Welcome to this month's news. I hope as I am writing this that spring is not all that far away because we do not want a repeat of last year so everybody get those fingers and anything else cross for a good start to this season. I hope everyone from the East Section enjoyed their trip to the BTME which was an even better prize last year which takes some beating! Congratulations go to everyone at HQ who organised it and anyone else who assisted in the show, it just keeps getting better. If you haven't been decided to go – maybe he has won the raffle! The karaoke on the Wednesday night at the Majestic Hotel was absolutely fabulous. This was something that December of last year asked everyone to do so I have been told. The Scottish lads were in good voice so roll on next year! Tom Brannan, of Souters of Stirling, said that this was the best event at BTME 97 especially on Thursday should be 'vintage! I don't know why!

There is only one member on the move that I know of. Paul Hares is moving from Newbattle GC to Melville GC and Driving Range to be Assistant to the Head Greenkeeper Stewart Halliday. Good luck Paul on your new and exciting adventure!

Events to be held in the Region during 1997 are as follows:- February 27 - West Section Games Night, Claremont Bowling Club, Bexleyheath, Kent. Contact Mr L. Osborn on 01780 776842. March 6 - East Section 5-a-side competition. It will be held at Bedale GC on Saturday. So come on, support your Section and have a good time into the bargain. I would like to thank Elliott and Edna Small on behalf of the Section for organising the Scottish BTME trip again this year. Once again everything was great, just one or two problems but these were sorted out so thanks once again to you both for doing such a great job for the region.

Finally, if you are attending a Section event this year take your camera with you as I am needing a few pictures from our members to put into the magazine please contact after a great deal of detective work, and an answer was given by Mr D. Godfrey and Mr M. Franklin from Boughton Loam Ltd at 2.30pm. New members this month include:- Ben Pilling - Sherwood Forest GC, Andrew Fisher - Rother Valley GC, David Cakley - Bedale GC, Stewart Barlow - Austerfield GC, Jonathan Haywood - Wetherby GC, Ashley Doyce GC and Steven Ryder - Harrogate GC.

Chris Fiddell is improving following his motorcycle accident 12 months ago and he hopes to be returning to work at Billingham GC soon. We wish him well.

The Christmas Competition was held at Wynyard Hall GC near Billingham, Cleveland on the 18th December. Brian Lawton stepped down as Head Greenkeeper and was replaced by Paul Kellett. The annual reports were read and thanks go in particular to Gary Muno and Ian Holiday who work very hard for the Section and the North Region. Also George Malcolm was elected back onto the Committee and is to be our Northern Area Representative.

A Section tournament will be held at Bedale GC on Thursday, May 8, at 9.30am. It is also the Hayler Qualifier. If any local courses would like to be used for demonstration purposes please contact Mr Gary Muno. Please keep up-to-date with CUSH and also job risk assessments.

I am sorry to report that our old friend Ron Ullathorne retired from (SIS) after a poor health and is in hospital. Our sincere wishes Bill for a speedy recovery.

Finally many thanks to all those who have sent us our Section during the course of the last year.

Bruce Burnell

North East

Two new courses have been chosen for the Spring and Autumn Competitions. We shall be at South Shields on April 17th and then at Bolso on September 17th.

The Section has purchased two videos - Golf Green Reconstruction and Golf Course Ecology. Should anyone like to borrow one please contact me, the only charge will be for postage.

By now all members will have received a questionnaire from the Section. Could you please fill it in and return it to me at 19 Southside, Matten, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE20 0RL.

Finally I would like to welcome David Simpson, Club Manager at Tyneside GC, to the Section.

Northern

Spring is nearly with us and I am sure everybody hopes that it won't be a poor one like last year. A bad spring and a dry summer doesn't do much for greenkeeping conditions!

The BTME at Harrogate was again a splendid exhibition and one that BGGA should be proud of organising. Many thanks to Ian Thompson, of Wetherby GC, and Telford Jarvis, of Scarroct GC, for helping me on the Northern Region stand.

Not many people have booked for the golfing events this year. I hope everyone is aware that if they have not submitted their deposit at least one week before the event they will not be allowed to play, so be warned all you golfers out there!

