we have been on temporary greens. We have been very understanding about the problems whenever possible.

Very positively. The members have been very understanding about the problems and we have tried to open the course whenever possible.

Our course hasn't been too bad though we have been on temporary greens. We have been closed for about 20 days and the reaction of members has been 50-50 from a frustration point of view.

We have had temporary greens on every hole and trolley control with roped off areas, but we have not banned trolleys as the membership is quite old and they rely on trolleys.

We have had flooding in areas never before experienced so we are working on new drainage as its been difficult to move water off the course. We have a programme for new drains on greens and fairways.

We will do more spiking and hollow tining on fairways getting down 12 inches when possible. We have also used a drill and fill machine.

I would say we will do considerably more aeration work before the wet weather starts.
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Dr Kate Entwistle continues her regular series in Greenkeeeper International by looking at leaf spot diseases

I would bet that if you were asked to name a handful of turf grass diseases, leaf spot diseases would not be among them. Diseases such as fusarium patch, red thread and take-all patch would almost certainly figure in your selection, not only because they are frequently seen on highly managed turf, but also because they are some of the most talked and written about cool-season turf disease problems. Brown patch and pythium diseases may crop up too because they are either frequently identified, or rather misidentified, as causing damage on cool-season turfgrasses or because their effects are so dramatic on the sward that once seen, they are never forgotten.

How important are leaf spot diseases?

Once brought to mind, you may argue that their effects on turf are generally quite minor and therefore not of any great concern. Some of you may consider that because you have never noticed them on your course that they are not of any great importance. Alternatively you may never of heard of them at all. Although I can understand each of these views, it is a fact that leaf spot diseases can cause a range of symptoms on all turf grasses throughout much of the year and under all management conditions. The fungi which cause them are diverse and differ markedly in their requirements for optimal growth. Their effects on the sward will vary from a virtually insignificant marking of the leaf blade to complete death of the grass plant. These fungi are active now and some leaf spot causing fungi will be active until the autumn and possibly year-round in milder climates.

The term leaf spot encompasses a whole range of diseases caused by numerous different fungi, but they all have one feature in common - they all produce a defined, often discrete, mark on the leaf blade. The fungi that cause leaf spot diseases may not limit their attack to the lamina, indeed some are so aggressive that they can develop in to the crown and root systems of the plant causing its complete death. Some fungi that are responsible for leaf spot diseases can also kill seedling turf before the plants emerge from the seedbed and these pre-emergence diseases can account for large areas of poorly establishing turf. Mature turf does not go unaffected by leaf spots either and in some cases, it appears that the mature sward is often more severely affected by certain leaf spot pathogens than an equivalent younger sward. There appear to be few rules in this 'disease contest'. Basically, all grasses are affected by at least one leaf spot fungus and the severity of the disease development is a complex formula that deserves a closer look.
What size are leaf spots?

How long is a piece of string? Many factors affect the size of the leaf spot, not least of all the width of the leaf blade. Grasses with a broad lamina may show individual leaf spots of around 5 mm diameter whereas grasses which have a more needle-like lamina may show comparatively smaller symptoms, even down to a fine 'dot-like' appearance to the leaf blade. Individual leaf spots may well increase in size from their first appearance on the plant and many will coalesce to increase the total area covered by the disease symptom.

What do they look like?

Leaf spots will vary in their appearance depending on which fungus has caused the symptom to develop and which grass the fungus has attacked. Some leaf spots will appear as no more than a pinprick in size and may well be dark brown or very dark red in colour. Other leaf spots will show, for example, a tan circular mark on the leaf that is bordered by a ring of dark coloration and possibly surrounded by a yellow halo. Leaf spot symptoms that are caused by any one fungus, may well change over time. The initial infection of a leaf caused by one fungus may start as a small dark spot but with time, may develop into a more complex and extended symptom which may in no way resemble the initial one. Some plants, when infected by a leaf spot fungus, show a general yellowing or browning of the leaf blade from the tip downwards and this symptom may well be more obvious than discrete spots on the leaf. If the sward looks 'off-colour', particularly following irrigation during the summer months, it is possible that a leaf spot disease is affecting the turf. In short, there is no definitive symptom expression and the only way to be entirely sure which fungus is responsible for the disease is to have it identified in the laboratory.

