

HADLOW COLLEGE

Tonbridge, Kent, TN11 0AL

Contact: Sally Flanagan

Tel: 0500 551434 / 01732 853164

Email: enquiries@hadlow.ac.uk

Website: www.hadlow.ac.uk

Information: NVQ's, Apprenticeships and Work Based Learning courses available in Amenity Horticulture (Sports Turf), Amenity Horticulture (Landscape) and Production Horticulture. We also offer a range of short courses for example, Health and Safety, COSHH, Chainsaw use, Welding and Pesticide Applications. Additionally, full and part-time courses at different levels in Horticulture and a variety of other land-based subjects are available.



HADLOW
COLLEGE

PLUMPTON COLLEGE

Ditchling Road, Plumpton,
Lewes, East Sussex BN7 3AE

Contact: David Blackmur

Tel: 01273 890454 **Fax:** 01273 890071

Email: enquiries@plumpton.ac.uk **Web:** www.plumpton.ac.uk

Information: Foundation Degree in Horticulture (Sportsturf specialism). National Diploma in Amenity Horticulture, National Award (Garden Design), First Diploma in Horticulture. Part time courses: NVQ Level 1; NVQ Level 2 in Landscaping and Sportsturf; NVQ Level 3 Landscaping and Sportsturf; NVQ Level 4. Also available are RHS Certificate and RHS Advanced; IOG National Technical and Intermediate National Diploma. Short courses are also available for FEPA spraying and chainsaw. Bespoke courses to order. Centre of Excellence for Horticultural Technologies (CoVE).



Plumpton College

MERRIST WOOD CAMPUS OF GUILDFORD COLLEGE

Worplesdon, Guildford, Surrey GU3 3PE.

Contact: Keith Harrison

Tel: 01483 884136 **Fax:** 01483 884001

Email: kharrison@guildford.ac.uk **Website:** www.guildford.ac.uk

Information: Part-time courses: NVQ Level 2 Sportsturf college day release and workplace visits/assessments, Level 2 First Diploma college day release, for those without qualified workplace assessors, NVQ Level 3 Sportsturf on-line, Level 3 National Award college day release for those without qualified workplace assessors, HNC Turfgrass Science and Management college day release over 2 years, HND day release 1 extra year plus a Top-up BSc Degree for HND graduates part-time over 2 years, Foundation Degree in Sports Turf Science (subject to validation) plus various short courses including BTLIA Irrigation Certificate Course, throughout the year. Please contact us for up-to-date listings, qualifications and advice. Open evenings are held regularly at the Campus.



GUILDFORD COLLEGE
Merrist Wood
CAMPUS

REASEHEATH COLLEGE

Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 6DF

Contact: Gareth Phillips or Chard Spicer

Tel: 01270 613236 **Fax:** 01270 625665

Email: enquiries@reaseheath.ac.uk **Web:** www.reaseheath.ac.uk

Information: Foundation Degree and Higher National Certificate in Golf and Sports Turf Management; National Diploma in Amenity Horticulture with Sports Turf; NVQ levels 2 & 3 in Sports Turf; Apprenticeships; NPTC Qualifications.

On-site facilities include a commercially operating golf course, football and rugby pitches, Crewe Alexandra training grounds



REASEHEATH

MYERSCOUGH COLLEGE

Bilsborrow, Preston, Lancashire, PR3 0RY

Contact: Stewart Brown

Tel: 01995 642222 / 642305 **Fax:** 01995 642333

Email: mailbox@myerscough.ac.uk

Web: www.myerscough.ac.uk

Information: Full time courses; BSc (Hon's) Turfgrass Science, Foundation Degree Sportsturf Science - (Including an Online option by Distance Learning), National Diploma, National Certificate and First Diplomas in Sportsturf, Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship.

Part-time courses NVQ Level 2, 3 & 4 Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Maintenance (Work-Based Training). All higher education courses can be accessed on a part time basis: FdSc / BSc Turf Science: FEPA Short courses. NPTC Certificates of Competence in the safe use of Mowers and Turf care Equipment. Careers mornings monthly on Saturdays.



Myerscough
College
Providing opportunities for all

WARWICKSHIRE COLLEGE

Moreton Morrell Centre,
Warwick CV35 9BL

Contact: Andrew Turnbull

Tel: 01926 318285 **Fax:** 01926 318300

Email: aturnbull@warkscol.ac.uk

Information: Greenkeeping Courses: Foundation Degree Sports Turf Management (2 years full-time, 3 years part-time), NVQ Level 2 & 3 Day Release and Work-based Options, NPTC Level 2 National Certificate Sports Turf (1 year full-time, 2 years part-time), City & Guilds Advanced National Certificates (Sports Turf), BTECH First Diploma Sports Turf. Short courses: Spraying Certificates (PA1, PA2), Chainsaw and tree felling, Tractor Driving, Mowing Equipment, Turf Maintenance Equipment.



Warwickshire
COLLEGE
ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA | RUGBY | MORETON MORRELL

OAKLANDS COLLEGE

St Albans Smallford Campus,
Hatfield Road, St Albans,
Hertfordshire, AL4 0JA

Contact: Andrew Wight

Tel: 01727 737080

Email: andy.wight@oaklands.ac.uk

Web: www.oaklands.ac.uk

Information: Full time courses: National Certificate in Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management. HNC in Sportsturf. Part-time courses: leading to NVQ Level 2 & 3 Greenkeeping, Apprenticeship Training. Short NPTC Courses: Pesticide, Chainsaw. HNC starting in Sept 07.



