Scott MacCallum met up with Dave Sammels, Courses Superintendent at The De Vere Belfry to talk about the forthcoming Ryder Cup match

You could make a strong case for arguing that the biggest sporting event of the year - and I haven't forgotten the Lions Tour, or the Ashes Series, or Wimbledon or the Super Bowl - will take place in Wishaw, near Sutton Coldfield, in the Midlands.

That is the home of The De Vere Belfry where the recently remodelled Brabazon Course will be the stage on which 24 of the world's finest golfers will compete for the Ryder Cup.

It may last only three days and have no prize money at stake but in each of the matches since the early 80s, it has never failed to produce drama which wouldn't be out of place at the Globe Theatre in nearby Stratford-upon-Avon.

The teams are now so evenly matched that every one of the 24 players, who tees it up during the two series of foursomes and fourballs and final day singles, knows that every single shot may prove to be of vital importance when it comes to tallying up the points at the end of the match.

With that in mind the condition of the course takes on almost mind numbing importance. What if a perfect 330 yard Tiger Woods drive finishes up in a divot... or a hole-bound Colin Montgomerie putt on the 18th green is a major element wouldn't come into it. Perfection is what is expected and perfection is what is demanded.

You would think such a weighty responsibility would have the man in charge of getting the course close to that perfection waking up in a cold sweat at the very thought. Not so.

"I don't get sleepless nights thinking about the Ryder Cup and everything that goes along with it," revealed De Vere Belfry Courses Superintendent Dave Sammels.

"I try to worry about it I'm sure I wouldn't sleep but I'm confident that we have everything covered and have contingency plans to cover all eventualities."

And if anyone is in a position to ensure every i is dotted and tee is cut it is Dave, who works closely with Brabazon Head Greenkeeper, Bevan Tattersall.

"It also struck a huge Scots pine on the main drive 12 feet from the top and completely shattered the tree, blowing pieces 50 yards in all directions. I'd never seen weather like it before."

Having said that, should the Weather Gods once again decide to turn their attention to the Midlands at the end of September the team will be as ready as they can possibly be.

"We have got plans in place for everything from getting water off the course to what happens if fog delays the start as happened in an earlier Ryder Cup match here," explained Dave, who is in charge of The De Vere Belfry's three courses, the Brabazon, the Derby and the recently-built PGA.

That planning has been underway virtually since the day Dave took over with meeting galore with the Ryder...
Up for the Cup

Cup committee and European Ryder Cup Captain Sam Torrance himself. “I’ve already had several meetings with Sam on how he would like the course set up for the match,” revealed Dave.

“When I was in Boston for the last Ryder Cup I was interviewed by a television reporter who asked if I would be the 13th man on the team. I asked him if the Brookline Superintendent was the American’s 13th man and although he didn’t answer the inference was clear,” revealed Dave.

“The set-up on the Brabazon will be done fairly... but in our favour,” he smiled.

“Sam knows quite a bit about greenkeeping and he knows what he wants to give his guys the best chance of winning the Cup. For example, he knows how far the Americans can hit the ball and he knows how far we hit it. He knows the speed of the greens the Americans are used to and the speed of greens our guys are familiar with.”

In short Sam will make sure the Europeans have everything in their favour as much as possible with the longer hitting Americans perhaps finding the fairways narrowing the further down they go or the greens not quite as fast as they would expect on their own Tour - all of it no more than the Europeans expect when they are the visiting team.

The players will find the rough four inches long with the semi an inch and a half while the likelihood is that the greens will be stimping at between 10.5 and 12.

During the week of the match the greenkeeping team will comprise of the 13 permanent members of the Brabazon team, supplemented by the 15 from the other two courses - nine on the PGA and six on the Derby - six students, who do strimming and fly mowing in the summer, and six additional greenkeepers from Slaley Hall and Carden Park, two other De Vere resorts.

“Normally there is quite a bit of banter between our three teams - each team has a name, the Brabazon staff are called Brabwrackers, there is the PGA Scum and the Derby Dingles - but we will all be pulling together to make sure everything is right during the week,” said Dave. "The wicked humour that flies around the maintenance facility.

“We can cut the entire course in around an hour with an individual green taking about 20 minutes.”

While it is easy to appreciate the nerves the players will be feeling during the week it would also be easy to underestimate the pressure the greens staff will be under. With high in the sky camera positions and huge grandstands any less than perfect mowing lines will be blatantly obvious but Dave knows his team are up to the job.

