

tion, and with a good suspension they are very comfortable. Attaching implements is easy, and the box is light enough not to need legs or complex jacking systems. The new machine is seen as offering several important improvements on previous models, such as wider lower ground pressure tyres, greater ground clearance and several other upgrades which add strength and reliability to the machine – and better looks in the Ransomes livery. Nevertheless the machine still scores at Salisbury on its simplicity, ease of use and overall efficiency for the job.

Toro Workman 3300D – Highpost GC near Salisbury.

Lauchlan Millar “inherited” the Workman when he moved to Highpost earlier this year, in this time he has become an ardent fan of it. Although only 18 months old the Highpost machine has clocked up 1,000 hours with few problems. A lot of the work has been hauling soil, sand and other materials around the 18 hole course during the winter when the ground was too wet to take a tractor and trailer. Lauchlan praised the brakes and surefootedness of the machine which allows the operator to back to the edge of a bunker and tip in the knowledge that the machine won’t slide in. The hydraulic tip works even with a full load of over a tonne. Highpost has the full length cargo box which was considered the most useful option, a decision which not been regretted. Another option which has been appreciated is the cab,

“the course is not called Highpost for nothing,” Lauchlan added. It is possible to get the machine to spin its wheels, as like both the Jacobsen and Cushman only rear wheels are driven. This was not really a criticism just a reflection of the natural result of making a light-footed carrier which can be taken onto greens without marking them. The Workman mounts its 21hp Mitsubishi engine and transmission centrally and integrates them with the rear axle to give better balance. There are two short constant velocity joints on the transaxle and Highpost have had a problem with one.

The machine was bought with topdressing as a priority use and for this it has been “brilliant”. “I was stunned how fast it works,” Lauchlan said. “We can topdress all 18 greens in under a day including the brushing in. The machine has a fast transport speed and a topdresser which is wider than the loader bucket thus non-working time is minimised. Toro provides a key lock-out feature which prevents operators accessing 3rd gear unless it is unlocked by key. “We don’t need that feature here, but I foresee a lot of clubs where it would prevent abuse,” he commented – “members don’t like to see greenkeepers racing around the course.”

Other uses for Highpost’s Workman include slitting, tineing and brushing. The brush is used on Saturdays and Sundays rather than switching, “and you can’t see any marks.”

Routine service and maintenance is carried out by Highpost

staff themselves, but the machine did go back to Romsey Garden Machinery for a 1000 hr/pre season service this winter. There were no criticisms over assess to the mechanicals which live under the body, props are supplied to hold the body up safely and servicing was rated as “easy”. The considered user opinion on the Toro Workman at Highpost is that it is a well thought out machine, with a suspension which is “streets ahead” of the competition.

Kawasaki Mules at Donnington Grove, near Newbury

Two Mule 1000s on the Donnington Grove Country Club have a hard life and are putting a lot of miles under their wheels. Bought specifically because there is a lot of running around to do, it is over a mile to the furthest hole, and even the nearest is over half a mile from the ex-farm buildings used as the greenkeepers’ base. Bought in March 1993, each has now clocked up about 7500 miles, and cost a significant sum in replacement parts. Course Manager, David Winterton, was not critical of this except that he considered that Kawasaki parts were expensive, quoting the recent necessary replacement of the electronic ignition circuit box as £260.

Donnington looked as several machines before electing to buy the Mules. The competitors were “failed” for lower speed and lack of “pull”. Stability, low ground pressure and ability to carry a payload were factors which added to the Mule’s speed and

engine torque to select them. The Mules ability to climb steepish slopes even when loaded is not overlooked and, of course, this is important given the steep nature of quite a lot of the course.

Both machines are on differing tyres to those originally fitted, Donnington had to try quite hard to get a less aggressive tread pattern. Both machines have weather cabs fitted, a feature which is particularly appreciated because of the exposed nature of much of the course and the distances which are travelled at high(ish) speeds going to and fro. David assessed the life of the machines, in his use, as about three years, when they should have clocked up about 11,250 miles, used about £2350 worth of petrol and cost £1500 in parts. Bought at £4700 and with an anticipated resale value of £1000, this means an annual cost of £2500, however when worked out on a mileage basis the 67 pence per mile is seen as perfectly acceptable given the work they are undertaking.

Donnington’s experience with the Mules was that they need a skilled mechanic close by, fortunately they have one in-house, otherwise they might not have kept the machines. Apart from replacing parts there had been a regular need to re-tune the twin carburettors, however David conceded that new models are likely to be better.


Although on the face of it this does not appear an ideal recommendation for the Mule, David was happy that he received good value, particularly as they did a



Toro Workman 3300D



Kawasaki Mule



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Now it's 92% sold for the 1996 BTME

The 1996 BTME at Harrogate on January 24-26 is already 92% sold – and that's including the additional space in Hall D which has been added for next year's show.

