sun is now very hot and the irrigation is needed.

Well enough of me waffling on about banks and amenity areas.

The last golf day was at Channels and once again Ray, Dominic and the boys produced a terrific golf course for 55 of our members to play. (sorry none of the Abridge boys were there but there were 6 in the middle of our club's anniversary celebrations and could not get the time, but we will be at the next one).

I understand from several people who played that day that from greens to banks to amenity areas the golf course was in great condition. A special thanks to Tony Stuart and family and all of their staff for making everybody feel so welcome.

The day was sponsored by Banks Amenity and the halfway house by Collier Turf and also thanks to Vitax, Headland, Scotts, Seoul Nassau, Total Cleaning Supplies, Ernest Doe's, Tacit, Bishop Brother's engravers, Sheriffs, and Rigby Taylor.

Our overall winner was Craig Serafin, from Colchester, who galloped in with 47 pts. YEEHAI! and well done.

We had three handicap sections Section 1: 1. Ian Denny, Channels, 40 pts; 2. Tony Kirwin, Colchester; 38 pts. Section 2: 1. Martin Forrester, 41 pts; 2. Martin Guy, 40 pts. Section 3: l. Wood, Rumford, 35 pts; 2. John Barnard, Theydon Bois, 34 pts.

Longest Drive went to Mark Day. Nearest the Pin went to Mike Bartlett.

Hopefully you all understand Dave Beals new points system, I'm sure Banks would love to employ you Dave.

Finally on behalf of the Section I would like to wish Derek Farrington all the best.

He is retiring from the end of May.

See you all at Ballards Gore every day of the year.

Geoff Smith

Surrey

Woking Golf Club played host to our Spring Tournament and qualifier for the National Championship. The numbers were restricted to 42 greenkeepers and it was only because Ron Christie could not play that I was lucky enough to get a game.

It was a first time experience to me to play Woking and due to a course in excellent condition and an extremely attractive layout, I hope it will not be long before I play there again.

Our thanks to John Day and his greenkeepers; Woking Golf Club for the courtesy, the sunny weather and Banks Amenity, our generous sponsors. Best Gross: John Mathis; Best Nett: 1. Paul Bacon; 2. Nigel Colley, 3. Dave Murdoch. Longest Drive: Ken Harding. Nearest The Pin: Rob Summers - only 18 inches away, but he got his par!

The hero on the lake at Woking is apparently so used to people that it did not move, even when approached by machinery. Phil Bennett was heard to say that it must be either a brave or a very stupid bird. Most other players thought that being plastic was probably the reason. An appointment at the opticians could be useful.

A word of warning when using mountain bikes to keep fit: Perry Smith, from Bramley, broke his nose and suffered cuts to his face when out riding with his son. Although in pain, he thinks the nose job was well worth it.

Greg Richardson, whose name is appearing far too often in these reports, is again in the news as he has left Hankley Common Golf Club to become Deputy at Cranleigh Golf Club. We all wish him good luck.

Dave Langhieim is to join the Surrey Committee and replaces Dave Murdoch as South East Region representative.

This year's sponsors of the Surrey Bowl pairs knockout competition are TYM Tractors. Derek Farrington was presented with a case of red wine as a personal thank you from Surrey Section and we all wish him a very happy retirement.

All players in golf events must either have a handicap certificate (BIGGA or club) or play off 18 maximum. No prizes can be won until they have an official handicap.

Brian Willmott

Kent

Cloudy skies and welcome light rain gave way to a sunny afternoon during our golf day on 10th June 2004.

The turn-out was good for the time of year, considering everybody has been so busy coping with the phenomenal grass growth.

Thanks must go to Bob Pullin, Managing Director of Hever Castle Golf Club, for allowing us the use of the golf course and facilities. An 18 hole Stableford competition was followed by an excellent meal.

It was good to see some members who had not played golf make the effort to attend the evening meal. Scott MacCallum came down from headquarters and updated us on recent developments within the Association. Scott also had the most outrageous shot of the day – a 37 yard putt holed on the 11th!


I would like to thank Brian Grimes, from Godfrey's, for organising refreshments around the course, Nick Ashman, from John Deere, for putting wine on the tables, and Avoncrop, Joe's, Grass Roots, Parker T Parker and Sons (Turf Management 2003), Godfrey's and Sheriffs for contributing to the prize table.

Thanks go to the staff of Hever Castle Golf Club for their assistance, and the green staff for their efforts in preparing the golf course, not just for this day but every day of the year.

Finally the biggest thank you must go to the members who supported the day and made it such a success.