Why do leaf spots develop?

In order to survive, some fungi use the nutrients within plant cells for their own growth and development. The disease symptoms that they cause fall into four main types: foliar blights, white, rust and leaf spot. With regard to leaf spot diseases of turfgrass, the exact way in which the symptom is expressed will vary depending upon the specific interaction between the grass and the fungus. However, it is possible to generalise and simplify this process to give an idea of why these symptoms develop.

If we start from the point where the fungal spore is on the grass leaf, we can follow the process of events leading up to the expression of the leaf spot symptoms. Initially, the spore germinates and the fungal hypha enters one of the cells of the plant leaf. Once inside the plant, the aim of the fungus is to obtain sufficient nutrition to sustain its growth and development for as long a time as possible. The plant will try to prevent the fungus from leaving the first cell that it has entered, thereby preventing further damage to itself. And so the battle begins! If the plant is fairly resistant to the given fungus, it will immediately recognise its presence and act so as to prevent the fungus from moving out of that first cell to any adjacent cells. The plant does this in one of two ways. Plants are able to either initiate the death of the cell which has been invaded by the fungus, thereby killing the fungus now inside it, or they can lay down a barrier around the infected cell through which the invading fungus is unable to pass. In this second situation, the effects on the leaf may be nothing more than a small pinprick sized dark mark on the leaf that would probably not be seen unless you were to look extremely closely. However, this response does not always occur. In many cases, either the plant is slow to react to the presence of the fungus or the fungus is able to produce chemicals that 'fool' the plant so that the plant doesn't realise that it has been attacked. In these cases, the fungus is able to move out of the initial cell that it penetrates and into the adjacent cells. If the fungal presence has still not been 'recognised' by the plant, it is free to move out in to the next band of cells and so on. Eventually the plant realises what is happening and lays down a barrier to prevent the further spread of the pathogen. The longer the fungus has to invade subsequent cells, the larger the resulting leaf spot will be. If large leaf spot symptoms develop, it means that either the plant is slow in recognising the presence of the fungus or the fungus is able to move rapidly through the host plant tissues. Either way, the plant is showing an increased susceptibility to attack.

In some cases, the plant 'over reacts'. It recognises quite early on that it has been attacked and produces chemicals to prevent further movement of the fungus but, even when sufficient chemical has been produced and the fungus is well contained, the plant continues to produce the chemical. Leaf blades can be turned almost completely purple by this panic attack by the plant (as shown in the two photographs of red leaf spot on bentgrass). This over reaction will reduce the possibility of further attacks by the same fungus but, at the same time, will reduce the vigour of the sward by affecting the plants photosynthetic ability. It's a trade off - the plant will recover well from this given time, but it may take a little longer to do so. It has, however, succeeded in stopping the pathogen from attacking and causing a potentially serious infection of its tissues.

Information on turf disease outbreaks

Thank you to all of you who have responded so far to my request for information on turf disease outbreaks. I intend to collect information throughout the year on turf disease problems, so you can offer your information at a time to suit yourself. If you would like to contribute your information, please ask for a form from either Scott (at BIGGA) or myself. The details of your Club will not be published but are requested so that we can identify the location of disease outbreaks. Thank you.

Dr Kate Entwistle
The Turf Disease Centre, Waverley Cottage, Sherfield Road, Bramley, Hampshire RG26 9AG
Telephone: 01256 880246
Fax: 01256 880178
Email: Kate@theturfdiseasecentre.co.uk
Web: www.theturfdiseasecentre.co.uk

Above right: Ryegrass variety trial showing cultivar susceptibility to foliar disease. Photo courtesy of Grass Science

Below: General view of red leaf spot on a bentgrass sward. Photo courtesy of Grass Science
Does the sward height affect leaf spot development?

