

The latest 400 series of compact engines from Perkins have benefited from a number of improvements that make them both quieter and smoother running than existing designs

ALLETT MOWERS LTD

Founded by Reginald Allett in 1955, Allett Mowers Ltd has produced some impressively long-lived professional cylinder mowers over the years. This reputation for longevity is matched by first class mowing performance, the company's pedestrian cylinder mowers having a strong following not just for summer sports turf but also high profile amenity areas. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission use Allett mowers in cemeteries around the World.

More 'recent' Allett mowers are easily recognised by the 'trade mark' stainless steel drive cover, with the 20, 24 and 27 inch Buffalo enjoying an enviable reputation as one of the best general purpose pedestrian mowers of its type.

The company's current range includes the 36 or 42 inch Regal sports turf model. Named after company founder Reg Allett, the 'RegAl' is another key model in a range of models that also includes the C20 interchangeable cassette mowers. Scarifiers, slitters and aerators are also produced from the company's works in Arbroath, Scotland.

Sales Director Roy Allett has seen growing interest in his company's mowers among golf clubs, particularly the 20 or 24in Tournament model. Fitted with a groomer, these mowers deliver the high quality of cut demanded for fast, consistent play. Now part of the Reekie Group, Allett mowers still offer a personalised service, with great emphasis placed upon product quality.





Allett's Shaver and Tournament momers are designed to mow down to 1.5mm, these mowers will deliver 246 cuts per metre from the 10 blade cylinders. For heavier applications, a 4mm bottom blade can be specified. The Aztec range offer the same cut widths but can be fitted with a range of fully floating hydraulic attachments that include a groomer or scarifier.

The BJB42 tractor (above) is available with either 310 litre capacity manual or hydraulic tipping collector, and has a 1.08m working width. Designed to work behind tractors with a minimum of 12hp at the PTO, the BJB42 is can be offset by 230mm to avoid tramlining. 41 or 21 blades can be fitted to five a spacing of 20 or 40mm.

TURFMECH MACHINERY LTD

The impact made upon the turf industry by privately-owned Turfmech will be well known to turf growers. The company was responsible for importing and manufacturing equipment that has helped drive turf quality forward, with the improved mowing and harvesting systems now employed by many leading turf producers owing a great deal to the foresight and determination of Turfmech founder and Managing Director Austin Jarrett.



The company began life as a provider of contract turf maintenance services, branching into the distribution of mowers, blowers and turf vacuums. Turfmech Machinery evolved to become a major equipment

producer in its own right, manufacturing, marketing and supporting a product range specified and used by turf growers, groundsmen, course managers, greenkeepers, contractors and turf and grounds maintenance professionals throughout the British Isles and overseas.



Although well known in golf circles for its low impact top dressers, blowers and vacuum equipment and the EarthQuake range of rotary turf decompactors, Turfmech mowers also have a leading role to play in large area mowing. The company's MaxiMow 13 and MaxiMow 17 trailed hydraulic gang mowers, for example, have a massive 9.06 and 11.75m operating width, making them what is believed to be the largest mowers of their type in the world. The Pro-Max 36 rotary is another wide area model, with a 10.9m working width.

Although these mowers are targeted primarily at turf growers, their efficiency has a knock-on effect for the golf and landscaping industries. The cost of growing quality turf can be more tightly controlled when kit like this is used, this in turn helping to keep turf a viable option for large area re-turfing projects.

Although remaining a relatively small company, employing around 30 staff at its Hixon, Staffordshire base, Turfmech is a strong advocate of British engineering skills, supporting graduate training and promoting further education for numerous past, present and future employees.



The Turfmech TM5 vacuum collector can be fitted with a choice of brush or scarifier suction heads. Ideal for working on large areas such as fairways and parks, the TM5 can be fitted with a wander hose. Among the latter's many uses is litter bin emptying, a useful extra for staff clearing up following a golf tournament or music event.

CLASSIC TEAK - Great British craftsmanship isn't dead, it's alive and well and living in Yorkshire

Classic Teak pride themselves on having retained the art of master carpentry and on using it to produce the very best hardwood outdoor furniture. This ethic and stance has been the cornerstone of the company since inception in 1923.

In today's market quality is often vying for position, the outdoor furniture industry being rife with inferior products imported from across the globe. The simple equation is quality versus cost versus value; the misconception is often that value and cost are the same thing, which of course they are not. Classic Teak's customer base spans the entire range from schools, landscapers, parks and gardens to major hotel chains and the Sandringham Estate.



