf of all the kids who attended, I would like to thank David and Colin for making the course such a success. We need more courses of this kind and if enough interest is shown, I'm sure more colleges will hold evening courses. We need more courses of this kind and if enough interest is shown, I'm sure more colleges will hold educational classes in the evening. If you wish to find out more about this or any other courses contact David Blackmur at Plumperton College on 01273 890454 or contact your local college.

Congratulations to Tony Bremmer who has been promoted to Deputy Course Manager at Gatton Manor GC, I worked with Tony at Slinfold Park GC two years ago, before he moved to his present club. Although Patton Manor is just into Surrey, Tony has stayed with the Sussex Section.

Finally, we still need venues for our golf days in 1998. Anyone who thinks they may be able to help with this, please contact a member of the committee.

Results of the summer meeting at Haywards Heath in next month's write-up.

Colin Cathie

Essex

The Essex Section held a golf day a Five Lakes Golf and Country Club, playing the European Tour Course. A good day was had by all but, Martin, we would just like to have the greens a bit quicker next time! Thanks to Martin, his staff and all at Five Lakes for making us welcome. Our thanks also go to Earnest Doe's for sponsoring the event and in particular to Andy Turbin for his efforts on our behalf.

Prize winners were as follows: Cat 1:- 1. C. Crocher, 2. R. Pride, 3. S. Cox; Cat 2:- 1. C. Ward, 2. D. Wells, 3. J. Selwood; Cat 3:- 1. J. Shelton, 2. M. Stopps, 3. M. Forrester; Guest:- P. Keeble, Trade: A. Turbin; Nearest the Pin on 13th and Longest Drive 18th:- M. Fance.

I had a great day watching Volvo PGA Tournament at Wentworth thanks to the hospitality of Ransomes.

Our next lecture evening will be at Writtle College, Thursday September 25 at 7.30pm in the Main Building, Room L60. Dr Tim Lodge, from STRI, will be talking on the use and misuse of top dressing and recent research concerning golf green management and construction.

Dave Wells

SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH WALES REGION

Paula Humphries
Tel: 01363 82777

Devon and Cornwall

You may be aware that following the approval of the Association's revised constitution at the 1996 AGM the BIGGA Board of Management request that all Regions should have a paid part-time administrator in place before the end of this year. Paula has subse-
quently been appointed to the post of Regional Administrator. The funding for the new part-time Regional Administrator will be from central funds, although the Section and Region will have to forgo their sub refunds to help cover some of the costs. The loss of our refunds means that the Section has to become self-sufficient to survive. To help finance the section, the Committee has decided to offer the companies already involved in donating golf prizes at our meetings first refusal on sponsoring the whole meeting. This would entitle the companies to put up a sponsor sign on one of the tees or markers near the bottom of their display boards in the club house (both are subject to host club's approval). They will also be entitled to present their Company's golf prizes having taken up the new sponsorship deal. The section would like to thank Avoncroft, Barenburg, Devon Garden Mash and Mix, PJ Flieg, ground wale, Peter Lodge, Reffey's and Supaturf for their continued sponsorship and support of our section. The section would also like to thank DGM for their sponsorship of our fixture cards over recent years, after a severe winter and early spring has depleted. The day was nicely rounded off when Dave Harper, one of the guests from Cumberwell Park, bought everyone a drink following his hole in one at the 6th.

We were then treated to some fine cuisine from the caterer, Neil Simpson, and enjoyed a few witty words from the club captain Brian Elliot. Tim Dabernett then handed over the nearest the pin prize which was won by a some off fluke from Marc Haring. This particular competition which has just started and will hopefully become a permanent fixture raised £50 for the clubs charity the Wiltshire Air Ambulance. Thanks to Tim for his organisation and donation of the prize of a bottle of Scottish produce which is rapidly becoming depleted. The day was nicely rounded of when Dave Harper, one of the guests from Cumberwell Park, bought everyone a drink following his hole in one at the 6th.

while on the subject of Cumberwell Park, this is the venue for our summer tournament on July 23, so it is my turn to endure the sleepless nights and endless worry that goes with this responsibility. This is the first visit to Cumberwell for the golfers this year and it is hoped that they will enjoy their time and support the club by playing for the club as usually the day is an event for the club rather that the individual. The club has a history of hosting events and this year is no different.

