2. Conversely what do you consider to be poor golf course trees and why?

2. Hawthorn, in particular, as you can get badly scratched and it hasn't got a good appearance in any case. Leylandii is an unnatural tree on a golf course and has no aesthetic appeal.

2. Leylandii, poplar, sycamore, which don't support any life, willow and anything which looks out of place.

2. Anything ornamental such as Leylandii, cherry, Japanese pine and which look as through they should be in someone's garden rather than on a golf course.

2. While I don't think any tree is a bad tree, broad leafed trees are no good for our course and any tree not native to the area such as Leylandii would look out of place.

3. What is your management policy with regard to trees?

3. We have our own woodland management five year plan which is ongoing with three acres of planted woodland. There is some housing development round the course so we sometimes move trees to provide a shelter or barrier.

3. We began a woodland management scheme 18 months ago, felling trees in a big square in the middle of woodland, replanting and thus creating new woodland in the middle of an old one.

3. We have to make sure they fit into the landscape and are easy to maintain. We have a problem with herds of fallow deer so we have mesh guards round the base of the trees and put total weedkiller round the base as well.

3. Annual clearance and pruning where necessary. We have only had a course here for 12 years so there is not too many really well established trees.

3. We have an annual tree budget for replacements and we have planted a lot in recent years in a bid to establish some after the initial disappointment outlined earlier.

4. What do you know of the grant aid which is or was available for tree planting?

4. I am aware of several schemes which are excellent. However, we prefer to fund a plan ourselves as we then have more control and can be more flexible, rather than working under certain conditions.

4. This is a strange question to ask me as anyone who knows me would know. I have much more experience in obtaining felling licences to clear unwanted trees. That said I am aware of grants for tree planting.

4. We had a grant from the Forestry Commission 11 years ago and since then they have come back to inspect. We lost a lot of them and so the decision was taken after talks with the FC to plan Corsican pines, Monterey pines, sitka spruce and lodge pole pines.

4. The Heritage Trust provided 4,000 trees at no expense to use and these were planted by volunteer labour. We have also had a package from the Tree Foundation at no cost, putting a plaque up to mark the generous gesture. So we have had no need for grant aid as you can imagine.

4. We arranged a grant and were the first in the Lancashire area to be awarded one I believe. The scheme has gone well since then on our course.

4. Personally, not a great deal. We employed a company to do all our planting and we let them deal with all the details.

4. We use all methods, from mulching, hand removal, backpack blowers and various tractor mounted blowing and collection equipment.

5. What methods do you employ for leaf removal?

5. We use an Amazone Groundkeeper and blow as many leaves as possible back into the woodland. Greens are cleared of leaves on a daily basis and the rest of the course on a weekly basis. We also make good use of a Sisis Litamisa.

5. We are in a very windy area on an estuary near the River Lune, so most leaves blow away naturally. We also have an Amazon Groundkeeper which sucks the leaves up into a hopper.

5. A Torrado Leaf Blower for the fairways which we use on the back of a tractor. We have a steel knapsack leaf blower to push leaves to the edge of greens were they are raked up by hand or collected with an Amazone machine.

5. We use an Amazon Groundkeeper and blow as many leaves as possible back into the woodland. Greens are cleared of leaves on a daily basis and the rest of the course on a weekly basis. We also make good use of a Sisis Litamisa.

5. We have no problem whatsoever with leaf removal as the very strong winds of Mother Nature take care of them. We have a Litamisa should any problems arise.
Greenkeeper International takes a look at the news and the very latest products and services available from the fine turf industry

**Rapturous Racoon launched by Claymore**

The Stella Racoon is a 20hp ride-on flail mower launched for the 2002 season by Claymore Grass Machinery. Having undertaken a programme of demonstrations to users and dealers throughout the winter with impressive results in terms of both interest and orders, the Racoons are now being supplied in time for the main grass cutting season.

Contractors in particular are impressed by the high work rate and performance of the Racoon especially on banks.

Now add to this the features of big agricultural tread tyres, 48 unbreakable swinging Y blades giving a wide 38in (95cm) width of cut with rear discharge, the power of a 20hp Briggs & Stratton Vanguard OHV engine and high manoeuvrability. Height of cut is adjustable by central adjustment from 30-80mm. All in all a tough no nonsense mower for the professional user at a RRP £7,995 plus VAT.

For further information
Tel: 01865 820731

**Multi-Brush mops up dew**

GreenTek have launched a new 18 feet wide tractor-mounted brush called the Multi-Brush which is made up of three separate 6' sections, allowing it to float over contours and undulations. Hydraulic rams are used to fold it out to its full width for large areas such as golf fairways. When folded in to its 6' width, it has five rows of straight and zig-zag brush sections in line for brushing-in topdressings on greens and tees. Golf Clubs are already finding the benefit of using the Multi-Brush for dispersing dew before they mow their fairways to avoid leaving clumps of grass behind.

