Oil is a liquid modern day society could scarcely live without. Roland Taylor takes a closer look at why.

**Liquid gold**

Massive fortunes have been made from it, wars fought over it and countries economies are based on it. What is it? Petroleum (crude oil) or, as some call it liquid gold.

This dark thick liquid which mainly contains hydrocarbons is found in sedimentary rocks in some of the most hostile locations around the globe. Through distillation processes, petrol, diesel, paraffin and lubricating oils are separated out and the residues produced include fuel oil, paraffin wax, asphalt and carbon wax.

These commodities have, over a number of decades, shaped our lives and none more so than in combustion engines for which they are the lifeblood - the petrol, diesel or paraffin to generate the power, and the oil to lubricate the components.

Engine oil has four main functions:

- Dissipation of heat
- Lubrication of moving parts
- Cleaning
- To seal air from certain parts

By understanding how each of these functions plays its part, we are better equipped to recognise the importance of good maintenance procedures and, ultimately, how to get the best out of an engine both in performance and durability.

Dissipation of heat and lubrication of moving parts

In the case of a car engine, more than half a million explosions occur each hour. The temperature of exhaust gases reaches 1500 degrees and at 3000 rpm the valves open and close more than 25 times a second.

Water and air are used to help control temperature levels, but this is not the whole picture.

We all rub our hands in cold weather to warm them up.
When two surfaces move against each other friction is created which in turn produces heat. Without lubrication these surfaces would eventually weld together. This is exactly what happens when an engine seizes up. In some cases the heat is so intense that components melt.

The objective of oil is to form a film that keeps surfaces apart and enables them to glide smoothly against each other. This will help to eliminate friction as well as dissipating any heat build up. It is obvious therefore that any reduction in the oil film between surfaces will have a detrimental effect. Apart from the problems caused by heat, two surfaces that constantly rub against each other will quickly wear, thus drastically reducing their life expectancy.

Cleaning
At this point it is worth looking at a general formula for lubricating oil. 80% Oil
20% Detergent (which includes; anti rust, foam and viscosity additives plus a friction modifier).

There are other factors that also need to be taken into account.

Varnish
The heat produced by the engine oxidises the oil to form a varnish coating that adheres to internal components. This fouls up oil passages and restricts the flow of lubricant to crucial surfaces. Deposits can build up in the valve guides causing a drop in power and an increase in fuel consumption. Any oil starvation, even over a relatively short period, will usually results in expensive repairs or, in some cases, the need for a new engine.

Sludge
As a warm engine cools down at the end of a day’s work, condensation forms inside it. We have all seen the water vapour signs next morning when it is started. During this non-operational period, water droplets mix with the crankcase oil and the by-products of combustion, sulphur, nitrogen and hydrocarbons. The nett result of all this activity is sludge - a substance that will quickly block oil ways and filters.

Burning oil
If an engine starts burning oil it is a warning sign that needs immediate attention. One or more of the following could be responsible

Valve seals
These stop oil flowing down into the engine from the valve chamber. A seal failure will result in the lubricant entering the cylinder where it is burnt off.

Worn valve guides
These wear with age and the gap created between guide and valve stem increases allowing oil to pass into the combustion chamber.

Pressurised crankcase
The crankcase needs to breathe. If the system becomes blocked up with carbon or varnish then pressure builds up forcing oil into the fuel supply system.

Worn piston rings
Piston rings perform two functions: 1. Seal the combustion chamber to maximise the power produced. 2. Lubricate the cylinder walls. If they are worn or broken they allow pressure to build up in the...
crankcase and oil to enter the combustion area.

**What can you do to stop this all happening?**

Engine parts will wear and there is no way of stopping this, but you can slow it down with regular maintenance. Modern engines work at high temperatures and compression ratios producing large amounts of friction and heat. In its main task of controlling these two factors, oil evaporates and breaks down. For this reason it is essential that the correct levels are maintained and manufacturers' recommended oil changes are adhered to.

Something that is often overlooked is the fact that when oil is drained from an engine, not all the suspended impurities are flushed out and as much as 1/2 litre of dirty oil and sludge can be left behind. Immediately a new supply is added, it becomes contaminated. There are products available that can be used to flush the system and it may be worth using one occasionally.

