



**Scottish Region**  
Peter Boyd  
Tel/Fax 0141 616 3440

**West**

Welcome to this month's newsletter. I am sure you will all have completed your Winter programmes and have your courses in pristine condition for the start of the season. What with all this fine weather we have been having since the middle of January? Hopefully we will all have a good season and be blessed with a fine Spring and Summer.

Football first. A second seven a side match was played between the greenkeepers and the Ibrox ground staff on February 18. The result was a 4-4 draw. Gerry tells me that the Ibrox boys were much fitter than they were in the first game and also had an extra team member which might explain the difference in the score line from the first game which ended 9-1 to the greenkeepers. Or could it have been that two of the greenkeepers key players were missing? The team on the night consisted of Chris Kerr, Gerry Bruen, Stuart Taylor, Alastair Taylor, Brian Hillen, Ian Smith & Stephen Brown. I am sure the tighter score line made for a much more competitive and enjoyable game.

On February 26 an educational visit was arranged at Stewart's turf farm at North Berwick. The greenkeepers who attended were given an insight into the running of a turf farm and some of the problems which can occur. One problem they do share in common with most golf courses in this area is a continual battle to control the spread of annual meadow grass in their turf. At present they are trying to suppress the seeding of annual meadow grass by treating the turf with Scoff's Shortcut. The Farm Manager informed us that they were testing different application rates and spray intervals and that they have already seen some positive benefits from using this product. After visiting the farm we were shown round the Stewart's depot at Dalkeith. Of particular interest were the composting process used in developing Kelpie and the amount of plant used in their top dressing facility. I, and the committee, would like to thank everyone at Stewarts who took the time to talk to us on the day and especially to Robert Bruce for being our host and chief organiser of the event. I am sure we will all see the photos in the near future!

On February 19 a small panel of committee members and Peter Boyd, our Regional Administrator, visited Langside College to discuss some of the benefits that joining the Association offered. The students presented us with some interesting questions on what the Association was trying to achieve especially with regards to the recommended wage scale and the cross matching of SVQ's and academically achieved qualifications such as the HNC. Hopefully we will have encouraged some of the young greenkeepers who weren't members to join the Association.

Some new members are to be welcomed to the Section these being David Eardley and Philip Barclay, Hilton Park GC; Nichol Barry, Whitecraigs GC; Mark Cummine, Buchanan Castle GC; John Thorburn, Windyhill GC; Graeme Latto and Wilson Wallace, Milnegavie GC, and Peter Robertson, Bothwell Castle GC. We hope to see you all at our up and coming social events.

Some dates for your calendar are April 4 when the Aitkens 1 SGM Greensomes match will be held at Lenzie GC. This tournament was originally set up to give greenkeepers and their new convenors a chance to get to know one another in a relaxed atmosphere and always proves to be a most enjoyable day. Once again the committee on behalf of the Section members would like to thank both sponsors for their continued support of this event.

On April 25 our Spring outing will be held at Millport GC. Please try and get all your entries to Sandy before the closing date as a charge will be made on all late entries.

All members who held a number in the 100 Club last year will have received a mail shot asking if you would like to retain the same number. If you do wish to retain your number please send your £5 onto Sandy as soon as possible or your number may be re-allocated.

Well that's all folks. Again, if you would like anything added to the column please do not hesitate to call me on 01355266862.

Brian Bolland

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**Central**

We seem to be slipping up as there are no new membership applications this month (perhaps there is a problem with this year's forms!) but I have it on good authority that George Paterson, from Scotsraig, and Neil Ballingall, from St Andrews Bay, will be joining the Section. So on behalf of everyone, we extend a warm welcome to you both and hopefully you will join us at Kingsbarns next month.

Congratulations go to Regional Administrator, Peter Boyd, for organising yet another excellent Conference at the Dunfermline Business Centre last month. With top class speakers on various subjects the delegates were certainly given an opportunity to "further their education" and it was pleasing to see a good number of Central Section members giving their support and gaining point towards the annual Patron's Awards.

Winners of "Club 2000" in January were Phil Langdon, £30, with No. 185 and S. McKnight, £20, with No. 008, February winners were E. Small, £30, with No. 46 and B. Bone, £20, with No. 280 and finally, March winners were A. Dunn, £30, with No. 138 and S. McMillan, £20, with No.033. That's us up to date with the winners so far this year. But giv-

ing you an extra few weeks to send in the money for your tickets obviously didn't work as there are still 179 members who have still to do so. Guess what's going to take up most of next month's news? Answers on the back of a "Club 2000 ticket Please (paid for!).

