Anyone who believes that US winter temperatures are not warm enough for bermuda growth will have been fortunate enough to play a golf course. But perhaps most important, the memberships/ownership companies of US golf courses have been verticut (to create a seed-bed for the ryegrass seed) is done in October after the courses are maintained to the highest standard. This is purely for aesthetics ie to provide a 'green' appearance year-round.

Pinehurst has bermudagrass tees, fairways and rough. For those who believe that only aesthetics come from the turf, it has been documented in some Greenkeeper International articles that many American courses are intensively manicured and offer 'lush, green fairways', Augusta National GC being the most commonly used example. Have that many people been fortunate enough to play a golf course.

In recent years, Pinehurst has overseeded its courses with perennial ryegrass in the autumn. This is purely for aesthetics ie to provide a 'green' appearance year-round. The recent introduction of new dwarf ryegrass cultivars are now commonplace in the USA. They not only have a fine leaf blade but also offer superb aesthetics. Overseeding is done in October after the courses have been verticut (to create a seed-bed for the ryegrass seed) and it has led to intensive course management year-round for Pinehurst Superintendents.

Here are several points of interest about Pinehurst in relation to overseeding that results in a darker green, not lush, golf course:

- The underlying soils are sandy and free-draining as most links courses.
- Dwarf ryegrass cultivars are now used which produce fine, tight swards.
- Superintendents must irrigate regularly to prevent ryegrass wilt, as Carolina's winter temperatures can still exceed 75 degrees.
- The decision to overseed is from Corporate management. The Superintendents have no choice in the matter.
- It is assumed that guests prefer to play on a green golf course.
- Guests at Pinehurst pay between $140 - $250/round, depending upon which course they play. It is not unreasonable for these guests to expect a well-conditioned golf course for these prices.

The USA is the world leader in turfgrass research and development, having given us Poa annua, Penncross, Providence, dwarf Bermuda & Ryegrasses among many other products. Last year, Michigan State University announced its trials of new annual cultivar development. Food for thought for the BIGGA Turf Managers' fraternity!

Perhaps younger readers may be thinking about enrolling in the OSU Program. Our advice is to go for it! In addition to performing a wide range of turf management practices, you'll also be able to attend the Florida Short-Course. This is a weekend of turfgrass seminars, hosted by OSU Professors, where you'll learn about pests and diseases, warm & cool season grasses etc.

Travelling the USA is fantastic too, with a whole variety of sightseeing and activities on offer. Interns have the opportunity to travel after the expiration of their visa. Watch a Broadway show in New York, sing the blues in Memphis, enjoy Mardi-Gras in New Orleans or marvel at New England's autumn colours. The choices are endless.

America is not a perfect utopia but it is a great country that is full of opportunities. Go try it for yourself - you may be pleasantly surprised!

Our sincere thanks to the Ohio State Intern Program 'team' for the opportunity to participate in this unique program, to Brad Kocher CGCS, Director of Golf Course Maintenance at Pinehurst for continuing to support the OSU Interns, to all our Superintendents we worked with in the USA: Joe Alonzi CGCS, Brian Clodfelter, Jeff Hill CGCS, Paul Jett CGCS, Scott Kriman and Fred Klauk Jr. Best of luck to the OSU Interns at Pebble Beach for the 2000 US Open. Finally, we'd like to thank the many other friends we made in the USA - someday we hope to return to see y'all!
Ayrshire

There was no news last month with nothing much to report. As I type these notes on May 3 we are basking in glorious sunshine and I’m glad I battled on to join the game behind”.

My thanks to David Woodbyrne, Alan and Duncan Gray of The Pines. For Forrest, of Western Gailes, with a little bit of local knowledge.

Best net - Duncan Gray of The Pines. Alan and Duncan both qualify to represent our Section in the National Tournament at St Aines and Fairhaven. Class 1 - Iain Barr, Largs Kelburn; 2. Brian Finlayson, Barassie; 3. John McLaughlin, Prestwick, Nicklaw; 4. Maxwell Small. He commented that it was a privilege to play at such a prestigious venue for our spring tournament and thanked the captain and committee of Western Gailes for granting us courtesy of their course. Jim Devlin and his greenstaff were thanked for presenting the course in such fine condition. Isle of Bute Greenkeepers were also thanked for keeping everyone well fed and refreshed all day.