Manufacturers will recommend suitable oils for their particular engine and as a general rule, it does pay to buy the best quality. There are ranges of synthetic oils on the market, but it is recommended that you check with the power-unit supplier before using one of these.

The oil must be of the correct viscosity (thickness) and this will depend on the time of year.

Where an oil filter is fitted, this will require replacing at the intervals shown in the instruction manual. Pull the dipstick and read the level every time the machine goes out and watch for any leakage signs both on the unit and on the floor where it has been standing overnight.

As was said at the beginning, oil is the lifeblood of an engine. If you starve it of oil you can expect problems. A few minutes taken to regularly check everything is okay can save the frustration plus cost of hours of remedial work later on.
GCSAA's 71st International Golf Course Conference and Show will be held in the Morial Convention Centre, New Orleans from 14-20 February 2000. As in previous years BIGGA is offering you the opportunity to travel on the trip to New Orleans.

The BIGGA party will meet at Heathrow Airport on Sunday 13 February for departure to New Orleans via Chicago at 10.00am. BIGGA will be able to arrange accommodation for any member wishing to stay overnight before the flight at competitive rates.

The Hotel Monteleone, chosen by BIGGA to accommodate our party, offers excellent facilities and is ideally located in the historic French Quarter.

The GCSAA Conference and Show takes place from 14-20 February with the trade show on 18-20 February. You will be able to attend the conference seminars and education programmes as well as take in the latest golf course equipment, products and services at the trade show.

Itinerary
Sunday 13 February
All members will assemble at Heathrow Airport and will take the 1000 hours American Airlines flight to Chicago before transferring to a flight to New Orleans. You will be transferred to your hotel for an eight night stay on a room only basis inclusive of private facilities.

Monday 21 February
You will be transferred to the airport for your return flight departing New Orleans for Chicago at 1240 hours with transfer to the overnight flight to London arriving at Heathrow at 0620 hours on 22 February.

Prices
£929 per person based on a twin share. £1389 per person based on single occupancy. Plus comprehensive holiday insurance for the duration of £35.

Included are:
Return Economy class flights London Heathrow/New Orleans with inflight meals and refreshments; UK and US taxes; transfer from the airport to hotel and return; eight nights accommodation on a room only basis and US accommodation taxes.

Please note: Registration costs for the Pre-Conference seminars and Education programmes which run from 14-19 February and the Trade Show are not included in the package and bookings will need to be made directly with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. Details are available from BIGGA upon request.

Please forward full payment of £964 or £1424 (unless travel insurance is not required) to BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF to arrive no later than Friday 10 December; together with name, address and contact telephone number. If accommodation is required for the night of 12 February please advise in order for the hotel rooms to be booked. Payment will be made on checking out of the hotel.
BIGGA has established close relationships with the CGSA and a large party of their members attended BTME. For the first time BIGGA is offering a package deal to the annual Conference and Trade Show which will be held at the Ottawa Congress Centre from 4-7 March. Departure will be from Heathrow Airport on Thursday 2 March at 1505 hours, returning from Ottawa on Tuesday 7 March to arrive at Heathrow the following morning. Accommodation will be provided at the Westin Hotel which is one of the CGSA official hotels with excellent facilities.

Itinerary
Thursday 2 March
Assemble at Heathrow Airport for the 1505 hours Air Canada flight direct to Ottawa arriving at 1740 hours. You will be transferred to your hotel for a five night stay on a room only basis inclusive of private facilities.

Tuesday 7 March
You will be transferred to the airport for your return flight departing at 1900 hours to arrive in London at 0635 hours on 8 March.

Prices are £565 per person based on a twin share. £1141 per person based on single occupancy plus comprehensive holiday insurance for the duration.

Included in the price are return economy class flights from London Heathrow to Ottawa with inflight refreshments and meals; airport taxes; transfer from the airport to hotel and return; five nights accommodation on a room only basis and Canadian accommodation taxes.

Please note: Registration costs for the Conference and Trade Show are not included in the package and bookings will need to be made directly with the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association. Details are available from BIGGA on request. Please forward full payment of £595 or £1171 (unless travel insurance is required) to BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York Y061 1UF to arrive not later than Friday, 7 January 2000; together with name, address and contact telephone number. If accommodation is required for the night of 1 March please advise in order for the hotel rooms to be booked. Payment will be made on checking out of the hotel.
WIN!

