When did you last try a different make of brushcutter? Brushcutters targeting professional users may have grown over the years, but for some brand loyalty sees a reluctance to consider anything other than just one make. Unless you try a range of alternatives, however, you may miss out on the tool that is best suited to your needs.

Choosing a brushcutter is not easy – there is not only the choice of engine type and power to consider but price, make and local support too. Although you can play it safe by sticking to a big name, there are alternatives that may well fit your specific needs better.

As with any item of equipment, brushcutter designs have evolved. You may not notice this when you take a casual look at what is on offer but compare similar models made a few years apart and the chances are the newer machine will be more pleasant to operate.

This will typically be down to lower vibration and noise levels, two key improvements that can really help reduce fatigue. Power to weight ratios have steadily improved too, some nominal 25cc units seeming to pack a punch well above what you could have experienced perhaps just a few years back. But do not expect a dramatic improvement over more recent designs; much changed when power units were brought into line with legislative demands made in the 2000s.

Detail developments have of course continued. On loop handle trimmers, not only has the shape of the loop altered on some machines but so too has the material from which they are covered; soft finish grips are increasingly common to help improve comfort. Similarly, anti-vibration systems have evolved.

Fire up a new ‘pro quality’ brushcutter with cow horn bike handles and then revert to an older machine from the same maker. Notice anything different? Offset handles, with a greater degree of adjustment, are more common. So too is a longer line of mounting points for a harness, enabling more operators to select a balance point to suit how they want to work the machine.

That said, key developments relate to noise and vibration. What is often not considered is that the level of vibration produced will be influenced by the task being carried out. Large brushcutters, with the right blade type, can be used as a clearing saw to tackle heavy growth to include small saplings.

This type of work will produce different levels of vibration than when the same tool is used to clear bracken or brambles. Similarly, a light trimmer used to cope with long grass around trees, benches and marker posts will behave differently when dealing with docks and thistles. It is for these reasons that it is important to try out different makes and models in the key environment in which they will be operated.

Most professional users tend to target top spec models with a full harness and wide bike handles. This type of tool can be used all-day and everyday. But is it the right tool to fit with a nylon line cutting head for trimming ‘soft’ vegetation around obstacles?

A light loop handle trimmer may be the better choice for this type of work.
When it comes to power units, you have more choice. Still most popular are two-stroke engines. Proven, simple and reliable, modern two-strokes are not only quieter but cleaner too. But to get the best from these engines it is important to use a high quality two-stroke oil.

A 50:1 ‘petrol’ mix is pretty much the default with a synthetic oil, but more advanced oils not only lubricate better at a low mix rate but burn more cleanly too. This reduces fumes and, of equal importance, helps keep the engine internals cleaner too. A modern ‘greens’ Pro or Ultra oil can cost three times as much as a decent ‘bulk’ two-stroke oil but you get what you pay for.

Conventional two-stroke alternatives include the now familiar 4-Mix designs from Stihl and C4 from Shindaiwa plus four-stroke engines from companies to including Makita, Honda, Ryobi and Hitachi. Jonsered and Husqvarna offer two-stroke brushcutters with a catalytic converter and... well you have far more choice with regard to engines than you may think. You can also opt for battery power.

With this in mind, it is perfectly fine to admit to not really being fully up to speed on what would make the best choice. And nothing beats getting your hands on a given unit and trying it out. Take four-stroke power. When the first four-stroke brushcutters were introduced over a decade ago, uptake among professional operators was low. And it still is.

But the latest four-strokes, such as the MM4 models from Makita are impressive tools, the company claiming its 33.5cc EM4340L models can consume up to 60% less fuel than a two-stroke alternative with lower noise and vibration too.

Entrenched brand loyalty is another point. Nothing wrong in sticking with the same make but insisting that a given brand is better needs to be tested occasionally. You may be surprised to find a different brand actually fits your demands perfectly – and if it doesn't you can use this to provde your loyalty point.

There are no best buy recommendations; the right tool is the one that suits your business and no two operations will ever be exactly alike. But now is a great time to consider trying before buying. There are some really good brushcutters out there and some will be made by companies you may not have considered before such as Echo, Tanaka, Sanli, Efco, Solo and Kawasaki.

Emission controls have driven small engine developments, the Stihl 4-Mix cutaway diagram showing its four-stroke ‘breathing’ combined with two-stroke lubrication simplicity. A four-stroke engine runs on straight petrol, with a sump full of oil for lubrication. Two-strokes can have a catalyst fitted to reduce fumes, but the best oil you can buy will also help.

LEFT: A grass blade can tackle heavier growth than a line and, dependant upon design, also cope well with docks, light brush and bracken. There are so many designs of blade available that it's worth trying a few different types. The reversible four-blade unit pictured produces very little mulch and suits long grass that is raked and cleared separately.