For further information
Tel: 0113 267 6000

**Earthquake offers an affordable answer to compaction**

With the addition of the RotoKnife slit aerator to its product range, EarthQuake Turfcare Ltd now offers a complete system capable of dealing with turf compaction, soil aeration requirements and drainage problems from the surface down to a depth of 380mm.

Offering a fast and cost-effective solution to rootzone management, the standard 1.52m EarthQuake RotoKnife has six 4mm thick discs mounted 305mm apart. The discs can be set to slit the turf to a depth of approximately 175mm, adjustable in 25mm increments. A consistent working depth is maintained by a pair of 250mm diameter rollers which also smooth the turf, leaving the surface level and ready for play.

Used on its own, the RotoKnife is a high-speed slitter aerator which encourages the movement of air, water and nutrients to prevent and eliminate thatch, soil pans, hard spots, waterlogging and poor grass growth. Designed to be mounted on or trailed behind a 35hp to 40hp tractor or suitable turf utility vehicle equipped with hydraulic drawbar, the RotoKnife is available with a choice of three interchangeable roll and disc combinations.

Offered with an optional full-width rear brush, the RotoKnife can be equipped also with additional weights to aid surface penetration in tough conditions. Price of the machine with standard discs and flat rolls is £4,700.

For further information
Tel: 01952 641949
Komatsu launch world's lightest brushcutter

2001 saw the introduction by Komatsu Zenoah of several new and innovative hand held power equipment products. The new Strato Charged 26cc engine now fitted to many of their products provides benefits of 30% fuel saving and 30% less pollution. This new engine has CARB approval and was a major breakthrough in small engine technology.

Now Komatsu Zenoah introduce the lightest brushcutter in the world the BC200. Weighing just 3.7kg this 21.7cc ergonomically designed well balanced unit has the e-START easy starting system featuring decompression port, timing-advance Magneto and recoil handle fitted with spring. This system combined with the exceptional lightness makes the brushcutter a great attraction for women or the older user. Introduced as the entry level unit for their range of brushcutters Alien foresees a great demand for this new brushcutter in 2002. RRP £272.30

For further information Tel: 01865 820731

Chip off the block for Vermeer


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For further information Tel: 01865 820731

Flymo chooses Inturf for advert

Flymo makes a return to TV this spring with an innovative new advert thanks to help from Inturf.

Inturf, based in York, was asked by the producers of Flymo’s new TV advert to provide 90 square metres of grass to feature in the campaign that launches Flymo’s new Turbo Compact Vision mower. To meet the unusual brief, Inturf chose its innovative Integrated Turf Module system - the most durable natural grass and sports turf product available - to highlight the bright orange mower.

Inturf is experienced in providing turf for use in high profile areas, with a portfolio of clients that includes Newcastle United, Bolton Wanderers, Middlesbrough football clubs and the Cardiff Millennium stadium, which uses the ITM system. The commercial, shot indoors in Manchester in February, promotes Flymo’s revolutionary new Turbo Compact Vision, which squashes grass clippings down into a “built in” central grassbox, and allows the user to see inside the mower to know exactly when to empty it.

For further information Tel: 01933 214400

For more information on Flymo Tel: 01325 300303
For more information on Inturf Tel: 01759 321000

Biostimulant gets activated by RT

The new Vi-Aqua water treatment system from Tonick Watering continuously injects medium frequency radio power directly into irrigation water flow. This modifies the molecular structure of the water by imparting electropositive charge enhancement which greatly benefits the growth characteristics of turfgrass.

The Vi-Aqua system consists of a wall mounting control box and an antenna which is submerged in the water inlet flow or sump. This does not require chemicals, is quick and simple to install, cheap to run and operates without supervision. It is totally safe for plants and men and has full CE certification. The treatment process is entirely natural and environmentally safe. The electromagnetic field is harmless and the treatment does not cause chemical reactions or DNA modification.

Basically, the process reduces the surface tension of hard and soft water which increases the solubility of nutrients and enhances their uptake. Fertilisers and Nitrogen are absorbed more effectively as the amount needed are reduced. The applied water percolates more quickly through the soil which reduces water run-off. Root depth is stimulated and silica absorption is increased. Silica is converted to Silicon at the plant surface, the natural defence mechanism of plants against insects and disease. Additionally, the treatment produces Hydrogen Peroxide which strengthens roots and also stimulates root growth, thus helping to eliminate thatch and black layer.

For further information Tel: 01269 832325

RT has launched Activate F, for use on amenity turf, is a microbial biostimulant that boosts microbial populations. It contains simple plant sugars providing carbohydrates, enzymatically extracted plant growth hormones and betaines, as well as a soil penetrant to ensure the ingredients are moved into the rootzone. The product helps improve rooting, seed germination and establishment and the general health of the turf plant. Available in a 5 litre pack, coverage 5,000 square metres. Activate R improves plant health, containing plant growth regulating hormones, chelated trace elements and a soil penetrant, as well as humic acid sourced from Leonardite (potassium humate) which assists in nutrient retention. Available in a 5 litre pack, coverage 5,000 square metres.