Here are this year's golfing events:-

- Hayler Qualifier - Wakefield GC, Wednesday April 23 at 10.30am; Presidents Day - South Leeds GC, Wednesday June 25 at 1pm; Roses Match - Halifax GC, Wednesday August 13 at 1pm; Invitation Day - Skipton GC, Wednesday September 3 at 1.00pm; Autumn Tour - Bridlington Links, GC, Wednesday October 8 at 10.30am; Winter Golf - Scarborough GC, Wednesday December 10 at 10.30am. Numbers at most are already limited.

Any member with any news or information to put into the magazine please contact me on 01484 519829. Bits and pieces is the name of the game in the column.

Simon Heppenstall

North Wales

So far I have had only a relatively small response for the "Little and Large" show due to be held at the Welsh Horticultural College, on Thursday, March 27. I know it is early days yet but if you wish to know what we want to achieve by the show, dresses and roses please contact me on 0151 336 6675 in the evening to reserve your place.

I am pleased to be able to report that after a great deal of detective work, and an early morning raid on a home in the Abergele District, the Richard Campey Trophy has been found in perfect condition.

May I remind you that our Spring Competition will be on Wednesday, April 30, at Frodsham GC. We will be playing for the H-Hope Rose Bowl and the Richard Campey Trophy. Entry forms for Frodsham should be with you by beginning of April. To ensure the viability of the Section we have had to make a small increase to the entry fee.
fees for subsequent competitions. The members’ fee will be £13 and guests will be £18 which I am sure you will agree is extremely good value when you consider the whole package of golf, excellent food and prizes.

Brian Anderson, our Past Chairman, has written the following message: "To all members of the North Wales Section — I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your loyal and very much appreciated support over the last four years. I have enjoyed being Chairman and have had the opportunity to make many friends. I wish you all the very best for 1997 and thank you again for your support and to welcome and congratulate Pat Valentine as your new Section Chairman."

"Thank you to all the committee members past and present and to all the trade who have given us their whole hearted support without question, along with the golf clubs. It is because of this tremendous support that our Section is so financially viable and may you continue with your support for 1997 as we lose the membership money.

"So once again thanks to the following traders for all they have done for us: Phil Davies, Monmouthsmeere International; Terry Adamson, GEM; Dave Morgan and Mike Whitehouse, Ripy Taylor; Paul Walker, Walker Engineering (Ransomes); John Osman, Osman Machinery (John Deere); Andy Jones, Major Owen (Toro); Andrew Corriss, Accu Equipment; Julie Hargrave, Xi Chem; Paul Shaw, Course Care, Tony Cundell and Richard Campey, Campey Machinery; David Robinson, Strike (Top lat), and Trevor Johnstone, Warf Farm College.

"Also thank you to all the following golf clubs for their support:- Abergale & Penrhyn GC, Bull Bay GC, Chirk GC, Chester GC, Llangollen GC, Prestatyn GC, Nefyn GC, Penrhyn GC, Poulhein GC, Ruthin GC, St Asaph GC, Llangollen GC, Prestatyn and Conwy.

"Finally welcome to three new members, Stephen Jenkins, of Eaton GC, Robert Green, of Abereiddi GC, and Nick Bowler who has transferred from the North West Section.

Trevor Johnston"
and a very enjoyable time was had by all. Thanks are due to Gordon and Marion Child for their usual excellent organisation of this three day excursion which must be the bargain of the year. Being one of the more than 250 visitors to Fingle Glen I was able to enjoy the opportunity of meeting old friends and catching up on what has been happening in our own very close knit community while socialising with others who are not so close. I took the chance of enjoying the Harrogate night life! This included among other things the karaoke in which I am glad to say the Sidmouth golfers held their own.

The seminar programme was held in the Royal Baths across the street from all the exhibits in the trade area. It was generally agreed that the programme was well attended and that the speakers were well received. The only criticism was that it was difficult to follow the golfers from all over the world who were speaking in English. This was a problem which was not overcome by the use of a simultaneous translation system. The best way to understand a foreign language is to try and understand it in its own language. This was well demonstrated by the excellent French presentation given by a member of the French delegation.

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THE PRIZES

THE WINNER of the Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping will receive the following:

FOR THE CLUB
The golf club of the winning Course Manager or Head Greenkeeper will win a world renowned Toro Greensmaster 3000 triple greens mower (pictured above), the winner's trophy to display for a year and a plaque to display in the club house.