OAKLANDS COLLEGE

WRITTLE COLLEGE

Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 3RR

Contact: The Registry

Tel: 01245 424200 **Fax:** 01245 420456

Email: info@writtle.ac.uk **Web:** www.writtle.ac.uk

Information: SPORTS TURF PROGRAMMES: Foundation Degree- Sports Turf and Golf Course Management Honours Degree- Sports Turf Science & Management Higher Certificate- Sports Turf Management NVQ Level 2 & 3- Sports Turf OTHER PROGRAMMES: BSc (Hons) & FdSc Horticulture BSc (Hons) & FdSc Landscape & Amenity Management BSc (Hons) Horticulture with Business Management BSc (Hons) International Horticulture BSc (Hons) & FdSc Horticultural Crop Production FdSc Landscape Construction MSc/MA International Horticulture MSc Horticulture (Crop Production) MSc Postharvest Technology MA Landscape Architecture MSc Landscape Management First Diploma, National Certificate, National Diploma- Horticulture NVQ Level 2 & 3 Landscaping NVQ Level 2 & 3 Service Engineering (Agricultural & Groundcare Machinery) C&G Service Engineering Progression Award SHORT COURSES: NPTC Chainsaw, Health & Safety plus many more.



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GL18 1LG

Tel: 01531 828960
Fax: 01531 828968

Email: info@polybed.co.uk



www.polybed.co.uk

In the Shed

Greenkeeper International brings you 'In the Shed', a puzzle page to keep you entertained when the weather forces you in or for when times are slow.

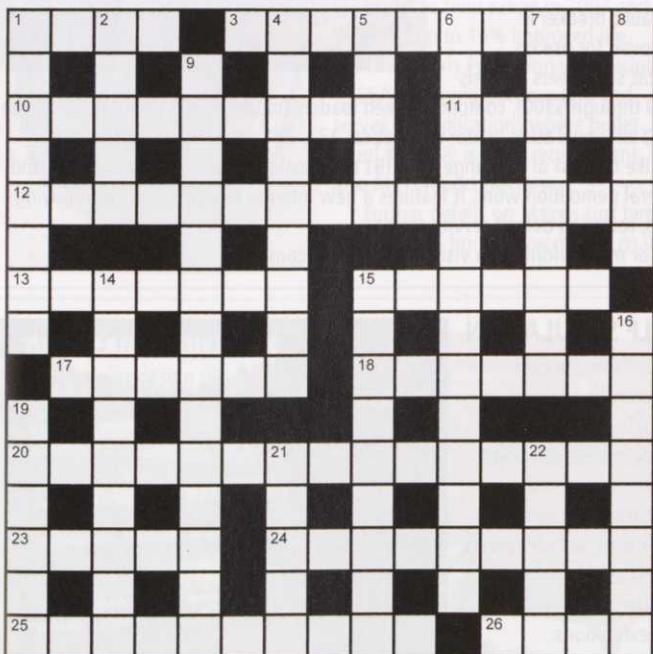
CROSSWORD - Compiled by Anax

ACROSS

- 1 Stockpile (4)
- 3 Misaligned (3,2,5)
- 10 Communicated by gesture (9)
- 11 Vertical part of step (5)
- 12 Grand statement subsequently shown to be incorrect (6,4,5)
- 13 Hormone which accelerates oxidation of sugar (7)
- 15 Greek god of light, brother of Artemis (6)
- 17 Soft, often translucent paper (6)
- 18 Having made a will before death (7)
- 20 Not likely to cause offence (15)
- 23 Indian dish of vegetables deep fried in batter (5)
- 24 Italian nationalist who conquered Naples and Sicily (9)
- 25 System by which employees take time off work to attend college etc. (3,7)
- 26 Star Trek race with watchword "Resistance is futile" (4)

DOWN

- 1 Irish republican movement (4,4)
- 2 Animal toxin (5)
- 4 State of disorientation (9)
- 5 Stares (5)
- 6 Establishment once described by its governor as a "penal dustbin" (8,6)
- 7 The smallest continent (9)
- 8 South African garment of animal skin (6)
- 9 Cocktail - anagram of tisane's liqueur (7,7)
- 14 Mentally unsettled by long confinement (4,5)
- 15 PC protection software (9)
- 16 Answering (8)
- 19 Tanning salon equipment (6)
- 21 Knave, scallywag (5)
- 22 Domed Eskimo structure (5)



ANAGRAM

Daniel Craig is the latest actor to take on this role.

DEMONS JAB

QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ

1. What is the 6th planet from the Sun in our Solar System?
2. Alan Shearer is the highest goalscorer in Premiership history. Who currently is second on the list?
3. Which river flows through York?
4. Sergio Garcia is still the youngest. Who in 1993 at 51 years and 20 days became the oldest player to take part in the Ryder Cup?
5. Which of these names does not belong to one of Santa's reindeer?
 - a. Comet
 - b. Prancer
 - c. Blitzen
 - d. Klaxon
6. Who in his test debut this summer took three wickets before lunch on the first day, including a double wicket maiden in his first over of the day?
7. Name the England international who in 1985 as a 13 year old chorister sung backing vocals on Tina Turner's - We Don't Need Another Hero?
8. In the book title, who does author Laurie Lee have cider with?
9. Adele Jones and Becky 'Pink' Williams have just represented Britain in Japan at World Championships in which sport?

SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 to 9.

