St Andrews resident, Walter Woods, looks back at greenkeeping’s daddy of them all,

Old Tom Morris

Every year thousands of golfers make the pilgrimage just to play golf. How many times have you heard the expression “It's a life long ambition” or “It's the golfing experience of a lifetime”? And what an experience the Old Course can provide. Ghosts can be sensed when walking the fairways, and the most powerful feeling is from Old Tom Morris who was the custodian for over 30 years. To commemorate this great man a bronze memorial was placed just below the clock on the R&A Clubhouse.

Tom Morris was born in St Andrews in 1821. Golf dominated his thoughts and daily; when school was finished, he would quickly make his way down to the Links where Tom and his friends would play some golf related game with hand-made clubs and anything which resembled a golf ball.

During his growing up Tom’s reputation as a golfer was growing and it was a natural progression to receive employment in the golf shop owned by Allan Robertson who was recognised as the champion golfer. His duties were making golf clubs and golf balls particularly the latter which was exhausting work as he was only able to make four balls per day.

Fortunately for Tom he was often given the opportunity to play matches against visiting gentlemen and this pleased Tom as he did not like the confinement of the shop. Challenge matches were the common form of competition and very little stroke play took place. Often these matches were played with large wagers riding on them. Allan Robertson and his assistant were now confirmed as the men to play which would influence large bets.

Tom was enjoying life. He was playing golf which was providing him with more than average earnings and, at the age of 29 he married Nancy Bayne and between them over the years they had four of a family, three boys and a daughter. The most famous of these was his first son, young Tom, who in future years became the most famous golfer in the land.

Around this time St Andrews was rundown and could only be described as decaying. Fortunately in 1842, Hugh Lyon Playfair was elected as Provost and because of his enthusiasm, wisdom and foresight, many improvements were implemented. His main hobby was golf and he instituted the Union Club which later became the Royal and Ancient Golf Club. Other notable improvements included the creation of the eastern part of the Links to extend the playing ground. All these dramatic changes encouraged visitors from distant areas and it was a visitor which first introduced the gutta percha balls or solid rubber moulded golf ball. These percha balls were introduced soon after 1848 and they quickly became fashionable.
This new ball had an undesirable effect on the relationship between Allan Robertson and Tom. This uneasiness continued for a number of months until one day Tom was invited to play with the rubber ball and found it to his liking for its quality. Unfortunately the news was taken to Allan who promptly fired him and afterwards they parted company.

The introduction of the cheaper golf ball made an enormous difference to the development of golf in Scotland. Many of the existing golfing societies had artisan membership with the result that the price to play golf was becoming within reach of many Scots.

In 1831 Colonel James Ogilby Fairlie, who was to become Captain of the R&A arranged for Tom and his family to be moved to Prestwick. With the job description of Supervising the Links and Professional Golfer, Tom Morris was soon amazing the locals with his golfing ability and soon reigned supreme.

As the years moved on Tom's reputation and fame was gaining in stature and soon was recognising the desirability of Allan Robertson and Tom. This green only being a few feet in diameter. Teeing up was made only a couple of club lengths from the hole and sand on which to tee the ball up was often taken from the bottom of the hole, making it sometimes difficult to retrieve the ball.

As the years moved on Tom's reputation gained momentum. Prestwick was also gaining in stature and soon was recognising the desirability of providing some annual test to gauge the comparative merits of professional golfers. To achieve this they organised the first stroke play event over 36 holes which was three rounds of 12 holes at Prestwick. This tournament took place during October 1860 and eight entered to claim the honour. Tom Morris being the local was expected to win, but was beaten by two strokes by Willie Park, of Musselburgh. The next year Tom gave notice not to play again.

During the period St Andrews was having difficulties on the golf course and the Committee were authorised to appoint a custodian at a considerably larger salary than given before. It was decided in 1864 to approach Tom and offer him the job as Professional Golfer on the understanding that he would have the entire charge of the golf course and being responsible for it being kept in good order. The sum of £20 per annum was voted for payment of Tom's salary and £20 for his duty devoted to the upkeep of the Links. This was considerably more than the £16 paid to his predecessor, Alexander Helfd.

A year later more progress was made when James Honeyman, a local St Andrews, was employed on a part time basis to help on the course. He was provided with a barrow and shovel and heard Tom's words ringing in his ears: more sand Honeyman, more sand indicating that the main duty was to topdress greens and tees and fill in the many rabbit scrapes.

Tom's philosophy with regard to the application of sand went back to his time at Prestwick when he accidentally spilled sand on the 10th green only to see beautiful green shoots come through a few weeks later.

Tom recalled in his return to St Andrews. He purchased a new shop where he manufactured golf clubs and balls.