For top products the quality depends as much on the choice of materials as on the workmanship and being able to source the correct wood for the job is vital. It takes great experience and care to make the right selections. The wood for used to make Classic Teak's products

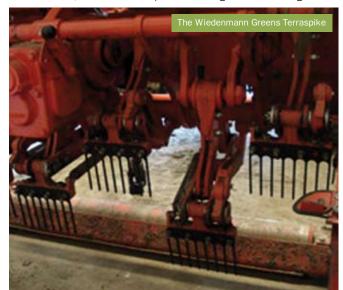


comes from plantation stock or correctly managed sources, underlining the need for environmental awareness in today's climate. This is also one of the reasons why you won't find Classic Teak's furniture in any multiple store or high street chain, as they do not support the 'pile it high and sell it cheap' system so widely prevalent in some of today's outlets.

"It's not old fashioned to want to produce great quality products, it's a British tradition and it's our heritage that's at stake if we don't, "said Karl.

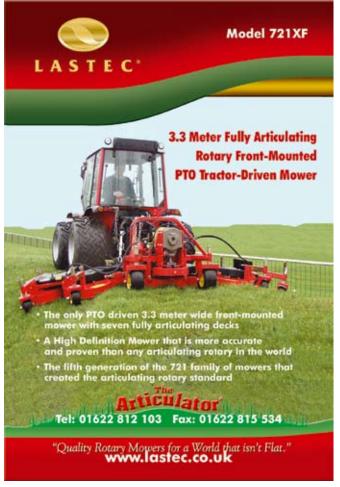
ALLIED TURF TECH - A small British family business

Allied began life 22 years ago as sub-contract toolmakers, designing and manufacturing engineering production solutions to many types of industry. The Founder and Managing Director, Stuart Booth had a history of working within major British engineering companies, such as Alfred Herbert, and used this experience to begin manufacturing volume









precision parts for all kinds of engineering based industries, ie, Textiles, Food Packaging, Automobile, Aerospace, Machine Tools, M.O.D. etc. Despite manufacturing and supporting other British companies, the company began to look for ideas for their own product range. The founder lived next to Northcliffe GC, Shipley, who asked if Allied Turf Tech could make some aeration tines upon which the company decided to become involved in re-engineering a whole range of turf blade consumables to be substantially harder and perform better than "original parts", direct to British Golf Clubs.



The product range continued to grow with innovations such as the Star Tine, affording the greenkeeper a much larger choice of Aeration Tines. In a number of cases only a "special" will do and on that score Allied's purpose built turf blade machine shop is on hand for design and quick turnaround.

Further developments on the shop floor gave Allied a CNC Laser Profile Machine which is perfect for quick turnaround of flat blade type products in any shape or form. It was this facility that led to the innovative product - The Tine Comb (Patent Pending). This basically does away with the accepted design of a tine holder and singular tines.



Other products include many types of turf maintenance blades, i.e. Stone Burier blades, Scarifiers, Flails, Turf Cutting Blades, Hard Edging Blades all given the Allied re-engineered treatment.

"We must support our own manufacturing industry," said MD Stuart Booth. "If we do not then we will all suffer and eventually have no control over what we have to pay. Unfortunately a lot of damage has already been done but I applaud BIGGA for enabling us to comment. We know that we offer best quality, price and delivery."

Allied Turf Tech is now supported by the founder's sons, Matthew and Jamie Booth, who are really proud to say they make everything they sell and also support other British suppliers.

HAYTER - A leading producer of professional mowers

Douglas Hayter started manufacturing mowers in 1946 thanks to a bit of lateral thinking. Originally a house builder, he needed to keep the grass leading to the sheds in which he dried timber under control. This was just after the end of WWII, and mowers of any description were hard to come by. Faced with the option of using a scythe or coming up with his own solution, he set about building a mower from a dustbin lid and redundant two-stroke motorcycle engine.



T424 Turf Mower: It is commercial users who tend to favour models such as the T424. Although a cab adds

The resultant rotary mower soon attracted interest from all that saw it, the net result leading to Mr Hayter giving up building houses and concentrating on mower manufacture. Over 60 years later, the company has evolved into a leading producer of both domestic and professional mowers from its plant in Spellbrook, Hertfordshire. Indeed, the Hayter name has often been used generically to describe assorted grass toppers and bank mowers.



