Kubota's new weapon in fight against crime

Insurance cost savings of around 10% have been made possible by the "fitting" of the Kubota Alpha-Dot security system as standard to every new Kubota tractor prior to its delivery to the customer by the dealer.

The Alpha-Dot system comprises a large number of tiny discs encoded with the unique serial number of the new Kubota tractor to which the discs are applied. Although too small to be read by the human eye, the serial number can be clearly seen using an illuminated magnifier.

Dispatched direct to dealers following notification to Kubota of a new tractor sale, the custom-made discs are suspended in special adhesive within a sealed container. Using the brush supplied, the dealer applies the minute discs to various dry, clean parts of the tractor and attaches the high visibility warning labels. After 30 minutes, the adhesive has set and the tractor is comprehensively marked with a permanent identification system which provides unique proof of ownership and a highly effective deterrent against theft.

Kubota recommends that 75% of the Alpha-Dot markings are made to random and secret parts of the tractor, including all major components, and that dealers keep a note of the location of the markings to assist with identification if and when required.

Developed by Alpha-Scientific Ltd, the Alpha-Dot security system is proving highly successful in protecting a wide range of other industrial and commercial plant, vehicles and equipment against theft. The secret and random method of vehicle identification has led to a number of insurance companies offering automatic discounts to customers using the system. Further details on the Alpha-Dot security system can be obtained from appointed Kubota dealers nation-wide.

Yet another Scottish Goalkeeping nightmare

Don’t be late, make a date, for the event of ’98. With good intentions I pre-booked, and duly arrived early, Sunday evening to be precise. A message on the phone, requested me to play goalkeeper for the Soots against the Exiles, in the annual Football Challenge Match.

There was 1, playing well, in the running for ‘Man of the Match’ when, with ten minutes to go, something snapped and I kept falling over. I hear the Exiles won 6-5, but I would say the Scots should have had a penalty in the last few minutes, that’s the way I saw the incident from my ‘worms eye’ view.

As a consequence I missed out in much good social intercourse, good food and a great exhibition - the best ever I hear. I also missed out on a great “Race Night” which raised much for the Building Fund and a fantastic banquet where Lee Hurst was a star turn. As for my football career, you think it’s all over, it is now.

May I, through the magazine, thank the nurses of Harrogate District Hospital, Ward 2A for the way they looked after me, during my short “break” with them. I must also thank Jim Paton, West Kilbride, for assisting me change from the horizontal to the vertical positions in many places, ranging from a football pitch to an Italian restaurant. Thanks to Sue of the Acorn Lodge Hotel for the 'courvouiser' painkiller - it works, and to Ronnie Bunting, Kilmacolm, for organising and carrying out my safe return home.

Thanks Richard (Lawrence) for the reading material, John (Walker) for the grapes and Alastair for the sympathy. Many, many thanks to all the well wishers who have been on the phone, and I look forward to joining them all next year at Harrogate.

Robert T. Bruce
North
First new member to be welcomed in 1998 is Ross Farmer, apprentice at Stonehaven GC. We hope he is the first of many to the Section. The first new appointment of 1998 that has come to my attention is Brian Anderson, who this month takes over at Murrar GC, in Aberdeen. Brian, originally from Scotland, has been working down in Wales for a number of years so we welcome him and wish him well in his new position. Stewart McKain has the task of running the 200 Club in 1998. Souterns of Stirling are this year’s sponsors and we thank them for their assistance. The cards should be out soon so please help Stewart by returning your payment as soon as possible so that we can sell all the tickets by the Spring Outing in time for the first draws. Remember, this is the first year that we will receive no subs refund from Headquarters as this money now helps to pay for the Regional Administrator so we must start to be self sufficient and the 200 Club will be our major earner in that respect. If we want to keep the costs of outings etc down we must make the maximum possible from the 200 Club and besides you could win up to £100 in the process.

I have not had any ideas from any-one about the possible Section Conference we plan to hold at the end of the year. We need to start securing speakers soon if we are going ahead with the project and this is your chance to tell us what you want to listen to or about. I await your ideas!!

Finally, anyone interested in the Section Final for the Ball Better Ball knockout competition that has not already entered please do so now as Steve Sullivan needs to decide if the numbers entered are good enough to run the tournament starting in the Spring. As mentioned before early rounds will be regional to cut down on travelling. Steve’s number is 01738 643778.