The golf course, which was part of his duty, would be mainly supervised by his daily playing and only limited maintenance took place. Apart from top-dressing, occasional hole changing and tee box moving, little or no other maintenance was thought necessary.

The Old Course which Tom had to supervise, bears no resemblance to the course which exists today. Even after a thorough search through records one can tell how the old course actually is. We do know that the course consisted of 22 holes, 11 out and 11 in. Having played out, the players played back using the same greens. Notices still exist today informing players that homeward players have right of way. In 1764 they reduced the course to 18 holes.

Grass growing would be slowed down by the concentrated traffic of many golfers taking the same constant routes, with the result that very little cutting would take place. The first surveys of the course had been made in 1836 and about the same period the greens were extended sideways and made much larger to contain two putting holes or two separate greens with their own identity. This course remains today except that they played it in reverse. Ten years later the committee changed the course as it is played today.

From a map dated 1821 it is known the Old Course measured 6288 yards, but it was not until 1846 that teeing grounds containing tee boxes and tee markers were introduced.

The first Open Championship was organised at St Andrews during 1873. Young Tom was favourite having made the Championship belt his own property the previous year, but was well defeated by the winner, Tom Kidd.

Tom Morris senior was becoming older and his reputation and fame was becoming wider. To assist him a young man from Dornoch was employed, his name, Donald Ross, who eventually emigrated to America where he built himself a reputation as a golf course designer.

By the late 1890's St Andrews had also made considerable progress. The R&A was now in large part responsible for the running and organisation of the Open Championship and also, through general opinion, were given the authority in 1898 to improve and co-ordinate the rules associated with golf.

During 1895 horse driven and hand propelled cylinder mowers were purchased. Water wells were sunk adjacent to each green and by lowering buckets down by a rope, the water would be extracted physically and thrown across the green surfaces. The wells were about two feet square and about 15 feet deep with timber linings. The grasses throughout the St Andrews Links would have most likely been fescues and bent; no rye grasses or poa annua were present.

In that same year life was not all smooth with Tom. AF MacFie, the first amateur champion, complained and resigned from the Green Committee as he thought that Tom Morris had too much power. And, after reading a notice which appeared, it looks as if Mr MacFie was right, for it said that the custodian had filled up the putting holes and stopped the public from playing without notice of his intention.

Just a few years later Old Tom retired at the age of 82 but his retirement was softened by the knowledge that it was not due to any decline in health, it was only the fact that the job was now increasing and Tom was finding it difficult to cope with all his responsibilities and felt that a younger man was now necessary. Tom Morris lived for another six years until 1908 and he was always a familiar figure on the golf course.
THE AFT RANGE OF BACKHOES fits the three point linkage of tractors from 15 - 120 hp and skidsteer loaders from 500 kg.

Quick to fit and easy to operate, the range offers maximum digging depth from 1.45 to 3.65 metres.

All models feature a built in hydraulic tank and filter system, independent stabiliser legs, 180° rotation and full sideshift with hydraulic locking.

Convert your tractor into a professional excavator
A.F. TRENCHERS LIMITED
Tel: 01787 311811 Fax: 01787 310888
E-mail: info@trenchers.co.uk • Web site: www.trenchers.co.uk

THE BEST FOR HEAVY DUTY TURF
Considerable expertise in grass breeding and strong technical back-up mean Barenbrug can deliver the best cultivars for your heavy duty turf requirements. Consistently rated in the top banding of the STRI Turfgrass Seed Lists, Barenbrug high quality grass seeds are specially developed for characteristics that give you the performance you need — whether for soccer and rugby pitches, golf fairways and roughs, hard-wearing lawns or general sports fields.

Barlinda is a proven perennial ryegrass providing
• good fineness of leaf
• excellent wear tolerance
• slow regrowth under regular mowing
• good colour throughout winter
• performs well in shaded areas

Another Barenbrug first is the development of Barcampsia tufted hair grass. Its outstanding shade and wear tolerance in combination with other high quality cultivars make BAR 7, BAR 8 and BAR STADIA the perfect mixtures for your sports turf requirements.

So, if you want the best seed under the sun, call 01359 272000 and we will be pleased to advise you.

E-mail: sales@baruk.co.uk Website: http://www.baruk.com
BIGGA Delegation

BIGGA, in association with Bernhard and Company Limited, are planning a delegation of Greenkeepers to visit the Canadian Show and Conference in Vancouver. The group will consist of two BIGGA members selected from each Region (ten in all) and the costs of travel, accommodation and entrance to the conference programme will be met by the sponsor, Bernhard and Company Limited. Applications are invited from BIGGA members who would be interested in attending the conference and are able to demonstrate suitability to contribute in the following ways:

A proven record of service to the Association

An ability to represent BIGGA and the greenkeeping profession in a public relations role at an international event

What do I have to do?

