

## 'Mowers will need resharpening and a timetable should be set for this so that it is done well before they are required'

19 → many irritating non-starting problems. Clean or replace all filters – they are a cheap protection.

As most engines are liquid cooled, this means checking the coolant (which is usually a 25%-30% anti-freeze solution) and as this includes corrosive inhibitors, it is better than leaving the machinery empty.

Checking the level is easy, though checking the efficiency of the mix is more difficult and needs either a hydrometer (preferred) or testing by syphoning some off into a plastic bottle, inserting a steel nail and leaving in the freezer. If the nail goes rusty, and/or the liquid freezes, then you had better be quick and renew your anti-freeze!

Grease or oil all lubrication points, which should remove any water impelled into bearings etc while washing. Beware, however, of sealed bearings, for over enthusiastic application may push the seal out.

This treatment will protect them during the damp days of winter. Sliding and shiny parts such as coring tines, cutting cylinders and bottom blades will benefit from a smear of grease, or better still a coating of a de-watering or rust protection oil.

Check that all adjustments are working freely.

Mowers will need resharpening and a timetable should be set for this so that it is done well before they are required – we don't yet know if we shall have an early spring. If these are sent away, ensure that the cutting edges are protected from rust when they return. Flails and rotary blades may not be as critical where rust is concerned, but will still benefit from being sharp.

Such sharpening is a simple DIY task which requires patience if the blade is not to be 'blued' and ruined – the old fashioned whetstone is safer.

### Preventative maintenance

This is 'model advice' seldom acted upon, but if carried out diligently can really save time and breakdowns when you are most busy. The secret is to look for wear – wear on belts, in bearings, on chain and sprockets, on hoses and anywhere else that takes the rub. Loosen each belt and → 23

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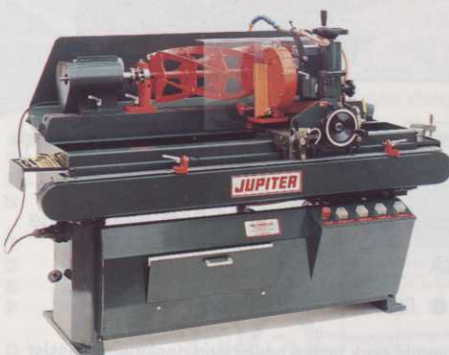
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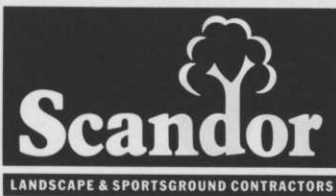
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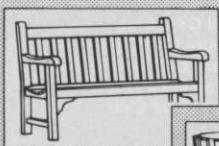


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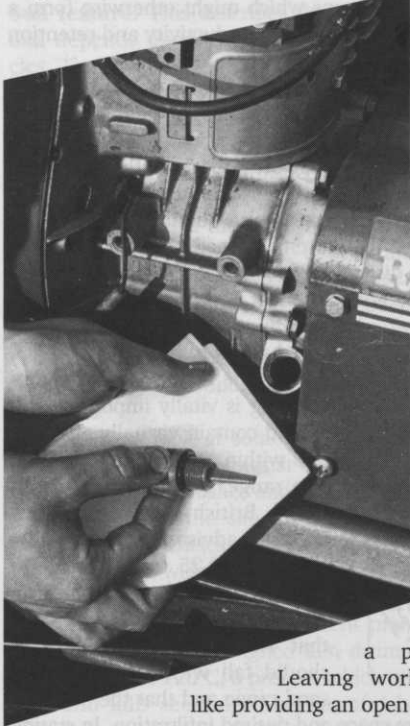
# 'Getting an estimate in writing can save later dispute. Leaving work open-ended is like writing an open cheque'

21 ➔ chain and check the bearings. Rollers chains should have every link free, every roller present and minimum lateral 'bend'. If replacement is fairly quick and easy – as with chains and belts – it may be sufficient to put the new part into stock ready for the fateful day. Bearings should always be replaced if they are the least bit suspect as they deteriorate rapidly and can be difficult to change in a hurry without special pullers.

Hoses are liable to 'go' with little warning and inspection for chafing, severe kinks, missing fastenings or damaged unions will help pre-empt future problems and perhaps an embarrassing leak on a green. Guards are another 'problem area' which are ideal candidates for a little preventative maintenance – get replacements for those little rubber toggles. The Health and Safety Executive are getting less tolerant about guards not in place.