ABOVE: Modern cow or bike handle designs are ‘offset’ to the right, a degree of adjustment allowing the operator to set up the machine to suit personal preferences. Vibration control varies between makes and models, so it is worth trying a few alternatives: the best designs are much less tiring to operate over extended periods.

Our largest and most versatile 4-in-1 collector. Combines as a flail mower, scarifier and sweeper. Huge 4500 litre capacity, 2.1m high dump and in-cab remote control. Ingenious wheel locking system allows the four swinging axle wheels to float and pivot during work but lock into a fixed position when the tank is raised for tipping. Four outstanding machines in one.
When it comes to power units, you have more choice. Still most popular are two-stroke engines. Proven, simple and reliable, modern two-strokes are not only quieter but cleaner too. But to get the best from these engines it is important to use a high quality two-stroke oil.

A 50:1 ‘petrol’ mix is pretty much the default with a synthetic oil, but more advanced oils not only lubricate better at a low mix rate but burn more cleanly too. This reduces fumes and, of equal importance, helps keep the engine internals cleaner too. A modern ‘green’ Pro or Ultra oil can cost three times as much as a decent ‘bulk’ two-stroke oil but you get what you pay for.

Conventional two-stroke alternatives include the more familiar 4-Mix designs from Stihl and C4 from Shindaiwa plus four-stroke engines from companies to including Makita, Honda, Ryobi and Hitachi. Jonsered and Husqvarna offer two-stroke brushcutters with a catalytic converter and... well you have far more choice with regard to engines than you may think. You can also opt for battery power.

With this in mind, it is perfectly fine to admit to not really being fully up to speed on what would make the best choice. And nothing beats getting your hands on a given unit and trying it out. Take four-stroke power. When the first four-stroke brushcutters were introduced over a decade ago, uptake among professional operators was low. And it still is.

But the latest four-strokes, such as the MM4 models from Makita are impressive tools, the company claiming its 33.5cc EM242D1L models can consume up to 60% less fuel than a two-stroke alternative with lower noise and vibration too.

Entrusted brand loyalty is another point. Nothing wrong in sticking with the same make but insisting that a given brand is better needs to be tested occasionally. You may be surprised to find a different brand actually fits your demands perfectly – and if it doesn’t you can use this to prove your loyalty point.

There are no best buy recommendations; the right tool is the one that suits your business and no two operations will ever be exactly alike. But now is a great time to consider trying before buying. There are some really good brushcutters out there and some will be made by companies you may not have considered before such as Echo, Tanaka, Shindaiwa, Efco, Solo and Kawasaki.

Emission controls have driven small engine developments, the STM 4-Mix cutaway diagram showing its four-stroke ‘breathing’ combined with two-stroke lubrication simplicity. A four-stroke engine runs on straight petrol, with a sump full of oil for lubrication. Two-strokes can have a catalyst fitted to reduce fumes, but the best oil you can buy will also help.

ABOVE: Modern cow or bike handle designs are ‘offset’ to the right, a degree of adjustment allowing the operator to set up the machine to suit personal preferences. Vibration control varies between makes and models, so it is worth trying a few alternatives; the best designs are much less tiring to operate over extended periods.

LEFT: A grass blade can tackle heavier growth than a line and, dependant upon design, also cope well with docks, light brush and bracken. There are so many designs of blade available that it is worth trying a few different types. The reversible four-blade unit pictured produces very little mulch and suits long grass that is raked and cleared separately.
BTME 2013
The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition

incorporating:
BIGGA Seminars & Workshops
20-23 January 2012

The BIGGA show heats up
A look ahead to the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition, and Continue to Learn educational programme for 2013

BTME is back at Harrogate for 2013, and is shaping up to be another must-attend event, with many exhibitors having already confirmed their spaces, months in advance, as the countdown to 22-24 January 2013 begins.

The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition, incorporating Continue to Learn Education Seminars and Workshops, which start the weekend before and run for five consecutive days, is the ultimate experience for golf greenkeepers.

BTME, widely regarded as Europe’s leading showcase for turf and grounds care professionals and buyers, offers a fantastic opportunity to browse, buy and seek advice from over a hundred of the top manufacturers and service providers across the world. To pre-register for your free visitors pass, visit www.harrogateweek.org.uk and click the Register Now icon. Then, simply enter your details to receive your access badge.
BTME 2013
The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition

incorporating:
BIGGA Seminars & Workshops
20-23 January 2012

The BIGGA show heats up

A look ahead to the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition, and Continue to Learn educational programme for 2013

BTME is back at Harrogate for 2013, and is shaping up to be another must-attend event, with many exhibitors having already confirmed their spaces, months in advance, as the countdown to 22-24 January 2013 begins.