To be considered you must submit a personal profile consisting of no more than one side of A4 and this should include brief details of education/training and career summary, membership history including any offices held, Section work and services rendered to BIGGA. You should also explain how you would benefit from the Canadian visit.

This application must be submitted to, and received by, your Section Secretary no later than Friday, September 8.

Each section committee will consider all the entries received and will then put forward a chosen candidate for Regional selection. This will involve the finalists having a brief interview with a panel consisting of the Regional Chairman, Regional Board of Management representative, Sponsor’s representative and representative from BIGGA Headquarters. Each region will select two of the finalists for the Canadian visit and the remaining finalists will receive a voucher worth £100, redeemable against a visit to BTME 2001 at Harrogate. The Regional panels will meet during October and the winners will be announced in the December issue of Greekeeper International.

The delegates will be visiting Canada as guests of Bernhard and Company but will be representing BIGGA throughout the seminars, conference sessions and visit to the Trade Show. You must possess a BIGGA blazer and dress appropriately throughout the visit.

For further information contact:

Steve Hardy - Sales & Marketing Manager
Tel: 01347 833800
E-mail: steve@bigga.co.uk
North

Several new members to welcome to the Section this month and they are as follows:

Michael Grant, from Reay GC; Gregor Norrie, from Letham Grange GC; James Swanson and Michael Macleod, from Spey Bay GC and last but not least, Barry Macdonald, from Forbes GC.

Rejoining the Section are Charlie Mackay, from Aberdeen Petroleum GC, and Dougie Boyle and Colin Forbes, from Tainland GC. We hope to see you all at future Section events. The Scottish Greenkeeping Championships at Newmacher in late June were a great success with lovely weather and a superb golf course presented by the diligent Mr. Robertson and his staff. The only downside was the size of the field, especially from other Sections.

I know that Aberdeen is way up North but we travelled down to the event in good numbers when it is South and George Thomson and his lads from Goswick in North England managed to make the journey up. In fact, despite it being in our Section, my staff and I had a three hour journey to attend.

A lot less than coming up from Glasgow or Edinburgh I bet!

Not surprisingly, North Section members featured heavily in the prize list, with the main winners being Steve Frost, Royal Aberdeen, overall handicap winner. Robert Patterson, Ra Aberdeen, best Head Greenkeeper, Ian Cowper, Tain, best Apprentice, James MacCormack, Kirriemuir, best in Class 1 and Gavin Neil, Tain, best in Class 2. The Section also won the Team Trophy.

Well done to all who flew the flag for the section and a big vote of thanks to Peter Boyd for the entire organisation, ably assisted by Daugul Duguid and John Geddes from our Section committee.

Later this month the Section will be trying to retain the Norrie Whylock trophy, held this year on 24 August at Royal Aberdeen. Full report, if we win! Will follow in the October magazine.

Our AGM this year will be on 26 October at Royal Aberdeen with the Chairman versus Vice-Chairman golf match preceding it, so get that in your diary and let’s have a good turn out.

Jain MacLeod

A roundup of all Section qualifying members for the National Championship is on page 60

Northern

Congratulations to Rob Hartshorne and wife Katie who are expecting their first baby, although Rob and his boss, John Waite don’t know how he found the time with the jobs he does after work and teaching martial arts. Well done Bob.

Buggies were out in force for our President’s Day at Hollins Hall Hotel & Country Club. The fit ones did stick to the traditional methods of getting round and we did all right until the rain came over the last few holes. Prizes were sponsored by our President, Mr Liam Galway, from The Greenkeeping Supply Company. The prize table with the stereo systems was much appreciated especially by the winners.

Congratulations to John Waite for his hole-in-one on the 15th. A bottle of whisky was presented to John who then filled everybody’s glasses up, as is the measure of the man. Many thanks to Ian Pullen and his team for the condition of the course, it was much appreciated by all concerned.

The format for the day was a fullhcp Stableford, the results are as follows:- Div 1. 1. John Waite 39pts (1st Div Cup); 2. Richard Harris 36pts (Scatch Cup); 3. Alan Baxter 36pts Div 2. The Bill Mountain Trophy went to Tito Arana with 33 points. 1. Roy Armitage 29pts; 2. Andy Smith 29pts. 3. Richard Smith 27pts Div 3. 1. Joe Baxter 30pts 2. Nigel White 24pts; 3. Jim Brown 24pts. Longest Drive went to Alan Court and the Nearest the Pin, Andrew Russell, Longest Drive. Peter Cross and the prizes went as far as 10th place. The Longest Drive and Nearest the Pin prizes were sponsored by Rufford Top Dressing.

