“If we didn’t get vandalised we would certainly look to improve the quality of our course furniture but it’s really not worth it.”

Working with such a small team ensures that no job is too big or too small for any member and the Bude staff – of Jason Chidley, Andrew Pollard and part-timer Greg Pett – are a tightly knit unit who have been together for some time.

“All my planning and paper work is done at home in my own time because if I did it during the day we wouldn’t get finished on the course. I do the same jobs as everyone else. Fly mowing, divot filling, the lot.”

The course is relatively maintenance friendly and a lot of areas can be cut with ride-on machines and they try to keep the use of hand equipment down to a minimum.

“The biggest user of time is the stream at the bottom end of the course which runs from east to west right across the course. We maintain about half of it on a regular basis strimming and fly mowing and that itself takes three people just under a day.”

Richard holds great store in aeration and always makes sure the course gets regular doses.

“I’m a great fan of slitting and we slit tine about 10 times through the autumn and winter, and also ver-tidrain in the Autumn. We’ve just quadra-hollow cored the greens which we always do in mid-March.”

Among the on-going projects are a bunker revetting programme and up-grading the paths from tee to fairway.

“Fairy rings are the only real problem we have and we are hoping that microbes might be the answer.”

In his time at the club Richard has seen a steady improvement in both the quality of working conditions and the machinery fleet.

“When I arrived we had a shed which was more like a broom cupboard for three or four of us. It wasn’t ideal but was much better than a lot at the time. We also had to keep the machinery outside.

“Now we have a small fleet which is kept inside in our purpose-built sheds for which we have a replacement plan. Depending on the machine and how heavily it is used. The worst thing that can happen being isolated in Bude is a breakdown. If it is not too specialised a problem we have an excellent local commercial company which helps
and we make sure every piece of kit has an MOT every year. We do the general maintenance checks ourselves.”

Last year was a memorable one for Richard who was the South West and South Wales representative in the final of the Toro Excellence in Greenkeeping Award having been originally nominated by the Club Secretary.

“The support I had from the club was tremendous and they were really willing me on... I think the possibility of winning the mower had something to do with it,” he laughed.

It had not been an easy passage through to the final for Richard and his team.

“The two course visits were tough because I had the B1GGA Chairman, Gordon Child, first of all and then, having qualified for the final, I had Walter Woods. Two hard men to please, particularly in Walter’s case because we were the only links course in the final. What it actually did was keep us on our toes longer because we knew it was coming up and we couldn’t afford to lapse at all,” recalled Richard.

“It was a real honour to represent a Region which has so many fine golf courses and I will enter again. I thoroughly enjoyed it but you always feel a bit gutted when the results are read out and you’ve not won, even if you don’t expect to win it... you always hope.

“I’d now call the rest of the finalists friends and having spoken a lot with them during our time at the final I learned a lot.”

It is a learning ethic which Richard holds dear. He completed Level 3 over a six month period at Cannington College so he didn’t have to be away from work too much and he is hopeful of starting Level 4 later this year.

“You’ve got to try to keep one step ahead in this game.”

It is a philosophy which has served Richard Whyman and Bude and North Cornwall Golf Club well.

**Machinery Inventory**
- Toro GR 3100 x 2
- John Deere 2653A triple mower
- Cushman truck
- Cushman Topdresser
- Hardi 3001 sprayer
- Huxley deep slitter
- Iseki 22hp tractor
- Coremaster
- Kubota L275 with front bucket
- Kubota L3600
- Amazone 135 rough cutter
- Trailer
- Various hand machines

The club produced an excellent centenary book which details visits made by all three members of the Great Triumvirate, JH Taylor, James Braid and Harry Vardon and highlights Vardon’s scorecard when he broke the course record with a 65 in 1909.

The Doyen of golf writers, Bernard Darwin, also visited the course and described it thus.

“Bude is a place beloved by many summer visitors and the course is a good course if there are not to many of them upon it.”

Written in 1910 some things never change! However the real reason to look at the book is to read the section on “The amateur greenkeeper” which looks at some of the helpful hints written in the suggestion book over the years.