Marc Haring

South Coast

It is with regret that I have to inform you that Bill Young has passed away. He was 84 years old. Bill was Arleford Golf Club, his links with the club go back to the 1920s. He started off as a caddie and then became a member of the club, he was later club captain. Bill was also the Head Greenkeeper/Professional, he was an active member of BIGGA and was a founder member of the South Coast Section. He was made a life member when he retired, he retired from greenkeeping in 1997, quite an achievement for one man, our sincere condolences go to Bill's son Barry and all his family at this sad time.

Jeff Drake, our Secretary, is organising a trip to the London Golf Club on November 6. You may remember that Joe Paulin from the London Golf Club was a guest at our recent tournament which has just been started and will hopefully become a permanent fixture. Joe invites the South Coast Section to a day at his club to see the complex first hand. This has got to be a must to see how a top class golf course operates. Will all those wishing to make the trip let Jeff know as soon as possible, he can then make arrangements for the coach and pick up points, Jeff can be contacted on 01722 503538. We do not know the price of the coach yet, however there is a strong possibility that the trip will be sponsored. For those of you who have not entered, your names for the Summer Tournament and Bramshaw GC, there is still time if you are quick. All entries complete with current handicaps of yourself and your partner to:- Tony Gadd, Cherry Trees, Lymington Road, Milford on Sea, Hants. S041 ODL. Tel: 01590 543743. At the time of going to press the entry forms for the tournament. By the time this report gets to the magazine Tony will be able to let you know the cost, all entries are to be with Tony by first post July 28.

Ken Lodge

South Wales

The results of the recently contested Hayter Qualifier and Spring Tournament held at Kington GC in Herefordshire were; Best nett and winner of the Cardiff Cup was Richard Patterson with a 63. Best gross and winner of the Brown's Shield was David Gladwin with a 63. Winner of the John O'Grann Champion-Mastered's David Jenkins with a 71. Despite the good attendance an excellent day was had by all. The course was in excellent order and the quote that I was given was "the greens were superb" so congratulations to Course Manager, Ian Gough, and his team for their efforts. My personal thanks to Mike Jones who ran the day on my behalf as I was unable to attend. Thanks also to the Kington Golf Club for making us so welcome and allowing us the courtesy of their superb hillside course.

Qualifiers for the Hayter Regional finals at the Burnham and Berrow GC on June 11 are:- Cat 1: Mike Jones, Daryl Bray, Andy Roach, Jamie Probert, Vince Welles. Cat 2: Day the Glorious. Cat 3: Ian Gough, Richard Patterson, David Jenkins, Gareth Evans, David Ward. Good luck for the event, bring back the winning team please!

Shortley we will be organisng the following evening lecture programmes, if anyone has any requirements or requests then please contact me or Education Chairman Malcolm Davies as soon as possible, so that we can include in this series of lectures. I hope that you have already booked your place on one of this year's super visionary or management courses. "Essential Supervisory Management Skills for Greenkeepers" is to be held at the Marriott Hotel in Swanssea on Wednesday and Thursday 6 & 7 of November later this year. The cost will be only £50 for BIGGA members, inclusive of all tuition, meals and accommodation. This is the first course to be held in South Wales, so please support it and attend.

The Pencoed College Open Day is to be held at the college in Bridgend on Saturday June 28 for 2pm until 6pm. Please come along and say hello to your committee members who will be manning a BIGGA stand and will be only pleased to answer any queries that you may have. Have a browse around the college and visit the all new lecture theatre and conference complex. Bring the family, walk the farm yard and see the animals. A worthwhile day out. Please support it and use it!