Most of these tasks can be carried out at convenient times, though it is all too easy to leave them until you 'get around to it' and when it is cold and miserable you don't often get 'a round tuit' before the grass starts growing under your feet. The simplest reminder is chalking a list of jobs to do upon the wall.

## Repair and overhaul



Leaving work open-ended is like providing an open cheque: of course

Major jobs, or those which you won't get around to, may have to be sent to the supplier. Getting an estimate of the work and its cost – in writing – can save later dispute. As argument can get quite acrimonious it helps to record (in a duplicate book) what has to be done before a machine goes off, attaching the top copy to the machine in a plastic envelope.

your dealer is honest, but were your orders unambiguous or did you just say 'service'? When it comes to radical overhauls it may be better to buy new and it is possible, given time, to strike some good deals – especially if the dealer has time to take your old machine in, prepare it for resale and find a market.

Nevertheless there are many Clubs that have the manpower skills and facilities to undertake major work. For them the first problem may be to obtain all the parts, and in this era of de-stocking and minimum stock levels this may take time. Even quite long-established dealers are finding parts supply more difficult. Getting parcels by TNT or Overnite adds to the cost – so allow time.

Where parts are removed pending repair ensure they are stored safely in a box, or perhaps still in place with nuts finger tight – this way you won't forget where they belong or how they fit.

## Storage

For longer term storage it will pay to undertake a little extra work such as removing belts and chains, inhibiting all shiny parts – including the engine – removing battery and blocking-up off the wheels. Belts are best stored in a Hessian sack hung up in a dry, airy place, chains are ideally stored in a tin of oil or oiled in a plastic bag, though second best is to spray them with chain lubricant and keep in place. Aerosols of de-watering/rust inhibitor are available, but a jar and old paint brush is much cheaper and often more effective – just try and spray the edges of a mowing cylinder! With small engines pay attention to the valves, for stuck valves and rust on the seatings will prevent the machine from starting. It may be possible to spray or trickle inhibitor or oil through the plug hole. Being self-charging, batteries prefer regular use, but if they cannot be used elsewhere, just re-charge and smear the terminals with Vaseline, which unlike oil or grease conducts electricity.

Some still prefer to keep a machine mobile and run it at regular intervals – say monthly. If so, keep tyres slightly above pressure rather than blocking up. Petrol loses its aromatics with storage, so it is best to empty the carburettor. If the empty tank is steel, a swill round with oil should inhibit rust.



● Photographs courtesy of Ransomes

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# All dressings



Insist on maintainable quality in your top dressing, says PETER JEFFORD. Find the product you like – and stick with it

The first consideration a greenkeeper should have in mind when obtaining top-dressings is consistency of quality. He should retain that consideration! There is no benefit derived in applying layers of different types of top-dressings and given that a suitable and effective dressing has been located – one which by experimentation has been found eminently suitable for his course – the same dressing of the same quality should be used year in, year out. This will then provide a consistent growing profile for roots on greens which might otherwise form a pan layering, which in turn will influence the conductivity and retention of water, soil aeration and rooting.

In an ideal world the wise greenkeeper will attempt to use the same supplier, one who can guarantee a consistent and repeatable product each time and deliver it promptly. In addition, I would advocate the application of top-dressing on a little but often basis, rather than the almost traditional large bulk applications in spring and autumn. This little and often procedure will help the dressing to be incorporated more quickly into the soil and reduce the aforementioned soil layering, with the added benefit of minimum disruption to play – an important consideration. I should add that my advocacy of little and often is now

becoming very much more a trend and is to be applauded.



The type of sand used in top-dressing is vitally important and should contain virtually all particles within an 0.125 and 0.5mm size range, this being the traditional British system. Increasingly, advisors are now specifying 0.25 to 0.75mm size range, though the main criteria for the reader to remember is that the majority of particles should fall within the medium sand range and that the mix provides the correct balance of pore space and desired infiltration. In stating that, it should also be noted that whilst particle size and range are vital, one should be aware that sands differ also in shape, mineralogy, colour and lime content and these are additional factors which will influence the quality of the product. Some sands are excellent for top-dressings whilst others are quite simply useful only for mixing with cement.