Absolutely. In general, turf grasses that are maintained under close mowing, show significantly higher levels of disease when compared with the same grass that has been subjected to a less severe cutting height. This effect is dramatic and demonstrates very clearly how our management programmes may contribute to, or be used to reduce, the severity of certain disease pressures.

Why should closer mown turfgrasses be more severely affected? There are two main reasons for this. Firstly, once the environmental conditions are right for the fungus to cause damage to the turfgrass, the fungus will enter the plant and initiate the plant's reaction. With a smaller leaf surface area available, a relatively small number of fungal infections can quite easily cover the whole of the leaf blade. If the height of cut was raised, the leaf blade would have a larger surface area and the same disease pressure (number of infections formed in a given time) would cause correspondingly less severe effects on the plant. As the plant responds to the infection, the ability of the plant to photosynthesise is reduced. If the plant has a small leaf surface area to start with (ie under close mowing), the effect of the disease, which effectively reduces the healthy surface area, will have a dramatic effect on the ability of the plant to photosynthesise. As this ability is reduced, the plants food supply is reduced and the plant is put under further stress. While under this additional stress, the fungus now has an even greater opportunity to colonise the turfgrass plant and to cause even more damage. Many swards affected by leaf spot diseases are affected as much by the resulting stresses experienced by the plants as by the initial disease outbreak.

Does cultivar selection matter?

Yes, quite significantly. If you take any one leaf spot fungus and determine its effect across a range of cultivars of the same grass type, you will see dramatic differences in the extent to which the cultivars are affected. The effect will range from virtually no observable infection to severe attack with significantly discoloured leaf blades and an overall decline in the vigour of the sward. Given the same fungus and the same cultivars, the observed effect will vary depending on the prevailing environmental conditions and the quality of the sward prior to attack.

To summarise...

Although leaf spot diseases are numerous and are not uncommon on cool-season grasses, it is perhaps fair to say that they generally express only minor symptoms on fine turfgrass swards. Occasionally though, they can cause dramatic effects and even the eventual death of the sward. The symptoms expressed depend on the sward composition, its quality at the time of the infection and the specific fungus present. Significant control can generally be achieved by relieving the stress on the turf either by increasing the height of cut or ensuring adequate but not excessive nutrition. As with all diseases of turf, accurate control measures can only be provided following an accurate identification of the cause of the problem.

Many physiological problems associated with turf can produce symptoms that closely resemble the symptoms of leaf spot disease. Make sure that you know exactly what you are trying to control before you implement any control options - it could save you time, money and your sward.
The use of bentgrass within new greens has been common for years. Various percentages of bents have been sown in conjunction with fescue and over recent years, some new greens have been sown with pure bent. New varieties have also become available, offering greater shoot density and greater tolerance of close mowing.

The main concern of using bentgrasses is over their susceptibility to Take-all Patch - a disease that attacks velvet bent, creeping bent and colonial bent varieties. If unchecked the disease will spread, carried physically from one green to another by foot or machinery.

This overview sets out what to look for to spot the disease and tips on preventative and curative measures, should you be unlucky enough to be struck by this disease.

**A survivor**

"Take-all patch (Gaeumannomyces graminis) - or Ophiobolus patch as it used to be known - can survive as a sапрrophyte in thatch and also survives as dormant mycelium in the plant. It is most serious in newly established turf and does its worst damage generally in new greens. The disease attacks velvet bent, creeping bent and colonial bent. Over many years, traditionally greens have been sown with fescue bent combinations. The fescues are resistant to the disease, the bent component however remains susceptible even in this situation.

Creeping bent does offer many advantages over fescue bent combinations, particularly in its ability to provide dense uniform swards in a relatively short period. However, it is recognised that the maintenance of creeping bent is more specialised, requiring careful management, and that creeping bentgrass, Agrostis stolonifera (var palustris) is the most susceptible to the disease.