I would like to thank West Derby Golf Club for allowing us courtesy of their fine course, John, the caterer, for excellent food, the bar staff for keeping us well watered, and of course our NW/SW patrons and trade members for helping to swell the prize table. I should remind you that the Autumn Tournament is at Denton GC on Thursday, September 7. All entries must be in by Monday, September 4. Also the Whitlaw Bowl will be played at Penrith GC on Wednesday, September 13. Annual subscription such as lottery wins, marriages, births or other information, ring me on 0151 724 5412.

Bert Cross

Cleveland

Congratulations go to Phil Hargrave who is moving to pastures new. He is leaving Wearside to take up the position of First Assistant at South Shields GC. I’m sure the whole Section will join me in wishing Phil good luck in his new post.

Also taking on a new role is Barry Walker, Head Greenkeeper at Wearside. He is taking over as Secretary of the Cleveland Section.

I’m sure Barry will do a great job and I hope the Section will support him. Barry has a new mobile number so if you need to contact him concerning section or golf matters, call 07968 308892 any time.

There seems to be some confusion in last month’s column over whether Jim Thomson, of Wynyard, had or had not been knocked out of the Cleveland Shield. Maybe I didn’t make myself clear, however, I can confirm that Jim did get beat in the first round by Martin Woods. I hope this clarifies the matter.

Other results this month are, surprise, surprise, Tony Burge beat Ian Holoran at Middlesbrough Municipal and I narrowly beat Anthony McGeeough of Richmond, around his own track as well!

If you have a match to play could you play it as soon as possible and contact Barry with the result.

For news contact me on 07808 198655

Steven Jaques

Sheffield

Annual Tournament - 10 July 2000 - Matlock Golf Club

Sheffield Greenkeepers returned to Matlock Golf club after 14 years for their Annual Tournament. The weather was rather more changeable than July with heavy showers and cold north-westerly winds, but fortunately the rain ceased and the golf was played in strong winds.

The course was presented in excellent condition and was greeted it to Roy Ward and his staff. Well done chaps. Roy started work at Matlock Golf club straight from the Army - I think it has been 14 years. Congratulations Roy, may you enjoy many more years. We know you will with all the new land that has to be developed.

Twenty-three greenkeepers and five guests played including the Captain and Greens Chairman of the club. Our sponsor for the day was Mansfield Sand. The Prize Table was magnificent and our thanks go to Russell Latham and his Company for their support. Thanks are also given to Peter Fell - Aikens Sports and Steve Burroughs - Amenity Turf Supplies.

Thanks and appreciation must go to the Committee and Members of Matlock Golf Club for allowing us the courtesy of the course. To Helen Cauldwell, the Stewardess, for providing us with an excellent meal. Everyone enjoyed a wonderful day. Once again thanks to Russell Latham and his Company for their support.

Other results this month are, Sheffield Golf Club and all the staff for making this such an enjoyable day.

Prizes winners: Best Nett, A Sampson, 92 (24)- 68, M Knowles, 80 (9) - 71, A Fenn 83 (11)-72, G Britton 89 (15) - 74, Best Gross, J Darroch, 73. Guest Prize, John Rebaud, 73 (10) 63.

K B Heaney
East Midlands

On June 3, Steve Levers and Adi Porter represented a Greenkeepers team in the Ramsdale Park Charity Golf Day and finished a very respectable third place. Thanks should go to Alpha Amenity who sponsored the day.

If any member would like to play in this year’s clash with the East of England section on Tuesday 15 August, Tee-off 3.45 pm, please inform me as soon as possible and I will send you the entry form. A team of ten is required, so it will be a first come, first served basis.

By now all members should have received their entry form for this year’s Autumn Tournament, to be held at Market Harborough GC on September 20. If you have not, please contact me as soon as possible so I can rectify the matter.

Antony Bindley

Midland

With a report absent from the July issue due to insufficient news, the results from the Spring Tournament held on April 28 will be included in this report.

Firstly, I would like to congratulate Paul Woodham and family on the birth of their first child, a baby girl that hope that mother and baby are doing well. Paul has also been appointed Head Greenkeeper at Gay Hill Golf Club. We all wish him well for his future.

The scheduled match against the stewards to be played on August 2 at the Wrekin Golf Club requires more greenkeepers to make the team up. Anyone wishing to play should contact Rhys Thomas on 0777 5816165 or 01902 743381.

The Spring Tournament was a great success with Rhys Thomas presenting the course in excellent condition. Many thanks to Rhys and his staff.

The results are as follows: Nett - 1. W. Bird; 2. Dave Fellows; 3. Eddie Stant; 4. Peter Holtham; 5. Steve Mucklow.


Longest Drive, Peter Holtham.

Nearest Pin, Eddie Stant.

Trade Prize, A. Southam.

