Adding ‘WEAR’ to the equation aggravates the situation still further. Now, soil compaction decreases the number and volume of soil pores and can reduce soil aeration significantly. Often, in an attempt to compensate for wear, turfgrass managers will increase irrigation and fertilisation applications to stimulate growth. As in the ‘Agronomy Triangle’ soil pores become filled with water and organic residues, further depleting oxygen reserves in the soil. Collapse of the system is even more certain.

When ‘SHADE’ is also added to the configuration, as in the case of many of our new soccer stadia, the problems are further increased. Soil will not dry as readily in shaded environments and will, therefore, have water-filled soil pores for a longer period. Photosynthesis is not as efficient, resulting in lower carbohydrate reserves within the plant, and subsequent shallow rooting. This results in greater organic residue accumulation in the surface layers of the soil and subsequent reduction in soil aeration. Turfgrass diseases are more severe in shaded situations and premature death of leaves, shoots and roots adds greater quantities of organic residues to the soil, again reducing the aeration porosity and drainage characteristics of the rootzone material. It is a vicious circle that will inevitably result in collapse of the system.

A thorough understanding of the elements that constitute a well-aerated soil is vital to the management of turfgrasses for sport. Soil aeration is a ‘CONDITION’ - not a maintenance operation. An adequate supply of oxygen must be uniformly distributed throughout the rooting zone. The presentation discusses various aspects of mechanical aeration and their effectiveness in different soils.

A soil in which the air-filled porosity exceeds 10% of the soil volume will produce an ‘Aerobic Rootzone’. But, but a soil with an air-filled porosity less than 10% of the soil volume will produce an ‘Anaerobic Rootzone’ within 24 hours.

SIZE CLASSIFICATION OF SOIL PORES AND SOME FUNCTIONS OF EACH SIZE CLASS (FROM BREWER, 1964)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SIMPLIFIED CLASS</th>
<th>CLASS</th>
<th>DIAMETER RANGE (μm)</th>
<th>CHARACTERISTICS AND FUNCTIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Macropores</td>
<td>Macropores</td>
<td>&gt; 75</td>
<td>Water drains by gravity, accommodates roots, habitat for certain soil animals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Micropores</td>
<td>Mesopores</td>
<td>30 - 75</td>
<td>Retain water after drainage, transmit water by capillarity, accommodate fungi and root hairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Micropores</td>
<td>5 - 30</td>
<td>Retain available water, accommodate most bacteria</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ultramicropores</td>
<td>0.1 - 5</td>
<td>Retain unavailable water, exclude most micro-organisms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cryptopores</td>
<td>&lt; 0.1</td>
<td>Exclude all micro-organisms, too small for large molecules</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The presentation discusses ways and means of achieving adequate soil aeration and the restrictions that occur in a variety of soils and situations.

Martyn T. Jones
Director 1st Class Training & Founder Trustee
Of The National Turfgrass Foundation.
Modern golf club management is rapidly changing and the present day Secretary/Manager has a much wider role than previously. He now is the organiser and planner, involved in finances, involved in building and maintenance etc as well as now having to ensure the golf club is fully complying with the current health and safety legislation, equal opportunities and racial equality as well as providing for the disabled and under 18's.

In years gone by the Secretary/Manager was not as aware or as well versed in the Health and Safety requirements and quite often did the minimum to stay within the law. In 1992 the law changed and tightened up producing a new set of regulations called The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1992 that basically made risk assessment mandatory and introduced several other key regulations applicable to golf clubs.

Not bored yet? Well things get better.

The first job the Secretary/Manager has to do is to work out the clear responsibilities as laid down in the club Health and Safety Policy and endorsed by the club committee or board of directors/management. From this point it is then absolutely essential that all other operating areas of the club fully understand both the legislation and regulations in place and what it means to their day to day jobs. I am concentrating here on the greenstaff but all others shouldn't feel unwelcome.

For the Head Greenkeeper or Course Manager it means complying with almost all regulations applicable to golf clubs without exception; I don't intend to list the regulations but have produced a hit list of the main requirements;

GENERAL HAZARDS RISK ASSESSMENTS
All maintenance facility and machinery activity must be supported by a current suitable and sufficient risk assessment. In short, this really means the greenstaff must fully understand all of the hazards associated with their work and these be fully documented for inspection at any time. It is important that these are kept up to date if any changes occur in greenshed activities. The responsibility primarily lies with the club secretary/manager to ensure these are in place but the Head Greenkeeper or Course Manager should assist in this process.

FIRE RISK ASSESSMENT
All maintenance facility locations must have undergone a formal Fire Risk Assessment, which should identify each and every fire source and ensure all possible measures have been put in place to remove the fire hazard or minimise its consequences. The Fire Risk Assessment may be inspected by insurance companies or the Fire Officer if visiting the club so is mandatory. The responsibility for ensuring this is completed lies with the club secretary/manager.