New companies which are showing for the first time or returning next year are Wood Graphics, Swards, Broadside Publishing and Phoenix Sports Turf Services.

The BIGGA stand will have a new home for '96, moving to Hall D where you can find out all the usual information about membership, educational initiatives and *Greenkeeper International*. You will also be able to purchase merchandise including blazers, rain suits and reference books.

Hall D will also feature expanded catering facilities.

The educational programme is all but finalised and with speakers travelling from USA, Canada, Switzerland and Portugal it will be the most comprehensive programme found anywhere in Europe. The National Education Conference, the specialist workshop programmes and the Seminars which run in conjunction with the exhibition are second to none.

BTME 96 will be the place to be next year but don't just take our word for it. Here's what Andie Hardie, Sales Director of Gem Professional said about it: *"The show goes from strength to strength and is an absolute must for any organisation active in the amenity market today."*

AUGUST QUESTIONS

1. Name one of the countries from which National Education Conference speakers are coming.
2. In which hall will you find the BIGGA stand?

Normal competition rules apply

First prize: Return rail travel from anywhere in the UK plus three nights accommodation at a top hotel in Harrogate and entry to all the education seminar sessions.

Second prize: Return rail travel from anywhere in the UK, two nights accommodation in a top Harrogate hotel and entry to all education seminar sessions.

Third prize: One night's accommodation in a top Harrogate hotel and entry to all education seminar sessions.

REAL WORLD TEST
TMVs and ATVs
GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL



Huxleys Huxtruk

job which he felt nothing else could do significantly better or cheaper.

Huxleys Huxtruk at Maidenhead GC

Right price and package with proven backing were important factors in Maidenhead GC's selection of the Huxtruk. It was supplied with box, cab and topdresser and also a Hardi sprayer. In future there is a prospect of purchasing a Coremaster, when the hydrostatic drive of the Huxtruk will mean no problem travelling at the very slow pace required for this operation. There was some initial scepticism about the electronic speed control however it has been found to work very well and the greenkeepers have become enthusiastic about it.

Gordon Payne, Head Greenkeeper and Chris Mitchell, First Assistant and main operator were very positive about the machine. They had found that in almost all respects it was better than the well known machine it replaced. For instance they considered it to be better made with a stronger box, better to tip and it has a better turning circle. They were also sold on hydrostatics, feeling these to be simpler, more flexible and less prone to wear and tear. Power steering and a well placed steering wheel were singled out for mention as was the hydraulically driven pto.

Top dressing has become a mornings work which can be carried out by one man on his own. The machine has sufficient speed to make it easy to return to the

heap and tractor loader without bothering to take a tractor and trailer out or have another member of the staff hanging around to service and assist the topdresser. Maidenhead's Huxtruk service record is excellent, and in the 18 months it has been on the course there has been one pto seal failure and a loose hydraulic pipe, both "no charge" items.

Routine servicing is minimal with very few grease points to grease and no problems of access. If there was a criticism it was that there is too much fibreglass cladding, however it was agreed that this material withstands a greater knock than "tin" without damage or loss of paint, although once damaged it was more difficult to repair. The feeling was that it would keep its good looks better.

Both greenkeepers felt that Huxleys had listened to greenkeepers about what they want in a TMV, and they complimented the attention to detail such as the higher front to the box which prevents material tipping down the front onto the works beneath. They also liked the cab which was easy to remove, furthermore it has a better windscreen wiper than its predecessor. The machine was supplied by and is serviced by Huxley's retail division.

John Deere Gators at Wootton Bassett Golf Club

American Golf (UK) Ltd, operator of Wootton Bassett Golf Club near Swindon, has purchased about ten John Deere Gators for UK courses and has three working on this particular course. Their main

use is as lightweight runabouts with ability to carry a significant payload. The Wootton Bassett's machines are in constant use every day and Laurence Pithie, Director of Maintenance UK, said because of the drainage problems inherited on the course they were about the only machines which could be used this winter. Two of the machines are 4x2 models - four wheels with two driven while one is a 6x4. The latter carries a greater load and is more comfortable to ride, but is also more difficult to steer. However according to Mark Silk, course superintendent, once you have the knack of using the throttle to assist the turn it is no more difficult than the normal two wheel drive machines, although there is less manoeuvrability.

Mark admitted that the machines were often overloaded, nominal capacities are 408kg and

544kg, but at Wootton Bassett they pile the box as high as they can. With the soil, sand and gravel which so often are the payload this has had the local distributor, John Miller Ltd at Chippenham, wincing. Nevertheless there has been very little downtime for the machines, the main replacements have been two king pins and an exhaust on the two 4x2s which are now almost eighteen months old. Drive belts have also been replaced once, more as routine than necessity, as the cost is only £20. The six wheeler is a year younger than the four-wheelers.