Welcome to the final part of our BTME 2000 competition, and your chance to win an exclusive accommodation package during the most important week of the greenkeeping calendar. BTME 2000 sees the introduction of the new Hall Q which is approximately twice the size of the original Hall G. This Hall boasts its own main entrance, along with an impressive linkway conveniently joining it to Hall C. In addition to Hall Q, BTME 2000 is proud to introduce the long-awaited Exhibitor's Lounge along with a Career's Clinic and a revamped Press facility, all situated within the King's Suite, adjacent to the new hall.

Prepare to be entertained! If you are planning on attending the BTME banquet, then you had better reserve your place quickly. The entertainment for BTME 2000 is being provided by none other than The Bootleg Beatles, one of the UK's finest tribute bands, and bound to be a 'sell out'. (For tickets call Sami Collins on 01347 833833).

CAN IT GET ANY BETTER?

It certainly can, you could be going to Harrogate in January and not paying a penny for your transport, accommodation or seminars! Here's your chance...

These are the final two questions in the series of six featured in the previous two editions of Greenkeeper International.

When you have completed all the answers, fill in the entry form below and you could be on your way to Harrogate!

NOVEMBER QUESTIONS:
1. Name two of the new features of BTME 2000.
2. Which UK town is associated with 'The (original) Beatles'

And if you missed the others:-

SEPTEMBER QUESTIONS:
1. What is the number of the BIGGA stand at BTME 2000?
2. What is the theme of 'The Learning Experience' in 2000?

OCTOBER QUESTIONS:
1. Name one of the new workshops introduced for BTME 2000
2. Which Hall makes its debut at BTME 2000?

Name:
Address:
Golf Club:

September Answers
1
2

October Answers
1
2

November Answers
1
2

Send your completed entry coupon to: Jenny Panton, BTME competition, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York Y061 1UE

Entries must be received by November 11, 1999. The first three correct entries opened after the closing date will win the prizes. The judge's decision is final. Winners will be announced in the December 1999 issue of Greenkeeper International.

First Prize: Return rail travel from anywhere in the UK plus three nights accommodation at a top hotel in Harrogate with entry into the exhibition and all the education seminar sessions.

Second prize: Return rail travel from anywhere in the UK plus two night accommodation at a top hotel in Harrogate with entry into the exhibition and all the education seminar sessions.

Third prize: Return rail travel from anywhere in the UK plus one night accommodation at a top hotel in Harrogate with entry into the exhibition and all the education seminar sessions.

19-21 JANUARY, 2000
EDUCATION PROGRAMME STARTS JANUARY 17
HARROGATE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE, HARROGATE, ENGLAND

BTME VISITOR HOTLINE 01347 833833  BTME EXHIBITOR HOTLINE 01347 833800
The sections autumn outing was held at the Pines Golf Centre, Dumfries on the 10th September. A reasonable turnout was in attendance ready to brave the forecasted heavy rain and showers. Fortunately the severity of the forecast did not materialise and apart from one horrendous shower, which threatened the afternoon Stableford, the day remained mainly dry.

The Pines is an 18 hole course and driving range which was the initiative of our Chairman Duncan Gray who designed, constructed and now manages the complex. The presentation thank you speech was delivered by our Vice Chairman, whoever he is, with our chairman helpfully observing.

Duncan was congratulated on his achievements at the Pines. Much sterling work has been done and with extensions and improvements planned, that course is a big future. I will not elaborate more as our Editor Scott McCaulum was in attendance with his notepad and camera.

The greenstaff were thanked for the preparation and presentation of the course and the catering/harvest were thanked for keeping everyone well fed and refreshed throughout the day. Chairman Duncan Gray replied by thanking everyone for attending and how much they appreciated their day despite the weather and extended an open invitation if anyone wanted to return for another game. Secretary Derek Wilson then invited Scottish Chairman Jimmy Neilson, Regional Administrator Peter Boyd and previous Section stalwarts John Flint and Willie Miltoun, who incidentally was Head Greenkeeper at Doublepark for many years until retirement.