Look out for news on future developments and events in the Kent Section.

David Wood

NORTHERN IRELAND

Well with a week of June nearly gone, many of our courses would like to see a couple of nights of steady rain. There hasn't been any rain for seven to eight weeks in some areas and water restrictions could follow soon as reservoirs are already at late summer levels. Let's hope the situation improves over the next few days.

Our second golf competition of the season was played at Edendore GC on May 25. We would like to thank the Logan family for giving us courtesy of the course and especially James Logan and his greenkeeping staff for having the course in really brilliant condition.

Many thanks to sponsor Scotts Sands of Toomebridge, who provided very generous prizes.

Results were: 1. Michael King, Royal County Down, 38pts; 2. James Harkness, Malone GC, 36pts; 3. Warren Burnsides, Malone GC, 36pts; 4m Michael O'Neill, Fortwilliam GC 35pts. Visitors Prize: James Logan, Edendore GC, 41pts.

Many thanks to Scotts Director Alan Hewitt, who joined us on the day and presented the prizes.

The next competition will be played at Galgorm GC, outside Ballymena, on July 6 with a 2pm tee time. The competition in July will be sponsored by Coburns, of Banbridge.

Finally, I would like to wish Andrew Kerr good luck in his new position of Head Greenkeeper at City of Derry GC. Andrew has recently moved there from Lisburn GC where he was Deputy Head.

Ken Henderson
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Apply in writing with a full C.V. to:
The Secretary, Cleveland Golf Club, Majuba Road, Redcar, TS10 5BJ
Telephone & Fax: 01642 471798
E-mail: majuba@btconnect.com Website: www.clevelandgolfclub.co.uk

HARBORNE GOLF CLUB

DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER

Harborne golf club was founded in 1983, designed by Harry Colt in 1924.

It comprises two loops of nine holes through undulating mature parkland, the 18 holes measure 6210 yards par 70.

The golf club is situated in Harborne, four miles south-west of the city centre, Birmingham.

The applicants should ideally possess the following:

• Minimum five years greenkeeping experience
• NVQ level 2 or similar
• PA1, PA2 & PA6 spraying certificates
• Be enthusiastic and well motivated
• Able to manage and motivate members of all staff and to assist the Head Greenkeeper in taking the course forward
• Deputize in the absence of the Head Greenkeeper

Salary negotiable depending on qualifications and experience.

Closing date for applications 30th July 2004.

Application in writing with full C.V. to:
Tony Luckman, Head Greenkeeper, Harborne Golf Club, 40 Tennal Road, Harborne Birmingham, B32 2JE

KILKEEL GOLF CLUB

Invites applications for the position of

HEAD GREENKEEPER

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• Knowledge of machinery and irrigation systems
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• Computer literacy

Salary and conditions will be commensurate with experience and qualifications.

Please apply in writing with full CV to:
The Honorary Secretary, Kilkeel Golf Club, Mourne Park, Kilkeel, Co Down, Northern Ireland BT34 4LB
Closing date 30th July 2004.

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DUDSBURY GOLF CLUB

DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER

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The successful applicant must have knowledge of Health and Safety Legislation and be able to motivate other members of the team when deputising for the Head Greenkeeper.

Salary negotiable depending upon experience.

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HEATON MOOR GOLF CLUB

COURSE MANAGER

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The candidate will be expected to work with the Club's committee to present members with a course which delivers the highest standards of presentation and playability.

Applicants should ideally possess the following:
- A minimum of five years experience with demonstrable management experience.
- Recognised greenkeeping / agronomy qualifications (min NVQ level 3, PA1, PA2 & PA6 spraying certificates).
- Fully compliant with current Health & Safety legislation, to include risk assessments.
- Experience in maintaining golf course machinery and irrigation systems.
- A proven ability to prepare and work within an approved annual budget.
- Strong communication skills are considered critical to the successful fulfilment of the role.
- A proven ability to prepare work programmes and meet deadlines.

Closing date for applications: Friday 23rd July 2004.

Apply in writing with C.V to:
Mr D.S.Carter, Ground Chairman, Heaton Moor Golf Club, Heaton Mersey, Stockport Cheshire SK4 3N
Recruitment

LONGLEY PARK GOLF CLUB

Invites applications for the position of

HEAD GREENKEEPER

The successful applicant must be experienced in modern greenkeeping methods and possess relevant qualifications and spraying certificates.

Applicants should have a knowledge of irrigation equipment and hold a full driving licence.

Closing date 31 July 2004.

