on the rotary front, there are high productivity ride-on mowers with collection facilities and extra wide tractor-powered units.

For anyone faced with buying new mowers whether they are gang mowers, ride-on fairway mowers, or rotaries, there are a number of factors that need to be taken into consideration before deciding on which one to purchase.

Each situation will have its own specific requirements but there are common elements to all.

**Performance**
This must be high on the priority list. How much work are you expecting to achieve with the unit in a given time scale. In addition, the quality of finish is important.

**Overall weight**
This is critical to minimise compaction and damage to the turf.

**Power**
In the case of gang mowers and trailed rotaries, the tractor will need to produce enough output to ensure that the mowers give optimum performance. With ride-on fairway units, if the engine has limited power reserves. There will be excessive fuel consumption, higher noise levels and the unit's life is likely to be shortened.

Greater stress will also be placed on all the machine's other components.

**Traction**
Where there is a wide variation in terrain, adequate traction is required to achieve a consistent finish, and limit turf damage.

**Manoeuvrability**
These machines are generally large and have wide working widths, so in areas where access is limited they need to be checked out.

**Operator comfort**
The mowers are going to be used for long periods at a time, so operator fatigue needs to be kept at a minimum. Most manufacturers recognise the importance of this when designing a machine, so a close look at all these facilities is needed.

**Access for maintenance**
Low level maintenance routines and limited downtime are critical to an efficient operation. Check out access to cutting units, engines or transmissions.

If these are restricted, unnecessary delays in carrying out repairs or sharpening cutting systems can occur.

**Replacement parts availability**
These need to be readily available to minimise any downtime.

**After-sales back-up**
If there is no in-house service department then the question needs to be raised of what facilities are available locally and an indication of how quickly a service unit can be on site should a breakdown occur.

**Finance**
It is a highly competitive market so most suppliers offer finance packages that spread the load and make the acquisition of equipment easier. Ask for details.

The modern course manager and greenkeeper are faced with providing the public with high quality playing surfaces and at the same time they have to run a cost-effective operation. This means adopting new work practices and looking towards building a fleet of equipment that will give the best results.

Each piece of machinery has its place in time and, in their hey-day gang mowers were (and for some still are) the answer.

They produced results that at the time were considered far in advance of what had gone before and predictably, challenges came onto the market that were designed to match modern requirements and trends. This is progress.
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On bowling greens, tennis courts, cricket squares, golf putting greens etc.
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The standard unit being used for a good finish with regular cutting whilst the giant is used on tougher areas or where less frequent cutting is required.

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Scottish
The Scottish Region once again offers members a subsidised package deal for BTME 1999. The package includes coach to Harrogate, entry to all seminars and exhibition, three nights' bed and breakfast in an en suite twin rooms in the Moat House Hotel, Harrogate on 19, 20 and 21 January 1999. Package costs £142. Partners are welcome at a cost of £102 for travel and accommodation. For booking forms call or fax Peter Boyd, Scottish Regional Administrator, 10 Meadowburn Avenue, Newton Mearns, Glasgow G77 6LA, Tel/Fax 0141 616 3440

North
Five more new members to welcome
David Mathie, Stuart Griffiths and Jonathan Fairweather all from Letham Grange, Richard Atken from Carnegie Club, Skibo and Steven Myers from Glenlouie GC Aboyne. At the other end of the scale so to speak, we wish Peter Tait a long and happy retirement. Peter has just left Invererie after many years service, although a non golfer he was a regular at the club. We have had quite a few comments about Dougal Duguid's amazing score at our Autumn outing at Alford. It was his first victory after 31 years of attending outings in fact! One or two people were asking about a dope test, but rest assured we don't need a test! It's demo season again and some Aberdeen members were transported down to Central England by Barclay, Roos and Hutchinson to have a look around the John Deere factory.

Ayrshire
Thanks to Chairman Jim Paton for continuing the meetings. As I pen these notes the October magazine has not yet arrived so I am obliqous to the content. I'm sure Jim was able to deliver some points of interest. I had an enjoyable holiday and with only one 9 hole course on Menorca I was able to give the sun, sea and Sand Miguel my utmost attention. It was nice to return to some predominantly dry weather which I'm sure all of us are extremely grateful for after the excessive rainfall during July and August. The Autumn outing was played on September 22 at the one and only Golf in the world at Louden. A good turnout of over 40 enjoyed the day with the prizewinners as follows: 1st: Martin Kane (Barrhead); 2nd: Martin Kane (Barrhead); 3rd: Martin Kane (Barrhead); 4th: Martin Kane (Barrhead). The Autumn meeting was well attended and I am sure you all had a great day. I am sorry but I have no results but for next year, team, please return them as soon as possible as I believe we have a few more people to do the scoring this season.