The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition, incorporating Continue to Learn Education Seminars and Workshops, which start the weekend before and run for five consecutive days, is the ultimate experience for golf greenkeepers. BTME, widely regarded as Europe’s leading showcase for turf and groundcare professionals and buyers, offers a fantastic opportunity to browse, buy and seek advice from over a hundred of the top manufacturers and service providers across the world. To pre-register for your free visitors pass, visit www.harrogateweek.org.uk and click the Register Now icon. Then, simply enter your details to receive your access badge.

REGISTER NOW!
Sign up now for Harrogate week

IMAGES:
A selection from BTME 2012, courtesy of SiRA Studio
sirastudio.com
BIGGA can already confirm a host of education seminars and workshops, coming your way in January 2013...

Turf Managers’ Conference 2013
Monday 21 January 2013
The Crown Hotel, Harrogate

The Turf Managers’ Conference 2013 will make its return to the Continue to Learn at BTME 2013 education programme.

Taking place at The Crown Hotel in Harrogate on Monday 21 January 2013, the new venue will offer delegates a more comfortable learning environment whilst cementing the success of the Conference as it enters its third year.

The programme will feature some familiar industry names and will introduce new subject specialists to provide an interesting and thought provoking range of topics for Turf Managers:

• Dr Thomas Nikolai - ‘The Doctor of Green Speed’ from Michigan State University, a specialist in putting green management to maximize turfgrass health, investment and customer satisfaction.

• Dr Kate Entwistle, Turf Pathologist from the Turf Disease Centre, a specialist in disease and pest identification.

• Lorna Sheldon from CWI International a specialist in communication and presentation skills.

With prices held from 2012, this must attend event is being offered to BIGGA members at £99 + VAT (£105 + VAT for non members). To reserve your place at this popular event, telephone or email Rachael Duffy, Learning and Development Administrator on 01347 833800 (option 3) or rachael@bigga.co.uk.

Continue to Learn Workshops

The Continue to Learn Workshop programme will make its return to the Queen’s Suite of Harrogate International Centre on Sunday 20 and Monday 21 January 2013.

Featuring a series of one and two-day workshops including:

Two-Day Workshops
• Essential IT Business Administration for Greenkeepers
• Health and Safety
• How to be an Outstanding Course Manager (Part 2)
• The Soil
• Introduction to Pesticides
• The A, B, C’s of Putting Green Cup
• So You Want to be a Golf Course Manager (Part 4)

One-Day Workshops
• The A, B, C’s of Putting Green Maintenance
• Basic Golf Mechanics
• Diagnostic and Problem Solving
• Basic Budgeting and Golf Course Finance
• How to be an Outstanding Manager (Part 2)
• How to be an Outstanding Manager (Part 4)
• Essential IT Business Administration
• The Soil
• Basic Golf Mechanics

There will be feature sessions including presentations from:

• Dr Thomas Nikolai - ‘The Doctor of Green Speed’, from Michigan State University
• Rob Wills, Assistant Greenkeeper, Remedy Oaks Golf Club
• John Philp, retired Course Manager from Carnoustie Country Club, Chicago, USA
• Curtis Tyrrell MG CGCS, Superintendent from the 2012 Ryder Cup venue, Medinah Country Club, Chicago, USA
• Steve Chappell, Course Manager, PGA Centenary at Gleneagles, host of the 2014 Ryder Cup
• Thom Nikolai, The Doctor of Green Speed, from Michigan State University
• Thom Nikolai, The Doctor of Green Speed, from Michigan State University
• Thom Nikolai, The Doctor of Green Speed, from Michigan State University

With prices held from 2012, this must attend event is being offered to BIGGA members at £99 + VAT (£105 + VAT for non members). To reserve your place at this popular event, telephone or email Rachael Duffy, Learning and Development Administrator on 01347 833800 (option 3) or rachael@bigga.co.uk.

Continue to Learn Seminars

The Continue to Learn Seminar Programme will feature more than 25 sessions, all of which are free of charge to all visitors.

There will be feature sessions including presentations from:

• Pesticides Update for NPTC Certificate Holders
• Craig Law, Assistant Greenkeeper, Fair Hill Golf Club
• Pesticides Update for NPTC Certificate Holders
• Craig Law, Assistant Greenkeeper, Fair Hill Golf Club

Continue to Learn Seminars

The Continue to Learn Seminar Programme will feature more than 25 sessions, all of which are free of charge to all visitors.

There will be feature sessions including presentations from:

• Pesticides Update for NPTC Certificate Holders
• Craig Law, Assistant Greenkeeper, Fair Hill Golf Club
• Pesticides Update for NPTC Certificate Holders
• Craig Law, Assistant Greenkeeper, Fair Hill Golf Club

Accommodation

Are you planning your trip to BTME and Continue to Learn 2013?

Reservation Highway is the officially appointed accommodation agent for BTME 2013 providing a centralised point of contact for all your accommodation and travel enquiries.

