Managing greens performance

Frilford Heath GC, formed in 1908 lies seven miles south of Oxford and is one of a handful of clubs to offer three courses of genuine championship quality.

The site encompasses an area of some 500 acres (about 75% of which is designated SSSI) and is an oasis of light sandy soil covering sandstone in an area surrounded by Oxfordshire clay. Land that was deemed of little use for agriculture over a century ago was found to be ideal in the pursuit of golf by Frilford’s founding generation.

The original Red course was laid out by JH Taylor. Soon after the end of WW2, the Green course was added, first as 9 holes then eventually 18 by JH Turner and CK Cotton respectively and more recently Simon Gidman produced the Blue course which opened for play in 1994.

The club is a popular venue for tournaments and is regularly stages national championships and international matches. The English Amateur championship makes a return visit in 2013 and each year, the club plays host to the first of the year’s PGA EuroPro Tour events; an acknowledgment of the course being in excellent playing condition early in the year.

SHARED OBJECTIVES

A board of directors has been appointed to run the club’s affairs and to ensure its future viability. Recent changes to the board have brought about the desire for a strategic review and, following the appointment of ‘Jimmy’ James as General Manager, a process of change has been instigated.

Course Manager Sid Arrowsmith, of only 61 BBIGA Master Greenkeepers, takes up the story.

“Until recent times, the aim has always been to produce courses which are of good quality and offer enjoyment to members and visitors alike, while carrying out as little disturbance to the playing surfaces as possible.

Over a prolonged period of time though, trees encroach upon playing areas, the level of scrub increases and the build-up of thatch and fibre continue on greens and fairways. No club is immune to having to carry out work which is often deemed unpopular and disruptive and although a discreet balance was successfully maintained, the issues facing the club never disappeared.”

Sid, who has been at the helm of Frilford Heath since 1993 after spells in Paris and at Royal Portrush, continues, “Although the club was previously aware of many of these issues, it wasn’t until 2010 that plans were drawn up and a more concerted effort made to enhance the quality and reputation of the club.

“As part of the review process, the club sought external expertise to produce environmental reports which included trees, other vegetation and rare plants. This together with a more recent irrigation appraisal and bunker review has given the club the background information it requires in order to move forward and further develop the courses within their natural environment.

“The main objectives were to provide putting surfaces that were firmer and more consistent for longer periods of the year”.

GATHERING OF INFORMATION

Before embarking on any planned changes, it was necessary to have a base or start point as well as a target objective. The necessary data was collected to measure the organic content across each course via the LOI (loss on ignition) testing process, followed by firmness using the Clegg Hammer; moisture content using the Theta Probe and pace using the Stimpmeter.

The final part of the process was to use the Smootness Meter whereby putting quality was accurately measured. This scientific approach has the advantage of reducing the degree of subjectivity and gives a clearer picture of what needs to be achieved. The following is a brief summary of the conditions present in the greens in 2010.

A presentation was made to the club followed by a member question and answer session hosted by the STRI. This allowed members the opportunity to ask and discuss the various options available before finally agreeing on a plan of action.

WORK PLAN

Following initial testing and gathering of data, the club purchased the DCO-100s produced by the Butterfield for sward improvement and poa gicide and the use of Primo Maxx for award improvement and poa seed head suppression.

Over the last three years, the Directors have been fully committed to this program of work and have not only allowed Sid to increase his staffing levels, but have also expanded the level of investment in the club’s greens improvement program, with the emphasis being on surface quality and management of organic material.

Once this objective is achieved then the focus will switch to a gradual change in grass species and fairways. This was also agreed not to be overly aggressive with regards to surface cultivation since it was necessary to provide the golfers with an acceptable playing surface. This necessitated a more cautious approach but also a reflection on the fact that the greens were already in reasonable condition and not at a level whereby more severe treatment was required.