FOR THE WINNING COURSE MANAGER/HEAD GREENKEEPER
The individual winner will win a two week trip to the United States, visiting the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Conference and Show, as well as a trip to visit the Toro Company's Headquarters in Minneapolis and its factory in Riverside, California.

FOR THE TEAM
Each member of the winning Course Manager or Head Greenkeeper's team will receive a set of BIGGA waterproofs.

FOR THE REGIONAL WINNERS
Each regional winning Course Manager or Head Greenkeeper will receive £100 for themselves and a plaque to display in their club house.
Budding author needs help in 'exposing' tyrannical golfers

I am currently Head Greenkeeper at Whitby GC and am compiling a book called Golfers Through a Greenkeeper's Eyes. It is a satirical look at our golfing fraternity and the people we have to deal with on a daily basis.

Having sent the finished article to a couple of agents the reply was more or less the same - it isn't long enough to be a book and is more of a booklet. As I explained to these people I'm a greenkeeper not a writer and, although there was much encouragement, it was strongly recommended that I "fill out" the aforementioned literature with some humorous drawings. Seeing as how my ability to draw cartoons is even less favourable than my ability to write I was wondering if there are any, like minded, greenkeepers out there who would like to partake in a joint venture.

I must, however, forewarn any budding Schulitzs that this book/booklet is a scathing and bitter attack on our beloved golfing associates, albeit very "tongue in cheek" and should we not make a million in the first publication we may end up hod carrying on some building site or other remembering the days when we used to cut grass for a living!

I'm convinced that this request will be greeted with open arms as a chance to put our side of the story in a light hearted and jovial manner and should anyone want to take up this metaphetical gauntlet I would only be too willing to send a few descriptive paragraphs so a visual likeness could be sketched.

I thank you.

Ian Lavelle
Head Greenkeeper
Whitby GC

Thanks for support

I write to thank the BIGGA members, staff and my many friends in the industry for the letters, cards and messages I received during my recent bereavement.

The support given has been a great comfort to me during a very sad time.

I would also like to send my best wishes for the future to my successor as Association Guardian, Walter Woods, and to Neil Thomas and all at BIGGA during this 10th anniversary year.

Bill Lawson

Green card system could be made to work in the UK

I would like the chance to reply to David Roy's article "Employers and Intruders", February issue.

I too have endured two inclement years with very dry summers, the worst winter of snow for 15 years in 1995/96 (eg first snowfall November 5, '95 disappearing on April 12, '96), frost down to 15cm and windchill factors below -30 degree C 1996/97. I consequently can fully follow your articles and sympathise.

You are totally correct when you refer to the green card system. This applies to Denmark, Sweden and, I believe, Germany and Norway. Our requirements work on a points system covering etiquette, rules and how to play.

We added the Fortiva treatise to establish, but are fit to to tee off at 8am the next morning.

My quarterly article in the club magazine is appreciated by the majority and it is to those the information is aimed. I do believe the green card system will work, although it will take a long time to see the results.

Maybe the British would benefit from this system, improving course quality and lowering our greenkeeper's stress levels.

Thanks for another brilliant Harrogate Show.

Chris Haspell
Course Manager
Falster GC
Denmark
Removing guesswork from spraying system selection

Matching the correct equipment to the needs of their course is of vital importance. This month we look at spray tanks.

If you don’t know where you’re going, any road will take you there.

The above is a common business adage often used to make managers aware of the need to seek out all the available information before deciding on a course of action.

It is therefore vitally important, when considering the purchase of a replacement or additional spraying system, to be aware of the many options available so that whatever choice is made, the decision will have been reached on knowledge rather than ‘experience’ or guesswork.

To help you decide which combination of application equipment best matches your particular needs this guide reviews the different tank options. At the same time as deciding the choice of equipment, don’t forget the skill levels of your staff who will ultimately use the equipment; much of the new equipment available will require extra training on its use.

The first consideration will be tank size in relation to the size and nature of the course. What is the intended function of the sprayer and the likely intensity of use? There is little point in selecting a 1500 litre trailer sprayer if the course is small with narrow fairways and steep sided greens and tees. Conversely, a tractor mounted 300 litre sprayer would be a waste of money if it is the only machine available for spraying a large course with “motorway” fairways.