		6		3	5			
		2			4		7	
		7		8				6
9	7					8		
	2						1	
		3					5	9
1				2		6		
	8		6			5		
			9	1		7		

Supplied by www.dailysudoku.com

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Look closely at the pictures below and try and spot the difference between them. You should be able to spot six!



ANSWERS TO ALL THE PUZZLES ARE SHOWN ON PAGE 74

NEW PRODUCTS

ZERO-TURN MOWERS

Reco has launched the Typhoon ZT mowers in three basic specifications – the non-collecting Typhoon ZT, the Typhoon 300 ZT with 300-litre collecting hopper, and the Typhoon 700 ZT, which has a 700-litre hopper and is also available in a 190cm high-tip version.

For more information telephone Reco on: 01480 455151.



SUB COMPACT TRACTOR

Kubota is delighted to announce the introduction of the all-new BX2350 sub compact tractor into the UK and Irish markets. Building on the legacy of the popular BX2200 which has been available in the UK since 2000, the BX2350 is a "ground up" replacement that offers even more power, durability, versatility and is packaged in a new stylish, user friendly design.

For further information contact the freephone enquiry hotline on: 0800 0231111 or visit: www.kubota.co.uk



RECYCLED RUBBER

Castcrete are currently making rubber chippings from recycled car tyres, to be used in buggy paths and walkways. The product has proved especially effective in and around the T box.

One tonne can be used to cover 50 square metres at 2 inches deep.

For Further information please call: 01293 515353 or 07768 602420.



SNOW CLEARING BLADES

The new Vario 3300 and Snow Master 3400 from Wiedenmann UK, are ideal rake blades for contractors and local authority use and can be front mounted to tractors of up to 50hp and 25hp respectively.

For more information contact Wiedenmann UK on: 0141 814 3366.



NEW HB1180 HYDRAULIC BREAKER

Bobcat has launched the new HB1180 hydraulic breaker attachment.

The new HB1180 is part of the Bobcat family of 80 series hydraulic breakers, designed to meet customer requirements for improved performance, efficiency and reliability, while maintaining familiar Bobcat advantages, such as ease of mounting, versatility and maximum productivity.

The Bobcat® HB1180 hydraulic breaker is approved for use on Bobcat skid-steers (models S220 through S300), compact tracked loaders (models T250 through T300), the A300 all-wheel steer loader and Bobcat 337, 341 and 435 mini-excavators.

Like the rest of the range, the HB1180 breaker is intended for concrete and general demolition work. It features a new internal design with fewer moving parts, reducing overall service time.

For more information visit: www.bobcat.com



GOLF SIMULATION

GolfSim is a new company specialising in the hiring of golf simulators for corporate entertainment and promotional activities. Other uses include private hire, coaching, product launches, team building and exhibitions.

Contact James Greenfield on Tel: 01553 767685 or visit: www.golfsimulation.co.uk



AUTO-STACKING TURF HARVESTER

The new Brouwer RoboMax 1200 auto-stacking turf harvester, supplied and supported by UK distributor, Turfmech, saves time and labour.

The Brouwer RoboMax turf harvester's computer-controlled robotic arm stacks five turf rolls at a time onto a pallet. Each layer of turf is stacked automatically at 90deg to the one below to ensure a secure, tightly packed load.

For more information visit: www.turfmech.co.uk



NEW TURBO VERSION

Bobcat has launched the new turbo version of the company's Toolcat 5600 Utility Work Machine.

The turbo-powered Toolcat 5600 model incorporates a new mainframe and front work group including a new lift arm, tilt linkage and lift and tilt cylinders, providing more efficient lifting capability and reduced tilt rollback.

For more information visit: www.bobcat.com



TURF TYRES

Turfmaxx are delighted to announce that a new improved tread compound has been developed with large-scale contractors and councils in mind. It will be added to their range in 2007 and will offer up to 15% improved life.

The Maxxis Professional Municipal C165/S is a multi-purpose tyre and serves all applications where bullet-proof Kevlar® is not a requirement. It also fits compact tractors.

Further details on Maxxis turf tyres are available from: www.maxxis.co.uk



GRITTING MACHINE

The modular design of the new Combi Spread 5000 from Wiedenmann UK makes it a versatile gritting machine, which can be rear mounted to tractors with 20hp or more.

For more information contact Wiedenmann UK on: 0141 814 3366.



BEAUTY COMBINED WITH EFFECTIVE AERATION

Leading water quality management specialists Otterbine, have launched a new range of large aerating fountains designed to provide a cost effective solution for those requiring large decorative spray patterns combined with effective aeration.

The company says the best method of dealing with poor water quality problems such as algae, foul odours, and even dead fish, is to introduce much-needed oxygen into the water.

For more information visit: www.otterbine.com



Otterbine's new range of large aerating fountains combine a stunning decorative display with effective water aeration

PROFESSIONAL STRENGTH ADDED

STV, the poison-free pest control specialist has now added Professional Strength to their comprehensive rodent control range.

All products have been field tested by pest-controls professionals and can be safely used by domestic users, giving maximum results. The line-up includes pre-baited Rat and Mousetraps for immediate use, Glue Traps that are an effective last resort for rodent control and exceptional value four-pack mousetraps, again pre-baited.

A Professional Strength version of the award winning Quick Clip Rat Trap is also to be included plus a live-catch mouse trap and the new Strongbox Rat Bait Station.

For further details call the customer service line on: 01953 881580.



