Located at Oakham Business Park, the Mansfield branch serves the East Midlands region, Derbyshire and South Yorkshire.

Alan Prickett (right) is managing the branch operation and commented, "There will be a high level of expectation from our customers now that the Textron name appears above the door of these three branches. It is my intention that the dealerships will not only achieve this, but surpass customer expectations to provide a high level of service that customers have not experienced previously in these regions. Huge investment has been made by Textron to make this possible. We have fully resourced parts departments with high levels of stock items right across the Textron product range, together with an impressive fleet of demonstration equipment. This includes Jacobsen golf course equipment, Ransomes municipal turf maintenance products, Ransomes litter/collector sweepers and a range of golf and light industrial utility vehicles including the new range of Cushman Diabline electric vehicles. The branches are housed in some of the finest dealer premises in Europe. I've been fortunate enough to start with a clean canvas, so we have all the latest equipment for our service parts operation, together with a new fleet of service support vehicles. We have recruited a team of excellent people with a vast combined knowledge and experience of the turf care sector.

The knowledge gained from my recent visit to our branches in the USA, is the model for the operation here in the UK. I was very impressed with their commitment to go that extra mile to ensure that the customer receives the service levels that they demand. This is the ethos that the staff here will follow. Having just returned from Saltex, it was interesting to hear the rumours and speculation surrounding this new venture for Textron. Is it the beginning of the end for the UK dealer network? Will we be operating on more favourable terms than our UK dealers? Will we be competing head-to-head with the major hire companies? The answer to this is simply No, No and No. As Glynn Patrick, my sales director stated, we will not be, and have no intention of replacing our dealership network. Experienced dealers are very few and far between and Textron is fortunate to have some of the very best and financially viable companies in this business and we intend to keep it that way.

The ending of our agreements with Breakwell's and Henton & Chattell has provided this opportunity, but it is strictly a one-off to ensure that our customers have service levels superior to that which they have previously experienced. These three branch operations will be treated solely as all other dealerships except that they will trade under the manufacturers name. My terms of agreement mirror those of our other dealers. And finally with regard to the hire companies, we will definitely not be competing with them. We will stay firmly with our core business, which is committed to supplying quality products in all the sectors in which we operate, supported by exemplary levels of after sales service."

Alan Prickett also confirmed that Service Parts ordered by customers will be dispatched on overnight carriage direct to the customer with no carriage charges, whether supplied from Ipswich or the branches.

Experienced people have joined the new branches and pictured here are (l-r) Spike Spires, Foreman/Technician at Mansfield; Tim Vaughan, Service Technician at Mansfield; Gary Potter, Service Technician at Selby; and Des Clarke, Service Manager at Selby, another former Henton & Chattell employee.

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TEXTRON
GOLF, TURF AND SPECIALTY PRODUCTS

Field Service Engineer

JACOBSEN RANSOMES CUSHMAN RYAN
While greenkeepers continue striving to maintain golf courses to the highest possible standard, research scientists are working in laboratories on projects that could ultimately eliminate some of the obstacles to perfect course conditioning. This month Dr Sue Grayston, Principal Scientific Officer in the Plant Ecophysiology & Rhizosphere Processes Programme at the Macaulay Institute in Aberdeen, gives an insight into some of the work that is being carried out at the Institute on soil biodiversity.

Did you know that soil probably harbours most of our planet’s undiscovered biodiversity (Tiedje et al., 1999)? And yet we know very little about it. However, too small to be seen no longer means insignificant or valueless. Soil organisms are the key contributors to nutrient cycling, energy flow and storage in soil (Whitford, 1996). The soil biota recycle nutrients, produce and consume gases that affect global climate, destroy pollutants, treat wastes and can be used for biocontrol of plant and animal pests. Soil micro-organisms are the major sources of pharmaceuticals, antibiotics, immunosuppressants, enzymes and anti-tumour agents.