The annual challenge match of the Regional versus the Secretary’s Association was played at Luffness New Golf Club where I had the honour of partnering Tom Murray of Ratho Park to a narrow victory in an overall 8-2 success for the Greenkeepers. The only other Ayrshire representative was Keith McCarty, of Dumfries and Galloway, who partnered our R A Peter Braza Victoria. Ian told me that he has been appointed Interim Head Greenkeeper with a view to a permanent appointment if all goes well at our renovations on the site. Keith is sure it won’t be long before you make an impression to confirm your position.

Remaining on the promotion subject, Roy Scotts National Championship are David Leith, with the lowest gross score, and Alex Robertson with the lowest nett score from both the autumn and spring ’00 tournaments. Congratulations to them and I am sure they will do their best to bring the trophies back to the Regional Administrator’s office.

The autumn tournament is at Stirling GC in September and hopefully we can have just as large an attendance. The entry forms will be sent out in plenty of time along with details of the next football match and our Sinensial thanks goes to everyone at the Cubs for the allocation of ‘Club 2002’ tickets.

I am still waiting for the match report regarding the football match against the West Section. It’s either very long or Andy is still trying to find adjectives to describe his team’s performance!

This month’s winner of “Club 2000” is Owen Browne with ticket number 00057 and a £50 cheque is on its way to you Owen. Congratulations!

Next month is the first of our summer tournaments. The qualifiers to represent the Borders Sports Championship are Darren McGee. Best Net - Oily Charterhouse/Scotts National Championship are David Leith, his place is taken by the bookies favourite and hopefully we can win a trophy over Dale Robertson’s excellent course. It is one of the toughest courses I have played, so get practising.

I have just received confirmation of my entry to the BIGGA National Championship in Lytham later this year. Hopefully next report I will be able to tell you that I have won a place at our spring outing in Buckpool and am awaiting a refund! Iain Macleod.

Cleveland

The weather tried its best to spoil the spring tournament at Ramside Hall on the 11 April, but despite the persistent rain all 29 competitors completed their rounds, although the winners for both tournaments were completed same so that results can be kept up to date.

Congratulations to....

North

Anyone out there wondering what happened to my Section notes in the April magazine? Well, I did send them in but they got missed somewhere along the line. First time they have gone missing in over eight years and I have been assured it should not happen again.

Looking through them there are some points worth mentioning: First, the two qualifiers for the North and hopefully we can win a trophy over Dale Robertson’s excellent course. It is one of the toughest courses I have played, so get practising.

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North West
Beginning of May and at last the weather has warmed up and the rain has eased, at least for a few days. It certainly puts a different outlook on things with the trees coming into leaf and people are more pleasant. Today a member of one of my bowling clubs actually said "Good morning" and commented on how nice the green looked.

On April 20 we played at Hazel Grove GC and although the rain had not ceased for the previous seven days, we had a dry day except for the last few holes, which gave the tailenders a good soaking. The game should have been a match as we had a sweep and the day was enjoyed by all. I would like to thank Gem Professional for once again sponsoring this annual tournament which has been played for many years. Thanks also to Mike Davie, Head Greenkeeper at Hazel Grove GC and his staff, for what must have been a mammoth task to have the course in such great condition and playable after the continuous rain. Thanks to Hazel Grove GC for allowing us courtesy of the course and the caterers for a great meal. I would also like to thank everybody who turned up to make it a great day and especially the six from N Wales. I am sure you thought it was worth coming. The next tournament is the summer meeting at West Derby CC on Wednesday 28 June. Lunch will be served between 12 noon and 1pm. The tee will be available from 1.30 pm. All applications, including a cheque for £15 made payable to BIGGA N.W. to be sent to Peter Cross, Harthill Lodge, Harthill Road, Liverpool L18 3HU, no later than Friday 23 June. Evening meal and prize presentations to take place once the golf is completed. Smart dress in the evening please.

Any news contact me on 07808 196538.

