as Deputy. Your in the big league now chap - you'll be cursing day, not paying for it! Also, good luck to G. Wallace, the new Course Manager at Puckrup Hall.

With sadness, I have the unfortunate duty of reporting the sudden passing away of Robbie Konieczka, Course Manager of Shrewsbury GC. All members I'm sure shall join the committee in expressing their deepest and most sincere condolences to his partner, family and friends.

Charmed life or what! M. Cutler has won a trip to Australia, via a daytime BMRE radio competition. Mike, do your chaps have nothing better to do? Well done Mark, have a great time. Don't forget the cokked hat.

As you may know BIGGA members get up to 20% off clothing, footwear and protective wear etc. from Arco. Until recently, this deal was only available through its Hull branch. Nigel Couchman, via extensive negotiations has secured the same deal with Arco's West Bromwich branch. Such thus affords opportunity to try items on, as well as mail ordering. Tel. 01215 006060. Rather sh'plendid Nigel.

By Jove!. I've no chance of including my meandering spiel in this month's Around the Green. What was that, thank the Lord for such mercies. Please keep your news coming in. Such is much appreciated, thank you. Speak to you next month regarding your thoughts on the questionnaires.

Sean McDade

BB&O

Hopefully spring is not too far away now with daylight becoming longer, my SAD syndrome will disappear for another year, we can look forward to the smell of freshly cut grass and the vivid green of new leaves on the trees. Sounds great but now to more important matters.

A course visit has been arranged to The Grove at Watford. The Grove is a new development due to open later this year, the course was designed by Kyle Phillips and at 7170 yds, par 72 will be a formidable test. There is also a 227 bedroom 5 star hotel on site. Our visit will take place on Tuesday, March 11 at 1pm. Please let me know if you wish to attend on 01442 842627 or mail jim.cassidy@ashridgegolfclub.ltd.uk. My thanks go to Philip Chiverton, Course Manager at The Grove, for allowing this to take place. For a little more information check out thegrove.co.uk

Just a reminder, our first golf meeting is at The Bedfordshire GC on May 16. Entry fees will be £25 for over 25's and £15 for under 25's. The scratch and handicap winners of the afternoon round will be sponsored to enter the National tournament to take place at C القوم and Hollinwell in Nottinghamshire. Any news regarding chronic depression or acts of overwatering contact me on the above.

Jim Cassidy

East Midlands

This year's visit to Harrogate for the BTME was again a great experience for all of those who attended. Again, there was a great deal to see and do. Various workshops and the conference, not to mention the show itself with the addition of the Clubhouse show. Unfortunately our own Section did not seem to be very well represented with only the usual die hard members in attendance. But on a positive side I am sure we will be able to better this next year.

If you have not yet received your entry form for this years Spring Tournament at Ashbourne GC on May 15, please get in touch with me as soon as possible, and I will forward you a copy. Also a reminder to all members: please ensure that your entry form and correct remittance is returned to me before the closing date if you wish to play. The fixtures for the rest of the year are as follows: E. Midlands Vs East of England, August 13, Beedles Lake GC 3.45pm. Autumn Tournament, Overstone Park GC. September 5 1pm. AGM TBA. Christmas Tournament, Kilworth Springs GC; December 11 - 10:30pm Antony Bindley

Devon & Cornwall

Hi my name is Steve Evans. I have taken over from Richard Whyman as your new Section Administrator. Richard's enthusiasm and hard work over the past 13 years has been a great asset, not only to the Devon and Cornwall Section, but to BIGGA as a whole. I would like to take this opportunity to wish Richard every success in his new role as Course Manager at Burnham and Berrow Golf Club.

Our first meeting of 2003 was held at East Devon Golf Club in January. The day started with David Singleton, of Barenbrug, and John Palfrey starting our golfing members for the Barenbrug Trophy. After an excellent lunch our sponsor David Singleton from Barenbrug Seeds presented the prizes to:-1. Simon Coombes, Dainton Park, 40pts; 2. Alan Gawman, St Mellion 28pts; 3. Nobby Clarke, Creden, 34pts.

The Section would like to thank Barenbrug Seeds for their continued support and to East Devon Golf Club for allowing us the use of their excellent facilities. The golf course was in superb condition and is an absolute credit to Paul Newcome and his staff. Our afternoon educational talk was presented by Jeff Mills, Course Manager at Taunton and Pickridge Golf Club.

