

(single-row)

- Gear-driven sprinklers of varying ages up to 20 years old
- Old pumping plant, recently upgraded with retro-fitted variable speed drive units

Irriplan's technical brief from the club was to:

- Stop leakages from the ageing PVC pipe network
- Reduce the run time of the system. Over the years, the extent of the sprinkler system has outgrown the original mains pipe network
- Improve sprinkler coverage and water use efficiency
- Eliminate overthrow of the single-row fairway system into the rough
- Increase system capacity to be able to extend irrigation to all fairways in the future

Given the age, condition and capacity of the existing PVC pipe network, replacing this element of the irrigation system was indisputable. The existing sprinkler system was ageing, susceptible to wind and not very efficient - especially the single-row fairway system. The solution to this was to replace the system with modern sprinklers with low-angle, wind-tolerant nozzles.

On the fairways Irriplan proposed the replacement of the single-row system for a double-row of part-circle sprinklers on the edge of the fairway, thus avoiding overthrow into the rough and optimising the consumption of water.

A new pipe network and sprinkler system was what the club wanted and needed, but having recently purchased a new PC controller, new cable network and new decoders, the possibility of re-utilising these elements was given consideration. The disadvantages to keeping the control system were summarised:

- The manufacturer had just announced that the model and type of control system was discontinued and its replacement was not compatible with the existing decoders or solenoids
- The capacity of the system (interfaces and cables) was insufficient to support the extension of the system to all the fairways in the future
- Any contractor would view trying to preserve the existing cable network, whilst installing a new pipe network and then trying to marry them up, as complicated and fraught with risks and would price the contract commensurately
- No contractor would accept responsibility for the existing control system components, which were out of warranty
- The savings in cost were minimal compared to the cost of the entire project

Given that capital expenditure in irrigation is a long-term investment, it was decided to replace the control system and start afresh. However there are some elements that have been retained and these are facets that are easily replaced in the future and do not compromise future selection of equipment. Some of the existing fairway sprinklers are being connected to the new pipe network and new control system, with a view that they can be replaced in the future. The pumping plant also remains, pending the outcome of a feasibility study into the construction of a winter storage reservoir.

So when considering upgrading or replacing your irrigation system, it's as well to remember two aphorisms, clichéd though they are; an irrigation system should be "greater than the sum of its parts" and a "chain is only as strong as the weakest link".

Giles Wardle is a Director of Irriplan, one of Europe's leading consulting engineers in golf irrigation and water resources.

www.irriplan.net

info@irriplan.net +44 (0) 1332 865 738



WORKING AT HEIGHT

BIGGA'S Health & Safety series produced by Xact



Falls from height cause over 40 deaths and 3,000 major injuries per year in the workplace. This incident is recognised as the major cause of death and one of the main causes of major injury at work.

A place is defined as being at height if a person could be injured falling from it. It is commonly thought working over a specific height (2m) requires precautions in place to prevent injury. However, as the above definition from the Work at Height Legislation illustrates, falls from any height are covered even if this is at or below ground level. Examples of typical activities which could come under the legislation would be: Working from a vehicle or trailer; Tree pruning off the ground; Maintenance work involving ladders or steps; Work in pits and silos.

Employers who control the work of others have a duty to ensure:

- Persons expected to work at height are trained to safely do so - don't suffer any condition that may affect their ability to work safely when at height
- Equipment used for is maintained and inspected by a competent person
- Work is planned, organised and risk assessed prior to work starting
- The location is safe e.g. protected from moving traffic
- The work takes into account ongoing weather conditions that may endanger workers safety
- Fragile roof surfaces/roof lights are suitably protected to prevent falls
- The risks of others being injured by falling objects is recognised and controlled

Most people working at height use a ladder/steps. While nobody is suggesting under the Work at Height Legislation that ladders/steps are banned, their use now needs to be justified to ensure they are the most suitable means of access compared to other equipment options by means of a risk assessment. Ladders/steps should only be used for working at height where:

- Work is of short duration (max 30mins)
- Work is of a light nature, they are not suitable for heavy work involving lifting of heavy loads
- A suitable handhold is available along with maintaining three points of contact when on the ladder
- Operators are not required to overreach i.e. the person's centre of gravity (belt buckle) should always be kept within the stiles (uprights) of the ladder
- Side-loading is not involved – it should be avoided as the ladder may over-tip. Where possible always face the job in hand. Where this is not possible additional stability devices will be required
- Correct angle of 75o can be maintained i.e. 1 unit out for every 4 up
- Regular inspections are carried out to ensure they are safe to use
- Correct class of steps/ladder is employed. Domestic type ladders are not suitable for use in commercial workplaces.