The second consideration is the materials from which the tank is constructed (see table). Common tank-construction materials include moulded plastics, fibreglass, heavy-gauge steel and stainless steel. Whatever the material, the overriding consideration must be that it should resist corrosion from the materials applied.

New tanks introduced into the Amenity market have been designed to minimise leftover spray mix, tanks such as these reduce chemical waste and disposal problems. Some manufacturers have also introduced a built-in sump that also helps with disposal. The tank must also have a drain plug at its lowest point, preferably operated by a valve located on the top of the tank.

Finally, the tanks should be clearly marked with graduated level indicator or have a sight gauge (visible from the operator’s position) to provide the operator with a constant visual of the tank levels.

![Fig. 1 Amenity sprayers: Tank materials and their characteristics](image-url)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Consideration</th>
<th>Polypropylene</th>
<th>Fibreglass</th>
<th>Stainless Steel</th>
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<tr>
<td>Corrosion-proof</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Repairable</td>
<td>Kits for some</td>
<td>Kit with resin</td>
<td>Welding</td>
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<td>Weight</td>
<td>Light</td>
<td>Medium</td>
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<td>100-1,500 ltrs</td>
<td>300-1,500 ltrs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Level visibility</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>None: Sight gauge required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>High</td>
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<tr>
<td>Comments</td>
<td>Not easy to repair</td>
<td>Can break or crack</td>
<td>Strong and durable</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Select UV resistant materials</td>
<td>under impact</td>
<td>Very Heavy</td>
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<td>Easy to mount</td>
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<td>Most expensive</td>
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<td>May stain after time</td>
<td>Inside may flake due to</td>
<td>Difficult to repair</td>
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PRESENTING THE POWERFUL NEW REELMASTER SERIES.
Hugh Tilley looks at the range of compact tractor which now faces the prospective customer and speaks with the people who use them.

With an excellent power to weight ratio and both hydraulics and power take-off, compact tractors are ideal for many essential operations. Equipped with turf or low pressure tyres, most have four wheel drive making them very sure footed and able to be used for both tractive and hydraulic lift and pto work.

Recent changes have altered the marketing of several makes of compact tractor, notably Shibaura and Iseki.

Marketing agreements have been made for Iseki with Jacobsen - in place of Massey Ferguson and for Shibaura with Ransomes. The recent Ransomes announcement simply states that that company will be bringing in a range of seven tractors - from 18 to 45hp in corporate style and colours.

For trailer work compact tractors offer greater capacity and load hauling ability than turf maintenance vehicles (TMV) such as the Cushman, while the virtual standardisation of their hydraulic lift (category I) and pto means that they offer exceptional flexibility to use with other makes or models. Actually several speeds may be offered for the pto - so it will pay to check what speed your machinery requires, remembering that forward speed and engine speed will co-relate.

Furthermore front end loaders are available so that most can be used for lifting and loading in a way that no TMV can. Some models are better for loader work than others, in particular for the output of the hydraulic pump and the strengths of their construction. Experience suggests that on many courses the compact tractor is also used as a run-around. Cabs, once scoffed as "soft", are becoming more popular and widespread although there are still those who say that their tractors are mainly used in fine weather.

Whatever the season, whatever the weather, this greenkeeper cuts a fine swathe through thick, uneven turf to produce the perfect fairway.

For the new Reelmaster fairway mowers boast many new, innovative features resulting in a cut like never before.

Rugged, powerful and durable, they have the lightest of touches. Their new L-I-N-K-S™ system of floating linkage and individual lift arm dampers hug the turf to get into dips and hollows for a close, all-over cut with no "bobbing", even at speeds in excess of 7mph.

The Reelmaster 6500D, with its 5-gang mower, and the 6700D, a 7-gang mower, both offer impressive cutting technology with all-interchangeable variable speed, automatically controlled reels to handle fast-growing, tough seasonal grasses.

Quiet in operation thanks to Toro’s advanced noise reduction, the powerful 38hp and 42hp diesel engines will help these machines reach inclines other mowers can’t.

To win your stripes, give us a call and we’ll walk your course with you and recommend the best machine for your needs.

