BAREINE
Perennial Ryegrass

- Extremely fine-leafed cultivar
- Very slow re-growth
- Superb low maintenance
- Blends extremely well with fine-leafed species
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APPLICATIONS
- Golf: tees, fairways, (semi) roughs and greens
- Turf production
- Cricket: wickets, squares, outfields
- Tennis courts
- Ornamental lawns

Bariene is available in the following mixtures; BAR PLATINUM, BAR EXTREME and BAR 6.
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Managing without Chemicals

We are fortunate to be living in a time of considerable scientific and ecological enlightenment, for in such an era we will prove that turf grasses can be successfully maintained without resorting to synthetic chemicals. It is becoming abundantly clear that legislation will increasingly limit the use of chemicals so we must therefore concentrate our energies on finding alternative solutions.

The prospect of managing a turf grass environment without utilising chemicals may one day be feasible. The advances being made in researching maintenance practises, developing resistant grass cultivars and exploring biological alternatives to synthetic chemicals may soon enable us to adopt chemical free maintenance practises.

The task of managing golf courses without resorting to chemical solutions is a path that many of today’s most progressive managers are beginning to tread. There are a number of sound reasons for this strategy, principally the European Union’s increasing restrictions on pesticide usage, growing environmental awareness, inherent risks to personal health along with the financial costs combine to instil on us the need to seek alternatives where ever possible.

Through the examination of the most prevalent problems to affect our turf grass environment we may be able to explore non-chemical alternatives. The most frequent attacks, normally dealt with by chemicals, that are ravaged on turf grasses include worm casting along with invasion by animals, pests, weeds and pathogens. These common concerns may yet be controlled by non-chemical means. While many potential solutions may be too expensive or time consuming to implement, they may nevertheless prove themselves in the long term.

Worm casting can leave even the most beautifully manicured courses horrendously muddied. Restrictions on the use of chemical controls have led us to explore various alternatives. One method that has been suggested would be the incorporation of a layer of sharp angular gravel, course sand or even broken glass beneath the rootzone, very much like the construction of USGA specification greens. Obviously this would be a costly operation, feasible really only during construction, however the benefits over time may yet make this a prudent alternative, especially with the added drainage benefits which could prove effective as our climate gets wetter and as golfers demand perfect year round amusement. Such barriers to surface earthworm activity have previously met with considerable success.

The persistent problem of animal activity on the golf course has been shown to be effectively managed without resort to chemicals. A great deal of damage can be wrought by many bird and animal species as they seek a tasty subsurface meal. Whilst it is plausible to use a shotgun to prevent damage, several more novel ideas are beginning to appear which reduce turf grass disruption without wildlife injury. The use of trained dogs on the golf course to chase away individual species of animals and birds that have been identified with specific damage has been initiated and would appear to be both environmentally sound as well as cost effective. The use of lion dung, at spaced intervals, has been very little option once an area has been infected than to seek chemical assistance. However, recent developments suggest that natural biological alternatives may offer similar success. The discovery that a compound from Peach Oil may be a suitable substitution for synthetic compounds such as methyl bromide. It has been found that the peach essence kills Fusarium oxysporum, Pythium aphanidermatum along with various other soil pathogens, which lead scientists to believe that it may be a very suitable fungicide. Equally important though was that this peach oil was found to favour beneficial organisms in that soil.

In the context of natural chemicals another excellent alternative may come from the world’s coral reefs. Australian scientists appear to have isolated a group of compounds that disable an enzyme that is specific to the photosynthesis of most weed plants and yet have no negative effect on grass plants. Research like this will undoubtedly provide genuine encouragement in the bid to provide a synthetic chemical free maintenance regime for the turfgrass environment.

We are certain to see the continued use and development of chemicals within our industry, used sympathetically in conjunction with cultural and biological practises, they will provide us with the necessary tools to produce perfect playing surfaces.

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Managing Without Chemicals

It is hoped that scientists will be able to provide similar organic based compounds to deal with turf grass pests such as leatherjackets. The control of pests of this nature will no doubt provide a real challenge. Novel suggestions have included the use of scarab beetles, parasitic flies, colonies of Bats or even the introduction of predatory non-indigenous organisms may also prove effective. While these may be concepts such as these that may yield success. The introduction of the mechanical devices, already in standard use, to apply both water and air under high pressure directly into the soil, may also help to control such pests. At present however it is clear that the controlled use of chemicals is without question the most effective method of dealing with the previously mentioned turf grass dilemmas.