The agreed program of work consisted of the following:

- Aeration: Two corings, spring and autumn, using 8-10mm tines; Regular slitting using 13-16mm tines; Regular use of the Toro Hydroject throughout the summer.
- Top Dressing: An increase to using 100 tons of medium grade kiln dried sand following each coup using the Clegg Hammer;
- Over-Seeding: One or two sowings of Colonial Bent using a drop seeder at a rate of 4 gns/per m2;
- Fertilizer: Largely the same as before, using three applications of granular products supported by foliar applications of Farmura Porthcawl and other amendments containing seaweed extracts and humic acids throughout the growing season.
- Chemicals: No real change other than introducing phosphate applications as a mild form of Esicuro and the use of Primo Maxx for award improvement and poa seed head suppression.

Having the benefit of three courses, it was easy to focus attention on one course at a time while it remained closed for one or two days. This allowed the work to continue unhindered and since most of the work was carried out during the growing season, recovery was swift, which was greatly appreciated by the members.

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In order to strengthen Frilford Heath’s growing reputation, the Directors have recently signed an exclusivity agreement with Toro. This will not just be about equipment purchasing, but will ensure that Frilford Heath will be at the forefront of future industry developments arriving in the UK. Later this month will see the arrival of the PS 6000 site survey machine from the US, which will be a first in Europe.

RESULTS

Progress to date in the two years since the program started has been largely positive with encouraging feedback from the members. The OM content is now 8-9% which is a fall of 6-7% and only slightly above the target range. Soil moisture content still tends to vary but is leaning more towards the desired range. The reduction in OM content has also led to improved firmness, one noticeable aspect being the reduction in pitch mark size giving faster recovery. Previous over-seeding has not resulted in any significant change but that is probably due to low mowing heights meaning Bent is unlikely to establish. As the putting surfaces become firmer and the crown of the plant is further protected by increased dressings, the aim is to raise the mowing height by 1mm and to roll more frequently. This should result in the pace being unaffected but more of the plant remaining, improving the success rate of future over-seeding. Consideration will also be given to slit seeding, thus ensuring good seed to soil contact.

Sid concluded “Without the support and co-going commitment from the club, the improvement to date would not have been possible. It is important that when embarking on such a program, there are clear objectives in place and that the work is agreed, measured and evaluated for any changes that are deemed necessary. The other key aspect is communication. Sometimes we forget that it is the members’ course and that the playing surfaces are of paramount importance at all times. Therefore the members need to know what is happening on their course on a regular basis. Fortunately we have a good system of communication within the club via a weekly electronic newsletter, along with a clear vision of providing premium quality”.

Are you a Photographer?

BIGGA’s Golf Photographic Competition is back for 2012, so if you’re a member with an eye for a shot, read on...

The BIGGA Golf Photographic Competition, back for its sixth year, creates an opportunity for members to display their artistic flair, while also earning some publicity for their club.

The winner will receive a full course profile in GI and a special prize, while the 12 best pictures will be selected for the 2012 BIGGA Calendar.

Digital pictures need to be high resolution, at the largest size capable by the camera, as it may ultimately be scaled up to A3 print size (42cm wide x 29.7cm high).

Please label your entries with captions and the name of the course plus a brief description (around 10 words). It would be great if you could also tell us the spec of camera it was taken on too.

Please try to avoid reducing the file size to fit on email as this will reduce the quality of the image. If the file size is too large to send, we recommend using a compression facility such as winzip or a website such as: www.manipgle.com.

Please note, cropping may occur if photos are to appear in the magazine or calendar. Also ensure digital photos do not show the time/date display!
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Green speed has increased to an average of 9-9.6, which is now at the clubs desired level for membership play. Although the Smoothness meter has yet to be used this year for testing, ball roll is more consistent. It is clear that the combination of reduced OM content, increased sanding and the use of a turftip iron have resulted in an overall improvement of the putting surfaces.

So far so good is probably a fair summary. It is also true to say that the approach by Frilford Heath has been steady, well planned and implemented. Another year of this level of intensity is required, probably adding a pass using the Gradens Sand Injector or Brec Sand Filler to further reduce the level of thatch. Raising the quantity of sand top dressing to 120 tons per annum is also under consideration as well as moving slightly more towards a feeding program based more on foliar feeds in order to level out periods of growth.