For further information Tel: Freephone 0800 424919

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

Tonick's new product gets set to make (radio) waves

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Please send your latest product release notes or press releases to: The Editor, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York Y061 1UF

The right is reserved to edit submissions before publication. Opinions expressed in advertising or product information which may appear in this publication are not necessarily those of the Association. No responsibility is accepted for such content. The Association does not accept liability for carriage of such advertising.
Jim Arthur hands out some advice to those who feel living with poa is the only answer

CONTROLLING POA

I can hear at once a chorus of "Oh! No it can't..." "Oh! Yes it can..." "Who says so?" The answer to the last question is easy - literally hundreds of experienced Course Managers of all ages and with a wide range of courses to prove it, varying from the best of our links courses to large and small members' clubs, ranging from around a century old to a few years. They are backed by a small band of truly qualified and widely experienced agronomists who have seen the results of years of treating courses by time honoured and proven austere methods of greenkeeping. It will be noted that I limited my approbation to a few because far too many of our so called advisers are really thinly disguised salesmen or merely tell their clients what they think the client wants to hear.

In 55 years of golf course advisory work I have seen it all before and the remarkable thing is that despite all the commercial hype against our traditional standards and the ceaseless media support for the nice and green feed-and-water school, so many of our good courses still show excellent fine firm turf derived from our native bents and fescues.

Few of even our very best Course Managers would claim to have absolutely Poa-free greens but they control it, hit any invasion hard and avoid encouraging it so that even in flush growth periods their greens never suffer from the disfigurement of seeding Poa and in winter they play to full greens when Poa dominated turf is virtually unplayable or disease ridden. Who has not seen good bent/fescue greens invaded by soup plate sized patches of pure Poa contrasting so horribly with the residue of the fine turf.

Recently reported surveys imply that greenkeepers must learn to live with Poa: that it is impossible to control; and that without it we would have nothing but bare ground. This is totally untrue. Nature in any case abhors a vacuum and if you kill off the Poa by management not herbicides, by encouraging finer grasses, then they will fill in behind the penalised Poa. Admittedly in severe cases which are always the results of misguided management, through perhaps several decades earlier, there can be a very uncomfortable time unless you are lucky with the weather and skilled in fine tuning when the sickly Poa is going faster than the Agrostis is coming in. A term for this was coined 30 odd years ago - Arthuritis, but once over, one never looks back. It does demand conviction and support from all levels (management and members alike) as well as a thick skin and deaf ears.

The first thing is to look disparately at the main causes of Poa annua invasion and dominance. It is beyond debate that the first and foremost cause of Poa invasion is the application of even very low levels of phosphatic fertilisers. Many fertiliser manufacturers admit this and sell nil phosphate mixes (of which more anon) but they do not understand that above very low levels potassic fertilisers are just as encouraging, as a moments contemplation of the graph showing the effect of rising levels of P & K on turf composition (1981 research).

Yet articles are published all the time by fertiliser firms advocating really high levels of potash e.g. 15-0-12 applied as frequently as every two to three weeks and then they wonder why Poa takes over.

This link between P & K and Poa has been researched and proven for over 90 years, on both sides of the Atlantic but has been studiously ignored by fertiliser salesmen and their bosses. It was before the First World War that Dr Murray working in South Africa postulated that (in his own words)..."his research proved that a system of management designed to provide an adequate supply of nitrogen in an acid medium, with a very limited amount of phosphorus and potash - the only source of the latter being such as is contained in the usual compost (top-dressing) will best produce fine turf."

This research was repeated with the same results time and time again, both in the States and in the United Kingdom. In the 1920's, the Acid Theory was based on this research and was highly successful initially in converting lush wormy alkaline seeded turf into fine Agrostis (bent) swards. However, without adequate irrigation (or none at all), a series of droughts in the mid thirties coupled with the reduced drought resistance of the acid turf caused problems.

Some pundits, including the then Director of the Board of Greenkeeping research, R. B. Dawson, stupidly went back to NPK - perhaps unsurprising in view of his...
background, at the Rothamsted Agricultural Research Station, while others modified the system and increased neration, with excellent results.

I served under Dawson for six years, when I joined Bingley in 1940. I was extremely fortunate to have been trained by Richard Libbey, the senior adviser and a botanist of international repute. He taught me to take a botanical not a chemical approach to fine turf management. He pointed out that the basic principle on which all fine turf management depended was that if one created or copied those conditions in which the fine grasses grew naturally, they would dominate all other species, as they did in nature.

He emphasised that fine turf grew best on the poorest soils — land too infertile to farm, which is why it was still fine turf and not ploughed for cropping.

His advice which I have followed for 55 years and taught to literally thousands of greenkeepers and not just beginners either was to apply nitrogen only sparingly, using a balanced mix of organic and inorganic, (ammonia, blood hoof and horn and iron in equal parts) in late spring, repeated once or if twice, at reduced rates, with nothing after the end of July. This mix has been available from Supaturf as SS/D for nearly 40 years and is still their best selling brand though not the biggest tonnage. Cheaper copies using urea based nitrogen are not as long lasting. Always ask for a written declaration of the sources of nitrogen from the supplier — the empirical percentage is not enough.