Please apply in writing with CV to:
T Littlewood, Longley Park Golf Club,
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SALISBURY & SOUTH WILTS GOLF CLUB

DEPUTY COURSE MANAGER

Due to our present DCM moving on to a Course Managers position, this role has become vacant.

The Deputy Course Manager would work closely with the Course Manager and would be responsible for all work on the Golf Course in the Course Managers absence.

This position would be suited to a candidate who has a minimum of 5 years experience in all aspects of greenkeeping and be capable of demonstrating a professional approach to other members of staff.

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Salary competitive and negotiable. Please send CV and covering letter to:

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City of Wakefield Golf Course, Lupset, Wakefield, West Yorkshire

A Head Greenkeeper post has arisen due to the impending retirement of the present post holder in July this year. The City of Wakefield Golf Course is a well established Club situated in an attractive countryside location close to the City.

This is a great opportunity for a committed, enthusiastic and motivated Greenkeeper to lead and manage a small team to further develop the maintenance of the Golf Course. Preferably qualified to NVQ3 with PA1, 2 and 6 spraying certificates, it would also be an advantage if you have machinery and irrigation experience.

The successful applicant will be responsible for the daily operation and maintenance of the facility and must be able to lead by example, motivate others and communicate effectively at all levels. The job of Head Greenkeeper will also involve daily contact with Members and Players.

All full-time posts are open to applications on a job share basis.

Typetalk calls welcome.

Application forms and further information can be obtained from Environment Services, Normanton Town Hall, High Street, Normanton, WF6 2DZ and may be requested by post, by telephoning Wakefield 01924 307251 (office hours) or - 01924 307466 (outside office hours - answer machine) or by emailing jobapppsd@wakefield.gov.uk

Completed forms to be returned to the above address by 16th July 2004.
Chairman’s Column

Pressed for Time

With nearly half of my year as Chairman nearly gone its finally dawned on me how valuable time is. The very fact that I’m writing this report on yet another flight and (much to Scott’s frustration) right on the deadline for submission for the July issue is testament to how difficult it is to fit everything in. I really shouldn’t complain however as Travel really does broaden the mind and the opportunity it gives to meet people and forge new relationships is invaluable.

Since the last issue the Imaugural Neil Thomas Memorial Golf Day has been held at Aldwark Manor. On what was inevitably a day of mixed emotions 29 teams enjoyed fine weather and did their bit to raise funds for the Hospice in Harrogate that cared for Neil so well toward the end of his illness. It was a great pleasure to welcome Elaine, Grant, Adam and Natalie back to Aldwark Manor. They are coping admirably with their loss and I hope the words from Walter Woods and Kerran Daly, on behalf of the Master Greenkeepers, were of some pride and comfort.

While trips to Scotland for the R&As 250th Anniversary Celebrations and the above mentioned Golf Day and combined Board meetings have been most enjoyable, the pace at Carden has not slackened. We are now busy with final preparations for The De Vere PGA Seniors Championship in early August and my team continue to do a great job—hopefully they can now see some light at the end of what appears to have been a long dark tunnel.

Having just watched most of the last days play at the US Open from Shinnecock Hills the thought struck me about how unusual it is to hear players complain about green speeds being too quick! Maybe just maybe you do reap what you sow! With the Open taking place at Royal Troon this year it will be interesting to see what comparisons are drawn. I’m sure that Billy McLachlan will have the superb layout in its finest condition and my best wishes to him for a successful event.

Wherever you are and whatever the size of event(s) you are hosting at this time of year they are all important and give us all the opportunity to show the results of our efforts and the chance to forget, at least for a time, the unrealistic expectations placed upon us each Spring. It’s the duty of all of us to keep communicating the wisdom of sound Greenkeeping practices, leading to sustainable conditions, for as much of the year as possible— at least to those who will listen.

For those of you yet to view the R&A Best practice website, I would encourage you to do so and to share the content with your management, members and staff. It’s a live working document and one which I feel will have much value to our working lives going forward.

Hopefully you will all be enjoying the chance to share the longer nights with your families or even play your Golf course. It’s a tough job we do but the real reason we do it, and for most of the time at least, enjoy it, can be found by simply walking your course as the sunsets on a Summer evening. I would urge you to do so and perhaps to say to you that for all of the Science, business management etc. that we are engaged in today, it’s the artistry and the result of our labours that keeps us going. Enjoy it and be proud and when Golfers congratulate, accept humbly for it won’t be too long, whether you be a Greenkeeper or the mighty USGA, before their complaints yet again ring in your ears! 

Andy Campbell MG CGCS
Chairman