Steven Jaques

North Wales
The annual N West versus N Wales match, was lost before a ball was hit. A combination of Easter weekend and trade members not allowed to play meant we couldn't raise a team. Our apologies to the N West, Hazel Grove and Gem the sponsors. It's just one of those things. I know even if I was the keenest golfer in the world, I wouldn't have been able to make it. Three short weeks on the run isn't conducive to taking extra days off, especially with the weather leading up to and including Easter. More golf, we got the regional qualifiers wrong. They are Sc 9- Allen Lewis and Andy Peel, Reserves Darryl Davies and Ian Buckley, 10-18 Craig Wheeler and Matthew Pooley, Reserves Paul Massey and Leo Parry, 18-24 Jeff Jago and Pete Sproston, Reserves Eric Rowlands and Aiden Jones to be held on the 10 August at Fishwick Hall. I hope we've got that right now. Golf, silly game, far too complex for me. Think I'll take up quantum physics, far simpler and I bet it's far less irritating. Don't get me wrong, love greenkeeping, but the game just brings out the worst elements of human nature and I for one don't need the hassle that goes with it. Nothing ever goes smoothly. A lot of effort is put in and a load of rubbish comes out. Maybe I'm holding the clubs wrong. Now, seriously, I think that everyone involved in this industry needs to look at themselves when it comes to the game itself, analyse it truthfully and I think the majority wouldn't like what they saw.

See ya

Dave Goodridge
Northern
It had to happen again. Our return visit to Bradley Hall GC for the spring tournament, sponsored by White Moss Amenities, was cancelled again due to the white stuff, heavy hail. With everyone playing at least seven holes and we had a count back over the last 3 holes played, the results are as follows: Div 1. 1. Dave Collins, 2. Richard Barker, 3. Brian Hudson. Div 2. 1. Alvin Fawcett, 2. Richard Smith, 3. Tito Arana. Div 3. 1. Jim Brown, 2. Dave Thackery, 3. Les Kirkbright. Trade Prize, Mike Bcrae. Longest Drive, Andrew Clark, sponsored by Acorn. Nobody reached the nearest the pin so this will be played for at another event. No silverware was presented, but the sponsor's prizes were given out as normal.

Many thanks to the Head Greenkeeper, Alan Court and his staff for the condition of the course, shame about the weather, and their assistance on the day. Thanks also to the catering staff for...
the meal and the golf club committee for the golf course. Final thanks to White Moss Admire for sponsoring the event.

The qualifiers for the National Championship and Regional Final Golf Day will now be played at Woodhall Spa. Members will allow us courtesy of the course.

The trip to the Scott's factory is to go ahead and I will be writing to those who have shown interest, but there are still some places left.

We welcome this month as new members: Matt Bolton, Leeds Golf Club; Stuart Jeffs, of Rigby Taylor, the Midland Section, and myself.

The afternoon round - an 18 hole medal - was the qualifying event for the National Tournament, to be played at St Anne's Old Links and Fairhaven Golf Clubs in September. The two golfers who qualify for this event are Russell Howson and Mark Whittle, both from Woodhall Spa, who had a 72 gross and 79 net respectively. I'm sure they will be pleased to represent the Section and Midland Regional team at such a prestigious event. We wish them both well.

Our final thanks go to all our trade members, who once again supported our golf day; particularly in the case of Mark Pyrah, represented by Mark Pyrah, who provided the prize table. Simon Hedley, of Boughton Loam, was the best trade player on the day with the Stableford points in the morning round.

Teams who entered the Lodgeway Four Ball competition should have received the draw by now, please enter all 12 matches and play by the appropriate dates.

David Forsyth, of Mid Herts Golf Club, has been recruited onto the committee with Barenbrug, in place of Neil Whittaker. A new Regional Administrator - Les Emery - has recently been appointed to replace Peter Larter. Paul Lockett

**Midland**

With record levels of rainfall recorded and the cold temperatures we have experienced in April, it has not been one of the easiest months for all greenkeepers. It was then no great surprise that our scheduled spring tournament at South Staffs had to be cancelled.