A short word about the critics of sulphate of iron — which has been the greenkeepers friend for a century! It imparts colour without encouraging lush grass. It is an effective fungicide, a good moss filler, hardens the turf and acidifies the soil to discourage worms and weeds. Yet some — chemists to a man — condemn its use, and you can be sure that to a man they are Poa annua fans!

An interesting point arises regarding statutory declarations of analyses. If a firm declares nil phosphate and in fact the mix contains 3% — because this allows them to use cheaper phosphate-contaminated ingredients, it cannot be prosecuted as the law defines only that the declared levels are supplied but does not complain if the levels are exceeded. Only where we can persuade Inspectors that phosphates in these circumstances are harmful could action be taken. I suggest informing suppliers that their mix will be analysed independently to see if it really is phosphate free!

Fertiliser manufacturers on the whole seem to accept that greenkeeping really wants nil phosphate mixes, but have no understanding that potash over very low levels is just as harmful. Advice to apply potash at high levels every four to six weeks is definitely wrong unless you really want Poa annua green. So also is advice to apply potash in the autumn — it goes straight to the drains.

With phosphates we can find excellent greens whose root zones show as low as 3 ppm — and need no phosphate additions. Do not believe that P & K will induce disease resistance! I know very many courses where neither have been applied for years and which never suffer from disease because their traditional austere management does not encourage "Fus".

I would bet a pound to a brass farthing that all greenkeepers who say that Poa annua is inevitable so lie back and enjoy it have two things in common. First they are not supported by their management or have made no effort to inform their members — or lack the conviction and strength to go against the current.

In fact if you do not want Poa then never apply any autumn fertiliser. If any course is not at its best in autumn then it never will be and applying fertiliser is counter-productive. The same applies to "micro-nutrients" or trace elements for which on normal greens there is no evidence of need whatever. We are told that sand based greens need this help. If the advisers mean pure sand greens then they may have a case but they clearly do not!

In any case how many pure sand greens still survive? Do not confuse them with standard perched water table sandy green.

My advice regarding potash is to apply a light dressing in spring perhaps every two to three years, or subject to analysis showing levels below 10-15 ppm. Remember that speeded up then roll them — a tip as old as greenkeeping! If you deep aerate afterwards there are no ill effects. Do not chase colour and rely on frequent grooming to pick up seed heads.

A word on over-seeding! A case can be made with dominantly bent-fescue greens to thicken up fine turf by over-seeding in early autumn, though establishment is at best 10%, often nil. Over-seeding in spring or into dominantly Poa annua greens is a predictable waste of time and money. I well remember the Superintendent of a famous Californian course denying that his greens were 100% Poa annua because they spent so much money every year in overseeding them through the whole season with Penncross that they had to be Penncross. Management will swing the grass type not over-seeding which benefits only the seeds firms.

Austere traditional greenkeeping is guaranteed to reduce though not totally eradicate Poa annua but where the cause has been persisted in for many years it takes longer and in the process unless steps are taken to keep them informed members may revolt.

Success depends on bringing with you but from an early stage they will get better winter playing conditions with less disease. This is something that the feed and water brigade should take on board, especially as the coming recession starts to bite, especially as such methods cost less both directly in reduced "input" and indirectly in minimising disease and thus expensive controls.

Until we can educate golfers, especially the new entry into understanding that the correct colour for a golf course is not lush television green but the natural browner shades of our natural courses it is going to be an uphill battle and those in the front line deserve the support of all the golfing authorities and the golfin media in the fight to retain our traditional standards and all weather golf. I am more than willing to enter into debate with any informed people or bodies. We can always disagree without being disagreeable. Over some 55 years of advisory work I have seen hundreds of over-seeded Poa courses come back to fine grass dominance and gratifyingly erstwhile culprits advising or selling excessive NPK fertilisers, reverse their views. I wish more would follow their example.

June 2002 Greenkeeper International
North

Three new members to report this month, and they are: Keith Law, from Letham Grange Golf Club; John Harrell, from Newport Golf Club, and Derek Chisholm, from Kingussie Golf Club. Welcome to the Section lads.

A young greenkeeper on the move is Muir Ross, from Dingwall. Muir served his apprenticeship at Castle Heath Golf Course in Inverness and is now on his way to the Isle of Man to work as an assistant greenkeeper.

Also good to see Donnie Dingwall back playing golf again at Stratpeffer. Donnie, who retired in 1990 from being the Head Greenkeeper at the course, is now working as an assistant greenkeeper. Good to see him back in the game.

Scottish Region
Peter Boyd
Tel/Fax 0141 618 3468

Central

At last! We are up and running again in welcoming new members to the Section and this month we extend a warm welcome to Thomas Atkinson, who is a greenkeeper at KInghorn Golf Club in Fife. As usual it is hoped that we will get the opportunity to meet him at some of our events in the very near future.

