

# INNOVATION CORNER!

We're still hunting for the unusual innovations greenkeepers have on their courses – and Stuart Yarwood, Course Manager at Lymm Golf Club, has several!

He said: "When out deep slitting weekly during the winter we found the slitter removes the dew off the green but left a little strip one inch wide in between the rear rollers. One of our lads, Robert Cooper, fitted a scrap piece of astro turf to cover the gap, and brush the little strip of dew off as he went along, leaving the surface right for our visitors and members."

"The next is our drainage trench gravel filling machine, or 'Nellie' as we call her, (after the elephant).

"It's a piece of plywood attached to traffic cone with a length of hose bolted on. We can drop the tail board on the workman and fit this in seconds. Then when we have excavated our drainage trenches, and installed the pipe, we can back fill the trench, by straddling the trench with the workman, with large or small gravel in a fraction of the time by hand and without spilling a drop. Saves on shovels and backs.

"Thirdly, we found that some drains were capping over with grass clippings, wear and tear over time, and we needed to uncap these. We tried with half moons and by hand but it was very slow. We needed to uncap down to 6" till we hit the clean gravel then we could replace with clean sand and restore the effectiveness of the drain.

"So we purchased an old Sisis turf cutter (18" wide turfs) and chopped and rewelded the cutting blade so that it can cut 5" wide. We now mark the drain line by finding the gravel line in the ground with a probe, and mark the centre. We mark the centre of the tractor bonnet, we drop the implement into the ground and it shaves out the waste material on top of the drain live to a depth of 6" to clean gravel.

"This is simply forked off onto a waiting cart and away to our compost heap. Really saves a monumental amount of time in a soul destroying task. I feel it's hugely important to find an efficient way of doing tasks both from an operations and moral point of view."



## JIMMY LEAVES NORTH EAST SECTION

Jimmy Richardson has left the North East section after many years of service.

He said: "Having served as Section Secretary/ dogsbody I have decided to retire from all section duties and would like to take this opportunity to thank past Committee members for their support over the years.

"Special mention to my other two helpers Steve Pope and Russ Black. Steve has also decided to retire but Russ is staying on as Section Chairman.

"Now we have a young energetic Committee taking over headed by Simon Olver of Percy Wood GC I would ask all members to give him a lot of support as he's working very hard on pushing the Section forward. Other members are Glen Baxter, Michael Gunn, David Wilkinson and James Parker.

"New competitions are being arranged as well as lectures and seminars for the Autumn and Winter so please support the North East Section as much as you can."