SAC Craibstone, Aberdeenshire and I am sure you will have a very worthwhile day. Everyone with an interest in golf and greenkeeping is welcome.

Iain Macleod

South
The Autumn meeting held at Catcath Castle on September 10, and what a day that was. Before the tournament started Robert must have been worried whether or not the day would eventuate. If you join our team, please return them as soon as possible as I believe we have a few more people to do the scoring this season.

Windyhill while Drumpheller and Loch Lomond had a penalty shoot out. Loch Lomond came out on top. The final really became a poor example with no real excitement. Loch Lomond eventually winning. The outing had been scheduled but was not come in. My team obviously missed my contribution of skill and stamina otherwise they would have won and that's fighting talks folks, wait till next year. For their appeal of service other than the initial hicups. As usual the referees did a fine job with a few red cards being shown.

Thans are due to Brian Hillan for organizing and taking care of the arrangements for presenting the prizes and helping out. Finally thanks to all who took part for their continued support.

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North East

The Autumn competition was recently played at Consett GC, our thanks to the committee for giving us courtesy of their course and to Head Greenkeeper, John Devlin and his staff for presenting the course in great shape. On behalf of the Section we would like to thank Rite-Feed for sponsoring the competition and also the following: Shorts of Wittonburn, Attikens, Greenlave, Border Turf Services for sponsoring the lowest nett score on the par 5’s. Best Gross: D. Curthoiser 71, Slaley Hall, Ransome Cup Best nett: B. Hughes 79-5=74, Whittingham, Greenlave Cup, S. Gram 76-5=71, Slaley Hall on hand nine, Fewosters Shield: S. Pope; Leading scores: C. Parkinson 75-2=71, Maller Hall, J. Hutton 76-5=71, Slaley Hall, G. Baxter 78-6=72, S. Shields: A. McAuley, 72-0=72, Whickham M. Latham 75-2=73, Hexham J. Redhead 55-12=67, City of Newcastle.

The next match is against SE Scotland at Slaley Hall on October 6 and all players have been notified.

Best of luck lads.

Jimmy Richardson

Northern

The growing season is just about over, thank goodness as machines need a rest just like humans. I’m sure the machinery companies will be rubbing their hands at the thought of repairing or even replacing all that worn out tattle!

This year’s Invitation Day Tournament was held at Aldwick Manor Golf Club. May I thank Dennis Cockburn and Richard Gamble for sorting things out on the day in my absence. Many thanks also to the greens and catering staff. The results for the day were as follows: 1. Robin Smith, T. Wilson; 2. Tito Arana, Richard Simpson; 3. Ken Christie, L. Scrase; 4. Alan Baxter, J. Summersgill; 5. Andrew Clarke, Chris Crossland; Finally, a big thanks to Rigby Taylor for their kind and ongoing support of this and other Northern Section events and to Norman Schofield for attending on their behalf. I hope Bernard, Peter, Andrew and all the lads are doing fine. Next year we have arranged another ten pin bowling evening on May 11, 1999 at Keighley. More details will follow in subsequent issues. Anyone wishing to put their names down for the Christmas Golf at Keighley Golf Club on Wednesday, December 9, please contact me in good time as numbers are likely to be limited. Even if you cannot attend the golf please come along for the AGM, which will commence 3.30pm. If there is anyone from around the Section with any news, please contact me at 1 Cockeye Meadows, Kirkheaton, Huddersfield. HDS 0LA or phone either 01484-317813 or 01411-601420.

Simon Heppenstall

provided some excellent prizes for the prize table and raffle. Thanks go to Henton and Chutrells, Pete Tapp, Steve Burroughs, Pardy, Attikens and also to Ring who provided some prizes. There was some excellent golf played and I think the day was enjoyed by everyone who played. The overall winner was Adrian Rhodes who played some excellent golf and finished with 39 points. Well done.

Adrian Results: 1. A. Rhodes, 39pts; 2, R. Ulladale, 37pts; 3. M. Colton, 37pts; 4. K. Kirkham, 36pts; 5, J. Donach, 36pts; 6. S. Carre, 36pts. The trade prize was won by Tony Dobson with 39 pts. Well done Tony! Nearest the pin was won by Kim Kirkham. Well done Kim, I think it’s your speciality. Once again our winter

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lectures will be held at Rotherham Golf Club starting at 2.30 pm; November 5, Twose Turf followed by AGM; December 3, Richard Walton, Scotts; February 4, David Stansfield, PSD Agronomy; March 4, A J Wallis, Force Limuminin. Please support your Section and try to attend as many lectures as possible.