Included among the entries - which incidentally has a superb 1932 complaint about the club’s new hairbrushes only being suited to gigolos and that since the majority of members were getting thin on top the brushes acted as instruments of torture - is a most heartwarming put down by the Secretary of a over critical member in 1939.

The member had said that although a bad golfer he was able to distinguish between a good course and an extremely indifferent one. He grouped Bude in the latter category and listed a whole catalogue of complaints ending with...”In my humble opinion a cheap and bad greenkeeper is worse than none at all”

The secretary said that members of another club had visited recently and been full of praise and ended by saying, “Complaints about the staff should be made direct to the Secretary and not written in the suggestion book.”

Hurrah!
The straight cut, the clean cut, the whole cut.

The new 2500 Tri-Plex Greens Mower from John Deere.

Soon, greens everywhere will experience a tri-plex mower that not only delivers a superb straight cut but also excels at the cleanup cut. That's the essence of the new John Deere 2500—a quality of cut that's second to none.

The 2500's John Deere designed and manufactured cutting units feature a new bedknife-to-reel design. The superior offset cutting unit design provides the operator with a clear view of the centre cutting unit and helps reduce "tri-plex ring". Operators have never had it so good. The operator station on the 2500 has convenient fingertip controls for the throttle, reel drive and cutting unit lift/lower.

The 2500 is also extremely service friendly. Cutting units can be detached in seconds, with adjustments designed with the technician in mind. And daily service points can be checked from one side of the machine.


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This month Greenkeeper International’s bi-monthly series featuring Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers from every Region examines Cutting Regimes

**Cutting Regimes**

Compiled by Malcolm Huntington MBE

Kerran Daly  
Course: Salisbury & South Wilts GC  
Region: South West and South Wales Region  
Course Type: Chalk downland  
Number of Holes: 27 (three loops of nine)  
Staff: Course Manager plus six.

Duncan Kelso  
Course: Kings Hill GC  
Region: South East Region  
Course Type: Heathland  
Number of Holes: 18  
Staff: Course Manager plus six.

John Scotney  
Course: Sleaford GC  
Region: Scottish Region  
Course Type: Heathland - almost inland links  
Number of Holes: 18 plus six hole par-3 course  
Staff: Head Greenkeeper plus three.

Ian Holoran  
Course: Middlesbrough Municipal Golf Centre  
Region: Northern Region  
Course Type: Parkland  
Number of Holes: 18  
Staff: Five in total.

Ian McNab  
Course: Dumfries & County GC  
Region: Scottish Region  
Course Type: Parkland and Heathland  
Number of Holes: 18 holes  
Staff: Head Greenkeeper plus four.

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1. Do you hand mow greens only for special occasions or as a matter of course?

We use Toro triples five days a week in summer and only cut by hand for special occasions and also in winter.

We only cut by hand for special events in the summer, although in winter we do use hand mowers. We use triples normally.

We hand mow in winter and use triples in the summer. We don't have the time to hand mow in the growing season.

We use a Jacobsen Triplex Green King and have never cut by hand in the 11 years I have been here.

We hand mow greens from Monday to Friday each week and use triples at the weekend. Cutting is usually done on a daily basis in the growing season.
2. Do you have specialist equipment for greens, tees and surrounds, fairways, banks and roughs or do you double up with some?

3. Is your cutting equipment all from one manufacturer - if so who - or a mixture, and why?

4. How often do you sharpen the blades and how do you go about it?

5. What cutting heights do you employ for greens, tees and fairways in winter and in summer?

---

The Toro triple 3200D and Ransomes Super Certes are used for greens; the Toro 216 for tees and aprons; a Sabo Soberine for fairways; an Allen National for banks and the Dowdeswell roller mower and a Wessex flail for rough.

I believe a mixture to be better because I don't believe that any one manufacturer has the best quality item for the various purposes.

We re-grind once a year in winter and back lap monthly or more often as necessary. We have our own in-house equipment for grinding and back lapping and it is all done by our greenkeeper-mechanic.