Options specified on the machines include the plastic bed liner, electro-hydraulic box tip, heavy duty air filters and a tow hitch. The standard knobby tyres have been retained, but when questioned about any damage to the turf, Mark was adamant that there was very little even with the



John Deere Gator

machines fully laden. Although the engines are petrol driven Wootton Bassett has found them very economic, tanks are normally filled about once a week, and "filled" means three quarters full as there can be some leakage from the cap breather when filled

right up. The club has a licensed petrol store which is kept locked and complies with local authority and fire brigade requirements, although storage quantities probably don't need this. Thus there were none of the problems often levelled against petrol machines.

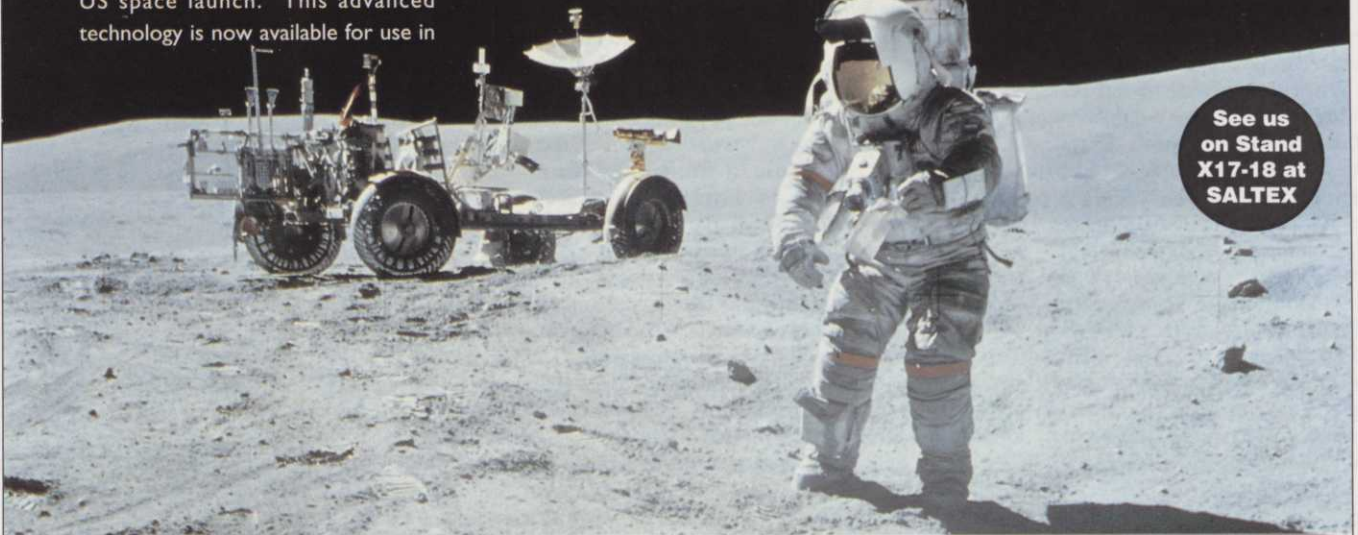
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Acid theory: controversial topic needs exploring

I am pleased that Jim Arthur and I are in agreement that many old greens do not need the addition of phosphorus for healthy growth of turf (*You say*, June issue). There are two reasons for this.

The first is, as we agree, that many already have very high phosphorus levels in the soil.

Secondly, where old greens are healthy but have extremely low "available" soil phosphorus levels it may be that they can sustain growth because the grasses and other plants growing in them have mycorrhizal fungi growing symbiotically with their roots to help them absorb phosphorus from the soil. The simple chemical extractants used in laboratories cannot simulate the beneficial effect of these fungi so it appears that the grasses need less phosphorus than they are actually getting. On new greens with low phosphorus levels these kind of microscopic relationships have not developed and fertiliser containing phosphorus should be added if analyses so indicate.

On the subject of the acid theory, how can Jim Arthur say that the ideal pH is the one you have got when the acid theory which he seems to be espousing involves the artificial lowering of soil pH by the use of acidic materials?

The acid theory has always been a very controversial topic and has damaged many greens over the years I suggest that, to get a balanced view of the theory, the "students and starters" which Mr Arthur wants to protect from modern thinking on nutrition go to their college libraries and read some of the old literature on the subject. I suggest "Turf" by Lewis, published by Faber in 1948 and "Lawns and Sports Greens" by A.J. MacSelf for starters.