Top-dressings and rootzones should therefore comprise a high proportion of sand in the mix, as this will assist with the control of aeration, infiltration, percolation and water retention. The next consideration is the very soil used in the mix itself, a point of major importance. Whilst sand in the UK is still plentiful, suitable good quality topsoils are less readily available and care must be exercised in ensuring that soil from building sites is not used, for in most cases this will have been completely destroyed by heavy machinery. The best topsoils for top-dressings and rootzones are those with a very low silt and clay content, whilst retaining the correct particle size distribution and the appropriate pH.

One of the most important factors, often overlooked, is the organic matter content of the soil. Normally, most greens contain too much

# ed up for the ball

organic matter, with greenkeepers spending much time and energy in attempting to reduce it. If you start by applying a top-dressing with a high organic matter – say above 5% – you will immediately begin to overdose the organic content in your greens and thus defeat one of your principle aims, that of controlling thatch build-up. As a general rule of thumb, around 1% – 2% would normally be an acceptable level in a golf green top-dressing. Thinking along these lines, do you know the organic matter of your current top-dressing? Natural soil is largely made up of four parts:

**Mineral matter:** This is formed by weathering of rocks and parent materials.

**Organic matter:** This is mainly humus, which arises from dead vegetation and supports the living population of micro organisms within the soil.

**Soil moisture:** This is essential for plant growth.

**Soil air:** Adequate aeration of the soil is necessary for optimum root growth and retention of soil micro organisms. Plants should have an acceptable level of each of the above.

Now let us turn to terms used to describe some soil properties:

**Soil texture:** This describes the physical behaviour of soil and depends upon the proportion of different sized particles. Thus soil with a high clay content would be classified simply as a clay soil.

**Soil structure:** This refers to the manner in which the particles are organised. Damage to soil structure is usually caused by heavy mechanical equipment used in construction, or by other forms of traffic movement.

**Pore space:** This is the space between the solid particles of soil. Pore space is available to both air and water, with large pores being air filled and small pores usually water filled.

Summarising at this stage, the reader should remember that the least desirable components for golf course top-dressing and rootzones are high clay or silt, these materials being especially prone to compaction and high moisture retention.

Now let us look at some of the procedures used in the processing of top-dressings at our quarry.

The separator washes and grades the sand, all vegetation is removed and the sand is then graded into coarse or medium/fine particles. This is now ready for further screening and mixing with topsoil.

Following screening, the soil is placed in a hopper feed and conveyed to a heat treatment plant, where it passes through a specially designed kiln drum set at a controlled temperature of 120°C, a process which removes excess moisture and kills seedlings and harmful bacteria. This completed, the next stage is to immediately mix soil with sand while it is still hot. This material is then ready for its final stage, being fed into a further screen which enables both further mixing and removal of particles over 2mm.

The top-dressing is now ready for final delivery but as a final check, random samples are taken for analysis in our laboratory where particle size, moisture content, pH and organic matter are all examined to ensure consistency of quality. If the reader is unsure of any of the areas discussed, he should request an up to date analysis sheet, produced by an agronomist or soil scientist, one who is ideally independent of the supplier.

## Fairway dressing

It may be of more than passing interest for greenkeepers to look at top-dressing fairways. Whilst this may not have great significance for many courses, such applications can provide a method for improving problem fairway areas and it should be noted that in the USA this is now an accepted



and successful programme. When considering such action, it may not always be necessary to dress with a sand/soil mix, for in some instances a sand only application will prove beneficial, depending on the problem presented and the solution sought. If, for example, drying out is a problem, a sand/soil mix with a little peat would be recommended, whilst if ball plugging on fairways is an annoyance a high sand content would be preferable.

The benefits of dressing fairways include tighter turf, easier mowing when wet and improved drainage and/or moisture retention. Fairway top-dressing may provide just the solution to problem areas and is a cost-effective way of improving conditions in just the same way as on greens, the target again being density, uniformity, smoothness, firmness and resilience. A high sward density is vital to hold a ball in the ideal striking position, a thin turf being undesirable because of the 'nestling down' of a golf ball.

## Construction rootzone

Over the past few years the demand for rootzone material on new course construction has increased dramatically, with its selection critical to long-term good performance of the putting surface. For those involved or about to embark down this route, a few words of advice.

In the first instance I would underline the importance of making an on-site visit to the supplier/quarry to inspect rootzone material prior to delivery. Checks should be made on consistency of particle size, organic matter content, pH, water content/air porosity/total porosity, bulk density and hydraulic conductivity. If these terms are foreign to you, take along your agronomist, architect, site engineer or clerk of works. Once satisfied, ensure that the self same mix will be readily available and stick with both mix and supplier. Make regular random on-site checks upon delivery.

