fuel/air ratio entering the combustion chamber and as already explained this has an effect on the amount of pollutants the engine emits. It will also increase fuel consumption as well as effect the performance. Starting may also become a problem. In extreme case dirt can enter the engine and cause a great deal of damage.

Regularly clean the air filter, more often in dry dusty conditions. If a filter is badly contaminated or damage it will require replacing.

**Cooling systems**

These are designed to ensure the engine constantly runs at the right temperature. Where the airflow becomes blocked or restricted, heat builds up very fast, and in some case the unit catches fire. It is time to start running because a bomb in the form of an exploding fuel tank can make a nasty mess.

Clean dried grass and dirt out of the fins of air-cooled areas such as around the engine cylinder blocks and hydrostatic drives also from radiator grills on water-cooled systems.

**Ignition**

In the case of the petrol engines, make sure the spark plug is the correct one with the right size gap, if it is badly contaminated fit a new one. Fuel injectors will require specialist attention.

There are other parts of the machinery that will effect emissions and performance:

- **Blunt blade or poorly adjusted cutting cylinder requires more power so an engine has to work harder with all the already mentioned results.**
- **Badly adjusted drives such as belts and chains have the same effect.**
- **The unit should also be operated at the correct speed and to meet the prevailing conditions.**

Not only will all these benefit the environment they also increase the life of equipment and reduce the risk of a breakdown. It is also necessary to have a fuel management programme in place that ensures the minimum of evaporation.

Petrol or diesel should be stored in a cool place in an approved container. If a spillage occurs it will need to be cleaned up immediately.

**Gas power**

Over recent months there has been a lot of media coverage regard using liquid propane gas (LPG) or natural gas (NG). Some engines are now being manufactured specifically designed to operate on these alternative fuels, but as far as is known no one at present is fitting these in the UK. There are companies here, now offering conversion kits. Apart from reducing emissions these units also show considerable savings in fuel costs, as the example below illustrates.

A 16hp Briggs & Stratton Vanguard engine was used for the purposes of this study.

**Fuel consumption:** 3.5 litres per hour

**Fuel costs:**
- Petrol: 75p per litre
- LPG: 25p per litre

**Operating period:** 6 hours per day
- 5 days a week
- 30 weeks per year

**Petrol:**

- 3780 litres at 75p litre = £2835.00
- Other items: One-off cost of conversion approximately £650.00
- Bulk fuel storage tank £150
- Rental of tank and pump approximately £96 per year

**Total costs in first year including fuel is £3581.00**
This is a saving of £127.50

In the second and subsequent years the savings are higher, in the region of £1300 per annum based on these fuel costs.

**LPG:**

- 3780 litres at 25p litre = £945.00
- Other items: One-off cost of conversion approximately £650.00
- Bulk fuel storage tank £150
- Rental of tank and pump approximately £96 per year

**Total costs in first year including fuel is £2741.00**
This is a saving of £1120.00

Not only will all these benefit the environment they also increase the life of equipment and reduce the risk of a breakdown. It is also necessary to have a fuel management programme in place that ensures the minimum of evaporation.

Petrol or diesel should be stored in a cool place in an approved container. If a spillage occurs it will need to be cleaned up immediately.

Pollution of our planet is not going to go away and the damage already inflicted cannot be redressed. The only course of action left is to ensure wherever possible we minimise some of the effects we have on the atmosphere, by maintaining the equipment in a tip-top condition and good running order.

This example is more in line with contract grass cutting, the savings on a golf course could be pro rata.

Regarding diesel, because there is doubt that red fuel will continue to be available to the turf machinery sector, a comparison is not given.

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3780 litres at 25p litre = £945.00
Other items: One-off cost of conversion approximately £650.00
Bulk fuel storage tank £150
Rental of tank and pump approximately £96 per year
The total costs in first year including fuel is £1841.00
This is a saving of £521.50

In the second and subsequent years the savings are higher, in the region of £1300 per annum based on these fuel costs.

**July 2002 Greenkeeper International 31**
Maureen Keepin reports on the dramatic developments in engineering have resulted in the production of highly durable rotary mowers with an improved cutting finish. Taking over rough and semi rough areas how can clubs strive to sharpen up their rotary act?

MAKING THE MOST OF ROTARY

Rotary mowers are proving their worth as part of today's greenkeepers' armoury. You will not find them on the tees or greens - as they cannot cut the sward tightly enough, but rotaries are certainly delving ever deeper into the rough of the golf industry.

