Organiser; Trevor Smith, Manet, Horton Road, Horton Heath, Wimbourne, Dorset, BH21 6SB, Tel: 0410 835242. Closing date will be 10 days before the Tournament date ie: Monday October 5. To finish with, I have news of another retirement. Bob Parsons of Barton on Sea Golf Club has decided to call it a day after 45 years. I hasten to add, that is, 45 years at Barton on Sea Golf Club. I wonder if that might be a record. Bob has been a staunch supporter of the Section for a number of years. Hopefully we will still see his friendly face at some of our meetings. On behalf of the section I would like to wish you a long and happy retirement Bob.

Ken Lodge.

South West

Yet more wind and rain greeted the South West Greenkeepers for the summer tournament at Filton GC. This event was particularly well supported with nearly 50 of us turning up to indulge in the delights of this Bristol course which was in totally immaculate condition thanks to Nick Wilson and his team. We then had an especially fine meal and diverted our gaze from the young waitress fong enough for Chairman Chris Sealey to read out the winners. (Just for the record our team captain Matt Hawker tried to chat up the waitress but was unsuccessful).

The scores were as follows, Head Greenkeepers; 1. Gary Cook, 77; 2. Nick Wilson, 78; 3. Marc Haring, 79. Assistants; 1. James Braithwaite, 67; 2. Craig Fudge, 68; 3. Peter Baynton, 70. You will notice that the assistants' scores are appreciably better than the Head Greenkeepers. I can only put this down to the extreme strain we Head Greenkeepers are under and also to the fact that we get no time to practice our golf compared to the assistants.

Special thanks are due to Scotts UK who sponsored the day's event and who provided all the prizes and of course to Pilton Golf Club who allowed us the use of their course and facilities. Don't forget the coach trip to BTME. Paula tells me that with such an incredible deal on offer this year, the places are going quickly. If anyone is interested then please do not hesitate to contact me with any information on 01656 742761.

Richard Hatcher
South East

**Date:** Tuesday November 16, 1999

**Time:** 9am. Place Writtle College. No.

**I have not gone completely mad, well not quite yet. But this will be when we, the Essex Section, will have the honour of hosting the 1999 Golf Club, East Region Regional Seminar and the committee are looking for ideas, topics, helpers and sponsors for this important event in next year's diary. So anyone interested in helping on the committee please contact Martin on 01245 603131. Over the last few months we have had two committee members stand down from their posts, Andy Sheehan and Reg Hooker, Vice Chairman and Education Officer. We would like to thank them both for their services, especially Andy who has held a number of positions for many a year. Anyone interested in helping on the committee please contact Martin (01245 603131).

**Next month we will have a total update on the outstanding golfing days (this due to cut off dates for publication). On to the pair's knock out competition, Michael Fance and Scott Reeves are into one semi final where they will play either Barry Brown/Stuart Jenkins or Lee Adams/Gary Speller. While Jon Selvidge and Steve Cox wait in the other semi final for the winners of the Andy Sheehan/Frank Shotton/Nick Horsewell match.**

**The Essex Captains held their annual match against the Greenkeepers at Romford Golf Club with the captains winning this year's occasion three times to one and the open was played either Barry Brown/Stuart Jenkins or Lee Adams/Gary Speller. While Jon Selvidge and Steve Cox wait in the other semi final for the winners of the Andy Sheehan/Frank Shotton/Nick Horsewell match.**

**South East**

**On August 1 we had our BBQ at Groomsport Golf Centre a great evening was had by all winners of the chasing contest were Terry Crawford, Jonathan McCabe and Ken Henderson. We feel it was beneficial to the Section to have a social event with educational and golfing events. Many thanks go to Alan Boyd (Boyd Golf Course Accessories) and to his wife Frances Boyd for preparing all the food and sponsoring the event. If there is anyone who has information within the section or would like anything mentioned they can contact me on 01247 472186 Jonathan McCabe."
If wear and tear is knocking the stuffing out of your course, it’s time to toughen up your act with a new product from the world leaders in rootzone stabilisation fibres. The unique, crimped profile of LOKSAND™ fibre will bring back the bounce and give long-lasting durability to high-wear areas of turf.