John Lax

North West

I am writing these Section notes in the last week of September, and I am sure you will all be enjoying the break in the weather from the persistent rain we have had for some months. September is usually the last opportunity to Hollow tine and top dress, especially if you incorporate overseeding, before the possibility of winter frosts, so at least the dry spell has given you the start needed. If you have managed to carry out this work, a good idea is to go on holiday, so that you do not have to listen to the members moans about uneven putting surfaces. The Autumn competition at Dean Wood GC on September 17 was a great day, with 42 playing and a perfect day weather wise. The course was in lovely condition thanks to Chris Watson and his staff. Incidentally Chris had hollowtined and top dressed the first week in September, making sure he beat the frosts, and soon enough to have good fast greens for us to play on. I would like to thank Dean Wood GC for allowing us the courtesy of the course and for their generous

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November 1998 Greenkeeper International 35
Welcome. Many thanks also to the caterers for a great meal, the bar staff for keeping the bar open until it was time to leave (and that was last night and not an hour early). Thanks once again to the trade companies who helped to swell the prize table. A final reminder that we have the GCM Golf Competition and Annual General Meeting at Whilnslow GC on Thursday, November 26. We will also include the competition for the "Pepsi golf trophy", which has been donated by John Walker, N/W Section President. All you need to enter is send a cheque to Bill Mertt 225 Utting Avenue, Walton, Liverpool, L.9.88. We will give everyone a bottle of spirit, that we all go away with a prize. The fee is available from 10am. Richard Corless has moved from Sandbach GC to Moatman Hall as First Assistant. All any news, views, or enquiries contact me on 0151 724 5412. Bert Cross

North Wales

Well, hello, I'm back again. Firstly I can guess that a really good prize, it definitely wasn't my backside seen on TV on a beach in Ibiza. I'm not 24 not 24, the British Consul did not leave because I arrived. I'm sure Action crew were not holding for me! Jeez, next time I go for a holiday I'll keep my eye out for Katz Adie. One thing I noted was the local delicacy of squid for a plate. Mr. could you give Mr. a letter to write to "cause again, no one's got in touch, except the college. Once again they are running a series of short courses which I know from experience are excellent, and superb value for money. The dates are Monday, November 16, Engines 44/2 stroke; Monday, November 23, Diesel Systems; Monday, November 30, Brakes and clutches; Monday, December 7, Blade Sharpening; Monday, December 14, Abrasive Wheels. The days start at 10am and finish at 3pm and the total cost for all five modules is £225. Call Phil Davies or Graham Whith on 01352 841035. Here's to a dry crisp winter season with enough snow to keep the course green! Have fun to remember. Chairman round the course, no fusarium, no moans, no groans, everything you set out in your winter programme completed on time we don't need a day off. Look at that pig flying over the course. See ya,

Dave Goodridge

Midland

Midland Region Seminar 1998 - support your Region and attend the Midland Region Seminar at Mentmore Golf Club on Wednesday, November 18, 1998. Application forms for attendance are in the September issue of Greenkeeper International. If you wish to contact the Regional Administrator.

The inaugural Midland Region Golf Management Trophy Competition was held at Cold Ashby Golf Club on September 24, 1996. The Region is extremely grateful to David Croxton and his staff at Cold Ashby Golf Club for extending the courtesy of the course and for their help in making the day successful and enjoyable for all. The competition was sponsored by Scots Turf & Amenity and the Region's thanks go to Richard Minton for his support in getting this event off the ground. Twenty one golf clubs entered as four main teams comprising of the course Manager or Head Greenkeeper, the Secretary, Captain and Chairman of Green. The prize money was won by the winning team, plus individual prizes to the leading teams. Lutterworth Golf Club, led by their Head Greenkeeper Gary Jukes, won first prize closely followed by the second placed team, Leamington Spa Golf Club, second in place and South Staffordshire Golf Club in third place. The Region thanks all of the golf clubs for taking part and looks forward to holding a similar event next year.

Peter Larter

East of England

The fifth annual match between our Secretaries and Presidents of Secretaries took place at Toft Hotel Golf Club (near Bourne). The Chandlers Cup was retained, once again, by the Secretaries 3 1/2 to 2 1/2. Thanks to our team for all playing what was the secretaries home fixture. The talk, was, hopefully to play the secretaries at Stoke Rochford next year if it can be arranged. The Secretaries Association Secretary, Brian Harris, stood down this year and I wish him all the best in his retirement, The Head Greenkeeper, Barry Anderson, and his staff were truly outstanding. I wish to doff our caps to the excellent state of the course, and the catering was first class. One player who could not make it was Tony Fox, of Blankney. He was taken in Hospital, and we wish Tony a speedy recovery. East of England scores; G. Macdonald + L. Siddon, Halweb; K. Hodges + J. Hewson, Lest; R. Hewitt + E. Cobb, Won; J. Scourie + I. Wilkinson, Lest; B. Anderson + A. Thomas, Won; G. Ogden + R. Harrison, Lest; P. Fell + A. Clarke, Lest; L. Purdy, Lest. Last bit of news from the East of England Region. Hodges wife is due to have a baby the day before we visit our course for our Section meeting, I will keep you posted to whether its a boy or girl if Kevin made it to the golf meeting.