Final summary suggests the following: Find the top-dressing right for your course and stick with it. Cultivate greater awareness by demanding more technical information. Ensure the supplier has sufficient reserves to maintain supplies for many years to come and insist on total, maintainable quality.

The author, Peter Jefford, is currently embarked on a countrywide whistle-stop BIGGA lecture tour, expounding upon the complex subject of top-dressings. He is Managing Director of Rufford Top-Dress Supplies Ltd.



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■ Allett Mowers have chosen two Kubota GH series OHV petrol engines to power their new commercial mower – the Buffalo. Kubota's GH120 3.7 hp petrol engine is fitted to the Buffalo 20" whilst the 24" and 27" machines have the 5.5 hp GH 170. Mechanical decompression is standard on both engines, giving a 40% lighter pull tension than conventional side valve units and a reduction in vibration of 10%. Tel. Kubota: 08421 4500 or Allett: 0536 68950.

■ Hayter Beaver's recently launched computer-linked direct spares ordering system has created great interest from both dealers and professional users. After seeing the

system demonstrated at IOG, more dealers have signed on and the company now have 30 outlets nationwide committed to using the new database. The idea is a simple one: Spares needed are keyed in, the viewdata screen displays the availability and the dealer can place an order there and then. Details: 0279 723444.

■ Lely (UK) Ltd have introduced a new 24 hour TORO 'unit-down' express parts delivery service from their stores at St Neots, Cambs. If a part is not in stock in the UK a trans-Atlantic air service from the USA is available at no extra charge. Such flown parts will be delivered to the final location within 72 hours. Tel: 0480 76971.



■ Lloyds of Letchworth have announced the appointment of Devon Garden Machinery to represent them in Cornwall, Devon and parts of Somerset. The Torquay-based DGM was established eight years ago by Alan and Jeannette Dommett, employs two reps to care for the Club side; and recognising the importance of after-sales service, the operation is backed by a seven-strong service team and full spares back-up. Lloyds themselves have probably been knocking back the 'champers' recently, their MD, Glenn Bray, having celebrating 30 years of service since joining the company as a youth straight from school. What a record! Tel: 0462

683031. Pictured: Derek Haley, Lloyds Sales Director, top, with Alan Dommett.

■ Seamac Agricultural Ltd, suppliers of the well known 'Greentec' range and other foliar stimulants for amenity use, has been acquired by WBC Technology Ltd and will in future be based at WBC's H.Q. in Saffron Walden, Essex. Seamac's merchant customers will continue to be fully supported and the Seamac brand will benefit from a new development programme. Tel: 0799 30146.

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## COMING UP

### The Greenkeeper International guide to forthcoming events

**November 6th:** BIGGA South West and Wales Region Seminar – Cannington College.

**November 6th:** BIGGA South East Region Seminar – Merrist Wood College.

**November 12th:** STRI Scottish Seminar – The Environmental Impact of Golf Course Construction and Management – Hags Castle GC, Glasgow.

**November 13th-14th:** Scotsturf IOG exhibition – Ingleston, Edinburgh.

**November 19th-21st:** Golf International 2000 Exhibition, Sandown Park.

**November 20th:** BIGGA Midlands Region Seminar – Warwickshire College of Agriculture.

**November 27th:** ILAM Southern Region Seminar – Sparsholt College.

**December 10th:** STRI South of England Seminar – As November 12th – Hatfield Lodge, Hertfordshire.

**January 14th:** STRI North of England Seminar – As November 12th – Askham Bryan College, York.

**January 20th-24th:** BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition & Seminar, Harrogate.

**February 4th:** STRI Ireland Seminar – As November 12th – Milltown GC, Dublin.

**February 11th:** STRI Wales Seminar – As November 12th – Caer Beris Manor, Builth Wells.

**February 12-19th:** GCSAA Exhibition and Convention – New Orleans, USA.

**March 27th-29th:** BIGGA National Education Conference – The Agricultural College, Cirencester.

**April 29th:** BIGGA South West and Wales Region Trade Show WESTURF '92 – Bristol.

*Send entries for this column to The Editor, Greenkeeper International, 13 Firlie Close, Seaford, East Sussex BN25 2HL or fax 0323 895593.*

# AROUND THE GREEN

## Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

### NORTH WALES

May I first say one thing – we do exist! Our second Autumn Tournament was held at Porthmadog GC on October 1st, and under quite difficult conditions too, though we did at least stay dry. I'm sure I speak for everyone in saying what a great time was had by all, especially me, as I won a bottle of scotch!