Soil organisms can be conveniently classified according to size. There are micro-organisms, which are invisible to the naked eye. They include bacteria, fungi and algae (Figure 1). These are the primary decomposers of plant and animal detritus in soil. The microfauna are the soil animals, less than 200um long, therefore also too small to be seen by eye and they include protozoa and nematodes (Figure 2). Microfauna are animals of medium size (200um – 1 cm in length) (collembola, mites, enchytraeids) (Figure 3) and macrofauna are animals who are cm’s long, (earthworms, molluscs, arthropods, vertebrates) (Figure 4). Some soil fauna are predators of soil micro-organisms and other soil fauna, some are detritivores and others are plant herbivores.

Mature forest soils appear to have a diversity greater than any other habitat, with the possible exception of coral reefs (Behan-Pelletier & Bisset, 1992). The development and application of new methodologies to characterise, isolate and identify soil biota has indicated that we have only scratched the surface of soil biodiversity. Andre et al. (1994), using a new flotation method to extract mites from soil hypothesised that 10 million mesofauna in soil remained to be discovered. The situation is more dramatic with soil micro-organisms. Using molecular techniques it has been estimated that 1.5 million fungal species exist, yet only 5% are described. Similarly, for bacteria there may be 300,000 to 1 million species on earth, yet only 3,000 are described. A typical gram of soil contains 1 billion bacteria, only 10% of which are culturable (Torsvik, 1990a) and there may be 4,000 different microbial genomes present (Torsvik, 1990b). The total number of microbial cells on earth is far greater than individual animals and plants (Meyer, 1994). The survival of micro-organisms does not require plant or animal life, whereas the existence of micro-organisms is vital for plants and animals, including humans, and life on earth would cease if they became extinct. In fact, soil and its biotic component has been described as “our most precious non-renewable resource” (Marshall et al., 1982).

Bearing in mind the importance of soil organisms in ecosystem functioning and the fact that we know so little about individual identities and their specific roles it is vital if we are going to be able to manage different ecosystems effectively or realise some of the potential untapped wealth waiting to be discovered in soil, we need more information on the character and functional significance of the soil biota. This statement holds true whether one is managing, at the one extreme a high input intensive course, or at the other extreme, a low input extensive pasture used as a grazing resource for animals. We also need to understand the key factors affecting the growth of soil organisms. Availability of carbon (C) is a key factor affecting the growth of soil organisms. Therefore, any factor affecting soil C and is therefore impact on the soil organisms. These factors include a) plant species - which vary in the amount and type of C they release to the soil, b) above-ground cutting, whether this be by an animal or a machine, which alters C fluxes to the soil, c) below-ground root herbyivity by insect larvae and nematodes - which increases C flow to the soil and d) soil amendments - which are used in intensive systems like golf courses as microbial stimulants.

Until recently it was felt that trying to identify the diversity of the whole soil microbial community was an impossible task because the techniques were just not available to study these small organisms. However, with the development of new molecular techniques like denaturing gradient gel electrophoresis (DGGE) to produce molecular fingerprints of microbial communities (Figure 3) and new chemotaxonomic techniques like phospholipid fatty acid (PLFA) profiling, which identifies characteristic 'signature' lipids found in the membranes of specific microbial groups, it is now possible to identify the total microbial diversity in soil. In addition, methods such as community level physiological profiling (CLPP) are being used to assess the functional diversity of the microbial communities in soil. The technique measures utilisation of a number of different carbon substrates (Figure 6) by microbial communities and is therefore relevant to soils, where microbial growth is carbon lim-
We have been undertaking this research at the Macaulay as part of these biodiversity programmes. The use and further development of these techniques, applied to the research areas described above, is being undertaken at the Macaulay Institute in Aberdeen, as part of our core research programme funded by the Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department (SEERAD) and in our role as partners in two major UK programmes on soil biodiversity – the SEERAD Micronet Project and the Natural Environmental Research Council (NERC) Soil Biodiversity Programme. Both of these programmes are centred on the grasslands at the Macaulay Institutes Research Station near Yetholm in the Scottish Borders. Although this research is being undertaken on upland grasslands the research and findings are equally relevant to intensively managed grasslands, such as golf courses.