Greens - summer 5 mill, winter 7 mill. Tees - summer 10 mill, winter 12 mill. Fairways - summer 14 mill, winter 19 mill. For a handful of tournaments we cut greens at 4 mill but only for very short periods as it causes too much stress.

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I believe a mixture to be better because I don't believe that any one manufacturer has the best quality item for the various purposes.

We do rotary blades ourselves and send cylinders away. Fairway machines are done once a year and greens equipment two to three times a year, but obviously if something needs attention we do it.

Greens - summer 5.5 mill, winter 7 mill. Tees - summer 10 mill, winter 12 mill. Fairways - summer 14 mill, winter 19 mill. For a handful of tournaments we cut greens at 4 mill but only for very short periods as it causes too much stress.

---

We have specialist equipment - two John Deeres, three Ransomes Auto Certes for greens; Sabo triking for tees; Ransomes T-plex for surrounds and winter greens and a hydraulic five-gang for fairways. We also have a John Deere rotary for semi-rough and a Saxon triple. A John Deere 955 and a Votex nine-foot double up for the rough.

We have a mixture because of funds. I would probably have all John Deere equipment if we were starting from scratch because of the spare and good back-up.

We back lap the cylinders on the greens units every two weeks and tees and surrounds equipment every three weeks, gangs as required. Some of the rotary blades we do ourselves and send others away.

Greens are cut at 4 mill on the greens in summer and 5.5 mill in winter. Tees are 10 mill in summer and 12 mill in winter while fairways are 12 mill in summer and 16 mill in winter.

---

We use a Jacobsen Triplex on the greens, and also Jacobsen machinery on aprons and tees. Fairways are cut with a Jacobsen and a Hayter hydraulic five-set and the rough with a Kubota.

We have a mixture because of a contract price by the municipal authorities.

We have back lap facilities in our own workshop and anything particularly troublesome can be sent to the council mechanics. They are all serviced regularly.

Winter heights - greens 6.5 mill; tees and surrounds 15 mill; fairways 22 mill. Summer heights - greens 4.5 mill; tees and surrounds 13 mill; fairways 18-19 mill.

Jacobsen is used because of a particular price by the municipal authorities.

We have a mixture because of different courses have different needs. Everything depends on the terrain.

We sharpen blades two to three times each year. We send equipment to a specialist in Edinburgh, always at the end of May and the end of July.

Greens are cut at 3.16ths in summer and 5.16ths in the winter. As we have 80,000 rounds on the course each year we tend to raise the heights round about the time of The Open Championship. Tees are 14 mill in winter and summer and fairways 18-19. Because of the wear we tend to have higher heights than many courses.

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Specialist equipment. A Paladin 21 inch for the greens, Toro and Ransomes for tees and surrounds, a Ransomes five-unit for fairways and a Hayter for rough.

We have a mixture because of different courses have different needs. Everything depends on the terrain.

We sharpen blades two to three times each year. We send equipment to a specialist in Edinburgh, always at the end of May and the end of July.

Greens are cut at five 32nds in summer and 6 mill in winter. Tees are cut at five 16ths all the year round and fairways 12 mill all the year round.
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North

Congratulations to Iain Grant on his move to Head Greenkeeper at Southport Golf Club, Buckie. I am sure Brian Cocker and all at Aylith will miss Iain, who was Deputy to Brian for a number of years. One of our Trade members is excelling in another sport, Andy Menzies of Rigby Taylor, is fishing for Scotland next month. We wish him success and tight lines!

More new members to the Section. This month we welcome Donald Mackinnon, Barra GC, and Fabrice Tournaire and James Middleton, from Royal Aberdeen GC. I think that must be the full staff of Royal Aberdeen as members now, John Milne also rejoins the Section but has just moved from East Aberdeen GC to Glenelgues, so may move into the Central Section as a result.

One of my Club members came to see me with some news which might be of interest to North members. He has just returned from New Zealand, from the former Island of Great Britain to Fortrose and Rosemarkie GC. Last I heard of Steve he was working in Holland and was in an article in this magazine about working in Europe. He is now working on a golf course in New Zealand, thoroughly enjoying life down under and is applying for Citizenship. We wish him all the best. If he ever gets up to the North Island, he should call on another Scotsman, Willie Carnegie, Head Greenkeeper at Redwood Park GC.