The first golf tournament of the new season was held on May 1 at Kinghorns Golf Links in Fife, when, on a beautiful sunny day, over 80 members enjoyed a day to remember, (though there were a few couples of Queens in attendance and I mean that in the proper context!) by the staff at Kingsbarns and with the course in superb condition everyone could forget the long haul through the wettest winter and savour the catering and panning extended to every visitor to this beautiful links course. Our sincere thanks go to General Manager, Stuart McEwan, Course Manager, Stuart McComb and his staff; the catering staff and the starter who set us on our way at the 1st tee with a smile, (that was before they hit the ball).

Prize winners on the day were: Best Scratch. K. Stirling, Kingsbarns, 78-3-75. 2nd Class 1. (Turf Trophy) A. Russell, 75-10-65. 2nd Class 2. (Ocmis Cup) A. Russell, 80-10-70. Highest scorer on the day - 121

With the draw being made the day before tee times were confirmed, (Monday and Tuesday), it was thought a couple of the players might have lost their way around our fine course.

Welcome to the month’s column.

Well spring is well and truly here I am glad to say and it’s the first decent summer since the days of old. The golf courses and their management are coming along nicely with this good weather we’re having.

The Section’s reason is well under way with the first tournament of the year having been played in late April, and what a good day was had by everyone who was there. We were limited to 56 people at Gullane which we thought was due to a problem due to the small number allowed but there was no problem as we had a small turnout of only 42 people which wasn’t a surprise as we usually have a big turnout for the spring tournaments.

If there was a reason for this let us know as we are willing to hear from anyone as to why the small turnout. It may be time for us to move along for the day and we hope you enjoyed yourself and look forward to seeing you at future Section events. Thanks must go to the Captain and Council of Gullane Golf Club for the courtesy of the course and the use of their facilities. As normal the course (No 3) was in superb condition so a big thanks to Course Manager, Paul Scog, Head Greenkeeper, Paul, and all the other greenstaff for a fine course. The clubhouse staff, Club Steward, waitresses etc. for looking after us superbly. The food was excellent. Also not forgetting the trade members thanks for bringing in the raffle prizes etc; the handicap committee for keeping things running smoothly.

The Scottish Championship is at West Linton Golf Club this month and I am sure it will be well worth the visit if anyone can make it down.

At last! We are up and running again in welcoming new members to the Section and this month we extend a warm welcome to Thomas Atkinson, who is a greenkeeper at KInghorn Golf Club in Fife. As usual it is hoped that we will get the opportunity to meet him at some of our events in the very near future.

If you have anything you would like added to the column don’t hesitate to call me on 01355266682.

Brian Bolland

Scottish Region

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Brian Bolland
**Ayshire**

The Spring outing was played at Prestwick Cuthbert's on Thursday April 25. The weather was good so breaking our recent trend of bad weather. Unfortunately it couldn't tempt many skins out the cup, and we had our usual turnout of 32 players. The course was in a good spring condition, prepared by Stephen Fraser and his staff, and the beer was in good condition too and the catering staff didn't let the side down either.

All in all an excellent day was enjoyed and our sincere thanks go to Captain, Tom McAllindon, Secretary, John Rutherford, and the committee of Prestwick St Cuthberts for granting us courtesy of the course and the associated assistance in our day.

The prize winners on the day were as follows: Scratch - Brian Aitken, Turnberry. Category 1: 1. Duncan Gray, The Pines, 36pts; 2. Wallace Mercer, Skelmorlie, 35pts; 3. Alastair Storrie, Greenlay; 4. Greg Paterson, Girvan, 33pts; 5. George Morrison, Largs Kelburn, 32pts.


Any news call me on 01505-683278 and I’ll pass it on. Iain Barr

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**North East**

On April 18 we had our Spring Comp. at Dunstonburn Castle GC. It’s been a long winter and we never really played there and what a delight it was playing a true links course. On behalf of the players we would like to thank the Head Greenkeeper and his staff for the condition it was in and also to the committee for giving us courtesy.

Although the weather was not too good at first it turned out a beautiful day and we played in very good company. The Greens were not that good any ways who cares it was good to be playing a tough links course.

We would also like to thank the companies who kindly donated prizes. These are as follows: Rite Feed, Turf Care, Shorts, Aitkens, Greenlay, Border Turf Services, Rigby Taylor and Swarland Hall GC.

All the above was put together by Rigby Taylor represented by John Holt. We hope you enjoyed the day and thanks for the biscuits which were given as a prize.

Best Gross: J. Storey, 75; Alnemouth GC; Nett B. Hughes, 71, Whickham GC; Ass Cup. J. Hood, 72, Linden Hall GC; J. Richardson, 72 nett, Heswall GC; R. Reid, 74, Pudnad GC; A. Bowes, 74, Pradodie GC; A. Harrison, 74, Garsefield GC; B. Wilson, 76, Stockfield GC.