I do hope all of you who entered this tournament got the message and can make the rearranged date. I will therefore have to report all the results in next month's issue. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any information that is of importance at section level. Once again I would ask anyone who has information to put into this report please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

**East Anglia**

Our first meeting of the year was held at Haverhill Golf Club on a bright spring day. The 18 hole Medal competition was the section qualifier for the Charterhouse/Scotts National Tournament. The course was in excellent condition and all credit must go to Alan and his team; Glen, Jamie and Gary for all their hard work. Signs of the one inch of rain that fell the previous day were barely noticeable, although the amount and speed of water that ran through the stream on the course proved more difficult in the conditions the day before.

Once again, many thanks Alan.

Steven Nicholls, Haverhill's Welcome, the Section and hospitality on the day.

Stuart Jeffs, of Rigby Taylor, the main sponsors, was unable to present the cup but we hope he is on the mend and playing with us soon.

The cup and the Scottish Cup are now dependent on the commitment of the section members. 4. To organise and promote three matches against other golf associations. These will be dependent on the commitment of the section membership.

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Once again, many thanks Alan.

Steven Nicholls, Haverhill's Welcome, the Section and hospitality on the day.

Toilet seat, M. Taylor again! This was won for failing to return the seat after earning the right to have his name engraved on it at our last meeting. As members of the Section know, this trophy represents those times when the BOTTOM drops out of your game, but in this instance I think Mike just wanted to SIT on it a little longer!

Thanks to all the trade for their company and for their help with the prize table. Charterhouse, Scotts UK, Aventis, Rigby Taylor, Rushbrook & Sons, Sheriffs, Sisis, Tomlinson Groundcare, Toro UK, Turl Care.

Future dates and venues: June 9 - Rushmere; July 25 - Stoke by Nayland v Essex; August 15 - Royal Cromer; October 10 - Waldringfield Heath; December 19 - Thorpeness.

2001 venues: Felixstowe Ferry, Eaton, Richmond Park, Purdis Heath and Thorpeness. Last, but by no means least, it was good to see Derek Farringon swinging a golf club again. He appears well on the mend.

See you all at Rushmere.

Steve Millard

Surrey

I am typing this on May 5 and hopefully the second second of the millennium has arrived and the glow on the faces of our members has been replaced with the warm glow of anticipation of fine dry summer days with a hint of rain during the night. By the time you all read this in June, we will know.

Our spring golf meeting took place on May 4 at Merrist Wood Golf Club and the best nett and best gross qualifier for the Charterhouse/Scotts National Competition was that perhaps next time they will be won.


Many thanks to Merrist Wood Golf Club for the courtesy of their course and a special thank you to Tom Smith and his team for the fine presentation. The only mild criticism from some of the longer hitters was that perhaps next time they should play from the ladies tees and the less able golfers should stay in the bar. Joking aside, Merrist Wood is a long course and a true test for all amateur and professional golfers.

Our next Golf Day is on June 30 and the venue is Galton Manor Golf and Country Club, somewhere in the deepest Surrey countryside. Please contact the Course Manager, John Davidson, who will be willing to supply, for a small fee, a map, a compass, a passport and the optional inoculations some think acceptable when on safari.

Brian Willmott

Essex

New Members: Mark Paxton joins us from Canons Brook Golf Club in Harlow, along with Jody Dawkes from Regiment Way and Nicholas Pomet of Bentley GC.

Golf Days: Forrester Park was the venue for this year's Charterhouse/Scotts National Championship qualifier and Avoncrop Amenity/Tuckwells sponsored Spring Trophy, with 40 people including trade and guests attending the day. On a wet and windy day and on a course with fairways no wider than your average 'A' road, scores were expected to be high, but all sections were won by scores within one or two of the par 72.

Qualifiers for the National Championship were: Best Gross, Andy Sheehan, Bentley GC. Best net, Tony Kirwin, Colchester GC. Best 'boof' coloured wind muscle tops?

