



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

### Scotland

The Scottish National Tournament will be held on Thursday 27 June 2002 at West Linton Golf Club, West Linton by kind permission of the Captain and committee. The cost of the event will be £20 which includes coffee/tea, filled roll and evening meal, plus prizes.

Entry will be restricted depending on the number of entries received.

Entry forms will be available at all Section Spring outings and from the Regional Administrator.

All entries with remittance, must be sent to the Regional Administrator.

Peter J.Boyd, 10 Meadowburn Avenue, Newton Mearns, Glasgow G77 6TA by Tuesday, June 18. Cheques made payable to BIGGA Scottish Region.

Peter J.Boyd

### East

Welcome to a busy column this month, which is what we want to see, so let's get started. The Section had a trip to Kingsbarns Golf Club, Fife, on March 7, in association with local Toro dealer, Henderson Grass Machinery.

There were 20+ members present on the visit, which was a very interesting and informative day. Everyone had a good look around the course, facilities etc. We would like to thank Course Manager, Stuart McColm for giving us his time throughout the day. We would also wish to thank Dougie Jeffrey, Area Sales Manager, and everyone else at Henderson Grass Machinery for all the organisation of the day and for providing the bus to transport everyone up to Fife and everything behind the scenes to provide a trouble free trip. So a big thanks to everyone involved.

We have another visit planned for May 29 to Muirfield to see the preparations for this summer's Open Championship, so we expect a big turnout for this one. This visit is in association with Stewarts & Company. The format of the day is as follows: Visit to Stewarts (Dalkieth) or the turf farm, then lunch and on to Muirfield to see what goes into preparing for an Open Championship. This is one not to miss!

I had a phone call a couple of weeks ago from Jimmy McLaughlin, Head Greenkeeper at the Merchants of Edinburgh Golf Club informing me that Alisdair Duff, Assistant Greenkeeper celebrated 25 years at the Merchants GC at the end of March.

The club were commemorating this with a lunch in his honour and presented him with a watch for his outstanding service to the club. The Section would like to congratulate Alisdair, who is also a long time member of the Association as well as SIGGA. Well done for the last 25 years and we hope to see you at some Section events in the near future.

Jimmy also informs me that Alisdair's nickname at the Merchants is the pest. Why? Well we don't know. That's it for this month. Coming up in next month's edition is, news and views from Spring Tournament at Gullane; results from the annual tournament Scottish Greenkeepers v Club Secretaries Association, and any news I pick up on my travels this month. Well that's it, I'm looking forward to next month already!

PS. We hope that the spring weather is good and we are getting some good growth for the long season ahead. Hope you all received your entry forms for all competitions this year (Don't lose them because no form no entry) Also you all received your fixture cards to keep you all updated on all events over the next 12 months.

Chris Yeaman.

### North

One new member to mention this month, and he is Allan Black from Inchmarlo Golf Centre. Welcome to the North Section. Allan.

Well, after probably one of the wettest winters for the past few years the recent dry spell has been very welcome and I am sure anyone who is behind with their winter work will be catching up rapidly. The weather for Easter was glorious and the golfers were out in droves, but with the usual comments that the course is a little bit behind last year in growth and quality of putting surfaces. But with Easter being earlier this year everyone seems to have short memories. But we cannot have it every way of course.

The entry forms for Elgin should all have been received and sent back by the time you will receive this report but just in case you receive the magazine early then you should get the entry form sent back quickly as I think the spaces will be at a premium.

Also a reminder for your 200 Club tickets which need to be back as soon possible for the first outing, as the first draws take place at this outing.

Our Section is hoping to run management courses this coming Autumn and also next Spring. The courses can cover any part of our profession from computers and the role they play in our jobs, to COSSH Assessments, Risk Assessments etc. For any further information or if you have any other ideas which you feel would be beneficial to run courses on then you can get in touch with Dougal Duguid on 01224 740329 or myself on 01997 420 155. If we can get about six to 12 people on the course then the Section can get them at a reduced rate and affordable.