MANUAL HANDLING ASSESSMENTS
Any handling of objects which could lead to back injury or injury to body parts require a Manual Handling Assessment. This assessment basically looks at the nature of the activity in terms of weight, height, difficulty and assesses whether the lift could be achieved with less or no risk to individuals. The responsibility for ensuring this is in place lies with the Club Secretary/manager but the greenstaff should be aware and encourage this assessment to be completed for their own health and welfare. Training in manual handling is readily available.

COSHH ASSESSMENT
Most golf clubs are now well aware of the COSHH (Control of Substances Hazardous to Health) Regulations 1985 and operate within the law. For those unfamiliar these regulations are in place to protect persons or the public from being harmed by hazardous chemicals. The COSHH assessment should identify all of the chemicals used by the greenstaff and ensure a formal record is kept of each chemical and the harm it can cause if spilled or incorrectly mixed. The assessment should then recommend the safeguards for use (ie PPE, Chemical suits, neutralisers) and ensure these are always available. Chemicals should be stored safely in locked containers such as Chem-Stores and a sign out/sign in procedure used. The responsibility for ensuring a COSHH Assessment is in place primarily lies with the greenstaff.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)
These regulations are applicable mainly to greenstaff and are very much about reducing occupational hazards. During a normal day certain greenstaff will be exposed to noise, errant golf balls, flying stones from cutting, dust etc as well as handling chemicals, flammables and diesel. To ensure all staff return home as good as they arrived it is recommended that the club again formally assesses the need for PPE in certain tasks. The responsibility lies with the Head Greenkeeper/Course Manager. There are some other applicable requirements to ensure the health and hygiene of employees is protected as well as the use of computers and transporting flammables.

Golf club management should now jointly address Health and Safety issues as a total club as the requirements do not stop at the greenstaff but apply to the catering and professional in many respects. The knowledge within the club in all departments should be shared to make the club a safer place in all respects and something to be proud of.

It's all our responsibilities.

Jerrard Winter is Senior Health and Safety Advisor with Haztek International 0208 905 7552 info@safegolf.co.uk
The BIGGA Golf Experience is not to be missed and this month 'Greenkeeper International' begins its preview with profiles of some of the top names who will be in town for this major event in the greenkeeping, golf club and turf industry calendar.

The 2003 Keynote Speaker will be Debra Veal MBE

Debra was recently heralded as 'Britain's latest sporting heroine' when the media world reported the story of a young lady who carried on rowing alone when her husband, an international oarsman, left the boat after developing an uncontrollable fear of the ocean.

Debra saw no reason to stop and rowed on to become unofficially the fourth woman in the world to have rowed an ocean solo.

The 3000 mile journey from Tenerife to Barbados that was initially supposed to take six weeks took Debra three and a half months and saw her battling with 30 foot waves, force 8 squalls and sharks, while having to dodge tankers that came too close for comfort on more than a few occasions.

Debra will speak on achieving the best with the support of a team and the need for first class preparation in order to be successful, as well as recounting an epic story of her 111 days at sea.

Brin Bendon and Frank Newberry

Hall Q, Harrogate International Centre
Tuesday - Thursday, 21-23 January
Meet these two top motivators at the Careers Fair during the two Exhibitions.

Guess who's coming to Dinner?
Majestic Hotel, Thursday 23 January
The Counterfeit Stones

More than a tribute to the Rolling Stones, the Counterfeit Stones are a complete re-enactment. Their attention to detail has earned them critical acclaim from a multitude of sources and whether it be a lick on the guitar or the wipe of an eyebrow, no stone is left unturned. The result "Probably the Second Greatest Rock ‘N’ Roll Band in the World". The Exhibitions Banquet will once again prove to be the year's social highlight.

John Stirling
Doyen of Golf Professionals
Renowned after dinner speaker. National Education Conference Dinner, Majestic Hotel, Monday 20 January

Potential Exhibitor?
161 companies had booked for the BTME and Clubhouse Exhibitions by mid-September. Join them for this major industry event.
Contact Pauline Thompson on 01347 833830 now.

Eager Delegate?
Your ‘Continue to Learn’ programme is enclosed. All education programmes are on a ‘first come, first served’ basis so complete the booking form and return to Sami Collins at BIGGA HOUSE now.

DON'T BE LATE FOR THIS SPECIAL DATE!

BE PART OF A REALLY GREAT EXPERIENCE...
A virtual sell-out, the exhibition continues to change to reflect the need of exhibitor and visitors alike. Over the last five years the event has grown by over 100% and despite problems with available exhibition space at the Royal Highland Centre the organisers have worked to ensure the success of the event.

Further expansion has not been possible during the last two years but the promise of a new purpose built exhibition hall for 2003 has meant that change had to be made in the exhibition layout for 2002. Perhaps a blessing in disguise, the organisers hope that the heating problems which has been a feature of the past exhibitions will now be a thing of the past and an under one roof show for next year spells the beginning of enhanced visitor and exhibitor facilities.