Creeping bent is predominantly used in new greens as a monoculture and should Take-all occur, it will spread quite rapidly. Sadly, the choice of variety of bent has little bearing on the resistance to the disease, in fact, very dense varieties may exhibit even greater scarring.

Furthermore, the pros of pure bent have to be weighed-up alongside the cons of the high degrees of maintenance associated with some varieties. For instance, some bent varieties are actually very difficult to maintain as they build up such a dense coverage. This in turn leads to difficulty in managing fertiliser applications and to increased aeration programmes which combine to mean extra funding from the outset of a construction project. These factors should be taken into consideration, as they will have an effect on the future budgetary requirements of the course.

**Symptoms to watch for**

Take-all first appears as circular patches of slightly depressed grass with a straw to bronze colouration in appearance. These areas will begin as just a few inches in diameter and gradually increase, stretching to often several feet in diameter, with patches joining together to form large, irregular areas.

Often as the disease spreads, the middle of the patches 'fill in' with resistant species, with areas of surviving...
Fescue becoming apparent in fescue bent greens. The roots of the affected grasses will actually become rotted. Plants which play host to Take-all patch extend to some 40 species of grass, although not all of these hosts exhibit the symptoms associated with the disease.

**Life cycle**

Initial Take-all infection occurs when the mycelium penetrates the root crown or culm or the turfgrass. The pathogen then spreads by outward movement from plant to plant, spreading over roots, rhizomes and other tissues. In fact, infected material can be carried on machinery or by foot, potentially spreading the disease across all aspects of the course.

Over-wintering or survival in adverse conditions is accomplished by saprophytic infection of the debris of previous seasons plant material. The mycelium can also remain inactive within infected plants until conditions are ripe for a new phase of activity.

The most aggressive phase of the Take-all life cycle is typically seen in cool, wet weather conditions when the plant is actively growing.

**Strategies to avoid Take-all**

Take-all Patch can therefore survive as a saprophyte in thatch and as dormant mycelium in the plant. As already highlighted, it is more common in newly established turf commonly used on newly constructed areas of courses, normally peaking in three to five years, then declining due to antagonistic microorganisms.

High pH is a significant factor in the development of Take-all so, not only should the pH values of the root zone and irrigation water be investigated to avoid high pH levels, but you should also look to use acidifying fertilisers. However, it is very important to monitor the greens for any indication of black layer over time.

Aeration plays a vital role in encouraging microbial activity, which is essential to the overall health of the green, as well as encouraging a natural system within the root zone for the recycling and utilisation of elements such as carbon, nitrogen and sulphur.

Gould (1973) observed Take-all patch was far more prevalent on greens which had been subjected to fumigation where soil organisms had been killed. As the turf matured, Take-all patch occurred with much less frequency. This again points to the need for a good antagonistic microbial population - regular aeration and grooming of the sward are vital for healthy development.

The inclusion of a percentage of fescue in initial sowing mixtures has shown to be of value. Even if the fescue does not persist, it does provide an initial barrier within what would otherwise be a monoculture. Overseeding with fescue - ideally a slender creeping red fescue - will at least fill-in the scars caused by Take-all.

If Take-all does occur, there are cultural practices available to rectify the situation over time - consult your seed supplier or agronomist for guidance and information. If conditions are conducive to the disease, then any bent in the greens will be attacked. Remember: the disease can be carried physically by machinery or on foot from one green to another, so be diligent in preventing this immediately, should you identify Take-all on your greens. There are chemical treatments available for Take-all, but these are not currently licensed for use in the UK - this situation will change however, as fungicides become available to combat the disease.

**Conclusions**

Good cultural practices will always be necessary in any situation where Take-all occurs. Avoidance is by far the best strategy, so focus on monitoring pH levels, good aeration of the soil and grooming of the sward. Build quality and monitoring of materials is essential. A high quality course maintenance programme is the best policy - quick fixes often have a habit of causing problems at a later stage.

One note of consolation is that as the build-up of antagonistic microorganisms occurs, so the disease will fade. Even in sand greens bacteria and fungi have an uncanny habit of colonising and forming relatively stable populations.