Congratulations go to Alistair Philp, who is leaving St. Fillans Golf Club, to take up the appointment of Head Greenkeeper at Comrie Golf Club. Alistair won't have to move house to take up his new appointment as he already lives in Comrie, that's what you call forward planning. Every success for the future, Alistair.

Remember, please return your forms for the Spring Tournament at Kingsbarns and your entry for the Interclub Tournament as time and spaces are running out fast!

John Crawford.

**Latest news?**

[www.bigga.org.uk/news.html](http://www.bigga.org.uk/news.html)

**North**

Hello Section. Four new members to report to the Section, they are, Richard Ralph, from Newtonmore Golf Club; Robert Laing, from Camperdown Golf Club; David Lawrance, from Kinloss Country Golf Club, and lastly Paul Marshall, from Newburgh on Ythan Golf Club. Welcome to the Section and we will hopefully maybe see you at the golf outings.

The Scottish Conference went ahead on March 5 and was well attended. The members from the North Section who attended hopefully enjoyed their day out. The speakers were of their usual high standard and covered a variety of topics. Peter Boyd set up the day and once again our thanks go to Peter.

The 200 club is now up and running and you should have your renewals through the post by now. The fee has gone up to £7 from £6, this is due to administration costs and cannot be avoided. If you decide not to renew your membership then could you please send your ticket back and Robert Hardie can then maybe sell the tickets on before the outing in May. Hopefully the club will continue to do well and give our section the funds it needs to continue. The first draw is on May 16 at Elgin Golf Club.

For anyone interested the Scottish Regional Golf Championships will be held at West Linton GC on June 27. It is a very busy time for most greenkeepers and it is difficult to get time off but if anyone can make it down from our Section to play then I am sure you will enjoy it, and Good Luck.

Good to hear from Stuart Hogg from Fortrose GC who seems to be on the way to recovery from his recent illness, we wish you all the best.

Iain Macleod, of Tain GC, recently was 25 years working at the club, our congratulations go to Iain and keep up the good work. I am sure there are other Greenkeepers in our Section who been 25 years or more with the

same club, and if you are one of them, then congratulations also.

The forms for the golf outing should be arriving shortly, and it should a busy day as Elgin is a top class course so hopefully see you there

Once again if you have any concerns you like to have aired in the magazine then I can be contacted on 01997 420155.

Iain Gunn



**Northern Region**  
Douglas Bell  
Tel: 0151 431 0433

**Northern**

We had a good turn out of 37 turn out for the Section seminar. The speakers that entertained so well were, Henry Bechelet, STRI, Changing the Nature of Greens; Simon Barnaby, Scotts UK, Fertilisers & Organics; Peter Jefford, Rufford - Top Dressings; Martyn Jones, Myerscough College, Seeding, Timing, Preparation.

We could not put on this event without the sponsorship of Scotts UK. Many thanks to Howley Hall GC for their assistance and co-operation on the day. Also thanks to the speakers who give us their valuable time.

It was noted that a few members turned up in jeans, trainers and collarless shirts. This was embarrassing to those involved in the event and put the Section and Association in a very bad light. All future events will be Jacket and Tie affairs from now on. We are trying to move forwards not backwards.

There are only a couple of weeks to for the annual dusting of the clubs for the Spring Tournament at Bedale GC on April 16. All applications with full payment to the address below by April 9.

By the time you read this your new Section Secretary, Dave Thackray, will be starting to get his feet under the table. I have very much enjoyed my time on the committee and would like to thank you the members and the rest of the committee for the support you have given me for the events that have been put on. I have a couple of another projects to work on over the next year or so which will be taking up my time, but no doubt I'll be back. I have every confidence in Dave and the rest of the committee to carry on in going forward.

The all important information to get in touch with Dave Thackray is: address: 16 Westwood Avenue, Bradford, West Yorkshire, BD2 1NJ; Tel: 01274 640739; mobile 07976 876264

That's all for now  
Andy Smith.

