GIVING A LIFT

Two purpose-made hydraulic loaders have been developed for key models in the McCormick tractor range used for grounds care, highways, forestry and construction plant hire operators, for routine materials handling tasks.

The McCormick LiftMaster loaders come with features such as joystick control, quick-attach mountings and fast-fit implement couplings to make them as convenient and easy to use as possible.

There are two models: the LiftMaster 1000 is designed for the three-model range of McCormick GX/GXH midi compact tractors, which have power outputs spanning 27-36kW /37-49hp. The LiftMaster 2000 is designed for the McCormick CX and MC four-cylinder tractors of 54-75kW /73-102hp.

Both loaders are operated through a four-way joystick control and have mechanical parallel linkage to automatically keep the bucket level and prevent spillage of loose loads such as earth, sand and wood chips.

Quick couplings make it easy put the loaders on when they are needed and to take them off again to release the tractor for other work.

Similarly, implements from pallet forks and manure grabs to large volume grain and feed buckets can be put on and taken off quickly and easily. Generous articulation means implements can be rolled back sufficiently to fill to capacity and dumped to a steep angle to empty cleanly.

LIFTMASTER 1000

The McCormick LiftMaster 1000 hydraulic loader is designed for the 27kW, 44kW and 36kW /37hp, 44hp and 49hp McCormick GX/GXH midi compact tractors. These are available with either a 16 x 16 speed creep gearbox or hydrostatic drive, both of which make them ideal tractors for light grounds care duties such as mowing and aeration, for operating power tillers and stone burners in locations with limited access.

The loader has a lift capacity of 985kg at ground level (630kg to full height) and a maximum lift height of 2.7m enabling it to easily clear gates, fences and the sides of a small truck or trailer.

LIFTMASTER 2000

The McCormick LiftMaster 2000 hydraulic loader is mounted using a full-length subframe for added strength and upright bars at the front protect the nose of the CX and MC tractors for which it is designed.

It lifts 2142kg from the ground and takes a 2422kg load to the maximum lift height of 3.88m. This gives it the capacity to load skips and dump trailers with loose materials or to use pallet forks to offload deliveries of building materials, fixtures and fittings, turf, fertilisers and other soil management materials.

A third hydraulic service is available for operating grabs on manure forks and silage cutters. Adding the Euro Hitch option ensures that users can operate existing implements from certain other loader manufacturers.

Further options include a suspension system using gas accumulators to absorb shock loads during work and travel, and a single coupling for all hydraulic lines for quick, easy and accurate connection.

For further information Tel: 01302 733393.

A GREAT IDEA

A Wentworth member has developed a tool which repairs divots quickly and easily and the idea has been taken on by BMS.

Roy Harrison, a Wentworth member of 30 years standing, retired eight years ago and with spare time on his hands looked to see if he could invent something useful to the game of golf.

"At first I couldn't think of anything until one day I was playing golf and it came to me when I saw the terrible damage that golfers do to the teeing areas of par-3s. The divot holes are filled with a mixture of sand, soil and seed which is not very satisfactory and it takes a long time for the damage to repair, if at all," explained Roy.

"I had a chat with one of the greenkeepers and asked him if any company had come up with a tool that could repair the damage instantly and he said that there had been some devices which had come and gone as they hadn't achieved their aim.

"I then decided that I would see if I could design a tool that would do the job successfully."

Roy made a study of divots over the next few months on fairways and was surprised to note that hardly any of them regrew. They were either pulled out by birds or mowers or stamped on so hard that they died in their hole.

"I decided to use my lawn as a testing area for replacing divots and see what would make them grow successfully. I had the idea that it was the lack of aeration that was causing the hard tamped divots to die so I stamped a divot into my lawn and punched holes all over the whole area and sure enough the divot grew really well."

"I knew then what was needed - a tool that would stamp in the divot and at the same time aerate it."

After a few prototypes Roy came up with a tool which solved the problems he'd encountered.

"The tool is made up of 45 steel pins ground to sharp points set into a steel box five inches by three inches with a steel handle. A steel plate with 45 holes drilled into it with springs on each corner allows the divot to be stamped in and at the same time to be aerated with the 45 pins."