If you could be interested in attend- ing a one day pesticide update course, please let me know. It is possible, if there are enough interested parties, that we could run a day devoted to the not too distant future. The course would be available to twelve people and would provide information on the changes in law, new legislation, pesticide labelling, calibration and application techniques. The cost would be in the region of £40 per person.

The Pencoed College is always on the lookout for Mr and Mrs Huw Morgan for they were all in the region. At last we have had the Whipples as for a brief moment they were the last to the Whipples. My personal thanks to Joe Paulin from the London Golf Club for his links with the club go back to the 1920s. Joe invites the South Coast Section to a day at his club to see the complex first hand. This has got to be a must to see how a top class golf course operates. Will all those wishing to make the trip let Jeff know as soon as possible, he can then make arrangements for the coach and pick up points, Jeff can be contacted on 01722 503538. We do not know the price of the coach yet, however there is a strong possibility that the trip will be sponsored. For those of you who have not entered, your names for the Summer Tournament and Bramshaw GC, there is still time if you are quick. All entries complete with current handicaps of yourself and your partner to:- Tony Gadd, Cherry Trees, Lymington Road, Milford on Sea, Hants. S041 ODL. Tel: 01590 543743. At the time of going to press the entry forms for the tournament. By the time this report gets to the magazine Tony will be able to let you know the cost, all entries are to be with Tony by first post July 28.

Ken Lodge

Hayter Regional Qualifier

South West & South Wales Region

What a superb venue! The course is second to none and nothing but compliments were heard all day. Congratulations go, of course, to Jock Miller and his team for the splendid condition of their course. The welcome and facilities provided in the clubhouse were wonderful and a great field of golfers were present to enjoy the great day. The night before the competition there was torrential rain which looked as if it would never stop. However, I told everyone that I do not run wet golf competitions – I always order sunshine! Low and behold, Wednesday morning dawned bright and sunny – if anything a little too not – and there was enough cloud to fly the BIGGA flag! – we had to bin it onto the back of a bench! Gordon & Marion Child were in charge of the starting and everyone went off spot on time. We were honoured to have the Chairman, Pat Murphy with us and also Scott MacCallum from HQ. Kim MacAliee from Hayter attended with Robin Boyce and Peter Hampton and Kim kindly presented the prizes which Hayter donated – rather splendid hip flasks which I am sure will be treasured. Gwylim Kelloss and BS Motors kindly provided a half way house, which was greatly appreciated.

Results:- Cat 1 – 1. R. Daly (D & C) 65; 2. L. Millar (S. Coast) 69; 3. D. Bray (Wiltshire) 70; Cat 2 – 1. A. Knight (S.West) 71; 2. P. Wentworth (S. Coast) 73; 3. M. Porrish (D & C) Res. A. Cosh (S. Wales) 73 Cat 3 – 1. A. James (D & C) 68; 2. J. Cooper (S. West) 76; 3. A. Rideout (S. Coast) 77 Res. J. Braithwaite (S. West) 77.

All in all it was a great day. Good luck to the qualifiers in the final. Paul Humphries
Turf Colourants & Water Management

Professional Solutions for the Green Environment
With the summers getting longer and hotter there is an increasing demand on the water supply and its application into the amenity sector. Through normal irrigation methods the spread patterns of water may give adequate coverage, but this does not mean that there is an even absorption of water into the soil. High spots on greens can be particularly prone to hydrophobic conditions caused by surface water run off due to insufficient water absorption.

For this reason, it has always been necessary to apply additional water to high spots, by syringing. To increase the effectiveness of this procedure it is advisable to apply a wetting agent along with this extra water. The easiest and most cost effective way to add this wetting agent is through the Drencher hose end applicator. This has been designed to incorporate a chamber for a solid wetting pellet which is eroded as the water passes over it.

The Drencher pellet range consists of a straight WA (wetting agent) pellet and the 123 Premix pellet, a combined wetting agent, biostimulant, and micronutrient feed, both of which are supplied in cases of six pellets with each pellet treating between 3 and 6 greens.