Our Regional Administrator Paula Humphries is retiring in May this year. Paula has recently undergone an operation and the Section sends their best wishes to her and her husband, Mike. We have just returned from the BTME show in Harrogate. The show seems to go from strength to strength and a big thank you to Neil Thomas and all the staff at BIGGA HOUSE for all their hard work.

I would also like to wish our new Chairman, George Brown all the best for his forthcoming year in office, as I know he will be a great ambassador to our Association.

Our next meeting for the Superturf and Aventis Trophies will be held on Tuesday, March 25 at Yelverton Golf Club. Hopefully Cohn Webber will have regained his memory and I look forward to seeing him at Yelverton with his clothes on! I would like to thank all our members for their support and look forward to seeing you at our meetings in the future.

Steve Evans

South Wales

Firstly I would like to apologise for the lack of notes over the last five months, there seems to have been a breakdown in communication between me and HQ. Hopefully it's all been sorted out and we can look forward to some regular news from our Section in the future.

Let's start with the golf results from last year! Winner of the summer competition held at Dinas Powys Golf Club was Herbie Probert; Emyr Nicholls won the Autumn comp at Havardfordwest GC, and Adrian Panks won the winter comp at Pyle and Kenfig GC. The Rigby Taylor match play KO winners were Daryl Bray & Leigh Davis, from Morriston GC, who beat Jim Mckenzie in the final at Royal Porthcawl Golf Club.

A big thank you to all the clubs who allowed us use of their courses this year, and to the sponsors.

The AGM was again held at Pyle & Kenfig GC. Our outgoing President of 10 years, Colin Murphy, was presented with a wall clock as a sign of appreciation for all he has done for us over the last 30 or so years. We all hope he has a long and happy retirement. The new President is Ray Burrows, with Denis Archer as the Vice President. No major changes in the committee this year, although we would like to welcome Emyr Nicholls on board, (future Around the Green writer)!. A few notes for your diary, before the fixture cards are sent out, Thursday April 10th we will be at Royal Porthcawl GC for our section seminar, this will be sponsored by Symbo, details will be
Avoncrop sponsored evening lectures are under way, February 12, March 12 and April 9 are the dates for your diary. By the way the quiz night is on March 12, with the final talk in April.

South West
Thursday morning so incorporating the arrangements some suggestions are one smaller what a great event. It truly does get better and sadly missed at BTME. On the subject of BTME Tuesday back on Friday? organisation It worked really well.

financial contribution, with this extra input it enables us to fund certain initiatives such as, sponsoring the winner with the lowest gross score for the summer tournament to go to the National Tournament. We will pay entry fee and travelling expenses. Non golfers do not fear that?) Seriously though I need to know your requirements, e-mail me, ring me, please someone, anyone 01225 333928. Some ideas coming through are arranging our own trip to Gatton Manor Golf Club or Woodcote Park Golf Club and that his wife Samantha gave birth to Caden Joshua on August 1 2002 and that Caden weighed in at 8lb 7oz's. Jason King from Caden weighed in at 8lb 7oz's. Jason King from Caden weighed in at 8lb 7oz's. Jason King from Caden weighed in at 8lb 7oz's. Jason King from Caden weighed in at 8lb 7oz's. Jason King from Caden weighed in at 8lb 7oz's. Jason King from Caden weighed in at 8lb 7oz's. Jason King from Caden weighed in at 8lb 7oz's. Jason King from Caden weighed in at 8lb 7oz's. Jason King from Caden weighed in at 8lb 7oz's. Jason King from Caden weighed in at 8lb 7oz's. Jason King from Caden weighed in at 8lb 7oz's. Jason King from Caden weighed in at 8lb 7oz's. Jason King from Caden weighed in at 8lb 7oz's. Jason King from Caden weighed in at 8lb 7oz's. Jason King from Caden weighed in at 8lb 7oz's. Jason King from Caden weighed in at 8lb 7oz's. Jason King from Caden weighed in at 8lb 7oz's. Jason King from Caden weighed in at 8lb 7oz's. Jason King from Caden weighed in at 8lb 7oz's. Jason King from Caden weighed in at 8lb 7oz's. Jason King from Caden weighed in at 8lb 7oz's. Jason King from Caden weighed in at 8lb 7oz's. Jason King from Caden weighed in at 8lb 7oz's. Jason King from Caden weighed in at 8lb 7oz's. Jason King from Caden weighed in at 8lb 7oz's. Jason King from Caden weighed in at 8lb 7oz's. Jason King from Caden weighed in at 8lb 7oz's. Jason King from Caden weighed in at 8lb 7oz's. Jason King from Caden weighed in at 8lb 7oz's. Jason King from Caden weighed in at 8lb 7oz's. Jason King from Caden weighed in at 8lb 7oz's. Jason King from Caden weighed in at 8lb 7oz's. Jason King from Caden weighed in at 8lb 7oz's. Jason King from Caden weighed in at 8lb 7oz's. Jason King from Caden weighed in at 8lb 7oz's. Jason King from Caden weighed in at 8lb 7oz's. Jason King from Caden weighed in at 8lb 7oz's. Jason King from Caden weighed in at 8lb 7oz's. Jason King from Caden weighed in at 8lb 7oz's. Jason King from Caden weighed in at 8lb 7oz's. Jason King from Caden weighed in at 8lb 7oz's. Jason King from Caden weighed in at 8lb 7oz's. Jason King from Caden weighed in at 8lb 7oz's. Jason King from Caden weighed in at 8lb 7oz's. Jason King from Caden weighed in at 8lb 7oz's. Jason King from Caden weighed in at 8lb 7oz's. Jason King from Caden weighed in at 8lb 7oz's. Jason King from Caden weighed in at 8lb 7oz's. Jason King from his farming background how enormously satisfying it can be. I used to inject 300 units of liquid ammonia to grazing land as soon as I could get on to see through the growing season and my cows were as happy as the day is long. A bit like greenkeeping I don't think.