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The 12 best entries will be selected for the 2012 BIGGA Calendar. Eligible to enter are members of BIGGA. All entries need to be received by July 31, 2012, and only BIGGA members are eligible to enter.

By Paul Hope. “I was out taking photos of the sunrise one morning when this young stag just wandered right into the shot,” at High Post Golf Club.
All-electric power. Are we there yet?

Battery powered equipment is still far from ubiquitous. That does not mean you have little in the way of choice; bang up to date ride-on and walk behind greens mowers are two examples of really advanced thinking. But are you ready to take the all-electric challenge?

As it turns out, selecting the all-electric route could prove the most economic option. Even when you allow for the fact that batteries have a finite life, replacing the complete set will cost in the region of £1,000 to £1,200. This is something that you should only need to do at three years or more.

Of course that new batteries figure will buy a fair amount of petrol or diesel. But take in purchase price and day to day running costs into account, and the sums stack up very nicely for the all-electric Eclipse. So what’s the battery catch? The short answer is that there isn’t one. The more considered response is to accept that whilst the all-battery powered option has its phases it is still not the right choice for everyone. But a fully battery powered Eclipse has perhaps a wider range of courses it does suit than many may initially think.

The same applies to walk behind mowers. Those who have had a chance to actually work with battery powered mowers - the Toro eFlex or Jacobsen Eclipse - typically suggest it is the quality of cut that they concentrate upon and not how the mowers are powered. Take a look at the eFlex controller. You can key in how the mower’s forward speed and rate of cut are linked so you can essentially ensure a consistent clip rate across all your greens. With the Jacobsen Eclipse walk behind you simply key in the desired clip rate and the machine automatically synchronises the cylinder speed with the forward speed, again maintaining the clip rate across all your greens. As we have often pointed out, there is far more to harnessing electricity to drive equipment than just power. A key component is also the accuracy that can be dialled in to drive various elements of a machine.

Growing hybrid sales will boost motor development

Increasing acceptance of hybrid drive has no doubt helped establish just how effective electric motors are at powering the cylinder reel. If there is a downside with current motor designs it is that at the moment these drive motors are relatively ‘bulky’; hydraulic motors are still pretty big humps too, but they have been getting smaller over the years.

With electric motors, much of the bulk is related to the need to enable the motor to deliver the right speed and torque directly to the cutting unit and to have a large enough surface area to dissipate the heat that motors generate during work. But as sales volumes of drive motors increases, the incentives to invest in developing lighter, slimmer, cooler running and more powerful units will also climb. But don’t expect a sudden revolution in design. Steady evolution is the name of the game.

What will help spur motor development is increasing sales of hybrid mowers. As these models become increasingly popular and efficient, the benefits will also impact upon all-electric mowers. A modest development in motor efficiency can have a significant impact upon the running times of a battery-powered machine.

If this suggests current hybrid and battery-powered mowers are at the wrong end of the development cycle, it is not meant that way at all. John Deere suggested its 2500E hybrid greens mower could save up to 30% in fuel use when compared to its all-hydraulic
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Take a look at the list price of a Jacobsen Eclipse 322 greens mower. Offered in hybrid petrol, hybrid diesel and all-electric forms, you would perhaps expect the latter battery powered model to be the most expensive.

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Jacobsen has tested a solar panel that fits in place of the roof canopy of its all-electric version of its Eclipse 322 to help top up the batteries ‘on the go’. Sounds simple, but there is more to keeping the six 8-volt deep cycle lead acid batteries topped up than you may think.

“With the ability to tackle more demanding terrain, the electric Cushman Hauler 1200X has extra ground clearance and more suspension travel. A limited slip rear diff helps traction in slippery going too”

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If this suggests current hybrid and battery-powered mowers are at the wrong end of the development cycle, it is not meant that way at all. John Deere suggested its 2500E hybrid greens mower could save up to 30% in fuel use when compared to its all-hydraulic petrol or diesel. John Deere has also suggested the day will come when electric is the answer for more than just small gardeners. But as diesel prices have shot up of late, it is likely many of these same gardeners could be looking at a more eco-friendly option.
Anyone who has operated an all-electric utility vehicle will typically suggest they prefer driving one to a CVT automatic diesel or petrol equivalent. John Deere has seen increased sales of its Electric Gator in recent years. Why not exploit solar power?