This year the show will remain spread over three exhibition halls at Ingliston. The old Hall C has now been removed and has been replaced by a large nearly complete single span exhibition hall, which although nearing completion will not be in use by Scotsturf this year.

To accommodate the displaced exhibitors for Hall C the exhibition now will include the adjacent Car Auction building on the south side of the original Hall A.

The majority of the 120 plus exhibitors have been coming to the show for many years, proving the importance of Scotsturf in the Scottish calendar. Visitors also come from all over Scotland and further field as communication links to Edinburgh improve. Visitors from the north of England continue to make their way north to Scotland capital and the introduction of cheap and frequent budget airline flights makes it accessible from both Belfast and Dublin.

BIGGA’s stand - B16 - will be manned by Peter Boyd, the Scottish Regional Administrator, along with Pauline Thompson and Gemma Lee, from Headquaters, as well as members of the Scottish Board.

For further information please contact Nicky McGarry on: 028 9042 2274 or email: nicky@nickymcgarry.com

6 & 7 November 2002
Royal Highland Centre, Ingliston, Edinburgh

Scotsturf, Scotland’s premier exhibition for the groundscare and sportsturf industry continues to perform during its year of transitional change.
Totrax Ltd

Totrax Ltd will be pleased to discuss all your wheel and tyre requirements. If you have trouble with punctures, visit our stand to learn of the various methods available to help alleviate the problem.

The Trojan tyre-fitting machine will also be on display.

Visit us on Stand Number A21.

Valtra Tractors (UK) Ltd

The Valtra Tractor range, manufactured in Finland and distributed in Britain by Valtra Tractors (UK) Ltd of Runcorn extends from 60 to 260hp, all powered by Valtra engines. A range of transmissions can provide creep and high road speeds and auxiliary power is available from the PTO and hydraulic services. There is a choice of types suitable for all types of operation. Finance and Contract Hire available on all models. Valtra tractors are supported by a trained, nation-wide dealer network.

Contact 01928 594400 or see us at Stand B26.

Garfitts International Ltd

Garfitts International Ltd will have a presence on Stand A20 where our Sales Team will welcome you and discuss the year ahead.

Overseas visitors are more than welcome as we are eager to extend our distribution to new markets.

Cross Scythes Works, New Street, Holbrook Industrial Estate, Halfway, Sheffield S20 3GH

Tel: 0114 251 3344 Fax: 0114 251 3000

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

British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association

BIGGA will be giving visitors the chance to find out more about all aspects of the Association and its activities. Our team will be on hand to answer all your questions and provide literature highlighting the benefits of membership. If you are already a member, you can get information about the prestigious Master Greenkeeper scheme in addition to education and training opportunities.

The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition has been held in Harrogate each year since 1989 and every January it becomes a focal point for turf industry professionals. Next year sees the exciting introduction of Clubhouse, previously owned and staged by the NEC, Birmingham. This exhibition will run alongside BTME and have its own separate identity within Hall D of the Harrogate International Centre. Full details of both exhibitions will be available on the stand or by calling 01347 833800.

Tel: 01347 833800 Fax: 01347 833801 reception@bigga.co.uk www.bigga.org.uk

See us at Scotsturf Stand 35, Hall A
Central
This year’s AGM will be held at the end of this month, at the time of writing the date has not been finalised, but hopefully early 15th October. I have received notice of the date and venue by now. If not, just phone me, or get in touch with any committee member and they will give you all the details, as I am sure you are all dying to attend this very important annual event. Seriously though, if you are unhappy in any way with the manner the Section, or the Association for that matter, is being run please come to the AGM and give us your views, as the Association belongs to you, the members. The only way Section Committees and Regional Boards can function properly is if they know the views of the members. At last! I have had one result from this year’s Inter Club Tournament returned so far. Allora “B” beat Tolluallan so that at least two teams are making an attempt to get their games played. Everyone should have their allocation of “Club 2000” tickets by now, Alex Robertson and Grant Donaldson have actually requested additional tickets, thanks to both of them for their support. Only one person (so far) has returned their allocation unsold, I won’t disclose his identity, but an American singer namesake had a big hit with “Blonde in a Blonde.”
Winners in the August draw were Neil Mitchell with ticket number 493 (£30) and Ian Jarvis with ticket number 062 (£10). September winners were G. Holland with ticket number 106 (£30) and D. Sword with ticket number 264 (£20). Remember! You have to have your ticket/s sold and the money returned to me by December 2nd (This Year!). Quick response! Thanks to Scott Fenwick and Alex Robertson, who phoned regarding my plea in last month’s magazine for a stock of roofng shingles, thanks to them I have been able to purchase them and can add them to the shelter to your winter programme. Thanks again! It just proves, if you need help of any kind, don’t be frightened to ask, even use your own magazine. John Crawford.