Iain Macleod

West
Well done everybody who attended the AGM at Claremont Bowling Club on Thursday December 11. In all 40 people attended which is an excellent turnout, mainly the same regular faces with one or two new ones but thank you all for helping make the evening a success. The main area of controversy was wages, no different from any other industry you might say. We missed the usual points of order raised by Cecil, making the meeting run a tad shorter than usual. Elected onto the committee was Robert Hogarth, from Cathcart Castle. The committee consists of:- Chairman - J Stuart Taylor, Glasgow GC; Vice Chairman - Brian Hillan, Drumgelly GC; Secretary - Sandy Bulloch, Fernieze GC; Past Chairman - John Scott, Kirkhill GC; Committee - Scott Beltayne, Cowglen GC, Drew McKechnie, Douglas Park GC, Ronnie Bunting, Kilnamakol GC, (Education), Greg Burns, Lenzie GC, Robert Hogarth, Cathcart Castle GC, Derek Durhie, Athkens and Kenny Hunter, Hoxleys.

May I express my thanks to John Scott for his chairmanship, he did an excellent job under difficult circumstances. I look forward to having an interesting year and as new Chairman one of my first duties is to thank those concerned with the running and organising of the game’s night.

First of all thanks to Claremont Bowling Club for allowing us the use of their excellent socialising facilities and to our chairman on the evening, Graham. Thanks to John Scott once again for organising the Club venue, pies at half time and for clearing glasses, selling raffle tickets and just being that cheerful personality. Gary Burns has to be given thanks for running the games of which the eventual winner was Drew McKechnie, there’s a surprise! The raffle was won by myself, Simon Murray and Gary Burns. Once again our gratitude to all concerned for their assistance.

The next event was the 11-a-side game of football, north of the river against the south. What an exhibition of how to play football. The south slaughtered us 10 goals to 2. In all some 19 people turned out so what happened to the others? Well done the south, maybe next time.

A few things to note - The Conveners match at East Kilbride for March and a football game against the north of the river against the south. What an exhibition of how to play football. The south slaughtered us 10 goals to 2. In all some 19 people turned out so what happened to the others? Well done the south, maybe next time.

Well, that’s it for this month, not a lot I know but hopefully there will be more next time!

John Crawford

East
Before we get started I would like to wish all our members, patrons and selves towards the golfing season which lies ahead. With a bit of luck the Spring will be as kind to us as the Winter appears to have been up to now as up to the time of writing (January 3) we have yet to have any snow.

We extend a warm welcome to new members Stuart Raeburn, Tulliallan, Scott MacGregor, The Dukes Course, Thomas Meenagh, Coatbridge, Thomas Adamson, Dullatur, and Michael Goode, Carol Borthwick and Francis Gollagher all from Elmwood College. Hopefully we can keep up this fine start to ’98 with new members so if you know of any greenkeepers who are not in the Association encourage them to join or invite them along to some of our events as your guest.

Entry forms for the Spring Tournament/Ritefeed Qualifier at Ladybank in April should be with you by now or arriving soon. If you want to be sure of competing in this event please return your forms well before the closing date. Also, the Autumn Tournament will be held by courtesy of Crieff GC in early October, the exact date has yet to be confirmed.

Scottish Region
Peter Boyd
F/2 Fax 014 016 3660

THE UNIQUE VERTI-DRAIN: Redexim

- Unique patent adjustable parallelogram forced heave
- Simple tine design
- Leaves playing surface in superb condition

THE CHOICE OF CHAMPIONSHIP COURSE
ITS EFFECT IS SHATTERING

Charterhouse

Deep aeration on an intensively used golf course is vital if the grasses which we require are to survive.

We purchased our first Verti-Drain back in 1983 and very quickly bought a second. Both these machines have been working on a continuous basis providing excellent results and utilising only a minimum of spare parts.

Comment From Walter Woods
St. Andrews Links Golf Course supervisor
SPOT THE RABBIT!