Whatever alternatives there may be to chemicals, there are no alternatives to good greenkeeping practice. There can be no substitute for maintaining turf grasses in their healthiest state. Good cultural practices contribute significantly to reducing the threat of pathogen, weed or pest invasions. The employment of appropriate seed and seed bed sanitation will provide the purest crop. The planting of disease-resistant species and cultivars is essential.

Once established then maintenance practices must be used that promotes the health of the plant particularly at times of potential pathogen or pest ingress. The use of sound cultural practices is vital. There can be no substitute for encouraging better percolation and infiltration as well as a reduction in thatch. Neither can we fail to maintain turf grasses at their optimum heights and with appropriate fertiliser levels to ensure greater health whilst also ensuring regular dew removal. Similarly keeping cutting reeds perfectly sharp and even to ensure minimal plant injury and stress. All of these factors not only contribute to reducing the incidence of disease, but heighten the golf course is presented in the best possible fashion.

The continuation and extension of funding with regard to alternative as well as conventional research into matters relevant to the turf grass environment, is essential if we are to progress towards a chemical free approach. New research at present has had encouraging results with the use of beneficial soil microbes which greatly contribute to the health of the grass plant. This had undoubtedly become one of the focal areas of current work with positive results regarding plant uptake of nutrients, better seedling establishment, disease resistance and reduced growth.

Similarly, new developments in the creation of new grass cultivars will continue to be an important focal area as scientists attempt to create new super grasses. Standard cross breeding procedures are likely to be allied with genetic engineering in future years providing we can reconcile our moral dilemmas about tampering with nature. With such tools at our disposal we may see the creation of greens quality grasses that contain compounds that can repel pathogens and pests.

It is becoming apparent that if current research continues there will be significant changes in our industry within that next few decades. If we analyse developments as they have happened during the last fifty years, we can see that every new year has brought a greater number of changes than the last. This trend will continue, as it does in all scientific fields, to provide increasing research that may yet lead to the possibility of a chemical free future for the turf grass manager.

We must however be wary of over-confidence for despite fantastic scientific breakthroughs, there is very little evidence to suggest that we may ever master the turf grass environment without the use of synthetic chemicals. Whether the fungicides that we are creating are natural or not, and regardless of our advances in developing increasingly resistant grasses, neither of these strategies have previously offered a permanent solution to turf grass ailments. Most plant pathogens have proved themselves able to mutate very rapidly to become resistant to all but the most toxic of fungicides, similarly pathogens are very adaptable at disguising themselves so that they become recognisable to plants carrying genes with previously resistant characteristics. We have just cause for concern that any of our new developments will share a similar fate as pathogens continue to prove their adaptability.

It would seem that on present evidence, although there may be some very interesting developments, we must conclude that the controlled use of chemicals will undoubtedly continue to be a very important part of greenkeeping. Most superintendents have adopted the sensible approach by combining cultural, chemical and biological practises as their management policy. This integrated management concept has proved itself most successful and we can be justified in advocating it. While we may be on the verge of a new era, we should undoubtedly stick to the tried and trusted. This though is not to say that we should forever forsake new ideas, rather that these ideas, particularly if they are at the cutting edge, should be thoroughly investigated before adoption.

It appears likely therefore that we must reconcile our desires for a chemical free environment against their proven effectiveness. Nevertheless we should encourage any proven approaches to turf grass management that do not require chemical applications. Good cultural practices are vital to keep the turf grass environment at a healthy advantage over potential pathogenic invasion. No doubt the combination of these two operations will form the cornerstone of future management practices. Continued investment in research projects will assuredly provide many new and exciting possibilities that may forever change work practices within our profession. However irrespective of such hypotheses we are certain to see the continued use and development of chemicals within our industry, used sympathetically in conjunction with cultural and biological practises, they will provide us with the necessary tools to produce perfect playing surfaces.
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For details of your nearest distributor call (01277) 301116.
The Scottish National Tournament will be held on Tuesday June 12 by kind permission of the management of Drumoig Hotel and Golf Club. The cost of the event will be £17 which includes seed-vide, filled roll and an evening meal.

Entry will be restricted depending on the number of entries received. Entry forms will be available at all Section meetings and from the Regional Administrator.