All who attended received a 50th Anniversary lapel badge, but the actual prize winners were as follows. Scratch 1. K. Farquharson, Inverurie, 76-3-73, 2. V. McGilvray, Strathlene, 77-7=70, 3. S. Williams, Inverurie, 78-6=72, 2. B. Cruickshank, Garmouth, 79-4-75, 3rd P. Murphy, Downfield 79-4-75. Class D 1. A. McCackey, Downfield, 82-6=76, 2. J. Gunn, Strathpeffer, 80-7=73, 3. C. Ogilvie, Bot of Garten, 85-9=76. Class Thre 1. I. Grant, Strathlene, 90-14-76, 2. G. Atkinson, Petersculter, 92-16=76, 3. A. Forwood, 93-10=83. Apprentice 1. A. Watson, Royal Aberdeen, 81-16-65, 2. J. Cowper, Tain 88-11=77, Guest E. Small, Tulliallan 84-7=77. Trade P. Allan, Stewarts 81-4=77. The winner of the card draw for the BIGGA blazer was A. Wilson, Berchinc. The winner of two tickets to a Dundee United game was presented by Rigby Taylor was Robert Patteson, Royal Aberdeen. Thanks to other trade members for donations to what, was a large table of raffle prizes.

I had a bad back at the time so was unable to play, which was just as well because we were missing our hard working Secretary, Douglas Duguid, who was otherwise detained and we hope all his work in starting the tournament and checking the cards. Prize winners on the day were as follows: Best Nett Aggregate spring/autumn D. McAllister, Ladybank, 143 pts. 2nd Nett Aggregate, St. Andrews, 71 pts, Best Nett S. Sime, Leven, 63 pts, 1st Class 1st H/cap D. McAllister, Ladybank, 69 pts, 1st Class 2nd H/cap A. Dunn, Auchterarder, 70 pts, 2nd Class 1st H/cap D. McAllister, Ladybank 70 pts, 2nd Class 2nd H/cap T. Harris, Cpur, 71 pts, 3rd Class 1st H/cap A. Robertson, Grangemouth, 66 pts, 3rd Class 2nd H/cap A. Arnott, Dumbieul, 75 pts, pruning, St. Andrews, 2nd Class 1st H/cap G. Taylor, A. Crawford, Green Hotel, 71 pts, 1998 Inter Club Tournament S. Sime/A. Lein, Leven Links.

The reason no tee off times were allocated prior to the tournament was that at the closing date for entries I only had 13 names. So please return your forms in plenty of time in future.

I suppose I had better apologise to Stuart Sime from that Sporting Club in Dunbar so we hope to see you there. The reason that we are not going back to the winner’s course as normal is you can only hold it at the winner’s home club and as Grangemouth have done this and they were also seconded then it goes to Westerfield. I hope we get your support.

The autumn Tournament and National Tournament qualifier 1st round was held at Newbattle GC. This is the first time we have been to Newbattle for about 8-10 years. We did not actually think the tournament would go ahead as we had torrential rain on the Monday, so myself and Steve Dixon paid a visit to see if it was going to be played on the Tuesday or on the Monday the course was closed due to the rain.

But we shouldn’t have worried as Tuesday morning greeted us with warm sunshine and clear blue skies. I do think we did have some great scoring on the day. There were a lot of new faces at the tournament which was good to see and we hope this continues. Some handicaps will seriously need to be looked at. (These people who know they are, so beware). The axe is due to fall.

The scores are as follows: Best Scratch - S. Nicholl, 68, Best Nett - M. Ewing 61-17-64, 1st Class. T. Greenwood

November 1999 Greenkeeper International
The refreshments were much appreciated.

The match against the NW West Golf Club Stewards was played at Burnley Golf Club on Monday September 27 and this time the weather was shocking. The rain had been lashing down for the past 24 hours and decided not to stop when we arrived. Eventually we plucked up courage and the match began. The rain did not ease at all, but everybody continued to the bitter end and we finished with a result, match halved. This means that the greenkeepers retain the cup for a further year. Many thanks to Burnley Golf Club for keeping the course open to allow us to play the match, the

The Northern Region

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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 tire support system and fewer working parts.
club steward for a fantastic meal and the
stewards for organising the venue.