Surf the internet, and you will see there are a few companies offering solar panels that can be bolted on the roof of a battery powered mower or utility vehicle to help top up the charge of the batteries on a sunny day. Sounds like a good idea but it is not without its pitfalls. For starters, the sun can be shy to make an appearance in the UK.

Ransomes Jacobsen can point you to operators of its original Greens King E-Flex electric models made in the 1990s that are still earning their keep.

Those mowers are pretty old tech now but the fact there are a good number still at work suggests the basics that were right then will be even better now.

Those who are interested in any form of electric power may still be waiting for the next big development. But you can end up never making a decision.

As is so often the case, it is easy to ‘spend’ someone else’s money when it comes to making suggestions. An entry level walk behind greens mower is a costly purchase, so even at this level going for an all-electric version will take some careful consideration.

The only way to get a genuine insight into the benefits of battery power is to talk to those who have taken the plunge and to learn from their experiences. But arranging for a demonstration is not going to be that difficult either. If you are in the market for a greens mower, why not add an all-electric model to your demonstration list?

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**Join the revolution!**

The amazing TriFlex Hybrid 3420 is the first Toro to feature an all-electric cylinder drive system for a greens mower. Since its launch, the Toro Greensmaster TriFlex range has been revolutionising greens mowing.

Designed and built from the ground up, the TriFlex Hybrid 3420 and its TriFlex 3400 stablemate are both packed with ground-breaking technology and deliver an unrivalled quality of cut and exceptional finish.

Check out the unique cutting unit suspension system and DPA cutting units that hug ground contours for superb cutting consistency. Added to that, the redesigned balloon-style tyres that make tracks virtually invisible. What’s more, the TriFlex has been built with the operator firmly in mind. This includes quick-change cutting units that can be switched instantly to other units – all without tools. Discover the Greensmaster TriFlex range for yourself, call us on the number below and join the revolution!

Call 01480 226800 or visit www.toro.com
Scotland

We had an excellent turnout of over 30 members for the presentation from Eric Lyons of Guelph University at Elwood on 6 June. His talk on silver thorn mosa was very informative, but most importantly, the cultural controls he spoke about were all good, some greenkeepers pursuing practices which are relevant and helpful for so many of the problems or challenges we face. It was great to see such a good mix of experienced course managers and young student greenkeepers get together at such an event. The next presentation is on 12 July from John Kaminiski of Penn State and ILA of Purdue University.

The only other events arranged are the autumn outing at the Wellwood Climbing Centre on 19 Oct and the section AGM which will be held at Elwood on 30 Octo-

ber where we hope to organise a speaker prior to the meeting, if anything else is arranged a short notice then people will be emailed the details.

Congratulations to Craig Boath on stepping up to act as Head Greenkeeper of the championship course at Cardross where he is filling Sandy Reid’s post after his promotion. Also to National Chairman Andy Mellor who is leaving to take up a position in Qatar. Andy has done a power of work, not only for the Association but also particularly for the Central Section and will be a difficult act to replace. Get a big house as well as a big price for the visitors in 2018 when Scotland are ever playing in the world cup finals.

Colin Powrie from Ladybank won the voucher for completing the online survey, for apologies to those not being on the website yet but everyone has been hard at work these past few weeks.

Finally the Pairs Competition is open, contact the Chairman of the league section and everyone seems to have enjoyed the games so far. Gordan Moir, Central

East

The East section committee met on 29 May to discuss the relevant points of interest. The club at the Willowwoods Trophy to be played on the fine golf course that is Mortonhall, remember it’s a team event, so bring along a partner on 22 August and have a wonderful day’s golf. The event this year is sponsored by Hendersons Grass Machinery (Haddington), so thanks to them for all their support.