More information can be had from INDG 401 and INDG402 on the HSE website www.hse.gov

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- **Design without complicated calculations.** One cable can have up to 800 stations and be up to 4.5 km long.
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- **Reduce maintenance and downtime.** Reduce troubleshooting time; activate 50 stations simultaneously.
- **Count on the Toro NSN Support Network.** The first dedicated support network in the irrigation industry.

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TORO STUDENT OF THE YEAR

I recently participated in the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Competition 2007. This was a fantastic experience and opportunity that also allowed me to meet seven great finalists from throughout the UK.

I would like to thank the BIGGA staff and the judges for their warm welcome. The accommodation and facilities were excellent. This is an amazing competition and would not be available for students without support from Toro, Ken Richardson and Sami Collins. This was the 19th Student of the Year Competition and Ken's last, so now he can finally enjoy his retirement (welcome on board Rachael).

It was fun to go out in Harrogate after the presentation, this then allowed everyone to enjoy the experience and relax after the two days hard work. The meal and drinks were a delight. The bowling was interesting as well, but I think the BIGGA staff and Billy McMillan had been practicing!

BIGGA is a fantastic organisation and this is shown by the achievements from its staff and members. With the support from my family, work colleagues, members from Abbeydale, Steve Prinn (Askham Bryan College), Gordon Brannah (Sheffield Section) and my Head Greenkeeper, Warwick Manning, it made this all worth while...Thank you and congratulations to Avon Bridges.

*Lewis Birch
Abbeydale GC*

STUDENT OF THE YEAR

I am writing to express my many thanks to the Learning and Development Department and all BIGGA staff involved with the recent 2007 Toro Student of the Year competition.

I felt privileged to be chosen as one of the eight finalists and to be selected as one of the runners up was fantastic. Everyone I met was very helpful and made the entire weekend very enjoyable.

I found it exciting and feel I have gained valuable experience throughout all the stages of the Award. I have also met some very interesting people and made some very useful contacts.

I look forward to seeing some of you again during Harrogate Week. Thank you once again.

*Simon Lambert
1st Assistant Greenkeeper
Seaford Head Golf Course*

DIL BARNARD

It is with regret, that we report of passing of Dilwyn Barnard, Salesman at Grasshopper Ltd, Toro Dealer in Essex.

Dil passed away on Saturday, September 22, after a brave, two-year battle with Cancer.



Dil was 59 and had worked at Grasshopper from 1989, having previously worked for Hensmans Agricultural dealers in Ingatestone, Essex, as a fitter. After which he joined Chelmsford Plant Hire as a Fitter, and Trainee Salesman.

He enjoyed Sailing from Bradwell Marina when he was younger, and in the latter years enjoyed travelling with his wife, Maureen, and the Scilly Isles were a favourite.

Dil leaves his Wife, Maureen, son Neill, Daughter Sally, and four Grandchildren.

He will be sorely missed by family, friends and colleague's alike, for his legendary humour and ability to make everyone he met feel instantly at ease.

*Arnold Phipps-Jones
Essex Section*

New Products



NEW PRODUCTS

FAST REMOVAL OF WATER

Sisis Equipment (Macclesfield) Ltd recently announced that it is now exclusive distributor for the UK and Ireland for the BunkerBlaster. The BunkerBlaster is designed to quickly and efficiently remove water from flooded bunkers and water saturated playing areas on golf courses. The discharge nozzle allows the operator to direct the unwanted water to the nearest drainage area.

i www.sisis.com



LETHAL WEAPON

Headland has launched Surpass, their new, broad spectrum, contact fungicide based on iprodione.

Surpass gives both curative and preventative control of common turf diseases including Fusarium Patch, Dollar Spot and Red Thread.

i 01223 597834
or visit: www.headlandamenity.com



ICE AND SNOW CONTROL

Broadwood International has launched the SnowEx SP-1575, a tailgate mounted de-icing spreader unit for use with a range of vehicles including 4x4 and tractors. Lightweight for easy installation and removal, the SnowEx SP-1575 can accommodate up to 160 litres of road sand, grit or salt.

i 01794 388881
or visit: www.snowexeurope.com



AUTOMATED BALL COLLECTOR

A fully-automated ball collector, suitable for use on golf ranges and practice grounds all year round, has been launched by Turfmech Machinery Ltd.

Known as the RangeRunner, the unmanned, self-propelled machine combines global positioning satellite (GPS) technology with a programmable routing system to enable golf ranges to automate what is accepted as the most hazardous and time-consuming job on the range, namely, the collection and retrieval of golf balls.

i 01889 271503
or visit: www.turfmech.co.uk



PETROL STORAGE

The new Maxi 2000 Petrol Station from Ideals UK Ltd joins the Midi 1000 unit, launched just over a year ago.