The relationship between microorganisms and the balance that they create is complex and takes time to reach stability. The interaction between Take-all patch and its soil antagonists is an example of complexity leading to stability (Smith et al, 1989). Time is therefore a great healer, and being antagonistic is often not such a bad idea after all.”

John Hughes is Amenity Technical Manager with Cebeco Oliver Seeds

June 2001 Greengrocer International 37
North
More new members to welcome to the Section this month. Frederick Elske, from Longside GC; Colin Atton, from Algin GC; Beauty; Michael Mann, from Forres GC; Allan Paterson, from Turland GC, Shetland Isles, and last but not least we welcome Frank Spencer, from Boat of Garten GC. The Section is getting bigger and bigger every month, so we like to think we must be doing something right!

We wish Neil Ballingall all the best in his new job at the Sam Torrance golf complex near St Andrews. As soon as we hear who replaces him at Moray GC we will let you know. Also on the staff with us is Gordon Wright who has left Aboyne to work at Inchmarlo. Good luck to him in his new post.

Tain, along with Royal Dornoch, Fortrose and Nairn Dunbar have recently hosted, the inaugural Highland Golf Classic which unfortunately was hit by the Foot and Mouth misinformation epidemic. In early January there were nearly 100 entries with entries every day then Foot and Mouth hit the UK and entries dried up. By the time the competition was played there were only 70 participants.

It is such a shame that here in the North we are losing visitors when the nearest outbreak is over 200 miles away! We can only hope that those who played enjoyed it enough to come back next year and bring others with them, so that this event will blossom into a major annual tournament bringing much needed visitors to our courses.

At the time of writing, the Foot and Mouth epidemic seems to be under control and hopefully we can still have a good season in the North with many visitors playing our lovely courses, bringing in the revenue needed to purchase the new machines etc that we require to do the job even better than we do already (if that's possible!)

Iain Macleod

West
It is with great sadness that I heard of the sudden passing away of John Young who had been a long serving member and supporter of our Section. Everyone in the West Section would like to pass on their condolences to John's family at this sad time.

On April 3 the Secretaries' match was held at West Kilbride GC. On the day the match was drawn and so the Greenkeepers held on to the magnificient trophy which is a pride of place in John's lounge. It must be added that John Scott and I did not help the cause any by getting well and truly humiliated, a dog's licence being mentioned. Jim Paton and his staff are to be congratulated on the fine condition of the course so early in the season.

On April 5 the Greenkeepers'/Convener's match was held at Helensburgh GC. The leaders in the clubhouse for sometime were the Helensburgh II team which seemed to annoy Ronnie somewhat who had been determined not to hold this early season tournament over his course next year. However, the Lenzie team came good and secured a late Away victory taking this great tournament to Lenzie next spring. The Section would like to thank the sponsors on the day R Atiken Seedsmen and Scottish Grass Management. Thanks also to Ronnie and his team for all the hard work that must have gone into presenting the course in such condition after all the heavy rain that had hit the district in the week leading up to the competition.

John Robertson and the committee would like to wish Stuart Cameron every success in his new assistant's position at Greenock GC. Stuart's notoriety was held at Hilton Park GC under John and joins David's team at Ardric in a "season" when David should be a happy head man.

New members to be welcomed to the Section are Garry McShane, Cochran Castle GC; Gareth Thomson, Drumgelller GC; Gineme Hjort, Enmore鲛yng GC. Not least, Jim Wilson, Langlands GC returns to the Section. I look forward to seeing you all at Section events.

Well that's it for this month. As always, if you have anything you want added to the column do not hesitate to call me on the number below. The report on the spring outing will be included in next month's report.  

Bolland Ollie 013552 66862

Central
We start this month by welcoming another two members to the Section and they are Joe Wallace from Glasgow Golf Club, and Brian Allen and Steven Conopper from Bridgend and District Golf Club in West Lothian.