By following the link on the BTME website you can gain instant access to all of the accommodation rates that have been specially negotiated for the event. All of the rates shown are what you will pay, with no hidden extras. In addition to special nightly rates, Reservation Highway also offers special deals such as 3 night specials, advance purchase and early bird rates.

Reservation Highway can be contacted on +44 (0) 1423 525577.
Continue to learn at BTME 2013

BIGGA can already confirm a host of education seminars and workshops, coming your way in January 2013...

Turf Managers’ Conference 2013
Monday 21 January 2013
The Crown Hotel, Harrogate

The Turf Managers’ Conference 2013 will make its return to the Continue to Learn at BTME 2013 education programme.

Taking place at The Crown Hotel in Harrogate on Monday 21 January 2013, the new venue will offer delegates a more comfortable learning environment whilst cementing the success of the Conference as it enters its third year.

The programme will feature some familiar industry names and will introduce new subject specialists to provide an interesting and thought provoking range of topics for Turf Managers:

• Dr Kate Entwistle, Turf Pathologist from the Turf Disease Centre, a specialist in disease and pest identification.
• Lorna Sheldon from CWI International a specialist in communication and presentation skills.

With prices held from 2012, this must attend event is being offered to BIGGA members at £99 + VAT (£105 + VAT for non members). To reserve your place at this popular event, telephone or email Rachael Duffy, Learning and Development Administrator on 01347 833800 (option 3) or rachael@bigga.co.uk.

Continue to Learn Workshops
The Continue to Learn Workshop programme will make its return to the Queen’s Suite of Harrogate International Centre on Sunday 20 and Monday 21 January 2013.

Featuring a series of one and two-day workshops including:

Two-Day Workshops
• Essential IT Business Administration for Greenkeepers
• Essential IT Business Management (Part 1)
• Essential IT Business Management (Part 2)
• Essential IT Business Documentation
• Essential IT Business Maintenance

One-Day Workshops
• Irrigation System Management and Design
• Moving into Management
• So You Want to be a Golf Course Manager

One-Day Workshops
• The A, B, C’s of Putting Green Maintenance
• The Grass Plant
• Basic Golf Mechanics
• Health and Safety Documentation
• How to be an Outstanding Manager (Part 2)
• How to be an Outstanding Manager (Part 4)
• Diagnostic and Problem Solving
• The Soil
• Basic Budgeting and Golf Course Finance
• Pesticides Update for NPTC Certificate Holders

Continue to Learn Seminars
The Continue to Learn Seminar Programme will feature more than 25 sessions, all of which are free of charge to all visitors.

There will be feature sessions including presentations from:

• Thom Nikolai, The Doctor of Green Speed, from Michigan State University
• Curtis Tyrell MG CGCS, Superintendent from the 2012 Ryder Cup venue, Medinah Country Club, Chicago, USA
• John Philp, retired Course Manager from Carnoustie
• Steve Chappell, Course Manager, PGA Centenary at Gleneagles, host of the 2014 Ryder Cup
• Stuart Yarwood MG, Course Manager, Lymn Golf Club
• Richard Jenkinson, Deputy Course Manager, iWest

BIGGA Seminars & Workshops 20-24 January 2013
5 days of education
20-24 January 2013
BIGGA Seminars
& Workshops

Accommodation
Are you planning your trip to BTME and Continue to Learn 2013?
Reservation Highway is the officially appointed accommodation agent for BTME 2013 providing a centralised point of contact for all your accommodation and travel enquiries.

By following the link on the BTME website you can gain instant access to all of the accommodation rates that have been specially negotiated for the event. All of the rates shown are what you will pay, with no hidden extras. In addition to special nightly rates, Reservation Highway also offers special deals such as 3 night specials, advance purchase and early bird rates.

Reservation Highway can be contacted on +44 (0) 1423 525577.
Scottish Region

East

Well it’s mid August and the temperatures are up the rain has subsided and the greens is at its most vibrant. Golf courses are at their best in East Lothian at the moment and there is no sign of disease from the wet weather in June/July.

This month I am fortunate to have the opportunity to talk to Nairry Wyteck on Auchterarder on the 16th. Stewart Crawford, P.Hughes A Holmes and G Moran make up the East section team this year with Roderick MacDiarmid as our Chairman. I met the new Regional Administrator John Young last week and look forward to working with him in the Autumn golf tournament. Stewart Crawford, s.crawford@live.co.uk

West

At the time of going to press, we are close to confirming 12 September for a one-day irrigation instruction course presented by Adrian Mottram. Full details on the course with costs will be on the website www.bigcgassection.cc.uk and members will be emailed details in the normal manner.