The Midi 1000 was designed to meet the demand from Golf Clubs for a safe, purpose designed, above ground Petrol Storage Station, to receive tanker delivered fuel. The 1000 unit has been so successful in its first year that Ideals UK developed the Maxi 2000 to meet the needs of larger users of Petrol.

i 01530834384
or visit: www.idealsuk.com



LONGER-LASTING GRINDSTONES

Bernhard and Company recently launched SuperBlue genuine grindstones, designed and developed to last up to three times longer than conventional grindstones.

Highly durable, these stones come into their own when grinding the more demanding new generation of harder steel blades.

SuperBlue is now available for the Bernhard range of grinders Anglemaster, Chippermaster and Rotamaster.

i 01788 811600
or visit: www.bernhard.co.uk



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Golf Plus has launched the latest version of their established SureShotGps course measuring device.

i 01494 795110
or visit: www.golf-plus.co.uk



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Lankhorst has launched Ecogrid — a sub-surface, ground-reinforcement product that does not need maintenance. Ecogrid is ideal for soft ground. KLP® Ecogrid is durable, flexible and has a high load bearing capacity.

i www.lankhorst.co.uk



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New from Muck Truck is a Truck Mounted Crane for use by small builders and landscapers. The unit has a lifting frame with tines that fits into a pallet of bricks weighing up to 200 kils and can swivel the load through 360 degrees.

i 0845 838 5480
or visit: www.mucktruck.com



TRACTOR MOUNTED AERATORS

The new ProCore 864 and 1298 are the latest additions to Toro's innovative range of aeration machinery. In developing the new tractor-mounted units, which replace the old 600 and 880 models, Toro has combined proven coring head technology from the acclaimed ProCore 648 pedestrian greens aerator with an improved platform.

i www.toro.com



NEW QUAD RANGE

Adly Moto is produced by Herchee Industrial and for the first time Herchee ATV's are now available under the factoryu brand name Adly.

The new quad range offers a variety of high specification, high performance, 300cc sport and utility Quadricycles.

i 0845 3890609
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i 01473 328272
or visit : www.sch-supplies.uk.com





News from the Chief Executive

The BIGGA/IOG group set up to investigate the potential benefit of a merger held its latest review meeting at BIGGA House. Both BIGGA and the IOG confirmed their desire to continue with talks however, BIGGA representatives firmly stated their concern at not having made more progress. After an open and frank discussion a very progressive task list was agreed with some extremely tight deadlines. The intention is to have a report out to members by January 31, 2008, for consideration. I stress nothing can be agreed regarding a merger without the approval of membership.

Another meeting has been arranged for November when the two Chief Executive's must present to the Group the following reports: The benefit of a merger to their respective members: The benefit of a merger to the respective businesses: A proposed membership structure with associated subscription rates: A study on exhibitions and publications. These will be key documents that will give a clear indication of the value of further negotiations.

The Amenity Forum's recent meeting was attended by our representative, Ken Siems. The meeting was very constructive, detailing the extensive work undertaken by the Amenity Forum in lobbying the European Parliament regarding the proposed pesticide ban.

The National Championship was a great success, our thanks go to Dundonald and Kilmarnock (Barrassie) Golf Clubs for hosting the competition. Both clubs made the Association very welcome. I would like to thank Kubota for their sponsorship and the members who supported the event by entering. Congratulations to David Simpson and Elliott Small, the respective winners of the Challenge Trophy and the Challenge Cup.

I recently attended a meeting of the Children in Golf Strategy Group – A partnership of the governing bodies and organisation's in golf throughout Great Britain and Ireland. They have committed to work together to ensure golf is an environment within which children/young people can participate in safely. A possible change in the law could see the golf club being registered as a business within which all employees will need to have a Criminal Records Bureau check. There is an increasing concern in society over the welfare of children and more and more those persons likely to have contact with them are being vetted. Whether we shall be invited to become a permanent partner will be decided at their next meeting. I hope this is the case. For more information go to: www.childrengolf.org

One of our greatest challenges is getting information to the golfer so we can create a better understanding of the role of the greenkeeper and the level of education, training and professionalism required to do the job. Scott MacCallum and I recently met with Mike Harris, Editor of Golf Monthly. We are in the process of putting together some suggestions for features in their publication, both on greenkeeping and the environment, linking in our own Environment Competition.

Please take time to study the education programme for Harrogate Week that members should have received. Details are also available through the BIGGA website. Book early to avoid disappointment!

John Pemberton



SCOTTISH - EAST

After the long wet summer, what a welcome relief to have a good September, with conditions ideal for renovation works.

The Autumn Outing was held this year at Ratho Park GC on Tuesday, September 19, with 24 in attendance. Weather conditions were ideal and as a result the golf scores were good. Our thanks go to Ratho Park for granting us courtesy of the course, the catering staff for keeping everybody well fed and watered and last but certainly not least to Tom, Billy and the team for presenting the course in excellent condition.