Many thanks to E T Breakwells who were the day’s main sponsor. Jonathan Wood

East of England

The Section Golf Day at Belton Park was also combined with the retirement of Colin Swiniger. Head Greenkeeper, Colin, was a past Midland Region Board Member and Section Secretary and had been at Belton Park nearly 25 years.

Over 70 people turned out, which included past Greens Chairman and Committee Officials Colin had worked with over the years. The presentation was followed by speeches, one of which the present Greens Chairman, Alan Bishop, did a life story of Colin, which everybody found very entertaining.

Burdens Groundcare sponsored the Golf Day and other donated prizes were by Scotts, Tower Sports, Chandleys, Boughton Loam, Greenpride, Aitkens, Rigby Taylor and Bourne Amenity.

Thanks to Norman Burden and his staff for putting on a great day at Belton. The winner of the main prizes was Graeme Macdonald, Newark Golf Club. Second was Kevin Hodges, Ryston Park, third was Michael Love, Seacroft.

The new Head Greenkeeper at Belton Park is Gary Poole who moves from Northshore. Good Luck in your new post.

Also new to the area to take up the position of Head Greenkeeper is Steve Peters at Blank. Other new members are: Dean Akerman, Bellon, Dean Johnson, Luke Bates and Tom Duff from Boston West.

Graeme Macdonald

South East

It was the first meeting the Section has had on a Friday, and 45 eager competitors made sure they were up early to sort out their golf courses, so they could take part in what proved to be a successful day. Rushmere Golf Club was the venue and the course was in great condition and there was nothing but praise for Course Manager, Pat Swinn, and his staff Andy, Gerry, Mike and Dave. Toro UK were the main sponsors for the day, and what a fantastic prize table we had, not only did Toro UK supply goodies for all the prize winners, they also sponsored four...
par-3 holes, with hole-in-one prizes as follows:- two holidays for two in Barbados, one caddiematic cart and one Toro Workman.

Alas none of the competitors managed the magical feat of a hole-in-one, and as you can imagine the expectation on members faces as they pondered the thought of being taken to the airport in the back of a fellow greenkeepers Toro Workmen to catch their flight to the exotic Caribbean, soon changed to the 'I'd have settled for just hitting the green' look!

Rushmere Captain, Andy Langston, welcomed the Association, and commented on the quality of the golf played, this goes without saying as he played with Ian our secretary. He made comment on the Mizuno driver, and the Cobra 5 wood that Ian was using, as they apparently only cost him £10 from a car boot sale, but had done the trick when it came to 'taming' the course!

I. Willet was the overall winner with 41 Stableford points, and Ian along with his Captain, P Bevin came first in the Greenkeeper/Captain Challenge, sponsored for the fourth year by Toro UK.


Roger Eade, as everyone knows loves to walk round with his trusty camera around his neck, (although I've never seen him take a picture yet!) and he never has any problem finding someone to caddie for. So imagine the surprise when he put it about that he was playing in the competition. Shock all round!

When he put his card in it was apparent that it had been a wind-up, probably due to the 30 and 49 points he and his supposed playing partner, Kevin Leach, had accumulated, for this it was decided that the toilet seat should be awarded to him for over exaggeration!

Thanks must go to the trade for their support, main sponsor for the day Toro UK, plus Atterton & Ellis, Aventis, Consult Clarkson, Grass Roots, K B Leach, Rushbrook & Sons, Scotts UK, Sisis, Tomlinson Groundcare.

Finally many thanks to Ian for his hard work in making it a successful day, especially as Lady his pet Jack Russell passed away away that very morning; she was regularly at our meetings guarding Ian's vehicle, the ankle biter will be missed by all.

Sec you all at Royal Cromer on the 15 August.

Steve Millard

Surrey

All playing members will, I am sure, join with me in congratulating John Davidson and his team for presenting Gatton Manor Golf and Country Club, the venue for the Cresta Cup on June 30, in such magnificent condition. John, will you please thank your directors for the courtesy of their course and also the catering staff for a delicious carvery.

The results: 1, with 44 points, Rob (Gonzales) Schofield. 2, with 37 points, Rick Kenneal. 3, with 36 points, Bob Rogers. Nearest the Pin, Tony Bremer. Longest Drive, John White.

Congratulations also to David Munroch, Surrey Section’s latest Master Greenkeeper, and after early retirement for Nevil Shade, David Langhein and David Wyborn now in joint control at Foxhills.

Brian Willmott

Kent

After a three month absence, we’re back.

June 8 saw the Section’s first golf day of the year. A total of 39 players took part in the National Championship Qualifier at Faversham Golf Club.

After a very wet start to the year, the weather was kind to us with perfect conditions for golf. However, on this occasion it was the golf course that was the winner with some very high scores being returned.