The match against the sec- norities was cancelled due to a heavy rain on 22 May and good to our older members including myself. Our thoughts and condolences go out to the family, he will be sadly missed.

Now George Oliver wants your feedback on a couple of social nights he is planning. The Jon Chooers Club is the first, with comedians as the main act or a competitive social night in Murraysport Indoor Sports Club as the second event. Please send dates in October or November so please email: georgieol@msn.com

So get in touch please and enjoy the summer months ahead.

Stewart Crawford
scrawford@live.co.uk

Northern Region

Morning guys... Afternoon sports fans! As I sit writing my notes the rain is banging down outside and looks like it’s in for a while, it’s becoming already wonderful having had the very best of weeks at work, if you look on our Facebook page.

Not to labour this month I’m afraid, but by the time these notes appear we will have played our 2nd event at President’s day. We are hoping for a good turn out as it’s an afternoon kick-off.

Finally a mention for the course manager at Chester Golf Club Stuart McCall for the condition of his greens I had the pleasure of playing a few weeks ago. They were fantastic considering he had closed the course the day before. Also to the guys at Henlle Golf Club and Llanymynech Golf Club down in Wales... superb courses.

That’s all folks...the meeting is coming next as you wish to represent the sec-

tion at Howley Hall please give me a buzz.

Cheers.

Andy Slingsby
07560678167
Andy.slingsby99@google.com

Penn State and ILA of Purdue University.

The annual match versus the President’s Team at Handwood Golf Club took place on Tuesday 15 May. The course was presented very nicely by Adam Jones, who took on the role of Course Supervisor in last month’s piece. The match was closer this year, although Handwood still managed a win 5 to 3. Many thanks to the President and the team of Handwood G.C. and our team of 16. The event is the longest running of our section events and is now in its 62nd year.

Our first/spring golf tourna-
mament of the year was on Wed-

day 23 May at The Chase G.C. in Essex. Many thanks to the proponent Lesley Simmons who afforded us the pleasure of playing her course and also joined us for the golf and excel-

At Hillside in September, the winner of which gets a trip to USA for a

final. Now that’s sportsmanship.

So thanks must go to the spon-
sor, Girvan Golf Management and Darren Barker our area rep for the hospitality also to Shaw Hill Golf Club for allowing the event to take place and last but not least Neil and his team of greenkeepers for presenting the course beautifully.

Unfortunately a member team at Penwortham Golf Club didn’t win but as the last teams had not all been announced it was agreed to bring you the winners in next month’s around the green. The last ‘round the green’ of new starters at Mere Golf Club for Greynoun Davies the Course Manager, see also Whittaker and Lee Burton. Llanymynech the course will make in last month’s piece it was quoted that the Head Green

keeper of Leisowe Golf Club was a Chris Fedde well this was wrong information, the Head Greenkeeper of Leisowe Golf Club is Ian Turner so thanks to Ian for the day at Leisowe. Chris, but much appreciated and apologies to both of you.

One thing I wouldn’t be following for, even though it apparently hasn’t gone down well is winning the last month’s piece for his application for a job promotion at a golf club he is already at.

Anyway it is currently 4 am so am removing the screen for the moment but please contact me personally I can put things right if I get the information. This also applies to the notes, I really do need people to pass me any information so I can ensure you get a mention. (Note: please send to my email address for any corrections)

Thank you very much for the support. I am proof if proof doesn’t work information.

As an apology I have a stack of news to bring you this month.

Firstly I have a couple of congratulations. Joel France and his new wife Lindsay tied the knot in June and I’m sure he will have had a won-

derful day. May you both have a happy life together and enjoy all the decorating! Secondly I would Like to congratulate Sally Riley and his wife Becky on the birth of their daughter Eloise, enjoy those sleepless nights Andy!

Our spring competition was held at Hickleton Golf Club and we had a really enjoyable day, thanks to Bob and his staff for presenting an excellent course despite the unfavorable weather conditions leading to the event. I would like to thank Pro Turf for once again sponsoring the day and I would also like to thank all members and trade who attended the day. Remember to fill in your survey, there are some great pictures on our Facebook page.