Qualifiers for the Northern Regional Final.


All the above will be notified in due course and the finals will be played at Whitefield GC, Whitefield, Manchester, on Friday, August 9.

More movement in the Section. Steve Quince has been appointed Head Greenkeeper at Parklands; M. Lowdon moved from City of Newcastle to Bedlington; A. Morrison has gone back to Stockfield; C. Elmslie went from Stockfield to the Saltley Hall as a casual for the summer period and David Thompson moved back to Matfen Hall.

Jimmy Richardson

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**North Wales**

Best wishes goes to Elwyn Owen, of Royal St David’s GC, on his retirement this month. Elwyn, formerly Head greenkeeper at Dolgellau GC, is known for his friendly character, a keen golfer and a passionate singer with the Welsh Male Voice Choir, a pursuit that has taken him all over the world representing and promoting Wales. Elwyn is planning to July to assist in the European Seniors Event at Harlech.

Anyone wishing to go and watch the Seniors the admission is free and the event boasts over a million pounds prize money.

Any news, views or information you have, please contact me on:

Hall 01925 26394 - Fax 02926 269622 - Mob 07778 162162 - e-mail acorn@supanet.com

Job’s a good’n.

Andrew Acorn

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**Sheffield**

On April 22 the Sheffield Section held their first golf competition (Regional Qualifier) at Workshop Golf Club. The course was in a very good condition, well done Barry and your team for your hard work in presenting such a top class course.

I would like to thank our main sponsor for the day; Gem Professional for donating some excellent prizes. I would also like to thank all other trade members (Rigby Taylor, Aitkens, Mid Lube, Mansfield Sand and Farumba) for their support.


Could all of you please contact me to arrange matches if they can make it or not as details need to be sent to the organiser.

If anyone has any news please don’t hesitate to contact me on 01709 548759 or by e-mail on chrissiandle@btopenworld.com.

PS entries for the next golf competition for Hickerton GC will be sent out 3-4 weeks prior to the competition.

Chris Astle

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**North West**

The annual match NW v NWales was played at Pryors Hayes GC, on April 26 and although I could not be present, I am informed that the competitors had a great day. I am delighted to say the NW won the match 3½ to 2½. Thanks must go to Pryors Hayes for allowing the use of their course, the courtesy of their course, the NWales Section for organising the venue and, of course, Gem Professional for once again sponsoring the match as they have done for many years.

The next golf is the summer tournament at Ulverston Golf Club, on Thursday June 20. I know this is quite a distance for the majority of the members, but the NW covers all of Cumbria also, and this will give the members in the upper reaches of the Section the opportunity to play without travelling too far. I encourage all this is a magnificent course and well worth a visit. All applications to Bill Merritt, 225 Utting Avenue, Chibburn, Liverpool, L14 9RD. Tel 0151 284 4416, including a cheque for £20 made payable to BIGGA NW. Lunch will be 12.30pm and tee time 1-45pm.

That seems to be it for now, but any enquiries you can contact me on 0151 724 5412.

Bert Cross

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**Northern**

What an absolutely fantastic event at the Northern Section golf meeting sponsored by Scotts at Bedale Golf Club. The weather was superb red hot with a few clouds and a gentle breeze. Bert Cross.

Happy Greenkeeping.

Please contact me on 16 Westwood Ave, Eccleshill, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD2 2NT. Tel 01274 640739. Mob No: 07976876264 E-mail: Dthackray@aol.com Dave Thackray

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**Cleveland**

The spring tournament took place last month at Darlington Golf Club. The weather was superb red hot with just a slight breeze and a full field of 20 players and everyone enjoyed the day. The golf course was in fantastic condition on that everyone agreed. A huge thank you and well done to Paul Moore, Head Greenkeeper and his staff for their golf club for making us all so welcome.

We did manage to have one loser, wish me good luck going to Bedale the day after the tournament. Better luck next time. Here is the list of winners. Scratch cup Andy Clark. 1st Div. Robin Smith, Alan Baxter and Pete Czamak. 2nd Div. Andy Slingsby, Adam Spire and Nigel Wild. 3rd Div. Alan Gamble, Joe Baxter and Steve Heaton. The two trade prizes were won by Mel Guy and Alan Dey. 7th prize was longest drive won by Peter Thompson and Alan Baxter respectively.

After the prize presentation we honoured Alan Gamble with a presentation on behalf of the Northern Section, in respect of services to the Section. The basic committee have decided we will sporadically present a momento to people who serve the section or continuing service. Well done and thank you to Alan. We have had six new members to the Northern Section this year. The committee and John Edmund. Michael Gumeniuk, Mick Dixon and Jacob Kay. It will be great to see you guys at some of the Section events in the future.

Our next Section event is at Steve Heaton’s Golf course at Otley. This will be President’s Day with sponsorship by Rufford Soil Science. The day will be held on Thursday May 23 with bacon and does and coffee from 12.30pm. You can pay any member of the committee £15 up to a week before. Cheques only please. So why not come along and have some fun.