HUMANE RABBIT CONTROL
Reading Business Centre, Weldale Street, Reading, Berkshire RG1 7BX
Tel: +(44) 0118 951 0033 Fax: +(44) 0118 951 0044
http://www.AmenityTechnology.com

SCARED OF HEAVY ROLLERS?
Then you need LIGHTWEIGHT VIBRATORY ROLLERS
AMAZING VIBRATORY ACTION
TRUE SURFACE rollers weigh no more than your standard mowing units. Their unique vibratory action energises the surface particles and transforms the green back to its original shape without using a heavyweight roller!
The faster way to roll that follows contours!
ORDER YOURS NOW!
14 DAY MONEY BACK TRIAL FLEXIBLE PAYMENTS
£400 DISCOUNT OR 0% FINANCE phone for details
TRUE-SURFACE makes true greens!
Direct from the Exclusive European Distributor
GREENSWARD DIRECT
Manor Farm, Otley Road, Adel, Leeds LS16 7AL
0113 267 6000

BRUSHCUTTERS

Brushcutters, new from Kawasaki. Building on the established success of our world-class engines, now comes the only range of brushcutters manufactured solely by us. And all engineered to deliver the work rate and reliability true professionals demand.

Spread the word
FENDRESS GreentoP TOP DRESSING
on your greens

For more information please contact:
Bank & Amenity Products Ltd.
01858 464346/433003
On the construction and maintenance side, the drainage of wet areas is in full swing following a mild Autumn. There have been three bore holes sunk as proposed by the Design Panel. Blackwell GC, Darlington have constructed 21 bunkers at their Sunderland course. Head Greenkeeper, Barry Walker, is also to install a new bore hole as proposed. Branecpeth Castle GC have extended the 1st and 14th tees and also made a new path round to the 13th tee and have planted over 1000 trees around the course.

Greenkeeper, Barry Walker, is also to install a bore hole for future irrigation and to support it which looks beautiful. They have also made a new green beyond a natural looking pond which now blends in very well.

Local drainage contractor, Cliff Addison from Yarm-on-Tees did all the mechanical work on the reconstruction work on two greens at Dinsdale GC. Drainage on the porous root base was all carried out before the greenwall was laid and the original turf was returned.

Bruce Burnett

North East

On December 11 we had our first Christmas competition at South Moor GC followed by a dinner and then the AGM. The results were:- 1. George Wright, Crook, nett 64; 2. David Cuthbertson, Shaley Hall, 67; 3. David McVe, Crook, 67; 4. Alan Harrison, Greasford, 67; 5. Tony McLure 69. Our thanks to the committee for the courtesy of their course and also to Tommy Fenwick, the Head Greenkeeper, for his support while our course playing consider how much rain had fallen in the past couple of days. Tony Chambers, the President of the Section presented all of the 1997 trophies to the winners.

Brendan Brown, of Carburial, kindly sponsored the summer knock-out competition and he presented the winners with a trophy and a prize. Hopefully we shall have more couples entering this competition next year.

The AGM was attended by over 23 people and quite frankly it was a pretty good turnout. Considering we are considering we have over 100 members in the Section and it's still growing. Let's hope we have more next year. There were also some members who attended to make sure the drinks given to all members were there.

One final thank you to the stewards of South Moor GC for the barrel of beer donated to the golfers - it was much appreciated.

Jimmy Richardson

Northern

In the December magazine insert, the date for the annual dinner dance had been incorrectly printed. The actual date for the 1998 dinner dance is the 14th March and not the 4th March as printed. If you have any news from around the Section please contact me at 1 Cockey Meadows, Kirkheaton, Huddersfield, HD5 01A, Tel: 01484 317813 or 0411 604120 Simon Peppernell

East of England

Another year over which ended with a Texas Scramble at Kinton Holme followed by the AGM which was attended by over 20 people. We thoroughly enjoyed a new course cared for by David Welberry. The scramble was sponsored by Burdens Groundcare and thanks to go David Hodgetts, Kinton Holme who arranged some machinery along for every player to have a go. The award for the best dressed player must be extended to our generous sponsors for the day, Rugby Taylor.

The day finished with a presentation of his new book "Rugby Taylor: The Biography of a Texas Scramble" and a new member, Ben Pettit. Thank you to all the sponsors on the day as everybody who played received a prize.

The AGM followed on from a successful greenkeeping season. The Board of Directors, with a poor turn out of members. The Chairman, David Walden, welcomed all and apologies were read and the previous minutes were passed. The Secretaries report was read, the 1997/98 pro- gramme of events and the Secretary took the opportunity to thank all clubs for allowing us the courtesy of their courses and thanked all sponsors for the year excellent prizes. The Treasurer then explained the healthy financial report.

The election of officers onto the committee was made and a new chairman and Secretary was elected. There was much news to report on and the start of the new year always brings changes to the Section regarding the committee and future events. All of these events and the news on the AGM will be reported on in the following months.