And now some members who have moved recently, Albert Anroott and Shaun McMillan who have both moved from Dunnikier golf course to Lochore Meadows, or, "The Mecidi's if you come from that neck of the woods and Steven Ewing has moved from Letham Grange to Thornbury Golf Club near Bristol. We wish them every success in their new positions.

Winners of the April draw in "Club 2000" were Peter Finlay with ticket number 271. Peter wins £30 and Bobby Fleming wins £20 with ticket number 231. Also the winners in the May draw were Mrs Whitehall with ticket number 10, £30 and David Beawood who wins £20 with ticket number 122. Well done folks, hopefully you have received your cheques by now!

Section Event?
www.bigga.org.uk/events.html

As I said in last month's news the spring tournament was fully subscribed very early, but, due to the number of members who wished to take part, Scotsraig Golf Club kindly granted us times for another 20 players which meant we had an attendance of 78 with 72 playing. This is the highest number we have ever had at a Section tournament, so, in future, get your entries in early, as all clubs may not be so accommodating as Scotsraig.

Our sincere thanks go to everyone at the golf club for the courtesey and hospitality which was extended to us on the day, especially Head Greenkeeper John Moffat and his staff for having the course in excellent condition so early in the season, the clubhouse staff who kept us fed and suitably refreshed throughout the day. Club Captain Rod Ford, who did us the honour of presenting our prizes and to Club Secretary Barry Liddle for all his assistance in making the day possible.

Obviously with so many players it made for a long day for those who were out early but the majority were able to remain for the presentations. Greenkeepers and all who did not play were asked to remain and we were given tickets to Division 1. Also the winners in the presentations were:

Best gross
Phil Hargrave, South Shields, 68;
Tony Burge, Richmond, 73 bih;
S. Smith, Lundin Links.

Best nett
W. Woods 78 - 4 - 74
Cat 1
1. Phil Hargrave, South Shields, 76 - 15 - 61
2. Tony Burge, Richmond, 73 bih;
3. Ritchie Hood, Mount Oswald, 75.

Cat 2 (Ayrshire)
1. Phil Hargrave, South Shields, 76;
2. Tony Burge, Richmond, 73 bih;
3. Allan Reid, Saltburn, 78.

Cat 3 (Greenkeeping Supplies)
1. Mark Brown, Brancepeth, 69;
2. Chris Powley, Slimebury Spa, 71;
3. Ian Pemberton, Bedale, 76

Best nett
Phil Hargrave, 68.
Best gross
Andy Wood, 77

A big thanks to the trade for their support of this and other Section events. The draw for the Carrs sponsored Night at the Shells was a great success and everyone who wants to know their opponents should contact Barry Walker on 0191 5650691.
And finally, we have moved to Ramside Hall Hotel and Golf Club. I was sorry to leave the Wynyard Club, but the opportunity of working on one of the top courses in the area alongside one of the finest greenkeepers in the country, Roger Shaw, was just too tempting and so far it's been everything I expected and more.

Any news contact me on 07719 193581

Steven Jacques

Cleveland
The Section has three new members this month. Liam McGeough, Shaun Smith, and Scott Esgough all work at Richmond Golf Club. Welcome to the Section lads.

A general knowledge quiz was held at Darlington Golf Club, organised by the Section Secretary, Barry Walker. It was well attended and a good night was had by all. Eventual winners were Ian Pemberton, Martin Hargrave and Tony Cheeseborough. Thanks to Barry for his efforts.

Turf Care had a bowling night at Teesside Park. A great night was had by the many that were there. A big thank you to Terry Charlton and his staff for organising the event and providing a meal afterwards. After the meal Section Chairman, Tony Smith, announced that he had asked Terry Charlton to be President of the Section, which he has accepted and the role.

Congratulations to Martin Wood, of Wearside Golf Club, and Tony Smith, of Wearside Golf Club, who have just passed their Level 3 at Houghall College.

The spring tournament took place this month at Wearside Golf Club; the weather was superb, as was the course. A great day was had by everyone thanks to Barry Walker and his team for their efforts and to Wearside Golf Club for allowing us to use their facilities.