2pm. Well, I've just cut the lawn for the first time and got down quite low, about two inches, and my neighbours think I'm mad but say it looks well. The six inches of thatch makes it lovely to walk on. Your feet go well down and it's nice to see the scorched foot marks were someone went when the frost was there - "Know what I mean?"

Here is a quick tip to make you the best greenkeeper in the world. When you cut new holes use a bevelled (saucer shaped) board, when the new cup is in place jump up and down on the board then all puts will roll in and there'll be smiles all round.

Happy days.. Graham Prosser
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Two Bodywarmers are being given away in this month’s Buyer’s Guide competition in association with GreenLink International & Rigby Taylor.

Entry could not be simpler! Listed below are a series of clues relating to ONE company featured in the ever popular Buyers’ Guide. Take care to look through the products and services shown and write down the name of the company which you think the following clues refer to:

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Write down your name, address, size and answer on a postcard and send your entries to GreenLink International & Rigby Taylor, 3 Priestwell Court, East Haddon, Northampton NN6 8BT. Tel: 01604 770065 Mobile: 07850 398800

Entry closes on 30th April 2001. Winners will be notified in the July issue of Greenkeeper International. All entries become the property of the sponsors. The decision of the judges is final.
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Seeks challenging position. 17 years experience, last 8 years as Head. Excellent communication, computer skills C & G 1-3, NVQ 3, Spraying and Chainsaw certificates. Can work to tight budgets whilst still achieving excellent standards. Practical conservation skills.

The Manager, Elsham Golf Club, Barton Road, Elsham, Brigg, North Lincolnshire, DN20 0LS

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GC Linz, St. Florian, a member of the ‘Leading Golf Courses of Austria Association’

1ST ASSISTANT / HEAD GREENKEEPER
The ideal candidate will be a highly motivated and ambitious team member with a desire in bringing the club forward.
They should also have a minimum of 5yrs experience in Greenkeeping and a knowledge of automatic irrigation systems.
Accommodation is available.
Written applications with full CV and a indication of salary expectations should be sent to:
GC Linz, St. Florian, Tillysburg 28, 4490 St. Florian, Austria

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Lastec, a growing turf equipment manufacturer, is looking for a Regional Sales Manager. The right candidate will provide excellent customer support and service to our clients in the Midlands and North of England. Lastec offers an attractive compensation package growth potential and great work environment.