As a committee we would hope to continue to give our members new events for trips and competitions but we would also ask you to support your section and make these events worthy of the effort of organisation.

We have had many new members join us last year and exact this trend to continue. With that I would like to introduce the first new members of 1998 - Alan Dickson, Derek Smith, Steven Tippett, Alan Shaw, Timothy Earley, Shaun Pitchard and Richard Adlington. Jonathan Wood

Mid Anglia

Our last golf event of the year took place in December at Chesterfield Downs GC. The usual Texas Scramble format was used which attracted an entry of 23 teams of four comprising greenkeepers, professionals, trade members and guests. The course was playing very long on the day but some good team scores were posted, the results of which are as follows:- 1. C. Derham, D. Mason, R. Andrews, P. Burn; 2. A. Drew, J. Clarke, E. Thompson, G. Bruce; 3. R. Howson, L. Rance, M. Dance, C. Body. Nearest the Pin - Gary Snell, Welwyn Garden City GC; Longest Drive - Roland Perry, Harpenden GC.

Our thanks go to Chesterfield Downs for the courtesy of the course and for looking after us so well on the day. The course was in excellent shape so thanks to Chris Brook and Eddie O'Hanlon for their efforts in making the day so enjoyable. Also thanks go to our main sponsors of the day, Avocrop Amenity Products represented by Colin White and to all the other trade representatives who supported the Section event.

Midland

This report is probably the hardest to put together as we have not got much news to report on and the start of the new year always brings changes to the Section regarding the committee and future events. All of these events and the news on the AGM will be reported on in the following months.

As a committee we would hope to continue to give our members new events for trips and competitions but we would also ask you to support your section and make these events worthy of the effort of organisation.

We have had many new members join us last year and expect this trend to continue. With that I would like to introduce the first new members of 1998 - Alan Dickson, Derek Smith, Steven Tippett, Alan Shaw, Timothy Earley, Shaun Pitchard and Richard Adlington. Jonathan Wood

B B & O

Once again the main playing season is approaching fast, hopefully everybody has managed to complete their winter programme and is preparing

I use RiteFeed because it satisfies the needs of both myself and the course

Fraser Ross, Renfrew GC
How do you measure up?

Golf Environment Competition 1998

Entry forms are available from all UK mainland golf clubs. Also available from BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Aline, York, Y06 2NF
**Bags full of benefits**

The ‘Longlife’ range of high quality fertilizers from Miracle Professional provides many benefits for today’s turf manager, and with application rates as low as 35 g per sq. m are very cost-effective. All ‘Longlife’ fertilizers are mini-granules, which break down within days of application allowing rapid uptake of nutrients but reducing the risk of scorch and mower pick-up. They contain additional trace elements beneficial to turf, along with sulphur which can help in the maintenance of soil pH. The ‘Longlife’ Fine Turf Range includes a zero phosphate fertilizer and certain formulations contain the nitrification inhibitor ‘Didin’. This provides nitrogen over a longer period of time (an average of 10 weeks) and helps to reduce the growth flush immediately after application.

Fairways, tees, outfields and other recreational areas are supported by two ‘Longlife’ ranges. All the Sportsfield products contain ‘Didin’ for a slower release of nitrogen, and reduction in nitrogen leaching. For areas where the slow release benefits are not required there is the Standard Range which includes the weed-and-feed ‘Longlife’.

**FINE TURF RANGE**

**SPORTSFIELD RANGE**

**STANDARD RANGE**

**SPECIALITIES RANGE**
their individual courses for the flood of golfers keen to blow the cobwebs of the clubs.

Looking back to last season the weather was kind to all of us with just enough rain to keep the course turning into deserts. I hope this coming season is just as kind (is that too much to ask for?). At present we are putting together the future list for golf dates and venues, and these will be posted as soon as possible.

On the education front remember that two local colleges are still running evening lectures. Berkshire College - Golf Course Design on February 4 and Irrigation on March 4; Warren Farm - Irrigation and Conservation on February 25 and USGA Specification on March 25.

I know from experience it is difficult to go to all of the lectures but if you could try and make a couple of the above that would be great. A lot of the work that helps to make the Section run smoothly is carried out by the Committee and they tend to remain anonymous, well not any more below is a list of this years committee: Chairman - R. Clark; Treasurer - R. Wall; Handicaps - C. Vernon; Administration - T. French and R. Kates.