Thanks must go to everyone involved, especially Terry Adamson for all his hard work behind the scenes, and to our sponsors: Gem Professional, Sisis, Richard Campey, Mommersteeg, Fraser Turf, Major Owen, Ritefeed and Walker Engineering. Without these good folk, and of course Porthmadog GC and Gareth (Bronco), we would be the poorer and we are most grateful. We also enjoyed a bit of good fun, with our dinner interrupted by the splendid intrusion of helicopter rides, courtesy of Ritefeed!

**RESULTS:** 1st Mark Proctor 83-10=73 (on countback) 2nd Jason Moody 79-6=73. 3rd Roger Kerry 77-4=73. Guest Alex Clegg 93-22=71. Booby: John Osman 115 nett – yes, nett!

Our first AGM was held following the prize-giving and sadly Pat McAteer resigned as secretary, due to an ever increasing workload. Norman Pearce remains as chairman and David Proctor as treasurer, with yours truly now having taken the post of secretary. Final dates and venues for winter lectures will be available soon and I would ask you to note my numbers for any enquiries or information you may have: Mark Proctor: (home) 0829 733060 (work) 0829 732251.

We will be holding a Christmas golf day at Portal on December 11th, tee-off between 10-11.30 am, with cost at £12 for members, £14 for others.

This will include coffee and biscuits on arrival and an evening meal. Enquiries for this event to Terry Adamson on 0978 852908, and do remember that places are limited so early booking is advisable. Please no later than December 1st, and please do your best to support this event, even though it may not be the best time of the year.

Finally my thanks to all who made the Autumn Tournament a success by just turning out – 55 was an excellent number and we must strive to keep numbers up.

MARK PROCTOR

### SOUTH COAST

I am pleased to inform members of our December Competition, as follows:

Date: Wednesday December 4th

Venue: Royal Winchester GC.

Format: 18 hole Stableford.

Tee off: from 12.30 onwards.

Fee: £13.00

Closing Date: November 25th.

All applications with correct fee to Joe Burdett, 40 Church St. FONTWELL MAGNA, Shaftesbury, Dorset SP7 ONY. Tel: 0747

811439. My thanks to Rigby Taylor and New Forest Machinery for sponsoring this competition.

Following the above, at 4pm will be The Section AGM. A member of the BIGGA Board of Management from our region will be in attendance to answer questions and outline the work of the Board.

The section committee must be elected each year at our AGM and I would welcome nominations. Please ensure that each nomination has the consent of the nominee and a proposer and seconder. Resolutions and Agenda items are also invited – please submit before November 25th.

If you are unable to take part in the competition you can still attend the Christmas Dinner, which will be served at about 5.30pm. The cost will be £11.60 and your cheque should be sent to Joe at the above address.

An afternoon talk – by Peter Jefford of Rufford Top Dress Supplies Ltd, on 'Top Dressings, Applications and Materials' – has been arranged at Came Down GC, Dorchester, on Wednesday January 15th, starting at 2pm. This will be the second year that a presentation has been arranged at Came Down and your support will be most appreciated. Refreshments will be supplied by Ruffords at 3pm. For further information call Stephen Hall, Head Greenkeeper, Came Down GC, at the course on 0305 820289.

BOB DENNIS

### BUCKS, BERKS & OXON.

It is with great relief that I can at last report BB&O have won a golf match! We took on the Mid-Anglia section in a titanic struggle at the superb Berkhamsted course and came away with three wins and two halves, the nearest to defeat coming from our answer to Calcavecchia, myself and Dave Goodchild, going from 3 up with 5 to play to a shaky halved match! The match was played in excellent spirit and we look forward to a return in '92. Thanks especially to Gerald Bruce and his staff at Berkhamsted and to our Captain, Dave Childs.

May I also offer apologies to Mid-Anglia and the Club for any misunderstanding in play format, which may have meant that our presentation was not all it might have been.