Our next competition will be held at Rotherham Golf Club on 12 October, everyone will

be receiving invitations and it would be nice to see a few new faces. If anyone is not receiving any information that we post out then you can get in touch and we can try and rectify the problem.

Gary Pattin will be trying to complete a 24hr golf challenge in August for Weston Park Cancer Charity if any members would like to sponsor him for what is extremely worthy cause then you can do so via the following links, all donations will be greatly appreciated. http://www.justgiving.com/GaryPattin

That is all from me now for now but good luck for the month of July and see you in August.

James Stevens
07738719614

Becks26x2@hotmail.com

Facebook: bigsheffordbigga

Twitter: sheffeldbigga

Midland Region

Hi everyone, for apologies for the shortage of news after the last couple of months, things have been a bit hectic so try to keep the lines open.

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That is all from me now for now but good luck for the month of July and see you in August.

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Becks26x2@hotmail.com

Facebook: bigsheffordbigga

Twitter: sheffeldbigga
Please email your notes to Section 48 of work, not only for the Association’s promotion. Also to National Greenkeepers and AGM which will be held at Penwortham Golf Club.

Rick Latin of Purdue University.

Relevant and helpful for so many cultural controls he spoke about on 6 June. His talk on silver of over 30 members for the GI of the month please contact me personally I can’t put things right if I can’t tell you the news. This also applies to the notes, I really do need people to pass me any important information so I can ensure you get a mention. Thanks for all your support and feedback on a couple of social events.

The North Wales v North South Wales match takes place at Aberdovey Golf Club on 27 July. I hope anyone that goes puts a good show of North Welsh greenkeepers as well as.

I think that’s about it for now, as always I do look forward to hearing from you all and your news.

Congratulations to you both on a fantastic job, Peter Maybury, E-mail pete@harryjacks.co.uk Phone or Text 07756011877. Facebook group North Wales b.g.n.

Midland Region

Hi everyone, for apologies for the shortage of news over the last couple of months, things have been a bit hectic to say the least.

As an apology I have a stack of news to bring you this month.

Firstly I have a couple of congratulations.

Joel France and his new wife Lindsay tied the knot in June and I’m sure he will have had a wonderful day. May you both have a happy life together and enjoy all the decorating! Secondly, I would like to congratulate Jim Gilchrist and his wife Becky on the birth of their daughter Eloise, enjoy those sleepless nights Andy!

Our spring competition was held at Hockerton Golf Club and we had a really enjoyable day, thanks to Bob and his staff for providing such an excellent course despite the unfavorable weather conditions leading to the event. I would like to thank Pro Turf for once again sponsoring the day and I would also like to thank all members and trade who attended the day. Remember to get your entries in by the end of the month please contact me for any information.

Our next competition will be held at Rotherham Golf Club on 12 October, everyone will be receiving invitations and it would be nice to see a few new faces. If anyone is not receiving any information that we post out then please give us a call and we can try and get in touch and rectify the problem.

The annual match versus the President’s Team at Handsworth Golf Club took place on Tuesday 15 May. The course was presented very nicely by Adam Jones, who took on the role of Course Supervisor in 2015. The match was closer this year, although Handsworth still managed a win 5.3. Many thanks to the Handsworth G.C and our team of 16.

The event is the longest running of our section events and is now in its 62nd year.

Our First/spring golf tournament of the season was on Wednesday 23 May at The Chase G.C, Handsworth. Many thanks to the proprietor Lesley Simmons who afforded us the pleasure of playing her course and also joined us for the golf and excellent dinner. The course was presented in first class condition.

Scotland

We had an excellent turnout of over 30 members for the presentation from Eric Lyons of Guelph University at Elleswood on 6 June. His talk on silicon threon mon was very informative, but much more important, the cultural controls he spoke about were all good, sensible, greenkeeping practices which are relevant and helpful for so many of the problems or challenges we face.