“We have some of the best green-..."
keepers anywhere in Britain here - one of them is known as "Laser" Luke because his lines are so straight - and everyone is up to the job. They are all buzzing about the Ryder Cup," said Dave, who expects many of them to move on once they have the Ryder Cup on their CVs.

"I've told them I don't mind as long as they go away from here to be Head Greenkeepers - if they move sideways I'll kick them out the door. All are good enough to be at least First Assistants. We train them all on side here and I'm proud of our record for training."

While the course is being brought to a peak for the week of the Ryder Cup the general standard is something The De Vere Belfry strives to maintain day-in-day-out

"People see the course on television and expect it to be the same when they arrive for a game. It is our job to make sure it lives up to expectations 365 days a year."

When Dave is not working he heads back to his home in Edinburgh, where his wife and brother run the family business, Edinburgh Landscapes.

It was through Edinburgh Landscapes that Dave first became involved with the soon-to-be four time Ryder Cup venue.

The company had worked closely with Dave Thomas, the original co-designer of the Brabazon with Peter Alliss, on a number of other golf courses including Westerwood near Cumbernauld and the Roxburghe in the Scottish Borders, and he asked Dave to give him a price for growing in the new PGA course.

At the end of that contract I was asked if I wanted a job here, initially as Course Manager of the Derby and PGA courses. I was asked as we walked around the course and the further we walked the more I fancied the idea. I can't tell you why I wanted to come here. It was a big challenge and I suppose I was getting older as well and didn't want to lose what was a great opportunity for me," explained Dave, who took on the additional responsibility for the Brabazon six months later.

A visitor to this year's Ryder Cup, not having visited The De Vere Belfry since the last match was played there in '93 might be forgiven for thinking he'd shown up at the wrong venue such has been the number of changes to the course since then.

"It would be easier to say what we haven't changed about the course rather than go through what we have," smiled Dave, hinting at the extensive nature of the face lift the Brabazon had been on the receiving end of, costing almost £2.5 million.

With that he runs through a list which covers virtually every hole, sometimes fundamental amendments, other times mere tweaks. Indeed included among the changes are two completely new holes in the 3rd and 4th. The 3rd has moved from being a straight par-4 to being a dog-legged par-5 with a pond in front while the 4th used to be a par-3 but is now a par-4, again with a pond guarding the green.

"The work has been done for the betterment of the golf course as a whole and not just for the Ryder Cup and now it is a mature course which is going from strength to strength," said Dave, whose personal input included the addition of 14 magnificent brick bridges around the course.

Pleasingly, both Dave and Bevan have been invited to all of the official engagements during the week, including the Opening and Closing ceremonies but Dave isn't fazed by the prospect of rubbing shoulders with the likes of Tiger and Monty.

"I think being a Scotsman you think 'A man's a man for a' that'. They might play golf better than me but I can do other things better than them so as far as I'm concerned we're equals. I do admire them though."

Such is the excellence of the work that has been done at The De Vere Belfry recently, coupled with that during the week of the match itself Dave Sarnsels and his team will have the admiration of all the players and the rest of the greenskeeping fraternity.
Daniel Binns leads you through the confusing path of soil analysis ...

Soil analysis

Unravelling the mystery
Periodic soil analysis is important in order to review trends of pH and nutrient levels in the soil. There are currently a variety of testing alternatives available to the greenkeeper but few of these are independent. Furthermore the information they provide is often confusing and difficult to understand. The purpose of this article is to help interpret the minefield of information which can often accompany the results of your chemical analysis once it returns from the laboratory.

As far as we know there are 13 essential elements in the soil necessary for plant growth. These are required in addition to three nutrients, which are not derived from the soil but from the atmosphere and water. These are carbon (C), oxygen (O) and hydrogen (H) and form the largest percentage of the plant, on a dry weight basis. The plant carbohydrates are composed of these elements. The only reason we usually don't think of these as being essential nutrients is because we do not have to supply them through fertilisation and they are not derived from the soil.

The 13 soil-derived nutrients are divided up into macronutrients and micronutrients. Macronutrients are...
required in largest quantity and include nitrogen (N), potassium (K), phosphorus (P), calcium (Ca), magnesium (Mg) and sulphur (S). Micronutrients are present in very small quantities within the plant. These trace elements (micronutrients) are chlorine (Cl), iron (Fe), manganese (Mn), boron (B), zinc (Zn), copper (Cu) and molybdenum (Mo). All of these nutrients need to be present in adequate quantities for concentrations are measured in parts per million of leaf material.