The SEERAD Micronet Project (http://www.scri.sari.ac.uk/MICRO) is a major 10 year (1994-2004) coordinated programme on soil microbial diversity which is developing and applying a suite of molecular and phenotypic techniques to characterise the spatial and temporal diversity of soil microbial communities across a range of pastures differing in management intensity at 10 sites in the UK (Figure 7). The overall aim is to try to understand how soil microbial community structure affects the fertility of the soil and the composition and productivity of the sward. This is a major programme of international significance; there is no other programme in the world applying a suite of both molecular and physiological techniques to the same soil samples to quantify spatial and temporal diversity of soil microbial communities.

We have been able to show that microbial community structure and activity is significantly influenced by grassland type and site, with intensively managed ryegrass, clover grasslands being a bacterial dominated system and the low input, extensive bent, fescue grasslands being fungal dominated (Grayston et al., 2001) (Figure 8). We have also shown that different grasses select for the microbial community in the soil surrounding its roots – ‘the rhizosphere’, through the variety of different carbon compounds they release from their roots (Grayston et al., 1998) (Figure 9). The NERC Soil Biodiversity Programme (http://mwnta.nm.ac.uk/soilbio) is a five year programme (1999-2004), which aims to quantify the diversity of the whole soil biota in a bent fescue grassland in the Scottish Borders, subject to a variety of management inputs (addition of nitrogen, lime, insecticide) (Figure 10). The key objective is to ascertain whether there is a link between biological diversity and function in soil. As part of this programme the Macaulay Institute, in collaboration with the Institute of Grassland and Environmental Science, is working to develop a programme of applying Green-Releaf liquids to charge your soil with billions of beneficial bacteria to improve turf health.

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**SPRAY THATCH-LESS NOW TO REDUCE YOUR THATCH LAYER**
Research at North Wyke and Aberystwyth and Royal Holloway, University of London is quantifying the diversity of insect and nematode root feeders in grasslands and their impact on rhizosphere carbon flow and soil microbial communities. This is the HUGBUG Project (http://www.mluri.sari.ac.uk/HUGBUG).

Below-ground root herbivory by insects and phytophagous nematodes can result in qualitative and quantitative changes in soil carbon fluxes, which may impact on soil microbial diversity and functioning. We know something of the insect and nematode species that cause damage to agricultural grassland, and they are the same as those found in golf courses. However, the potential impact of root feeding by invertebrates on microbial driven nutrient cycling has not been evaluated.

Leatherjacket larvae (Tipula paludosa) are the dominant insect root herbivore in our bent fescue grassland (Figure 11). These larvae are also one of the biggest pests of turfgrass (see article by Yelland, Greenkeeper International, November 2000). In laboratory experiments at the Macaulay we have shown that root feeding by these larvae appears to be plant species specific, the larvae significantly reduced the root biomass of ryegrass and clover, but not bentgrass. We have also shown, using miniaturised camera systems inserted into the soil, that these larvae differ in their root feeding patterns, preferring the lateral roots of ryegrass and the main root of clover. Root herbivory by these larvae also resulted in increased C release to the rhizosphere beneath ryegrass and clover, which altered the microbial community structure in these soils. This change in microbial communities could obviously impact on soil functioning. Additionally, the preferential feeding of this larva on different plant species could have an influence on plant community succession and explain why some plant species are better competitors. Currently, we are now assessing the impact of another insect root herbivore Sitona (Figure 12), and phytophagous (plant root feeding) nematodes on plant roots, rhizosphere C flow and the soil microbial community.

As part of our core funded research at the Macaulay we are assessing the impact of above-ground herbivory (frequency and height of cutting) on grass shoot and root growth, rhizosphere C flow, soil microbial communities and soil chemistry (Figure 13). We have been able to show that plants do differ in their response to cutting – e.g. bentgrass shows a significant reduction in root biomass with regular defoliation, ryegrass is more tolerant of cutting, in terms of shoot regrowth, than fescues, and bentgrasses, but not fescues can adapt their morphology in response to cutting, producing a shorter leaf growth zone. In addition, some plant species, like fescues lose more C from their roots into the soil after defoliation, which stimulates growth of the soil microbial community.