The Baited Rat Trap one of the new Professional Strength range of products from STV

NEW RANGE OF COMPACT TRACTORS

JCB Groundcare has launched five new compact tractors - set to become the flagship models of its specialist range for the grounds maintenance industry.

The robust new tractors - which span from 23 to 54 horsepower - are ideal for use by grounds maintenance contractors, landscapers and greenkeepers around golf courses, parks, sports and amenity grounds, smallholdings and equestrian centres. They power numerous attachments enabling operators to perform many grounds maintenance tasks in addition to their primary role of grass cutting.

For more information visit: www.jcb.com



The Groundhog - one of JCB's new compact tractors



News from the Chief Executive

Some of you may have read in the national press that the Marston Group of hotels has been bought by Q Hotels for the sum of £180m. Q Hotels (formerly Quality Hotels I am led to believe) include in its existing portfolio the Queens Hotel in Leeds, Forest Pines Hotel and Golf Club, Scunthorpe and the Westerwood Hotel and Golf Club, Glasgow. Marston Hotels own and operate Aldwark Manor Hotel and so, by default, we have a new landlord of the land upon which BIGGA house sits. I have no immediate concerns over our tenancy that has a further 990 plus years left to run, in fact a change in ownership will hopefully bring a change in attitude towards our previous attempts to convert the Association into a limited company.

Harrogate Week dominates much of everyone's time at HQ and I am pleased to report that all four exhibition halls are full with the exception of two small spaces that I am confident will soon be taken. Bookings for the education programme are ahead of the same time last year and I know from my travels to various regions over the last few weeks, that there is a big push by members to attend Harrogate for at least one day.

I applaud the efforts being made by Regions, Sections and members in order to demonstrate their support for this vital event in the Association's calendar. Please remember that it's not just for greenkeepers, bring along your Secretary/Manager, your Chairman of Green or your groundsman friend or contact. There is something for everyone both in the exhibition and in the 'Continue to Learn' programme.

The Association's accounts for the year ended on September 30, 2006 and have produced a satisfactory surplus for the period and any member wishing a copy before the AGM should contact either your Regional Administrator, Section Secretary or Tony or Stephen at HQ. I would draw member's attention to the fact that the timing of the AGM has changed from 5.15pm on Wednesday, January 25, 2007 to 6pm on the same day and will continue to be held in the Queen's Suite at Harrogate International Centre.

Rachael Palmer who has efficiently run the Membership department for the last four and a half years, has decided to accept the offer of another job and will therefore be leaving in early December. I would like to thank Rachael for all her hard work and wish her every success in her new position. This naturally leaves Gemma and her colleagues under significant pressure until the staffing level can be rectified and I would ask for some patience from members at what is traditionally the busiest time of the year.

Finally I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. It is hard to believe that as I write this there are only five weeks left of 2006!

John Pemberton

SCOTTISH REGION

Harrogate Week 2007

The Scottish Region once again offers their members a subsidised package deal for Harrogate Week 2007.

The Package includes: Entry to Continue to Learn Seminars (seven in total); three nights Bed and Breakfast in en-suite twin rooms on 23rd, 24th and 25th January, 2007 in the Holiday Inn, Harrogate, (formerly Moat House Hotel). Package cost: £261.00. Accommodation package only £156.00.

To obtain booking forms contact the Regional Administrator, Peter J. Boyd on: 0141 616 3440 or 07776 2422120 or email: pj.boyd@btinternet.com

Ayrshire

Hello everyone, hope you're all well and prepared for the Christmas season! I think most of you will just be wanting the grass to stop growing for Christmas, there seems to have been a definite shift in the growing season with temperatures not rising till later in the spring and sustained growth continuing much later into autumn.

Our Patrons' Award winners this year are: Duncan Gray, The Pines, and Gordon Haughie, Southernness. Well done guys and enjoy your stay in Harrogate. You could probably pass on the Jim Arthur book to your apprentice greenkeepers as I'm sure you both know it all by now eh?

The Annual Scottish Conference will be held at Lauder College Dunfermline on March 6. This has fast become a very popular event so get back to Peter sharp if you don't want to miss out.

Goswick GC, at Berwick-upon-Tweed, will host the Scottish National Championship on June 21. Yes! I'm sure the powers that be ken that's in England but must figure if it's okay for them to play in the Scottish Football Leagues then surely we can visit for a round of golf. Controversial?

A total of 12 were present at the AGM on Halloween. It was unanimously agreed that Derek should continue as Secretary, while Stephen Higgins takes on the Chairmanship. Vice-Chairman will be myself, as Stevie boy managed to track me down at the Troon Beer Festival and after a couple of pints of Skullsplitter there's not much I wouldn't say no to... apart from the obvious, obviously!

Additions to the committee are Frank Clarkson and Duncan Gray.

Our 12 aside golf match vs the Northern Irish lads went ahead on October 20 at Irvine GC. The weather was good with no wind and the course well prepared. However after a grueling afternoon's play the visitors proved too strong for us and went on to win 4.5 to 1. All participants enjoyed the day and our thanks go to Derek Wilson and the committee at Bogside for allowing us use of the course and facilities. Well done also to Terry Crawford for his part in organising their trip over. There will definitely be a rematch in County Down next year so I'll keep you informed of dates as they arise. So congratulations to the Irish boys but don't get to attached to that magnificent Shield!

A big thank you also to George Brown and General Manager, Stewart Selbie, for getting the tourists a game at Turnberry the following day. I'm sure there were a few cobwebs blowing across the links after a night out in Ayr.