Congratulations to James Bent and Andrew Howarth who qualify for the National Championship. Good luck guys.

Our thanks to both Scotts & Charterhouse for their continued support in sponsoring the day and to all other members of the trade for donations received, helping to make the day a great success.

For a versatile, stylish utility vehicle, there’s nothing more sure-footed than Toro’s new Workman 2100. Superb performance, big payload capacity, tipping cargo bed with separate storage sections, fold-down tailgate and tight turning radius are just some of the attractions.

But its biggest bonus is its unique Toro-exclusive ‘twister’ Active In-Frame Suspension which gives outstanding traction. The ‘twister’ suspension allows 15 degrees of flex in both directions, so the vehicle can travel over uneven terrain when fully loaded and still keep all four wheels on the ground.

To minimise weight, prevent rust and rattling, the new 2100 makes extensive use of durable, heavy-duty plastic bodywork and, with pedal-start accelerator and pedal-stop brakes, is an ideal workhorse for golf courses, sports grounds, parks, campuses, camp sites and many more.

Simple telephone 01480 226800 and we’ll arrange for a local dealer to contact you.
A big thank you also to all at Faversham for all their efforts in making the day very enjoyable.

Our second tournament for this year was held at Brokehill Golf Club on July 25. Results to follow next month.

**Essex**

The 2000 Summer Tournament sponsored by Banks Amenity Products Ltd - thanks Simon - was staged at Theydon Bois GC on 13 June. Head Greenkeeper Jonathan Barnard, along with Dep. Head James Morgan and Assistants Martin Howard, Stephen Heritage and Nicholas Kikkides should be congratulated for their efforts in delivering a well presented course for the 30 or so greenkeepers, trade and guest participants who rose to the challenge of negotiating their way round one of the tightest courses in the Essex Section.

It was decided by the powers that be, to divide the handicap categories into two rather than the usual three groups, these being 0-15 and 16-28. Overall winner of the tournament was, yes, you guessed it, Andy Sheehan, with a very credible 35 points. Andy picked up some more crystal glasses donated by Steve Denton of Rigby Taylor. The top three places in the 0-15 category were 1. Ian Duncan, a new face in our Section with 33 points; 2. Ray Clark, of Channels GC, also with 33 points and 3. Anthony Kirwan, of Colchester, with 31 points.

The 16-28 category results were as follows: 1. D Banks with 26 points, 2. Theydon's own James Morgan, also with 26 points and 3. Peter Cannon, the second of our prize winners from Colchester, who scored 25 points.

Longest Drive went to Stephen Tovey, of Orsett fame. Nearest the pin went to Advanta Seeds new boy, Matt Gresty, who also took the Trade prize with 32 points and finally the Guest prize when to Theydon's greens Chairman, Phil Bowden.

Thanks should be extended to Theydon Bois GC, their catering and clubhouse staff for ensuring our day was as enjoyable, both on and off the course.

Essex Section v East Anglian Section playing for the Tuckwell Cup at Stoke-by-Nayland Golf Club on July 25 will already have been played for and undoubtedly won by our boys. The report will follow in the next issue.

Finally, on a more serious note, I was informed of a few members deserting BIGGA, presumably because they are of the opinion they do not get much out of it. Like everything else, you will only get the most out of them if you are prepared to put a little in. If any club is debating whether or not to affiliate their greens staff to BIGGA and you need convincing as to its benefits, just give me a ring. 01378 551350

Steve Crosdale

**Devon & Cornwall**

The Section would like to congratulate Steve Evans who is moving from St Enodoc GC to take up his new post as Head Greenkeeper at Yelverton GC after many practice runs and his visa clearance to work in Devon. Steve knows he will be with many of his friends at Yelverton and I am sure he will keep the course in a spick and span condition.

As in previous years the Section will be holding six meetings during the winter as follows: October 25, Roffeys Meeting, Dainton Park; November 15 DGM Meeting, Launceston; December 6, P J Flegg Meeting, Okementon; January 31, Barenbrug Meeting, RND; March 1, Avoncrop Meeting, Thurlestone; March 28, Aventis & Supaturf Meeting, Roserrow.

Please note the following booking terms and information listed below for Section meetings.

- Golfing members to receive starting times before meeting with a draw for partners.

**Smithco**

**Always Out Front**

**4 Sprayer models available**

**A range of utility vehicles & trailers available**

for details or a demonstration contact...

**South West and South Wales**

Paula Humphries
Br 01225 392194

---

56 Greenkeeper International August 2000
For our foursome & greensome events you may enter with a partner with your opponents being drawn.

Company and golf presentation to conclude the day.

A levy of £2 will be added to each entry received after the closing date.