"I have tested this device over a long period of time and found it useful for other jobs such as preparing bare ground for seeding, aerating areas which have been well compacted and tamping in new turf without compressing the roots."

Roy contacted BIGGA to ask for advice in manufacturing and developing the tool and then contacted James Buckholt, of BMS, Luton. Who after seeing the tool in action, agreed to produce and promote it.

For further information from BMS. Tel: 01582 758444.
Central
A very successful AGM was held on October 30 at Gleneagles Hotel when Golf Course and Estates Manager Jimmy Kidd gave an excellent presentation on Gleneagles bid for the Ryder Cup, we are indebted to Gleneagles for extending us the courtesy of their facilities and to Jimmy for giving us an insight into a very complex and expensive document which his staff had to prepare and present in their bid to bring the tournament to Scotland. Well done to everyone at Gleneagles!

Twenty-five members were in attendance at the AGM and it was heartening to see a few new faces present, a number of fresh ideas were put forward for the committee to consider for the coming months. So watch this space!

Your committee for the coming year is Stuart Cruickshank, Chairman; Derek Scott, Vice Chairman; Andy O’Hara, Past Chairman, J. Crawford, Secretary/Treasurer; with A. Dunn and I. MacMillan, Patrons’ representative, K. Brunton, Trade representatives P. Langdon and J. Finlayson. Following the meeting everyone made their way to Auchterarder Golf Club where we enjoyed a superb buffet lunch provided by Jim Finlayson, to whom we extend a big thank you.

Before I forget, very belated congratulations go to Alphi Philips from the Section on being elected to the office of Captain at Comrie Golf Club in Perthshire, where he is also Head Greenkeeper. It must make it easier when the Captain is on the greenkeeper’s side! I hope that is right as Ally’s wife is a lawyer and the last time I made a mistake in some information about him he threatened me with a lawyer’s letter.

We haven’t had any new membership applications for a while but we are making up for that this month with 10, yes 10! We extend a very warm welcome to the Section to Kris Bilby, from Kingsbarns Golf Links; Michael Robertson, Barry Ross, Neil Smith, Glenn Cameron, Gary Douglas, Fraser Cochrane, David Goldie, John Mitchell and Colin Haldane, all from St Andrews Bay. Hope to meet you in the not too distant future at some of our events.

The Section nominees for this year’s Patrons’ Awards are Robbie Breigening, from Muckhart GC, and Donald Gardiner, from Sconie GC. Congratulations to them both and I hope they enjoy the Harrogate Experience.

Remember time is running out for you to buy/sell your allocation of Club 2000 tickets before I give you a very public reminder. It now costs £60 in postage for one mail shot to Section members so it is much cheaper to attend a luncheon in Stirling and also Harrogate in the spring. Their support to the Section is much appreciated.

The section AGM took place at Peterhead GC on October 16. There were one or two changes in the committee in that John Geddes, of Ellon GC is now the Chairman of our Section and Steve Sullivan is now the Vice-chairman. Dale Robertson of Newmachar GC is the new Secretary taking over from Dougal Duguid, of Westhill GC. Dougal has put many years of service into the running of the North Section and is going to remain on the North committee for another year to help out. I would like to thank Dougal on behalf of the members of our Section, for all his efforts over the years and wish him all the best when he begins his new role as the Scottish Vice Chairman.

The AGM was held at Irvine Bogside Golf Club on Thursday October 30 where it was unanimously agreed that Derek Wilson should carry on as Secretary, Chairman and Vice Chairman stay unchanged as Martin Lothian and Marshall Sloss enter the final year of their respective positions. Stephen Higgins, from Ardeer Golf Club, joins the committee.

The Patrons’ Award winners are John Mair, Beth Golf Club, and Michael Wilson, Moffat Golf Club. Congratulations to you both and I am sure you will enjoy yourselves at Harrogate.

The spring outing will be held at Prestwick St. Nicholas on Thursday April 29 with tee times from 12.30.

A good day was had by those of us who ventured to Scotssturf last month. There was plenty of machinery on view and it is always nice to bump into friends and colleagues from times past and present.

That is it for now except to say “Seasons Greetings to you all” and feel free to give me a call on 01292 478606.

Dennis Tweedie

North
No new members to report this month, but overall we have done alright in members this year, so hopefully that trend will continue.