East
Welcome to another month’s column. Yes it’s October so we know what’s around the corner. Yes, wintry! Try not to think about it because summer is still to arrive.
The Section held its Willie Woods Invitational Tournament at West Linton GC on September 5 with a good turnout of 18 teams. With thanks to Captain, Bill Blackwood, and the Council for courtesy of the course, Paul and Louise for looking after us superbly as usual in the bar and restaurant: also the restaurant and bar staff. Thanks. A big thanks, also, to my Deputy Shaun and the rest of my team for having the course in fine condition considering the weather we’ve had this year and also the weather on the day. At one point I thought we might not get round but for the last few holes the sun came out and it turned out to be a wonderful evening. We hope you all enjoyed your visit to WLGC and we hope to see you all back again in the near future.
There were some great scores on the day so here are the results: 1. A. Campbell/P. A. Craig, Eyemouth GC, 78 -8 -8 = 68 2. C. Yeaman/R. Blackwood, West Linton GC, 78 -7/3 = 70 2/3; 3. S. Nicol/R. Martin, Winterfield GC, 67. +5/3 = 72/3. As so you can see some very good scoring on a very pleasant day. Next year the tour will travel to Eyemouth GC to contest the tournament once again. We hope to see you all there. Now, last but not least, a big thanks to our tournament Sponsor, Ian Henderson, of Golf Finance fame. Thank you for the continued sponsorship of this tournament it’s much appreciated by all who play in this event. We hope we can continue this sponsorship deal over the next few years. Ian, so we’ll be in contact over the next few months to see what we can sort out. Ian sent his apologies as he had work to sort out. Ian sent his apologies as he had work to sort out.

People on the move lately were Andy Forrest, Head Greenkeeper at Oatridge College Golf Course who has joined Stuart & Company as Head Groundsmen at West Midlothian FC. Stuart’s have just taken over the maintenance contract for Tynecastle Stadium, so all the best to Andy in his new position. PS. Don’t forget the tickets for matches against the mighty Rangers, or if you’re lucky enough, it’s at Ibrox Stadium. Don’t forget the tickets for matches against the mighty Rangers, or if you’re lucky enough, it’s at Ibrox Stadium.
The Autumn outing took place at McDonald GC, Ellon, on September 12, and a good day out was had by those who attended. The weather held up well, and it stayed dry, which has not happened too much lately. We thank you all for your patience. We’re glad to see you all at the Spring outing next year. There were also good turnouts for matches against the mighty Rangers, or if you’re lucky enough, it’s at Ibrox Stadium.

This may explain why his journey took two days from Fife to Kirkhill. The council were really trying to arrange for a couple of speakers from the trade to come along and make a short presentation prior to the AGM. We hope to see a large turn out as possible on the day. Get their early if you want a seat. On October 14 our annual match against the club stewards will be held at Cathcart GC. Our thanks is again extended to the council and membership for the kind use of their facilities. At time of writing the greenkeeping team was still to be confirmed. Our annual dinner is once again to be held in Victoria’s night spot. This popular event has always been well attended in the past and always proves a most enjoyable evening. The proposed date for the event is Friday, November 29 and tickets will go on sale shortly. Please try and get your payment for ordered tickets in as early as possible. I will be your seat at this not to be missed event and will greatly help in the administration of the event.
The committee would like to wish John Scott Jnr the best of luck in his new post. John is leaving Kirkhill GC and is to be congratulated on his promotion. Hope I spent the name right! We would also like to thank John for all the work he has done on our Section committee over the years.

Well, that is all I have this month, next month results from our Autumn outing staged at Drumpler GC on September 26. Again if you would like any news added to the column please do not hesitate to call me on 013552 66862. Brian Bolland.

North
No new members to report this month, the first month for a while that this has been the case.
The Autumn outing took place at McDonald GC, Ellon, on September 12, and a good day out was had by those who attended. The weather held up well, and it stayed dry, which has not happened too much lately. We thank you all for your patience. We’re glad to see you all at the Spring outing next year. There were also good turnouts for matches against the mighty Rangers, or if you’re lucky enough, it’s at Ibrox Stadium.

On to the results and departing committee member Brian Bolland took more than his fair share of the spoils - several firsts in different sections, including £3 from himself which was hard to take because he was exceptionally lucky.

Nearest the Pin. Robert Hardie (bounced of a tree). Barrowfield GC.

Lochside Drive: Class 1. Gary Tough, Letham Grange GC; Class 2. James Swanson, Spey Bay; Class 3. Stuart Hogg, Fortrose GC.


Apprentice Winner, Ben Brooks Newmachar GC. Class 3. Neil Bruce, Montrose GC; 2. Stephen Simpson, Cullen GC. (First prize ever); Duncan Adams, Nemchar GC.


Class 1 McLeone Trophy. 1. Philip Don, Kemmey GC; 2. Steve Sullivan, Craigie Hill GC; 3. Jim McCormack, Kirriemuir GC; Best nett 36 Hole winner Philip Donaldson; Kemmey GC; Best 36 Hole Head Greenkeeper Winner, Philip Donaldson; Best 36 Hole Veteran Winner, R. Donald; Scratch Aberdeen Trophy Winner Gaye Tough Letham Grange GC; 2. Graham Lomie, Royal Aberdeen GC.