In February 2005, the company was acquired by Toro, with manufacturing at Spellbrook continuing to thrive. The company now offers a broad choice of walk behind, ride on and trailed mowers for a wide variety of applications.

RANSOMES JACOBSEN LTD -Celebrating 175 years of manufacture

Ransomes Jacobsen celebrates 175 years of cylinder mower manufacture in Britain this year. In fact Ransomes was the first company in the world to build cylinder lawnmowers in volume, the company's first models of





1832 being made under licence from inventor Edwin Budding. Protected by a patent filed in 1830, the JR & A Ransomes manufactured mowers were initially sold for domestic use and signalled the beginning of lawnmower production in the UK.

Although Ransomes Jacobsen no longer produces domestic lawnmowers, it has grown to become a global leader in professional mower production, supplying equipment to golf courses, local authorities, landscape contractors, sports clubs and major sports stadia around the world.

In 1998, Ransomes was acquired by US based Textron Inc., integrating with the existing Jacobsen company to become Ransomes Jacobsen Ltd. This marked a new era of development and investment for the Ransomes element of the company. Textron, a multi-industry organisation, has a turnover of \$11 billion, employs approximately 40,000 and operates in 32 countries.

Initial fears that the Ransomes name would disappear have proven unfounded, although an early decision to 're-brand' all former Ransomes golf equipment did disappoint some; the Ransomes name is now used solely on the company's successful municipal, commercial and sports mower and equipment range.

This change has not seen the end of British-built golf maintenance equipment with the famous Ipswich factory continuing to produce mowers in Jacobsen orange livery. Among the impressive range of models produced in the UK are the G-Plex III ride-on greens mowers, the Fairway range that includes the 250, 305 and 405 models, the HR-6010 batwing rotary mower and the AR250 fine cut rotary mower for semi-roughs. Completing the line-up are the AR3 and TR3, two machines that use the same tractor unit but with a choice of cylinder or rotary decks depending on the application.

Ransomes equipment for the municipal sector retains its distinctive green livery. Recognised across the globe, the Ransomes professional mower range includes walk-behind models with cutting widths of 51-91cm, the HR-3806 out-front rotary, the Highway and Parkway triplex mowers and the five-unit Commander with its 3.5 metre cutting width. Tractor mounted mowers, both ground driven or with hydraulic drive, complete the company's impressive UK manufacturing line-up.

The manufacturing facilities at Ipswich occupy some 242,000 sq ft and have recently received £3 million worth of investment. The plant provides a light, modern and safe plant for skilled technicians to virtually hand-build each machine. If that suggests old fashioned practice, it is not meant to. Advanced laser cutting equipment, a new tube bending machine and a new robot welder have recently been installed, bringing the Ipswich factory bang up to date.

"Our 175th anniversary is a hugely significant milestone in the history of the company; from the first Budding machine in 1832 we are now one of the leading grounds care machinery manufacturers in the world," said Ransomes Jacobsen MD David Withers. "Our mowers have been supplied to monarchies and nobilities across Europe and Asia and our name has become a by-word for quality British engineering. Over the years the company has had its ups and downs, but today it is a vibrant market leader, with a modern manufacturing plant that provides employment and career opportunities to the people of Ipswich.



If you look at the grounds care manufacturing industry today, you'll find a huge number of people who either began their careers in Ipswich or have worked for the company and this has been the case for decades. On a personal basis, I am delighted to be heading a dynamic management team at this significant moment in the company's history and thank everyone, past and present, for their contribution."

BIGGA readers are the first to see the latest hand-made bronze trophy by exclusive studio Thomas & Peters – and can get 20% off this and selected items for 28 days.

British company, Thomas & Peters, has been leading the way in designing figures and miniatures of clubs, bags, other equipment and much more for 25 years and sells only its own original trophies.

See: www.golftrophies.com for more information.



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WHAT'S YOUR NUMBER?



Name: David Jenkins **Company: DJ Turfcare Equipment Ltd Position: Managing Director**

How long have you been in the industry? "35 years."

How did you get into it?

"I was a Sales Engineer with a Company manufacturing instruments when I was approached by a magazine called Parks & Sportsgrounds to become their Advertisement Manager. I spent five years in publishing and was then recruited to head up sales & marketing for Jacobsen machines in the UK."

What others jobs have you done?