Apart from the Mid-Anglia match, our events calendar has been quiet – for the better perhaps – for we have almost a congestion of fixtures coming up. Topping the list is the Turkey Trot at Frilford Heath combined with the AGM. We are out to beat the 1990 turnout of 75 and will be especially pleased to welcome candidates for committee – come on, join the merry band! Entry forms should be with you by now, but if these are missing from your desk, call Bob Woodward on 0628 664512.

May I remind you all to attend the regional seminar at Warwick College on Nov 20th. Don't miss this seminar – it will surely be a



huge success.

News filtering through reveals none other than our illustrious editor, David White, as guest speaker for the Gentlemen's Dinner in March '92. Those who enjoy fermented brew – David included – will appreciate that a minibus can be made available to pick up and drop revellers, but this will only be available if you want it. Ring Bob or speak to committee members at the AGM. Finally, good wishes to Dave Childs and his family, who leave for N.Z. in early December for six weeks. We shall probably need a translator when he returns to committee!

RAY CLARK

### EAST MIDLANDS

The results of the Autumn Tournament, played on September 19th at Rushcliffe GC on a grand course in sparkling condition (thanks to Phil Bett and the Club) are as follows:

Winner: Ian Marshall 70-3=67. Class results (all nett) Handicap 1-9, Phil Reffin 68, Richard Barker 75, Paul Sewell 76. Handicap 11-18, Phil Jennings 68, Paul Malia 70, Graham Arnold 73. Handicap 19+ Anthony Bindley 69, Mark Bindley 71, Mike Billings 77. Trade/Associate, Joe Barsby 64, Len Atewell, 68 (green chairman). Longest drive – 645 yards! Dave Leatherhead. Hole in one – Dave Bagshaw. Dave is head greenkeeper at Stanton On The Wolds and if you want a drink on him, call in!

Forthcoming events not to miss include the Regional Seminar at Warwickshire College, Moreton Morrell, on November 20th, the Section AGM at Lingdale GC on November 25th and a Christmas Bring and Win at Birstall GC on December 18th.

GORDON MITCHELL

### EAST OF ENGLAND

The Rigby Taylor Trophy was played for recently at Sleaford GC, a warm welcome being extended to us by the Sleaford committee representatives – Club captain, Brian Harris and green chairman, Ted Lake. Ted is a retired businessman and a tireless unpaid worker on the course, having always shown a keen interest in our affairs. The Rigby Taylor rep. was Stewart Jeffs of the East of England area.

The torrid summer has been a difficult time in this area for those courses built on sand, but John Scotney has done a great job at Sleaford, especially on his greens and other areas where he has been permitted to apply water.

The winner was Paul Cole, who is a newcomer to us as a golfer. His handicap was reduced by six shots between his entry and the

# AROUND THE GREEN

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competition and I am sure we shall hear more from this fine player. David Hornsey tied with Paul on 39 points but lost out on back nine countback. Also-rans were D Wells, C Macdonald, G Dolan and R Owens. Guest prizes went to Mick Key and Ted Lake.

A tasty meal was provided in the clubhouse, followed by presentation of prizes by the captain, who is having a sabbatical year from his usual duties as club secretary. In his speech, Mr Harris outlined how he saw BIGGA as an essential part of the Club set-up, with everyone working as a team.

Christopher Squires, who was assistant head at Belton Woods has moved up to head greenkeeper status at Rutland County G&CC, a new development where seed has just been sown. Congratulations Chris., may the job go well!

COLIN SWINGLER

### SOUTH WEST

It was a pleasure to return to Salisbury and South Wilts for the annual 'crunch' match against the South Coast last month. Despite a thunderstorm (which just missed us) and a spell of heavy rain (which didn't), the blend of ten new holes and eight old ones made for an extremely interesting and enjoyable afternoons' golf. It really is "hats off" to the architect and constructors, who have made the very best of the available ground.

The S.W. captain, David Everett, was so confident of the result that he didn't bother to bring the trophy and was left to sweat it out as the very last game came down the wire, resulted in our favour to give a halved match – Phew!

Many thanks to this Wiltshire Club for once again giving us not only the courtesy of the course but also making us feel so welcome. Thanks also to the steward for an excellent meal and to Kerran and his staff for preparing the course.

The Winter Lecture Programme will be announced next month, but in the meantime I'll look forward to seeing you all at Shirehampton Park for the Veals Lawnmowers Christmas Tournament.