An idea was put to me the other day about trying to set up a challenge match between the Greenkeepers in the Aberdeen area and Greenkeepers from the North. It could be set up as a once a year challenge match or a home and away match. It would be a purely social occasion of course, but the potential I feel is great, if only we could get it up and running. If anyone likes the sound of the idea then phone me or any other committee

member, or it could be discussed further at the outing at Elgin Golf Club on May 16.

Have a good Spring  
Iain Gunn

### Ayrshire

As I type these notes Easter has just passed and the weather is good with the course drying up, by the time you read them our spring outing will have passed and who knows what the weather will be doing.

I have pleasure in introducing my new Vice Chairman, Martin Lothian. Martin as many of you know is Head Greenkeeper on the Ailsa course at Turnberry. Like a good Vice Chairman, Martin was on the phone recently with some news to fill up this column. Did you know Martin found a Second World War Bomb in a bunker! Only joking, Martin called to say that two Turnberry members are on the move, Gareth Williams, assistant, to Wentworth and staying in the section William McMeikan, assistant, to Prestwick St. Cuthberts who will now be well prepared for the Spring outing. Congratulations and best wishes lads with your new positions.

News of the Spring outing next month, any other information call me on 01505 683278.

Iain Barr



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

### Cleveland

The annual quiz organised by Section Secretary, Barry Walker, took place at Darlington Golf Club last month with 30 greenkeepers turning out. The quiz was won quite convincingly by the Wear Greenies again (and me) a cracking night was had by everyone. Well done Barry, I'm looking forward to defending our title next year. Thanks to Darlington Golf Club for their facilities and the pie and pea supper.

The Section committee met last month, they discussed future events that would interest greenkeepers, many ideas were thrown forward and Ian Pemberton was put in charge of looking into organising events and trips. Anyone with any ideas should contact Ian Pemberton. Some events appeared in last month's newsletter the first of which has been, 14 greenkeepers took a mini bus trip to Rolawn and had a very interesting and informative day looking around their turf fields, turf cutting machinery and turf washing facilities. Well done Pembo on your first successful event and thanks to Rolawn for looking after us.

The spring tournament is at Darlington Golf Club on April 24 and a few places are still left, cost £10 so contact Barry Walker quickly if your interested.

Richmond Golf Club are back to full strength again after appointing Mark Wittary as Greenkeeper Mechanic and Roy Applegarth as Assistant Greenkeeper. Mark is a first

time greenkeeper, and Roy is a Darlington lad returning north from Headingley Golf Club having served his time at Stressholme Golf Club. Roy is the brother of Rigby Taylor sales rep Jamie Applegarth.

Stephen Taggart has left the Wynyard Club to start work at Groundcare Landscapes, a company started by Lewis Meek after he was made redundant as Head Greenkeeper at the Wynyard Club. Lewis is doing really well hence he's had to take on extra staff. Well done Lewis, I hope you have continued success, good luck to all the lads in your roles.

And finally a serious health and safety issue by the time this goes to print Middlesbrough will be out of the FA Cup so please tread carefully around the following people. Ian Pemberton, Bedale; Allan Reid, Saltburn, and Stephen Taggart, Groundcare. You've been warned. In the unlikely event of Middlesbrough making the final my apologies to the above people.

Any news contact me on 07719193381

Steven Jaques

### North West

Beginning of April and the weather has been great this last few days with dry conditions and plenty of sunshine, but the ground temperature is still cold, with the finer grasses holding back for warmer weather. Most golfers of course do not realise this, and in the next couple of weeks will be watching the masters at Augusta, and wondering why their course is not the same. Now if they had attended the Mere seminar and listened to Alistair Beggs, from the STRI, who spoke of his visit to America. Including Augusta, they may understand a little better. The normal numbers of staff at Augusta are 35 but during the run up to the Masters this is increased to about 80. The budget for the course is approximately \$2.5 million, the workshops house vast amounts of machinery, which is maintained by their own highly trained mechanics. The beautiful display of magnolias, rhododendrons, and azaleas, are grown under glass to flower at the right time, and planted out to give this magnificent display in April.