The section AGM took place at Peterhead GC on October 16. There were one or two changes in the committee in that John Geddes, of Ellon GC is now the Chairman of our Section and Steve Sullivan is now the Vice-chairman. Dale Robertson of Newmachar GC is the new Secretary taking over from Dougal Duguid, of Westhill GC. Dougal has put many years of service into the running of the North Section and is going to remain on the North committee for another year to help out. I would like to thank Dougal on behalf of the members of our Section, for all his efforts over the years and wish him all the best when he begins his new role as the Scottish Vice Chairman.

Donald Patience, of Tarbet GC, has joined the committee and is a welcome new face. Donald and Hugh Mclatchie are this year’s patron winners and will attend a luncheon in Stirling and also Harrogate in the spring. Their support to the Section is much appreciated.

There were 34 at Peterhead and they all had a good days golf and were well fed. Our thanks go to Hugh Mclatchie and his staff for the condition of the course and for the hospitality of the club for the day. The day took the form of an outing and this produced more people turning up for the AGM than in previous years. A first for Peterhead is the installation of electricity to their clubhouse. This came as a major shock to Hughie and his staff.

Scotssturf is again coming around this month and it does not seem any time since last year. Hopefully there will be a good turnout for the show as usual from the north as it is an important part of the greenkeeping calendar.

I would like to thank Campmuir for their open day at Nairn GC. The day was very well attended and we were all very fed and watered, very important for the under nourished of our profession. It gives the greenkeepers a chance to catch up on what’s new in the product range, plus it gives a great opportunity passed us once again and I hope all in attendance at the dance will have yet again had a great weekend so all information from the dance and the AGM will be in next year’s magazine, (think about it). If you are going to BTME 2004 I hope you have got your place on the BIGGA trip booked or your B&B booked as I’ve heard that the rooms are becoming hard to find so I hope you are lucky in your search for accommodation and I look forward to seeing you there.

Well done to Ian Watson, Guilane, and Colin Noble, Cardrona, as they are the winners of the Patrons’ Award for the East Section this year, and I hope you both enjoy your trip to BTME 2004. I hope both of you can write a small article for the forthcoming edition of ‘Greenkeeper International’. Well that’s it all for this month and this year, before I go I would like to thank my committee for all their hard work over the past year, patrons for all their help (ie. raffle prizes, Help etc. etc.) so a big thanks to all of you for the past year.

So myself and the committee would like to wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I look forward to seeing you in the new year if you have any news for the column let’s hear from you so we can get it into print as soon as possible. All the best.

Chris Yeaman

Ayrshire
Hello, hope you are all well and ready for the Festive Season. The Section AGM was held at Irvine Bogside Golf Club on Thursday October 30 where it is always nice to bump into colleagues from times past and present.

I've heard that the rooms are becoming hard to find so I hope you are lucky in

by giving us an insight into a very complex and expensive document which his staff had to prepare and present in their bid to bring the tournament to Scotland. Well done to everyone at Gleneagles!
Cleveland

By this time members read this the festive season will be fast approaching. So may I wish all BIGGA members a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

As soon as we are back to work after the holiday break thoughts will turn to the BTME show at Harrogate. I am sure that the turf management industry now believes that it is the major show of its kind. Our Section always gives the show a good pummelling.

So may I wish all BIGGA members a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.
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Has it rained yet? I keep asking this because it is quite incredulous that the answer could still quite possibly be an emphatic NO! It is even possible the greatest rainmaker was known to mankind, bonfire night has not stirred the soul of Aquarius. I guess we have much overseeding ahead of us next spring but there is plenty of time left to contemplate the actions required. Our AGM went off without any problems at the Springs Golf Club. At least 50 people attended; so many in fact that I lost count. We now have our new Secretary, John Soones, Course Manager at Caversham Heath GC, and Treasurer, Mitch Stewart, Deputy Course Manager at Henley GC. Mark Day, of Tact, will be representing the trade and producing the editorial for the Around the Green news. If you wish to contact Mark with any news you can always ring him on: 07887 723377. We would ideally like to see someone take up the position of chairperson. If anyone would like to come onto the committee in this, or any other capacity we would welcome the support.