This is being partly sponsored by the BIGGA learning and development fund so as well as being an excellent course it will give the opportunity to the company of our new Regional Administrator Sandra Raper on board to start going around the section to visit courses who had members and those who didn’t. Our first stop was Tyneis GC who once again had an interesting meeting with the club Manager, then off we went to Dunstanburgh Castle, Bamburgh Castle, Alnwick, and finally Longhirst Hall where we picked up two new members straight away.

Out of all this we had very good news from Tyneis and Dunstanburgh. They are joining the section so not a bad plus for the section.

Recently Gavin Jarvis resigned as Head Greenkeeper at Helmsley GC which is a sad loss to the section. Best wishes from us all Andy. I’m sure most of us will get the chance to catch up with you at HTAC. Gordon Moir

Northern Region

North East

Greenkeeper Stuart Imeson of Dunstancastle Golf Club on marking into the final six in the Toro Student of the Year. Stuart is a former Regional Champion and is in this role for a couple of years is and attending Newcastle College. He’s currently studying for his level 3 and wants to continue on to level 4 - last year Jon Watson of Brougham Park had also qualified for the Toro Student of the year, great job Jon and well done from our local College.

Last month I had the pleasure of going to the Autumn Section Committee meeting that the tournament was going to be held at Balbirnie Park on 25th to 27th October. It was a good day for the tournament and for the enthusiasm expressed by all the candidates and I hope Christopher Watson is successful in his bid to achieve this award.

Congratulations to Alasdair MacDardie on being appointed Head Greenkeeper of Bothwell Castle GC, the section wishes him well in his new role and hopes he enjoys a successful tenure at the club.

Recently Gavin Jarvis resigned as Head Greenkeeper of Helmsley GC which is a sad loss to the section. Best wishes from us all Andy. I’m sure most of us will get the chance to catch up with you at HTAC. Gordon Moir

Northern Region

Northern

Afternoon sports fans...I had the pleasure of being part of a fantastic support team at the recent Open at Royal Lytham last month and am still feeling the effects now! The whole experience was truly amazing, from seeing the fantastic golf played to the wonderful state of the course achievable.

Right from the top boys and girls at HQ to the girls feeding the players nothing was too much trouble for these guys and the whole event ran very smoothly.

The easy starts to the late bedtimes took its toll but just having the chance to walk with the players and watch them play more than made up for it. For our highlight was chatting to Tom Watson and getting a signed golf ball after he commented on my bunker repair! I think back to the time of Helmsley GC training day and how to rake bunkers many moons ago at Mat Balmer at Bilyy I who I worked, sorry turned up with at Hollins Hall, good training old boy!

So to the section golf, it’s invitation day at Horsforth next followed by our rearranged Shifield match up in September. At the moment the numbers are good for them both.

If anyone is interested in playing in the Nationals in October please get in touch with us on 07790823914 or 01419 425554, or by e-mail on stuart.taylor@jaggrosgolfclub.com

Best wishes for the rest of the season.

Stuart Taylor

North West

As we close in on the end of another golf season we can all reflect on our improvement throughout the season. When we see such big competitions on tv constantly raising the standards golfers demand, it is important sometimes to take a step back and look at what we have achieved on our own courses and evaluate if we are achieving the most from it.

We are reminded often of the importance of being the keepers of the greens on the course and the responsibility we have to maintain the land in the most natural way we possibly can which all adds pressure to the job. If we do the time to really take a step back and reflect I’m sure most of us will appreciate what a wonderful profession we are in, even though we all have something to complain about now and again we are very lucky to be able to have a wonderful office to work in each day.

On the section front I would like to thank everyone at Phoenix Sports and Social Club for what was an excellent day for our summer competition. Everyone seemed to attend and commented on how good the course was and they were all very impressed with the food at the end. Results for the day are on our Facebook page. We would also like to thank the sponsor on the day and also thank all our sponsors for their support of the year.

I would also like to congratulate Stewart Piggott on completing his 24 hour golf challenge. Stewart completed six and a half rounds in the 24 hours.

If anyone did sponsor Stewart you please get your money back as soon as you possibly can and if anyone would like to sponsor him then there is no time like the present. Congratulations to Stewart once again on what was a fantastic achievement and all the proceeds will go to a very worthy cause.

That’s all from me at the minute but I will be back next month with news on upcoming golf matches and some news on our winter lecture programme.

Andy Slingsby
07595467897
andy.slingsby98@googlemail.com

Midland Region

You may see a different style to these notes this month as Sean is away “going fishing”. Your correspondent will try and keep you posted through this column or the Facebook group ‘North Wales BIGGA’.

The North Wales v North West match was due to be played at Ashley Cricket Club on 18th July had to be postponed due to a lack of players. I understand Nick Grey is trying to rearrange a date, we’ll let you know when we get a final date.

For those of you who may want included for future reference, the Autumn Tournament takes place on the 9th at St Melog’s GC. I hope to see you all there.