Easy to adjust and less expensive to maintain than cylinder mowers, regular sharpening of rotary blades is still critical and should form a vital part of any maintenance programme.

First developed in 1934, early rotary mowers had power driven, horizontally spinning blades. They were introduced on to the golf course because of their capability of dealing with longer grass than the cylinder cutter.

A rotary is not as competitive as a cylinder mower in terms of cutting cost per hectare - as the grass grows faster when cut with a rotary - but it can be cut more easily at higher cut rates.

Neither do they produce as good a cut as a cylinder mower, as the blade hits and destroys the grass leaf tissue which can lead to yellowing at the tips - this is why it is crucial to sharpen the blades at least twice a week for optimum performance. This leads to slower grass growth and less yellowing.

Generally a rotary can stand grass up, even when wet, enabling it to cover wheel marks left in the turf.

Increasing steadily over the last five years, rotary sales have grown from 600 to 850 (figures from OPE).

"This is a very good increase," said Pieter Nel, John Deere's Division Sales Manager for Commercial and Consumer Equipment.

"In the past people used cylinder mowers, but rotary mowers have advanced to such an extent they can produce an almost similar quality of cut at a height of between one to six inches. They are cheaper to maintain, as sharpening their blades is easier," he added. They are safer than cylinders, as you are running rotaries below the deck. "The mulching issue is also important," he said.

"Disposal of clippings can be very expensive but with a mulching deck on a rotary this problem is removed."

What to look for in a rotary mower

"Operator comfort is certainly a key area and quality of cut is vitally important," said Peter. "Vibration is always an issue and our 1445 and 1563 machines have been redesigned for greater operator comfort."

Durability and reliability of the machine are also important - and customers expect a good back up package from manufacturers and dealers. These issues can be crucial in the purchasing decision.

Mowing in semi rough and rough

"A dramatic shift has taken place over the last five to six years with a tremendous increase in flexible rotaries with multiple decks," said Alan Pickett, UK Branch Manager of Textron Golf, Turf and Specialty Products.

These are more accurate at a low cutting height. Ten years ago, the bulk of semi rough mowing was carried out using trailed gang mowers or self-propelled hydraulic gang mowers.

Starting off initially with the use of rotaries with fixed 60 inch and 72 inch machines, giving a reasonable cut to a height of 2 inches, the golf market started asking for greater productivity.

While this could be achieved with a wider cut, there was a considerable downside. By increasing the cutting width there was far more unsightly scalping on undulations.

This was not acceptable. The only way of squaring the circle - combining increased productivity with a decent finish - was by using multiple cutting decks. Textron developed an 11 ft cutting width bat-wing machine, with triple deck rotaries - one at the front and two at the sides.

Productivity increase was sorted, and a finer finish was developed at a lower cutting height, which greenkeepers wanted on semi rough areas.

On the Jacobsen AR250 there are five standard blades, and a secondary blade above those which has a mulching effect. This chops the grass a multiple number of times before discharging.

"This gives a really clean finish behind the machine," and avoids clumping and removes long strands of grass often just flattened by cylinder mowers, said Alan.

Rough areas are increasingly cut with rotaries, generally bat-wing or wide single unit machines fitted with three blades. Here again, the desire for higher productivity and lower maintenance costs rule the day. Certainly rotaries lift longer grass during mowing and cut these tougher blades and this is a distinct advantage over the cylinder.

"We have seen an increase in the sale of our 16 feet bat-wing with nine blades and 90hp," said Alan.

"These can cut 16 acres an hour and machines have just been delivered to Worthing Golf Club and Woodbury Park."

Increased productivity, with a respectable finish, has secured the rotary's future in the rough.

Sharpening up the act

Normally sharpened with a hand held angle grinder, there are serious problems arising from sharpening...
Machines have improved significantly and they now give a good quality of cut."

"Often it is not a matter of just fine tuning the blade on a rotary mower, but eliminating damage by taking chips out of it," said Stephen Bernhard, Managing Director of Bernhard and Company.

"That in turn ensures excellent bearing life and a smooth ride for the operator."

"A round the courses."

At Wildernesse Golf Club, in Kent, Course Manager, Huw Morgan, said:

"When it is dry, cylinder mowers provide a better cut, but taking it over a 12 month period rotary mowers are best. They are more flexible and can mow when damp, which is pretty essential at the moment."