All entries, with remittance, must be sent to the Regional Administrator, Peter J. Boyd, 10 Meadowburn Avenue, North Deeside, Aberdeen AB22 8LY. Entry closes on Sunday June 3. Cheques made payable to BIGGA Scottish Region.

Peter Boyd

North

New members continue to roll in. This month we welcome the following: Norman Rose from Hazelhead, Graham Dounson from Stonehaven, Rodney Allan from Auchterarder and Richard Johnstone from Nairn Dunbar, while re-joining the Section is Robert Allan from Hazelhead.

I really enjoyed my trip to the USA for the GCSAA Show in Dallas and the following week went to South Carolina and Atlanta to play some golf. While visiting East Lake, Bobby Jones's home course, I met a friend who was working there. Kevin roomed with me at the Open when it was at Royal Birkdale a few years back. He was a student at Elmhurst College then and is currently doing a year as an intern at East Lake, sampling greenkeeping USA style. A great opportunity for young greenkeepers today and he recommends it to anyone back home thinking about it.

I attended the Scottish one day conference in Dunfermline last month and was delighted to see a large contingent of North members in the 180 or so fleet, with a great turnout, maybe due to the weather we have had this winter.

It was a great day and very informative, congratulations to Peter Boyd and the committee for putting it all together. I know I went on about asking everyone to buy their 200 Club tickets this year as it was our only fund raiser, but I didn’t realise we were so poor that we couldn’t afford stamps to quickly send them out, or was I the only one that had to pay 69p to the post service to get my letter with 200 Club tickets enclosced! Stewar asserts he is the person to take this up. I am left with a report on the day and I look forward to see all the usual faces and maybe some new faces as well. Please try and help Sandy out by returning entry forms on time. Once again, our thanks go to John Scott, his staff and the Kirkhill membership for the use of their course.

Two football matches will have been played during March, one against the Central Section the other against Maryhill Police. Stuart Taylor after many years of sterling service eventually cracked under the tremendous pressure. The management and the Section football team put’s on a man and has handed over the running of the football team to Gerard (Houllier) Bruin. Gerry would like anyone who is interested in playing in future matches to contact him at East Kilbride GC on 01933 36335.

On an educational note, Mike Dooner, of Thorntree Landscapes, has kindly offered a West Section assistant/traine to the opportunity to visit BTME at Harrogate next year. In order that all eligible BIGGA West Section members have an opportunity to win this great award the committee are considering an essay competition. Details of the competition have still to be finalised but the essay subject will be released in the June edition of Greenkeeper.

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Peter Boyd

Central

This month we welcome another six new members to the Section and they are Asexten Cameron and Robert Robertson, from the Dukes Course, St Andrews; David Cartmill and George Anderson, from Downfield Club; Garry McKenna and Stuart Thomson, from West Lothian Golf Club and as I always seem to say, hopefully we will have the chance to meet some o you at our forthcoming conference in Dunfermline last month, which is at Scotsnaig Golf Club on the 19th of this month, will be your first chance to attend an event so if you haven’t done so, get yourselves straight away.

Any member who has not received their entry form for this event should get in touch with me ASAP!

Last month’s Club 200 draw are Archie Dunn with ticket number 008 and Vice Chairman of BIGGA, Richard Barker, with ticket number 157. Your cheques are in the post.

Thanks to those who got in touch following the Section report in the February issue of Greenkeeper International. S. Comah, T. Harper, T. Lowrie, T. Mervyn, N. Howie, A. Gibson and a special thanks to I. Knight and S. McGregor.

It was pleasing to see so many Section members at the Scottish Conference in Dunfermline last month and we even managed one from a local club! Well done Kenny Duncan, from Dunfermline Golf Club, sorry Fraser! One member who cannot miss his place is Donnie Sconie who (and I have this on good authority) was too busy searching for "lost" treasure on Scoonie Golf Course.

It was an excellent day of speakers and I look forward to see all the usual faces and maybe some new faces as well. Please try and help Sandy out by returning entry forms on time. Once again, our thanks go to John Scott, his staff and the Kirkhill membership for the use of their course.

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Peter Boyd

West

Welcome to this month’s West Section news. As the time approaches it is a great shame if any of you have any interest you? If you do have any suggestions feel free to contact me on the number given below. On a more positive note we would like to welcome John Yeats on board as one of our trade members. The committee would also like to welcome all the new West Section members below. Welcome to Victor Cavine, Hamilton GC; Christopher Mayle, Williamwood GC; Ian Malcolm More, Aberfoyle GC; Douglas Steele, Aberfoyle GC; Stuart Orr, Aberfoyle GC, and Peter Donald McVicar, Machrinish GC. We look forward to meeting you all at up and coming Section events.

