

# Around the Green



The Christmas Competition will be held at Liangollen GC on December 1. The cost is £11 for members and £16 for non-members. All entries should be sent to Terry Adamson, 27 Berwyn Ave, Penyffordd, Chester by November 25.

Finally, congratulations to Northop Country Park on the success of the Welsh Open held there recently.

ANDY CAMPBELL

## MID ANGLIA

The section had three representatives in the Midland Regional team which came second in the Hayter Challenge Tournament final at Pannal GC. These were Jon Moorhouse and John Blair of Brocket Hall GC and David Forsyth of Mid Herts GC. Jon also managed to win his handicap category (0-9) and finished second overall on the day. Well done, lads!

The Midland regional seminar will be held on November 30 at the same venue as last year, Sketchley Grange Country Hotel and Conference Centre, Hinckley, Leicestershire. Speakers include David Golding and David Stansfield, and the cost is £20 which includes a meal.

By now all section members should have received a fixture list for next year, and an entry form for the Christmas Texas Scramble. If, for any reason you haven't, please get in touch with Gerald and I'm sure he'll send you one.

Events for next year include a safe handling course with Jon Allbutt in January and a course visit to Brocket Hall, hosted by John Wells, course manager, in February. The spring and summer tournaments are at Royston and Brickendon Grange respectively, both over 36 holes. The former is the qualifier for next year's Hayter Challenge Tournament. All entries for the Christmas Texas Scramble on Tuesday December 6, at the Family Golf Centre, should be sent to Chris Brook at the usual address. This will however be Chris's last tournament as fixtures secretary as Richard Saunders is taking over this position. Please get your entries in early and ensure all your team members bring a gift for the prize table. The Family Golf Centre is situated at Gravely, just off the Stevenage junction (A602) of the A1.

PAUL LOCKETT

## EAST MIDLANDS

Our section's Autumn Tournament, held at well maintained Wellingborough GC, attracted 38 competitors. The category winners were: 0-9 - R Barker, Kirby Muxloe GC, 79-5=74; 10-18 - A Foulds, Uttoxeter GC, 85-10=75; 19-28 - A Bindley, Kirby Muxloe, 88-20=68; best nett and gross - C Chamberlain, Glen Gorse GC, 78-10=68; longest drive - R Barker; Nearest the pin - M Bindley.

This was certainly a day for being Bindleyed.

A thank-you goes to all at Wellingborough GC for their kindness and hospitality in making our day so enjoyable. Also thanks to all the trade for their kind donation of prizes

for the day, especially Charnwood and Highmeres Lawnmower Services, our main sponsor. Also a special thank-you to all the committee members for all their hard work on the day.

Our next section event is the Texas Scramble at Ullesthorpe Golf and Country Club, followed by the AGM, on November 16.

Congratulations go to P Tatlow of Kedleston Park as this year's winner of the Supaturf K/O Cup, defeating D Leatherland, also of Kedleston Park, in the final. Finally, the Christmas Tournament will take place on Wednesday December 14 and not the 16th as printed on your entry forms.

ANTHONY BINDLEY

## SOUTH COAST

The section AGM is only a month away at 4pm on Tuesday December 6 at Royal Winchester GC. Could anyone wishing to stand for the committee please contact me as soon as possible at 45 Constable Close, Sholling, Southampton SO19 1EN. My home telephone number has changed to 0703 360195 or you can try 0264 334269 or 0585 400529.

The Christmas Stableford will be held on the same day as usual. All entries to Bob Cully, 63 Upper St Helens Road, Hedge End, Southampton SO3 4LS or telephone 0489 782976.

The Hampshire GC opened a new 9-hole par 3 course in addition to the 18-hole course and driving range already open. Pop in if you are near Andover.

ALAN MITCHELL

## EAST ANGLIA

A cold and frosty morning gave way to a pleasant afternoon with a light breeze. And this was the scene that greeted East Anglian section members at Gog-Magog Golf Club near Cambridge.

Head Greenkeeper Lyndon Uphan and his trusted staff produced an excellent course and also a difficult putting competition, which was highly praised by the captain of the Gogs, Norman Benton and the rest of the group during the excellent evening meal.