I think that’s about it for now so we hope to see all the best until next month.

Peter Maybury e-mail petesmaybury9@hotmail.co.uk or phone 07756001187

North Wales

This year of wanting to give a grateful sigh of relief as we wave our increasingly bored children back off to school and in work we also know club finals and the autumn season are only just around the corner. A cautionary tale from Darren Anderson MG at Abergedorch GC.

Make sure your fuel tanks are full, his diesel tank at Abergedorch drained and the thieves cut through two gates a lock to get to it.

27 July we played the inaugural North Wales v South Wales match at Aberdovey GC and we won! Many thanks to all who played and of course the sponsors, Rigby Taylor, Countywide and Farmers insurance you all did nothing but be possible. Many thanks again. And a special thanks to Richard Done from the golf union of Wales who gave a short speech on the importance of golfing in Wales.

On 7 August we also played the annual North Wales v North West match at Lymn GC and although Stu Yarwood MG gave the lads a course to be proud of they lost. I’m sure the lads looked resplendent in their new BIGGA T-shirts.

The North Wales v North West cricket match which was due to be played at Ashley Cricket Club had to be postponed due to a lack of players. I understand Nick Grey is trying to rearrange a date, we’ll let you know when we get a final date.

The North Wales v North West match was due to be played at Ashley Cricket Club on 18th July had to be postponed due to a lack of players. I understand Nick Grey is trying to rearrange a date, we’ll let you know when we get a final date.

The North Wales v North West match was due to be played at Ashley Cricket Club on 18th July had to be postponed due to a lack of players. I understand Nick Grey is trying to rearrange a date, we’ll let you know when we get a final date.

The North Wales v North West match was due to be played at Ashley Cricket Club on 18th July had to be postponed due to a lack of players. I understand Nick Grey is trying to rearrange a date, we’ll let you know when we get a final date.

The North Wales v North West match was due to be played at Ashley Cricket Club on 18th July had to be postponed due to a lack of players. I understand Nick Grey is trying to rearrange a date, we’ll let you know when we get a final date.

The North Wales v North West match was due to be played at Ashley Cricket Club on 18th July had to be postponed due to a lack of players. I understand Nick Grey is trying to rearrange a date, we’ll let you know when we get a final date.

The Atom Bunker Edger from DJ Turfcare is the smart way to get your bunker edgers. Trusted by golf greenkeepers throughout the UK.

BUNKER EDGER CUTS YOUR TIME

The Atom Bunker Edger from DJ Turfcare is the smart way to keep top on bunkers work. Time-saving and cost-effective, the Atom Bunker Edger is reliable and maintenance friendly. Trusted by golf greenkeepers throughout the UK. Ask the turfcare experts. Call us today.

All the latest news from around the green. Contact the editor on sean07078329141@yahoo.co.uk or sean07078329141@btmsupp.co.uk and we will be happy to hear from you.
All the latest news from your Section

**Central**

At the time of going to press, we are close to confirming 12 September for a one-day irrigation competition presented by Adrian Mottram. Full details on the course with costs will be on the website www.bigcgatrenseleac tion.org.uk and members will be emailed details in the normal manner. This is being partly sponsored by the BGGA learning and development fund so as well as being an excellent course it will be of great value. The results of the competition at Ripponden on 19 September will also be on the website as soon as practical...

**Northern Region**

North East

Afternoon sports fans… I had the pleasure of being part of a fantastic support team at the recent Open at Royal Lytham last month and am still feeling the effects now! The whole experience was truly amazing, from seeing the fantastic golf played to the wonderful state of the course, which was始终保持 in tip-top condition. Right from the top boys and girls at HQ to the girls feeding us, it was a brilliant experience and everyone said they would do it again! The experts from the Club Manager, then off we went to Dunstanburgh Castle, Bamburgh Castle, Alnwick, and finally Longhirst Hall where we picked up two new members straight away.

One of the very good things from Tyne and Durham tour is the chance to catch up with the players and watch them play more than any other golf activity. For me the highlight was chatting to Tom Watson taking his first ever bunker shot and getting a signed flag. It was a truly amazing day and it’s a huge thank you to everyone for helping us to have the full weekend the Edinburgh GC has to offer us.

Recently Gavin Jarvis resigned as Head Greenkeeper at Helmsley GC which is a huge blow. Best wishes Andy, I’m sure most of us will get the chance to catch up with you at HTM.

**West**

Just a couple of things to mention for the coming months as autumn comes upon us and the sun is shining outside for a change, why do Scots always talk about the weather?

Ross Fraser our new Secretary has confirmed the autumn outing at Fereneze Golf Club on 18 September. The AGM will once again be held at Renfrew Golf Club with a date and speaker still to be confirmed but this will be sometime in October as usual.