All these responses can impact on the competitive ability of the different grasses, which we are trying to identify. Microbes provide the underpinning of all ecosystems, therefore, it is vital we identify their diversity, function and the factors which affect their community size, structure and activity. By understanding how frequency and height of cutting, fertiliser, lime, pesticide application impact on the plant shoot and root growth, C fluxes and soil microbial communities and soil chemistry it will help us to understand why some plants are better competitors under different conditions and enable us to develop better management tools for our systems.

The Macaulay Institute receives funding from Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department (SEERAD).

Sue Grayston is a Principal Scientific Officer in the Plant Eco-physiology & Rhizosphere Processes Programme at the Macaulay.

The Macaulay’s analytical division provide a wide range of QA soil chemical analyses. They also provide expertise on soil microbiological analysis, plant identification and analysis. They can also supply knowledge on the key processes governing plant growth and competition and welcome involvement in collaborative projects in these areas.

References
Scotsturf goes from strength to strength

November 7-8, 2001, Royal Highland Centre, Ingliston, Edinburgh

Scotsturf celebrates its 21st Birthday this year! This dynamic show has matured into a valuable resource for the Groundscaare Industry in Scotland.

Last year the number of exhibitors to the IOG exhibition grew by 17% and visitors were up by 13% despite severe flooding throughout Scotland. This year promises to be even better, with many national manufacturers recognising the scope and scale of Scotsturf as a business opportunity.

A diverse range of machinery and services will be on offer at Scotsturf. If you are in the market for buying, leasing or hiring any equipment, from tractors and mowers to trimmers, Scotsturf has the solution. It is the shop window for all Scotland's major dealers and manufacturers – come and talk to the experts.

Take the time to talk through a new venture with a golf course or landscape architect or find a solution to a problem with advice on the perfect chemical or product.

All sectors of the industry will be represented including professionals from sports and golf clubs, national stadia, local authorities, schools, colleges and universities leisure complexes, caravan sites and forestry.

The demand for exhibition space has been so high that the balcony areas in Hall A have been reintroduced. The East balcony will host the Scotsturf Education Village, which includes the Seminar Suite, Trade Associations and Colleges. The West balcony will offer a variety of stands that will be popular with new and growing businesses. Halls B & C continue to be very popular, and some sponsorship opportunities are still available to increase your product profile.