**North West**

Saturday night, and I have just checked the lottery. One number on five lines no good, so I think go for a pint. Look out, still hammering down with rain. Sod it, better do some notes for the magazine, so here

we go. Reading the local evening newspaper I came across an article you may find interesting, and I quote,

"A new technology could mean an end to waterlogged cricket pitches, tennis courts and golf courses. Researchers at Newcastle University are developing an element system called EKG that uses electricity to draw water out of soil."

Now this sounds interesting, and I am sure that if the University required some golf courses to practise on they would be inundated with volunteers. I personally feel this would be a damp squid, but I have heard greenkeepers suggesting the use of electricity on the course like wiring the flag poles, and buggies.

Back to reality, the Spring tournament will be held at Hurlston Hall Golf Club on Wednesday, May 15, and lunch served at 12.30pm, tee available from 1.30pm. Applications to Bill Merritt, 225 Utting Avenue, Clubmore, Liverpool. L4 9RB, Tel 0151 284 4416 no later than May 10 including a cheque for £20. The spring tournament is also a qualifier for the Regional final, which will be played at Whitefield Golf Club on Friday, August 9. The final will once again be sponsored by Richard Campey, and lunch and evening meal will be paid for by the sponsor. The match between the N/West and N/Wales will shortly be arranged, and I will keep you informed on the date. That's it for now, but any news will be welcome, and if you have any queries please contact me on 0151 724 5412 or 07761 583387

Bert Cross

#### North Wales

Spring is her and lots of sunshine and flowers, lots of club members dusting off the cobwebs and turning out for the first monthly medals. Hang on, why is the rough so deep? Why hasn't this fairway been cut? Why are the greens not running at

12 on the stimpmeter like at Augusta? We haven't had any rain here, have we?

Well like they say in Florida, tell em to 'Have a nice day' as they are the green fee payers (not Florida green fees that is?) but the sun does shine over there and burn - just ask Gareth (Bronco) Williams, of Porthmadog GC!

On to business the N. Wales vs. N. West match has now been arranged and the venue is Pryors Hayes GC In Chester on April 30 at 1.30pm tee time. We require a team of 12, so anyone who is able to play please contact Jez Hughes on 01978 860109. Many thanks to Martin Redrup, of Pryors Hayes, for the organisation of the course also to Gem Professional for the sponsorship.

The Maintenance Department at Royal Liverpool GC is now near to completion as Derek Green and his team look forward to the hosting of the Open Championship back at Hoylake in a few years time. Can anyone tell me who won The Open when it was last played at Hoylake in 1967? Answers on a postcard please.

The Spring Tournament is taking place on the 10th. Good luck to all taking part and full results will appear in next month's issue along with an insight from Richard Littler, of Bromborough GC, into his 18 greens, which have all been lifted and re-laid for the start of this season.

On a final note Phil Gates of the Midland Section is organising a golf trip to Ireland - a two night stop over to play the Irish Greenkeepers. Anyone interested in Golf or Guinness or both contact Phil.

Any news, views or information you have, please contact me on Home - 01925 263394, Fax - 01925 269622, Mobile - 07778 182162, e-mail - acomgolf@supanet.com

Job's a good 'n'.

Andrew Acorn



Midland Region  
Peter Larter  
Tel: 01476 550115

#### East Midlands

This years Go-Karting evening was held on February 20, at The Wymeswold Ind. Est Race Track. Again the evening was booked to capacity, which shows that if you wish to attend any Section event, please book you place early. The evening started well until half way through the races there was a power failure, and all the results were lost. So the racing had to start once more from scratch. After some hard fought qualifying races we were ready for the grand final, which was extended by more laps. The eventual winner was Steve Levers, of Ramsdale Park, with Lingdale's, Gavin Robson, in second place.

There was unfortunately a nasty accident on the night, but the good news is that there was no serious injury to Nigel White and I'm sure he will be fit and ready for the Spring Tournament on May 2. I would like to thank our very generous sponsors Toro/Lely UK and ps Marsdens who subsidised the evening and brought along the prizes. Remember if you wish to race next year return your entry slip early.

The Spring Tournament this year will be held at the Leicestershire GC, on Thursday, May 2. Tee-Off Times 1pm-3pm. If you wish to attend please return your entry slip and payment before the closing date.