That's it for now so have yourselves a merry little Xmas and happy New Year alright!

Denis Tweddell

07939 104701 or denis.t@hotmail.co.uk

Central

I would like to start this month's news by congratulating Stuart Greenwood on his appointment to Scottish Chairman, and also to thank Iain Barr for all his support to the Region during his time in office. There is a lot of work carried out throughout the Association, by the members, in office, on a voluntary basis and in an attempt to meet the needs of our members. If you are unsure about any aspect of the Association's work, or have some suggestions to make, I would encourage you to contact your local Section committee and raise the matter. This is the most constructive way to deal with things and ensures that concerns at local level can be communicated to Regional boards and upwards to National level when necessary. Likewise we will endeavour to keep you informed, and will be only too happy to assist you in any way we can. The Association is strengthened by open communication, and uniting together to help our fellow greenkeepers.

Recent new members to the Section are: Matthew Baird, Elmwood GC, James Bledge, Kingsbarns, Brian Marmon, Gleneagles Hotel, and Martin Turna, St Andrews Links. Welcome to the section and we look forward to meeting you at future events.

Congratulations to John Philp - Carnoustie, Innes Knight - Kingsbarns and Euan Grant - The Old Course, and all their respective teams for hosting another successful Alfred Dunhill Links Championship.

The autumn outing was contested over Dunfermline GC, Pitfirrane. The turnout was excellent, especially as it coincided with the aforementioned event, and many of our members come from the courses concerned. The course was in excellent condition, and with the very pleasant weather and the excellent hospitality in the clubhouse, it made for a very enjoyable day. Many thanks go to Kenny Duncan and his team, and the club, for a memorable day.

Congratulations to the prize winners as follows; Scratch - Kenny Stirling, Kingsbarns; Handicap - Michael Love, Grangemouth. 1.1 Kenny Mitchell, St Andrews; 1.2 Kenny Duncan, Dunfermline GC; 1.3 David Gray, Lochgelly. 2.1 Tom Comerford, Grangemouth; 2.2 Dougie Barr, Dundee Council; 2.3 Derek Scott, Scoonie.

The Guest Prize went to C. Murray, from Grangemouth, and the Trade Prize to Peter Taylor. Thanks are also due to the Patrons, and to Peter Boyd, Regional Administrator. Their continued support within the Section ensures the success of these events. Many thanks to Jim Finlayson, a trade member, who despite not feeling at his best, helped with the organisation of the day and met all golfers returning to the clubhouse.

The Section's educational events continue. The combined event with Club Managers Association of Europe at Murrayshall was very informative, and it was good to hear different perspectives on future trends in Golf. For your diary note the following future events: Thursday, December 14 at 7pm, Seminar at Elmwood GC - topic: The influential Head Greenkeeper / Course Manager, presented by Frank Newberry. March 28, 2007 at 3pm - topic: Rules presentation, Presented by Grant Moir, R and A rules official.

Before you read this another evening event with Richard Windows, our Regional STRI Agronomist, will have taken place. These events are free for our members.

I was fortunate enough to attend the Business Management Institute International Conference at Fairmont, St Andrews, at which four of our colleagues had been invited to speak. Neil Ballingall, Fairmont, St Andrews, Scot Fenwick, Gleneagles, Euan Grant, St Andrews, and Ken Siems, Loch Lomond, all delivered very informative and entertaining presentations to a truly international group of Club Managers, who were very impressed.

Your committee is keen to arrange as many of these events as you need, and to provide relevant learning opportunities for our members. Please give them your support and let them know what you want. By the time you are reading this our AGM will have come and gone. More news next month.

To keep up to date and in touch, visit our website.

www.biggacentralsection.org.uk

All the best,
Andrew Mellon

East

I ended last month's report by stating I was paying a visit to sunny Crete, what a joke! The weather was horrendous, but as usual the hospitality of our Greek friends was fantastic and made up for the disappointing weather conditions.

The Section AGM was held on Wednesday, October 25, at Ratho Park GC with, once again, an extremely poor turnout being recorded, The new committee is as follows: Chairman - Graeme Wood, Vice Chairman - Stuart Ferguson, Secretary - Kevin Hodges, General Committee - Jimmy Neilson and Tom Murray.

The committee is currently looking for enthusiastic volunteers to fill the positions of Match Secretary and Education Convenor.

One of the key issues raised at the AGM was the pressure placed on Course Managers by their employers, who often have totally unrealistic expectations of what can be achieved. As a current employer I appreciate there is always two sides to a story but, more than often not in our industry - Golf Clubs pay scant regard to employment law! After the AGM, three teams of three played 12 holes and the winners were the Chairman's team comprising G. Wood, T. Murray and J. Darling. On behalf of the Section I would like to thank Ratho Park for granting us courtesy of the course and to Richard Aitken Seedsmen for sponsoring the days events.

West Linton GC has recently purchased a heart defibrillator and is the first club in the Borders region to do so. The reasoning behind the idea came about when one of the members had a heart attack and passed away in the club's car park. Those present felt so helpless that a decision was taken to purchase the machine literally talks the operator through the process of trying to restart the heart.

The cost to the club has been reduced by a donation of £1000 this year and a promise of £250 next year from the Chris Yeaman Junior Charity Fund.

In the last week of October, 10 members of staff, three of whom were greens staff, received training in the use of the machine. As most of the attendees were locals and the golf club is near the village, it is also anticipated that the machine will be of service to the local community.