Confirmed Saltex Exhibitors

- Alpha Plus (Scotland) Limited
- AM Phillip Sprey Techniques
- Angus Horticulture
- BIGGA
- Blount UK Ltd
- Brian Young (Garden Machinery)
- British Seed Houses Ltd
- Cleveland Sitesafe Ltd
- Complete Weed Control Ltd
- CSC Amenity Dennis
- Eagle Promotions Ltd
- Elmwood College
- EnviroG / TEG Environmental
- Enviromulch
- Eric Hunter & Co (Tools)
- Etoia (UK) Ltd
- Fraser C Robb
- Garfitts International Ltd
- Greentech (Sportsurf) Ltd
- Groundsmen Industries
- Hayter Limited
- Henderson Grass Machinery Ltd
- Henry H Sheach Lawn Mower Services
- Hunter Grinders Ltd
- Irrigation Scotland Ltd
- Kubota (UK) Ltd
- Links Leisure Ltd
- Logic Manufacturing Ltd
- Long Equipment Ltd
- Major Equipment Ltd
- McConnel Limited
- Mckays Playground Supplies Ltd
- McNab Sport / Scottish Groundcare
- Melvins Ltd
- Midland Power Machinery Distributors Ltd.
- Nairn Brown (Glasgow) Ltd
- New Holland UK Ltd
- Oatridge Agricultural College
- Omini Irrigation (Scotland) Ltd
- Pinnacle Power Equipment Ltd
- Ravenshaw College
- RH Young
- Richard Atikien (Seedsmen) Ltd
- Rolawn (Turf Growers) Ltd
- Rousseau Equipment Ltd
- Rytec Industrial Equipment Ltd
- Scotbark
- Scottish Amenity Marketing
- Scottish Golf Course Wildlife Group
- Scottish Grass Machinery Ltd
- Simon Tallent Machinery Co Ltd
- Teleshore UK Ltd
- The Play Practice
- Thomas Sherriff & Company Ltd
- Thornstones Landscapes
- Tonick Watering Ltd
- Toro Commercial Products
- Torax Ltd
- Texmac Mowing Systems Ltd
- Turf Irrigation Services Ltd
- Turf Machinery Ltd
- Ultra Plant
- Vadera Ltd
- Vitax Ltd
- Wiedemann UK Ltd
- Central Tyre Ltd
- Nordic Tyres
- Enginelec Ltd
- Kersten UK Ltd
- Indespension Ltd
- Playworld Systems
- Double A Trading Co
- STRI
- Overton (UK) Ltd
- PLM Power Products Ltd
- Husley Golf
- Chelwood Tool Company Ltd
- Growing Concern Scotland Ltd
- Chevot Trees Ltd
- Valtra Tractors (UK) Ltd
- David Ogilvie Engineering Ltd
- Yamaha Motor (UK) Ltd
- BAGO / Robert Acton Product Developments
- Terra Firma Ltd
- A Plant
- Farm and Garden Machinery
- Conflex Nurseries
- Johnsons Sport & Amenity
- J & S Montgomery Fleet (Line Markers) Ltd
- Elec Landscaping Equipment Co Ltd
- SAC Plant Biology Dept.
- Avant Techno (UK) Ltd
- Scotia Golf Cars
- Saxon Industries
- NFU Scotland
- Wallace Recycling Systems Ltd
- Russell Groundcare Equipment Ltd
- Turf Seed UK Ltd
- Logic Irrigation Ltd
- IPU Group

Our Scotsturf Preview continues over the page with important announcements from exhibitors.
Garfitts International Ltd

Garfitts International Ltd will have a presence on Stand A20 where our Sales Team will welcome you and discuss the year ahead. Overseas visitors are more than welcome as we are eager to extend our distribution to new markets.

Cross Sotheys Works, New Street, Holbrock Industrial Estate, Halfway, Sheffield S20 5GH

Tel: 0114 251 3344  Fax: 0114 251 3000

Email: sales@garfitts.com  www.garfitts.com

Stand Number A20

Henderson Grass Machinery Ltd

Henderson Grass Machinery Ltd will be showing one of the new Same Dorado Amenity tractors which range from 55hp to 85hp. These tractors are also proving popular with golf courses for the heavy tasks such as vertidraining. There will also be a selection of equipment from the Charterhouse range including vertidraining, Rapidcore and overseeding machines.

For more information, please visit our Stand or contact us on 01620 823171.

Stand Number A24

British Seed Houses

Join the Grade A Club and go one up. Greenkeepers are now starting to redeem credit points that give them special discounts on approved BIGGA training materials. You can benefit too. Find out more about the velvet bent Avalon and hear how AberElf and Aberhip - two ryegrasses bred at the UK’s only amenity grass breeding programme at the Institute of Grassland & Environmental Research, contributed to a truly vintage Wimbledon this year.

Tel: 01522 868714  Fax: 01522 868382

E-mail: seeds@bshlincoln.co.uk

Stand Number A8

Valtra Tractors

The Valtra Tractor range, manufactured in Finland and distributed in Britain by Valtra Tractors (UK) Ltd of Runcorn extends from 60 to 200hp, all powered by Valtra engines. A range of transmissions can provide creep and high road speeds and auxiliary power is available from the PTO and hydraulic services. There is a choice of tyres suitable for all types of operation. Valtra tractors are supported by a trained, nation-wide dealer network. Contact 01928 594400 or see us at Stand C27.

Stand Number C27

Irrigation Scotland

IRRIGATION SCOTLAND, an independent irrigation company with years of experience in design, installation and servicing, of all makes of irrigation equipment. Members of BIGGA and BTLA, with product support from TORO and HUNTER, we choose each component of the system from the company we feel the best - giving you reliability and peace of mind whilst protecting your investment.