Coincidentally the Scottish outing at Rother Park golf club was poorly attended by the west section as only five people from our area managed to go along to an excellent venue and educational days golf, the section did however do really well picking up a prize. John Thain, chairman of the Scottish section of the Association was also asked to sit on the committee to select the candidate to represent Scotland at the Student of the Year Awards at the Rother Cup. I was very impressed by the quality coming through and the enthusiasm expressed by all the candidates and I hope Christopher Watson is successful in his bid to achieve this award.

Congratulations to Alasdair MacDardom on being appointed Head Greenkeeper of Bothwell Castle GC, the section wishes him well in his new role and hopes he enjoys a successful tenure at the club.

Recently Gavin Jarvis resigned as Head Greenkeeper at Helmsley GC which is a huge blow. Best wishes Andy, I’m sure most of us will get the chance to catch up with you at HTM.

**Scottish Region**

East

Well it’s mid August and the temperatures are up the roof has subsided and the goats is as its most vibrant, golf courses are at their best in East Lothian at the moment and there is no sign of disease from the wet weather in June/July.

A warm welcome to Norrie Wytock event at Auchterarder on the 16th, S. Ferguson, H. Holmes and G Moran make up the East section team to play against the West boys! I met the new Regional Administrator John Young last week and look forward to working with him in the Autumn golf tournament.

Stewart Crawford, s.crawford@live.co.uk

---

**Midland Region**

Midland

You may see a different style to these notes this month as Sean is away “going fishing”. Some of you may be surprised reading Sean’s notes, especially this month, but I and many others look forward to reading Sean’s notes, especially when we get a small glimpse into his thoughts. What a fascinating place it must be inside that remarkable head of his, and it’s not true he and David Has- seloff are related!

Unfortunately for the next week we have received some news from a new greenkeeper this month. “North West” and the pleasure of being part of a fantastic support team at the recent Open at Royal Lytham last month and am still feeling the effects now! The whole experience was truly amazing, from seeing the fantastic golf played to the wonderful state of the course, which was始终保持 in tip-top condition. Right from the top boys and girls at HQ to the girls feeding us, it was a brilliant experience and everyone said they would do it again! The experts from the Club Manager, then off we went to Dunstanburgh Castle, Bamburgh Castle, Alnwick, and finally Longhirst Hall where we picked up two new members straight away.

One of the very good things from Tyne and Durham tour is the chance to catch up with the players and watch them play more than any other golf activity. For me the highlight was chatting to Tom Watson taking his first ever bunker shot and getting a signed flag. It was a truly amazing day and it’s a huge thank you to everyone for helping us to have the full weekend the Edinburgh GC has to offer us.

Recently Gavin Jarvis resigned as Head Greenkeeper at Helmsley GC which is a huge blow. Best wishes Andy, I’m sure most of us will get the chance to catch up with you at HTM.

**Central**

At the time of going to press, we are close to confirming 12 September for a one-day irrigation competition presented by Adrian Mottram. Full details on the course with costs will be on the website www.bigcgatrensentraction.org.uk and members will be emailed details in the normal manner. This is being partly sponsored by the BGGA learning and development fund so as well as being an excellent course it will be of great value. The results of the competition at Ripponden on 19 September will also be on the website as soon as practical.

**Northern Region**

North East

**Midland Region**

Midland

You may see a different style to these notes this month as Sean is away “going fishing”. Some of you may be surprised reading Sean’s notes, especially this month, but I and many others look forward to reading Sean’s notes, especially when we get a small glimpse into his thoughts. What a fascinating place it must be inside that remarkable head of his, and it’s not true he and David Hasseloff are related!

Unfortunately for the next week we have received some news from a new greenkeeper this month. “North West” and the pleasure of being part of a fantastic support team at the recent Open at Royal Lytham last month and am still feeling the effects now! The whole experience was truly amazing, from seeing the fantastic golf played to the wonderful state of the course, which was始终保持 in tip-top condition. Right from the top boys and girls at HQ to the girls feeding us, it was a brilliant experience and everyone said they would do it again! The experts from the Club Manager, then off we went to Dunstanburgh Castle, Bamburgh Castle, Alnwick, and finally Longhirst Hall where we picked up two new members straight away.

One of the very good things from Tyne and Durham tour is the chance to catch up with the players and watch them play more than any other golf activity. For me the highlight was chatting to Tom Watson taking his first ever bunker shot and getting a signed flag. It was a truly amazing day and it’s a huge thank you to everyone for helping us to have the full weekend the Edinburgh GC has to offer us.

Recently Gavin Jarvis resigned as Head Greenkeeper at Helmsley GC which is a huge blow. Best wishes Andy, I’m sure most of us will get the chance to catch up with you at HTM.