Well that’s my report for this month and if you have any comments remember if any of you have anything you would like added in the column please call me on 013552 60862.

Brian Bolland

North East

Apologies to Matfen Hall Golf Club. Last month, we said the club was to start work on another nine holes in the spring. In fact, they are currently at the stage of seeking planning approval for the extension. Apologies for any embarrassment caused.

Jimmy Richardson

Northern Region

North

I apologise for missing last month’s report; I wasn’t feeling too well. The Spring Tournament will be held on Tuesday 24 April at Fleny GC with a 12 clock tee off. The cost of this day’s golf including a meal, prizes and a good crack is only £15. Payment to be made in full to any committee member before 17 April. Places will be on a first come first in basis, with cheques made payable to BIGGA Northern Section. The trophies that were won at last year’s President’s Day are for the Spring Tournament. Could trophy winners please bring them back for the Spring Tournament!
The rest of the fixtures are President's Day, Harrogate GC, 19 June; - Roses Match, Sand Moor GC, 22 August; - Invitation Day, Harrogate GC, 12 September; - Autumn Tournament, Woodhouse Hall GC, 18 October; - Winter Golf, Headingley GC, 5 December. It is with regret that after six years on the committee, four as Secretary and one as Chairman, Simon Heppenstall has decided to step down from the committee. The committee would like to thank Simon for his hard work in keeping the Section going over the years. I would like personally to thank Simon for his help and advice in helping me settle into my role.

Your new Chairman is Jim Brown, and Vice-Chairman is Dave Thackray. Speaking of Jim, you may have read in February's magazine. I can now report that Jim couldn't leave his beloved Yorkshire and is now staying at Cookridge.

We welcome Jason White, Halifax Bradly Hall GC; Joseph Cassell, Neil Charles, Oakdale GC; Alastair Bolch, York GC; Graham Wilson, Boothferry Park GC; Roger Mackrell, Gary Anderson, Moortown GC; Andrew Cox, Ilkley GC; John Allerton, Lightcliffe GC; Robert Turner, Halifax GC; David Kendall, Craig Finnegan, West Bradford GC; Alan Martin, Heworth GC; Martin Green, Bradford GC; Brian Kirkby, Grimsby GC; David Chadwick, Moor Allerton GC; Stefan Jones, Pke Hills GC; Christopher Barnacle, Fulford GC; Tom Bennett, Bradford Moor GC; Steve Townsdale, North Cliffe GC; Gary Dyson, Pontefract & District GC; David Syer, Branshaw GC; David Bateman, Odey GC as new members.

There is no other news at the moment, if anybody as any then let me know. My address is 67 Asquith Street, Morley, Leeds, LS27 9QS; Tel: 0113 2383188: mobile 07790 678572, Email: a Sampson

North West

Very little to write about this month other than a snippet of news from Wilmsho Golf Club. Steve Oultram tells me that one of the staff from Wilmsho has just officially retired. He is Ernie Bartlett who is 84 years old, and has worked at Wilmsho for 32 years. He retired from full time employment at 65, and since then he has worked three days a week. Steve tells me that until he was 74 years old he was cutting fairways with a tractor and trailing gang, and then he took on the job of driving tees and fairways, while keeping the clubhouse areas clean and tidy.

I am sure we all wish him the best in his retirement years (perhaps he will take up golf).

The Spring Tournament is at Mere Golf & Country Club on Monday, April 23, and you need to apply to Bill Merritt, 225, Utting Avenue, Clubmoore, Liverpool, L4 9RB enclosing a cheque for £15. Lunch is 1230pm to 1pm, and the tee is available from 130pm till 230pm. Get your applications in quick because we are restricted to 50 in number.

The match between the Northwest and North Wales is to be played on Tuesday, May 1, at Aberygele GC. The tournament is sponsored by Gem Professional, and I require a team of 16 to retain the GEM trophy. If you are available please contact me as soon as possible on mobile 077615 833387 or 0151 7245412

Best Cross

Editor's Note: Apologies for the fact that Bert and Billy Merritt's addresses were printed incorrectly in the March magazine.