Robert Laycock

A fair day's pay

Congratulations to BIGGA who in the last seven years have created a new image and profes-

sional status of our greenkeeping workforce. These initiatives have given us better guidelines for working conditions, recommended salary/wage scales and further education programmes. This professional approach will manifest itself at club level with well trained dependable staff being available when needed.

In your recent article in *Greenkeeper International* you explained that the published salary/wage scales were "recommendations" and not mandatory. This statement will assist Green Chairmen when dealing with their individual club wage negotiations. Salaries can now be paid which will be commensurate with staff qualifications and their workload.

The Association of Golf Club Secretaries (North West) recent survey revealed a wide variation in salary/wage scales, hourly rates, overtime rate, staffing levels and hours worked. The findings of these clubs through the North West were so varied it was evidence that no positive guidelines had previously been available and an ad hoc system had prevailed.

Often neighbouring clubs would compare their course and staffing levels and make pay awards accordingly. Pay awards and conditions for house staff does not often promote such lengthy discussions. Green budgets have been reduced to ensure staff remain who provide food and drink. That I suggest is not the main function of a golf club.

The initiatives of Ken Richardson, BIGGA Education Officer, and the Greenkeepers Training Committee will in the long term benefit clubs.

The educational qualifications can be drawn up and included in all green staff terms and conditions of employment.

Further education will benefit both the profession and golf clubs and will provide us with staff who can advise us on all

specialist matters which currently most clubs have to seek from "Advisory Services" at considerable expense. We will soon be able to pay a "Fair Day's Pay for a Fair Day's Work".

TM Yates

Hon Secretary, Dunscur Golf Club

Well-aimed boot

All of us are aware that in certain circumstances we would benefit from a friendly push, or indeed a good kick up the backside. This awareness however often comes after the event and is in most cases regrettably too late. I would therefore like to thank Neil Thomas for his far reaching 'boot' in the July edition of *Greenkeeper International*.

Reflecting on the various stages of BIGGA's development can possibly help to show the way to a more integrated international or at least European membership.

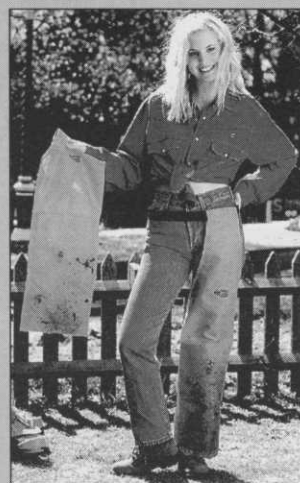
In short, numerous localised groupings run by volunteer organisers progressing to a regional association ultimately reaching a national level with one central base. The local and regional organisers playing a major role not only in the initial stages but also in the continual development and recruitment of members.

And so I feel that BIGGA should be looking for European members who have the time and commitment and are prepared to organise local Greenkeepers with a view to eventual BIGGA integration. Six 'local organisers' could certainly support a monthly column and if Neil Thomas keeps his boots well polished he may even persuade twelve.

David Abercrombie
Hattstatt, France

PS: I have great respect for the traditions of the game and of the job title *greenkeeper* as opposed to any other variation.

NEW PRODUCTS



■ Central Spares have come up with a novel way of preventing trousers becoming ruined when working a nylon line trimmer. Made from waterproof acrylic coated nylon with a foam padded insert on the shins to new lightweight leggings are easily worn over trousers or shorts and will keep operators clean and dry and at the same time offer protection from flying stones and other debris. A lightweight jacket is also available. For further information call 01202 882000.

■ Richard Long Engineering has launched a new gang flail mower, the G-F5000 to complement its range of existing mowers, topdressers and flail/carrier collectors. The G-F 5000 trailed flail mower has a working width of 4.75 metres and a transport width of 2.4 metres. It's equipped with fully independent floating cutter heads and mounted on two twin wheeled axles situated in line with the two rear flail head which ensures that ground contours are followed even in severe conditions. The G-F 5000 sells for £13,450. Details: 01773 520301.

■ Snip "n" Grip, a versatile adjustable banding system from Terry of Redditch has been designed for use in both outdoor and indoor environments and is suitable for both temporary and permanent repairs. Supplied in lengths of two, 20 and 40 metres and fastened by a continuous worm-drive fastener, the Snip "n" Grip system is ideal for fence repair, bundling or strapping applications. For further information: 01527 64261.

Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

North West

The temperature is 90 degrees in the shade and rising. The grass has not been cut this year and is now six feet tall and turning to a golden brown because there is no irrigation system and it has not rained since January. Everything is dust dry but I'm enjoying every minute of it. Yes, I am on holiday in central Africa (Zambia) and it just occurred to me that I had better drop you a line to remind you about the autumn tournament at Didsbury GC on September 7. Soup and sandwiches will be served between 12-1pm. The tee is booked from 1.30pm and tee off times will be allocated on the day. The closing date will be Friday September 1 and all applications to play including a £10 deposit must be sent to Paul Pearse, 1 Swan Close, Poynton, Stockport SK12.