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Tel. 01501 742000  Fax: 01501 740564

Email: irri-scot@irrigation.uk.com

Stand Number A2

Scottish Grass Machinery

Top dealer Scottish Grass Machinery, part of the SGM Group, will fly the flag for Textron at Scotsurf as its top UK dealer.

The latest product innovations from Textron including the new Jacobsen orange for the golf market and Ransomes green for the municipal market will be on show at the stand.

Company representatives from Scottish Grass Machinery and the Group’s other three divisions, SG M Finance, SGM Industrial and the Golf Division will be on hand to advise.

Also on display SGM Industrial will be showing the Ransomes Pathfinder Rido On Sweeper, together with product information on the latest innovations from Renault, Sparrow, Ferris and Vermeer.

Customers will have the opportunity to talk to finance experts about spreading the cost of hiring and servicing quality ground maintenance equipment with the Group’s Bank of Scotland backed finance division, SGM Finance.

Stand Number A21

Complete Weed Control

At Complete Weed control we offer a service using approved products designed to eliminate all your weed problems. We welcome the opportunity to discuss our full range of services including a free consultation.

To obtain your free copy of our award winning ‘Weeders Digest’ visit us at Stand B38.

Complete Weed Control Head Office: Tel 01451 822897

Stand Number B38

Totrax

Totrax Ltd are pleased to announce that they have acquired the name of Undergear Equipment Tyre and Wheel Conversions for all Turf, Tractor and flotation, which will enable them to offer a more comprehensive service.

Visit the Stand A21 to learn about the new Keratex K500 tyre which has been developed to minimise punctures.

Tel: 01205 280578. Fax: 01205 280520.

Email: sales@totrax.co.uk

Website: www.totrax.co.uk

Stand Number A21

BIGGA

BIGGA will be giving visitors the chance to find out more about all aspects of the Association and its activities, with our team on hand to answer all your questions and provide literature highlighting the benefits of membership. If you are already a member, you can get information about the prestigious Master Greenkeeper scheme, education and training courses, as well as updates about the highlight of a greenkeeper’s year - BTME at Harrogate.

Tel: 01347 833800  Fax: 01347 833801

reception@bigga.co.uk  www.bigga.org.uk

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for further info tel: 028 9042 2274
North

Two new members to welcome this month, both from the Highlands. Andrew Nixon, from Fortrose and month, both from the Highlands. Career at Tain GC taking over from has left Craggan GC to continue his from Strathpeffer GC. Rosemarkie GC, and Ian MacEwan, from New York State.

In New York State.

Superintendents' Section, Walter is a worthy member of Auchterarder GC and am pleased to

Iain Macleod

East

Welcome to this month's column. Yes, another month has gone by and we're approaching autumn so can somebody tell me where has the summer gone?

Well, results time. The Section held the Willie Woods Invitational at Winterfield GC on September 5.

The scores of the day were as follows:

1. S. Nicol/G. Turnbull, Winterfield, 62 2/3 - 62 2/3;
2. I. Elliot/G. Wright, West Linton, 61 + 3 1/3 - 64 1/3;

Well done to Steve and Graham on an excellent performance as I had the privilege of playing with them. Also well done to the teams in second and third place on some superb scoring. As Winterfield has hosted the tournament twice and the rule states that you can only host for two years on the trot next year the venue will go to the runner-up's course which was West Linton. So we look forward to welcoming you all next year and hope we can have an even bigger turnout.

The Section's four man team played at Auchterarder GC in the Norrie Whytock Trophy in August hoping to retain the cup they won last year. They played very well again this year against some formidable opposition from the other Sections but they had to settle for fourth place this time with the North Section grabbing victory to take the Cup north. Well done to the north lads on a good performance, but the east lads will be up for it next year to try and win the trophy back. Roll on next year. Also a big thanks to Aventis for another great tournament.

Coming next month will be the Autumn tournament results; Patrons' Awards winners; BIGGA National Championship highlights of outstanding members who are competing and anything else including any news from the Section AGM.