One bit of sad news. I received a letter from Ruth Bailes informing me of her husband Sam’s death. Sam worked on golf courses since 1946. He was assistant at Northcliffe and later worked at Halifax (Ogden) as Head Greenkeeper, then Keighley GC for 22 years until retirement in 1982. For the past eight years he has worked at Rufford Soil Science. Sam died peacefully on April 11.

I hear Dave Hannam has now returned to God’s own county to take up the helm at Wetherby Golf Club. It’s great to have him back and hope to see him real soon.

If anyone has any news and information they want to share with the section please forward it onto me at the address at the bottom of these notes. See you at Otley!

Happy Greenkeeping.

Please contact me on 16 Westwood Ave, Eccleshill, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD2 2NT. Tel 01274 640739. Mob No: 07976876264 E-mail: Dthackray@aol.com Dave Thackray
hard work preparing the course and presenting it so well, and also a big thanks to Darlington Golf Club for allowing us courtesy of the course and for the meals afterwards, they were excellent.


Trade: Allen Cordingley, Rite Feed; 2. Neil Thompson, Border Sports; 3. Ian Robbins, Ellesborough GC; 3. David Winterton MG, as the new Secretary for this Section. I hope to be able to do justice to the position, compared to my predecessor, Lindsay Anderson, who has been excellent in this role over the past 10 years. Lindsay has now become Chairman of our committee. Lindsay and I will be bringing you monthly news items to ensure this column comes alive.

The committee also have on board Adrian Cooper who has served the club for 10 years, John Snookes and Robert Woodward. We finally have a printed fixture card which arrived too late to be included in the letter you received recently, giving details of this year’s fixtures. This will be sent to all at the end of May. Many thanks to Alan Wright, at T.H. White, for organising this card and thanks go to Alan Wright with first prize going to Alan Wright of Richings Park with 33 points. The rest of the results are as follows: 2. Ian Robbins, Ellershouse GC; 3. Brian Benzie, Harleycross GC; 4. Andy Law - Stoke Park GC.

The team prize went to the Larter team. Yes, you’ve guessed it, Peter grazed us with his presence on the day though he might have thought he was sailing! Mark Stigwell, from Rigby Taylor, won the Trade prize, with the pin won by Peter Helps, of Turner Grounds, and the longest drive won by Ross Wilson, of Parasampia G&CC Hotel. Can I thank all those who participated and were not deterred by the weather? A final note of gratitude to Tacit for their superb prizes and commitment to making it a great day. Let’s hope our next fixture in August is a great improvement from the skies above. It leaves me to wish all our Section members a great start to the summer, one that will be remembered for all the right reasons of course!

David Winterton

Mid Anglia

Our first golf event of the year took place at Ashridge Golf Club in April, over 36 holes. The obvious appeal of the venue generated a good interest, with forty people entering our best event. The course was certainly quick! Our thanks also to Ashridge for their hospitality, bearing in mind the changes afoot with the new clubhouse being built and temporary changing areas in use. Our thanks also to our main sponsors for the day, Rigby Taylor, represented by Mark Stidwell.

The results were as follows:

Longest Drive: AM. R. Howson, Woburn, PM. D. Thompson, Buckingham.

Clive Parnell was the winner of the trade prize.

Our two representatives at the National Tournament (should they wish to enter) will be Mark Whittle and David Thompson.

There is a change of date and venue for the Summer Meeting; John O’Gaunt is the new venue, on Tuesday August 27. It will be over eighteen holes, with a 2pm start. Further details will follow nearer the time.

Paul Lockett

East Midlands

Not a lot to report on this month. In The Blanket Open on April 22 Alan Roberts and I finished sixth in a Better-Ball Boggle competition, and Steve Levers and I finished with 55pts in The Ramsdale Park Captain’s invitation on April 14. Thanks for the invite, Steve.

Congratulations should go to Jeff Dickinson and Gavin Robinson for making The Greenkeeping Support team at this year’s Open.

This year’s East Midlands v East of England golf match will be hosted by Newark GC on August 22. Tee-Off at 3.45pm. Any member who wishes to play in this match should contact me as soon as possible as we only require 10 players, Greenkeepers only.

This year’s Spring Tournament will be reported on next month, but may I once again remind all members that if you wish to attend any Section event, your entry form and payment must be received before the closing dates.

Antony Bindley

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East Of England
The first golf fixture of the season got under way at Louth Golf Club. The course was in good condition considering the lack of rain for this time of year.

The competition was sponsored by Rigby Taylor and Brian Booth and Stuart Jeffs were on hand to present the superb prizes.

First prize went to the New Chairman of our Section, Adrian Kitchinson, Torksey, with 33pts. Robert Welford, Cleethorpes, was runner-up with 34pts, and Ian Batty, Torksey, with 35pts. Chairman of our Section, Adrian Kitchinson, Torksey, was nearest the pin on 17 with a glorious CHIP from 100 yards. It was a great day and we wish him all the rain and sunshine when and where he needs it.