Now back to the holiday. My wife Marie and I are staying at the orphanage that we help to support deep in the bush about 30 miles from Lusaka, the capital of Zambia. The only way to the orphanage is on a road cut through the bush about one and a half cars wide and riddled with pot holes. We use a four wheel drive Toyota pickup truck to go to Lusaka for supplies and driving in the town is similar to the dodgems at the fairground.

The orphanage, called Kasisi (which means little sister) is run by a Polish community of sisters and they care for about 130 babies and children from one week old to 13 and 14 year olds. Unfortunately many of the babies that arrive are HIV positive but they are all cared for as normal babies by the sisters. Amazingly in several cases after about 12 months further tests prove they are negative. No medical cure has been found for HIV so I can only assume that the never ending love and care that these children receive from the sisters can be the answer.

Since we arrived two weeks ago we have travelled extensively and we have visited Livingstone and the Victoria Falls, the Musi-o-tunya Game Park and the Kafue National Park photographing rhino, hippo, giraffe, elephants, crocodiles, monkeys and many other animals. The national parks are thousands of square miles of thick bush burnt brown by the sun and the lack of rain. It is a beautiful country totally unspoilt.

Today we visited the Kariba dam and Lake Kariba, travelling about 300 km on a winding pot holed road. On each side of the road is dense bush and towering above the bush are giant Bo-Bab trees that look as though they are growing upside down with branches that look like giant roots.

The only problem is that in a week's time we have to return home. But hopefully we can save enough to return again next year.

Greetings from Zambia.

BERT CROSS

Northern

Our President's Day golf tournament at Woodhall Hills GC got underway amid breezy conditions but even so the standard of golf was very high. The condition of the course helped tremendously

EVENTS DIARY

September 5-7: SALTEX, Windsor Race Course

September 13-14: Hayter Challenge Tournament Final, West Lancashire Golf Club, Blundellsands

January 24-26, 1996: BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition, Harrogate International Centre

as it was excellent. Many thanks to the greens staff for the course preparation prior to our event.

The winners on the day were: Div 1. 1. M.A Cordingley; 2. R. Smith; 3. D. Collins. Div 2. 1. A Baxter; 2. S. Dalton; 3. D. Cockburn.

Overall winner for the Jubilee Cup for the best gross was S. Hall of Woodhall Hills with a 78. Many congratulations. Nearest the Pin winner was G. Potter.

Many thanks to Woodhall Hills GC for allowing us to hold our tournament there and also thanks to the catering staff for an excellent meal and first class service.

All members and friends would like to send their kindest regards and best wishes to Bill and Emma and hope that Emma is feeling much better after her recent stay in hospital following a stroke.

MARCUS CORDINGLEY

South Wales

It was our section's turn to host the Hayter Regional Final and Carmarthen GC, Dyfed, West Wales was the venue - slightly awkward to find but definitely worth the effort. A typical Welsh welcome awaited all - we even arranged the weather, glorious sunshine with a cooling breeze (gale force 3).

The course, not overlong but narrow and demanding of a thinking game of golf, proved tricky as the scores will no doubt reveal.

Our thanks to the green staff, and especially David Gladwin, for their hard work and effort in presenting the course for what was an extremely enjoyable day.

Congratulations to our section members who did so well and therefore progress to the Hayter Challenge Tournament Finals at the West Lancashire GC on September 13-14, namely John Borja, Vale of Glamorgan GC, and Andrew Roach, Haverfordwest GC, second and third respectively in category 1 and to one of our newest members Alan Crighton, Kington GC who was the category 3 winner.

A sincere thanks to Kim Macfie and Robin Boyes of Hayter's for their generosity, hospitality and continued support. To Marion and Gordon Child for their super organisation and to all at the Carmarthen GC for contributing to making the day such an enjoyable one.

My thanks to all of our team who tried so hard to win the Section Shield event eventually running our in second place behind the deserved Devon & Cornwall team.

On Saturday June 24 Pencoed College held its annual Open Day. Again the weather was splendid with glorious warm sunshine making it a typical summer's day.

Although overall the attendance seemed a little down on last year, the BIGGA stand that shared room 16 with the IOG was kept ticking over quietly all day, with many general queries regarding greenkeeping as a possible career as well as membership queries. A valuable day and one which remains firmly on our calendar. Thanks to all those who gave up their time to help out.

Congratulations to our Education Chairman, Malcolm Davies and his wife Roberta on the birth of their second baby daughter, Rebecca Louise who weighed in at a healthy 7lb 11oz recently.