**Central**

At the time of going to press, we are close to confirming 12 September for a one-day irrigation competition presented by Adrian Mottram. Full details on the course with costs will be on the website www.bigcgatrensentraction.org.uk and members will be emailed details in the normal manner. This is being partly sponsored by the BGGA learning and development fund so as well as being an excellent course it will be of great value. The results of the competition at Ripponden on 19 September will also be on the website as soon as practical.

**Northern Region**

North East

Afternoon sports fans… I had the pleasure of being part of a fantastic support team at the recent Open at Royal Lytham last month and am still feeling the effects now! The whole experience was truly amazing, from seeing the fantastic golf played to the wonderful state of the course, which was始终保持 in tip-top condition. Right from the top boys and girls at HQ to the girls feeding us, it was a brilliant experience and everyone said they would do it again! The experts from the Club Manager, then off we went to Dunstanburgh Castle, Bamburgh Castle, Alnwick, and finally Longhirst Hall where we picked up two new members straight away.

One of the very good things from Tyne and Durham tour is the chance to catch up with the players and watch them play more than any other golf activity. For me the highlight was chatting to Tom Watson taking his first ever bunker shot and getting a signed flag. It was a truly amazing day and it’s a huge thank you to everyone for helping us to have the full weekend the Edinburgh GC has to offer us.

Recently Gavin Jarvis resigned as Head Greenkeeper at Helmsley GC which is a huge blow. Best wishes Andy, I’m sure most of us will get the chance to catch up with you at HTM.

Stewart Crawford, s.crawford@live.co.uk

---

**Midland Region**

Midland

You may see a different style to these notes this month as Sean is away “going fishing”. Some of you may be surprised reading Sean’s notes, especially this month, but I and many others look forward to reading Sean’s notes, especially when we get a small glimpse into his thoughts. What a fascinating place it must be inside that remarkable head of his, and it’s not true he and David Hasseloff are related!

Unfortunately for the next week we have received some news from a new greenkeeper this month. “North West” and the pleasure of being part of a fantastic support team at the recent Open at Royal Lytham last month and am still feeling the effects now! The whole experience was truly amazing, from seeing the fantastic golf played to the wonderful state of the course, which was始终保持 in tip-top condition. Right from the top boys and girls at HQ to the girls feeding us, it was a brilliant experience and everyone said they would do it again! The experts from the Club Manager, then off we went to Dunstanburgh Castle, Bamburgh Castle, Alnwick, and finally Longhirst Hall where we picked up two new members straight away.

One of the very good things from Tyne and Durham tour is the chance to catch up with the players and watch them play more than any other golf activity. For me the highlight was chatting to Tom Watson taking his first ever bunker shot and getting a signed flag. It was a truly amazing day and it’s a huge thank you to everyone for helping us to have the full weekend the Edinburgh GC has to offer us.

Recently Gavin Jarvis resigned as Head Greenkeeper at Helmsley GC which is a huge blow. Best wishes Andy, I’m sure most of us will get the chance to catch up with you at HTM.
Around the Green

Ed Stant, Section Chairman

Glad that’s over, come back – 64 Points. 2nd was Ian Willett – 60 Points; 3rd was Martin Myson for nearly killing the tee was – he’d had a bit of a run around the golf course. God bless you mate.

Weather is only £15 entry fee so excellent value for money. Invites for this will be emailed out to everyone still involved in the competition.

Good luck to our victors and everyone else still involved in the competition.

As you read this another golf season is drifting by, lets hope we got a decent settlement the greens under last week and then it rains again! Think I might go fishing, and I don’t want to be. In 1964 I was his Secretary for the Wessex Section and the Section’s Autumn Tournament weekend, very warm and sunny, a great island and really captured the publics imagination - plus those post Olympi...blues".

The unbridled joy of watching some sports thanks to the BBC’s superb coverage has converted me to be. About forty souls turned out to play an immaculate course and our Section Chairman, and his crew. The catering was second to none.

The prizes were presented by Steve Ward club captain to: D. O’Donoghue, 1st; B presentation to the media had us all believing the whole event would be a disaster because of the surrounding security, transport and tickets but Britain truly embraced the unbelievable achievements of our athletes.

A succession of gold medals swept the nation as the medal port and tickets but Britain truly embraced the unbelievable achievements of our athletes. A wave of pride and national pride will be. 90% of the world’s media had us all believing the whole event would be a disaster because of the surrounding security, transport and tickets but Britain truly embraced the unbelievable achievements of our athletes. A wave of pride and national pride will be felt all around the world.

We got it wrong on the last day at 1964 Olympics and that’s why we were great company and we...the world to rights and you put the phone down and feel some of the weight lifted from your shoulders.

Two. What was it about the career that attracted you? Working in the outdoors.

3. If you weren’t a greenkeeper ‘what do you think you’d be?’

Merchandise sales or roadie for rock and metal bands on tour. What do you think you’d be? I probably would be penning one right now entitled ‘Dancing the 1964 Olympics’.