"We found with grass like rye it is extremely difficult to cut when it is coming into flower. Cylinders often just push the stalk over but rotaries can tackle this," he said.

"Cylinder mowers are still used, so we get the best of both worlds."
Medium weight flail mower from Rytec

Rytec has announced the introduction of a medium weight flail mower suitable for front and rear mounting on tractors from 210 to 75hp. The new Professional SS models are based on a well proven and robust design but incorporate a new SIDE SHIFTER linkage, allowing on the move, lateral travel of the mower around obstacles.

Available in 3 cutting widths 1.2, 1.6 and 1.8 metres, the new Professional SS machines are ideal for front mounting on a range of bank/reverse drive tractors with limited lift capacity and allow excellent manoeuvrability around trees, sign posts and other obstructions as the operator can side shift the mower hydraulically. As a rear mounted unit the machine is ideal for working under trees and hedges where it is important to cut grass but often difficult to reach because of access with the tractor and conventional in line rear mounted units.

The SS Professionals allow offsetting to both left and right hand side of the tractor and can therefore reach under overhanging branches and hedges.

A range of flails allows the Professional SS machines to be used for a variety of work from rough cutting with heavy cast grass flails, to fine mowing with paddle type flails, the machines can also be fitted with scarifying blades to further increase adaptability. With the front castor wheels and full width rear roller the cutting height control and ground following characteristics of the machines are a major feature.

For further information Tel: 01944 768232 E-mail: info@rytec.co.uk

Vermeer launch new brush chipper

The Vermeer BC625AI brush chipper continues the Vermeer tradition of rugged reliability, safety, and helpful features to enhance productivity. Like its predecessor – the BC625I – the BC625AI is a disc-style chipper, geared to meet the needs of all who use it.

The Vermeer exclusive patented AutoFeed system means fewer jams and reduced engine stress because it automatically monitors and controls feed roller rotation by sensing engine load. Feeding is easy and convenient with the feed control bar located in front of the operator position and a wide chute opening to cut down on trimming and chain saw work. Safety is optimised by a discharge chute which rotates 240 degrees to direct chips away from the operator.

The BC 625AI is built for maximum cutting performance to handle brush and debris up to 15 cm in diameter. It features a four-sided bed knife and a thick cutter disc for more cutting inertia, and an improved variable speed hydraulic system that delivers 20 percent more torque to the feed roller. Two engine options are available, including a 25 HP (19 kW) air cooled Kohler Command, and a 23.5 HP (17.5 kW) water-cooled Perkins diesel.

In addition to safety, reliability and performance, the BC 625AI’s has been redesigned for easier transporting and better stability. A wide axle with wheels mounted outside the chassis, enables the infeed table to be mounted 10 cm lower than its predecessor. This new stable, low design, not only makes it easy to get the machine where it’s needed, it’s also easier to feed.

For further information Tel: 01833 274400

Greenkeeper International takes a look at the news and the very latest products and services available from the fine turf industry
Campey unveil latest Hi Lift trailer

The application of top-dressing after aeration work to rejuvenate heavily used sports turf is an essential grounds maintenance operation, but it can also be one of the most time-consuming. Normally, if substantial areas are treated, work has to be interrupted frequently to refill by hand, with the substantial quantities of sand required. However, with a Raycam Hi-Lift Trailer from Campey Turf Care Systems, the task is made quicker, simpler and much more efficient.

The Hi-Lift, which can carry over 3 tonnes, is powered by a tractor of 30hp or more, and is driven by the motive unit's auxiliary hydraulic services. The articulated rear axle is raised quickly to discharge material from a maximum height of 1.4m (4ft 7in) into the user's top-dressing unit, allowing work to continue immediately.

Hydraulic controls are conveniently situated at the rear nearside of the Hi-Lift, allowing the operator an unrestricted view of the entire discharge operation. The unit features low ground pressure tyres to eliminate the risk of turf damage, even when fully loaded.

For operational flexibility, the tailgate and controls detach quickly and, by fitting the standard tailgate assembly supplied with the Hi-Lift, the machine can be used as a standard tipping trailer for general maintenance duties. A road-going lighting kit can be added as an option.

For further information
Tel 01260 224568

Email press releases about new products to: scott@bigga.co.uk

New improved range from Symbio

Following a four year research and product development programme Symbio has launched a new improved range of products and substantially reduced the price for biological turf management programmes.