A belated happy 65th birthday wishes to our President, Mr Colin Murphy.

Our annual greenkeepers v secretaries match will take place as usual at the Southerndown GC on August 17. Will all those who are able to attend and who wish to be a part of the team please contact me as soon as possible to confirm a place and hopefully help us to retain the shield.

PETER LACEY

East of England

Our second golf tournament of the year was held at the windless Sandilands GC - "A rare day," said one member. Thanks to Bob McGowan for courtesy and a super meal by the staff. The event also incorporated the Hayter Qualifier where the winners go on to the Midland Regional Finals at Ere-wash Valley.

The East of England Qualifiers were:

Cat 0-9 1. Richard Owen, Boston; 2. Charlie Macdonald, Newark; 3. Graeme Macdonald, Eyebury; 4. Michael Wood, Thorpe Wood.

Cat 10-18. 1. Nick Downman, Belton Park; 2. Ian Ross, Newark; 3. David Hornsey, Woodhall Spa; 4. Geoff Knowles.

Cat 19-28. 1. Simon Piggott, Belton Woods; 2. Brian Robinson, Belton Woods; 3. David Griffon, Belton Woods; 4. John Scotney, Sleaford.

The only sour note on the day was that several members did not turn up. Please cancel early if possible, so that meals can be cancelled.

On happier matters Kevin Garfitt, Head Greenkeeper at Ely City GC was in a proud mood recently when I spoke to him because the Cambridgeshire County Championships were to be held at Ely GC - two days of scratch golf over 72 holes.

Kevin felt quietly confident that his course preparation was in good order and that the course would test the best of Cambridgeshire's scratch golfers. Kevin has been at the club for 18 months, moving from Pontefract and says he has settled well into the Fens lifestyle.

Please let me have your news.

GRAEME MACDONALD

East Midlands

Congratulations this month go to all those section members who successfully achieved their Assessor tests at Brooksby College. Good luck to all other greenkeepers who are taking the course.

A team has been selected to represent the section against the East of England section on August 15 at Market Harborough. Good luck to both

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teams and let's hope everyone has a good day.

Some results have come in for the singles and pairs competitions. Antony Bindley & Martin Hopkins, Kirby Muxloe, beat David Wright & David Marshall, Ramsdale Park; Peter Billings & Tommy Foster, Cotgrave Place beat Anthony Foulds & Donald Blacker, The Manor GC. In the singles Antony Bindley, Kirby Muxloe beat Jeff Dickinson, Hucknall; Dave Mitchell, Springwater, beat David James, Scraftoft; Paul Tatlow, Kedleston Park, beat Roger Willars, Birtstall; Adie Porter, Greetham Valley, beat David Wright, Ramsdale Park. A reminder to all entrants that semi-finals must be played before August 31.

This year's Autumn tournament will be hosted by Kedleston Park on September 11. All members should have received an entry form by now. If any member has not you can give me a ring and I will forward a copy to you.

ANTONY BINDLEY

Devon and Cornwall

This year's Hayter Regional final was held in Wales at Carmarthen GC. As usual Hennings our Cornish Hayter distributor, kindly helped to finance the mini bus which took the majority of our team on the 500 mile round rip to Carmarthen. It was a pity that we couldn't gain the help of a Devon Hayter dealer but there's always next year! A special mention and thanks must go to our driver Steve Evans who had the unenviable task of setting off from Cornwall before 4am and not returning home until midnight. As for the golf we were once again blessed with fine weather but a difficult wind kept scores higher than usual – at this point I won't mention my score as I am sure someone will within the Around the Green section. All I will say is that the team picked up Regional Shield for the third year out of five.

Our congratulations are extended to the qualifiers for the final from our section who took a clean sweep of the 10-18 category – 1. Trevor Pipe 2. Kevin Piper and 3. Buster Lewer. On behalf of the section would like to thank Marion and Gordon Child for organising and running a superb day. Also to Robin Boyes and Kim Macfie of Hayters for their support and friendliness shown to everyone on the day. Long may it continue.

Belated congratulations to Tony Blackburn on his appointment as Head Greenkeeper Crediton GC where Tony has been First Assistant for many years. Two new members have joined our section after taking up posts of Head Greenkeeper and our congratulations go to Steve Peters, Yelverton GC and Nick Rouke, Dawlish GC on their appointments.

Our good wishes to Ivan Brown, formerly of P.J. Flegg Ltd and Vice President of our section on his appointment in the Virgin Islands.

Cornish summer evening meeting dates to remember are August 23, Newquay and September 20, Bude. If you would like to attend these meetings please contact organiser Steve Evans 01208 863647.