The big news this month is that Berwick GC (Goswick) have been awarded the BIGGA Scottish National Tournament in 2007. This, as a direct result of all the hard work put in by George and his team, and the fact that they have been very loyal supporters of BIGGA Tournaments over the years.

I would also like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Section, to offer many congratulations to Mark Pagan, Head Greenkeeper at Eyemouth GC, and his wife Caroline, who are celebrating the arrival of their new baby son, Jack, who was born on October 22.

West Lothian Golf Club Report

One man's commitment to home grown talent paid dividends when he won a top prize in the small employers Section of the Modern Apprenticeship Awards 2006.

Alan Gibson - on behalf of West Lothian GC, Bo'ness - scooped the award in the Scottish Modern Apprenticeship programme, which celebrated the achievement of individual modern apprentices also showcasing the commitment and contribution made by employers and training providers in the industry.

He won first prize in the "employer of modern apprentices - acknowledging the commitment and support of employers" category for small businesses.

"Golf is a valuable part of the ever growing leisure industry and it needs good greenkeepers to secure its future," said Alan, who was nominated by Oatridge College, which along with his employers, supports his work with trainee greenkeepers.

"Scotland is proud of its golfing heritage and equally proud of the course it has to offer," he added. "But without highly skilled greenkeepers, the industry would have to look elsewhere for skilled professionals."

"I believe that home grown talent is best and I would encourage all course and club managers and committees to look at the training opportunities

available through schemes such as modern apprentices under my care during that time," he said.

"I have been fortunate to have retained three of my former apprentices - one of whom, Iain Marshall, is now my deputy and two others, Jeff Ryce and Wayne Meikle are assistants."

His First Apprentice, Richard McLuckie, took over his own course Linlithgow Golf Club in 2000, and was promoted to General Manager in 2005, while others have moved on in greenkeeping to course such as Dalmahoy and Gleneagles.

On reaching the final three in the awards - which are sponsored by Scottish Enterprise and Highlands and Islands Enterprise - Alan was interviewed by a member of the judging panel who visited the golf club and also spoke to staff.

"As a golf course manager, I feel I have a responsibility to the sport in which I work to ensure its future is in safe hands by producing young professionals ready to meet the challenges of maintaining their own golf courses," Alan said.

Television star Stephen Jardine, hosted an award ceremony at the Sheraton Grand Hotel in Edinburgh in October, where Deputy Minister for Education and Young People, Robert Brown, congratulated the winners.

The Managing Secretary, Ian Osborough, said that the club was honoured that Alan Gibson, their Course Manager, had received this award on behalf of the club. His commitment, enthusiasm and expertise over many years in bringing through our Apprentices to a very high standard, were to be commended. They reflect on the club, but more to the point, reflect the high caliber of the course manager that we have. He should be justly proud of his achievement.

After my negative comments earlier in this month's report, it is nice to see a Course Manager being awarded for his efforts and more importantly being appreciated by his employers.

Until next month.

Don't work too hard!

Mike Dooner

North

How's it going folks? No sign of any hard weather yet. As I write this report it is November 6 and it is 16 degrees outside with bright warm sunshine. Global warming seems to be upon us. My only concern is that clubs will now try and prolong the golf season and want normal conditions without any autumn renovation work done until the end of the year. Has anybody had this request from his or her committee yet?

I have a feeling this mild weather will bring another epidemic of leather jackets later this year.

Chris Murdoch, from Murcar GC, is now a father after his partner, Kerry, gave birth to an 8lb girl recently. Well done to them all and we wish them well for the future.

The AGM for the Section was held at Royal Aberdeen GC in late October. There was a reasonable turnout of 27 members, which meant we were able to have a Stableford competition. A good day was had by all with the weather being fairly kind overall. There seems to be a trend now even with the outings that the numbers are dropping and there appears to be a lack of interest in the Section. Over the past few years there is a hard core of the membership that attend the outings wherever they are, but it would be nice for the committee

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to see more members from further a field attend to swell the numbers and ensure that the Section continues to progress over the coming years.

Results from the AGM: 3.1 - Niall Bruce, Montrose Links; 3.2 - Hugh McLatchie, Peterhead; 2.1 - George Simpson, Oldmeldrum; 2.2 - Billy Graig, Kirriemuir; 1.1 - Robert Patterson, Royal Aberdeen; 1.2 - Kevin Thompson, Moray; Trade Winner- Raymond Warrender, Alpha Plus Groundcare.
200 Club: £30- Wilson Morrison, £30 - Kevin Fowler, £30 - James Piece and £100 - Dale Robertson.

Two new members to report this month: Calum T Fraser, Apprentice at Tain GC, and Robert O'Donnell, Head Greenkeeper at Oldmeldrum GC.

Colin Forbes, from Peterculter GC, has moved on and taken up the post of Head Greenkeeper at Aboyne GC. We wish him well in his new appointment.

The next thing on the horizon will be BTME at Harrogate, which I'm sure, will be well attended.

Not much else from me this month, if you have any stories let me know and I will print them as it can be quite difficult to find new and interesting things to talk about each month.

Cheers,
Robert Patterson, Royal Aberdeen GC

West

Welcome to this month's report. Congratulations to Gerry Bruen, a former West Section member and committee member. Gerry recently got married to Lindsay, the Section wish you all the best with your future together and hope you are enjoying life in Ireland.