As some members have problems paying before meetings, they will be able to continue to pay on the day without being levied as long as the entry has been received before the closing date. Any member who doesn’t attend after entering will be invoiced if no payment is received.

Richard Whyman

South West

I didn’t quite have enough time to receive and publish the results of the Summer Tournament held at Weston GC on November 2, 2000. A match against the South Coast Section taking place at Erlestoke, so I will get them published in next month’s issue. There are a number of other events fast approaching, including a match against the South Coast Section held at Gloucester fire station on June 24.

The mixture of greenkeepers and members would, I’m sure, provoke plenty of lively debates. I’ve no idea at the moment what its like, the thought being what can I write in this month’s Around the Green.

I've no idea at the moment about greenkeeping ana course being what can I write in this month’s Around the Green.

Richard Hatcher

South Wales

I was standing by the 2nd green at the Royal Porthcawl on a fine summers day looking across the rocky foreshore to the Devonshire coast, turned towards the Swansea direction and a thought occurred you know what its like, the thought being what can I write in this month’s Around the Green.

Well it starts by mentioning Pencoed College and their 75th Anniversary and Open Day held on June 24.

The event was well attended with plenty going on and to see from equine, horti/agriculture, floristry and many more interesting things besides. Thanks to those who manned our stand you know who you are.

Then I bring you up-to-date with the goings on at Ashburnham GC and the Management tournament to be held at the Celtic Manor Resort next month. I must mention a huge congratulations to Jim McKenzie and staff for the superb condition of the Celtic Manor during the Wales Open. Although it would have been great to have seen the event live on BBC TV some of us have not got Sky you know.

The Rigby Taylor Qualifying rounds should have taken place towards the end of last month, even I am having a knock this year so look out, myself and David Ward should not be taken lightly, ha ha probably will not make it through the first stage.

Catch up with the stats of the qualifier next month.

Richard Hatcher

SCATS GROUND CARE

Closing Down Sale

OF PROFESSIONAL EX-DEMO STOCK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>RRP</th>
<th>Offer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jacobsen Greensking V c/w Groomers and Backlapping</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>03/12/98</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>£15,135</td>
<td>£10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacobsen Greensking V c/w Backlapping</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>30/03/98</td>
<td>Very Good</td>
<td>£21,329</td>
<td>£10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacobsen LF3800 c/w 9 Blade Reels, 4WD and Roller Scrapers</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>17/07/98</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>£33,095</td>
<td>£20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardi Greens Iron 3000 c/w Trailer</td>
<td></td>
<td>20/05/99</td>
<td>Average</td>
<td>£5,290</td>
<td>£1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacobsen Verticut Units for Greensking V</td>
<td></td>
<td>14/07/98</td>
<td>Mint</td>
<td>£2,795</td>
<td>£1,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ransomes T-Plex 185D c/w Grass Catchers</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>11/06/98</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>£16,600</td>
<td>£9,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacobsen V2222D c/w 940 PTO</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>01/05/99</td>
<td>Mint</td>
<td>£16,420</td>
<td>£8,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wessex HTC18 Scarifier c/w Auxiliary Valve Kit</td>
<td>02/05/99</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>£9,350</td>
<td>£5,500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardi Hand Lance c/w Twin Nozzles</td>
<td>23/4/99</td>
<td>New</td>
<td>£85</td>
<td>£50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trojan Greenkeepers Trailer</td>
<td>30/4/99</td>
<td>New</td>
<td>£952</td>
<td>£50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacobsen Grey Box Kit for Triking 1900</td>
<td>06/05/99</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>£630</td>
<td>£250</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wessex 2.5 Ton Trailer c/w Floatation Tyres</td>
<td>01/01/00</td>
<td>Very Good</td>
<td>£2,740</td>
<td>£1,200</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ransomes G-Plex 2 c/w 9 Blade Cutting Reels</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>10/09/99</td>
<td>Mint</td>
<td>£19,805</td>
<td>£11,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polaris Sportsman 335 ATY</td>
<td>29/10/99</td>
<td>New</td>
<td>£4,695</td>
<td>£3,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polaris Sportsman 335 ATY</td>
<td>07/06/99</td>
<td>Very Good</td>
<td>£4,695</td>
<td>£2,900</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risboro Turf Sparky Rapid Facer</td>
<td>29/1/00</td>
<td>New</td>
<td>£299</td>
<td>£100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Logic UET 402 Unibuild Trailer</td>
<td>02/10/00</td>
<td>New</td>
<td>£495</td>
<td>£400</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lewis 7 Tone Grab Suitable for 35Q Loader</td>
<td>28/3/00</td>
<td>Very Good</td>
<td>£877</td>
<td>£350</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grays S Transport Box c/w Tipper</td>
<td>22/5/00</td>
<td>New</td>
<td>£490</td>
<td>£200</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardi Super Floatation Tyres</td>
<td>31/1/00</td>
<td>New</td>
<td>£2,215</td>
<td>£1,750</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For further details please contact Robert Joy on 0374 700383 or email to robert.joy@scats.co.uk
Northern Ireland

When I was young, the summers lasted forever, now it seems in Golfland the summers go past in a blink of an eye, so I know I'm getting old.