PAUL WORSTER

### NORTH WEST

Our Autumn Tournament over 27 holes of medal play was held on Sept. 19th at my own home course of Whickham GC. On this occasion it was a case of George Atkinson thanking me and my staff for the excellent condition of the course, also the committee for granting us courtesy and to Rose and Bob for a superb meal – it was all good stuff!



**Jimmy Richardson:**  
First Division winner  
of the Greenlay Cup

Bay, Alnmouth, Northumberland, Wearside, Prudhoe, Stocksfield, Consett, Arcott Hall, Newcastle United. Finally, thanks to our chairman for BIGGA North East, Richard Crane.

Results: Winner and low gross – Tony McLure (Whickham GC) 69+33=102.

Nett and winner of Ransomes Cup- Glen Baxter (South Shields GC., hcp 15) 69+32.5=101.5. First division and winner of the Greenlay Cup – Jimmy Richardson (Whickham GC, hcp 6) 68+35= 103. Second + division and winner of Fewsters Cup – Brian Hughes (Whickham GC, hcp 24) 66+36=102. Other scores: M Simpkin (Parklands GC) 104. C Parkinson (Tyneside GC) 104.5. I Patterson (Gosforth GC) 105. R Bell (Slayley GC) 105. K Monaghan (Gosforth GC) 105. Thirty five players took part and the weather was excellent, which made us Whickhamites well pleased, along with our scintillating play and a demonstration in 'local knowledge makes good' – Howay the lads!

JIMMY RICHARDSON

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# AROUND THE GREEN

details direct (we normally send details only to head greenkeepers in order to reduce administration costs), please call me on 0288 353438 and I'll see to it.

RICHARD WHYMAN

## AYRSHIRE

An excellent turn-out of members enjoyed a grand day of golf at our Autumn Meeting over Ayrshire's answer to Augusta National - Largs Kellburn! Head greenkeeper Chick White certainly did his best to produce the same conditions and sincere thanks must be expressed to him and his staff, together with the caterers for some delicious food and Club members for giving us their course to enjoy. Results: Scratch - Gary Bryden (Turnberry) 69. Handicap - First class, 1st Charlie White (Largs) 71-2=69. 2nd Robert Johnstone (Ardeer) 72-1=71. 3rd Ian McNab (Dumfries & County) 75-4=71. Second class, 1st Sid Mercer (Skelmorlie) 87-14=73. 2nd Ian Campbell (Belleisle) 91-17=74. 3rd Jim Devlin (Seafield) 86-12=74. Texas Scramble, Brian Finlayson, Ian Robertson, David Carson = 59.6. Trade - Derek Duthie (Aitkens).

As this was the Club's centenary year we presented Club captain Pat Innes with a plaque as a memento of our visit.

Only movement to report is that of Gordon Heron taking over the reins at the new B? Castle course, which is just over the hill from Turnberry. Gordon had a baptism by fire for within moments of accepting the job he found that vandals had spent a busy night digging up new saplings and planting them on the 18th green. Hopefully this won't happen too often as they could be difficult to cut down to three sixteenths! Good luck anyway, Gordon.

I'm just back from an enjoyable trip to Southern Ireland, where I met up with those exiled Scots, David McIndoe at Killarney and 'King Billy' Semple at Trallee. Over a few pints of the 'black stuff', Davie told of the changes made for the Irish Open - which were most impressive - and of the pro's playing from the ladies tee! Billy is now well on top of the problems created by American building of a golf course on this side of the Atlantic, seemingly with scant regard or understanding of the vastly different varietal conditions. For those not familiar with the south of Ireland, make a visit - it's well worth it.

DUNCAN GRAY

## WEST SCOTLAND

The West section, as reported in the August issue, continues from strength to strength, with the Autumn Tournament at Cowal attended by some 40 members and guests. Sorry weather could not dampen the spirit of those who strapped on their golfing gear and took to the Cowal course and it was a great pleasure for us all to meet Tom Hindmarsh, who put in a tremendous effort to present his course in sparkling order. Tom comes from a long line of greenkeepers stretching back to his grandfather Archie (who was greenkeeper at Airdrie), who will no doubt be remembered by older members with affection. The invitation to play Cowal was particularly enjoyable coming in their centenary year, with Club captain Keating commented at the prize-giving on the grand turn-out of greenkeepers and extended an open welcome to return to see Cowal in better weather. The day ended in usual high jollification at the Club, with certain members almost left on the ferry ➤ 38

## MIDLANDS

A reminder first: The Regional Seminar at Warwickshire College, Moreton Morrell on November 20th. Details appeared in October edition of Greenkeeper International and you should have received application forms. Can't find it? Want to attend? Ring me!