This position has become available due to Stewart Barr’s imminent retirement of his customers for approximately 27 years service. The Section wishes Stewart well for his retirement and also congratulations and good luck to all the aforementioned greenkeepers who are moving to new jobs.

I will bring reports from the Committee Meeting and the Spring outing at Ballochmyre GC next month along with any other news. If you have any, call me on 01505 682378.

Iain Barr

Central

We begin this month’s report with the sad news of the recent death of one of our former committee members, Jock Armstrong. Many of you will remember Jock as the jovial rep from Souter’s of Stirling who went out of his way to help many a greenkeeper, even if they were not one of his customers and nothing was too much bother to him. He was appointed to represent the Trade on the Section committee at its inaugural meeting in November, 1980 and served us well until 1989, when he felt it was time a younger person should have a chance. To say the committee meetings were never the same after he retired is putting it mildly. As his successor, RB never managed to organise the coffee and biscuits as well as Jock did.

The sincere condolences of the committee and members of the Central Section to Jock’s wife Mary and family at this very sad time.

This month sees another three new members joining us and they are Brian Heggie, from St. Andrews; Vincent Green, from Bridgend and District GC, and Kevin Willie from Stirling GC.

Once again we extend an invitation to the team captains to join us at some of our future events. This brings the number of new members this year, so far, to 32 which is very encouraging and hopefully we can keep the numbers increasing.

Bringing the Section Past Chairmen up to date this month they are: 1993/4, Jim Easton, who was Deputy to Brian at Stirling, and now at a club in London. 1994/7, John Crawford, who was at Stirling GC and is still at Stirling, 1997/to date Archie Dune and D. Scott played their part in the winning team. If any member is interested in representing the Section in this annual match, which is held at a different venue each year, please get in touch with me and I will keep you in mind for the past many years.

Ten teams have entered the Inter Club Tournament and drawn into two leagues of five with the winners of each league meeting in the final. Each team captain please ensure that all members who are coming to the match are in the team.

The matches were a great success and the committee meeting were never the same after he retired.

To the Trade on the Section committee at its inaugural meeting in November, 1980 and served us well until 1989, when he felt it was time a younger person should have a chance.
wish you will all be in shape for the next Taylor's rallying cries of "Come on with this apparatus is the poten-
held at the University Science
deaths etc., please contact me on
4-1.

Day no less. An 11-a-side game
results could enable us to predict
behave itself. The results for the
turf surface playing havoc with
Word has it that the game was
given periods of time. Such
and David Mclnroy, in attendance
represents the most common and
will soon be available through


Taylor.

President's Day; South Leeds G.C.
August, sponsored by County
October, sponsored by RiteFeed.
summer competition on July 22, at

Simon Heppenstall

North

Congratulations to Jonathan
Leach on his appointment as Head
Greenkeeper at Queensbury Golf
Club. Jonathan has moved from
Outlane Golf Club, where he had
been Deputy Head Greenkeeper for
the past four years.

Congratulations to Andrew
Clarke who has taken the position
of Deputy Head Greenkeeper at
Hollins Hall Golf Club near
Bradford. Andrew has moved from
Settle Golf Club where he was
Head Greenkeeper.

All of this year's golfing venues
and dates have now been finalised.
Everyone wishing to book a place at
any of the events must let me have
their names and money at least one
week before the date. Spring
Tournament: Hornsea G.C. 4 April,
sponsored by F.G. Adamson;
President's Day; South Leeds G.C.
8 June, sponsored by Greenpride;
Invitation Day: Shipton G.C. 4
August, sponsored by County
Crops/Biotol; Roses Match;
Howley Hall G.C. 18 August,
sponsored by Pattisons; Autumn
Tournament: Bradford G.C. 20
October, sponsored by RiteFeed;
Winter Tournament: Fulford G.C.
8 December, sponsored by Rigby
Taylor.

If anyone has any news or infor-
mation from within the Section or
wishes to place their names and
money down for one of the above
events, please contact me on 01484
317813 or 07788 442755.