The golf results are as follows: Best Scratch – S. Cunningham 75; 1.1 T Murray, 75-7-68; 1.2 C. McArthur, 76-6-70; 2.1 R. Murdoch, 85-12-73; 2.2 C. Yeaman, 86-12-74; 3.1 S. Dixon, 92-19-73; 3.2 B. Hudson, 101-24-77; Best Nett - T. Murray 75-7-68; Veteran - A. Holmes, 77-3-74; Trade Prize - H Fraser (Huxleys), 69-3-66; Longest Drive - C. McArthur; Nearest the Pin at 15th - G. White. Finally the committee have asked me to personally thank all the Trade members for their continued support, it is very much appreciated.

I had a meeting this week with a real blast from the past, Donald Menzies, the former Head Greenkeeper at both Mortonhall and Peebles. He has spent the past summer working as manager on a farm near Malaga, which is one of the largest growers of Bermuda Grass in Europe. Now returned to the UK he is based in Edinburgh and is running his own landscape business.

The hot news this month is that Bill Lyon, the brother of Jim at Lanark is the new Course Manager at Murrayfield. He commences his duties in January. Continuing on the job scene, our congratulations go to Kevin Shiels on his appointment as Head Greenkeeper at Torphin Hills. He started his career at Lothianburn before joining the greens staff at Baberton in 1990. He has worked at Torphin Hills for the past two years as Deputy Head.

Mike Dooner



NORTH

The Autumn Outing was held at Fortrose in late September. The weather was windy but quite normal for this part of the world. A good day was had by all and thanks must go to Fortrose & Rosemarkie GC for their kind hospitality on the day. The course was in excellent condition throughout with firm fast greens that were hard to hit but a joy to putt on. Well done to Kevin Fowler and his staff for all their efforts on the day. There was a good turnout of 51 members on the day, which made it very enjoyable. Hopefully we can maintain at least this level of numbers for the outings next year and beyond.

Results - Longest Drive: Class 2 - James Hutchison, Castle Stuart GC; Class 1 - Neil Sadler, Portlethen GC; Nearest the Pin: Muir Ross, Ballindalloch GC. Sweep: 4th- Kevin Fowler, Fortrose GC; 3rd - Ben Brookes, Murcar GC; 2nd - Robert Patterson, Royal Aberdeen GC; 1st - Mike Keay Tarbat GC. Guest Winner: Neil Cameron, Castle Stuart GC.

Around the Green

Trade Winner: Raymond Warrender, Alpha Plus. Committee Winner: Robert Patterson, Royal Aberdeen GC. Veterans Trophy: 2nd Brian Cocker- Alyth GC; 1st George Simpson, Oldmeldrum GC. Class 3 Nett: 3rd - Hugh McClatchie, Peterhead GC; 2nd - Dale Robertson, Newmachar GC; 1st - David Duggan, Fortrose GC. Class 2 Nett: 3rd - Sharp, Peterculter GC; 2nd - Ben Brookes, Murcar GC; 1st - Mike Keay, Tarbat GC. Class 1 Nett: 3rd - Jocky Urquhart, Rothes GC; 2nd - Steve Sullivan, Craigie Hill GC; 1st - Kevin Fowler, Fortrose GC. Scratch: 2nd - Barry Cruickshank, Garmouth GC; 1st - Robert Patterson, Royal Aberdeen GC.

John Littlejohn has left Fraserburgh GC to take up a position at the new complex for Northern Marts at Maverston Urquhart near Elgin. This is a 27 hole complex that has been built so good luck to you John in your new venture. Nothing more from me this month.

Robert Patterson



WEST

A warm welcome to this month's report it's nice to see some decent weather after our disappointing summer, and just looking forward to picking up leaves.

This year's autumn outing was held at the Vale of Leven GC. It's a very important year as the club is now 100 years old. On the day I played with Davie McBride, the Course Manager and the Vice Captain, Drew, we had a fantastic day until the water was running into my shoes on the 12th hole and we decided to abandon ship back to the clubhouse for a few beers and some much needed food.

The course was in first class condition and I would like to congratulate Davie and his team for their hard work in presenting the course, also to the catering which was first class and not forgetting the bar staff for keeping us going in refreshments throughout the day.