Finally I would like to make a plea to all members for some information to fill these articles. Anything that you would like to share with us maybe a humorous or embarrassing story please let me know.

Lindsay Anderson

Essex

Well, the first month of the year and Leigh had passed and a repeat will appear in the March column.

Our first event of 1998 will have been held at Writtle College on February 3 with guest speaker, Duncan Peddie, Alloa GC because Easy to apply, and I've never been disappointed with the results

Duncan Peddie, Alloa GC

Essex

easy to apply, and I've never been disappointed with the results

Duncan Peddie, Alloa GC

South Coast

Our Christmas Turkey Trot, AGM and Christmas Dinner was once again held at Royal Winchester GC. The weather was great for the time of year with just a little nip in the air, in other words a nice December day. The food was as ever in its usual immaculate condition all thanks to Phil Hanks and his stuff. Unfortunately I was not able attend the day however I am told that the Christmas Dinner was once again a good day, again allowing us the courtesy of the course and the clubhouse facilities. To this we are very much indebted.

The results of the Turkey Trot were very close. The first few were all on a countback on 39 points, the results being:- 1. Joe Newman; 2. Ian Noble; 3. Neil Cleverley, 36 pts; 4. John Hobbs; Nearest the Pin on 16th - Dave Wyborn; Longest Drive - John Ross; Nearest the Pin on 9th - J. Fullager, 32 pts; 10. T. Hindmarsh, 32 pts.


Sponsoring on the day were Scotts and Avoncrop Amenity.

The Kent Section would like to thank all the companies who agreed to sponsor us for the season. Without your support we wouldn't be able to survive.

The final of the Ritefeed Matchplay was played at Sundridge Park.


We are currently looking at our venues for for this year. The fixture card will be sent out in March.

In May it is the Kent Section's turn to host the Regional Seminar. This will be held at Hadlow College on May 19. Please attend. You might learn something.

I have a request to all the people who moan that there is nothing in the magazine for Kent. Please send me a few lines or phone me with any news. I can always use your support.

Our thanks must go to Ray Day and Sundridge Park for courtesy and to Ritefeed for their generous hospitality on the day.

How Morgan

Sussex

The Turkey Trot was held at Littlehampton GC again this year. As usual we had a terrific day. David Woods and his team had the course in great condition and the clubhouse staff once again gave us a first class service. The committee have asked me to pass on our thanks to Littlehampton for making the event very enjoyable.

We were extremely lucky with the weather as it turned out to be a bright dry day. The competition was played as a Texas scramble in teams of 6. The prize giving was as follows:- 1. Ray Day, Colin Church, Richard Elderfield, Distin Houghton, 60 pts; 2. George Barr, Stephen Blake, Bob Watters, Nigel Bailie, 59 pts; 3. Neil Cleverley, Carl Whyborn, Chris Chapman, Christopher Baldock, 58 pts.

Being part of the winning team was great fun, we laughed and joked through the whole round with all of us playing our part. Many thanks to our sponsor Ritefeed for their generous hospitality at Writtle College on

39 points, the results were:- 1. John Mathis, 40 pts; Nearest the Pin on 3rd - John Ross; Nearest the Pin on 16th - Dave Wyborn; Longest Drive - John Mathis.

All matches in the Huxley Bowl competition have been played and the final results are:- Winners - John Mathis and Rob Schofield; Runners-up - Kevin Bouall and Gareeh Roberts.

Brian Willmott

Kent

The Christmas AGM/Turkey Trot was called off due to snow and was rearranged the week after.

Despite it snowing as we started everybody got round and enjoyed the day. Our course was in excellent condition considering the weather and thanks must go to Darenth Valley, Nigel Stapely and his staff. The food was, as usual, plentiful and I hope everyone enjoyed the meal. Thanks also go to Ian and his men for presenting an excellent course (my team single putted 14 greens!)

After all that there was the AGM and for their spot the Chair, Lindsay has been replaced by Martin Forrester on 01243 600131.

Our membership fee for 1998 is £100. We would like to thank Neil Peachy, F Engineering, Rigby Taylor, Colliers & Riddle, and recent research.

Our first event of 1998 will have been held at Writtle College on February 3 with guest speaker, Duncan Peddie, Alloa GC.

Weather was kind to all of us with just a little nip in the air, in other words a nice December day. The competition was played as a 6-ball scramble.