Thank you to Neil and all the staff
for preparing the course, to
Cawder GC for allowing us to
share their facilities and thanks
also to the bar and catering staff in
attendance. Thanks also to the
two sponsors of this event, Atikens
and SGM. Both Richard Aitken
and David McInroy, in attendance
on the day.

Now a report on a football match
played last Thursday, April Fools
Day no less. An 11-a-side game
held at the University Science
Parks, a sportsmanlike group of
Greenkeepers v East Kilbride YM.
Word has it that the game was
quite a toughie. Despite Stuart
Taylor's rallying cries of "Come on
the Greens" and with the astro
turf surface playing havoc with
limbs etc, the E. Kilbride boys
took an early lead with Gerry
Bruen scoring the equaliser and,
alas, the only goal for the
Greenies" and with the astro


Verti-Drain Mustang

Verti-Drain Mustang is the fastest, most
effective aerator on the market today.
Whilst it still features the unique,
patented 'heave' action, there are many
new improvements, including single
point arm adjustment, a stronger tine
support system and fewer working parts.

Without doubt, the new Verti-
Drain Mustang is the fastest, most
effective aerator on the market today.
Whilst it still features the unique,
patented 'heave' action, there are many
new improvements, including single
point arm adjustment, a stronger tine
support system and fewer working parts.
Time to
Clean up
Your Act
Change your ideas about washing
At Rolawn a brand new state of the art turf washing plant is about to come into production. This means that all Rolawn turf can be supplied washed clean and free of soil in either the larger budget rolls or our standard one square metre roll format. We shall be washing turf for golf and bowling greens and football pitches throughout the year.

As with all Rolawn turf our washed turf is available anytime at short notice and we have a no minimum order policy. So you can order in small quantities at times to suit you.

There are hundreds of turf companies and almost as many different ways to use turf. However, if you want to be sure of a truly excellent golf or bowling green, a premier football pitch, or a top class hard wearing golf tee and you want peace of mind it pays to choose Rolawn, Britain's finest turf.

ROLAWN'S FAMOUS GREENS TURF. You can tell a lot about Rolawn's greens turf by the quality and standing of those golf courses that choose to use it.

John Philp the links superintendent at Carnoustie said this about our Minster greens turf. “Rolawn Minster turf is a very clean and consistent product with the same varieties (cultivars) Barcrown and Bargreen as we grow on our own grade 1 nursery. Using Minster turf provided an excellent opportunity for us to undertake general re-turfing work on the championship course in preparation for the 1999 open.”

ROLAWN ON TEES AND FOOTBALL PITCHES. The new 1999 Medallion turf mixture has been specially cultivated to produce turf with an outstanding fine leafed appearance that is hard wearing, slow growing, easy to maintain and drought resistant. It is suitable for a range of applications where high quality top class appearance, strength and low maintenance are important.

ROLAWN QUALITY. There are thousands of varieties of grass seed. They can't all be the same. Meticulous care was taken to ensure that 100% of each mixture used for Rolawn's new 1999 turf contains seed types that have been individually tested by the Sports Turf Research Institute. We wanted to know exactly how each seed type was ranked for summer greenness, winter greenness, fineness of leaf, cleanliness of cut, and slowness of regrowth. Then we chose only the best.

Our own experts then brought the different seeds together and mixed them into blends unique to Rolawn. For example our 1999 Medallion turf contains a special mixture of five different seed types. Including the top rated (by the Sports Turf Research Institute) Aberelf.

To reach its full potential and help make top quality turf each grass seed needs the right kind of soil (after all turf washing isn't for everybody). The seed mixtures in Rolawn turf have been specially selected to grow in our superb sandy Yorkshire soil.

It is this soil type that is widely recognised as almost universally compatible throughout the UK.

Great turf doesn't grow overnight and it certainly doesn't grow without expert care and attention. Our new Medallion and Minster mixtures for 1999 are the direct result of 24 years of growing experience. Our track record is your assurance and the really good news is that Rolawn turf is affordable. In fact our prices often come as a pleasant surprise.
You can see our outstanding turf at Rolawn depots. Or at our authorised distributors. If you prefer we can send you information and fresh samples. Call us to discuss your requirements on 01904 608661 ask for customer services, or fax 01904 608272 or email info@rolawn-turf.co.uk or write to us at Rolawn (Turf Growers) Ltd, Elvington, York Y041 4XR or even better, visit us.