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Brian Willmott

Trade prize went to Steve Denton, of Rigby Taylor, who shot a magnificent net 66 with Forrester Park Social Secretary, Peter Stuart winning the guest prize with a nett 69. Longest Drive went to Forrester Park Head Greenkeeper, Roland Hughes, and a surprise Nearest the Pin winner was Martin Forrester. All in all a very good day for the committee who, with the exception of Dominic Rodgers, Come on Don, took home some lovely prizes including 'boof' coloured wind proof tank tops, or were they muscle tops?
very little to report this month. Richard Whyman

South Wales
We gathered together on April 5 at Pencoed College for a combined BIGGA/IOG Quiz. Five teams of three people answered question from our very own Chris Tarrant, Malcolm Davis. Team 1 The Handsomes: H. Evans, A. Hatcher, T. Cavell. Team 2 The Wellies: C. Jones, H. Purnell, A. Hughes. Team 3 The Academics: P. Gillard, P. Discombe, M. Cook. Team 4 The Not Intelligence: Myself, A. Panks, R. Patterson. Team 5 The Poa's: T. Home, D. Ward, P. Lacey. Thanks to score master Colin Murphy for the final outcome with team one winning with 52 points and a bottle of whisky each, lucky them: Team 3 second with 30 points: Team 4, third with 49 Points: Team 4, fourth with 42 Points: Team 5, fifth with 39 points. No wonder team 1 won they had Ted Cavell on there side who has seemed to have travelled the world like Fillias Fogg and team 2 had David Ward, an old seadog himself.

I can only express what I have heard about Westurf which was again a good success with many trade stands and good entertainment.

On May 3, at Southerndown Golf Club the Spring Tournament was held with best Gross 80, A Roach. Best Net 64. Steven Lloyd receiving the Cardiff Cup. Both the Best Nett & Best Gross also won themselves entry to this year's National Championship courtesy of Scotts. 2nd Best Net 65. Gareth Evans: 3rd Best Net 75 Bob Hannah just beating Chairman Adrian Panks by one shot. Thanks also to secretary Alan Hughes and to Southerndown GC for courtesy of the course and to G Johnson and his team. To the caterers for food and thanks again to Martin Townsend from Scotts for sponsorship of the day.

This years Match against GC

South West and South Wales
Paula Humphries
Tel: 01238 352104

South West
and South Wales
The Westurf 2000 took place again at the purpose built arena at Westpoint, Exeter, located just minutes off the M5 motorway. The indoor arena created a superb atmosphere, very similar to BTME, allowing visitors to catch up on the latest developments within our industry.

Visitors also had the chance to sample the hospitality on the BIGGA stand and to meet our Chairman, Elliott Small, Executive Director, Neil Thomas and Tracey Maddison, who were on hand to answer any questions. The seminars were very well supported and run throughout the day.

Our congratulations must go to our Regional Administrator, Paula and the Regional Board, for an excellent show which saw a rise in attendance. Hopefully next year, as the word gets around, we will have more opportunities in the near future for you to get out of the house for a few hours and end up in the nearest public house. Who knows, you might even learn something in the process.

Steve Crosdale.

Devon and Cornwall
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Steve Crosdale.

South Coast
Very little to report this month. At going to press we had not played
Secretaries is to be held at Tredegar Park GC. on August 11. 1pm tee off.

Richard Hatcher

South West

Well, finally we have reached the halfway mark of the year and of course the weather in June will be gloriously hot. This is a far cry from the erratic spring weather we experienced. April had three times its normal rainfall and had depressed greenkeepers reaching for the bottle of Prozac.

This weather was typified at Clevedon Golf Club which hosted the spring tournament and National Qualifier, sponsored once again by Scotts and Charterhouse. The rain came down in biblical proportions. However, it was nice to see a number of new faces attending a sectional event for the first time.

Paula Humphries and Martin Townsend, from Scotts, saw all the competitors off from the first tee. Everyone agreed that the Clevedon greenkeepers had done an amazing job in getting the course cut and looking superb despite the rain. The greens in particular remained excellent to putt on, although eventually the rain won the day and a couple of the greens started to flood severely.

By the time everyone had passed through the 11th hole, a decision was made to abandon the tournament and the winners would be decided from a score of the front nine scores only.

The results of the National Qualifier sponsored by Scotts and Charterhouse were as follows: Low Handicap Winner, Gary Cook. Lowest Gross, Byrne. Kevin Day and Ben Davies were runners up.

Without doubt, the main talking point of the day was a hole-in-one placed it on the bar for anyone to chase a bottle of whisky and poured himself a large treble.