I would like to thank the club for courtesy of their fine course and wish them all the best for the remainder of their centenary year. The scores on the day were: Scratch - Gerry Bruen, Williamwood. 1.1 Brian Hillan, Drumpellier; 1.2 John Brown, Bearsden; 1.3 Charlie Goodall, Balmore. 2.1 Alan Dykes, Balmore, 2.2 Barry McCulloch Whitecraigs, 2.3 Gary Burns Lenzie. 3.1 Jamie Keith, Cowglen, 3.2 Brian Logue, Vale of Leven, 3.3 Richard Cuthbert, Cowglen. And this year's Daval Trophy went to Brain Hillan, Drumpellier with a two round score of 71 points, well done to all the prize winners, many thanks to our patrons for their continued support of our outing.

This years annual night out will be held at Jongleurs Comedy Club the site of the old Apollo on Friday, November 23, tickets are on sale from anyone on the committee priced at £22 please be quick in buying tickets as it's a very popular venue.

As we head into the autumn/winter one of our colleagues will be heading to the surf and sun for six months. Derek McCallum, Deputy Head at Helensburgh GC, has secured a position at a prestigious golf club in Sydney, Terreyhills Golf and Country Club, have a look on the

website for some fantastic views of the course the West Section would like to wish you all the best, watch out for the red backs and always take a golf club when looking for your ball in the semi rough to bash any passing snakes

Our Education Convenor, Stuart Taylor, will be organising training days at Killermont GC November 6, Manual Handling half day course, November 13, Fire Extinguisher Course. Cost of courses £45-50.

Fraser Ross. karen.ross @teco.net, 07970366355



NORTHERN - NORTH EAST

On Thursday, September 20, Greenlay Co Ltd of Choppington held their Open Day for their new premises. They were very pleased with the amount of interest shown in the day by all the local greenkeepers and would like to thank them for making the effort to attend at this busy time of year. To get an attendance in excess of 100 people was tremendous. As well as all the John Deere equipment on display they had five representatives from John Deere including David Hart (Head of the C and CE division.) Food was a hog roast van and the sandwiches went down well, some who went back for seconds will remain nameless.

Recently two greenkeepers from our Section have had accidents one at work been Steven Richardson, of Tyneside GC, and Russ Black, of Westerhope GC, his been at home we hope they make quick recoveries.

New members to join the Section are all from the same club being Gosforth GC, they are J.Lee, J.Saunders and C.Walker. Some greenstaff from Slaley Hall are also showing interest in joining the Section - Come on lads get signed up - there are lots of benefits for you all.

On October 4 we had our Autumn Comp at Ravensworth GC. It's been a long time since we played there and by all accounts the greenkeepers who played were very praiseworthy of the excellent condition of the course, thanks would go to Stuart Morrison and his staff - Well done lads, thought we might have seen you playing but I believe you had a meeting with the local police regarding the continuous vandalism you have to put up with, maybe next time. The leading scores were as following: Best Gross - J.Gibson, Northumberland GC, 70 gross + Salver; Best Nett - M.Harvey, Wearside GC, 94-24= 70 Ransome Cup; Best Nett - A.Harrison, Garesfield GC, 89-10= 79 Greenlay Cup Handicap from scratch - 12; Best Nett - K.Dinsdale, Northumberland GC, 92-20=72 Fewsters Shield Handicap from 13- 28.

Well done lads keep them trophies nice and clean, good to see Alan Harrison returning to Section events and thanks to all the other members for turning up hope you had a good day, perhaps I will see some of you at Harrogate next January.

I would like to thank the following sponsors for their prizes which I must say were excellent they are: Turf Services Ltd, Rigby Taylor, Tacit, Greenlay, Shorts of Whitbur and, Aitkens.

Jimmy Richardson

Around the Green

NORTH WEST



The Autumn Tournament took place on Tuesday, October 2. A sunny day greeted us all and I can honestly say that the journey up was well worth the effort although Phil Dewhurst did most of the driving, thanks Phil.

Silloth was magnificent, a pleasure to play. Brian Storey and his lads had the course in great condition and the hospitality was fantastic, many thanks to the Captain and his Committee at Silloth and to everyone involved in making it such a success. On to the winners, Best Gross - Brian Storey. Best Nett - Grant Dougherty. Aggregate Cup - Peter Hogan. Vets Prize - Peter Hogan. Guest Prize - Peter Boyd. The Nearest the Pin and Longest Drive was once again sponsored by Bathgates and was won respectively by Grant Dougherty and Brian Storey well done to you all.

The next fixture is the President's Cup and AGM at Wilmslow GC on Thursday, December 6. Please get your names down early as this is a very popular event. If you wish to play send a cheque payable to BIGGA North West Section for £20 to Bill Merritt, The Lodge, Beacon Park Golf Club, Beacon Lane, Dalton, Wigan, WN8 7RU. Tel: 07985175825. And don't forget to bring a bottle of alcohol or prize to the value of £5 so everyone on the day goes home with something nice. Just to finish harrogate is just around the corner so make sure if you are staying to

book early as the hotels get full very quickly. If you have any news please contact Bert Cross on: 0151 7245412 or myself on: 0151 2894625 my email is: jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk

Chris Sheehan



NORTH WALES

The Section would like to apologise for the lack of notes over the past few months, this has been down to a technical hitch, namely human resources or a lack of human resources.