Tony Mears, the greenkeepers representative on the GTC, followed Alistair, shedding some light on how the GTC work with BIGGA on the education side.

Stephen Bernhard gave an interesting talk on "Should the mower really murder grass" Stephen is the founder of Bernhard and company who manufacture and sell Anglemaster grinding machines throughout the world. He showed how important it is to get a good cut, the blades should be kept sharp, but the blades of the cutting cylinder and the bottom blade should not touch as this causes stress on your machine. It is interesting to note that at the 1997 Masters, the mowers used daily were sharpened with Anglemaster grinders to produce perfect playing surfaces.

The afternoon was taken up by four greenkeepers. Firstly Tony Smith Course Manager at Hurlston Hall GC who was one of the two winners from the Northern Region to win a trip to Orlando, sponsored by Bernhard & Company, told us about the trip, and showed slides of the various courses he visited.

Andy Campbell followed with a talk entitled "Changing times/Changing jobs."

Andy is a Master Greenkeeper, and he also became the first UK based Greenkeeper to achieve GCSAA certification. Obviously to gain both of these prestigious awards has meant many hours of study, but the knowledge gained must be so rewarding. He talked of his early days in green-keeping, and how health and safety has changed with proper washing facilities, keeping records, improved machinery, and working conditions. His job now entails looking after the De Vere Carden Park estate, which includes two 18 hole courses, a par 3 course, and if my memory serves me right, a herd of deer, all this run from a proper office.

The final speakers were Anthony Davies and Colin Denny. Anthony is Course Manager at Prestbury GC and is also a Master Greenkeeper. His talk was "Course Reconstruction & Renovation" One of the important things in winter work of course is renovation of bunkers and tees. Anthony has carried out a lot of this work and showed slides of before and after, amazing what a difference a reshaped bunker can make. Colin Denny followed talking about the reconstruction of the 17th hole at Prestbury. You may have seen in one of the magazines how the banks of the 17th green and the green itself had completely collapsed through the amount of rain we had during the year 2000. This meant bringing in heavy machinery to re-build the banks and green surrounds, plus 2000 tonnes of top soil, and having the job finished in time for the first competition the slides shown were impressive and showed the scale of the job, which was completed on time. I would like to thank all the speakers for giving us their time and Mere Golf & Country Club for the use of their wonderful facilities, and the delegates who attended the seminar.

The next event is the Spring Tournament at Hurlston Hall GC on Wednesday, May 15. Lunch 12.30 tee from 1.30pm. Applications to Bill Merritt. 225 Utting Avenue, Clubmore, Liverpool. L4 9RB. TEL. 0151 284 4416 Please include a cheque for £20 made payable to BIG-GA n/west

The Summer Tournament is at Ulverston GC on Thursday, June 20. All applications as above. Any news or enquiries contact me on 0151 724 5412 or Mobile: 07761 583 387

Bert Cross

#### Northern

I must start my first around the greens notes by thanking Andy Smith on his tireless effort and dedication over the last few years in his role as

Section Secretary. As most of you will be aware Andy decided to step down from his role so he could pursue other interests.

So, Andy on behalf of everybody in the Northern Section, thank you and I hope you can now enjoy at your leisure all the Section's golf tournaments.

I was asked by the committee to step in to the role of Section Secretary and am slowly getting to grips with the ins and outs of the job. If I can be of any assistance regarding any Section matters please do not hesitate to get in touch through any of the mediums at the end of this report. I am writing these notes pre-spring tournament at Bedale golf club which is sponsored by Scotts UK. A full report and list of results will appear in the next magazine.