Once again thanks should go to Scotts and Charterhouse for their continued support of this event, the local greenkeepers, catering staff and the secretary for allowing us courtesy of the course.

The next tournament will be the summer tournament at Erlestoke Sands Golf Club in Wiltshire on July 13. I'm sure this event will attract large numbers.

Remember to contact me if you would like to participate on a particular training and education course. I am still waiting for the first person to show an interest in taking over the monthly report writing and education and training officer. I step down at the next AGM in November, so someone will have to take over.

Get your applications in early to avoid disappointment.

Paul Cunningham

It's the first week in May and I'm sitting outside the Green Shed writing these notes (on my lunch break I might add). The sun is burning the top of my head (after a closer than usual crew cut) and I'm watching golfers on the green just in front enjoying their golf; yes conditions are present are heavenly – great cutting days, fine growing conditions, and, with the sun shedding its golden glint over the course, everything looks super. It was great to see the sun after such a long absence and it took my staff and me a few days to work out just what that great yellow thing was in the sky. But anyway enough rambling, here's some news.

The first of our socialising events or golf days was held at Belvoir Park on Tuesday, April 11. The weather wasn't the kindest, what with heavy hailstone showers and a bitterly cold wind, but a turn out of around 35 ventured out to brave the elements.

The course was beautifully presented and full credit must go to Pat Devlin and his staff for courtesy of the course was excellent. The catering staff who served up excellent grub that was eaten rapidly.

Our sponsors for the day were Drilling and Pumping Services. This is a company relatively new to our industry, which provides a full range of irrigation installation and superb back up. Alan Hatcher, the Managing Director and partner, joined in the golf and afterwards at prize giving gave us a brief chat about the services his company provides. Drilling and Pumping services can be contacted on 028 9181 8347. Once again many thanks. The prizes were won by Stephen Brady, of Royal County Down, in first place, Gary Murphy, of Silverwood Golf Club, in second, and in third place Noel Crawford, also from Royal County Down.

Apologies to the sponsors – our Chairman, Graham Wylie, wasn't there, but he allegedly attached the wrong date to the wrong day and in a tizzy completely missed the whole event. At least that's his side of the story, but no harm done as the day was a great success.

Congratulations to Terry Crawford and Nigel Aitken who have been picked to go to the BIGGA Open Championship Support Team. Volunteering your own time and holidays is very commendable and I hope you enjoy your trip.

New members to the Region are William Walker, from Royal Portrush, and Gavin White, from Portstewart Golf Club. We'll be delighted to see you all at our next event on June 30th. The Charthouse/Scotts National Championship is to be held at Clandeboye Golf Club. If you wish to play in this event phone Terry on 0410 076663 and book a tee-off time. Do not turn up without booking as this is a very well attended event with upwards of 100 players, and you may find that you might not be accommodated.

A fee of £20, which includes your golf, supper and entertainment should be paid before you play on the day. This is open to all Greenkeepers, Secretary Managers and Green Conveyors, so please do try to make the effort to come along. It's a worthwhile cause.

See you later!

Iain Harrison

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Sprayers and spray related products
Bill Oliver looks at the latest legislation which effects sprayers and gives some useful advice on how to stay on the right side of it...

Spray away

It is virtually impossible for dealer sales staff to be on top of all the latest in sprayer health and safety legislation so perhaps the best policy is to ask the people at the sharp end – the manufacturer, through its sales representative.

With that in mind I offer the following assistance in understanding the latest regulations which have been brought in to assist with safe spraying.

**Ground Water**

Ground water regulations after spraying. You are not allowed to flush sprayer washings down the drain or onto waste ground.

The sprayer must be fully rinsed and sprayed back out over sprayed or designated areas.

That's the regulations but it's more than that. A clean sprayer is a safe sprayer.

There are three main ways to rinse sprayer units properly:

- A full tank of water but make sure it is to the brim of the tank, cleaning inside roof of tank and operate all controls to flush out pipes. Spray out as required.
- Carry extra water. In a full rinsing system this must have a rinsing head fitted to clean tank properly and have at least 10% of tank capacity of clean water. Rinse and operate all controls. Spray out as required.
- Carry cleaning head fitted and put clean water at least 10% of tank...