Soil pH is, of course, the single most important chemical factor that influences turf management. It is a measure of the acidity or alkalinity of the soil, determined by the concentration of hydrogen ions in a soil solution. Acidic soils (pH below 7.0) have a high concentration of hydrogen ions while alkaline soils (pH above 7.0) have a low concentration of hydrogen ions.

In more acidic soils, certain nutrients become less available, namely nitrogen, phosphorus, calcium, potassium and magnesium. Potentially toxic elements such as aluminium and manganese are made more available through acidification.

Many species of grass will not thrive in these conditions and a low pH has a significant effect on the species that dominate the turf.

Most of the nutrients that we supply to the turf through fertilisers are positively charged ions. We call these cations. These cations can become attached to the negatively charged surfaces of clay and organic matter in the soil. When cations become attached to these cation exchange sites on clay and organic matter, they become temporarily retained by the soil. These nutrients can then be utilised at a later time by the plant.

There are also negatively charged plant nutrients. These include nitrate-nitrogen, phosphates, sulphates, chloride and molybdenum. Due to the negative charge, they cannot be held by soil clay organic matter and these nutrients tend to move more quickly through the soil along with soil water. Thus they are prone to leaching losses, and once they leach beyond the root zone of the turf grass roots, they are no longer available to the plant.

One essential plant nutrient is neutral, meaning it has neither a negative or positive charge. This nutrient is boron in the form of boric acid, but the plant requires it nonetheless, although grasses need much lower amounts than broad leaved plants.

The ability of a soil to retain cation nutrients is important. As the content of clay and organic matter in the soil goes up, so does the soil's cation exchange capacity. Cation Exchange Capacity (CEC) is an indicator of the nutrient holding capability of the soil and can be a useful indicator in its own right. The term refers to the ability of negatively charged soil particles to attract the positively charged ions.

Sands have lower CEC than soils containing clay. It is for this reason we need to make repeated light applications of fertilisers under sandy soil conditions. The nutrients are not retained by sandy soil because it has a very low CEC. However, in heavier or more organic soils we find that the need for nutrients from fertiliser is lower because they typically retain a lot of these cationic nutrients. These nutrients remain in the soil and are available to the plant for a longer period of time.

Although CEC is of interest, it is not the most important factor in determining nutrient holding capacity of soil. It is the amount of organic matter present which determines the quantity of nitrogen and other nutrients held within the soil. For example the organic matter under a golf green has far more of an impact on the turf's fertility rather than CEC. It is the organic matter which holds the nutrients.

The majority of greenkeepers undertake routine soil analyses to monitor nutrient levels on their greens. Regular (perhaps yearly) testing has the greatest value especially on sandy rootzones where changes can occur rapidly. Ideally, samples should be submitted from each green on the course. Representative sampling may be appropriate if all the greens are constructed and managed in the same way, also helping to keep analysis costs to a minimum.

Identifying the best, worst and one third average green.

Collect the samples at the same time each year, to the same depth and use the same laboratory - preferably an independent one. This process eliminates a few variables that can compromise the value of the data.

Samples should be obtained at least three weeks after any fertiliser application.

Nutrients can be extracted in the laboratory in a number of ways but in sports turf we are now seeing standardisation of these extraction methods. It is the interpretation of the results that often causes confusion.

Commonly soil chemical analysis can be interpreted in two ways. The first is the more proven, traditional method of predicting the quantity of plant available nutrients in the soil. Basing a sound fertiliser programme on pH values and level of available nutrients will provide an accurate assessment of nutrient requirements in the rootzone.

The second method of interpretation uses the base cation saturation ratio. Recommendations are made by ranking the calculated percent cation saturation with an ideal base saturation taken from research in agriculture. The percentage base saturations are those likely to be found in a soil of neutral pH. They are not necessarily the optimum ratios for plant growth and are simply derived from the natural element concentrations in soil.

As a consequence recommendations from this method assume a pH of 7.0 is desirable because nutrient availability is increased in neutral soils. Unfortunately this fails to recognise that most greenkeepers in the UK aim to have mildly acidic soils where favourable grass species will dominate, disease incidence can be reduced and weed growth inhibited.

Having mildly acidic soil may have a detrimental effect on the availability of some nutrients, but it may be this very fact that gives the poverty grasses a competitive edge in a Poa annua dominated world.