The Drencher Gun is the most advanced hose end applicator of its type in the UK. The applicator gun is easy to connect and operate and gives the operator total control at the hose end, where it is needed. Designed and manufactured in Europe, the applicator has improved hose connector couplings, a simple shut off valve, brass spray nozzle and clear chamber which is tested to 120psi, making it easy and effective to use. An optional rose attachment is available.
Crystal Clear™ WSP is a concentrated microbial based lake clarifier containing 4 billion CFUs (Colony Forming Units) per gram of a proprietary blend of 17 bacillus bacterial strains. Crystal Clear WSP will biodegrade the nutrients, organic matter and hydrocarbons reducing surface scum, algae blooms, sludge and organic sediment, improving water clarity and quality. In addition, Crystal Clear will control methane and sulphide odours.

Crystal Clear™ WSP is packaged in easy to use water soluble packets. It is non-toxic and harmless to humans, animal and aquatic life. Crystal Clear WSP is fully compatible with all aquatic colourants.

For initial application each WSP will treat 250 m³ of water, with a maintenance rate of 1 WSP per 1500 m³ every 2 weeks. Available in cases of 6 WSP.

Lake Colorant™ WSP

Lake Colorant™ WSP is a highly concentrated blend of dry-flowable colourants in water soluble packets. Unlike liquid colourants, these totally eliminate any need for measuring or for any applicator contact with the colourant, so there is no mess. The packets dissolve quickly and completely, leaving no residue.

Lake colourant is available in cases of 6 WSP. Each WSP will treat 1500 m³ of water.

Greenlawnger™ turf colourant will restore the natural appearance of turf which has been damaged or discoloured by fertilizer burn, winter yellowing or other problems such as chemical or oil spills. It is ideal for sports turf, golf greens, tees and fairways, along with commercial application.

Greenlawnger™ turf paint is easily applied with any tank or knapsack sprayer to give a healthy, natural look to all turf grass. It will not wash or wear off turf after it has been applied, and the colour will last 10-14 weeks, or until the coloured grass is removed by mowing.

Greenlawnger™ is available in both 1 and 10 lts. for spray mixes, and should be applied at 1 lt. per 500m² or in Ready To Use (RTU™) aerosols for spot treatment. RTUs come in a case of 6 cans with a free applicator gun. Greenlawnger RTU™ is available in two colours, Standard Green for all applications and Agrostis Green for darker turf.

Greenlawnger™ Sand Concentrate is also available in 100 lt. drums for colouring sand/divot mix.
Drencher liquid is a performance enhanced organic soil penetrant, combined with natural sugars to aid in the treatment of dry patch and stimulate soil microbial activity. Formulated for use on fine turf, Drencher liquid is an essential weapon in the fight against hydrophobic soil conditions.

- **ENHANCED WATER PENETRATION**
- **AIDS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DRY PATCH**
- **STIMULATES SOIL MICROBIAL ACTIVITY**
- **NON SCORCHING FORMULATION**
- **100% ORGANIC**

**Maintenance Rate**
750 ml. - 1 lt. per 500 m² in 40 lts. of water (15 - 20 lts. per hectare in 800 lts. of water)

**Extreme Hydrophobic Conditions**
1.5 - 2 lts. per 500 m² in 40 lts. of water (30 - 40 lts. per hectare in 800 lts. of water)

**Dew Control**
A treatment of between 625 ml. - 1250 ml. per 500 m² in 40 lts. of water will provide a dew control of between two and three days. This is, however, dependent on climatic conditions and irrigation levels and therefore the longevity of dew control may vary.