From the first competition in March to the last one in September, Saturdays just seem to be consecutive days.

Probably by now most of you will have had your Captain's Day and I hope the weather was kind and that the day went off well for you. This was the first year for many a year at my club that it didn't rain on Captain's Day; also the sun put in an appearance for an added bonus, so I was especially pleased.

Friday 30 June saw us at a Charity Golf Day at Clandeboye GC. We had a mixture of Greenkeepers, Golf Convenors, Secretary Managers, members of Clandeboye and folk from our trade in attendance.

It was good to see so many turn up, around 80 to support a Charity Day. Many thanks must go to the Captain and Council at Clandeboye GC for giving us the course for the day, and also the catering and bar staff, who looked after us so well.

I was rather disappointed in the condition of the course; I thought Terry would have had his team out started work at Malone GC the previous day and came out on the Friday and cleaned up. Well done Lee!

The team event was won by W D Irwins for the second year in a row, so there must be more golf being played than work going on in that part of the world.

Congratulations lads and I hope you can make it a hat trick next year.

Around £1100 was raised over the day and the charity chosen is the Ward for Sick Children at the RVH. This is a great sum of money and may help a little to buy something the ward really needs.

The day was organised entirely by Terry Crawford. Venue, meals, sponsors, comedian and gathering up as many greenkeepers as possible.

Thanks Terry for a great day and for your obvious hard work that went into it; and we all know it will be a success again next year.

Congratulations to Paul Lappin, who moves from Bangor to Kirkstown as Course Manager.

Good luck Paul and from all the staff at Bangor we wish you the very best.

Russell Graham, First Assistant at Castlerock finally got married on June 23 to his bride Susan. Russell was engaged for nine years, which shows he doesn't rush into anything. Very best wishes to you and your new wife and good luck for the future.

Paul Mathiesen, Head Greenkeeper at Holywood, wins the top student award at NVQ Level 3. Also Alistair Hamilton, Head Greenkeeper at Gilnahirk wins top student at NVQ Level 2 at Greenmount College. Outstanding work lads, keep it up.

New members to the area are Adrian McStraw from Lugan GC and Allister Irvine from Brightcastle.

Hope to see you all at the forthcoming events. Catch you later. Iain Harrison

Ayshire
Alan Forrest
Duncan Grey

Central Scotland
David Leith
Alex Robertson

East of Scotland
Ian Bell
Richard Mullen

North of Scotland
Mike Wilson
Richard Pendlebury

West of Scotland
Gerry Bruen
John Brown

North East
Steve Quince
Barrie Wilson

North West
Jared Ellison
Kevin Irving

Northern
Richard Harris
John Waite

Cleveland
Ollie Shepherd
Darren McGee

Sheffield
Andrew Lomas
Mark Crawford

North Wales
Allen Lawris
Andy Peel

East Midlands
James Tudor
Antony Binsted

East of England
Les Howkins
Graeme Macdonald

Berk's, Bucks & Oxon
Simon Austin
Mike Smith

Mid Anglia
Mark Whittle
Russell Howson

Surrey
Brian Turner
John Groombridge

Kent
James Bent
Andrew Howorth

Sussex
Richard Clarke
Dustin Houghton

London
Richard Andrews
Ian Semple

East Anglia
James Wright
Robert Whiting

Essex
Tony Kynson
Andy Shephard

South West
John Byrne
Gary Cook

South Coast
Marc Green
Darren Miller

Devon & Cornwall
Tony Razor
Mark Tucker

South Wales
Andrew Roach
Steven Lloyd

North Wales
Andrew Roach

USA OFFICE:
50a Market Place
Thirsk, North Yorkshire YO7 1LH
Tel: (01845) 525585
Fax: (01845) 523133
E-mail: horticulture@jmcl.freeserve.co.uk

Humate International, Inc. - www.humateintl.com

Here's what some of our HUMATE + BIO-SYSTEM microbial customers have to say:

"Last summer... I was able to maintain a tight, lush turf with a 3-4" root system, while many courses in the area were losing grass."

"Within 2½ weeks, I had 3" roots with the microbes and 8" roots where I used HUMATE Ag and the microbes together."

"The root mass was 2-3 times that of the non-treated green..."

"Two inches of thatch were reduced to less than '½" in less than two months."