As you can imagine this method can often highlight a number of anomalies in the soil, for example copper or boron deficiency. In reality, it is extremely rare to find deficiencies of any of the micronutrients on turf in the UK.

The only way to be sure that any soil test predicts nutrient availability is to carry out the basic research. Interpretation of analysis results must be based on trials with turf grasses growing under varying nutrient regimes such that deficiency symptoms are actually induced. Nutrient symptoms are rarely induced in sports turf.

There are now a plethora of greenkeeping products available on the market and we are constantly bombarded with information on the latest product that will make the difference to our turf. In terms of nutrition, try not to be blinded by science; instead keep resistant, disease tolerant turf is the physical maintenance of the rootzone and sensible nitrogen fertiliser applications.

Daniel Binns is an STRI Turfgrass Agronomist covering the Midlands. Daniel and the rest of the STRI team can be contacted on 01274 565131, e-mail: info@stri.co.uk or visit our website www.stri.co.uk.
North
At the time of writing the forms for the North Autumn Outing were going out to all members, and by now the event at Keith GC will have probably been played. Results will be in the October magazine as will the report from the Norrie Whytrock Trophy at Auchterarder GC. Next month is the National Championships at Royal Birkdale and Southport & Ainsdale GC, I will be playing need hope to see a few members if you can make the trip.

I have a few details of the Seminar we are running in November. It will be held at Midonald GC Ellon on Friday November 9 in the early evening, confirmed speakers are Gordon Moir, Links Manager at St Andrews, Ronnie Bunting, Course Administrator for Scotland. One the event at Keith GC will have probably been played by now we are running in November. It will be played and hope to see a few members and Southport & Ainsdale GC, I will be playing need hope to see a few members if you can make the trip.

At the time of writing the forms for the North Autumn Outing were going out to all members, and by now the event at Keith GC will have probably been played. Results will be in the October magazine as will the report from the Norrie Whytrock Trophy at Auchterarder GC. Next month is the National Championships at Royal Birkdale and Southport & Ainsdale GC, I will be playing need hope to see a few members if you can make the trip. North

I have a few details of the Seminar we are running in November. It will be held at Midonald GC Ellon on Friday November 9 in the early evening, confirmed speakers are Gordon Moir, Links Manager at St Andrews, Ronnie Bunting, Course Administrator for Scotland. One the event at Keith GC will have probably been played by now we are running in November. It will be played and hope to see a few members and Southport & Ainsdale GC, I will be playing need hope to see a few members if you can make the trip.

I have a few details of the Seminar we are running in November. It will be held at Midonald GC Ellon on Friday November 9 in the early evening, confirmed speakers are Gordon Moir, Links Manager at St Andrews, Ronnie Bunting, Course Administrator for Scotland. One the event at Keith GC will have probably been played by now we are running in November. It will be played and hope to see a few members and Southport & Ainsdale GC, I will be playing need hope to see a few members if you can make the trip.
The first of this year’s Midland Region Golf Management Trophy events was held at Verulam Golf Club on Tuesday, August 7 when 16 teams comprising a greenkeeper, Club Secretary, Club Captain and Chairman of Green competed for a tonne of fertiliser for the winning golf club and other team prizes.

Many readers may not be aware that Samuel Ryder, a local seed merchant, Mayor of St. Albans, was Chairman of Green and the instigator of the Ryder Cup, which was a member of Verulam Golf Club at the time he had the idea of playing a match against the USA for which he donated the trophy, which is in everyone’s minds in the lead up to this year’s Match at the Belfry.

The event was sponsored by Scotts in their fourth year of supporting this event. Please remember that this is the first BIGGA golf event. Despite a dreadful weather forecast, most of the teams completed their round in the dry and the course was superbly presented by Head Greenkeeper Geoff Smith and his staff.

The winning club was Hartshourne Golf & Country Club with a superb team score of 133, 11 under par, with the Mid Herts Golf Club a close second on 134 and Mill Hill Golf Club third on 136, on a count-back from the host club. An excellent day was had by all and our thanks go to all at Verulam Golf Club for their hospitality and cooperation in staging the competition.

Peter Larter

**Mid Anglia**

The Section’s autumn golf tournament is to be held at Leitchworth Golf Club on October 11th. The format will be 18 holes of golf in the morning, followed by a meal and the Annual General Meeting in the afternoon.