RICHARD WHYMAN

South Coast

The annual match against the South West section will be played at Lee-on-Solent GC on Thursday September 21. The team will consist of 10 players and all those eager to take part should phone me on 01489 782976. Last year we not only provided a team but also came quite close to winning. This year could be our turn to trounce the South West.

Congratulations to Ed McCabe and Alan Mitchell on recently qualifying as NVQ assessors. With the recent introduction of National Vocational Qualifications within our industry there is

Around the Green



still a need of additional people to become qualified assessors, particularly in the Dorset area.

For further information on this worthwhile subject, contact Kerran Daly on 01722 742898.

BOB CULLY

North

The North section welcomes two more new members, Christian Till, Assistant Greenkeeper at Pitlochry GC and Alan Joss, Club Secretary at Portlethen GC. Ken O'Donnell has rejoined and last month he got married so all the best to him.

The Scottish Greenkeeping Championship was held in the north in June at Royal Dornoch and I'm pleased to report that section members were very much to the fore at the prize giving, with the following major winners.

Scratch. I.A. Macleod, Tain; Cat 1. E. Riddell, Royal Dornoch; Cat 2. S. Morrison, Royal Aberdeen; Cat 2. R. Napier, Camperdown; Head Greenkeeper Trophy R. Patterson, Royal Dornoch. There were numerous second and third placings and it was no surprise that we won the St Mungo Cup for the best four scores from each section.

Double congratulations to Robert Patterson, firstly along with his staff for the excellent condition of the course and secondly for his recent victory in the Royal Dornoch Club Championship.

On the eve of the Scottish Championship 24 greenkeepers played over Tain in a hastily arranged Stableford competition. Two Stewarts lads were present and volunteered a sweatshirt for the winner. They then played their hearts out to keep it in the company with the north rep, Pat Allan winning it! A big thank you to Tain GC for granting courtesy of the course to everyone.

Remember that tickets for the dinner/disco are available now at £12 each. The venue is the Westhill Hotel, Aberdeen on Friday November 24 and accommodation is available at £20 per person per night. So come on book now. You won't regret it.

The section is looking into the possibility of staging a one day seminar in conjunction with the STRI this December with Elgin being a possible venue. More details when available.

Next month will see our autumn outing at lovely Grantown-on-Spey. Entry forms will be out about now so get them back quickly to ensure your place in the field.

IAIN MACLEOD

South West

Some outstanding views and one of the hottest days so far this year greeted those who playing in the annual match against the secretaries on June 27. Lyme Regis GC was where it all took place with two teams of 12 enjoying a social and competitive afternoon of golf. After our victory last year at Clevedon in the same event team captain Dave Neale was keen to carry on in winning form and was duly rewarded with a final result of five matches to one in the greenkeepers' favour. Well done again Dave.

Dave Everett and his staff had the course, and particularly the greens, in excellent condition. They were fast, true and hardly and visible dry patches to be seen. Quite commendable bearing

in mind the recent weather conditions.

After was was a first class evening meal it was time for the prize giving and our thanks go to Avoncrop Amenity Products, the sponsor of the event, and to John Palfry who joined us for the meal. Not only did Avoncrop provide a prize for each member of the winning team but also the wine for the evening meal.

So to the moment Secretaries' team captain Jackie How hadn't been looking forward to – the shield presentation. Never mind Jackie, it gets easier each time. This year is Jackie's last year as captain and we thank her for her organisation over the years and wish her successor well. Finally, thanks to the Secretary of Lyme Regis GC for making us most welcome.

The other event to take place recently was the Hayter Regional Qualifier at Carmarthen GC where there was more success for the South West section. Congratulations to Shaun Richards for Taunton & Pickeridge GC on winning the day's event by coming first in Category 1 with a nett 72. Well done also to Sean Sage from Thornbury Golf Centre and Chris Sealey from Chippenham GC both with a nett 71 in Category 3 and to Les Johnson with a 72 and a reserve for that category. Congratulations to the Devon and Cornwall Section for winning the team Shield for this year's best team performance. Well done lads. The above mentioned people will go on to the final to be played at the West Lancashire GC on September 13 and 14. Thanks to Hayter for its continued support; to Carmarthen for its hospitality and to Gordon and Marion Child for the unenviable task of organising the event for the four sections in our Region.

The next section event for everybody is on November 9 at Seltford GC but prior to that is a team match against the South Coast on September 21. As mentioned in last month's report to Lee-on-Solent by minibus is hopefully to be arranged so if interested please get in touch.

KEVIN GREEN

Surrey

The Cresta Cup held at Kingswood GC this year was enjoyed by 30 competitors in what proved to be testing conditions. On reflection the 37 points achieved by Ian Sutcliffe were exceptional as the course played its true length.