Cleveland

It's time to dust the cobbles off your golf clubs, polish your golf shoes because the Spring Tournament is upon us and this year it will be played at Wenside Golf Club on April 24. There are still a few places left so book call Barry Walker on mobile 07968 308929/home 01915 650691. The entry fee is £10 including meal and remember a bad day's golf is better than a good day's work...

This year's summer knockout, The Cleveland Shield is again sponsored by Carrs. Many thanks to them for their very generous and continued support.

To enter again call Barry the tee 22, the first round draw will take place at the Spring Tournament so make sure you enter before then. If you are unable to attend, Jim Thompson will be overseeing and hoping to get past the first round this year!

Jim is leaving the Wynyard Club and is moving to join Paul Moore, Course Manager at Darlington Golf Club, and his team. He has been at Wynyard for five years the first six months of which he worked without pay! Everyone at Wynyard wishes him good luck in his new role.

And finally, Tony Burge, Head Greenkeeper at Richmond Golf Club, the man who never leaves anywhere without a prize strikes again, he won a share of the mushroom this year's BTME in a draw put on by Course Care. Any news call 01719133812

Steven Jaques

What is Vaminoc-G?

A mycorrhizal inoculant for fine turf that produces enhanced root density and depth and increased stress tolerance.
North Wales

Not a lot to write about this month. Firstly, though, my apologies to Sportsworld for omitting them from the list of sponsors for the Xmas comp.

The Section wishes Dewi Hughes, Head Greenkeeper at Penhelli Golf Club, a long, healthy and happy retirement.

By the time you read this you should have heard about our next Meeting at Rudkin Golf Club. However I write as the Foot and Mouth epidemic is rampant so God only knows. Access to the countryside is a problem and it is not just at our course, as most of our courses are surrounded by farmland it can only be a matter of time before our industry is affected. I know it is nothing compared to the terrible hardship that the farming community is suffering, and our thoughts must be with them.

As mentioned previously, this is the last issue before our winter programmes. Everyone I have spoken to so far has welcomed the news that the spring meets will be held in March.

East Midlands

This year’s Go-Kart evening was held at The Golf Club, Tunstall, some time this year, details to follow.

Draws for the Lodgeway Fourball will be made at the Spring Tournament, so please ensure that Steve Mac attends your entries by May 3. As mentioned previously, this will now be a straight knockout competition.

The Management Trophy will be held at Venulum Golf Club this year; the date is yet to be confirmed. Teams representing each club must be made up of Head Greenkeeper, Captain, Secretary and a Committee member – preferably Greens Chairman. Our Regional Administrator, Les Emery, who is organising the event, will forward invitations for entry to clubs.

Paul Lockett.

Mid Anglia

Mid Anglia

All members should, by now, have received a fixture list for the forthcoming events being held within the section for 2001. Entry forms for golf competitions and the Lodgeway Four Ball should also have been received.

Should you wish to enter more than one event, please photocopy the master form supplied. Last year’s costs for the summer and autumn tournaments are £15 for those aged under 25 and £25 for those aged 25 and over.

Our first golf event of the year is to be held on Thursday 3rd May at Overstone Park Golf Club, Northamptonshire.

As there is no qualification requirement for the National Tournament this year, it is hoped that – subject to sponsorship – the Section will fund two members to attend. The tournament will be held at Stourbridge and Sandwell & Ainsdale Golf Clubs October 1 and 2. The cost for entry is £70 plus accommodation and expenses. The Section is also hoping to arrange a visit to Queenwood Golf Club, Surrey, some time this year, details to follow.

South East

More than 200 companies have kindly agreed to sponsor the Lodgeway Tournament, which will be held at one of the local courses on May 14. Any member of the club is invited to reduce the cost of the tournament to just £75.

In this month’s very brief report we welcome a host of new members, they are:- Stuart Wren, Great Hadham Golf and Country Club; Steve Jackson, Ilford GC; Ben Scrivener, Stock Brook Manor GC; Ian Wood, Romford GC; Boyd Evans, Trent Park GC; Mark Kiff, Bishop Stortford; Scott Colegate, Bishop Stortford; James Pickess, Chelmsford GC; Michael Dillway, Three Rivers Golf and Country Club.

We hope to see you all at our next Section event which will be at Frinton Golf Club on April 25.

A seminar covering all aspects of Golf Course Design was held at Writtle College last month. Thirty members ventured out to hear David Kipp hand out valuable advice to all considering any design work, thanks to David and also to Sherriff Crop Care (Graham Paul) who sponsored the evening.