Steve Wood and Tony Jesson have done it again, reaching the final of the Rigby Taylor Greensomes and are scheduled to meet 1990 winners, Rhys Thomas and John Wood. Hope you have a successful day lads.

Please remember entries close on November 15th for the Christmas Tournament, scheduled to be played at Stratford on Avon GC on December 10th. This is a bring-and-win event and you are asked to bring a prize with a value of at least £5.00.

Our AGM will be held at Edgbaston GC on December 16th, starting at 3pm. Please try and attend this important occasion, remembering that it's your section and your views really do matter.

DEAN CLEAVER

## NORTH WEST

As the year draws to a close the North West committee are in the process of drawing up a programme of events for 1992, which will likely include a monthly lecture, a seminar in March and golf events galore throughout the year. On reflection, 1991 has been a busy year in our section with involvement in The Open at Royal Birkdale and the Iseki finals at Hillside, quite apart from the busy normal programme. The Iseki final ended on a sweet note with the Northern region winning the team event and virtually sweeping the board on prizes - congrats to them all!

I must again raise the issue of members not paying their subscriptions. I have received many enquiries from greenkeepers in the N.W. who thought that their Club automatically paid their subs, but who as individuals were aggrieved at not receiving Greenkeeper International. Let me set the record straight: Greenkeeper members are invoiced individually each year - NOT their Club employers. If your Club has agreed to pay your subscription, you must hand the invoice to your Club secretary. Following payment you will then receive a membership card and regular copies of the magazine.

One final point: Once you have received your programme of events - be they lectures, seminars or golfing days - do your level best to support the events, thus making the hard work of your committee worthwhile. Any queries or points of interest, please contact me on 051 724 5412

BERT CROSS

## NORTHERN

Let me begin by offering commiserations to our colleagues in the North West who (again, I'm afraid) lost to the Northern section in our annual match at Crosland Heath. The actual

result was a draw, but we retained the trophy as holders from 1990. Well done lads! Grateful thanks to Patissons for their continued sponsorship, Crossland Heath for courtesy of the course and especially Phillip Haigh and his team for a superb course in excellent order.

Our section also did well in the 1991 Iseki at Hillside, with the Northern region winning the team prize and Telford Jarvis (Scarcroft's very own champion, and ours too) taking the premier trophy. Well done Tel!

You should all have received details of our winter lecture programme and should this not be the case, or if your address has changed, call me. All our lectures are held at West Bowling GC commencing at 7.30pm with the following scheduled: November 6th - Chairmans Forum. December 4th - Ruffords on Top Dressing. January 15th - Munro on Spraying and CDA's. February 11th - Quiz and Social evening with IOG colleagues at Headingley Cricket Club - 7.30pm.

Also on December 11th - Winter golf at South Leeds GC - names and deposits to myself or Mel Guy (0532 523739) please.

Our last winter event will be a trip to Lloyds of Letchworth, with places being limited and filled on a first come first served basis. Likely cost will be around £10-£15.

The Northern section will again be heavily committed at BTME in Harrogate during January 22nd-24th. If anyone can spare an hour or two for stewarding, please let me know.

The section AGM will be held at South Leeds GC., following the above mentioned Winter golf on December 11th, starting at 7pm. This year there will be a change in committee election procedure, with all nominations for president, secretary, treasurer or committee to be sent to the secretary - that's me, Bob Lupton - one month prior to the AGM.

Local news now, with the good news being that Richard Sharrock of Keighley GC has gone into partnership with EFG of Halifax. We wish him every success in this venture. The not-so-good news is that long-standing committee member Colin Garnett of Garforth was taken ill whilst on holiday recently. I understand he is on the way to recovery and I'm sure you will echo my wishes for his speedy return to good health.

BOB LUPTON

## DEVON & CORNWALL

The venue for the Christmas Meeting this year is the ever popular Okehampton GC., though with ever increasing numbers, your committee has decided that a limit of 80 must be placed on this event. This suggests that it is wise to return your entry form to me as soon as possible and certainly NOT after the closing date!

On the day itself, let's see some different pairings from normal for the A.M. Greensomes competition, this to help new members feel more at home and become an integral part of our happy section.

If any member feels he should be receiving