That's it, until next time. If you have anything of interest let me know so remember you can e-mail, phone, or write to me on all the usual numbers etc. Come on let's hear from you as, remember, it's your Section. Speak to you next month.

Chris Yeaman
West

Sorry there was no report last month but here is this month's report.

The autumn outing at Milngavie GC will have been played by the time this newsletter goes to print. The committee would like to thank the committee and membership of Milngavie GC for the courtesy of their course and I am sure our members will have had a most memorable day. Results will be printed in next month's report.

On August 27 the annual Club Stewards v Greenkeepers match was held at East Kilbride GC. The trophy was keenly contested on the day with the match ending all square which meant the greenkeepers retained the cup.

Our thanks again must go to the committee and membership of East Kilbride GC for allowing courtesy of the course. Personal thanks should also be conveyed to my playing partners on the day whose jovial banter kept me amused when the golf wasn’t quite up to scratch.

I hear congratulations have to be extended to the North Section for winning the Norrie Whytock Trophy played at East Kilbride GC. The trophy will have been played by the time this report is written. Congratulations and good wishes Lee on your new appointment.

Any news call me on 01305 683278. See you next month.

Kilmacolm GC, who again are to go forward as Scottish Regional Finalists also be conveyed to my playing partner with the course. Personal thanks should also be extended to the North Section for winning the Norrie Whytock Trophy played at East Kilbride GC. The trophy will have been played by the time this report is written. Congratulations and good wishes Lee on your new appointment.

National Education Conference

Monday 21 January and Tuesday 22 January, The Majestic Hotel, Harrogate

CAUSES AND PREVENTION OF TURFGRASS STRESSES
Dr James Beard, President and Chief Scientist, International Turfgrass Institute

GLOBAL WARMING AND THE GOLF COURSE
Keith Weatherhead, Cranfield University, John Bradwell, Turf Seed UK and Augustino Gaude, Turf Seed UK Ltd, Ruth Mann, Turfgrass and Plant Pathologist, STRI

REDESIGN AND RECONSTRUCTION OF GOLF COURSE FEATURES
Jim Moore, USGA Green Section; Brian Pierson, Golf Course Management

PREPARATION FOR WINTER PLAY
Ed McCabe, Course Manager, Brekshurst Manor GC; Arthur King, Brekshurst Manor Golf Club; George Shiel, Consulting Agronomist

Golf Club Show Seminars

Wednesday 23 January, Spa Royal Hall, Harrogate International Centre

Keynote speaker: Roger Black M.B.E. represented Great Britain at the highest level in the world of athletics, both as an individual 400 metres runner and as a member of 4 x 400 metres relay team.

Seminar topics are as follows:

Bunker Renovation, Biological Disease Control, Higher Education in Sportsurf - MSc, 24 Staff, 18 Holes and a 6 Month Season. A Career in Greenkeeping, Gizmos, Gadgets and Inventions, Sulphur Burner Technology, is It Right for You? Preparing for the Ryder Cup in 2005, Designing the Future with Strategic Planning, Turfgrass Management, Training and Professionalism go Hand in Hand.

banquet

The weeks events are rounded off on Thursday 24 January by the BTME/Golf Club Show Banquet, which is open to delegates of both shows. Returning to the Majestic Hotel, the Banquet stars the comedy duo Brahms and Listz supported by the Nightjars.
Northern
Northern Section 4 - North West Section 3. Well done to the victorious team in the recent Roses' Match, sponsored by Peter Aston, Rothley Park, the North West Section. It was a close one this year with good natured banter on both sides as is the tradition with this annual fixture. The weather on the eve of the day was perfect for golf and congratulations must go to Head Greenkeeper, Gavin Clark and his team of three including Gavin. The other two members of the team are away on farming duties.

This year a new tradition was started with each member of the team from both sides receiving a commemorative medal of the day, which was presented by Mr. and Mrs. John Harris. Vice-Captain Colin Littlewood. Well done to the following members of the team:- Tito Arana, Bob Bennet, Alan Thompson, Anthony (Titch) McGeough, Alan Reid, Mark Brown, Richie Hood and Chris Powley.