May I post a very special thanks to two committee members who have finally decided to rest from such activities, Lindsay Anderson, Course Manager at Badgemoor Park GC and Adrian Cooper, Managing Director at the Springs GC. These two characters have been committed to moving the BB&O Section forward for over ten years so much respect is due their way. Also thanks Adrian for the organising the chips and sandwiches for the lads. You keep a smooth pint of Boddingtons on tap! Next years fixtures have been finalised and are as follows: The spring tournament at Badgemoor Park GC on April 22; the summer tournament at Calcot Park GC on June 24; the autumn invitational tournament at Caversham Heath GC on August 11 and the Winter Turkey Trot at Parasampla GC on November 4. You will be receiving a fixture card, similar to last year but a new improved version with more detail on the events being held. Thanks go to Mr Alan Wright for organising the print of these cards and TH White for sponsoring the cards.

I was sorry to hear that Ray Clarke has left as Course Manager at Harleyford GC. He has gone into his own business and we wish him great success with his new venture. I am pleased to report that my Deputy at Maidenhead GC, Christopher Mitchell, will be taking over from me as Course Manager in December with Barry Gardner stepping up as Deputy Course Manager. I wish them the very best with their endeavours at the club. I know the members think highly of them, which, in this day and age, is gratifying indeed. It just leaves me to thank all those members who attended the Section dates this year and I wish all our members, our families and loved ones, the very best for Christmas and the New Year ahead.

David Haskell-Craig

Mid Anglia

The Section’s third competition of the year was held at Berkhamsted Golf Club at which we had 33 players attending. Our thanks must go to Gerald Bruce and his team for the superb condition of the course, knowing how difficult it has been this year with the severe lack of rain, well done to all involved. Also thanks to the Berkhamsted Golf Club for their hospitality on the day.

The results of the day were as follows: 1. Geoff James 36pts, John O’Gaunt; 2. Gerald Bruce, 35pts, Berkhamsted; 3. John Smith, 33pts, South Beds. Alan Grew, Berkhamsted, won the Longest Drive, and Mark Day, Tact, won Nearest the Pin. Thanks to Driving Force Leisure for sponsoring the day and to our other reps for their donations to the prize table.

With our Spring, Summer and Autumn competitions we use a scoring system to find out who the most consistent player is, so the more you play the more points you could gain and like Gerald Bruce become Player of the Year. Gerald Bruce, 35pts, Berkhamsted; 3. John Smith, 33pts, South Beds. Alan Grew, Berkhamsted, won the Longest Drive, and Mark Day, Tact, won Nearest the Pin. Thanks to Driving Force Leisure for sponsoring the day and to our other reps for their donations to the prize table.

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The Autumn competition also means the AGM and thanks to all those who attended. Officers elected to stand for committee were: Chairman; Steve Mason; Vice Chairman, Frank Scullion; Secretary and Treasurer, Gerald Bruce; Match Secretary Richard Saunders and other members John Wells, Colin Robinson, Mark Ellis and Bob Butfoy.

May I now take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year and let’s hope we have a bit more of the wet stuff next year.

Steve Mason

East of England

The annual match between the EOE Section and the Secretaries’ Association went down to the smallest of margins before the result was decided. After eight matches the result was 4-4. So the rules stated we got a result on holes won and the outcome was nine holes up to eight with the Secretaries winning by one hole.

Thanks to Jim Birkett and his staff at Holme Hall for providing an excellent course enjoyed by all.

The last golf day of the year was played at Carlombe GC, our new Head Greenkeeper Stuart, and his staff produced a good testing course thoroughly enjoyed by all. Hope you settle into your new position Stuart. Lawn Mower Services were the sponsors for this competition and we thank Chris Overton and Dave Hampshire for all the wonderful prizes.

The winners on the day with a net score of 60 were J. Hewson, G. Cooper and G. Macdonald. Second with 60.5 was I. Batty, P. Fell and I. Roberts. Longest Drive went also to I. Batty and Nearest the Pin went to R Welford.

The AGM followed the meal and after some lengthy discussions the new committee was elected.

Stuart Clayton was nominated on as a committee member and Les Howkins was elected as Secretary. Graeme Macdonald will stay on as Deputy Regional Board Member after 10/11 years as Secretary.