The President’s Cup will be played for
at Wilmslow Golf Club on Thursday
November 25 with the tee times from
10 am. This will be followed by the AGM
and an evening meal and prize present-
tation. All competitors are required to
bring a bottle, so that everybody takes
away a prize. All entries to be sent to Bill
Merritt, 225 Utting Avenue, Clubmore,
Liverpool L4 9RB. Please remember to
include a cheque for £15, made payable
to BIGGA/NW.

Bert Cross

Sheffield

On 15th September we held our
Autumn competition at the Hallamshire
Golf Club, and it was a very enjoyable
day even though the sun didn’t shine.
Hallamshire was in excellent condition
and our thanks go to Gordon Brammah
and his staff. Well done Gordon!

Our thanks go to Hallamshire for giving
us the courtesy of their course and facilities.
Thanks also to the catering staff for the excel-
"lent meal which I think everybody enjoyed.
There was some excellent golf played and
the overall winner with the help of local
knowledge was Mark Crawshaw, who
played some very good golf, well done
Mark!

Results: 1. M. Crawshaw 40 pts, 2. P
Neve 37 pts, 3. G. Wells 36 pts.

Thanks also go to Henton & Chattells
for being the main sponsors for the event
and to all the other trade members who
provided prizes.

Congratulations to Jeremy Duffield on
his appointment as Head Greenkeeper at
Chesterwood Golf Club, back in his beloved
Leeds. He moves from Doncaster Town
Moor. Good luck Jeremy!

It can drive its 6” tines, solid or
hollow, at a faster rate than any other
aerator, which makes it the perfect
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And, with an aerator to suit virtually every application, it’s the widest
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But one word of caution.
The new Mustang is fast; so fast
that you may get done in a flash.

Contact us now for further
information or a demonstration of the new
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Tel: 01428 661222. Fax: 01428 661218.

E-Mail: ctm@dircon.co.uk
Web Site: http://www.redexim.com

November 1999 Greenkeeper International 39
Finally a message for one of our Section members, "Red is for Stop", no names mentioned.

J.V. Lax

Cleveland

This is my last news report so it will be brief. The Cleveland committee, mostly the Secretary, spend a lot of time and effort to get winter talks off the ground and when they are not supported by members it makes you wonder if it is worth it. Try to give a little time to attend talks and meetings as it is for all our good.

The next talk is November 11 at Darlington GC 7:30-8:00 pm start, the speaker is Par 4, so please try to attend.

Then the big one December 7, 7:30 Mount Oswald, Tarmac's Christmas quiz. We need a good turn out, as we have to beat the groundsmen this year to make it two wins in the last decade. Jerry and his staff put on a very good night, let's give them the support.

North Wales

Not a lot to write about again this month. If any of you haven't received your programme of events, please let us know.

On November 17 there's a lecture on R&D of pesticides/CDA sprayers at 14:30-16:30 which is preceded by a moderation meeting for all you assessors out there. It's your association, make the effort.

Midland

On September 15 the autumn tournament was played at Rosson-Wyre Golf Club. The day proved to be a great success and many thanks go to the greenkeeping staff and to the catering staff for making the day run smoothly. I have to be very conservative with what I say about the course, as most of you are aware I am the Course Manager, but it was a very good day and I do hope everyone enjoyed the day.

The results are as follows: 1st Gross Tony Cheese, 1st Nett Rhys Thomas, 2nd Clayton Lee, 3rd Rod Hunter, 4th Tom Haskett, 5th Mike Hughes, 6th Alan Hughes.

Nearest pin - Mark Cartler, Longest drive - Tony Cheese. The prize went to Andrew Corns.

The finals of the Toro Award for Excellence are to be held shortly and we have a member of our Section involved, he is Kim Blake from Fulford Heath Golf Club. We wish him all the best in the finals.

Early in September the Midland Section held what is hoped to be the first of many matches against the Midland Section of the Stewards Association. The event on the day was very professional organised by Mike Mofitt, Steward at Sutton Coldfield Golf Club. The venue was Kington Golf Club on the Welsh border, with magnificent views of the surrounding countryside.