It will be selling these new products directly to its customers in the South of England and Wales and has appointed two new regional managers. Neil Carter who is based in Portishead will look after customers from Wiltshire to West Wales and provide technical support to Don Hunt of Roffey Ltd who looks after Symbio’s customers in Devon and Cornwall.

Neil ran his own landscaping company for many years before taking his HND in turf grass management at Cannington. This was followed by spells at The Paris International Golf Club and The London Golf Club where Neil gained a wealth of experience in presenting courses for tournament play.

Richard Storer used Symbio’s products for four years as a Head Greenkeeper and liked the results so much he joined the company. Richard has 30 years experience of landscaping and turf management and is based in the office where he will cover the area from Kent to Northamptonshire.

Richard said “I’m delighted to be able to help greenkeepers and landscapers use the latest technology to help improve their greens and course presentation”.

New light from Kawasaki

One of Surrey’s most exclusive leisure establishments, the RAC Country Club, has renewed its long relationship with Toro through a five-year preferred supplier agreement for golf turf maintenance equipment.

As part of the new £380,000 deal, the RAC Club’s two 18-hole championship courses are being maintained by Toro greens, tees and fairway mowers, utility vehicles and aerators.

The deal has been put together with close collaboration between Levy and its Toro dealer, John Shaw Machinery. “We have always been very happy with the service they give us,” said Course manager Bob Wiles.

“They are extremely reliable and give us all the back-up we need.”

The KLF250-A has entered the market as Kawasaki’s new working market entry model and has been brought in to do a job at the lighter end of an ever increasing and impressive application range including farms, equestrian, parks, sports and recreational establishments.

In an exciting model re-shuffle, Kawasaki has retained the turning capability that make the KLF220-A popular for its agility within confined areas, while providing a noticeable increase in power from the new 250’s 16.8 hp, air-cooled, single cylinder four-stroke engine.

The end result for the working market is a similarly compact and lightweight 2x4 machine with all the same features, but with a greater appetite for hard work and all the inherent characteristics of performance, durability and reliability that have become associated with Kawasaki over the years.

One of the big advantages for the customer is the availability of a machine with a track record when it comes to the working environment at Kawasaki’s model entry level with a competitive price tag at £2,900.

For further information
Tel: 01285 654777

New storage system

New rotationally moulded polyethylene storage units, designed to ensure the safe and secure storage of drums containing acids, chemicals, oils and other corrosive or hazardous liquids, have been added to it’s range by drum storage, spill control and waste handling specialist Empteezy Limited.

Tough and durable, the polyethylene gives broad band compatibility and makes the units ideal for use in most agricultural and horticultural environments.

Model CP1 allows storage and dispensing from drums up to 205ltr in size, CP1S has shelves which provide storage for up to eight 25ltr drums [both have a 250ltr sump] The CP2 is a smaller unit with a 100ltr sump. All models have lockable doors and are available in either Green or Blue.

For further information
Tel: 01494 442703
North

As I write this report the heavens are opening again, and this is turning out to be the wettest spell of weather since we began talking to some greenkeepers from the east coast, it has been a very dry spell and in some cases it’s making life difficult, I hope you get some rain soon.

Two new members to report this month, these are Ben Brookes, from Newmachar Golf Club, and Marc Gray, from Strathpeffer Golf Club. Ben has been a member for a while now, so my apologies for omitting you from past reports. Anyway, welcome to the Section, lads.

The Autumn outing at McDonald GC went very well and, with a really good turnout of 80 plus playing, combined with pleasant weather and a superb golf course, it turned out to be a really good day. Alistair Angus and his staff deserve high praise indeed for the condition of the course. It was first class. Thanks also go to the catering and bar staff of Elgin Golf Club who supplied the raffle prizes and who kept us all fed and watered, and also a big thanks to all the patrons who supplied the raffle prizes and supported the event.

Alistair Angus and his staff are opening again, and this is turn-up. The proposed date for this new course in the sky and that Sandy Nicholl, from Strathpeffer Golf Club, who received the Committee Trophy, 1. Robert Committee for a number of years. May I am also sorry to report that Simon Buckle, from West Lothian Golf Club, for omitting to send in his amounts of sandwiches and soup prior to the event. The caterers did us proud with ample amounts of sandwiches and soup prior to the golf match, and I hope to see you all at the autumn outing.