We have had a few of changes on the committee over this year, Wendy O'Brien took a career move earlier this year and went over to work in Spain at one of the Polaris World resorts where the grass cutting motto is...maybe tomorrow better today. Also congratulations to Darren Anderson on his Master Greenkeeper award, he will also come off the committee due to work commitments, both Darren and Wendy were an active part of the Section team and we would like to thank them both individually for their efforts over the past years.

Our Autumn Golf Tournament was held at Lymm GC and we had another impressive turnout of just under 60 members, guests and trade playing – The course was presented in a fine condition for this part of the year and our thanks go to Lymm GC, Stuart Yarwood, Course Manager, along with his greenkeeping staff and also to the caterers for the excellent food afterwards.

The AGM that was due to take place at Lymm GC was postponed until the Christmas competition being held at Harlech – (Royal St David's GC) on December 5, We would like to see as many members attend this meeting as we possibly can and will be looking for two or three new committee members along with asking for courses to be put forward to host our 4 tournaments in the 2008 season and we are still looking for a venue for our spring seminar, does any one have any suggestions for such a place? It would be nice to see some new faces on the committee with new idea's to keep us progressing forward in an ever-changing environment.

Any questions with regard to your committee/your BIGGA Section + events/courses etc, should be directed to Jeremy Hughes at The Vale of Llangollen GC, Tel: 07876 776265 or Email: jezpro62@aol.com

Mesen Cymru

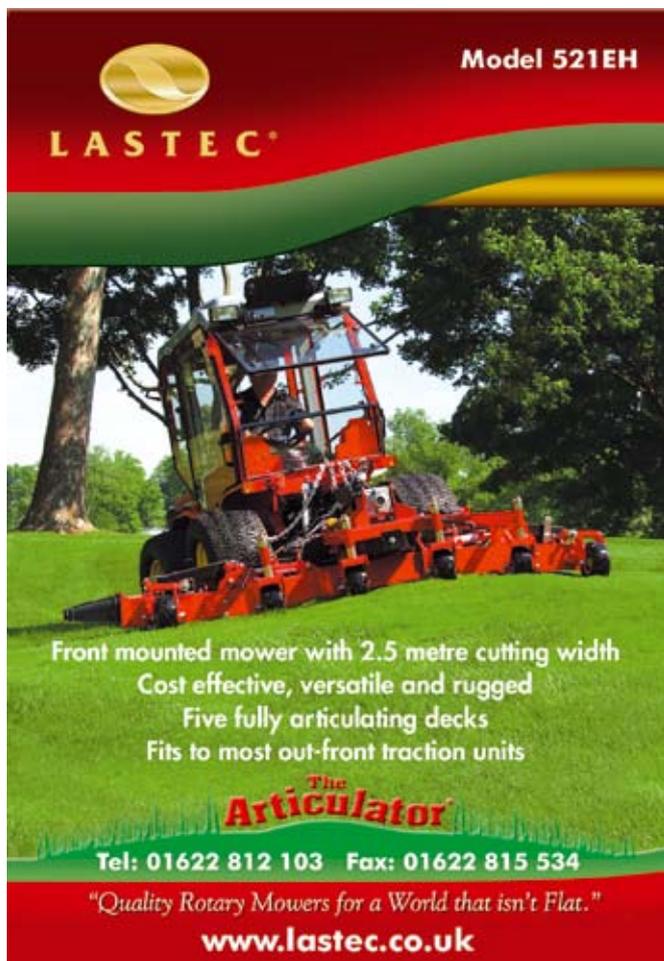
Andrew Acorn Andrew@acorngolf.com



NORTHERN

I must begin this month by apologising to you all for the lack of notes in the last couple of issues, I promise to keep on top of them in the future.

In the last couple of months the Section has held numerous events,



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including an excellent seminar at Moortown GC. A huge thank you to Mike Brear and Rigby Taylor for their sponsorship and assistance in organising the day, and also thanks to Henry Bechelet, Megan Hood and Richard Windows, all from the STRI, for their superb speeches and discussions. During the day at Moortown a presentation was made to Head Greenkeeper, Bill Fox, for his upcoming retirement and his services to greenkeeping. We wish Bill all the best in his retirement and hope to see him again at future Section events.

On the golf side of things, both Invitation Day and the Autumn Tournament have taken place. Firstly, Invitation Day was held at Howley Hall on a somewhat wet and overcast day, and with Head Man, Mike Bussey having a bad sense of humour with his hole positioning, scoring on the day was very tough going.