"I originally served an apprenticeship as an instrument maker which is rather strange because when I finished, I immediately went into the Merchant Navy as a Ship's Engineer. The two jobs could hardly be more different. I eventually returned to the instrument making industry as a Sales Engineer and as I have said, was recruited from there into publishing."

What do you like about your current job?

"The thing I love must about this industry, and particularly my current job, is the opportunity to mix with people who have their feet firmly planted on the ground, i.e. they are involved in growing grass."

What changes have you seen during your time in the industry?

"Industry changes over the last 35 years have been enormous. The first time I visited the IOG Show, which was then called Motspur Park, all sorts of people had different machines, many of their own design and making. In particular I recall Rocky Rochford (Peter Rochford's father) who in those days manufactured his own Turf Cutter. Rocky owned a brown bowler hat which is something I have never seen before or since. I think he used it as his trademark."

What do you like to do in your spare time?

"I have two children and five grandchildren. It is quite fascinating watching grandchildren grow up - you are inclined to take more notice of their development than you did with your own kids. I am also a Lay Reader at our local Church."

Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?

"At my age that is a stupid question."

Who do you consider to be your best friends in the industry?

"This is a wonderful industry to be in. I count it a great privilege that I have enjoyed it for so long and consider all those I have met throughout the years to be colleagues, friends and people who I have been glad to rely on."

What do you consider to be your lucky number?

"I am afraid I do not believe in luck."

David picked no. 56, Rob Donald, Whitehorse Contractors



DEAR READERS...

That's everybody, although this short piece is more specifically for the "maintainers" and "repairers" of turf maintenance equipment.

With thanks to BIGGA, who have kindly offered this magazine as a platform, I would like to inform you of a relatively new association that is free to join with benefits to those involved as Mechanics & Technicians on the equipment we all use daily.

The International Golf Course Equipment Managers Association (IGCEMA) is the brainchild of an Equipment Manager in Florida called Stephen Tucker. Although based in the USA the Association is aimed at technicians and maintainers worldwide.

Founded in September 2006, this association is already effecting changes that will benefit mechanics such as us all over the world. Nine countries are currently represented in the membership, which is growing daily.

There is now a website <u>www.igcema.org</u>, (see picture, right) with background information, aims, ideas, an active forum and where you can join if you would like - Membership is free.

Online education is available to all for no cost and in the near future will be in two languages, English and Spanish (possibly others depending on demand).

The educational offerings, which are the underpinning idea in forming the association, will lead to certification with recognised qualifications that are accepted internationally. Having demonstrably improved knowledge will enable Technicians to improve their position with employers by showing greater worth and justifying increased rewards it is hoped.

You may be aware that there is a severe lack of dedicated college courses available in both the UK and America, specifically for Turf Equipment Technicians. In addition there are the stumbling blocks of time and money for Companies to release personnel and justify the cost of hotels, travel and course fees. Online education can help with all of these, students can access courses in "off duty" time, travelling is not required and the cost will certainly be affordable to all.

I urge you to not only join the association but to pass on this information to others you know by any means that you have; personal contact, email, snail mail, Company Representatives within the industry, or just tell them about it by telephone.

Please visit the website and have a look, you have nothing to lose and if you decide to join us, an awful lot to gain.

Patrick Callaby Board Member

THANK YOU

I would like to take this opportunity to thank David Rae at Fairways GM Ltd and Ransomes Jacobsen very much for the invite to Anaheim for the GCSAA Golf Industry Show.

I was invited on the trip along with five other Course Managers from

the North East of Scotland - Hugh McLatchie from Peterhead Golf Club, John Littlejohn from Fraserburgh Golf Club, John Morton from Alford Golf Club, James Piece from Newburgh Golf Club and Roddie Mess from The Aspire Golf Centre.

Special thanks must also goes to our Fairways representative Wilson Morrison and from Ransomes, Ian Bridges, you looked after us and made sure we were fed and watered at all times and also showed us some of the great American places like hooters (but there lies another story).

Davie Wilson from St Andrews Links also joined us on the trip so a big thank you to him for his company.

It was a long distance to travel but was well worth it in the end, the show was fantastic and the company even better.

Many thanks
Dale Robertson
Course Manager, Newmachar Golf Club



LONDON MARATHON 2007

Dear BIGGA

On Sunday, April 22, we managed to complete the London Marathon (26.2 miles).

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support. We managed to raise around £4,000 for Asthma UK.