Please apply with CV to:
John Millen, Lastec UK, Court Lodge Farm, Kenward Road, Yalding, Kent ME18 6JP

ELSHAM GOLF CLUB
DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER
Applicants should have a minimum of NVQ2 and PA1 and PA2 spray certificates. The successful candidate must be hardworking, enthusiastic, motivated and have good communication skills.
Remuneration negotiable.
Applications in writing by 24 March 2003 with full CV to:

ROYAL MID-SURREY GOLF CLUB
Require
2 ASSISTANT GREENKEEPERS
We currently have vacancies for Greenkeepers with a minimum of 2 years experience. The will work within the existing 2 teams on our 36 hole course.
Formal education is not necessary, but a desire to learn and progress is.
Salary will be in accordance with CGS recommendations.
Single person accommodation is available.
Applications in writing including a C.V. to:

Greenkeeper International - 47
Recruitment

**BURHILL GOLF CENTRES**

Burhill owns and operates eight golf centres throughout the south and the midlands and currently has vacancies for

**ASSISTANT GREEN STAFF**

**AT DARTFORD AND WOKING**

Applicants should be physically fit, well motivated and either NVQ2 qualified or working towards it.

Both Centres offer an excellent opportunity for ambitious Greenkeepers to gain quality experience in a friendly atmosphere.

Accommodation may be available with the post if required.

Salary is negotiable and dependent upon experience.

Applications in handwriting please including a full and current C.V. to:

Rob Holland, Birchwood Park Golf Centre, Birchwood Road, Dartford, Kent DA2 7HJ Tel: 01322 662038

Bob Thompson, Hoebridge Golf Centre, Old Woking Road, Woking, Surrey GU22 8JH. Tel: 01483 725755

**GIRTON GOLF CLUB**

**1st ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER**

The successful applicant will hold NVQ level 2 or equivalent. PA1, PA2 and PA6.

Ideally applicants should have:

• a minimum of 3 years experience.

• be able to demonstrate their ability to work within a small team to the high standards expected.

• a good working knowledge of modern greenkeeping machinery.

**ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER**

To assist towards the general maintenance of a golf course and will involve the use of grass cutting machinery.

Experience is not required for this position, as full on-course training will be provided.

Both posts will attract a competitive salary and contributory pension scheme. Applications should be made in writing with CV by 31st March 2003 to:

Course Manager, Girton Golf Club, Dodford Lane, Girton, Cambridge, CB3 0QE

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**HORTICULTURAL SERVICE ENGINEERS**

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Mr M Lukar, Unit 5, The Enterprise Centre, Revenge Road, Lordswood, Chatham, Kent, ME5 8UD

**LANGLAND BAY GOLF CLUB LTD.**

**LANGLAND BAY GOLF CLUB**

Invite applications for the position of

**HEAD GREENKEEPER**

Applicants must be qualified greenkeepers, self motivated with proven ability in organising and carrying out work programmes.

A sound and practical knowledge of automatic irrigation systems and the use of greenkeeping machinery is also required.

The ability to lead, motivate and manage an established team is essential.

Salary by negotiation

Applications in writing with full CV. Including current salary to:

The Secretary, Langland Bay Golf Club, Langland, Swansea SA3 4QR

Tel: 01792 361721  www.langlandbaygolfclub.com
SHOOTERS HILL GOLF CLUB

Require a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Shooters Hill Golf Club is a private members club with 900 members celebrating its Centenary this year. This is an outstanding opportunity for a capable and qualified individual to work with the General Manager in heading up a team at the start of a comprehensive programme of renovation and modernisation.

Previous renovation and construction experience would be an advantage as will the ability to meet the highest presentation standards although the right attitude and enthusiasm for your work with the desire to develop your skills are just as important.

Preferably at least HNC or NVQ 3 qualified with PA1 and 2 spraying certificates you will also have excellent supervisory and motivational skills. Salary to be negotiated depending on qualifications and experience, no accommodation available.

Written applications with full CV by 31st March 2003 to:
The General Manager, Shooters Hill Golf Club,
Eaglesfield Road, Shooters Hill, London SE18 3DA

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Salary: £20,736 - £27,638

We are looking for a Lecturer to teach a range of full and part-time Sports Turf programmes. This will include workplace visits and Course Team Leadership Responsibilities.

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Ideally you will have a Degree-level Sports Turf/Agronomy qualification and teaching experience. Otherwise we shall require you to work towards D-34/36 or V-1 verifier and teaching qualifications.

You should have the enthusiasm, drive and self motivation to adapt to a progressive environment which supports a diverse range of student ability. You will have the skill to promote effective team-work by example. Sound administrative skills are essential.