The first golf day was the Regional Final played at Birchwood GC on Wednesday, August 15, and although the weather was great during the day after the rain the course was in great shape and we had torrential rain. This made driving conditions hazardous on the motorways and with some of the Sections travelling long distances home, I just hope that everybody had a safe journey: The course at Birchwood was in great condition due to much hard work done by Andy Holt and his staff, in preparing the course and we had good weather last winter. The final was the six qualifiers from each of the six Sections in the Northern Region. Northern Section 2, 1. North East Section, 406; 2. North West Section, 386; 3. Sheffield and Cleveland. The par 72 course proved to be a good test of golf, which the best five scores out of six proved. The results were:-


The day was for the third year running sponsored by Richard Campey (Macclesfield) and although Richard could not make it on the day, two of Richard's representatives, his partner, Martin Heggie and Will Kidd, attended for the day. Many thanks to Richard for his kind sponsorship. Thanks also to Birchwood Golf Club for allowing us to use the course and Still carrying out Fine Effort from them both. The even-

result was Richard Harris, Tony Gerrard, Andy Smith, Brian Hudson, Johnny Platt, Andy Thompson, Andy Smith, Richard Smith, John Studdard, Nigel Wild. Over the weekend I hope to meet up with Patersons, Sandmoor G.C., Gavin Clark, and last but not least, the lads from Lancashire, Win or lose it's a good and most look forward to fix-

Our next golf event is our Texas Scramble tournament, on Thursday December 6 at Dunstable Downs these events and particularly to Nick Martin, from Scots, who was a great help in supporting these three competitions. These were all excellent days and our thanks go to all the host Golf Clubs for their hospitality and co-operation in staging the competitions.

Peter Larter

East Midlands
This year's East Midlands v East of England golf match was kindly host- ed by Cotgrave Place GC on August 15, and generously sponsored by Barenbrug. On a fine dry summer evening 20 golfers took part in a keenly contested match. Most of the matches were very close, none other than my own against Fred Cobb and Alan Buckley. We were two up after six, then two down with five to play. Only to win the next four holes, courtesy of some sterling golf from my partner, Kristian Hibberd. David James & Gavin Robson were also eventual winners 2&1, with Mark Bindley and Lee Mitchell winning the 18th hole for a hard fought half. Scotts kindly sponsored the day and as you would have read in your newsletter the Autumn Tournament will be on October 16 at Teesside Golf Club. The cost is only £10 and that includes a three course curry: to book call Barry Walker on 0191 5630691 or 01978 308992. Places are limited.

This year's AGM will be at Darlington Golf Club on November 22, 4.30pm. All members make an effort to attend. This Section needs you. A pie and pea supper will be served during the evening.

And finally congratulations to Martin Woods of Weardale Golf Club. He got married this month then jetted off to Barbados on honeymoon.

Any news call me on 07719 133831

Steven Jaques

Midland Region

Peter Larter
tel: 01455 435707

The remaining Scots Golf Management Trophy Competitions were successfully held at the South Staffordshire GC on August 16, Rothley Park GC on August 31 and Ryston Park Golf Club on September 15. The winning team at both Rothley Park and Ryston Park were Cleveland Section, 372; 2. North West Section, 386; 3. Sheffield and Cleveland.

The final meeting of the year will be the President's Cup and AGM at Wilmshurst Golf Club on Thursday, December 6. Bacon baps and coffee before playing and the fee is available on 10am. Applications to Bill Merritt, 225 Uniting Avenue, Cubmoor, Liverpool, L4 9RB. Tel: 01512 844416. Including a cheque for £15. Everybody bring a bottle on the day so we all go home with a prize. Any news or views contact me on my mobile 07761 583387 or 01512 212434

Bert Cross

Cleveland
Congratulations to the Cleveland Section Golf Team who went to the National Final and retained the trophy. Thompson, Anthony (Titch) McGeough, Alan Reid, Mark Brown, Richie Hood and Chris Powley. Well done lads.

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