Our next Section event will be President's Day sponsored by Rufford Soil Technology. The event is taking place at Otley Golf Club on Wednesday, June 19. All players wishing to test out Steve Heaton's course must get their £15 to a member of the committee at least a week prior to the event. As this is my first stab at putting together these notes, I must urge anyone with any news, views or gossip from our Section, to relay them on to me so I can print them in the notes. We must all remember that the committee is working for all of the Northern Section members and if you would like to see other events let us know and we will try to arrange them.

Lastly, I hope you're not all under too much pressure and the grass is steadily coming out of the ground. Happy Greenkeeping.

I can be contacted at 16 Westwood Ave, Eccleshill, Bradford, West York's, BD2 2NJ Tel No - 01274 640 739 Mob No - 07976 876 264 E mail - Dthackray@aol.com

Dave Thackray

#### North Wales

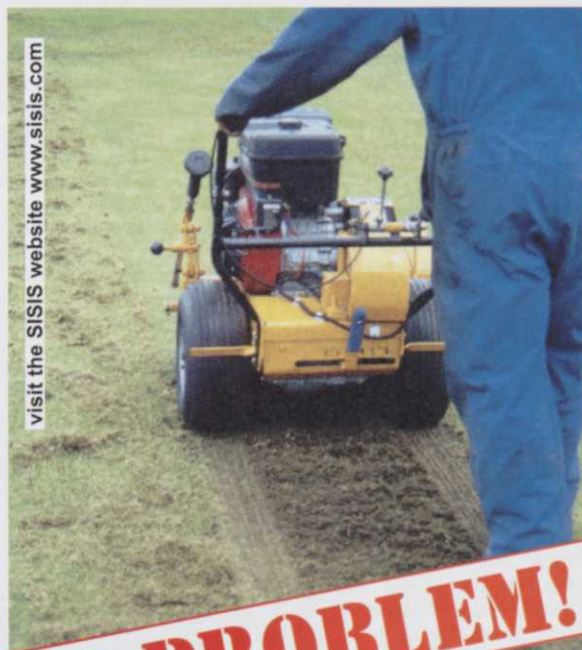
The spring tournament was held on April 10 at De-Vere Carden Park Golf Complex, a strong field of 80 players set out on a sunshine blessed day to try and tame the Cheshire Course, which plays host to the Pre qualifiers for the European Tour. The course was presented in a prestigious manner by the green staff team fronted by Martin Thompson and Jamie Poole and headed by Andy Campbell. A big thank you to Carden Park for the organisation of the course for the food and drink served and their help in the smooth running of the day's event and a special thank you to Mal Edwards for the cards

The results are as follows. 1. John Astles, 24, Sutton Hall GC 36pts; 2. Phil Bowler, 12, Carden Park GC 35pts; 3. Darryl Davis 4 Northop GC 34pts. Trade. Terry Adamson (again) 36pts. Nearest the pin went to Danny O'Neil, of Northop CC.

Our thanks also to the Sponsors ALS, John Osman, Bathgate, Carden Park, Sportsworld and Acorn Golf and Walker Eng.

Carden Park also host the European Seniors Event this year July 31 to August 4 if there are any members

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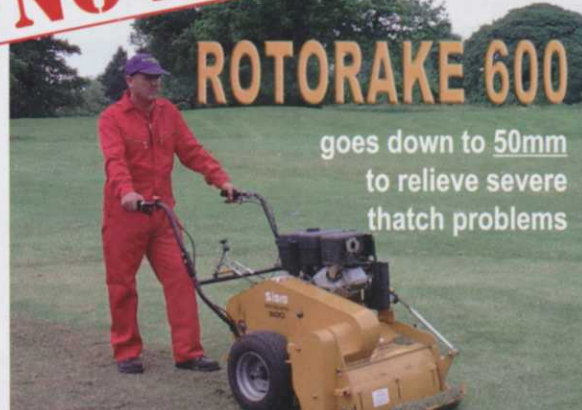


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# sisis

wishing to volunteer their services for green keeping duties, raking bunkers and general help over these days please contact Andy Campbell on 01829 73100.