Graeme Macdonald

East Midlands

I would like to thank the following golf clubs in our Section all of whom have kindly contributed to the BIGGA Building Fund. Beeston Fields G.C, Erewash Valley G.C, Mapperley G.C and Notts Muholo G.C. Your support is greatly appreciated. This year's Autumn Tournament was held at Scraptoft GC on September 2, with 30 competitors taking part. The winners were as follows: Category 1: 1. A. Thomas, Manor, 69-5-6; 2. J. Dickinson, Leen Valley, 79-7-72; 3. A. Foulds, Manor, 80-8-72. Category 2; 1. A. Porter, Greetham Valley, 83-12-71; 2. J. Bed ford, Birstall, 88-16-72; 3. D. Mitchell, Springwater, 84-11-73; Category 3; 1. M Bindley, Kirby Muholo, 90-21-69; 2. E. Kempster, Glen Gorse, 90-19-71; 3. C. Robson, Lingdale, 98-24-74. The Club & Associate Winner, P. Larter, Regional Administrator, 82-8-74, Nearest the Pin, P. Larter, Longest Drive, D. James. I would like to thank Scraptoft G.C for hosting the event and for the onward course and the stewards & stewards for a really great meal, not forgetting Carl Chamberlain and the rest of the green staff for preparing a challenging round of golf. Finally a special thank you to Banks Amenity Products for their sponsorship of this event.

Next year's Autumn Tournament will be held at Erewash Valley on September 6. Finally on behalf of the Section, I would like to wish Martin Smith and his family, our best wishes for the future. Martin has been a keen member of our Section and has moved from Ramsdale Park to Burhill GC and will rejoin the Surrey Section.

Antony Bindley

B, B&O

The Autumn Invitation golf day was held at Harlesey last month and for once the weather was kind to all competitors. There's only one snag with regard to playing on a nice day and that is the scoring can be blistering! This certainly was the case with some amazing scores at the top of the leaderboard. Nearest the Pin at 40 yards finished with 40+ pts you would expect to make a visit to the Trophy table, however not on this day. 43pts (-7 par) was not even good enough. I felt my partner Peter Larter and myself played some good golf but our 37pts fell short of the target. 1. J. Scoones & J. Coyle, 47pts; 2. A. Cooper & D. Herd, 46pts; 3. D. Gould & S. Benton, 44pts L.D. I. Scoones; NP; J. Coyle. I had the pleasure of sitting next to John Coyle at dinner and this gave me the opportunity to find out exactly how he managed to tear the course apart. They managed to score 26pts on the back nine alone the highlight coming on the 17th when he made Eagle which meant 26pts! I believe that when John finished his round, he was seen taking his putter into the shower, just to cool it down! Many thanks to GEM for sponsoring the day. This was appreciated by all who took part. Well done Bernie! Ray Clark and his staff are to be congratulated on presenting a first class course, all the catering staff are to be thanked for laying on a superb feast which was a welcome sight at the end of a long day. The next golf day takes place at Whiteleaf on November 26 and doubles as our AGM as well so if you have any thoughts for improving the Section then please come along and air your views. Finally the Regional Seminar takes place at Mentor Golf Club on Wednesday, November 18, and your support is essential to make this the Region a success. Lindsay Anderson

Mid Anglia

The Section's summer tournament was held this year in late August at Leighton Buzzard Golf Club; a lovely, compact Bedfordshire course. Bearing in mind this summer's weather, a fine day for golf was quite a rare one. Of the 37 teams who entered the competition, seven of whom were trade members. A Stableford was played in the morning, followed by a Stableford over Texas Scramble, after lunch.

The results from the Stableford competition were as follows: 1. Steve Mason, Mount Pleasant Golf Club, Stableford, 37pts; 2. J. Honey, Brocket Hall Golf Club, 37pts. The trade prize was won by Tim Webb, from Tact, with 45 points.