As usual the trade were there in force and donated many prizes. We would like to thank: Pattissons, CMW, Rushbrooks, Parker Hart, Turfactent, Sta-Brite, Rhone-Poulenc, Ernest Doe's, Tollidays and all officials and staff from Gog-Magog for making it a memorable day.

The winners were: The Shield - S Pigott 39 points; 0-15 - 1, A Carter 35 points; 2, P Howard 34 points; 3, S Sylvester 30 points; 16-28 - 1, S Pigott 39 points; 2, I Willett, 35 points; 3, P Mallow 35 points; Guest - K Bunn 36 points; Putting - A Carter; Longest drive - J Shelton; Nearest the pin - M Day.

The next meeting will be the Turkey Trot and AGM at Aldeburgh GC on December 8. Members are reminded to bring a prize not more than £5 in value. Also, please come to the AGM so that any points you have to make about your section are heard.

IAN WILLETT



# Now for

**Hanbury Manor in Hertfordshire was once a convent school. Now seven years and £28million later there is a luxury hotel, restaurant, conference, country club and clubhouse complex with a challenging 18-hole golf course. But the work (and expense) hasn't finished yet... the greenstaff are embarking on a massive tree-planting programme.**

There are 16 greenstaff at Hanbury Manor, an 18-hole golf course near Ware in Hertfordshire. This is down from a summer high of 22.

But golf course superintendent Simon Klausner, 36, needs every one of them as they strive to bring perfection to the three-year-old Jack Nicklaus Jr designed

course, tweaking it here, replacing poorer quality turf there, extending a water hazard here, reshaping a green or fairway there.

But, at the moment, the main thing on their minds is trees. They have started a programme that will see them planting 38,000 trees and shrubs on the 7,011-yard par 72 course over the next two years. The project will cost about £20,000 but they hope to get a half to two-thirds of this back in the form of grants.

Believed to be the biggest planting scheme of its kind, the trees are necessary to fulfil a dream. It was in 1985 that Hertfordshire businessman Paul Leach and local developer Jim Anderson had the idea of turning a convent school into a top-class leisure and golf resort, a London version of Gleneagles.



# the trees

Hanbury Manor, as it is now known, was already comfortably nestled in mature parklands but, before its ultimate goal could be reached, adjoining acreage, much of it in the form of cavernous gravel pits, had to be reclaimed.

Construction of the course began in 1987 and the next couple of years saw hundreds of thousands of tons of fill being transported to the old gravel pits, and mountains of earth being moved, moulded and contoured into what has become a highly acclaimed, aesthetically pleasing championship-standard golf course. By 1990, the first nine holes had been established on the original parkland site where, earlier this century, Harry Vardon had designed a course. The following year, the other nine holes (which are now the front

nine) emerged triumphant from the old gravel pits.

Now, three years on, the next stage of the development is under way. With one eye firmly on the environment and the other on the expectations of the golfer, Hanbury's management looked to horticultural consultant Brian MacDonald of Boxwood Gardens for a tree planting programme that would provide more depth and form to each of the 18 holes and encourage wildlife to establish on the 206-acre site.

The final design – created in consultation with Jack Nicklaus Jr and Simon Klausner – will see the existing woodlands and coppices being extended and new coppices being created in the ex-gravel pits. They do not want to plant long lines of trees. Where there are thin rows of mature trees, such as round the boundary

of the front nine, the straight lines will be broken up and given shape by strategic planting.

Such an ambitious scheme meant extensive research into the best species in terms of aesthetics, durability, transport, handling, short-term storage, and planting hardiness – no easy task. The answer was eventually found through a supplier which specialises in large scale production of trees grown from UK seed sources – Alba Trees. With its seed nursery in the rain shadow of the Lammermuir Hills, close to Edinburgh and the North Sea, this company consistently produces thoroughly hardened plants, well able to withstand the rigours of harsh conditions.