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Drainage expert Barry Cooper talks about a summer which has found out which courses have sufficient drainage. And more importantly which do not.

After a very wet winter and spring and a very unsettled summer many golf courses have been counting the cost of lost green fees and corporate revenue due to inadequate course drainage or in some cases no drainage at all.

Some of the most badly affected courses have been some of the most expensive to construct. I refer of course to the many American and Japanese designed golf courses where only surface water has been catered for and the only drains laid in the ground are non perforated solid pipes carrying water from a system of gulley pots that have been placed to intercept swales that have been created. This system of drainage is totally inadequate in this country, and unless ground water is controlled by laying conventional perforated drain pipes to a depth of at least 750mm the golf course will remain wet after heavy rain.

Many people believe that there is no such thing as a water table in clay land, but I can assure you that this is not true, and unless this water table is kept at least 750mm below the surface, the ground is not dry enough in the winter for the rains to fall on and percolate away. On most clay based courses a system of lateral drains laid across the steepest fall at 15 metre centres and 750 - 800mm deep will control and remove surplus sub-soil water.

It is difficult to believe, but many courses that have been constructed during dry summers and autumns have had no fairway drainage installed, because it did not seem necessary at the time. I do not need to dwell on the extra costs involved in draining a completed and seeded golf course, against draining the
same golf course during its construction.

Seasons such as the ones we have all recently experienced also bring to light drainage problems caused by certain trees having been planted on the golf course. These trees are mainly Poplars, Willows and Alders. All of these trees need water to thrive and during a "semi-drought" time such as 1995-96 the roots from these trees will have had to search harder for water, and any pipe within 20 metres of any of these trees is in grave danger of being penetrated and blocked by a mass of fibrous roots.

I have actually known these roots to travel as much as 50 metres along a pipe line. Drains that have been laid at a shallow depth ie:300mm to 500mm are also very prone to becoming blocked after a dry summer, because the ground cracks and this allows top soil to fall into the cracks, which in turn gets washed into the pipes when the rains come.

I will end this article by again pleading with Green's Committee Chairmen and Course Managers who are contemplating having drainage work carried out on their course, please employ either a qualified drainage consultant or contractor to design your drainage scheme. This way you can always query the reason why, if the scheme does not work.

Finally, all drainage schemes work very much more efficiently if they are undertaken during the Summer months and not during Autumn and Winter.

Barry Cooper is a Drainage Consultant who boasts some of the country's finest golf clubs among his clients. He can be contacted on Tel: 01858 467684.
PLAN YOUR ROUTE
Taking precautions

Over the next few months we are going to look at the general and more specific health and safety requirements for Maintenance Buildings. The buildings that on most golf courses are used for the storage and maintenance of equipment. We have so far looked at individual pieces of health and safety legislation. We will now look at how this legislation affects a working area of the golf course. Let's first look at the legislation involved.

The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974; Specific sections of the Factories Act; The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations; The Manual Handling Operations Regulation 1992. As with the previous regulations these apply to all workplaces and place a duty on employers to, firstly, avoid Manual Handling poses. When carrying out a Manual Handling assessment, there are four main areas that need to be investigated, these being firstly, the task ie what is actually needed to be done? Secondly, you have to take into account the individual who will be required to perform this task. This will entail looking at whether or not the person has a history of back problems, for example, or are physically capable of lifting pushing or pulling the items or equipment involved. The third factor to be considered is the actual load itself ie What is it? What shape is it? Is it rigid or flexible? Is it stable? Has it got handles? etc. Finally, you must take into consideration where this task or operation is to take place ie is it to be carried out in an open shed in the middle of winter when it will be cold/wet and the operator will be wearing extra clothing which may impede movements etc. The risks of injury need to be assessed, recorded and action taken to reduce them to the lowest level by providing such items as lifting tackle, hoists, trailers, etc. or do you provide training in safe and correct lifting techniques for all staff involved.