Antony Bindley

#### Midland

Firstly, I would like to extend a big thank you to Bernhard & Co, for their considerable commitment to sponsoring ten fortunate members to visit the GCSAA in Orlando, of whom I was lucky enough to be one. The quality of the week was sec-

ond to none with every day jam-packed full of events. Being part of the delegation also ensured more doors were opened that normal on a trip of this nature. My thanks also go to the nine other delegates and GCSAA who all contributed so much to make such a memorable week. Having been privileged enough to have experienced this opportunity first hand, I would encourage anybody who is contemplating entering for a place on a future tour to do so and support strongly such an excellent commitment executed so well by Bernhard & Co.

Back home now, and I have been asked to explain the £5 rise in golf day entrance fees. This has come about firstly to ensure the Section covers all costs of the day and, secondly, some clubs now are asking for a donation per head to the green fees. I trust you will still support what is still an excellent day's golf and socialising in the future. The next tournament is May 22 at Gay Hill. Entrance fees as usual to Kim Blake please.

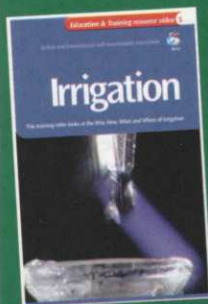
Interest has also been expressed as to organising a trip to Ireland or Scotland, which will be towards the end of the year. This may be in conjunction with the North Wales Section, playing golf against Greenkeepers of the opposing nation over a two-day period. Initially, numbers need to be gathered of those interested before cost and possible sponsorship is sought, if you have an interest please contact myself on 97876-546638.

Also you may have seen Andy Smith, of Shirley Golf Club, on Zoe Ball's class of 1979 in March. Well done, Andy.

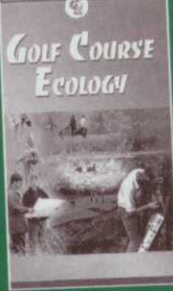
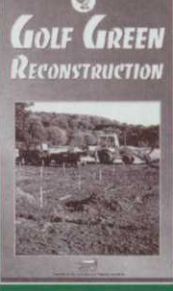
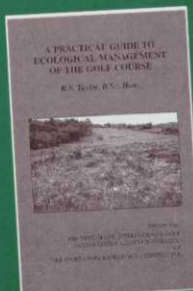
Phil Gates

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**South East**  
Derek Farrington  
Tel: 01903 260956

### East Anglia

Two Seminars this month given by Prime Irrigation went off very well. Eastern College near Norwich was the first held on February 6 and Otley held the second on February 13. I missed the first as I was with the delegation with Bernhards in Orlando, more about that later. The Otley seminar certainly gave those attending a lot to think about. Robin and Rupert dealt with the practical side: pop-ups, pipework, installation and repairs and Graham and John dealt with design and the electronics. I understand that 20 greenkeepers attended Eastern and 50 came to Otley, this did include 10 students, but still we must be proud of ourselves for such a large turnout. Our thanks go to Prime Irrigation for a great presentation.

On February 3 I flew out to Orlando with the delegation from Bernhards and BIGGA heading for the GCSAA Conference and Trade Show. While we were there we visited four courses and the Disney Wilderness Centre, 37,000 acres of habitat recreation area.

(Here's a tip if you visit Florida and there's a lake near by Do Not go for a paddle, you may end up an Alligators breakfast) One of the first courses we visited was Orange County National, a 45 hole complex, two 18 hole championship courses, a 9 hole executive course and a 45 acre practice area, a staff of 39 during the Winter and 48 in Summer, enough Toro equipment to run six courses in the UK and a budget of \$2,000,000 a year. The greens are a mix of bent grass which they use for the winter months and Bermuda grass which takes over during the Summer Season. 85,000 rounds a year at \$125 per round totals \$10,600,000 in green fees. Big course!

We attended two one day seminars and many presentations. It was an experience that I will long remember. It was a brilliant trip and I would like to express my thanks to Bernhard & Co and BIGGA for giving me the opportunity of being on the team.

Ian Willett

### Surrey

All members by now should have received the Surrey programme for this year together with the application forms for the first golfing venue at Foxhills and the Bioseed Bowl knockout competition. Please add the following dates, the McMillan Tankard at Sunningdale will be on August 8 and the England vs Scotland match at Hankley Common is on August 30.