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Central

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The Lothian Golf Club tournament news I gave you the date of this year’s Autumn Tournament, have you all got it in your diary? Well hears another date, this year’s Grand Ballon Tournament is due on Sunday, October 13, again at Fortbank Stadium in Stirling. Hopefully the weather will be a bit dryer than last year! You’ve all had plenty of warm-weather golf, but now it’s time for some of the teams take this event very seriously. For both events will be attended by you in the near future so, as before, please return them in plenty of time.

Winners of Club 2000 in April were A. Hara with ticket number 183 and S. Connah with number 251, May winners were K. Benton with ticket number 131 and K. Mitchell with number 036. Guess what’s going to be dropping through your letterbox shortly. Yes you’ve guessed it, your allocation of club 2000 tickets for next years draw. It may seem a bit early but it just to give you time to buy/sell/return or as many of you do “mislay” them.

The draw for this years Inter Club Tournament has been made and circulated with ten teams entering. The two league of five have been formed, with the winners of each league meeting in the final, hopefully ALL ties will be played on time in order that the event won’t over run again. I’ve had a suggestion that there should be a Reunion Dinner of the founding committee of the Section, early in the new year, instead of November 20th at Stirling Golf Club. The committee elected on that night were: J. Oliver, J. Lees, R. Fleming, J. McAtamany, M. Batchelor, C. Stewart, S. Brown, B. Finnie, W. Steele and K. Verigian, J. Armstrong, E. Small and auditors J. Souter and F. McNeill. I know that Jimmy Lees and Jock Armstrong are now in the big golf course in the sky and that Sandy Nicholl, from Strathpeffer Golf Club, who received the Committee Trophy, 1. Robert Committee for a number of years. May I am also sorry to report that Simon Buckle, from West Lothian Golf Club, for omitting to send in his amounts of sandwiches and soup prior to the event. The caterers did us proud with ample amounts of sandwiches and soup prior to the golf match, and I hope to see you all at the autumn outing.

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Allan Lothian called me a few days ago to tell me he was taking early retirement from Fixby Golf Club. No doubt most of you saw the advertisement for his job in last months’ magazine. Allan has supported the Section for many years and was also Secretary of the old BOGA. So from all your friends in the Northern Section may we wish you a long and happy retirement.

A little bird tells me that Telford (Scarcroft Golf Club) and his golf clubs are better half are expecting their first child. Congratulations.

I am also sorry to report that Simon Heppenstall has left greengreenkeeping and gone into the landscaping industry. As you will all know Simon was Stirling Golf Club’s first greenkeeper, and served on the Section Committee for a number of years. May we wish him every success in his new venture.

In writing these notes a couple of weeks prior to President’s Day so results and report will be in the next around the green.

A couple of dates for your diaries, Thursday, August 15, Stand Golf Club. This is a yearly matchtures.

Enjoy the rest of the summer, Dave Thackray 16 Westwood Ave. Eccleshill, Bradford, West York’s, BD2 2NJ

Tel: 01274 640739
Mobile: 07976676264
E-mail: Dthackray@aol.com
davethackray@sdnet.com

North West

The beginning of June and no real signs of summer yet, but at least the finer grasses are beginning to take off. On a warm welcome to you all from every one in the Section and the north area was discussed and several very chirpy Abendonians were offering challenges, convinced they just have to have another try, so the proposed date for this has still to be set, but around the second weekend in October is being touted. We have four or five interesting events on our agenda but we need more, so any interest; means phone me on 01997 420155.

The course was in beautiful condition, it turned out to be a really good day. Alistair Angus and his staff deserve high praise indeed for the condition of the course. It was first class. Thanks also go to the catering and bar staff of Elgin Golf Club who supplied the raffle prizes and who kept us all fed and watered, and also a big thanks to all the patrons who supplied the raffle prizes and supported the event.

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North Wales
North Wales lost their match against North West, the final score was 3½-2½, but a setback had by all. Thanks to Simon, Head Greenkeeper at Pryor's Hayes GC for the preparation of the course and the catering staff for the food. Although the course closed once in 2000, we find sponsorship of the day. Next year the match will be in the North West Section area and then back to North Wales in 2004. We would like to hold this somehow where on the west coast.

Apart from this team event the Section holds just three tournaments over the year: Spring, Autumn and Christmas, these has been talk about holding a further event in the summer which could take place either in June or July and we would like to hear from you if it would be something of interest, also if there is anyone willing to put their course forward for such an event. Please get in touch with any of the committee to register your "yes" or "no" and we will assess the numbers at our next committee meeting.