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**TECHNICAL INFORMATION**

Independent research carried out in the USA shows the effectiveness of Drencher as a soil penetrant. The data below shows just a few of the beneficial results you can achieve with Drencher liquid.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRODUCT</th>
<th>TIME (min)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drencher</td>
<td>8.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aqua-Gro</td>
<td>15.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distilled Water</td>
<td>21.75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*In the above test, an 8 cm. column was filled with peat and various solutions of equal concentration were added on top of the peat, then timed to measure how long it took the solutions to penetrate.*

*The above test shows that Drencher is an effective microbial imulator of beneficial bacteria.*

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*Amenity Technology Products Ltd., Reading Business Centre, Weldale Street, Reading, Berkshire RG1 7BX
Telephone +44(44) 0118 951 0033 Fax +44(44) 0118 951 0044*
Hugh Tilley takes a look at the one of the golf course’s workhorses and speaks with the people who know them best - the greenkeepers

Highest profile of all greens machinery is the greens mower, and pedestrian or hand operated machines are preferred by most greenkeepers. Most clubs operate a fleet of these and replace them on a regular basis although one 20 year old machine – a ‘reserve’ – was found. About four makes are in common golf course use, with three or four others not uncommon. Part of the reason for this bias is dealer support, and their active selling of the product. Nevertheless Lloyd, Alltet, Hayter and Dennis all have users who believe their machines are in every way equal – if not better than – higher profile and usually more expensive makes, nor did they usually consider that the back up was inferior. Few clubs have undertaken comparative on site testing before purchase – most greenkeepers know what they want.

While reliability is important, perhaps more important to the greenkeeper are other attributes such as ease of use and setting, quality of cut, ability to keep an edge and how well the set is maintained. Most if not all machines are available with groomers or brushes to set the grass up prior to the cut, however not every greenkeeper is happy with these so not all use them even it fitted. Certainly the variety of grass does have an effect as does how well the club wishes to present its greens. One non-user greenkeeper said, “if this was a championship course I would always use them.”

Hayter has recently introduced a totally new greens mower, and states that most of these have been sold into Ireland. The company is currently taking greenkeepers’ comments and expects to make a few minor modifications before generally making the model available across the UK. For this reason there was little point including them in this feature. However Hayter is keen that greenkeepers should be aware that it is still in this market.

Sharpening and/or replacement of bottom blades (bed knives) also seems to vary more by user (and location) than by machine. In situ grinding would seem to be the ideal, however not all clubs have this facility, and as a result many rely on back lapping through the season with an out of season dealer service and cylinder sharpen. How frequently this is carried out again varies more by club than by machine – and what is used after top dressing – most greenkeepers spoken for this give their ride-on triples all the hard and aggressive work – like verti-cutting and cleaning up after top dressing.

Lloyds Paladins at Mendip Spring, Somerset
Course Manager, Ian Harrison, has been a Paladin man for 20 years although his current three main machines are only three years old. One of the most important reasons for his like of the machines is their basic simplicity with a well proven design. He

If you want a safe and easy way to mow banks and slopes - or to mow small confined areas -
The club uses a ride-on triple in the summer, but the pedestrian machines in winter and for all perimeter cuts. No groomers or verti-cutters are used. Verti-cutting being done by the triple, as are first cuts after topdressing.

In simple terms with the Paladin, Ian stated, “what you see is what you get.”

Super Certes 51 at East Devon, Budleigh Salterton

The three main machines are now about three seasons old having replaced a competitive make with which the club had considerable trouble. Paul Newcombe, Head Greenkeeper, attributed the trouble to the very pebbly and bumpy nature of the tracks between greens (and shed) which took its toll on clutches, gearboxes and drives. Since changing to the Ransomes machines he said that he has experienced no reliability problems (just one clutch cable), although he admitted that the club had modified the transport wheels, replacing considered that the original machines were ahead of their time and that as the design has proven itself there was little need for a change. Additionally the price is right. Another plus point was the clutch design which is more gentle and smoother than most others.

In particular he commented that this simplicity allowed him to explain to trainee greenkeepers how and why the machines worked – which allowed them to get the best from them. Simplicity and accessibility also promoted ease of maintenance. Sharpening is carried out off site about twice a year, with about two bottom blades used per cylinder grind. Back-lapping is carried out by hand about twice a week and each operator is responsible for setting his machine.

Ian maintains that the Paladin produces as good a cut as any machine, he has found the availability of spares excellent and while – out of patriotism – he would like a British rather than a Honda engine, he admitted that this engine is reliable and almost everlasting.