Our first event of 1998 will have been held at Writtle College on February 3 with guest speaker, Duncan Peddie, Alloa GC.

Weather was kind to all of us with just a little nip in the air, in other words a nice December day. The competition was played as a 6-ball scramble.

Ed McCabe, 4. Steve Kitty, 37 pts. Steve caused quite a bit of excitement out on the course. He managed to get a two on a par 4 hole so well done Steve.

After the Turkey Trot we held our AGM. This was attended by 66 members with the Turkey Trot having 57 members competing, the maximum the club could accommodate so well done to all the members who attended the AGM. At the AGM we were graced with the presence of our new Regional Administrator, Paula Humphries. This was a good opportunity for these members to meet Paula for the first time.

The AGM went quite well, there were one or two changes to the committee. Our Chairman, Alan Mitchell stood down from Chairman and decided to leave the committee. This is a sad loss to the Section. Alan has done some stirring work on education and he has been mainly responsible in keeping the Section alive, so his position is in. Thank you Alan for all the hard work you have put in, we wish you well in the future. As a lot of you know, Tony is the Chairman of the education of greenkeepers at all levels and is working closely with Sparsholt and the GTC.

Our newly elected Chairman is Tony Gadd. Tony has done a lot of work in organising our tournaments and fully deserves the honour of holding the position as our Chairman. We wish him all the best. Ed McCabe also stood down from the Committee. Once again Ed is very committed to the education of greenkeepers. He has done a lot of work in organising our seminars and pushing for more members of the Section to receive the education.

The Winter lecture will be held at Crane Valley GC on Wednesday March 4. Did you spot the deliberate mistake on the programme? The speaker will be Gary Parker from ISS Aqua Turf Systems. This is an interesting talk since so much depends on irrigation and its correct usage and it should create a good discussion platform. This will be followed by lunch and 9 holes of golf in the afternoon.

Another reminder for Westurf at Long Ashton GC on Wednesday April 29. This year we must be due for a nice sunny day. The last few years we have been hit on the damp side but to put the record straight I must say when Westurf first started the weather was glorious. My prophecy for Westurf 1998 - a fine sunny day with all attendance records smashed. Please don’t prove me wrong. Bring along your Club Captains, Chairman of Greens, Club Owners etc. See you all on the day.

Devon and Cornwall

Our P J Flegg Christmas meeting was held at Olchekamp GC, on Wednesday December 10, and was once again a sell out. The day started as a ‘breakfast with Santa’ with a competition in a greenstyle format for the P J Flegg trophy. Our non-golfering members were at usual to guide the novices course a fine sunny day with the Richard Wisdom. Both golfers and non-golfers were delighted to see the P J Flegg refreshment tent by the 6th hole and inside the house and a special prize with our new Chairman, Chris Sealey and we were given a lesson in how to play golf by Course Manager, Paul West, and the Club President at Gardiner. They managed to go round in a gross 72 as a foursome and not surprisingly took the top honours with 38 points. Second equal were J. Keene, J P Greenway, T M Ford & D. Dobie, 3rd were A. Parker & N. King and joint 4th were K. Green & M. Freeman and Paul and his gant band of men and indeed women for presenting the course in such fine condition. A special mention must be made of the bar staff who support us at these events year in and year out. On this occasion it was Ruffleys who very kindly supplied us with the bar and the drinks. The best prises. Other prizes were also given to us by Avoncrop, B S Mowers, Rigby Taylor, T H Whites and Vitax. Thanks to you all, it is very much appreciated.

Our next event is an Abrasive Wheel course at Cannington on February 20. This is the re-arranged one from November. I will contact anyone that was previously booked but who else would like to go on this essential course then give me a ring on 01380 828380. The Winter Tournament is to be held at Sham Castle GC on February 25. Please be there as we are dependent on the support we can get.

Before signing off if anyone would like to put pen to paper and to contact Tony Gadd on 01390 298977 or Tony Cadd on 01390 639746.

At this point I must inform you that Jeff Drake has moved to pastures new as you can see by his address), Jeff has taken up the position of Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Newbury and Crookholm GC. I am sure you will all join me in wishing the best of luck to him in his new post. Our new telephone number confirmed you may contact Tony or myself and we will try and point you in the right direction.