The Autumn Tournament was this year held at Fulford GC, and again with a combination of a very tough course and difficult weather conditions, the scoring was kept low.

Congratulations to all the winners in both competitions, we hope the same amount of players can be seen next year. Further thanks to our sponsors Rigby Taylor, for Invitation Day, and Scotts for the Autumn Tournament. Also thanks to the staff of both clubs for producing two fantastic courses.

At last I can bring you the date for 2007's Christmas Golf and AGM. It is being held at Crossland Heath GC, Huddersfield, on Thursday, December 6. Can anybody who is interested in playing please get in touch as soon as possible, and I must ask that all people attending pay by cheque before the day. If you have difficulties with paying by cheque then please get in touch and we can sort alternative arrangements out.

Before I leave you for another month, a huge congratulations goes to Tony "Bones" Gerrard, who I believe has just got engaged. Best wishes to Tony and partner from all at Northern Section.

Adam Speight 07739 319060



SHEFFIELD

Finally we have some Section news!

On September 6, we held a seminar at Rotherham GC, who I would like to thank for their continuous support of the Sheffield Section by providing their facilities for us to use at no expense to the Section! The seminar was sponsored by Mike Brear and Rigby Taylor who I would also like to thank for their continuous support of the Section! The seminar was on The Disturbance Theory and was given by Henry Bechelet, Richard Windows and Megan Hood, from the STRI; it was a very informative seminar which I think was enjoyed by all of the 50 plus people who attended which once again made it a very well supported event. I would like to thank Henry, Richard and Megan for giving us this interesting lecture.

On September 17, we held our Autumn competition at Brough GC who I would like to thank for giving us the courtesy of their course. The course

was in great condition and our thanks go to Derek Neve and his staff well done Derek! Thanks also go to our sponsor of the day who was Glen Sawyer from Golf and Turf Machinery, thanks for your continued support of the Section. Thank you also to the catering staff for providing an excellent meal. There were 15 greenkeepers who played and the eventual winner was Les Varndel with 32pts, well played Les! The results were as follows: 1st L Varndel, 32pts; 2nd R Jones, 30pts bb9; 3rd P Neve, 30pts; 4th S Redmond, 28pts bb9; 5th R Needham 28pts. The guest prize was won by C Martin with 29pts.

On September 24, the SUGC held their annual greenkeepers competition at Sandhills GC and the results were as follows: 1st Hickleton GC (R Needham); 2nd Chesterfield GC (A Bunting); 3rd Wheatley GC (P Docherty); 4th Grange Park GC (S Pickering); 5th Wortley GC (S Davies).

Our next golf will be at Worksop GC for our Christmas competition and AGM on December 3, so hopefully as many of you can turn up if it is possible for you.

Finally just about the Wembley trip, it has been postponed for the time being due to logistical reasons but hopefully this will happen at some point next year!

John Lax



MIDLANDS - MIDLAND

As some of you may be aware I recently left Sandwell Park to peruse a career in angling. However, after two months I began to miss greenkeeping and have been fortunate to be offered employ at The Wrekin. What a beautiful place to earn one's corn. As the old doctrine professes, "a change is as good as a rest!"

Well I must have been fished-out by the time of our annual angling match, I came last. The winner on the day was Allen Shore, Harborne, and second being Steve Yates, Little Aston - Steve any chance of holding next year's at Little Aston's pool? Our thanks to Mr.Perks for his kind and welcoming use of such great fishing. Also gratitude to N.Tyler/Alpha Amenity for sponsorship of the day.

Our Autumn event was held at Walsall GC and we were blessed with great weather. The course was as always beautiful. Our thanks to D.Coutts (C.M.) and his fine team for there great efforts. Also our thanks to Mr.R.Smith (Captain) for his informative sermon and welcoming manner. The results of the day: Best Gross - A.Jones. Nett: 1. K.Swan. 2. G.Turner. 3. A.Jones. 4. E.Stant. 5. J.Ganley. 6. R.Beacham. 7. M.Hughes. Our thanks to Campeys Turf Care for sponsorship of the fine main prize table. N.T.P.& L.D. was won by K.Swan(on Count-back) and P.Woodham respectively as sponsored by N.Tyler/Alpa Amenity. Thanks also to R.Page/Turners for refreshment around the course. Best Trade: T.Cheese.

The final of the Scotts Doubles was held at Wentworth and won by E. Stant and P. Woodham. The runners-up being R. Thomas and A. Jones. Our thanks to Scotts for sponsoring this long running event. What a great competition, £2.50 per head. playing great courses around the

Around the Green

Midlands then the joy of Wentworth, free! Get your partner ready/sorted for next year. I know mine has such a sentiment.