Congratulations to all the winners and I hope to see you all at the Spring outing next year. There were also other prizes to be won. Blazer, James Swanson, Spey Bay GC. Patrons’ Winners, Donald Patience, Tarbat GC; Brian Hunter, Ellon GC. 200 Club Winners: £30 A. Thomson; £30 A. Angus; £30 M. Fullerton; £100 Hazelhead Golf Pro.

The rave prizes went well, with Spey Bay GC taking their fair share, at least they went to a good home. My thanks go out to Dougal Duguid and Steve Sullivan for saving the signed poster of the Aberdeen football team from myself in the blue. My dashboard was needing recovered anyway.

As I write this report the AGM has still not been set, but as soon as it has been, the members will be notified.

Finally, David Duggan of Fortrose GC, gets married at the end of this month in Fife, so good luck David. David’s stag weekend was in Ireland, where he is due to join the Army. This may explain why his journey took two days from...
Fortrose. Apparently he loves the A9 that much he thought he would drive up and down it a couple of times before he went over.

Iain Gunn

Northeastern Region

September and the nights are drawing in. I wonder were the summer went. The weather all around the world seems to be changing, with rivers breaking their banks and causing heavy flooding not only here but all over Europe. The flooding is bad enough, but trying to put things right after must seem like an impossible task. It would be interesting if any of you have been in this position, to take some pictures and write a few words about how you coped with it all. I am sure Scott, the Editor, would help you with your story.

I have been out of action for some time due to illness, but before I went into hospital for a short stay, I turned up to Whitefield GC on Friday, August 9 to organise the regional final, and what a day it was. The rain never stopped from early morning, and although Mark; the Head Greenkeeper, kept his options open, saying that if it stopped, the course would be playable within the hour, in the end we had to admit defeat. I would like to thank all the lads who turned up on the day, some with long journeys like the N/Wales Section and the N/Wales Section, and although we can’t run the tournament this year I will try my best for next year.

Due to my stay in hospital I was also unable to attend the presentation of the Doug Bell which upset me because we had become good friends, he being the Northeastern Region Administrator and me, the Chairman. He was a good man and had your interests at heart, but I believe there was a good attendance at the funeral. He will sadly missed.

I also missed the “Rosies” match which was played at Stand GC, and I am told the course was in great condition although it did not help to retrieve the Pattison Trophy from the Northern Section. The match was halved three games each so the Northern Section retain the Pattison Shield. The match was once again sponsored by Pattissons who have sponsored the match for many years, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them once again for their interest and hope this will continue for many years to come. It seems to be that for it now but you can contact me with any news and problems on 0151 724 5412 or 07761 583387.

Bert Cross

Northern

“Fly up” and how are you all keeping in greenkeeping land? I hope the on course construction is taking shape and the mowing is slowing down and we are all disease free.

Well done to the Northern Section team who competed for the Pattison’s Roses Trophy against the North West Section on their patch and retained it. Stand golf course was in excellent condition and was enjoyed by all the Northern boys on the day. A big thank you to the North West Section for organising this year’s event and to Pattissons for sponsoring it. It turned out to be a thriller with a 3 - 3 draw being the outcome. Those Lancs Lads certainly have been practising. Better luck next year.

I have a number of new members to introduce this time as I missed out last time (misplaced them. Sorry) Welcome to Stephen Midgley, Heworth GC, Ross McCarthy, David Callaghan and Darren Kitching, Headingley GC; John Whiteley, Normanton GC; David Styloes, Ryburn GC; Steven Fletcher; Elland GC and last, but not least, Michael Tattersall, from Cheekeleton GC.

Our next golf event of the year is The Autumn tournament at Northallerton Golf club on October 17. See off from 11am. Numbers again are on a first come first served bases. The usual price of £15 by cheque, one week before the event please, as this aids administration. There will be the usual bacon sandwich and meal on the day. At 6pm after this event will be our AGM. So if you are unhappy with anything to do with the Section this is your opportunity to air your views. Or maybe you fancy a stint on the committee to help with the planning and administration of all our events. It would be great to see as many of you as possible at the AGM.

I was so sorry to hear of the death of Doug Bell in early August. He will be missed by all of the Northern section and committee and I will report on the invitation day in the next around the greens.

See you all at the AGM. You can contact me via: 16 Westwood Ave. Eccleshill Bradford West Yorkshire BD2 2N1 Tel No: 012174 840739 Mob No: 07976875264 E mail: Dthackray@aol.com Dave Thackray

North Wales

Pwllheil Golf Club was the venue for the Section’s Autumn Tournament and once again we were blessed with good weather. The course as always was presented in a fine standard thanks to the greenkeeping team headed by Steve Jones, and the crew of Alwyn, Dylan, and Tomos.