Using the latest methodology, Alba raises its trees in uniform cells called Rootainers which, because of their compact nature,

## What's being planted

Forest trees		Mix
Oak		15%
Lime		10%
Hornbeam		5%
Ash		5%
Total		35%

## Lesser trees

Shade	Field Maple	5%
Fast	Wild Cherry	10%
	Silver Birch	20%
Light	Crab Apple	15%
Total		50%

## Understorey

Yew		5%
Hazel		10%
Total		15%

## Coppice

Dry	Centre	Oak	10%
		Ash	10%
		Hazel	10%
		Hornbeam	10%
		Field Maple	10%
		Sweet Chestnut	10%
Edge		Birch	10%
		Crab	10%
		Gean	10%
		Woody Shrub Mix	10%
Total			100%

Wet	Centre	Willow	25%
	Edge	Dogwoods	75%
	Total		100%

# Now for the trees

enjoy many advantages over traditionally raised bare-root plants. Roottrainers result in fibrous, well protected root plugs incorporating a slow release, temperature sensitive fertiliser which releases nutrients only when conditions are warm. This technique has the effect of avoiding leaching out, wastage and additional fertilisation, as well as contributing to a remarkable establishment rate.

At Hanbury Manor, all the trees are being planted at about 1.8m spacing in a Tubex Quill which not only offers protection against rabbits and weed killer but also encourages vigorous growth in the first growing season. Extremely compatible with the Roottrainer plug, the Quill offers highly cost effective protection in that no ties or stakes are required for support.

With Alba's uniform cells, simple storage and handling systems, the trees are easy to plant. Han-

bury Manor's greenstaff are undertaking the programme, with the areas marked out by Mr MacDonald. Austrian-born Simon Klausner then checked these from the maintenance point of view (ie shading of tees and greens and that they didn't interfere with the irrigation system). Jack Nicklaus Jr then came over to see how strategy would be affected.

Simon is used to working with Golden Bear Design Associates as he worked at Mount Juliet in Ireland and Muirfield Village in Ohio before coming to Hertfordshire three years ago.

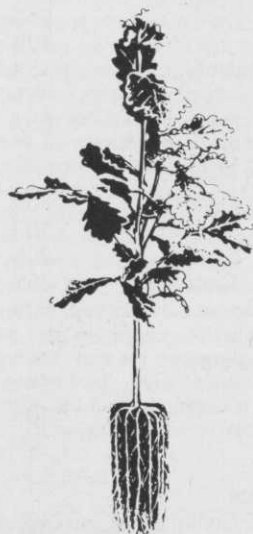
With a degree in agronomy from an agricultural college in Salzburg, Simon believes in doing everything in-house. As well as tree-planting, his staff - which includes seven qualified greenkeepers and a full-time mechanic - have also constructed the buggy path, carry out extensions to the irrigation system, look after the



country house hotel's gardens and even chop wood for the hotel's fireplaces. The ordering, invoice-checking and many other jobs which keep course managers and head greenkeepers tied to a desk are performed by Simon's own secretary. "It doesn't make sense to have a highly trained superintendent spending all his time in the office. He's better employed on the course doing

what he's been trained for," he points out.

For a young course which has already seen more than 30,000 rounds this year, Hanbury Manor is in excellent condition. The new trees will only improve its appearance, enhance the environment, offer a new challenge to the players, and give the developers' grandchildren the inheritance of a fine dream.



## Survival of the fittest

The amount of evidence for the high survival rates of Alba trees surprises even those with lifetime's experience of planting.

The secret is that all Alba trees are Roottrainer grown. This produces excellent root growth and consistent high quality. Also trees which are easy to plant, have an extended planting season and are proven cost-effective because beating up can be eliminated.

A wide selection of British grown hardwoods, conifers and shrubs is available, backed by a service which aims to set new standards for customer satisfaction.

Alba Trees plc,  
Lower Winton, Gladsmuir,  
East Lothian EH33 2AL

Telephone (062 082) 5058/9

Fax (062 082) 5316



*The best start a tree can have*



# NATURE *first*

## TREE MOVING

Transform your course quickly and economically  
by transplanting your own large trees.

Tree spades of all sizes available.

For free site visit and advice

Contact:

MARTIN BROMAGE

PHONE 0452 731199 FAX 0452 731131

WOOD LANE NURSERY, DOWN HATHERLEY, GLOS