I would like to thank John Bartlett for running the Kingpin "nearest the pin" competition once again, which was won by Neil Pestle of Mid Herts. John Wells was second, Russell Horan third and Colin White of Aroncup picked up the Trade prize. Neil Pestle also won the longest drive. A superb lunch was enjoyed, with everyone looking forward to the evening's entertainment at the Royal Oak stable over nine holes. The results of this were: 1. P. Judd, J. Jones, A. Males; 28,1,2,1. J. Donaldson, B. Buttry, L. Rance, 31,3,2. R. Holmes, B. Holmes, 31,8. Our thanks go to Leighton Buzzard Golf Club for the courtesy of the course and the superb hospitality shown to us; also to John Bradwell, the Secretary who attended our meal and presentation in the evening. Dave Piggott, the Head Greenkeeper and all his staff, must be commended on the excellent standard of the course. Boughton Loan, represented by Mike Franklin, kindly sponsored the day and donated all the prizes, so many thanks to them and to all those who sponsored for supporting the Section so ably.

I would personally like to thank John Wells for stepping in to say a few words in the absence of our Chairman and Vice, and to Richard Saunders for his organisational prowess.

I would like to congratulate John Moorhouse on his appointment as Head Greenkeeper of the Melbourne Course at Brocket Hall. The final of the Lodgeway Four

36 Greenkeeper International November 1998
Ball Tournament was played in early October at John O'Gant Golf Club over 36 holes. Steve Hesk and Darren Mugford of Aldwickbury came out winners.

It was unfortunate that one of their opponents, Mark Hendry, was injured and Neil Rosbon therefore had to compete on his own. Our thanks to John O’Gant for staging the final, and to Chris Rock of Lodgers for sponsoring the event.

Steve Mason has done an excellent job in his first year of running the event. We all look forward eagerly to next year’s event! The Regional Seminar is being held in our section this year, at Montmore Golf and Country Club, on November 18.

Please support the event; there are a variety of speakers lined up for the day. Our last golf event of the year, the Christmas Texas Scramble, will be held on December 4 at Ashridge Golf Club. Early team entries are vital, as this event is always very popular and is often over-subscribed.

Paul Lockett

Midland

On Monday, September 28, the Autumn Tournament was played at Edgebaston Golf Club.

The day was a great success considering the torrential thunder storms that occurred throughout the previous weekend. It was a great credit to Mike Hughes and his staff for presenting the course in such trying circumstances.

Many thanks on behalf of Midland Committee.


I would also like to thank on behalf of the Section all our sponsors for the day who were: Tacit, Acer Equipment and Ruffords Topdressing. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Tacit for sponsoring the summer tournament, as I forgot to mention them in last month’s report.

The final of the Rigby Taylor doubles, will be played by the time you receive the next report so I will keep you informed. The finalists are: Mark Cutler and Alan Cutler against Paul Loffman and Trevor Morris. Briefly I would like to remind you of the Christmas tournament at Cotswold Heath Golf Club on Thursday, December 10. The AGM will be held after the golf so those of you who are not playing in the golf please come to the AGM.

Finally, I would like to introduce some new members: Daniel Jones, Jamie Wilson, Jamie Griffin, Mark Allen, Francesco Polino, John Hughes, Andrew Dalton and Steven Harvey.

Jonathan Wood

East Anglia

With the onset of Autumn our Nomadic band decided to go to Sheringham. Not a wise choice at that time of year you may think. Well, you would be wrong, only just mind, as it was a bad day the day before and a day you wouldn’t send a dog out the day after, but our day with a slight breeze, well dry anyway. About 40 turned up as it was a restricted field, so the privileged few finally got to play Sheringham. I don’t think many of us had played there before judging by the scores either, however someone has got to win. The scores were as follows. After playing comfortably then I shall begin,

Section 1. R. Whitling 39pts (overall winner); 2. P. Howard, 37pts; 3. R. Plummer, 36pts. 10-18 Section 1. M. Broughton, 33pts; 2. J. Willitt, 32pts; 3. D. Chids, 32pts. 19-28 Section 1. S. Crab, 38pts; 2. T. Russell, 35pts; 3. M. Mason, 33pts. Guest prizes were won by Messrs Bray and Carr, Captain and Chairman of Greens respectively.

The look seat was won by yours truly not for the least points I might add, far from it. No the look seat has returned to Lathrope after many years not for poor golf as in the past but for the most bizarre event of the day; I was playing one of several bunker shots when I was hit smack on the top of the head with a ball. The Anglo Saxon was about to flow when I noticed my so called friend and playing partner Brian Lenton rolling around in fits of laughter. It was then that I realised it was my ball that had caught the top of the bunker, shot straight in the air and wallop, straight on the nut.