As Guy Cannings, of Heswall GC, and Richard Littler, of Bromborough GC, take a pat on the back for success in starting the new-look Championships at their respective courses, it wasn't all plain sailing in the lead up to the event explains Richard.

The Bromborough GC famous for the Cheshire shire and match play tournaments, was in recent years, becoming unable to deal with the even moderate levels of rainfall, in particular the significant events of putter that were almost out of play through the winter months and became soft in the summer. At a general meeting in September of 1998 the greens committee backed by council persuaded the members that money needed to be spent on reconstructing these greens to USGA specification and a representative from the STRI spoke on the matter where this work was to be essential if they wished any winter play.

Work took place in the construction the USGA spec greens. (Phase 1) work completed in Spring 1999 with the putting back original turf. The five greens were completed by May 1999 and back in play.

They liked the results so much that a decision was then made to do the other 13 greens and the putting green (Phase 2) This was done during September - December 2000 in the worst period of weather in history but these were back in play in May 2001 and in August hosted the Cheshire county matches, Richard and his team had to treat the new greens gently by hand mowing and also purchasing extra fertiliser and feed along with further investment in fairway and bunker drainage. Twelve months on and the course has seen a new lease of life for all year round play, Richard is wishing to hear and see the results first hand should give Richard a call.

On a lighter note Life begins next month for David Lewis of Connah's Quay's baby daughter, Emily Jane. Hugh is former assistant professional at Llan and is now into his 16th month in the realms of greenkeeping. Thanks to Tracy for the info.

Any news, views or information you have, please contact me on:
Home 01252 263394 - Fax 01252 269778 161262 e-mail acngolf@supanet.com
Mesen Cymru
Andrew Acorn

Essex
The Essex Golf & Country Club was this year's venue for our Spring Tournament. Martin Forrester and his team, put together a course in difficult conditions for the well-attended event, which was sponsored by Banks Amenity Products, a big thank you to Simon Banks for their efforts.

The Essex as always proved to be a good test of golf, requiring straight drives to shoot a good score, or as Mark Stoppolls found, a dodgy handicap. Mark managed to shoot a great score of 42 stableford points, winning him the overall prize, which he picked up without the slightest hint of embarrassment. Well done Mark.

There were two categories, 0 - 15 and 16 - 28. Category 1; J. I. Selwood, Abridge GC, 35 pts; 2. R. Hare, Crowlands Heath GC, 33 pts; 3. A. Kirwin, Colchester GC, 33 pts.

Category 2; J. M. Dilloway, Three Rivers GC, 42 pts; 2. M. Guy, Trent Park GC, 33 pts; 3. M. Smith, Channels GC, 30 pts.

Nearest the pin and Longest Drive were won by Simon Banks and Greenkeeping Supply Company, thanks for that. The winners were: C. Gorton and R. Hare respectively.

Winner of the guest prize was R. Watts, of the Essex GC, runners up were: A. and E. Doe fame, won the trade prize with 37 pts.

Well done to all who took away prizes and also to everybody else for supporting our section so well especially. Sherriffs, Rigby Taylor, Tuckwells, Ernest Doe & Son, Tacit, Driving Force Leisure and Gem Professional who donated raffle prizes and who are always so kind. Headland Amenity who sponsored the mail out for this event.

A huge thank you must go out to The Essex Golf & Country Club for arranging the event and for their fine establishment and for looking after us so well during our stay.

New members this month are both from Crowlands Heath Golf Club, they are James Winner and Patrick Laws, welcome to our section fellas hope to see you at all the golf days.

Our next event will be the National Qualifiers to be held at Frinton GC on June 5. The qualifier is usually very well attended so make sure you get your slips in quickly.

Steve Crosdale

Sussex
So with the winter behind us, and a glorious summer to look forward to we should all start reap the benefits of the excellent work carried out over the last few months, and get the dust of those clubs.

Saying that, they're certain members among us whom have the ability, keenness, or just need to get out of the house, you are missing out because our upon us. Starting off with Seaford Head, if you have never played Seaford Head, you are missing out because for a course which is placed on top of the cliffs it is presented in exceptional condition, due to the hard work of Dustin Houghton and his team. It also has no membership, so you cannot be more courses around with views which Seaford Head can lay claim too!

The morning 11 holes which were Texas scramble was won by Mike Gould, Steve Vogels, and Brian Wilmot.

The afternoon round results in the 0-16 handicap were Ray Day in first and in 2nd Steve Blake. Both these winners got to get qualified for the National Tournament.