For further details of this exciting post, contact Jane Brown, H.R Dept. Merrist Wood College, Guildford GU3 3PE, tel: 01483 884048. Visit our website: www.merristwood.ac.uk

Closing date for applications: 14th March 2003.

BERKHAMSTED GOLF CLUB

Requires an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

to join our existing team. Applicants will be qualified to NVQ Level 2 or equivalent.

Apply in writing with full C.V. to:

Gerald Bruce, Course Manager, Berkhamsted Golf Club,
The Common, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire HP4 2QB

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invite applications for the post of

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPERS

We are looking for two staff to join the team in maintaining this outstanding and well equipped golf complex. Experience and qualifications to NVQ Level 2 and PA1, 2 & 6 would be advantageous, but consideration would be given to a non-qualified applicant.

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The Manager, Hobbs Cross Golf Centre,
Hobbs Cross Road, Theydon Garnon, Epping, Essex, CM16 7NQ

The Rees Jones designed
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has vacancies for:

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPERS

Applicants should have a minimum of 2 years experience, and be currently working towards or have NVQ2 or 3. The successful applicants will be hard working and be able to work as part of a large professional team.

Also Summer Greenstaff required from early April until September.

Applications in writing with full CV to:

David Gower, Course Manager, The Oxfordshire Golf Club,
Rycote Lane, Milton Common, Thame, Oxon. OX9 2PU

SCARCROFT GOLF CLUB

invite applications for the post of

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

TO START EARLY APRIL

Applicants should have the following qualifications and attributes:

• At least 3 years relevant greenkeeping experience
• Appropriate qualifications to NVQ Level 2 or equivalent
• Holder of spraying certificates PA1, PA2 and PA6 would be an advantage
• Practical knowledge of Golf Course Equipment and Machinery
• Good Communication and Team Working Skills

Apply in writing with full CV.

The Secretary/Manager, Scarcroft Golf Club, Syke Lane, Scarcroft, Leeds, LS14 3BQ
March 2001: York GC, Greens Maintenance; Meland GC, Norway; Greens Mowers; BIGGA Essay Winner; Gator Science profile

April 2001: Lightning detection; Brockett Hall GC; COSGA report; Fairway Mowers; Irrigation; Sward renovation; BIGGA Essay winner; Turf Disease

May 2001: Foot and Mouth Disease Special Report; Maintenance Facility report; Bunker Sand; ATVs; Ranfurlie Bird; Fineturf Genetics; BTME 2002 countdown; Electric-powered machines

June 2001: Stroke Park Club profile; Stuart Clegg MG; Tractors; Leaf Spot Disease; Take All Patch; Construction

July 2001: Royal Lytham profile; Tee Mowers; Fertilisers; Green Grasses; John Deere profile; Sandy McDowt; College Listings

August 2001: Aeration Survey; Machrie GC profile; Rough Mowers; Salter's Preview; Dr Alan Gange - environmental research; Nitrogen Profile; Ponds; Open Championship review; Toro Student of the Year profile; September 2001: Ryder Cup preview; Chater Griggs; Drainage; BIGGA National Championship preview; Sandy McDowt; Machinery Maintenance; Soil Analysis; Wild Flowers

October 2001: Major Award for Walter Woods; Royal Portrush GC; Portstewart GC; Irrigation; Soil biodiversity; Leaf collection systems; Scotsurf preview; Saltex preview

November 2001: BIGGA National Championship review; Environment Competition winner; Spraying; Toro Awards; Championship review; Environment systems; Scotsturf preview; Saltex review

December 2001: Toro Award Winners; Southern Galaen GC; BTME preview; Specialty equipment; Thatch removal

January 2002: Walton Heath profile; Greenkeeping in Denmark; Moving materials; A Test for Andy Campbell; New products

February 2002: Harrogate 2002 Review; Drainage; Castlecrock GC; Trees; Recycling; Turfgrass profile; Barn Owl special report

March 2002: Donnington Valley profile; Utility vehicles; Essay competition winner; Irrigation; Seeds; Sandy McDowt

April 2002: Heyrose GC profile; Bernhard's Scholarship; De-stress your greens; COSH awards; Grassland; Bootlegging; New products; Maintenance facilities; Essay competition

May 2002: BIGGA Report; Nematodites; Caldy GC profile; Multi-tasking machinery; Bunker Sand; Essay competition; Fijian GC profile; BIGGA Minimum qualification