Cat 1 (Border Sports)
1. Andy Wood, Seaton Careem, 73 bih;
2. Martin Woods, Wearside, 73;
3. Ritchie Hood, Mount Oswald, 75.

Cat 2 (Adur)
1. Phil Hargrave, South Shields, 68;
2. Tony Burge, Richmond, 73 bih;
3. Allan Reid, Saltburn, 78.

Cat 3 (Greenkeeping Supplies)
1. Mark Brown, Brancepeth, 69;
2. Chris Powley, Slimebury Spa, 71;
3. Ian Pemberton, Bedale, 76

Best nett
Phil Hargrave, 68.
Best gross
Andy Wood, 77
Mid Anglia

Our first golf event of the year took place in early May; our spring tournament at Overstone Park GC, over 36 holes. After the exceptionally wet spring, it was a relief to have dry conditions and an enjoyable day all round. Twenty-eight Greenkeepers and Trade members entered on the day and the results were as follows:

Best nett
Leon Cant, Brocket Hall, 73.70

Best gross
Gary Boulton, Dunstable Downs, 78.73

Morning round
1. Mark Ellis, Stocks, 69;
2. Nigel Phelean, St. Andrews Hospital, 71;
3. Leon Cant, Brocket Hall, 72

Afternoon round
1. Leon Cant, Brocket Hall, 70;
2. Gavin Sinkless, Mount Pleasant, 73;
3. Gary Boulton, Dunstable Downs, 73

Longest Drive, am and pm:
Chris Yeoman, Tilsworth

Nearest the pin, am
Tom Houghton, Pytchley

Nearest the pin, pm
Geoff James, John O'Gourt.

Our thanks to Philip Helm, Course Manager, and the golf club, for their hospitality. Our main sponsor of the day was Rigby Taylor once again, represented by Mark Stigwell. Thanks also to all other trade members for their support. Those entered into the Lodgeway FourBall competition should have received the completed draw by now. Please ensure that these games are played as soon as possible, to avoid the problems experienced during last year's event.

Our next golf event is the summer tournament, to be held at Harpenden Golf Club, Harmonds End, on Wednesday August 22. Paul Locket

East Midlands

On March 26-27 I attended the BIGGA Section Secretaries meeting at BIGGA HOUSE. This is a biannual meeting, and again it proved to be very informative. If any member has any queries regarding their membership benefits etc please get in touch with me and I will attempt to help you out.

The evening lecture held at Kirby Muxloe GC on April 10 proved to be a very successful evening with 32 delegates listening to our four speakers, covering varying topics. Sam Maclean and Peter Hampton spoke about Bermuda Grinders and grinding in general, Ken Richardson, CPD and my own subject was Greenskeeping in Canada. I would like to thank this opportunity to thank Sam, Peter and Ken for their presentations and to all those members who supported the evening. I would also like to thank the following committee members for donating a prize for the raffle. Gavin Robson, Richard Barker, and Andy McGreal. Also thanks should go to Andrew Astle of Alpha Amenity for their generous prize donations. I would also like to thank all committee members who helped in the smooth running of the evening. Finally, one last thank-you should go to John Coodeley, Steward, for a great chicken curry meal, and to Kirby Muxloe GC for hosting the evening. Remember, with your support we can arrange more evenings like this.

On August 15 the Section will host the annual East Midlands v East of England Golf match at Cotgrave Place G.C. We require a team of ten so anybody interested in playing can contact me by telephone or Email. The first tee is booked from 3.45pm followed by an evening meal. So anybody interested in playing can contact me by telephone or Email. The first tee is booked from 3.45pm followed by an evening meal. So anybody interested in playing can contact me by telephone or Email. The first tee is booked from 3.45pm followed by an evening meal. So anybody interested in playing can contact me by telephone or Email. The first tee is booked from 3.45pm followed by an evening meal.