The result of the match was a well earned win of 3-2 to the Stewards, but it was worry we will be back next year with our first team. A singles Stableford was also incorporated of which the winner was Tony Denham, Steward at Stone Golf Club, with 46 points, second on a last 9 count back representing the Greenkeepers with 39 points was Nigel Tyler and in third place was our Chairman Peter Richmond.

The prize giving was carried out by Alistair Reay, Chairman of the Midland Stewards Association, and Steward at Robin Hood Golf Club. These comprised of a large shield awarded to the winning team and smaller memento shields to each of the team members, engraved winners and runners up respectively.

Thanks must go to Kington Golf Club for allowing us courtesy of the course, and to the Stewards and Chef for the excellent catering on what is traditionally Stewards day off.

Thank you once again to the Ladies and Gentlemen of the Stewards Association for such a wonderful day out and to all the Greenkeepers who turned out at such short notice. Well played all of you.

Belated congratulations to Jim Ewing, First Assistant at Walsall Golf Club, on his recent marriage to Lorraine. Best wishes to both of you for the future.

This years autumn tournament was held on September 6 at the delightful venue of Erewash Valley. With the weather set warm, dry and fine some low scores were expected. The only disappointment on the day was the poor turnout of 24. The scores were as follows: Best Nett: A. Birdsey, Kirby Muxloe, 85-15-70, Best Gross: B. Fillary, Willersey Park, 76-5-71, Category 1: A. Hawkes, Cutrave Place, 79-5-74, Category 2: A. Porter, Greenham Valley, 82-12-75, Category 3: M. Birdsey, Kirby Muxloe, 91-21-70, Traykin Kinzer, T.E. Breakwell, 94-20-74, Nearest The Pin: Jeff Dickinson, Longest Drive: Alex Hawkes.

I would like to thank Graham Arnold and his staff for presenting an excellent golf course for this tournament. Also thanks should go to the caterers for a fine buffet and to all those committee members who helped organise the day.

Finally a special thanks should go to Banks Amenity Products Ltd for the very kind and valued sponsorship. I would also like to remind members that this year's regional seminar will take place at Mentmore Golf and Country Club on November 17th.

It is with deep regret that I report the untimely death of Nick Webb. Nick was a member of the Section from Taict and had supported Section events for the past two years. Our condolences go to all his family and friends.

On a much brighter note, congratulations should go to Ian Needham, of Beedles Lake GC, for winning the men's invitation at his home course with a nett score of 66 (6 under par). Ian's shot of the day came at the 18th hole, hitting a full 9 iron into the wind to leave a 4 ft putt and save par, winning the competition by two strokes! Thanks once again for the invite, and well played partner!

On September 19 Alan Roberts (he is an Assistant Greenkeeper at Sutton Coldfield, in the Midland Section) and myself finished second with a six under par score of 65 at the Hinckley Open. If any other members can give me any information for future Around The Green articles I would be most grateful. Anthony Birdsey

East Midlands

This year's autumn tournament was held on September 6 at the delightful venue of Erewash Valley. With the

East of England

The Annual match against the East Midlands Section took part at Ramsdale Park.

BB&O

The autumn event was held at the Springs GC on Tuesday September 21, but unfortunately I was not able to attend. Thanks to Lindsay and Adrian for relaying the results of the tournament to me. 1. S. Curley & M. Walker, Stowe School 43 pts, 2. A. Barnham & G. Clark, Donnington Valley 42 pts, 3. A. Cooper & G. Greenfield, The Springs 40 pts, Longest drive Angie Bell, Caversham, Nearest pin Paul Charu, Huntercombe.

Rahil was recently in the headlines when he managed to achieve two holes in one on the same day at Huntercombe.

Thanks also to the sponsors, Rakain Turf, to Phillip Marsh for presenting the prizes and to Andy Church for organising all postage and prizes. Thanks to Adrian and his team, Lindsay tells me the course was superb.

New members this month are: Anthony Legerman, Bearwood, Matthew Evans, Oxfordshire, John Lister, Sonning.

Saltes has come and gone again and we are at the time of year when boots would be more appropriate than tractors, not to worry through it will soon be summer again (I wish). Hopefully everyone is managing to cope with the dreary weather and I look forward to seeing everyone at the nest outing.

Ross Wilson

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