Bacon butties were the order of the day upon our arrival and a roast beef dinner was served prior to the presentation. Our thanks go to the catering staff at the club. A total of 48 entrants teed off to challenge the part parkland and part links course the results were as follows:

Best nett 1. Daryll Davis, Northop GC, 37pts; 2. Andy Peel, Bull Bay GC, 36pts; 3. John Humphreys, Oswestry GC, 35pts. Best Gross went to Jeremy Hughes, Vale of Llangollen, with a 72. Best Guest was Kirt Hutchesson, Stowrs-Wen GC, who also won the Guest Nearest the Pin. Best trade was usually with 33pts and longest walk went to Danny Tomkins along with the straightest slice.

There was a Nearest the Pin for the members and this was won by Dylan Hughes, fittingly, of Pwllheil GC. We won’t say anything about local knowledge but Dylan is the son of the former head greenkeeper, Dewi Hughes, who has now retired after many years at the club and is enjoying a life we all look forward to, being out of the rat race. Thanks also goes to the trade for the prize table, ALS, Acorn(UK), Bathgate, Amenity Technology, Walker Engineering and Sportsworld Amenity.

Moving on those of you wishing to go and stay over at the BTME 2003 show in Harrogate next January 22, 23, 24, now is the time to book your accommodation as this aids the planning and administration of all our events. It would be great to see as many of you as possible at the AGM.

The next event will be the Turkey Trot at Southfields Golf Club on Wednesday, November 6. This will be a team threeball Stableford with the best of two scores. This match will be limited to 42 players. The first tee from time is 9am. Please ring me on 07778 765021 for any further information. The cost is £25 and includes coffee on arrival with a meal after the match. Please send your cheques to my home address as follows: Holly Lodge, Pond Lane, Hermitage, Thatcham, Berks, RG18 9RN. This event is sponsored by Avoncrop who will be in attendance to ensure you have a great day and hand out prizes to the lucky winners. Avoncrop have graciously let us run a Christmas raffle which will comprise of any items that have been offered by various trade members throughout the year. If anyone has any item they would like to put forward, for the raffle, please contact me. They will be much appreciated in helping to raise funds for future events.

I would like to welcome the following new members into the BBB0 Section and wish you all well in the year to come: Duncan Dingle, of Steweld Wood GC, and Dennis Reed, of Drayton Park GC.

This next report is from Lindsay Anderson on the final stages of the Rigby Taylor Competition; Peter Critchley and Gordon Critchley beat Steve Putt and Martin Birdbank 4 & 3 in the first semi-final. Lee Bishop and Jason Brooks beat Lindsay Anderson and Simon Austin 3 & 1 in the other semi-final.

The final was a tight affair with Lee and Jason, from Burnham Beeches, winning on the last green. The standard of golf by these two worthy winners was excellent – well done lads! Thanks to Mark and Gary from Rigby Taylor for organising the event once again. It has been a great success. Thanks to Alex Miller, and all his staff at Stoke Park Golf Club, for providing a superb test of golf.

Finally, Mark Stigwell, from Rigby Taylor, is emigrating to New Zealand in the next few weeks. We wish him well!
East Midlands

The annual East Midlands v East of England Golf match was held on 22nd August at the wonderful venue of Newark GC and generously sponsored once more by Barenbrug. The weather was fine and bright and the course was presented in pristine condition by Graeme Macdonald and his staff. Unfortunately the result was not very kind for our Section, losing four of the five games, although by narrow margins. However Adi Porter and Steve Goode did at least save us from a complete whitewash by winning their match.

The weather was fine and bright and the pressure and stress put onto the greenkeeping team for the superb playing condition of the course and to the artisans for the delicious Barbie that we all enjoyed afterwards. Home knowledge may have helped James Partridge to first place and the Tankard, as it did Dave Goddard who came second. The third spot was filled by Greg Richardson, from Hankley Common, who kept Sunningdale from getting the 1,2,3, by beating Darren Lee who came fourth. Longest Drive was Dave Goddard, and Ted Holland, from Gatton Manor, was Nearest the Pin.

Another annual event was fought at Hankley Common GC on August 23. Scotland and England teams were once again locked in battle on this beautiful and heather covered heathland course. The result was not due to Scotland having to substitute Brian McWillenfor for Alan McDougal, as many from over the border suggested, but to the fine play from a finely honed English team. Scotland won one England five.

Many thanks to Gareth for the venue and the caterers for the food.

The final annual event took place at Wimbledon Common/London Scottish Golf Club on August 30 when a Surrey greenkeepers team played against members from the aforementioned clubs. Last year ended in a draw so this year the teams played a four ball better ball Stableford competition to achieve an overall winner. All the points from all the matches were added up so that it would be virtually impossible to draw the match. The result was a draw! Thanks to Geoff for the course, the caterers for the dinner and the members of London Scottish/Wimbledon Common Golf Club for the fine reception.