June 2002: Finding Fungi; Greenvalley GC profile; Tyres; Caberfae GC profile; Lakes and Ponds; Poa Anna - Jim Arthur

July 2002: Open preview; Turf; Steve Iacobe; Emissions; Grinding; Rotary Mowers; BTME preview; Sandy McDoit

August 2002: BIGGA Golf Day; Open review; Talking Heads - Education & training; Trees; Dr Kate Entwistle; Padheil GC - Weather; Compact Tractors; Salter's preview

September 2002: National Championship Preview; Irrigation; Non-Grass Cutters; Hawkstone Park; Careers in Greenkeeping

October 2002: Salter's Review; Golden and Silver Key Supporters; Environment Awards; Health & Safety; Sustainable Use of Pesticides

November 2002: Toro Student of the Year; National Championship; Drainage; St Andrews' Bay; Autumn Problems

December 2002: BTME & Clubhouse Preview; R&A Golf Course committee; Dr Kate Entwistle; Pennard GC

January 2003: Beedles Lake Profile; Talking Heads - Chemical Application; Rebuilding Golf Greens; Constructive Advice

February 2003: BTME/Clubhouse Review; Royal Liverpool Profile; Irrigation; Nematodes

They didn't tell me when I took on the role of Chairman that I'd be quite this busy. We'd only just returned home from Harrogate and we were packing up again to head for the States and the GCSAA Conference and Show in Atlanta, Georgia.

But it was well worth the effort. It was a very successful week, particularly from BIGGA's perspective, as our stand was extremely busy with overseas members and prospective members while we spent a great deal of time fielding questions on BIGGA, and particularly the Master Greenkeeper programme which is very popular with American Superintendents.

There were a tremendous number of British greenkeepers in Atlanta this year. In addition to the BIGGA Scholarship Delegation of 10, and thank you to Bernhard for sponsoring the Delegation for the third time, there were many others there as guests of other companies, including Ransomes Jacobsen.

And it wasn't just as visitors that we made our presence felt. Eddie Adams, Head Greenkeeper of the Old Course, St Andrews, delivered a fine presentation on revetting bunkers.

I also spent a few hours in the company of Murray Long, Coombe Hill's Head Greenkeeper, and the winner of the Toro Student of the Year Competition in 2002. Murray visited Atlanta during a break in his studies at the University of Massachusetts which formed part of his prize. He was having an unforgettable time and is extremely grateful to both BIGGA and Toro for making it possible. It is a superb competition and the prize is well worth becoming a target to work towards. Look out for information on the 2003 Toro Student of the Year Competition and you too could be experiencing what Murray is currently experiencing.

One of the highlights of the week was the Banquet at which renowned golf course architect Pete Dye was presented with the Old Tom Morris Award. Seeing someone who is such an influential figure in the game receiving the award makes it all the more special that our own Walter Woods received it last year.

One incident in the shuttle bus on the way to the hotel from Atlanta Airport really made me think. There were two Americans sitting just across from me who were strangers but who I took to be Superintendents. Once we'd settled down the first question that one asked the other was, "How much is your fungicide budget this year?" Now I know they experience different conditions to us and that their climate can be completely different but it really does sum up much of what Jim Arthur talks about and has written in Practical Greenkeeping.

It's probably not connected but in all the time we were in Atlanta, and it was over a week, I only saw two species of bird. A couple of old crows and some pigeons in the park and the Mall. If someone had said that to me before we went I would never have believed them. It was lovely to get home and hear all the birdsong.

As I write it is still February and the weather is very mixed. We are still cutting greens occasionally and are nearly finished the revetting of the bunkers on both the Ailsa and the Arran courses at Turnberry. It's the same with the aeration and turfing programmes and although the bunkers need topping up with sand it is too early as the March winds are still to come which would soon empty them again. Those winds will be very handy, though, when it comes to drying the course out and we have our fingers crossed for some early growth to enable the top dressing to smooth out the winter scars and even the putting surfaces.

By now, of course, all your course furniture should be ready - tee markers and flag pins painted or replaced while your irrigation systems should have been overhauled and ready to spring into action. Don't leave it until it's needed before finding out that there's a problem. Planning ahead is the secret.

Good luck with your final preparations for the new season and I'll keep you up to date with the work we are doing at Turnberry.

George Brown
Chairman