This is all there is to report apart from a happy event that occurred on February 18. Lorna Tedder the wife of Peter, Head Greenkeeper at Sunningdale Ladies Golf Club, gave birth to a son, Daniel Alfie, 8lb, 6oz. We wish them both our warmest congratulations.

Please let me have your news so that next month's Surrey Around The Green is not read so quickly.

Brian Willmott

### Essex

This, as you may know is the first report since God knows how long. That's not because the author has not written anything but more to do with a mix up with names. The reports I write for this magazine as you know go to a Mr. S. MacCallum, whereas the reports I write for my local newspapers go to a Mr. S. MacEnnis, you can guess the rest I am sure. By the time I had found out it was too late to even get it in the February magazine.

New members this month are: - Malcolm McGeoch, Ash Valley Golf Club; Michael Bassett, of Great Hadham Golf & Country Club; Martin Trower, of Burnham on Crouch GC; Paul Enfield, of Thorpe Hall GC, and Nigel Barnes, The Grove. Welcome to our Section.

Thanks must go to The Burstead Golf Club for staging two educational days, the first a First Aid and the second a COSHH and Risk Assessment day. Both days were well attended by members of our Section and we hope to have more in the future.

Our first golf day of the year is our Spring Trophy, which is to be held at the Essex Golf & Country Club on April 17. (Not April 15 as advertised on your fixture list). Which reminds me if you have not had a fixture list yet please contact Martin Forrester.

Congratulations are due to three greenkeepers who all had babies recently, Dominic Rodgers now has a son, Ciaran; Derek Blake also had a son, Joshua, and Daniel Walker completing a hat trick of boys with, Ben. Let's hope they all grow up to be golfers as good as their respective fathers. Well done.

The Section needs support for this years Volvo PGA Championship at Wentworth. Anybody who would like to help should contact Derek Farrington ASAP.

That just leaves me to wish you all a successful and enjoyable year's golf with our Section and hope to see you all at each of them in turn.

Steve Crosdale

### Phone a friend?

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### Kent

Congratulations to Gary Debenham this month on the announcement of the fact he will be becoming a father in August. Coincidentally Gary has announced his engagement as well and I'm sure everyone will wish them all the best for the future.

News of any interest from the Gentleman's Dinner and what prize I won will be in next month's issue along with any funny stories of the day.

As you may know here at Kings Hill we don't like to blow our own trumpets but we have recently received an award from the Country Land and Business

Association in recognition for our conservation and wildlife management work carried out on our course. With works ranging from heather management and establishment to bird boxes. We have been quite busy during the Autumn/Winter months with our self funded projects with the advice of the Kent Wildlife Trust. If any other clubs have done such work or would like any information on it, drop me a line and let me know what you have been up to.

Sorry I have not got any other news but I guess my new e-mail address has not got through to you yet. [JRBATKHGOLF@AOL.COM](mailto:JRBATKHGOLF@AOL.COM) or call me on 01732 875020 with any news, however small.

Jason Bean.



**South West and South Wales**  
Paula Humphries  
Tel: 01288 352194

### South West

Here are the result of our winter competition held at West Wills Golf Club in the snow and wind. 1. P. Jenkins, 30pts; 2. J. Keenachn, 28pts. (Countback on the last 4); 3. S. Capern, 28pts. Nearest the pin, D. Smith. It was also his birthday, so well done to him and everybody. The prizes were fantastic, yes, outstanding. First was a Television, second was a Microwaves and third, a Stereo. Our next event is at Burnham & Berrow Tuesday, April 16.

You will very soon receive a form with all of our events listed, please read and return to Kevin telling him which events you would like to attend and play in remember events a interesting and informative also there are great prizes.

Robin Greaves

### South Coast

Spring edges its way ever closer and most of us are finishing off our winter programmes. The Section has been quiet again apart from our seminar, which was held at Salisbury & South Wilts Golf Club on February 13. The day started with an interesting talk from Rex Kimberley on soil nutrition. This was followed by an excellent presentation from Adi Archer and Terry Elbourne from Broadstone Golf Club. We were given an excellent insight into the Ecological work that earned them first prize in the BIGGA Environmental Award.