The Order of Merit Blazer was won by Graeme Macdonald, of Newark Golf Club. The blazer will be kindly sponsored once again by Nigel Lovatt, of Lely Toro.

New positions to greenkeepers in the area are R. Welford taking the post of Head Greenkeeper at Immingham; Stoke Rochford has a new Head man, Retford has a new Head man and Seacroft has a Head Greenkeeper and as mentioned Stuart, at Carlombe.

Congratulations to local greenkeepers Russ Moody and Tim Jones for winning the Stirrup Open in October.

Thanks to all, Graeme Macdonald

East Midlands

This year’s Rigby Taylor golf match against the Midland Section was held on October 20 at Edgbaston GC. The day started badly for our side with the late withdrawal of our lowest handicapper Ian Marshall, meaning we would be one short. However Tony Cheese, of Rigby Taylor, stepped in as a late replacement helping everybody to look forward to the day. After our morning Greensomes we took a very healthy 4 points to 1 lead, with Gavin Robson & Stephen Mackie winning by 4 & 2, Jeff Dickinson & Russell Allen, Steve Goode & Greg Skinner, Antony Bindley & Adie Porter all winning their games by the narrowest of margins 1 up. The only defeat came in the first game of Tony Cheese and Chris Brown.

After lunchtime refreshments of soups and sandwiches it was time for the Afternoon Singles. The Section previously have never faired too well in this format and had only won the trophy three times in 18 years. However each and every player put in a determined effort, enabling us to win 6 games, halve 3 and lose only the 1. Stephen Mackie enjoyed the biggest winning margin 8 & 7. The other winning players were Russell Allen, Adi Porter, Antony Bindley, Gavin Robson, & Greg Skinner. The most amazing fightback was from Chris Brown who came from 4 down to halve his game. Steve Goode & Jeff Dickinson also fought hard for their half.

The eventual result was a winning score of 11 1/2 points - 3 1/2 points. Our thanks should go to Geoff Little & Tony Cheese, of Rigby Taylor, who organised the day. Mike Hughes and his staff for setting up such an excellent golf course, the Steward & Stewards for a great meal, and Edgbaston GC for allowing us courtesy of their fine course.

Finally a special thank you should be extended to Rigby Taylor for sponsoring the day, and to all those members from both sides for participating in a great event.

Jamie Bedford would like to thank all those Greenkeepers who attended the Seacroft weekend, which included Steve Goode, Gavin Robson, Adi Porter,
Dave Leatherland, Greg Skinner, Kevin Kinzer & David James. The winners over the two days were Dave Leatherland & Steve Goode. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Seacroft GC for their fine course.

Antony Bindley

Elsewhere

South Coast

The end of another year and it has certainly tested all our skills as greenkeepers. The Section has been quiet over the last month so it leaves me time to thank our sponsors for their support over the year. Without valued sponsorship we could not provide such good Seminars and golf days so a huge vote of thanks to all our sponsors who have given both their time and money to the section. We look forward to working closely with you again next year. A couple of reminders next. You have all received details of the Amenity 1-day course (already have 7, we need at least 12) at the Burstead, costs £30. Please contact me on 07984 867939 in the daytime or on 01245 603131 in the evening.

Finally here is my recent moan from a golfer at the Essex. He complained to one of my lads that the fairways were too hard and this was due to the lack of slitting carried out this year. What weather has he been enduring over the last 12 months? It makes you wonder what planet these people come from.

Martin Forrester

Kent

Not much news to report this month, please don't forget about the Winter golf day which is being held on December 10 at Birchwood Park Golf Club, if you want to participate but haven't received a form, give me a call and I will have one sent to you.

Congratulations to Steve Suttle, Course Manager at Northoreland Golf Club for completing the London to Brighton road race.

All that it leaves me to say is I hope that you all have an enjoyable Christmas and good New Year.

Phil Belton

South East

Essex

On behalf of the committee and myself I would like to wish all of you a Happy New Year and let's hope the weather in 2004 will be a lot kinder than this year. I would also like to thank the trade for their generosity for either sponsoring a golf event or donating prizes for the raffle. Without their support the days would not be as successful.

With no golf days to write about although Dave Beale has virtually organised the 2004 Golf Events, your personal fixture list will be with you earlier than last year.