Those wishing to attend the AGM only, should arrive for 4.00pm. Entries to the golf tournament should be sent to Richard, using the usual form.

Paul Lockett

**East Midlands**

Not a great deal of news to report on this month. At the E.T. Breakwells golf day on July 25 several members were invited courtesy of Len Breakwells for a business day’s game of golf. The winner was BIGGA Vice Chairman himself Richard Barker. Unfortunately the East Midlands team could only finish in third place.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Kevin Kinzer, of E.T. Breakwells, for helping to organise this event. Please remember that this year’s Autumn tournament is to be held on September 14 at Lingdale Golf Club if you wish to confirm your Tee-Off time then please give me a ring.

Antony Bindley

**East of England**

Woodhall Spa was the setting for the Burdens Golf Trophy.

The members played over the new Bracken Course, which was in superb condition. It was well defined and manicured and an excellent test of golf. Sam Rhodes and Peter Wisbey were thanked for their efforts and asked to thank all of the EGU Headquarters for their support. The event was sponsored by Scotts Turfcare.

Prize Winners:

Trade prizes went to Duncan Beall and Gary Cooper, the prizes were presented by Peter Warner and Chris Lee, of Burdens, and many thanks to them and all other sponsors on the day.

The Peterborough Garden Machinery Trophy was played at Spalding Golf Club. A good turn out of members played an excellent conditioned course prepared by head greenkeeper Tony Ward and his staff.

The winner on the day was our Head Greenkeeper to the section Ian Batty of Saxford GC. Welcome and well done on winning the PGM Trophy.

1. Ian Batty, 35pts, Saxford GC
2. Lee Howkins, 34 pts, Cleethorpes GC
3. Graeme Macdonald, 33 pts, Newark GC.

Trade Prize. Gary Cooper 34 pts

Longest Drive. David Hornsey, Woodhall Spa

Nearest the Pin. Simon Hedley.

Thanks to all sponsors on the day, especially Keith from PGM.

Others were:- Tower Chemicals, Greengrass, Atkems, Boughton Loam, Alpha Amenity, Linseed, Rigby Taylors, Mansfield Sands, Burdens and Midlife.

After the prize giving Gary Cooper, of Tower Chemicals, presented David Hornsey and Les Howkins with their BIGGA Blazers. Tower are now the Order of Merit sponsors which first prize is a new Blazer. Thanks to Gary and Tower Chemicals.

G Macdonald

**BBO**

Humblest of apologies for missing the last few months. It must have been all that sunshine going to my head - just not used to hot sunny weather especially down here at Costa Del Caversham. Anyway straight onto business and it seems that Colin Hutt is trying to do his own impression of Tiger Woods by winning all the Section competitions. Not satisfied with success at Caversham Heath back in April, he then went on to win at Maidenhead with 43 pts, closely followed by Carl Small with 41 pts and myself in the prizes (at last) with 37 pts.

Many thanks to Maidenhead Golf Club for their hospitality and also to David Winterton and his team for producing such an impressive course.

We would also like to thank Bernie Wall, of Gem, for sponsoring the competition. You may also be aware that the Rightly Taylor Pairs is in full swing at the moment, (no pun intended, honest) and the time of writing is in the semi-final stages, which consists of the following pairings: Alastair Higgs & Simon Robinson, Calcot Park, v David Goodchild & Charlie Wright, Ellesbrough. Ian Roberts & Carl Small (Defending Champions), Ellesbrough) v Tony Steven & Andy Reesin, Castle Royal. Chris Lomas & Mark Hancock, The Berkshire. v Gary Armstrong & Mark Steels, Cherwell Edge. Lee Bishop & Brian Payne, Burnham Beeches. v Lindsay Anderson & Simon Austin, Badgermere Park. Good Luck to those involved as soon as I can find out the results I’ll try and get them in a report.

Well that’s about it for this month. You would have thought that after three months or is it four? that I might have something interesting to write about but unless you want to hear about shooting myself in the thumb or the episode with Stephen and the tattoo... no I’ll stop there. Hopefully more next month.

Jon Scoones Tel: 01189 723334
The annual Regional Seminar at Cannington College will take place on November 21, 2001. Speakers for the day are Steven Bernhard, of Bernard and Co, who will talk on Better Grass for Less Money, a two part paper. Steven will be followed by Richard Whyman, Head Greenkeeper at Bude and North Cornwall GC who will report back from his trip to Canada where he was a part of BIGGA's Bernhardt's Scholarship earlier this year. The afternoon will hear from Dave Sammels, Courses Superintendent at De Vere Belfry, who will speak on preparing from the Ryder Cup. Question time will involved the listed speakers plus Neil Thomas, Executive Director of BIGGA and Past Chairman of the Association, Gordon Child.