We are also on the lookout for anyone willing to offer up their course for tournaments in 2003 - please get in touch.

Our best wishes go to members going stateside this year on 12 month sabbaticals, Gary Martin of Alsager is going to University of Ohio State and based at West Chester GC New York, Russell Lewis of Eastham Lodge is based at Kiowa Island GC, Wendy O'Brien is working at the Masters in Augusta and Ray O'Neil returns to full time work back from New Jersey.

Dates for your diaries the Autumn tournament date is now fixed for September 4 at Pwllheli GC and the Sportsworld Triangular event is on August 16 at South Staffs GC please contact Terry Adamson if you can play.

On the darts front John Kerry, of Royal St Davids GC, has gone down 3-2 along with Dave Proctor, of Stowrs-wen GC, 3-0. Martin from Caernarfon GC talks a better game than he can play, and if he puts anymore gel in his hair he is in danger of looking like Gareth Gates of Pop Idol.

They all need more practice to beat the BIGGA Golden Key Tour player. Since I started writing the Section notes, Fred Grundey, of Measdu GC, goes a bit quiet now when I call round? I just thought I'd say there's nothing to be worried about Fred (unless you're hiding something? That is!).

A further thank you goes to John Osman for taking Section members on a John Deere Golf Day and night's stay in Nottingham. The day was a huge success but there was some confusion over room keys in the hotel. But Jeremy Hughes sorted it all out.

On a regional level we would like correspondence back from you, (our members) on what thoughts you may have of what you want from your section and indeed what you want from BIGGA as a body in general. Please contact any of the committee.

Any news, views or information you have, please contact me on:

Home 01925 263394 - Fax 01925 269622 - Mob 07778 162162 e-mail acorn@golf@supanet.com - Job's a good'n

Andrew Acorn



**Midland Region**  
Peter Larter  
Tel: 01476 550115

**East Midlands**

Congratulations should be extended to Kristian Hibberd, Kirby Muxloe; Mark Huthwaite, Ramsdale Park; Andy Megreal and Danny Brown both Lingdale on successfully completing their Chainsaw Maintenance and cross-felling course, which was held at Beedles Lake Golf Centre on March 12 and 13. I would also, on behalf of the

Section, like to thank Beedles Lake GC for allowing us to use their clubhouse and Golf Course for training course. Special thanks should be extended to Ian Needham, Head Greenkeeper, and Les Emery, Manager, for their help over the two days and also to Ken Richardson and BIGGA for setting-up the course.

On March 26 also at Beedles Lake Golf Centre we held our Winter Lecture, this year we welcomed Richard Minton, of Complete Weed Control, who spoke to us on the benefits of a contractor and also Jody Hibbotson, of John Deere, who spoke to us about the history of John Deere. Unfortunately the turnout of 21 members was disappointing, but your committee will not be deterred, and we will try harder next time to increase the numbers.

Thanks once again should be extended to Les Emery, Richard Minton and Jody Hibbotson. Also thanks to Beedles Lake Golf Centre for hosting this evening and all you members who supported the lecture. Finally I would like to thank Complete Weed Control and John Deere for supplying the buffet meal.

This years East Midlands v East of England golf match will be hosted by Newark GC on August 22nd. Tee-Off 3.45pm.

Antony Bindley



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

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Tel: 01288 352194

**South West**

So, spring has sprung, the grass is growing and all is well in the golf course world. It's the season of mass technical representative attack, Head Greenkeepers, be easy on them, they're only doing their job.