Forthcoming Events

May 24 - Evening Seminar IPM talk by Simon Barnaby of Scots, sponsored by FTS
June 12 - Match against Stewards/Secretaries at Ryston Park
June 28 - Section Golf day at Spalding sponsored by PG

Devon and Cornwall

The Foot and Mouth crisis now seems to be improving with fewer cases being reported. The crisis has had a big effect financially on the Region with Westurf having to be cancelled with the loss of deposits at the show ground and hotel. Also the Section has been slowly hit with the loss of March 1 meeting at Thurlstone Golf Club. To address the loss of this meeting we have arranged a Section meeting to be held at Tifethorne Golf Club Nr Laundeston on Tuesday, June 19, hopefully the meeting will be sponsored by Avaron but this has still to be confirmed. As always the Region has offered companies the chance to sponsor all the Sections in a one off payment at a very competitive price. Only time will tell if this has a detrimental effect on the Section.

Details for our summer meeting are as follows: - Devon roll & coffee on arrival, golf tee times between 12.30 and 1.30, 18 hole evening. For more information please contact me on 01288 354748. Richard Whyman

Medallion turf for golf tees is typically sown as Aberelf (Perennial Ryegrass) 25%, Bargreen (Chewings Fescue) 20%, Barcrown (Slender Creeping Red Fescue) 35%, Limousine (Smooth Stalked Meadow Grass) 20%.

All the cultivars we use are highly ranked in independent testing by the STRI (see "Turfgrass Seed 2001" published by STRI).

If rapid establishment, high wear tolerance and slow regrowth after mowing are important to you - specify Rolawn Medallion for your tees.

For a quote, sample and peace of mind call Rolawn on Tel: 01904 608661
of the competition will be printed next month, and not this. The rest of the announcement is not so far away now either. Thursday, July 12 to be exact. The summer tournament is an invitation event, so all those chosen to play have to invite someone from the club and they can be an official or just a member. The competition will take place at Broadstone Golf Club, and will cost £18 per head for the first 44 players, so don’t dilly-dally about in getting your entries to Chris Sturgess. Please make cheques payable to BIGGA, and send them to Chris Sturgess, 40 Kinsbrook Way, Thorndill, Southamtpn, Hants, SO19 6HB. If you have any queries regarding this, or any other competition, then you can phone Chris on 0777 313 8409.

Well, that’s it for another month. I’m off to open a supermarket now. D.Bougen

South West

The team led by new Captain, Knobby Knight, started with a 3.5 to 1.5 victory over the Secretaries team at a well presented Manor House. Our thanks go to all the staff at the Manor House for use of their facilities. Also to the sponsor of the day, Avonrock, and their representative, Neil West. I would also like to thank the Secretaries of the South West for turning up to play us from as far as Cornwall and Devon or as close as Bath. The next match is against the South Coast in August. You can contact John Kersgah on 01454 646837 if you want to be considered (don’t offer to play him at snooker).

The tour’s next event is at the Kendleshire (soft spikes only) on July 24. Contact Kevin James for more information. D.Bougen

Sussex

I have a confession to make. Those of you who have been visiting the South Coast this summer will have noticed that the green would have read that I said “by the time you read this we would have already played our spring meeting at Cowdray Park,” Well I can only put this down to the fact that I was looking forward so much to playing a course which had not turned itself into the Sussex equivalent of the Everglades, that I must have dreamed I had already played, in reality we were not due to play Cowdray Park until April 19. By the time you would have played our spring meeting playing golf on such a fine golf course, turned out to be a beautiful day to be at Cowdray Park. Thursday the 19th, not due to play Cowdray Park until I had already played, in reality we were of you who read last month’s around information.

24. Contact Kevin James for more details. Gloucestershire

Kennaghan on 01454 646837 if you want to contact us from as far as Cornwall and Devon or as close as Bath. The next match is against the South Coast in August. You can contact John Kersgah on 01454 646837 if you want to be considered (don’t offer to play him at snooker).

The tour’s next event is at the Kendleshire (soft spikes only) on July 24. Contact Kevin James for more information. D.Bougen

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