The 17-28 handicaps were 1. Ian Batty, 15 pts; 2. J Hewson, 11 pts; 3. G. A. Macdonald and A. Kirkichun, 10 pts; 4. T. Jones, 9 pts.

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Steve Crosdale
snapped up by Rose Gould, Steve Blake, and the longest drive went to Lee Annos. A special thanks to John Shaw Machinery for sponsoring the day. As can see another great day had by all.

So back to the regular bunch of us who always seem to be there at all events supporting the section. The committee put put a lot of effort into organizing these days, which are for the benefit of every member of BIGGA in the Sussex section.

Believe it or not there are 220 members in Sussex, and yet at the AGM, which is held at Hayward's Heath, each year, which all the members are, informed about by post, we are still only seeing about 10% turning up. I like to see month, straight after you scan

look forward to reading this column in, I assume that you have been too. wishing you all a great season. now everything is growing like mad.

of fun, or are interested in a work-

days which only cost on average £25

in all are interest to be more involved in the section it is only with your sup-

put pen to paper (or e-mail) the concerned with Greenkeeping you pening to you or your club.

As your Chairman I feel that it is every member's responsibility to put at least some in put into their Section.

As you can see another great day out for us. If anyone has news or any interesting event which is hap-

you want to get off your chest to you or your club.

I am sorry to have a moan but it is that not everyone is

exams or has achieved anything of

know that Kevin Green, a past Section Secretary and long time member and supporter of BIGGA has become a landlord. Kevin is now the publican at the Carpenters Arms in Wickham near Bristol. I think we all wish him all the best in his career pulling

R Greaves

Northern Ireland

Our first golf event of the year took place at Downpatrick GC on May 3rd. Fortunately we were blessed with super weather throughout the afternoon it was very easy to be distracted with the views across the County Down countryside. Our thanks to Emmett Curran and his staff had the course in outstanding condition with the greens running fast and true. Congratulations go to new member George Fitzpatrick from Grosscar GC who took first prize with 39points. The results were as follows -


Our thanks to Downpatrick GC for allowing us courtesy of - the course, I would like to remind members our next competition will be held at Carnale GC on July 5 at 3pm. So please do not come along and enjoy the craic.

The completed list of speakers has now been confirmed for the Section conference at Massereene GC on November 13th. Our thanks go to Emmett Curran for all his hard work as Chairman of the organising com-


Details regarding ticket prices and booking will be sent out to members and golf clubs in the coming weeks, well that's about all my news for this month, I hope to see our golf-

ing members again at Carnale on July 5.

Ken Henderson

South Coast

After a dry start to the year, the inevitable rain has come in the last month. Coupled with the warm weather many greenkeepers are struggling to keep on top of the greens turf. We have certainly had some stormy weather, which seems to be the pattern at the moment; still it makes life as a greenkeeper an interesting (I think).

On the Section front it has been a quiet month. The committee are busy preparing next year's section seminar. We will be using a different venue next year and if you would like to be a particular speaker then please contact one of the committee members as we are now about to approach possible speakers. This month sees the retire-

ment of one of our sections great supporters. Ted West is to retire from Broadstone Golf Club after 40 years of service. I will report on his retire-

ment in full next month but as a thank you I wish him a long and hap-

py retirement. Our next section golf day is on Thursday, August 8, at Brockenhurst Manor Golf Club. The day, which is sponsored by Huxley's and Countryside, is an ideal meeting. Ideally your guest will be a member of your golf club. The cost for the day is £18 per person and please forward all monies to Tom Underwood, Organiser Chris Sturges. Entries are limited so I would suggest you contact him quick-

ly. I am sure Ed McCabe and his team will make the course in its usual superb condition and it will a great day out for us. If anyone has news that they wish to have published in next month's section then please contact me.

Until next month,

Alex McCombie

South West

Summer's really here now, after a very slow start everybody has lots and lots of grass! On May 15 we held our Greenkeeper amateur tournament at Yeovil GC. Our thanks to the that was held on Thursday, August 8, at Brockenhurst Manor Golf Club and is at this very moment still trying to convince his staff that, as he is awake at 3 am, maybe they should all make an early start together.

The replies, I understand, are now encourag-

Brian Willmott.

Devon & Cornwall

The Section's first match play com-

petition sponsored by Vitax has reached the last eight, after over twenty members entered the club quali-

fying round. The section would like to thank Adrian Masters and Vitax for their support. We are delighted to announce that Phoenix Irrigation will be sponsoring the fixture cards for the second year, hopefully the new fix-

ture cards will be with you during late August. Dates and venues will be announced next month.