Our autumn outing was held at Higgs Castle GC the weather wasn't too good on the day but Robert McClery and his staff had the course in first class condition well done to all concerned. To Captain, Donald Ross, who presented the prizes many thanks for allowing us courtesy of your course and your warm hospitality. The winners on the day were: Scratch - Stuart Taylor; 1 - Scott Mcketerick; 2 - Neil MacLennan and 3 - Graeme Ferguson. Trade prize went to Alistair Taylor and Longest Drive to Andy Peace.

The winner of the new Daval Two Round Trophy was Scott McKeterick, well done to all the prize winner and many thanks to the trade for donations of prizes, last but not least the hard work of the committee but in on the day.

Welcome to new members David Moles and Mathew Salmon, we hope to see you at some of our future events.

This year's AGM was held at Drumpellier GC and there were 28 members in attendance. There were several points brought up which will be discussed at our next committee meeting and reported on in the next Greenkeepers report, Brian Hillan, the Course Manager at Drumpellier, had arranged a fun golf day after the AGM was finished 16 members played and had a very enjoyable day.

The course was in first class condition and considering the weather over the past couple of months this was no mean feat, please pass on our thanks to your captain and committee.

Also I would like to thank Stuart Aird, of Soutars Sports, for sponsoring the day.

The Committee for 2006-2007 are: Douglas MacIntosh - Chairman, Eddie McGhee - Vice Chairman, Fraser Ross - Past-Chairman, Gavin Jarvis - Secretary, Stuart Taylor - Education, Gordon Howat - Match and Handicap, John Barr, Derek Duthie, Brian Boland. Committee members, Brian Hillan - New Member.

On a personal note it has been a pleasure to have been the West Section Chairman for the past two years.

I would like to thank Brian Boland for proposing me as his Vice Chairman and big thanks for his continued hard work on behalf of the Section and we're happy he has decided to stay on.

To all other committee members for their help and support which has been first class, also to Gavin Jarvis for his continued hard work and to Peter Boyd, our Regional Administrator, for keeping me right along the way.

On the Education front we are arranging a trip to the new course being

built at Loch Lomond, the Carrick, members will be notified as soon as dates are confirmed.

Please try to come along which should be a first class day.

Well that's all for now, please get in touch with any news.

Fraser Ross, Renfrew GC

Mobile: 07970 366 355

NORTHERN REGION

North East

On October 25 we held the Section AGM at Tyneside GC, as usual there was a very poor turnout, six people at least made the effort - my thanks to them, also to the Regional Administrator, Peter Larter, who travelled almost 400 miles on his round trip.

Well next year the AGM will most likely be at the autumn competition and that will be held in October, and before the prize giving, then we will at least have better turnout.

I don't know if any of you realise but it will be my 25th year as the Secretary of the Section and dogsbody, and I'm seriously thinking of making next year my last, it's now time for a change. Now I know they're a few moaners out there and so here is your chance to have a go at running the Section.

If anyone is interested just get in touch with me or the rest of the committee - being: Russ Black or Steve Pope.

Talking about retirement Brian Udberg, of Tynemouth GC, is retiring in May next year, as is John Moutrie, of Hexham GC.

Congratulations to Tony McLure, of Whickham GC, on winning the scratch 36 hole National Greenkeepers Championship recently played for in October.

Jimmy Richardson

Cleveland

By now several of the proposed meetings and get togethers should have taken place. Firstly, the indoor football competition should have been played at Middlesbrough FC's wonderful training complex at Hurworth. Teams from the North East Section, TSL and the 'Boro groundstaff were hoping to wup the Cleveland Section's Galacticos. This is a description of the size of our back four (Pembo and friends), nothing to do with the quality. Reports in the next issue but I hope it was played in good spirit! Thanks to Boro for the opportunity to play in this fantastic venue. Secondly the TSL quiz should have been fought out with the groundsmen at Mount Oswald GC. Have we defended our title?

Lastly, the Section AGM should have taken place on November 28 - I hope this was well supported, as our turnouts seem to be dwindling. It's your Section - please help by supporting all meetings if you can.

The 'Night at the Dogs' took place on November 10. 13 Section members attended ably supported by Alastair Whitby, from Lloyds. A good night was had by all and the lads didn't report too heavy losses. Many thanks must go to Brendan Brown, of Norlube, for kindly sponsoring the minibus.

Finally, it will soon be Christmas again. Where does the time go? May I take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones a happy and peaceful festive season. It will soon be time to start thinking about BTME at Harrogate. The TSL bus will be going on the Wednesday as usual. Please book your places with Karen in the Turfcare office on: 01207 505837. Pick up points are usually Morpeth GC, City of Newcastle GC, Chester-le-Street GC and finally the old 'Cock of the North' site on the A167.

All the best

Any news to TC on: 07831214879

Terry El Prez Charlton



Peter Boyd
SCOTLAND & NORTHERN IRELAND
 Tel/Fax: 0141 616 3440



Peter Larter
NORTHERN & MIDLAND
 Tel: 01476 550115

Sheffield

Another year coming to an end, unfortunately I don't have a lot of news to end the year with. This year has been one of quite a few retirements from within the Section and another to add to the list is Les Easthope, from Hillsborough GC. Les has basically worked at Hillsborough since he left school - after all that loyal service I think you deserve a long and enjoyable retirement Les, all the best from everyone in the Sheffield Section.

We will be running a trip to the new Wembley Stadium (yes it will be finished!) next year in October, so I will keep you informed of dates etc when we have definite details.