Our next event is the Greenkeeper Amateur, to be held at Yeovil Golf Club on May 15. There will be great prizes, don't forget to come along, invite a club member and enjoy a day away from your own course. MW Associates has done a report for the National Board, on the direction of BIGGA in General, and on specific areas of BIGGA activities. Some of this has been reported in the magazine, Paul Jenkins, our National Board member is keen to hear your thoughts and views. One area highlighted is the structure of BIGGA Sections, Regions and National. Also the geographical areas of the Sections and Regions if you have any thoughts, please contact Paul - he is your link to Aldwark and he needs to know your views. Following on from this, a new sub committee has been formed, called the Futures Sub Committee. James Braithwaite, from Long Ashton, is serving on this new body. Its job, is to look into a way of widening membership participation in all areas of BIGGA work. So again call James with your thoughts.

Remember to qualify for the National Tournament, you have to play in our section summer competition which is on July 3 at Bath Golf Club. Be there or be square!

Robin Greaves

**Devon & Cornwall**

For the Aveniris and Supaturf March section meeting over 50 members did a raid over the border into Somerset - without any resistant - for its last meeting of the winter programme which was held at Taunton & Pickeridge Golf Club, on Wednesday, March 20.

Our golfing members competed for the Supaturf (Head Greenkeepers & Trade) Trophy and the Aveniris Trophy for assistants over 14 holes because of the weather conditions. As usual our non golfing members course walk left the club house at 10.30am and enjoyed a most enlightening guided tour of the course by Course Manager, Jeff Mills.

After a superb lunch Paul Clifton, Aveniris, and John Palfrey on behalf of Supaturf presented the golf prizes as follows.

Supaturf Trophy for Head Greenkeepers and Trade: 1. G. Ayliffe; 2. M. Samuel; 3. R. Parker Aveniris Trophy for Assistants: 1. Graham Fitzpatrick; 2. Neil Williams; 3. A. Gawman

Following an excellent lunch Kerran Daly, Course Manager, Gog Mag Gog Golf Club presented one of the best educational talks the Section has had for sometime,

Kerran's paper was called "Rough Cuttings" and covered some excellent management skills which both old and young could relate to and improve their own personal development. After Kerran's excellent talk the Section had an open forum covering Cannington College on greenkeeping training and the college's future development of greenkeeping courses.

The Section would like to thank the day's sponsors Supaturf & Aveniris for their continued support and Taunton & Pickeridge Golf Club for allowing the section use of their excellent facilities, also our thanks to all of Taunton & Pickeridge's staff who made our day run so smoothly, with special thanks to Course Manager, Jeff Mills, and his crew.

Finally our thanks to Kerran for his excellent presentation and for travelling over 500 miles to be with us on the day.

Next meeting will be the Rigby Taylor summer event to be held at Trethorne Golf Club on June 18, 2002.

Richard Whyman



**Northern Ireland**

Our latest event at Lisburn Golf Club on March 14 went ahead as planned. Many thanks to Jo Gladwin, from Nickerson UK Ltd, and Elizabeth Wilson from JA Humphrey Agriculture for making the evening a success. Jo gave a talk on the Top Green Amenity and Grass Seed range and Fortiva applied Seed Technology. Jo concluded her talk by detailing the trials and research that is being carried out by Nickerson at the STRI Secretary, Allison Sloan then brought the evening to a close with a quiz, which was competitively contested among the teams. The team of Frank Ainsworth, Mark Cassidy and Kyle Irwin, narrowly took first place by one point. Thanks to Jo and Elizabeth for providing the quiz prizes. Elizabeth generously kept everyone happy with liquid refreshment throughout the evening which was very much appreciated. Thanks also to Allison Sloan and Andrew Kerr for organising the evening and also Lisburn Golf Club for allowing the Section use of their clubhouse. Praise must also go to the 25 members who came along to support the event.

Finally good luck to Mark Riddle who has moved to Spa Golf Club from Royal Co. Down, and a warm welcome to new members Frank Ainsworth, Course Manager at the Hilton Golf Club, Temple Patrick, and Greg Fearson, Course Manager at Lough Gall Golf Club. That's all for now. If anyone has any news please contact me on 02894 429001, During working hours.

Ken Henderson