Another thank you to Neil Peache and Tuckwells for sponsoring the production of our fixture cards which you should all have by now. If not contact Martin Forrester (01245) 603131. One amendment to the new cards has been that the date is now March 16th for the Winter Trophy but not the venue which is Three Rivers Golf and Country Club.

Well that’s about it, I did say it was brief. If you have anything you would like including in the magazine just let me know.

See you all at sunny Frinton.

Steve Crossdale

Sussex

With spring knocking on our doors and summer just around the corner, (ha ha), I would like to take this opportunity to remind you all of the forthcoming golf days we have organised around the county.

Starting off with the spring meeting at Cowdry Park in April which would have been played by the time you read this. You should have all received a fixture list containing the other dates.

The days are organised for the benefit of all greenkeepers who are members of BIGGA.

I sometimes hear people saying that it is too expensive and how would they benefit?

Well, as for the latter, not only are you going to be in the company of a bunch of lads who share interests, whether it be greenkeeping, or golf, you get the chance to meet up with people on the trade, wether it be a new fertiliser or a new machine which someone has bought, all good information.

The standard of golf, that is a different matter. The average handicap being 24 shows you that you don’t have to worry about your own game.

So to the money side. Well, being that we are members of BIGGA it means that we have the possibility of going home with a great prize, which are donated by the trade, and the company of friends you can’t really moan too much.

Well, back to my soapbox. I recently attended a workshop course held at Cooden Beach Hotel. The course was computer skills and was run by a chap called Martin Burdshaw in conjunction with BIGGA. I enjoyed two very informative days in the setting of a 4 star hotel, and at the end received a certificate to go on my CV.

So what is my problem? Well in a nutshell, the company or do I mean lack of it, (5 in total out of 300 members) you see the problem. The days are organised for the benefit of all greenkeepers and individual key sponsors. For those of you this is education and beneficial to both parties was £75! This was a computer course, which may not be too beneficial to you, but there are many different subjects, which are covered.

If you are interested in finding out more you can call or email Ken Richardson at BIGGA headquarters.

As for the standard of golf, this month the tee times were dreadful, but above all they were played in the right spirit, and for those of you who was interested in an educational visit to Vancouver, and for those of you who heard all about it. However, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Berners Greenhirst for their very generous sponsorship, which enabled a team of ten delegates (including myself) to attend the combined CGSA and WCTA in Canada.

Antony Bindley

Midland

Firstly, I would like to congratulate three members of the green staff at Copt Heath Golf Club who, by August of this year, will each have enjoyed 25 years of service with the club. They are Derek Smith, Paul Hofman and Steven Tippner.

Copt Heath Golf Club are also leading the way in terms of their maintenance facility. Jeremy Plcher was kind enough to give me a tour of the new building which is equipped and designed to the highest level.

All credit to the Club for investing in their future and taking the lead in an area so often disregarded. Jeremy is contactable at Copt Heath and would welcome anyone interested in investing in a new facility of their own.

Sports World have once again been kind enough to arrange an excellent day at the Hardi factory in Blackley. Tours were taken by Ann who managed to be informative and light hearted while maintaining the discipline (must be the army training!).

Regional TEE Management Workshop held at Hittington Heath Golf Club on March 1 was also very informative with contributions from Andy Cole, of Grass Science; Mike Finney, of Ruffords and Mike Higgins, of Ruffords.

Finally, I look forward to seeing you all at Great Barr for the Spring Tournament on May 14 so please post that entry form as soon as possible.

Phil Gates
Surrey

Monday March 5, about 11:15 and only a few days away from the Gentleman's Dinner at Walton Heath on the 9th. My mobile phone rings and, from Royal Epsom, Mr. Dearden, who is the head of Foot and Mouth precautions close and our annual South East Section Golf Day and Dinner at our new Chairman's course is postponed. Derek Farrington will let us know as soon as possible if Walton Heath can fit us in at a later date. Happier tidings now with the news that Mark Bellamy, from the Drift Golf Club, and his wife, Deborah, have a second child, a baby boy born on December 26 2000 and weighing in at 8 pounds 7 ounces. Those directly affected, or indirectly, depending on how you look at it are Jim Cassidy, at Ashridge Golf Club; Gerald Bruce, at Berkhamstead Golf Club, and St George’s, Dulwich, at Hampden Common Golf Club. All these courses have been closed over the past week to protect cloven hooved animals on the golf course to complement what I’m sure will be a fantastic hotel is underway. The best of luck to Phil Chiverton and his staff. Now you can see what happens when you guys don’t get in touch with any info from the Section! You have been warned.