Next month we will look at the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations.

Further information on training courses and consultancy contact Lantra National Organisation Ltd (Jean John on 01282 831973 or Tony Rees on 01886 622799).
This month, Geoff Steel gives some very valuable advice to those about to dive into the property market...

Most of us at some time aspire to buy our own property. For those who have made it they will probably agree it is one of the most traumatic times of their lives. I will try and offer a few simple ideas to assist any readers who are thinking of buying.

Before you find a house it is essential to know how much you can afford to pay; and how much you can borrow. Generally it is possible to have a mortgage for three times the main wage earner's annual income plus one times the second wage earner. However, some lenders will exceed this limit. A typical cost at current interest would be £73 per month for every £10,000 borrowed - a mortgage of £40,000 would typically cost £292 per month.

Ideally you will have some funds for a deposit and with this in mind you can now decide what you can afford to buy. Do not forget to allow for solicitor and survey fees, plus 101 other costs involved in moving house.

Many buyers like to purchase older properties but it can be very difficult to obtain a mortgage without strings attached. A mortgage will probably be conditional on certain works being carried out, or with some money retained until the work is completed. Without access to additional capital most buyers find themselves unable to complete the purchase as the seller will still want the full purchase price.

The purchase of a new house is often much easier. The builder may have made arrangements to provide mortgages at advantageous terms. Don't immediately accept what is on offer - check with other lenders or an Independent Financial Advisor to compare terms.

The process of buying a house in England and Wales is that a purchaser makes an offer. If the seller accepts the offer, the purchaser then applies for a mortgage. The purchaser's solicitor will then check that the owner is legally able to sell and that there are no other developments being planned which will affect the house. It is not until exchange of contracts that either side is committed to the transaction. On exchange it is normal for the seller to ask for a deposit and on completion the full balance of the purchase price must be paid.

Next month I will look at the different types of mortgage.

Geoff Steel is an Independent Financial Advisor with Walsh Lucas and Co and he welcomes comments from readers. His Freephone telephone number is 0800 7835132

*In Scotland it is customary for a seller to secure a mortgage first and then make an offer based on a survey which is then carried out on a prospective purchase by the mortgage lender. Once the offer has been accepted both sales are committed to going ahead.
What is the nature of your business?
Design, supply installation and service of irrigation systems for golf courses and sports pitches.

What major changes have you seen in your sector of the industry over the last 10 years?
The implementation of more precise control systems enabling the greenkeeper to manage application and use of water to a much higher degree. The use of Medium Density Polyethylene pipe as used by the Water Authorities available in 100 metre coils, replacing the traditional UPVC pipe which have many joints - one per six metres.

How do you believe the industry as a whole has changed over the same period?
Far more aware of water costs - mains water now averages approximately £0.50 per cubic metre. Far more aware of water usage and application rates and how often to apply the required amount. Far more aware of irrigation system operation and maintenance through training courses, college courses and the need for irrigation.

Looking into your crystal ball what major developments do you envisage over the next 10 years in your sector?
The continuing upgrade of the old piping systems and control systems. Even more interest in precise application of water and reliable operation. More attention being paid to sprinkler positioning and nozzle performance.

And in the industry as a whole?
The industry will benefit from training given to greenkeepers ie they will enter into a market knowing what they want to buy and whey they need it.

What contribution do you believe BIGGA has made to the industry since the Association was formed?
BIGGA has promoted greenkeeper training and highlighted that better greenkeepers promote a better golf course.

Why are you pleased to be associated with BIGGA?
Because BIGGA promotes an image awareness in the requirements and needs of a professional person doing a professional job.

What do you believe to have been your company's greatest contribution to the fine turf industry?
The unique service backup and training offered by Ocmis, the advo- cation and use of MDPE pip and compression fittings. Implementing and designing new standards for remedial works on golf courses - utilising machinery which with minimal disruption is capable of installing pipe up to 160 mm in diameter without significant scarring.