It was great to see such a good mix of experienced course managers for young student greenkeepers get together at such an event. The next presentation is on 12 July from John Kaminiski of Penn State and South Lakes of Purdue University.

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ber where we hope to organize a speaker prior to the meeting, in anything else is arranged a short notice then people will be emailed the details.

Congratulations to Craig Boath on stepping up to act as Head Greenkeeper of the championship course at Carfin Golf Club filling Sandy Reid’s post after his promotion. Also to National Chairman Andy Mellan who is leaving to take up a position in Qatar. Andy has done a great deal of work, not only for the Association but also particularly for the Central Section and will be a difficult role to replace. Get a big house as well as it will be busy.

We look forward to hearing from you all.

The match against the greens was a hard day’s work and good to get the team over to our members including myself. Our thoughts and condolences go out to the family, he will be sadly missed.

Now George Oliver wants your feedback on a couple of social events.

So if there are any mistakes this month please contact me personally.

Ian for the day at Leasowe. Chris Whittaker and Lee Burton.

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Around The Green

3: A.Brougham. Trade winner: 50 pts, 3rd: Clint Eastwood, 36 pts, 2nd: Aaron Saunders as follows; 1st Gross: Adam Farols for the much needed Sharrocks and Whitemoss prize table, Sherriff Amenity, thanks to Simon White and his Around The Green log in to the Members’ Area of the BIGGA

Bradley Hicks, South West Section
Alan Gawman, Devon & Cornwall Section
Wales Region
South West & South

Tom Shattock, London Section
Charles Hunt, East Anglia Section
James Bruder, Surrey Section
Paul Walton, BB&O Section
Sion Robinson, BB&O Section
Anthony North, BB&O Section
Roger Bannard, Midland Section
Midland Region
James Rutter, North West Section
Nick Roberts, North Wales Section
Tim Murphy, Northern Section
Eamon Sullivan, Central Section
James Naylor, Central Section
Shaun McLaren, Central Section

The draw for the 1st and 2nd round winners of the Riviera Doubles took place after the golf and a full review of the draw, including play by dates and rules are available on our website: www.biggadundlesection.co.uk

This month’s calendar sponsor is our old friend Burrows Grass Machinery. Consider them for all your Saul and Jacobsen machinery needs. They can be contacted on 01785 666 100 or Northern Depot 01565 880 800. I must confess that the lines on this month's picture are superb, well done to the Greenkeeper responsible.

And finally to conclude, our summer education trip to Harlow, Essex on 25 July, please contact Tony Cheese for further details on 07778 665 500. Also good to all at the summer golf Event at Oxted Park on the 11th of this month. It was a time to wish H.Q’s ex-Editor Scott MacCallum all the best in his new venture. It has been his pleasure to have worked with you over the last 12 years. Good luck to you, O.K. Sean Mcdade.

South East Region
East of England

I would like to start this month by wishing Peter Larter a long and happy retirement. On behalf of our section I would like to pass on our thanks for all the support he has given to us on both golf days and section seminars. I hope his presence will be missed we look forward to welcoming our new regional administrator Andrea Raper and working with her to take the section forward. In honour of the work Peter has done for us it has been decided that the winner of our golf order of merit will now be presented with a trophy donated by the “Greenkeepers Tour” as well as receiving the blazer which is kindly sponsored by Simon Banks. Once again all the best for the future Peter.

Our monthly look into the life of an assistant greenkeeper...

Name: New Ross
Age: 36
Club: Thornden
Position: Assistant
Type: Greens

1. How long have you been greenkeeping? 17 years.
2. What was it about the job that attracted you? Working outdoors and being on a golf course all day.
3. If you weren’t a greenkeeper would you do what you’re doing now? (If so this on a retained basis just now)
4. Which task do you most enjoy doing and why?
5. Which task do you least enjoy doing and why?
6. What is one thing - other than a pay rise - which would improve your working conditions?
7. Hobbies?
8. Favourite Band?
9. Which team do you support? Football or Rugby?
10. What is your claim to fame? Believe it or not I’m the current IPA Trust and Financial Advisor awesom...