Here at Sandy Lodge we say goodbye and good luck to Assistant Greenkeeper Steve Nicholson, (the only man who can produce a gherkin jar from his sleeve), who moves onto pastures new. We will miss all your magic! We also welcome Scott Walker, who joins us from Grimsdyke Golf Club.

A date for your diary has been confirmed. The Spring Meeting will take place at Stockley Park Golf Club on Tuesday, May 1. It’s also looking promising for a new venue sometime in August, hopefully I’ll have more to reveal in my next report.

Don’t forget to give me a call with any news, however small on 01923 853549.

Robert Phillips

London

I am sure you have all seen either in newspapers, or on the television, the utter devastation caused to agriculture by the recent outbreak of Foot and Mouth disease and even in our modern industry much higher pressures can only begin to imagine the impact on each farm around the country. Those directly affected, or indirectly, depending on how you look at it are Jim Cassidy, at Ashridge Golf Club; Gerald Bruce, at Berkhamstead Golf Club, and St George’s, Dulwich, at Hampden Common Golf Club. All these courses have been closed over the past week to protect cloven hooved animals on the golf course and I write this in early March there may well be more as you read this.

Congratulations to Phil Chiverton, formerly Course Manager at the Buckinghamshire Golf Club, who takes up a new post at The Grove Estate just outside Watford. Welcome to the Section, Phil.

Interestingly for the historians among you The Grove was an Elizabethan Country Estate, circa 1924, and was sold to the hon. Thomas Villiers in 1753 who went on to become the Earl of Gloucester, or, as I write this in early March 2001 and weighing in at 8 pounds 7 ounces. We wish Kieran Thomas much higher pressures can only begin to imagine the impact on each farm around the country.

For those locals out there you would probably remember The Grove as the British Railway Management Centre as it was acquired by London Midland Scottish Railways (LMS) as an H.Q. in the event of war. (Don’t stop me now, I’m on a roll). Ralph Trustees Ltd, who own the prestigious Athenaeum Hotel in London and the Runnymede Hotel in Surrey, bought The Grove in 1996. The building of a golf course to complement what I’m sure will be a fantastic hotel is underway. The best of luck to Phil Chiverton and his staff.

You now can see what happens when you guys don’t get in touch with any info from the Section! You have been warned.

Here at Sandy Lodge we say goodbye and good luck to Assistant Greenkeeper Steve Nicholson, (the only man who can produce a gherkin jar from his sleeve), who moves onto pastures new. We will miss all your magic! We also welcome Scott Walker, who joins us from Grimsdyke Golf Club.

A date for your diary has been confirmed. The Spring Meeting will take place at Stockley Park Golf Club on Tuesday, May 1. It’s also looking promising for a new venue sometime in August, hopefully I’ll have more to reveal in my next report.

Don’t forget to give me a call with any news, however small on 01923 853549.

Robert Phillips

South Coast

It’s been a very quiet month, so there is very little to report. It’s still not too late to enter the Spring Tournament, which is on Thursday, May 3 at the Army Club in Aldershot. Contact Chris Sturgess on 02380 494084 for more details.

The only other item to mention this month is Ken Lodge’s retirement. Ken rang me to ask if I could let everyone know that he is retiring in May. He is having a get together on Friday, May 11 at Atherley Bowls Club, Southampton, at lunchtime.

Everyone is welcome to go along and have a drink or two with Ken. I’m sure that everyone in the Section would like to wish Ken a long and happy retirement, and thank him for all the work he has done for BIGGA in his time. Cheers Ken.

I put my phone number in the column a couple of months ago and asked anyone to phone me if they had something they wanted put in the around the greens article. I had one call from Ken, and he got what he wanted put in. So don’t be shy if you want something printed! Phone me on 07939 866841. It will go in.