After an excellent lunch Kath Moore, from the BBC, gave us a brief insight into the work that went into a new television programme and in particular the one, which focuses on turf management. Part of the programme was filmed at Fred Deamen's Alton Golf Club. Head Groundsman Dave Roberts from Southampton Football Club finished the day off with an excellent presentation giving us an enlightening insight into the maintenance of a Premiership pitch. He also spoke about the construction of the stadium and new pitch at the St Mary's stadium. The whole day

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It was good to see Simon Banks present particularly after his beloved Ipswich had been thrashed the previous weekend. There were a number of Liverpool fans present that I understand forgot to mention this to Simon. Once again many thanks to Banks for their valued sponsorship, to Salisbury & South Wilts Golf Club for their superb hospitality, to all the speakers who made it such an enjoyable day and a huge vote of thanks to Fred Deamen for organising the day.

As our golf meetings begin, we must give a vote of thanks to tournament organiser, Chris Sturgess, for arranging such a good year for us. We are to be treated with some excellent courses to play this year and we start at Blackmoor Golf Club on Wednesday, May 1. The spring tournament will be a 27 hole event and is sponsored by Avoncrop and Vitax. The cost for the day will be £18 and please forward your entries to Chris Sturgess. We have arranged a course walk for those non golfers who wish to come along. Again the price is £18 to cover the cost of the food. We hope this will encourage our non playing members along to our events.

One last piece of news. We must pass on our congratulations to Chris Sturgess, and his bride Maggie, who got married on March 23. We wish them a long and happy life together! If anyone has any news that they wish to include in the section notes then please contact me on 07813841714 or email me at amccombie@hotmail.com.

Until next month,  
Alex McCombie

#### Devon & Cornwall

After last year's Avoncrop-sponsored February Section meeting being cancelled due to the Foot & Mouth crisis it was nice to be able to hold the event at last year's scheduled venue of Thurlstone Golf Club, which saw an attendance of 56 members. Once again the strong winds and rain, which had been the norm for February, gave way to very calm and sunny conditions. Thirty-three golfing members played a bogey competition for the Avoncrop Trophy and Head Greenkeeper, Stuart Freeman, treated

our non-golfing members to a tour of the excellently presented course.

After lunch John Palfrey presented the golfing prizes for the Avoncrop trophy to:- 1. John Gawman, St Mellion G&CC, +6; 2. Kevin Yeoman, Dartmouth G&CC, +3; 3. Simon Coombes, Dainton Park GC, +1.

Robert Brewer, of American Golf, presented our afternoon talk on moving from greenkeeper to management. Robert's talk was most informative, hopefully we will see more greenkeepers go into club management. The Section would like to thank the members and committee of Thurlstone GC for allowing the Section use of their facilities for the day and to Robert Brewer for making the long journey southwest to present his excellent talk.

Our congratulations go to Stuart Freeman and his crew who had the course in superb condition.

The Section, in association with Ocmis Irrigation, presented a workshop on Irrigation at Fingle Glen GC on Tuesday 5th March. The day saw 46 members and guests attend a superbly run workshop covering Irrigation design, sprinkler and solenoid servicing, control systems & pumping equipment. The Section would like to thank Roger, Vic and Ray for presenting the workshop and to Ocmis for sponsoring the day which was of great educational value.

Richard Whyman

#### Northern Ireland

Well, I am going to begin this month's notes by having a good moan about the weather. As I write this in early March, February 2002 is a month that we will be glad to see the back of. The majority of our inland golf courses have had prolonged amounts of closure, some have closed for three to four weeks causing frustration among the golfing members and greenstaff alike, we seem to have our entire Autumn and Winter rainfall in the space of a couple of weeks. We can only look forward and hope for some nice warm and sunny days ahead.

Our latest Section event will be held at Lisburn Golf Club on March 14. A talk on grass seed and fortiva will be presented by Jo Gladwin, from Nickerson UK. We are hoping to hold our first golf day in early April, the date and venue are to be confirmed.

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**Epani**

Best wishes to Broderick Grass Machinery Ltd, who have taken over the Textron Dealership in Northern Ireland at the beginning of the year. Brodericks commitment to the Textron brand has won them the award as European distributor of the year by Textron Golf Turf and Speciality Products at the BIGGA show in Harrogate.

I would like to welcome the following new members to the section this month, Alistair McEwen, Head Greenkeeper at Spa Golf Club, Robert Patterson, Rockmount Golf Club, Brian McConway and Chris M'Ilro, The Hilton Temple Patrick, and Steven Henry, Royal Portrush Golf Club.

Ken Henderson

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