The golf went as follows: 0-10 Cat. 1. Howard, 74; 2. Max Ayres, 73; 3. There wasn't enough to go round for the whole field. 11-16 Cat. 1. Ian Kelso won a prize for 3rd in his category 0-6. It is always a pleasure playing Walton Heath and it was nice to see how much work they had been doing throughout the winter with tree removal and heater management. The BBQ at the 11th tee was most appreciated with thanks going to Neil Pullen and his colleagues at Sheriff Crop Care. The bacon roll and beer must have helped me get 18 points on the back 9. The highlight of the day was when the after dinner speaker was late and Derek Farrington stood in for him. I think Derek was much funnier and probably much cheaper too. Once again a well organised day. Derek, thanks.

The golf days for the coming year are now in place with the first being on June 18. So I had better pull my finger out and get the place looking proper. The BBQ at the 11th tee was most appreciated with thanks going to Ernie Hart and Tomlinsons, Ground Care and指纹...
Devon & Cornwall
The Section’s Rhyg Taylor Summer Meeting will be held at Trenthorne Golf Club on Tuesday June 18. The meeting will start as usual with golfing members playing a singles Stableford from 1.37 pm; the non-golfers course walk will leave the clubhouse at approximately 2.30 pm. Entry fee for the day will be £10, which includes bacon roll & coffee on arrival with a two-course meal before the prize presentation.

Richard Whymann

South Coast
First of all let me apologise for the lack of Section notes last month. There really was nothing to report on so I have made up for it this month. Once again we have been severely tested as greenkeepers these last couple of months. We have had to cope with a long dry cold spell followed by a dry warm spell. As we eagerly watched the weather forecasts in hope of some natural rainfall many of us were in a dilemma regarding switching on our irrigation systems. Our courses were drying out fast in front of our eyes; surely it couldn’t go on forever. Well, prayer mats and rain dances were a common sight in Donet. With the spring meeting fast approaching I’m sure Blackmoor’s Head Greenkeeper, Harry Davis, has had a change of heart! That his golf isn’t quite up to scratch but after watching me hit a ball he was slightly wary of me when I have a golf club in my hand, can’t think why.

Many thanks to Blackmoor Golf Club for their hospitality; to Harry Davis and his hardworking team for having the course in tip top condition. We wish you all the best for the rest of the season.

Richard Whymann

South West
With the new season really kicking off to a good start, things can only get better. We went from North Wilts GC in the hills, sponsored kindly by Avocrop and Fertilite - apologises to you both for not recognising your generous sponsorship earlier. Rex gave a very informative talk, which went really well before the meal. With both companies sponsoring this event we were able to award some fantastic prizes such as a television, microwave and a portable cd/radio and cassette player to the winners. Just goes to show you don’t know what to expect at our meetings.

Our spring tournament on April 16 was held at Burnham & Berrow GC on the fantastic links course. There was a course walk before the golf began where our education officer, Guy Woods, and Head Greenkeeper, Paul McDowell, took a dozen or so members out and showed them around the sheds and the excellent course. Being a busier than usual time for the year the numbers for the golf was slightly lower than previous events with only 25 members wishing to participate in the golf, or, in my case, taking a good look at all aspects and corners of this wonderful course while looking for my ball. With no wind and a clear blue sky ideal for golf everybody had a great day. The golf results were: 1. I. G. Cook, 37pts; 2. D. Reeves, 36pts; 3. P. Godwin, 35pts. With the golf season just around the corner, a few dates for your diary; May 15, Pennard GC; June 5 match v Secs at Fairwood Park; June 29, Pencoed College Open Day.

Talking of Pencoed. They may have called a change of management this year so if you’re interested contact Paul Discombe at the college for further info. Neil Baker, formerly of Royal Porthcawl GC, has been appointed Dept Links Superintendent at Pyle & Kenfig GC and we all wish him well in the future. At sunny Llanwern we are about to have our irrigation system updated so if anybody needs some second hand parts, give me a ring and I’ll let you know what we have. If anybody has any news that they would like to share with the Section please ring me on 07765 080152 and I’ll see if we can get it in the next issue of the magazine.

Kevin James

South Wales
The final winter lecture took place in April at Pencoed with a talk on turf science by Noel McKenzie. Noel showed us a selection of slides gathered over many years of work in his advisory roll with STRI and Grass Science. It was then off to Royal Porthcawl GC for our Section seminar, this was sponsored by the Scotts company, talks were given by Simon Barnaby, Martin Trewhesdin and Professor Bill Adams. The Section would like to thank Scotts, Avocrop, Pencoed, Royal Porthcawl and everybody who helped in making the education evening a success. By the way, if you are CPD registered all our education events carry credits towards your certificate.

With the golfing season just around the corner, a few dates for your diary; May 15, Pennard GC; June 5 match v Secs at Fairwood Park; June 29, Pencoed College Open Day.