Of course, once this tale had spread around the clubhouse, afterwards, I was presented with the seat to remind me of the day, long after the headache has gone. Thanks lads. The main sponsors for the day were Bartram Mowers. Other prizes were donated by Colliers, Barenbrug, Rushbrooks, SISIS, Rhone-Poulenc, Willmot Perree, Lely, Consultant Clarkson and Tomlinson Ground Care. Our thanks to Sheringham GC for a great day. The course was in super nick right from the fairway to that bunker on the fourth fairway.

Mick Lathrope

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November 1998 Greenskeeper International 37
holding an indoor Go-Karting endurance race along with the help of Greater Parts Trading Company. The venue, Indi Kart Racing Club, Colchester, Friday, November 20, arrival 1.30pm. There will be eight teams of four, £20 per man, with the race lasting 3½ hours. For further details contact Richard Pride 01268 752381. An important date for your diary is your AGM to be held at Onslow GC on Tuesday, December 1. There will be a golf competition in the morning, followed by a Supply Company AGM after Details will be sent out soon. Any enquiries please contact Richard or Martin Forester (01245 603131). One or two positions need to be filled on the committee. Anyone interested, please ring Martin. The 1998 SE Region Education Conference will be on Tuesday, November 24, 7pm, Stock Brook Manor GC. Anyone interested to help, please get in touch on the night or better still ring our Secretary Martin 01245 603131, who will let you have further information.

On to our latest news.

Add to the growing Section, we would like to welcome both Graham Hipkin and Alan Smith from Chacton-on-Sea GC. From the Mandike Valley Golf Club Centre Daniel Fear and Joe Broderick from Stapleford Abbotts GC.

Our last event of the year and a very pleasant one, was at Maylands Golf Club. Please I haven't played for years. Can I thank Phillip Taylor for letting us use the course. Paul Farrow, Head Greenkeeper and his staff for getting the course ready. Pauline and staff, catering and bar staff for the event Avoncroft, thanks anyway.

The winners were: Cat 1, Andy Sheehan, 36pts; Mick Fale, 34pts; Carl Crouch, 31pts; Cat 2, Ray Clark, 35pts; Cat 3, John Marks, 35pts; Dave Farrow, 32pts; Cat 3, Jack Shelton, 35pts; Ian Mitchell, 30pts; Malcolm Smith, 28pts; Trade prize, Martin Lewis; Guest Prize, Phil Terry. Thanks to everyone who entered and to the,names who sponsored. Nearst the Pin, Neil Peachey; Longest Drive, Richard Pride.

The overall winner for the Autumn Trophy is Andy Sheehan. Thanks to these firms for the prize money: Ryegate Taylor, Tackwells, Banks, Grass Roots, CMW, Bourne, Driving Force Leisure, Willmot Perieve. Our AGM and Golf Day is on December 2 at Onslow GC and we look forward to seeing you. Any one who wishes to attend, yes attend, your AGM. Where we all can help to continue our success. Dave Wells

Surrey

Welcome, everyone, to this months compilation of news and useful information. Firstly our congratulations to some new parents from the Drift Golf Club Mark and Sue's whose wife Deborah gave birth on September 1 to their daughter, Hannah, 8lbs 6ozs and from Worplesdon Golf Club, Ken Harding, and his wife Tracy, are celebrating the arrival of their son, Charlie.

Effingham Golf Club will be running a Chain Saw Course in December and would welcome members from other Surrey clubs to participate and gain a Certificate of Competence. Please contact Peter Broadbent for full details.

The annual clash between golfers from England and Scotland took place at Epsom Golf Club on September 18. The course was in magnificent condition and the greens having been rolled with a turf iron were very testing. Unfortunately we have very few Scottish members at present as only three from North of the Border turned up. Still never mind the English contingent made up their numbers and the final result was a draw.

The Parker Salver was saved for at Reigate Heath Golf Club on October 1 and it was a pleasure to see the course in such excellent condition. Our thanks to Derek and Grant for the condition and our thanks to the club for the delicious food and hospitality. The results were; 1 Derek Cumcliffe, 30pts, 2 Michael McLoughlin, 39pts; 3 John Mathis, 37pts.

And now sadly the contents of a fax sent to me by Paul Crouch, Head Greenkeeper at Puttenham Golf Club. We are sorry to have to report the sad loss of one of our members of staff, 28 year old Patrick Boyd, Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Puttenham Golf Club, who died in tragic circumstances during a charity mountain bike ride. He leaves his wife Sara and 3 year old son Callum, and will be sadly missed by all his colleagues at Puttenham.

Brian Willmot

South Wales

Thanks to Craigslуг GC for their hospitality in granting courtesy of the course on September 2 for our annual match against the secretaries. The result was as followed; B Jones/P Frater beat J Graham/D Fellows, J Jones/R Frater beat D Richard/H Edmond, A Abel/A Hatcher beat M Hughes/D Roderick, D Jenkins/A Cosb beat E Toovey/Player P Lacey/A Panks Halved with R Bradley/R Howell. An outstanding 4½ / ½ win for the ‘Greenkeepers’.