Well, that’s it for another month. Mike Cartwright.
South Wales
As our evening lectures come to close, I want to mention but I am sure they will have been very successful. As a reminder, the combined evening of Adams & Birt held on Feb 14, was well attended with Jim Foulton of Advanta describing seed formation, diseases and pests. The evening was introduced by Richard Cuncliffe, of Cardifi-based Biota, give a talk on how their products help turf propagation with the use of micro-organisms specifically for the use in soil.
Thanks to you both for your time and Penced College for the use of the facilities - not forgetting our sponsor of the evenings Avoncrop.
It might be an idea to get your golf clubs out and dust them out as our first tournament begins at Southdown Golf Club on May 9th. The day is a 4BBB format good for the Spring Tournament. The Summer Tournament then will be held at Llanwern GC on July 11 so there are some dates for your diaries. By the way, please would last year's tournament winners return their trophies 28 days prior to these events.
The Welsh Golf Union held a seminar at the Vale of Glamorgan G&CC on March 5 with 19 Golf Club members attending the event. Guy Woods and Howard Swan, Education and Training Manager for Golf Wales, gave talks on team matches, information on team matches, the high standard of speakers present at the conference room full for every speaker. The seminar programme was very well attended with the conference room full for every seminar. This was a reflection on the hospitality and knowledge shown at the conference which included budgets, staffing, machinery used, materials used, working practices, unions, membership and green fees.
The seminar was sponsored by the Bernhard-sponsored trip to Florida. The trip proved to be of great educational value to all of the delegation.
The visit consisted of course visits to North View Golf and Country Club; the PGA Tour Vancouver Open and to the private members' clubs at Point Grey and Marine Drive. During the visits we were able to discuss with the Superintendents their maintenance practises which included budgets, staffing, machinery used, materials used, working practices, unions, membership and green fees.
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South West
I was hoping to give the results of the Section's first tour event to be played at Stinchcombe but the weather curtailed any chance of the event taking place. The snow that fell did not deter about 20 members attending, it was the one that got the better of the event. Thanks go out to all the Stinchcombe staff for all their efforts to accommodate us. Some players would not have been stopped from playing a round of golf. They made their way off Stinchcombe Hill to play at the Manor House to find a warm welcome and a course in excellent condition. If you have not been recently it is well worth the effort, Paul Bishop and his staff are doing sterling work.
Speaking of which, Chris Jack is leaving the Manor House to become not a rep, but a house husband. He will be replaced at the Manor by John Keengahan. The Section wishes them both luck in their future careers. I feel Chris has the harder role! Nathan Marsh, Section members attending, it was the one that got the better of the event. Thanks go out to all the Stinchcombe staff for all their efforts to accommodate us. Some players would not have been stopped from playing a round of golf. They made their way off Stinchcombe Hill to play at the Manor House to find a warm welcome and a course in excellent condition. If you have not been recently it is well worth the effort, Paul Bishop and his staff are doing sterling work.
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Devon and Cornwall
The Section's sponsored February Section meeting had to be cancelled due to the Foot and Mouth crisis which has swept the country. Hopefully we can rearrange the meeting for later on in the year.
As most of you are aware, I was lucky enough to have been one of ten BIGGA members selected to represent the Association on the Bernhard-sponsored trip to Florida. The seminar and the golf proved to be of great educational value to all of the delegation.
The visit consisted of course visits to North View Golf and Country Club, fee of the PGA Tour Vancouver Open and to the private members' clubs at Point Grey and Marine Drive. During the visits we were able to discuss with the Superintendents their maintenance practises which included budgets, staffing, machinery used, materials used, working practices, unions, membership and green fees.
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Northern Ireland
The Section held an irrigation talk during January at Allen Park Golf Club Antrim which proved very successful. Drilling and Pumping Supplies Ltd. from Newtownards Co. Down were invited along to give the members an insight into the new irrigation controllers. Many thanks to Maddisson Irrigation who made the journey over from England and Alastair Wilson of Drilling and Pumping Supplies Ltd. who provided a lunch for all the members present. Thanks to the caterer Paul Corrigan for the very enjoyable lunch and Antrim Borough Council who allowed us to use the club house facilities at Allen Park. If anyone has any irrigation problems or maybe would like to install a system why not contact Alastair Wilson on 02891 818347 or mobile 07711 013849.
I would like to thank the members for making the effort to come along and I sincerely hope you will continue for many years to come.
I would like to thank BIGGA and Bernhard and Company for selecting me to represent British greenkeeping in Canada, I would also like to thank Sam Mclean and Peter Hampton for their hospitality and knowledge shown to the whole delegation, hopefully many more BIGGA members will be able to benefit in the way I have from such a visit in the future.
Richard Whyman

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Simply send an email to: updates@bigga.co.uk

quoting your name and Membership number, and we'll do the rest.

See you next month!