Brian McWillen

Devon & Cornwall

It is with great sadness that I have to inform members that John Breyley passed away on August 19. John was a ever present member of the Section during his working days at Churston Golf Club, John will be remembered for his ever cheerful presence even after a poor round of golf. Our thoughts go to Lesley at this sad time.

It’s arrived once again the Section’s first meeting of the autumn and winter programme sponsored by Reflexes. The meeting this year will be held at Portmore G.C, Barnstaple, and will include for the first time the Viva Matchplay final. The final will tee off at 8.30am before the D.O. Hunt Trophy. As in the past our golfers course walk will leave the clubhouse at 10.30am with lunch from 1pm. The afternoon educational talk will follow lunch with the prize presentation concluding the day.

Members attending the afternoon talk will be able to claim their CPD points. Just bring your form along for me to sign.

Kevin Humphreys, 38pts, Croham Hurst GC 3, Bobby Rogers, 37pts, Lapalme GC. The sponsors were Barrellfield Golf Ltd and we thank them for the prizes.

Congratulations paragraph to Richard Evans, Deputy at Addington Palace Golf Club, for many years has been appointed Head Greenkeeper at Shirley Park Golf Club. Richard has been offered various opportunities outside Surrey Section but has preferred to wait for an opportunity in this area. His position at Addington Palace will be filled from within by Chris Varrow. Congratulations to them both. Ron Christie is anxious to replace Chris asap as it is many years since Ron has had to enter a bunker with a rake so early in the morning.

Our annual visit to Sunningdale Golf Club for the McMillan Tankard took place on August 15 and in excellent summer weather, on the magnificent New Course, 45 Surrey members sweated for the honours. Our warmest thanks as always to Brian Turner and his team for the superb playing condition of the course and to the artisans for the delicious Barbie that we all enjoyed afterwards. Home knowledge may have helped James Partridge to first place and the Tankard, as it did Dave Goddard who came second. The third spot was filled by Greg Richardson, from Hankley Common, who kept Sunningdale from getting the 1,2,3, by beating Darren Lee who came fourth. Longest Drive was Dave Goddard, and Ted Holland, from Gatton Manor, was Nearest the Pin.

Another annual event was fought at Hankley Common GC on August 23. Scotland and England teams were once again locked in battle on this beautiful and heather covered heathland course. The result was not due to Scotland having to substitute Brian McWillenfor for Alan McDougal, as many from over the border suggested, but to the fine play from a finely honed English team. Scotland won one England five.

Many thanks to Gareth for the venue and the caterers for the food.

The final annual event took place at Wimbledon Common/London Scottish Golf Club on August 30 when a Surrey greenkeepers team played against members from the aforementioned clubs. Last year ended in a draw so this year the teams played a four ball better ball Stableford competition to achieve an overall winner. All the points from all the matches were added up so that it would be virtually impossible to draw the match. The result was a draw! Thanks to Geoff for the course, the caterers for the dinner and the members of London Scottish/Wimbledon Common Golf Club for the fine reception.

Brian McWillen
The Section's Devon Garden Machinery AGM meeting will be held at Bude & North Cornwall GC on Wednesday, November 20, and three times for the Toro Trophy will be between 9.30 – 10.30.

Richard Whyman

South Wales

The Celtic Manor Resort once again hosted a successful “Wales Open” despite, as per last year, a valiant attempt from the weather to spoil things. Congratulations to Director of Golf, Jim McKenzie and his team who once again had their work cut out in dealing with the elements. Nevertheless a fantastic event and one that you may have a chance to be involved with next year if you would like to.

A support team to assist the greenstaff at the “Wales Open” may be organised for next year’s event. If you would like to participate, please contact your Section Secretary for further details.

Henry Stead, Head Greenkeeper of the Grove Golf Club, near Porthcawl collapsed while attending the “Wales Open” and had to be admitted to hospital in nearby Newport, where he spent the weekend. Henry who was attended to by paramedics has made a full recovery and returned to work the following week. He would like to thank all of those who sent cards and messages of goodwill.

The Section would like to offer a vote of thanks to Denis Archer, who has recently retired his position of Head Greenkeeper at the Whitchurch Golf Club in Cardiff. Dennis served on many BIGGA committees over the years and has been a stalwart of BIGGA.

We wish you well in retirement and look forward to seeing you at the Christmas meeting.

A successful Scots sponsored “Golf Management Trophy” was recently held at the new Tredegar Park Golf Club in Newport. A total of 19 teams gathered at the course, which was presented in excellent condition by Dave Williams and his team. It was the first visit to the new Tredegar Park for many of the visitors and many compliments were made in relation to the course and the excellent facilities on offer at the club.

A grand day was had by all, the sun shone, the course was in excellent condition and the scoring reflected this with eventual winners being Weybrook Park. Many thanks to Ian Noble, Shane Hodgkins and the team at Moors Valley for all their hard work in preparing the course so well; to Moors Valley Golf Club for their superb hospitality and, of course, a huge vote of thanks to the invaluable sponsorship from Scots.