THE NEW MEDALLION TURF FOR 1999 has been grown from 12.5% Aberelf (perennial ryegrass) 12.5% Elka (perennial ryegrass) 20% Bargreen (chewings fescue) 35% Barcrown (slender creeping red fescue) and 20% Limousine (smooth stalked meadow grass).

MINSTER BENT FESCUE TURF FOR 1999 has been grown from 40% Bargreen (chewings fescue) 40% Barcrown (slender creeping red fescue) and either 20% Heriot (brown top bent) or 20% Lance (brown top bent).

MINSTER STRAIGHT FESCUE TURF FOR 1999 has been grown from 50% Bargreen (chewings fescue) & 50% Barcrown (slender creeping red fescue).

Please examine the sown percentage figures. Now you know what 100% of the sown seed mixtures are in Rolawn turf. To our knowledge no other grower gives these figures. That shouldn’t stop you asking for them though.

KNOW WHAT YOU ARE BUYING. At Rolawn we want you to ask about seed mixtures and we also want you to know what is in the finished turf. So every year when our new crop of turf is ready for harvesting we get Europe’s largest independent turf body, the Sports Turf Research Institute to inspect the botanical composition of a large part of our production. We don’t devise the tests that they conduct. They do. That is what gives the tests their credibility. No one else does this either.

Then we give a copy of the results free to anyone who asks. This is an extract from their last report.

“It must be stressed that the turf examined was remarkably free of weed grasses and other weeds. Indeed, of the 4000 spot assessments made only one annual meadow grass plant was found. In addition there were no broad leaved weeds found at all”. “The turf was also attractive and uniform in appearance and free of turf diseases”.

For applications where a very high bent grass content in the finished turf is important our ADVANTAGE GREENS TURF which has been in production for many years will be available during 1999 after which time it will be discontinued.

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Tel: 01904 781234

AND AUTHORISED DISTRIBUTORS.
On the golfing scene our annual competition will be held at Abbeydale Golf Club on Monday 12 July.
John Lax

Cleveland
The Section had two lectures on 16 March. Turfcare had an Open Day at Ramside GC. It was very well attended by both greenkeepers and groundsmen. The speakers were very interesting and everyone came away a bit wiser. As usual Terry Charlton put on a very good day. The meal was excellent. Our thanks to Roger Shaw and his staff for letting us loose on his course with the demo gear.

The second lecture was on the night at Darlington GC. The speaker was Gordon Holms from CSC on Risk Assessment. About 20 greenkeepers attended. All seemed to enjoy it and our thanks to the Darlington Steward for a first class supper.

Once again any news, let me know at work 0191 378007 or home 0191 3781912. Next Section news will have the latest from our Spring Tournament. That should make riveting reading!
Kevin (Scoop) Heslop.
North Wales

Easter is upon us and, wow, the weather's lovely. This time last year we had about nine inches of snow. Oh, the British weather - don't you just love it!

On March 10 we held a seminar at the college on Water Management and the movement of water through the soil and the effects of wetting agents. It was very educational and I'm glad to say, very well supported. I never got the exact figures but suffice to say if we can get that many members interested in future lectures etc., then it will certainly be worthwhile organising them. If any of you out there have any suggestions, please let me know.

I am now starting to go through the process of becoming the Internal Verifier for Wales with the GTC (at long last) and, hopefully, by the time all you assessors read this, you should have had your first moderation meeting with Howard McDaddy and myself. Fingers crossed.

I haven't got any college news this month as they are on Easter break as I write, and quite honestly, I haven't got anything else to write about either, so if there is anything you want mentioning, please get in touch.

Membership News. It's welcome back to Dave Proctor of Stormes Wen Golf Club and also Nigel Pearson, Nigel Barton, Damian Isado and Stuart Macdonald, all of North Wales Golf Club. Hope to see you all at our future events. That's all folks.