Many thanks Andy Reason and Steve Richardson Sunningdale Golf Club

New Products

CORE COLLECTOR

The redesigned CC3000HL Core Collector from Charterhouse Turf Machinery is still the only pedestrian operated machine of its kind in the world. Enabling speedy clear-up of greens to get them back into play after essential aeration work, it now has an integral belt collection system for maximum pick-up efficiency.

www.charterhouseturfmachinery.co.uk

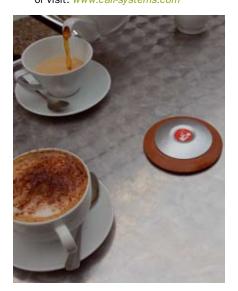


BETTER, FASTER, CHEAPER

Call-Systems Technology has launched EasyCall, an idea in customer paging systems for golf clubs that is simple but effective.

EasyCall encourages clubs to make better use of outside dining and drinking areas, by allowing guests to summon staff by a simple button press. It consists of a self-contained wireless weatherproof button that can be embedded in tables outside and is effectively maintenance-free. When pressed it sends an instant message to the base station in the bar, restaurant or kitchen, alerting the waiter which table requires service.

0800 389 5642 or visit: www.call-systems.com



COMPACT TRACTOR

A new version of Valpadana's hydrostatic drive compact tractor, introduced by distributor Landini UK, has an uprated drive-train and new front linkage/pto options that add to the machine's versatility.

The Valpadana 1430 replaces the 1330 model and comes in two versions -the HST with a conventional forward-facing driving position and as the HST-REV with reversible seat, instruments and controls.

www.landini.com



DIESEL POWER

Bobcat has launched a restyled version of the 2200D multi-purpose, four-wheel drive utility vehicle. Changes in the latest version of the two-passenger 2200D include a new rugged front-end design, brush guard and new tyres. These changes enhance the ability of the 2200D to tackle a wide range of terrains for applications as diverse as working on farms and country estates to gaining access across construction and landscaping sites.

www.bobcat.com



TURF CUTTER

Northern Ireland based Groundsman Industries, have just launched a new Turf Cutter which has been designed specifically for the landscaping and hire industry.

The Groundsman TCSRB Turf Cutter is from the same stable as the TCDRB rear blade four wheel drive Turf Multi Cutter launched by Groundsman Industries two years ago.

www.groundsmanindustries.com



ELECTRO-HYDRAULIC CONTROLS

Programmable electro-hydraulic controls are now available as an option on the ProPass 180 low impact top dresser and the MH-400 materials handler from Turfmech Machinery.

Offered in place of the standard hydraulic control levers, the new electro-hydraulic (EH) system is designed to enhance the ease, speed and convenience of using the two machines.

www.turfmech.co.uk



GOLFING CHALLENGE

The online game www.puttitaway.co.uk created by the Government's smart business agency Envirowise, invites you to try out your golfing skills on an 11-hole course while flagging up tips on making your business leaner and greener.

And if you feel the need for real competition, you can pit yourself against other UK regions and compete to see who's the 'greenest' on

www.puttitaway.co.uk



BACKPACK BLOWER

Echo have launched a new, tough, back-pack blower aimed at commercial users, for heavy applications. The new PB-755 is powered by a two-stroke engine and features an integrated anti-vibration design.



www.echo-tools.co.uk

PORTABLE COMPRESSOR ENHANCED

Ingersoll Rand has launched an enhanced version of the small 7/20E portable compressor. It is aimed at a wide range of applications in plant hire, construction and general industry - including standard pressure applications such as powering breakers and tools in road repair, demolition and refurbishment.

www.ingersollrand.com



REVOLUNTIONARY ROOTZONE SYSTEM

WBB Minerals and Scotts have launched a brand new rootzone system called TurfStart which claims it will allow golf and football clubs to establish a much healthier playing surface in a far shorter space of time.

The system differs from conventional rootzone materials in that it is pre-blended with Scotts latest controlled release fertiliser technology and, under a patented process, mixed with a quantity of lignite from WBB's reserves in Devon.

www.wbbminerals.net

Below: Mick Higgins of WBB Minerals (right) and Stuart Staples of Scotts, demonstrate the difference between grass seed grown in TurfStart (right) and seed grown in a conventional rootzone material - over a three month period.