Finally may I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

John Lax

North Wales

A big thank you in advance goes to Conwy GC for hosting our Christmas golf tournament, held on December 5. A full report will be in the January issue.

Talking of January and only a matter of weeks to go now before the annual show, the industries biggest one! the BTME in Harrogate, as usual the Section has organised the bus to take you up there. This year it has been kindly sponsored by Danny Tomkins of Tower Chemicals - If you wish to use this facility please contact Jez on: 07876 776265 at your earliest convenience as spaces will go quickly so don't miss out - book early £5 for members £10 for guests - The bus will be leaving a bit earlier this time to give you a full day up at Harrogate, especially for you older folk who like to have the extra time to visit Betty's tea shop for your afternoon scones and cream and as it is going up early it will also be coming back at a more reasonable time leaving around 5pm.

Congratulations to Gareth Woosnam who over at the Ryder Cup, was told by Arnold Palmer that he was better looking than his brother, Ian, as he exchanged his glass of champagne on the balcony of the 'K' Club for a pint of the black stuff Gareth's first trip to the Emerald Isle with all the family, being over there to give his brother a few tips (see results in previous issue Oswestry BIGGA Tournament as to why!).

Well short and sweet this month, but one little golfing tale to end with; I had the pleasure of being invited to go on a two day trip over to Belfast and play golf at the legendary Royal County Down Golf Links, as golf books write it as one of the world's top courses. The date unfortunately clashed with me moving house and I was unable to go, but none the less a four ball team of guys who will not be named for embarrassing reasons elected to go, flights were found on Ryan Air, but as it was a busy commuter time slot they came in a little more expensive than was expected, but never mind it was Royal County Down after all, a hire car was dually booked from Belfast airport to drive the 40 minute trip and the Course Manager there found them a good hotel close by and this was also booked, so all in place and looking forward to the challenge ahead tackling the famous links and watching the narrative Ronan Rafferty video of how to play each hole, the scene was set. They decided to all sleep over at the person's house who was closest to Manchester Airport so they could have an early start for the 6am flight, now who ever it was that set the alarm clock was not in the good books with the rest of the guys? Arriving late at the wrong terminal then getting to the correct terminal five minutes after the flight had closed did not bear well, especially as the weather that day was glorious in Northern Ireland.

But the weary travellers were not to be dashed and with a friendly phone call to the Kerry bros down in Harlech an alternative tee time was booked and the long drive back to Wales started. Still feeling a little down, a pick me up McDonalds helped at Caernarfon and when they decided the format of 10p birdies and 20p bits for the game, all was better... I believe Dave Austin won, Andy Peel was second and Stuart Yarwood and Andy Ralphs were tied 3rd.

All the best for Christmas and the New Year - See you in the M Hall @ BTME

Mesen Cymru
 Andrew Acorn



East Midlands

I start this month's report by offering the Sections congratulations to Gavin Robson and his team from Burton-on-Trent GC, for hosting a successful National Championship. The weather preceding the Championship could only be described as awful and I, for a fact, know that Gavin had been working hard and looking forward to hosting the event for many months prior and it wasn't easy to show off your efforts with such poor weather beforehand.

However, with the help of a few extras a couple of days before, the course looked immaculate and to everyone's delight the sun shone for the two Championship days bar the odd shower, and everything worked out fine.

Coupled with a warm welcome and some fine hospitality, the Championship was a great success for all those who attended.

Congratulations to all the prize winners and to all that worked so hard to make it so enjoyable. We hope the Nationals will soon return to the East Midlands.

It's with great sadness that I close this report, passing on the Section's condolences to Past BIGGA Chairman, Paddy McCarron, whose wife, Beverly, recently passed away.

After a short illness, John Carter, known to greenkeepers in the Norfolk area - having started his career there - and also the Leicestershire area, passed away in early November at the age of 45. The Section's thoughts are with his family at this sad time.

Richard Barker

Midland

Some years ago I tried to introduce "Thought/Joke of the month" to which £10 would be awarded to the provider, and such published within our notes. To date I have not received any. So I would like to try again, but with "Excuse of the Month". I shall start you off with a genuine one (honest). Get this: "I couldn't make Saturday because I was in such a deep sleep (drunk?) that I didn't wake up, the wife tried throwing six pans of cold water over me, but I still didn't wake. Sorry Tony." No, it wasn't me! If anyone had thrown cold water on me I would be at her Majesty's pleasure! Just ask John Wilkes. He by the way has just had a little boy.

Our old friend, Craig Beet, and his delightful fiancée, Simone Smith, have just been wed. Wonderful wedding (I nearly had tears, steady now), super reception at Hagley GC. We all wish you both the greatest of happiness for the future.

On October 19, we played our annual match against the East Midlands Section. I'm afraid that we lost the match by two points, if Gashey (five up after six) had won his match in the afternoon, such would have been a draw. I carried him in the morning, and then won my match in the afternoon (I'm fed up with Mike knocking me out off the Scotts Doubles). Sorry mate, it had to be done! As always the match was carried out in the best of spirits and was very enjoyable indeed, great hosts. Our thanks to Kirby Muxloe GC for their hospitality, and Tony Cheese/Rigby Taylor for organising and sponsoring the event. Congratulations to Antony Bindley and his fine team for an excellently presented course. Looking forward to next year's match, which is at home (Midland Section, you maggot), so get practising folks. You of course can do such at our events throughout the year!