Richard Whyman

South West and South Wales Nick Humphries Tel: 01988 352154

FOR GREENKEEPERS BY GREENKEEPERS CHAT GREENKEEPERS

Sherry Monday, June 27th was the date and Foxhills Golf Club the venue. Sherry Section's Spring meeting had arrived and 69 hopeful members were attempting to qualify for the National Tournament. The weather conditions were kind it was a dry, warm day with sunny spells and the course was, presented in truly excel-

lent condition by David Wybourn and David Langheim. The greens were very fast and very true and the consensus of opinion amongst the players was that the course was an absolute credit to all the greenkeeping team at Foxhills.


The congratulation paragraph this month belongs to Simon and Yvette Osborne who on May 8th this year became the proud parents of Luke Allen, a bouncing baby boy who weighed in at 10lbs. 7oz. Simon is the Course Manager at Wildwood Golf Club and is at this very moment still trying to convince his staff that, as he is awake at 3 am, maybe they should all make an early start together.

The replies, I understand, are now encouraging.

Brian Willmott.

Kent

The wettest May for sometime and now everything is growing like mad. As I look to the long bank holiday and every one of us are up against it. Well, that's how I like it anyway. Because of the long hours you are all putting in, I assume that you have been too busy to drop me a line with any news from your clubs or indeed anything that might help fill a few more lines. It is nice to hear that so many of you look forward to reading this column every month, straight after I scan the job pages that you scan. News and results from the spring meeting at Kings Hill will be in next month's section.

At last I received my certificate for passing my D32/33 which I took back in November. So now I can sign off my staffs work - it is good enough that is. If anyone else has passed exams or has achieved anything of note give me a call and I will give you or your colleagues a mention. Once again I am left with nothing much to say, which is quite unusual for me, so get e-mailing and calling with your news and views of anything interesting you have found.

The completed list of speakers has now been confirmed for the Section conference at Massereene GC on November 13th. Our thanks go to Emmett Curran for all his hard work as Chairman of the organising com-


Details regarding ticket prices and booking will be sent out to members and golf clubs in the coming weeks, well that's about all my news for this month, I hope to see our golf-

ing members again at Carnale on July 5.

Ken Henderson
I write this while watching Mr Wood's engaged in his usual demolition of both course and fellow competitor at the US Open and I am being regaled with a steady stream of dialogue about how the venue is a public course - the Bethpage State Park Black Course.

Yes, hard to believe, but the US Open is being played on a "muni". Now as you know I am not one for cynical expression, but if that's a municipal then Tiger Woods is my illegitimate son. For starters they say it is subjected to 35,000 rounds of play annually, which on a true public golf course would be officially defined as an advantage? Well, in the past they appear to have come up with the brilliant stratagem of extending the length of the courses in the hope that it will result in even Tiger being unable to reach holes in a couple of shots. Well far be it from me to point out the bleeding obvious, but is that not plain stupid?

What we must do is select a course that is no more than 6,000 yards from the back tees. And, as the back tees on a municipal are for ornamental purposes only, it would mean a course of no more than 5,500 yards, which should take away all his length advantage.

Secondly, how can we combat his physical advantage? Well, I have thought long and hard about this one and I think I have come up with the answer.

Remember that this tournament, will be played strictly to true municipal tradition, so Tiger must turn up at the club on the Saturday and Sunday morning at about 4am ready to put his ball in the chute in anticipation of the twilight kick off. So what about Tiger's famous preparations? Well, we must insist that only genuine council range balls are used. These large rafts are subject to a bias that will turn a hook into a slice and a slice into a hook, thereby insuring total confusion. The Head Greenkeeper will have a critical role to play. It is essential that Tiger's ability to impart backspin is removed so all the fairways should remain uncut for at least a month before the big event.

Now let us study how we may remove Tigers exceptional powers of concentration. I think we should partner Tiger with Old Sid, who has played off a 24 handicap for the last 30 years, but has never even lost a golf ball, not because he is exceptionally accurate, far from it, it is just that he carries on looking for the lost balls until they are found, regardless of the time factor and he will expect Tiger to help him.

Bring all that into force and I reckon on Tiger would be reduced to second favourite behind John Daly, who would be quite at home at such a place. And if after all that, he still manages to win, they should not only give him the trophy to keep.
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