You too can trust Toro expertise and quality. Simply telephone 01480 476971 and we’ll arrange for a local dealer to contact you.

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(ie for mowing rough or fairway) so a cab is superfluous. ROPS, or Roll Over Protection, or frames are a minimum legal requirement.

Few smaller tractors have air conditioning, but most with cabs do have heating.

Most manufacturers offer a range of transmissions, and usually these include a hydrostatic drive which may be more ideal for loader work. There are many variations in transmission ratios and many models will offer a 'shuffle' gear which gives fast and easy direction changes. Deep aeration — such as with a Verti-drain — is a frequent requirement, and places several specific requirements on the tractor, typically, sufficient low ratio or creeper gears, and enough front weight, but the latest developments in deep aeration with higher gearing mean that specific "creep" ratios may not be needed. Where there is limited turning space such as at the edges of greens or tees a good turning circle or easy to operate gear shift may be another essential requirement — however beware of the dangers of scuffing.

Because hydrostatics is such an integral part of most compact tractors the majority also use it for power steering — from the manufacturing point of view hydrostatic steering is more flexible as there is no need for mechanical connection from steering wheel to drag link. From the operators point of view there is less effort needed and little kick back — but some maintenance may be needed. Hydrostatic steering can be abused.

John Deere Tractors at Puckrup Hall Golf Club, at Tewkesbury

This 18 hole course is about five years old, mainly flat but with considerable tree planting and the Head Greenkeeper is Trevor Williams. He used past experience to suggest the club buy John Deere tractors from Frank Sutton at Raglan, and now with five years use he is totally satisfied with the choice. Trevor's past experience has included Ford, Kubota and others.

The club has three John Deere tractors, a 38hp JD 1070 now with 1727 hours on its clock and two 33hp JD 955s — clocking 905 and 1986 hours respectively. JD 1070s are no longer available. The higher hour 955 is equipped with a front end loader and a mid-mounted mower thus it has a considerable work load. The 1070 is mostly used for verti-draining and for operating a five gang mechanical mower set on fairways, as well as for trailer work.

One of the first comments that First Assistant Peter Rack, made was that all three tractors always start — first time, every time, without heaters. Another of his likes was the roominess of the operator platform (particularly on the 1070) with all the controls to hand. Access was particularly good he commented. None of the tractors have a specific driver — any of the five greenkeeping staff are expected to be able to operate any machine.

Oil changes and similar routine servicing is carried out by in-house, as is some larger scale work, however none of the JDs have needed anything other than routine work — the only non-usual item on the service sheet has been with one of the 955s which needed a new hydraulic pipe as the old chafed through — this was covered by warranty. The club is meticulous over its servicing and oil changes, preferring to undertake them early rather than leaving them past their due date.

Trevor said his policy was to get the right sized tractor for its use, he commented that expecting a smaller tractor, for instance, to operate the verti-drain was asking for problems, with steering and control as well as by demanding too much from the hydraulics and power output. All three tractors have 4WD but this is seldom needed on the Puckrup Hall course. Hydraulic lift has proved to be more than adequate in terms of lift capacity.

The lower hour JD 955s has a three gang wrap-around fairway mower fitted and this has made it effective a one use machine — Trevor said that he would expect this to last for at least ten years, whereas he is looking to replace the other two machines within the next two years. The criteria for replacement is "before the value drops" — or more exactly while the tractor is in good order, clean and with a good resale potential.

Mounting and demounting the loader is exceptionally easy and quick and it was demonstrated to Greenkeeper International, and although this demo was on concrete it demonstrated the 70A loader to be one of the best systems ever, and one which looked particularly stable without needing extra stands or the removal of pins or stands. Peter commented that not only was the loader quick to fit but it was also a very fast loader to use, with quick acting hydraulics and the hydrostatic transmission which made for rapid forward/reverse operation. Fitting the 60 in. mid-mounted deck was little more difficult, however.

Trevor estimated it as a four minute job. In this form the tractor is used to cut between the 15,000 trees planted on the course — a considerable task, and one which demands some dexterity.

Certainly Trevor was confident that the John Deeres had been his best choice and he forewore replacement as being from the same supplier.

Iseki Tractors at Kenilworth Golf Club

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