North East

Seventy-seven year old Bob Walker BEM has now completed 30 years service with the CAIRN GUARD. Bob must be one of the oldest active professionals in the world of golf. At a dinner held in Bob’s honour the Club marked the occasion by present him with a plaque. The dinner was attended by a number of local professionals including Peter Hanria-Fortwilliam, Colin Farr-Whitehead, Jim Robinson-Ballyearl and Bob’s playing partner, Dan Stevenson, Royal Portrush. Five years ago he was awarded the BEM medal in recognition of his services to the Club. Jim Robinson also presented Bob with a special award, honorary membership of the PGA. Bob received the award for 50 years long service having joined in 1936. Bob started with Cairndhu GC in 1947 as the professional of Lame Town GC as it was known then based at Craigyhill. After about ten years the club moved to its present location and Bob was a member of the PGA. “It was only a nine hole course when I started initially. I only came here for a week or two, I was hoping to progress in the game but never would have played for such a long time” he added laughing.

In his younger days Bob played on the national professional circuit and played in the 1956 British Open at Hoylake. He recalls it was won that year by Peter Thomson. It is a great achievement for Bob Walker to surpass 50 years service with one club. Cairndhu GC members young and old know what a great character Bob Walker is.

Finally, congratulations to Clem Beattie and his wife on the birth of their first child, a boy named Jamie, 7lbs, 6ozs.

Eamonn Farrell
Scott MacCallum interviews the new Chairman of BIGGA

The Identikit Chairman

There can be few National Chairman who arrive in post better qualified to undertake the many duties the role calls for than Gordon Child. Of course he is far too modest to harbour the thought but he could be described as the Identikit Chairman.

He was a key contributor at the meeting in St Andrews in 1985 which agreed the amalgamation of the three existing greenkeeper associations into BIGGA; he was Regional Administrator for the South West and South Wales Region for ten years; he has vast greenkeeper experience gathered at among others this year's Open venue and also as head man at the then biggest golf club in the country where he prepared the course for many professional Tour events. Oh yes, he's still possesses a golf swing which gives clues to his prowess as a player in his prime. What's more, being retired, he can devote as much time to the role as he feels is necessary without worrying about what's happening back at his own course.

Not only is he one of the most familiar faces in greenkeeping, he is also one half of the industry's most famous double acts. With Marion at his side the pair have masterminded the organisation of the successful Westurf Shows and ensured many of their Region's golf events ran smoothed.

"When Pat (Murphy) rang and asked if I would be his Vice Chairman, with a view to taking over as Chairman this year, I asked for a couple of days to think about it but there really was no decision to make," explained Gordon.

With his term in office stretching from then on Gordon highlighted a few of the occasions to which he is particularly looking forward.

"I will enjoy going back to America for the GCSAA show while The Open is at Royal Birkdale and I haven't been to Birkdale since The Open in '65 when I played in it," he said.

The Lancashire course holds some extremely fond memories for the man who started work with his grandfather told me I was leaving. He'd arranged for me to go to Birkdale to learn about a totally different golf course," he recalled.

"To go back as Chairman is great. Also, every time I go to Scotland I come back with superb memories and the National Tournament is in Scotland this year. "It is almost as though someone has said, 'Well he's going to be Chairman so we'll have that there and this here.' It has all fallen into place," said Gordon, who can also look forward to the completion and opening of the new BIGGA Headquarters.

After four years at Birkdale he went to Colne, then Blackburn as Head Greenkeeper before going south to St George's Hill Golf Club in Weybridge.

"I have a real soft spot for St George's Hill. It was a wonderful golf course and the club itself, members and staff combined to make a really homely atmosphere. You felt as though you belonged. It was a real wrench to leave."

There is an obvious question following that and Gordon answers it before it is even asked.

"I only moved because at the end of the day you aim to get as high as you can and in those days Moor Park, where I went, was the biggest golf club in Britain."

There he had not just the two fine courses to maintain but also the municipal course which belonged to Rickmansworth Council. It was also just about the busiest tournament course in the country.

"I did the Uniroyal, the TPC, the Talisman, the first Bob Hope tournament and four or five ladies events and on occasion did more than one event a year.

"The worst year was when we had the Uniroyal at the end of June and then took on the TPC at the beginning of October when the new Foxhills course wasn't ready. It created quite a problem as we only had four weeks warning.

"We managed it and got high praise, in particular, from Gary Player who took time to visit the staff in the rest room."

Gordon left Moor Park in 1981.

"I couldn't see myself doing the job at the age of 60 because of the..."