Here is a review of 2003's Education Events. The Spring saw a full house and successful manual handling and fire training courses held at the Burstead. Our first two day tractor driving training has had some excellent feedback and with the next one to be held in February, which is already full, I have already started to compile a list of names for the Autumn and Winter 2004 courses. Anyone wishing to add their names to the list or would like to attend the professional image/communication 1-day course (already have 7, we need at least 12) at the Burstead, costs £30. Please contact me on 07984 867939 in the daytime or on 01245 603131 in the evening.

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Martin Forrester

Devon and Cornwall

Our first Autumn Meeting was held at Truro Golf Club on Wednesday, October 22. The day started with 26 members competing for the D.O. Hunt Trophy, a Stableford format which produced some fine scores. The winner was Jacko "The Bandit", from Tehidy Park, with 38 points. Runner up was Gordon "The Yips" Tamblyn, from Mullion GC, also with 38 points and third place went to Craig Martin from Falmouth G.C. with 37 points. Head Greenkeeper, Jim Sheehan, and his staff presented the golf course in superb condition and thanks to Jim's deputy Steve Tiddy for escorting members on the custom course walk. A few more thanks, firstly to Truro Golf Club for allowing us the use of their excellent facilities, the caterers for putting on a splendid lunch, to the bar staff for keeping the lads well watered and last but not least, to our sponsors for the day. Don Hunt, of Ruffays. Don has been an ardent supporter of our section since its inception in the 1970s and I would like to thank him for his support.

The final of the Vitax Matchplay, a knock-out competition, which runs through the Summer months, was also played at Truro Golf Club with the Home Club's Head Greenkeeper, Jim Sheehan, beating Peter Rendell from West Cornwall on the 21st hole. Jim was presented with £100 of Marks and Spencer vouchers by Joe Crawly, South West Area Manager of Vitax and runner up Peter Rendell received £40 of Marks and Spencer vouchers.

The section would like to thank Vitax for their continued sponsorship. The day concluded with a raffle with prizes kindly donated by the trade. We have also introduced this year a prize draw for members attending the course walk. A signed copy of Jim Arthur's book "Practical Greenkeeping" was won by Bill Mitchell, of Perranporth.

Dates for your diary: Wednesday, November 19, Section AGM at Bigbury GC; Wednesday 19/20 November, Regional Seminar at Cannington.

If you have any news or views for this column, please do not hesitate to contact me on 01822 617671.

Steve Evans

South West

A great day was had at Marlborough Golf Course, despite the continuing drought the course was in great shape, the walk around was well attended and was superbly conducted by Marcus and as usual raised some interesting topics for discussion.

Team results:- First place went to Mark Prentice, Mike Sage and Martin Samuels, Second place Roger Neil, Chris Sealey and Derek Farrington. Nearest the pin par 3 Pete Seviour, nearest the pin in 2 Pete Hubbard.

The AGM went smoothly as I am reliably informed, no change in your leaders unlike the Conservative Party, I wonder which one of us has "a bit of the night about him"? I've got my money on Nobby! Only joking another well organised day we are all very grateful.

There doesn't seem a month goes by when I'm not congratulating Robin Grieves on another new job. Anyway congratulations on your appointment with Countrywide.

Congratulations to everyone at Minchinhampton GC upon winning the best newcomer category in the BIGGA Environmental Competition, a superb effort. From my own experience I know how tough the judging is and the work involved to get to the stage of being judged. £500, that should buy a few pints of organic beer.

Don't forget your training requirements.

Congratulations to everyone at Truro Golf Club for allowing us the use of their excellent facilities, the caterers for putting on a splendid lunch, to the bar staff for keeping the lads well watered and last but not least, to our sponsors for the day. Don Hunt, of Roffeys. Don has been an ardent supporter of our section since its inception in the 1970s and I would like to thank him for his support.

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If you have any news or views for this column, please do not hesitate to contact me on 01822 617671.

Steve Evans

Magna Golf Club on February 26 so put the date in your diary. This just leaves me to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year on behalf of your committee and when you are making those New Year resolutions let's hope that you will all put the time and effort into supporting your Section more next year.

Until next month., Alex McCombie
WIN

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