Dave Goodridge.

North West

The Seminar at Mere G&CC on March 23rd was attended by 66 delegates who enjoyed an excellent day's education. The day started with an excellent talk and slide show by John Nicholson of Eamon Wall & Co. The subject of his talk was "History of Trees in Golf Course Architecture" and this man knows his trees. John has worked for Eamon Wall for a number of years and has advised over 130 golf courses ranging from new courses to long established courses, covering all aspects of woodland design and management. The talk was very interesting and also the advice on the availability of grants for tree planting.

The second speaker was Alan Gibbons, of Physio Control, whose talk was entitled "The need for Early Defibrillation." A defibrillator; for those who do not know, is a machine that can re-start the heart by means of electric shock treatment.

Alan had brought along a portable machine which could become an essential part of the first aid kit on golf courses. After an excellent lunch the seminar continued with Richard Stillwell, Director of Greenkeeping PGA European Tour, whose talk was "Preparing Golf Courses for European Tour Events." Richard has been greenkeeping for 34 years and has been Head Greenkeeper at Royal Portrush and Royal Dublin before starting his own advisory company.

For the past 12 years he has been consultant to the PGA European Tour, preparing for over 300 tournaments including three Ryder Cups, the Volvo Masters and has travelled to every country in Europe. A folder on "Course Preparation Guidelines" was given to all delegates and Richard spoke on all aspects of the paper starting with preparation months in advance to the final things like out of bounds markings, hazard markings, GUR etc. This was an excellent talk and he stressed that the tournament director and agronomist will work closely with the Head Greenkeeper/Course Manager.

The final speaker of the day was Jim Croxton, Regional Secretary PGA North Region, and his subject was "Rules of Golf Related to Greenkeeping." This was obviously a very interesting subject for a greenkeepers' seminar and of course many questions were asked and answered.

The old question of bunker rakes was raised and argued about, where do you leave the rake, in the bunker or out. The answer appears to be as close to the bunker without interfering with play.

I would like to thank all the speakers for making this an excellent seminar, Mere Golf and Country Club for allowing the use of their excellent facilities and caterers and all the delegates who attended.

The next golf tournament will be the "Summer Tournament," at Longridge GC, on Thursday June 17. All applications to be sent to Bill Merritt, 225 Utting Avenue, Clumber, Liverpool L4 9R8, including a cheque for £15. Applications must be in by Saturday June 12. Any news or queries, ring me on 0151 724 5412.

Bert Cross

East Midlands

This year's Better-Ball Pairs Tournament will be hosted by Charnwood Forest GC on August 23 and will be played over 9 holes. This will hopefully be followed by an evening lecture. Anybody interested in playing or attending the lecture will find further details in the future editions of this column. This year's Regional Seminar will be held at Mentmore GC on Wednesday, November 17 and promises to be full of high profile speakers. Further details will follow in future editions, but it is hoped that many more members will support this annual event.

Essex

Risk assessment. Two words that put fear into most people, but Jon Allbut put us right on a Health & Safety evening at Whittle College. It was an eye opener for me and the 30 greenkeepers present. An interesting evening. Thanks Jon and thanks to Doug, at Grass Roots Trading Company, for sponsoring the evening.

My Greens Chairman and I had a great day out at Walton Heath at the Gentleman's dinner. Good to see our Essex boys there. None of us won anything but it was a good day out with Clive having the course in pristine condition as usual. Derek, you owe me a glass of red wine. Don't leave the country!

New Members: Bob Spurway, Richard Linnen, Colin Robinson, Richard Wood, Tony Goddard all of Upminster GC; Andrew Taylor, Bishop Stortford GC; Steven Tovey, Jay Clark of Orsett GC; Ian Morrison, Saffron Walden GC and Michael Oakeg of Rochford Hundred GC.

The draw for the singles match play is as follows: R. Pride versus M. Forrester, R. Hughes versus M. Allen, D. Wells versus I. Mitchell, W. Wingfield versus S. Reeves.

That's all for now. Risk Assessment, where do I start? Dave Wells. 01702 522202