The use of roller bearings on the cylinder are an example of the engineering quality which Ian sees as epitomising the design.

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The Power of Performance built into every machine in every turfcare and amenity situation.

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them with larger softer pneumatic tyred ones. There has also been the occasional need to adjust the clutches.

The club does not use groomers on their pedestrian machines although these and verti-cutters fit to the ride-on triple which is the mainstay of summer (March-August) cutting. Each operator tends to use and be responsible for a specific machine, but Paul sets and adjusts all before they go out. This allows for some individual preferences such as handle height and clutch cable setting. Cut heights range from 4mm to 6mm, the latter for winter.

Machines are back lapped as required but may not be resharpened for up to two years — little top dressing is used, certainly not in front of the Super Certes. Paul would like to be able to cut all greens all the time by hand but staffing does not allow this.

In Paul’s opinion the Ransomes machines offer good value and solid robust reliable engineering.

**John Deere 220A at Wincanton Golf Course**

This racecourse centre nine hole pay and play club was built about five years ago and has only known hand mowing on its greens. The current pedestrian mower recently replaced one of a similar make and has several significant improvements. The machine is equipped with groomer, brushes and verti-cutters, the latter being used about twice a week while the brush may only be used for special occasions, perhaps monthly, if ‘nice stripes’ are needed. The course is relatively new and has US spec fescue/bent greens. The original JD machine was ‘put in’ by the constructor, and by fortunate coincidence local dealer Rochford Garden Machinery have taken on the JD franchise. The new machine has an eleven blade cylinder giving it a better cut, and it is also faster than the previous machine. Another significant improvement has been to setting, this is much easier, reported head greenkeeper Richard Cartwright. The Honda engine also has more power than the predecessor, thus it is altogether quicker and better. Improvements have also been made to the grass box.

Back-lapping is carried out ‘when required’ while the cylinder is reground annually and a new bottom blade is fitted as routine. Routine greasing is a weekly requirement. Cutting height is adjusted between 5mm and 7mm.

This machine has an operator...
presence handle, however this is of light pressure and easy to hold, in fact the operator liked it and was happy with using it. He also liked the operator friendly layout of the controls and in particular the ease of operating the throttle, which could be shut down with simple thumb pressure at the end of each run. The machine has a centrifugal clutch.

Jacobsen Greens King 522 at Orchardleigh Golf Club, Frome
This new 18 hole course has recently taken delivery of a new Greens King 522 for its US spec greens which are based on Pencross creeping bent. Deputy Head Greenkeeper, Ian Roberts, said that they had found distinct lines where the mower had cut with the groomers down. Detailed examination has suggested that this is caused by the groomers not extending across the full cylinder width. Considerable concern has been shown by the supplier, Bristol dealer – B.S. Mowers and by Jacobsen UK – and significant time has been spent on trying to solve it. In fact there is no effect to actual cut, nor on play, the lines being purely cosmetic where the Pencross is not set up for the cylinder, and this seems to be unique to Orchardleigh, and perhaps Pencross greens. Ian said that both supplier and maker get 100% for effort, and they are now going to produce a 'special' full width groomer specifically for Orchardleigh. This is not quite as simple at it may seem as the front roller needs extra grooves and the groomer needs extra discs and modification to the bearing housings.

The club operates a one man, one machine policy with its pedestrian mowers, however there are triples for weekend work and for verti-cutting. Otherwise the club is very pleased with the machine which is lighter than the make it replaces. There have been no problems and the operator is delighted with it.

Allett Tournament at Alresford Golf Club in Hampshire
The price was right, significantly lower than most of the competition, the cut quality was equal and it was British, stated Darren Hatcher, Head Greenkeeper at Alresford Golf Club. The club has recently purchased a single machine, but anticipates buying an additional two before the main hand mowing season this autumn. Thus while Darren admitted that they have not really tried the machine extensively, the club did have most makes out on demonstration before selecting the Allett.

To date for the work it has

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