Much is happening at committee level as we are busy currently organising next year’s Section seminar, which will be held at Canford Magna Golf Club on February 26. I have received details of a number of BIGGA training courses, which range from tractor driving to higher management skills. If you wish to receive any details then please contact me.

Date for your diaries this month is the Regional seminar at Cannington College on November 13 and 14. Day one has an impressive line up of speakers giving a broad range of presentations while on day two the superb Frank Newbery will present a day long seminar on everything from maximising the impact of your CV to interviewing techniques and getting the package you deserve. Let’s make sure we attend what will be an excellent couple of days.

Lastly, I would just like to wish Carl Horrax the best of luck as he leaves us to move back North. Our loss will be the North’s gain. All of your friends in the Section wish you and your family well and lets hope our paths meet soon Carl!

If you have any news you wish to include in next months around the green then please contact me on 01262 661106 or 07813 841174

Until next month, Alex McCombie

South West

Hi ya Men! Summer now over and we are about to enjoy another lovely south west winter, lots of rain and some grey days no doubt!

Hope you attend the regional seminar at Cannington in September. It’s always good to hear new ideas.

Our next event is at Tracey Park now renamed, the Gloucestershire, on October 17. After the golf we will be holding our Section’s AGM, we are going to have a visit from the Chairman of BIGGA, Richard Barker. So if you have any questions etc about the Association at national level, you will get the answer right from the top.

A date for your diaries beyond that is the Christmas Tournament, and I know that the Head Greenkeeper at Cirencester is looking forward to your visit on December 11.

Robin Greaves

Northern Ireland

I would like to begin this month’s news with a report on the charity golf day on August 2 organised by Terry Crawford, Course Manager at Cladendye GC. The competition this year was again a great success with over 130 competitors, competing over the Dufferin course. Terry and his greenkeeping team had the course in outstanding condition, even with the unsettled weather conditions leading up to the competition the course presentation and detail was of the highest standard, great credit must go to Terry and his staff. Terry would like to thank all the greenkeepers, club managers, trade members, and club members who came and played from throughout Ireland North and South. The grand sum of £2,200 was raised which will be presented to the Children’s Hospital within the Royal Hospital in Belfast. The money will be used to buy specialist equipment that is needed to treat children with heart problems.

Many thanks to Clive Richardson, of Horta Soils, who sponsored all the prizes again this year.

Tour professional Darren Clarke’s father, Godfrey presented Terry with a golf shirt and glove signed by Darren to be auctioned at the prize giving and the proceeds added to the charity fund. The shirt and glove reached the magnificent sum of £200. and was purchased by agronomist, John O’Sullivan. The results of the competition were as follows: 1. David Gallagher, 41pts; 2. Ian McMullen, 40pts; 3. Stephen McMurry, 40pts; 4. Peter Coral, 37pts; 5. Warren Burnside, 37pts; 6. Bobby Crookes, 37pts; 7. Brian Mills, 36pts.

The team prize winners were: Stephen McMurry, Stephen Norwood, John McAdams, Shane McNulty. Our national championships qualifying competition went ahead at Ballycastle GC on September 6. We combined a strokeplay competition to the championship sponsored by Cuborns of Banbridge with a Stableford competition sponsored by Boyd’s Golf Course Equipment. Head Greenkeeper, Godfrey Clarke, and his staff had the course in great shape with the greens running fast and true. The two successful qualifiers were a father and son from Royal Co Down GC. Deputy Course Manager at R.C.D. Eamon Crawford, had an impressive three under par round of gross 65 nett 64 and son, Gary Crawford, playing off 24, had a nett 67. Well done lads, we hope you enjoy the trip over to the National Championship. Thanks must go to Boyd’s Golf Equipment who have kindly sponsored the air fares over to Liverpool on September 30 for Eamonn and Gary. Company representative, William Cartmill, attended the day and also kindly provided the visitors prizes. Your support is greatly appreciated.

The Stableford competition winners were: 1. R. McCloone, Castlerock GC, 39pts; 2. Andrew Wray, Castlerock GC, 38pts; 3. Ali Neely, City of Derry GC, 34pts.

Visitors’ Prize winner D. McFaul, 40 pts. Two’s Eamonn Crawford, Andrew Wray. Thanks to Boyd’s Golf Course Equipment Company for sponsoring the Stableford competition and also Godfrey Clarke and Micheal O’Neill for sponsoring the two’s competition.

Finally the competition wouldn’t have been such a success without the generosity of Bally Castle GC in giving us courtesy of the course.

I would like to remind members that they should have received the brochure on the conference on Nov 6 in mid-September. The entry form with payment should be returned to Eamon Emmett’s Office. The Conference venue is The Log Cabin Royal York Arms Hotel on 3rd to 5th October as places are filling up very quickly. So please do not leave it to the last minute as you will probably miss out. Well that’s about all for this month if anyone has any news please contact me on 028 9449/9001 during working hours.

Ken Henderson

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