Attendance at the seminar counts for three CPD points and cost is £17.50 for members and £25 for non-members inclusive of lunch. Further information is available from Paula Humphries Tel: 01288 352194

South Wales: The summer Competition was recently held at the Llanwern Golf Club in Newport. We were made to feel extremely welcome at the club by everyone and we had an excellent day all round. It was a first time visit to Llanwern for many of us and we found the golf course to be in excellent condition thanks to A Panks and his team. It's great when someone goes out of their way to provide that little bit of something more, something different, something special!!

Course Manager Adrian Panks certainly did this for us at Llanwern, I don't know how many noticed but for us the greenkeepers, Adrian cut the greens in backlap mode, yes really! Thanks!

Thanks Ade for this special treatment, you know what they say about a craftsman blaming his tools?

Results of the day: Winner of the Birdie Cup with a best gross was Peter Holmstrom from Newport GC; Winner of the Jacobsen Cup with a best nett was 

It can drive its 6" tines, solid or hollow, at a faster rate than any other aerator, which makes it the perfect machine for high speed runs down the fairway and for even shorter work on the greens.

The new Mustang joins the market-leading range of Verti-Drains that have outsold and outperformed all competitors for the past 20 years. And, with an aerator to suit virtually every application, it's the widest range available anywhere.

But one word of caution.
The new Mustang is fast; so fast that you may get done in a flash.

Contact us now for further information or a demonstration of the new Verti-Drain Mustang on 01428 661222.

Charterhouse Turf Machinery Ltd, Weydown Industrial Estate, Weydown Road, Haslemere, Surrey, GU27 1DW Tel: 01428 661222. Fax: 01428 661218.
E-Mail: ctm@dircon.co.uk
Web Site: http://www.redexim.com
Kent

July 26 saw the summer Stableford at Chestfield Golf Club. It was a rather hot day but the standard of golf was not hot. Well that’s what I was told anyway. I was unable to attend so I have too much information about the antics of the day but I do have the results and reports back from Bob Cook, which I hope to enjoy playing over the weekend of Competitions, after the Open and the golf course was in excellent condition. This was our first visit to the Grove GC and everyone was pleasantly surprised at how good not only the course is, for its s only five years old but the facility of how they have there are really top class. We were able to feel extremely welcome by all at the Grove but especially Directors Tim Jones and Mike, Thomas, our sincere thanks for their splendid hospitality.

Grove Golf Club Captain, Mr David Jones paid special praise to Head Greenkeeper Henry Stead for his efforts in ensuring that the Grove GC is presented at its best at all times and this was reiterated by everyone who was present. Well done Henry to you and your team.

At the end of the round the prize givers were;
- 4.00pm Alan Magew and Father: Course Care Trophy
- 4.30pm Bernie Embrey/P. Hector: Suffolk tournament at Kings Hill
- 4.30pm Bill Smiths: rather. (Yes, that is me…)
- 5.30pm James Martin/Mike Cartwright. (Yes, that is me…)

The second event to take place was the Bigga Management Trophy, which was played at a truly magnificent Salisbury and South Wilts GC. (That’s where I work).

The Bigga Management Trophy can be played in the exclusive Bob Cook Memorial Golf Day at Kings Hill Golf Club. Those who don’t know Bob, would not know that his golf swing passed away several years ago after a long illness. A great day was had with some of Mr Cook’s more colourful friends and drinking buddies. I had the pleasure of playing with Bob’s good friend The ‘King’ say on another occasion but he can’t play this time. So all you reps who travel around and reveal their true identity next month. I do apologise to all those at other Head Greenkeeper who I have met with some of Mr Cook’s more colourful friends and drinking buddies. I had the pleasure of playing with Bob’s good friend The ‘King’ say on another occasion but he can’t play this time. I look forward to seeing you all at

Don’t forget that if you need to cancel, you must give Chris at least 7 days notice. If you don’t, you will lose your £18.

The second event is the Regional Seminar at Canvey Island College. Everyone should receive details of prices and how to pay for that day in the post. But I will give more details in next months article, when I have more information myself.

Well that’s it. See you at Pethersfield. Mike Cartwright.