Thanks to Bill Malcolm and Ken Jones who represented Craigslug GC, to the Secretaries who participated in the day and to Alan Abel the sponsor of the day from Complete Weed Control. The prize winners were: Longest Drive on the 2nd/ Andrew Hatcher 6th/ Ken Jones 10th/ Jim Graham 16th, an excellent day was had by all.

Again we sprung into action at Allt Mowe for the Autumn Tournament, on September 9, albeit blowing a gale with cold heavy showers. Again a good day was had by all. Our thanks to the sponsors John & Ben Morgan for providing the refreshments and Keith Morgan for his kind words and courtesy of the course. The changes that have been made to the course Keith since our visit in 1993 are for the better. Winner of the day was Adrian Panks who received the Jacobsen Cup and a Golf bag for the best nett of 69 on the back 9, second best nett 69 on the front 9 and a dish will start from 6pm. Best Gross of 75 Andy Reich winning the Presidents Cup and Golf shoes, winner of the Waycott Cup was Gareth Evans with a 74 on the back 9 from D Morgan. Thanks to our President Colin Murphy for making the presentations.

Rugby Taylor match play singles update; R Frater beat D Gladvon, Kerry Jones beat D Bray, H Chester beat G Stonehouse beat J B Jones, Mike Jones beat P Lacey. Next round; R Frater v M Jones, G Johnstone v M Norfolk, and bye for J. For.

Our congratulations to David Ward for becoming the Regional Winner for the BIGGA/Amazone Environment Competition, (I might have a gold star for writing this) and for the magnificent presentation box.

South West & South Wales

Regional Seminar - Cannington College, November 25, £15 per head. Book your places quickly as spaces limited. Frank Newberry is speaking, don’t miss hearing him. Why not bring along your Secretary or Chairman of Green as well.

BTME - Coach places filling up fast. Reserve your places quickly - 895, 3 nights BB&B, coach travel and entrance to seminars. Application forms from Paula Humphries, 01363 82777.

South West

November, what a delightful time of the year. The golden colour of the leaves as they turn to gold, the fresh clear air, the sight of our native fauna foraging for food in readiness for the winter, the chronic outbreak of foxes again. Actually at the moment I am enjoying a little visit from our old friend. Take All Patch. Can anyone tell me the best method of getting rid of this? Come to think of it, can someone tell me any method of getting rid of it? I have read all the books and they say that I stuffed basically.

The members, despite patient explanation from staff and me are constantly finding a particularly virulent form of ringworm, and all the greens will have to be dug up and incinerated on sight. But enough of my problems, what has been happening within the Section. Not a great deal, as far as I can tell, which brings me to the conclusion that all members within the Section are going to have to give me a ring and let me know what has been happening. I rang Tellis, he rang things. Anyone out there recently joined the matrimonial institution? Are sprogs imminent or recently materialised? Is anyone about to leave employment elsewhere and so require good wishes?

Or maybe there are people out there who have finally reached the period of their lives when they can sit back and take it easy. No I'm not talking about getting a DPM Manager’s pension on retiring. Please, please let me know the latest news so I can keep the Section informed. Coming up on December 10 is the Christmas Greenkeepers and Chipping Sodbury. Included in your details of the AGM at Saltford from Peter, will be five raffle tickets for the bargain price of £1.00 each. Send these back before December 1, and you may be up for winning a place at the BTME at Harrogate. This prize has been donated by HW to help the Section funds so please enter the raffle. The draw will take place at Chipping Sodbury so be there as this is always a great tournament to play in.

Marc Haring

Devon & Cornwall

My report starts this month with the news that Jeff Mills has just started his new job as Course Manager at Tawton & Pickardie Golf Club. Our congratulations and best wishes are with Jeff on his new role. Now we must concentrate on Wyndham Potter on reaching retirement. We look forward to seeing you at our events Wyndham. Once again Christmas is approaching fast, so what better way to start the festive season than by attending our P J Flegg sponsored Christmas meeting which will be held at Okehampton Golf Club on Wednesday, December 9. As in previous years numbers will be limited to the first 80 members, so to avoid disappointment please return your entry with correct money as soon as possible, and before the closing date.

The day will start at the usual with golfing members playing for the P J Flegg Trophy with the format being greensome. For those of you not wishing to play golf, the new ‘Wyndham Potter Memorial Trophy’ will be held. Places on the Regions package to BTME 99 which includes transport,
accommodation and entry to the BTME show and seminars are going fast to avoid disappointment you are advised to return your booking form as soon as possible. If you haven’t already booked your place for the seminar or BTME Package don’t delay call our Regional Administrator, Paula Humphries, today on 01363 82777. If you have any news, you would like me to include in the monthly reports please let me know in writing, my address is on the front of your fixture card. Reports have to be in one month beforehand (for January issue reports have to be in by December 1).