The Christmas event is to be played at Whittington Heath on 6/12/07 with full breakfast on arrival. Partner draw 9am Tee off 10am. Traditionally we have run a bring a prize and receive a prize format, this is to continue this year. Please bring prizes wrapped and to the value of over £7.00. There of course shall be a main prize table as sponsored by Tacit. Get your entries to Gary A.S.A.P.

We have again joined forces with New Grange Training to run the IOSH Managing Safely course. This comprehensive four day course provides managers from any type of organisation/industry with a basic introductory grounding in health and safety at work. It concentrates on training delegates to apply sound management principles to health and safety, and is divided into eight different modules. Bigga members are offered a specially reduced fee. Booking and enquiries should be made direct with New Grange on 01562 632143. Course Duration: 4 Full Days 9.30am-4.30pm. Venue: Gay Hill Golf Club. Cost: £420 + IOSH Delegate Registration of £35 per person (exc VAT) Includes IOSH Managing Safely Course Manual, IOSH Training Certificate on successful completion & examination, folder, pen, lunch and daily refreshments.

Well I hope you have inundated our Chairman with photos for next year's calendar, I'll put a fiver on it that you haven't. Our thanks to Whitemoss: www.whitemossec.co.uk for sponsoring this month's calendar page. Looking forward to next year's. Our thanks to all of our prior and future sponsors of this very unique benefit of being a member of our Section. Please take advantage of the others! www.midlandsection.co.uk

It is with great pleasure (via M.Gash) that Mike Green and his wife Faye have just had a little boy. From the whole section congratulations to you both. Gashey, you had better get some coffee at work for Mike, or a bed.

Sean McDade



BERKS/BUCKS AND OXON

October! What a month in our calendar. The so-called summer is becoming a distant memory, the nights are pulling in and the mornings are darker than a coal miner's armpit.

The weather is unpredictable and I suppose we will have a Russian winter to look forward to, with scenery changes before our eyes with leaves turning from green to every shade from brown to red and gold, and the squirrels are hurriedly burying their nuts, hoping that the greenkeeper will help remember where they put them. Finally, an old saying to remember, the holly tree heavy with fruit in early Autumn means a hard winter to come, so remember those woolly hats, warmer clothes and a half pint of pink gin and a few whelks should keep away the winter blues.

A warm welcome awaited the 50 or so Section members for the BBO Autumn Invitational which took place at Newbury & Crookham GC, a club with golfing history dating back to 1873 to which competitors still

play for possibly the oldest trophies in English golf and each I am sure all with a fascinating tale to tell. The course was an excellent test of golf, full of surprises with even the odd deer or muntjac seen roaming the heathland.

The results: 1st Ben Kebby and Richard Davis, Berkshire; 2nd Dan Lightfoot and Leigh Powell, Bearwood Lakes; 3rd Dave, Pussycat Lyons and John Bowness, Deanwood Park.

Nearest Pin - Erik Kinlon and Longest Drive - Pat Carroll with Jon Ryan from Browns winning the John Deere Putting Competition. Thanks to Newbury & Crookham GC for the courtesy of the course and all the catering and bar staff who provided hospitality ensuring our every need was met, Alec MacIndoe and all his green staff for the huge effort throughout the whole year in preparing first class playing conditions that made for a great day out. Thanks to Ian Richardson from Headland for sponsoring this event and Jon Beck for laying on the burgers at the halfway hut.

News around the Section, Nick Paris has left Chobham GC in Surrey and has started at Datchet GC. We wish Nick the best of luck in his first role as Head Greenkeeper.

The Xmas Turkey Trot will be at Beaconsfield GC this year on November 21 and will be a team event, so please get your entry forms in on time.

The Section website is alive and kicking, so if you have any news or views, give it a hit! www.bbo-greenkeepers.co.uk

Mark Day mark.day@tacitgolf.com



MID-ANGLIA

Is this the start of our long awaited growth decline, "about time" I hear you say, a few signs of disease and a wind that feels like its from the arctic. It seems funny that it is time for things to change but we are still very lush and green and cutting like mad. It won't be long until we are paying for the Christmas presents and looking forward to the New Year.

Here is a quick reminder to you all, the Texas Scramble is at South Beds on December 6, please get those entries in early to avoid disappointment as it will be on a first come first served basis. All entries to Richard Saunders at the usual address. We are trying to arrange a couple of educational seminars in Feb/Mar time - Details will be in the next issue.

As I write this article, I am preparing for the trip to Scotland to play in the National Championship, and am looking forward to representing the Section and when we return we have the Autumn comp at Berkhamsted GC, the results will be in next month's article.

Finally, this will be my last write up for the Section, as Craig Spooner, from Advanta Seeds, will be taking over the challenge. I would like to wish you well in whatever you do, all the best.

Steve Mason