News from the Chief Executive

I was saddened to learn of the sudden death of Don Hunt who was an Associate member and a staunch supporter of BIGGA in the Devon and Cornwall Section. I had the privilege of knowing Don for a number of years and his enthusiasm and gentlemanly nature will be a sad loss. Our condolences go to his wife and family.

My condolences also go to the families of Peter Richmond and Matthew Folka both of whom died recently.

There seems to be much rumour and speculation regarding BIGGA's talks with the IOG regarding a possible merger. The two organisations put out a joint Press Release to the media following a recent meeting of representatives from both Boards of Management.

This was also reproduced in full on our own website within the 'News' section of the Members' area. Talks to date have centred round identifying prime aims and key issues, how discussions and a review will operate and how and when consultation with members will take place. As I have stated in earlier writings the talks are merely at an investigative stage and members will be consulted when there is something to be consulted about. I am in danger of repeating myself however it is important that members of both organisations understand that the membership will ALWAYS have the final say and that no agreement will be entered into unless the majority of members are in favour. It is inevitable that there will be mixed opinion and I would ask that everyone reserves judgement until the outcome of talks are communicated. The BIGGA Board of Management will be looking at the consultation process at their next meeting in June, coupled with this serious thought needs to be given to the voting process to ensure that all members have the chance to decide upon the Association's future. I am assured by Geoff Webb, IOG's Chief Executive, that the views expressed by the editor of The Groundsman, Trevor Ledger, in his column of the May issue are not the views of the IOG. The steering group that has been appointed by the Boards of BIGGA and the IOG is due to meet again in early July following which I will post a report on our web site as well as an update in the August edition of Greenkeeper

By the time that you read this two major tournaments will have taken place, the Welsh Open at the Celtic Manor and the BMW/PGA Tournament at Wentworth. I hope that the weather was kind to both sets of organisers and that Jim McKenzie and Chris Kennedy and their teams had a successful event.

John Pemberton



SCOTLAND - AYRSHIRE



Hello all! Hope you're all in good health and have started the season on the front foot. That unseasonably warm and dry weather in April gave us an early wake up call at Turnberry as we rushed out the hoses to our newly turfed areas. All major construction work in preparation for The Open in 2009 has been completed. This included (over the past two winters) 12 Championship tees, 21 fairway bunkers, the complete lifting, shifting, landscaping and re-laying of the 16th fairway alongside other nips and tucks here and there. Added length, hole re-shaping and strategic bunker placements were a must if the Ailsa course was to test the best in the game and I have no doubt that this will be the case, and it could get really ugly if the wind blows!

Lochgreen was the venue for the Spring Outing on Wednesday, April 25. Weather on the day was good with a stiff breeze proving a test over the opening six holes.

Our thanks to my pal Billy Fletcher and South Ayrshire Council for allowing us the times and use of the facilities and it was well commented on how fairly the course played, but I know that as Lochgreen is where I have played most of my golf over the past few years. Some had the cheek to say this was a major factor in the results! Our gratitude also to the chef's and friendly waitresses who provided excellent food and lovely beer.

The results were as follows: 1.1 D. Tweddell (Get In!), 37pts; 2.1. MacDonald (Unlucky!), 36pts; 2.3 G. Morrison (Lucky!), 36pts; 2.4 R. Macbeth (Alas!), 34pts. 2.1 M. Lothian (No comment!), 38pts; 2.2 R. Bunting (Robbed!), 38pts; 2.3 D. Jeffrey (Tough school!), 34pts; 2.4 G. Ross (Ya dancer!), 34pts. Trade Prize – D. Duthie (As usual!)

There were 45 members in attendance which is a great turnout. Thanks largely to a good number travelling from the Dumfries area and coming over from Arran - Thanks lads for helping to make it such an enjoyable day.

The Dundonald GC and Barrassie GC are hosting the BIGGA National Championship on October 8 and 9, so hopefully we can get some numbers in the competition and take some of the silverware. Our rematch against the Northern Irish lads has been scheduled for Friday, October 5. If there are any of you who played in last year's massacre who are unable to go over, good! I mean can you please let me know. Likewise if there are any brave souls interested in coming aboard please get in touch. More details will appear soon.

I can be reached at: denis.t@hotmail.co.uk or: 07939 104701

Denis Tweddell



SCOTLAND - EAST

I start this month's report with a plea to all East Section members to attend the Scottish National Tournament at Berwick Golf Club, on Thursday, June 21. With the event on your doorstep this year, the usual excuse