Richard Whyman

David Jones. We would like to thank all the speakers for giving up their valuable time. It was a lively and highly entertaining session especially by some computer buffs by the name of Fair Wanks North. We would like to remind all our members that the seminars like this count for credits towards their Master Greenkeeper Certificate.

We also held our AGM and the committee was voted in to carry on with its agenda. For any member who does not know it is Eamonn Farrell Chairman and Liaison Officer, Mark Farrell Secretary and Neil McGough as Education Officer. Members wishing any information or who have any ideas please contact any of the committee members.

Eamonn Farrell

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No.2 Exton’s Units, Market Overton Industrial Estate, Oakham, Rutland LE15 7PP
Atlanta, Georgia, setting for Gone with the Wind and the '96 Olympic Games, as well as home to Coca Cola and CNN, played host to the second Hayter International Cup and the occasion more than lived up to its surroundings...

Sweet Georgia greens

The second Hayter International Cup proved to be almost as tight as the first - when the Americas won on the final green in the final match. Extended to three days, with a series of four-somes joining the fourball and single matches, the result was in doubt until a handshake on the 16th green in the final match signalled the America's second win.

While such a fine victory, by a score of 13.5 -10.5, was the cause for justified jubilation for the home team, losing was not a term which could easily be attached to the Rest of the World team. How could it when the 12 players had enjoyed the opportunity of playing over some of the finest, and most exclusive golf courses in all of America?

Under the non-playing Captaincy of BGGA Chairman, Gordon Child, the 12 RoW players were drawn from 12 different countries but the way they gelled over the week says much for the power of greenkeeping as a bonding agent.

Players from Scotland, England, Ireland, Wales, Spain, France, Sweden, Norway, Switzerland, Finland, Australia and Germany joined the Americas team made up of Americans, Canadians and Argentinians bringing 15 countries together and none of the players were slow to make friends and discuss matters greenkeeping.

While the play was serious and keenly contested, events off the course were just as important to the success of the occasion.

In addition to the three courses used for the competition two others were tackled - the exclusive Golf Club of Georgia and Cherokee Country Club which is about to open a wonderful new 18 holes. Also on the schedule were two fine dinners, including the final banquet at the majestic Cherokee Town and Country Club a short distance from the Governor of Georgia's mansion, as well as a traditional southern "cook-out". Fine southern hospitality indeed!

"I cannot recall a more enjoyable five days," said RoW Captain, Gordon Child.

"The golf courses were of the highest possible quality, the golf unforgettable and the friendships formed everlasting. Our very special thanks must go to Hayter, and in particular Tony Bourke and Kim Macie, for making such an event possible," said Gordon.

Those sentiments were echoed by BGGA's Executive Director, Neil Thomas, who paid tribute to Hayter's contribution.

"Hayter's support of the International Cup, as well as their five year sponsorship of the Hayter Challenge, has ensured many opportunities for BGGA members and indeed greenkeepers throughout the world to meet, enjoy their golf and experience the true benefits of the fraternity of greenkeeping."

"The spirit, the friendship, the golf courses, the competition, the organisation - were all of the highest order. I do hope, and believe, that everyone who participated will have very fond recollections lasting a very long time. I know I certainly will."

The 24 players competed with true professionalism and sportsmanship which enhanced and set the right tone for such an important international event. I thank them all," said Hayter Sales and Marketing Director, Kim Macie.

Day 1

The first day was the fourball event and was played over the Highland Course of the Atlanta Athletic Club - the home club of the great Bobby Jones. A magnificent course it has hosted the 1963 Ryder Cup, the 1976 US Open, won by Jerry Pate in spectacular fashion, and is shortly to welcome the USPGA Championship.

Andy Sheehan, of England, played the first shot - a fine drive down the middle of a tight fairway - but it was the Americas who were to have the better of the opening exchanges. Americans Al Pendel and Tommy Witt and Argentina's Ricardo de Udaeta and Alejandro Young won the second and third matches comfortably while a slice of luck down the final hole saw Canada's Doug Meyer and Sylvain Alarie edge out Jorma Eriksson, of Finland, and Andy Sheehan.

After such disappointing start it was good to see Remy Dorbeau, of France, and Derek Wilson, of Scotland, clinch the fourth match.

The last two matches went down the final hole with Eugenio Roldan, of Spain, having played a magnificent 7 iron to eight feet, watched his putt...