Thanks go to Ken Cooper and the rest of his team for all the hard work but into setting up the course for our enjoyment. Also thanks to Tom Hilliard for allowing us to use the course and a thank you to Gerry Doughty of Gerry's of Wimbledon for donating a voucher for £25 to be spent in Kingswood's pro shop which went to the winner.

Results:

1. Ian Sutcliffe 37 pts; 2. Bev Eyre 33 pts (on countback); 3. A. Gattland 33 pts.

Trade Prize: Brian Wilmot. Nearest the Pin: M. Kirkham 17th hole. Longest Drive G. Holland 9th hole.

Also a big thank you to Ron Jobson for his valued assistance with the scorecards.

Interested parties for the dinner/dance at Reigate Manor Hotel this November should contact the committee for tickets – priced £18.

Southturf was again a great success and thanks to the South East regional committee's hard work and the trades continued support, an estimated 6-700 bodies past through the gates and in general most enjoyed the exhibition.

An item of personal news for those of you who know me. I am now the proud father of a baby daughter. She was born in the 10th June (Derby Day) and weighed in a 7lbs 11.5 oz. We have named her Danielle and mother and baby are

doing well – dad's shattered.

Forthcoming events include August 3 – McMillan Tankard; September 5 – Parker Salver; October 4 The Autumn Tournament and November 10 Dinner/Dance.

DAVID GIBBS

East of Scotland

I am afraid I must open this month's report on a sad note. Norman Whytock of Rhône-Poulenc has died at the age of 49. Norman was a man who would help any greenkeeper young or old at great length with any problem he might have. I am sure that I speak with every member of the section in extending our sincerest condolences to his family.

On a happy note I have just returned for the Scottish Tournament at Royal Dornoch GC and this has to be the best kept course I have ever had the pleasure of playing. Well done to Robert Patterson and his staff who worked tirelessly to have the course in first class condition for us (even on Sunday afternoon I might add). And thanks to Elliott and Edna Small for all the work they put in to make the tournament the great success that it was. Thanks again.

On Saturday June 10 we had a family barbecue at the Kilspindie House Hotel which was well attended with 48 members, wives, children and guests all enjoying a good night. Pity it was on the cool side but it was dry so we hope to have another during the summer so keep a look out for the next date soon to be arranged. The annual dance is at the same venue as last year (as above). Tickets on sale now at a price of £18 per person. Rooms are also available at £18 per person per night bed and breakfast. Letters regarding this will be with you soon or give me a call.

Tickets for the 100 club are going slowly so come on get entering and don't miss out of the first draws to be made soon. So hurry.

The East section football team is on the look out for some more games so come on other Scottish sections how about some challenge games home or away against the boys from the East. Give me or Chris Teaman a call on 01875 870 485. In Glasgow you may have Gazza and Hooydonk but in the East we have Stevie (Bergkamp) Dixon and Roberto (Baggio) Hogarth so let's get arranging some fixtures.

A mistake in the last issue. the library that is being set up is being done by Chris Yeaman and Andrew Forrest with the money they received from their Patrons Awards earlier this year, and not the committee as previously said. the library will be situated at Swanston GC in the Course Manager's office when the new sheds are built later this year. A small fee will be charged from anyone wishing to borrow any. Money collected

Around the Green



will go towards buying more books.

Best wishes to all the lads who have just had their results. They have all passed their HNC. Well done to you all.

We recently had our committee outing to Craigmillar Park GC. Thanks go to Captain and Council, Tom, Stevie and staff. The course was in excellent condition and the weather pure sunshine – 80 degrees. The winner on the Eddie Holt Trophy was our Secretary Robert Hogarth and he also accepted the shield from the Chairman's team versus the Vice Chairman's team as the Chairman could not attend.

Better luck next time Stevie.

ANDREW FORREST 0131 339 1315 or ROBERT HOGARTH 01721 722 832

Midland

Sitting in the garden sunbathing as I write this month's note must mean that summer has finally arrived. My family and I headed off down to Richard Whyman's neck of the woods for our annual dip in the sea on July 1. It must be a joy this time of year to be on the coast with the sands just a few minutes away.

Firstly may I congratulate Paul Jenkins on his marriage. Paul has given me advice over the years and it's nice to know Paul has joined the ranks of the biggest institution known to man. How does the song go – "another one bites the dust"? Seriously, we all wish they both a happy future.

The next golf tournament is on September 25 at Maxstoke Park GC. that day Reginald W.T. Stonebridge will be celebrating his retirement and would like to see new and old friends alike join in. If you would like to attend the evening meal, contact Rhys Thomas on 0121 357 5378. All entries to the tournament must be with Rhys by August 25.

Finally I would like to congratulate all the Course Managers/Head Greenkeepers who have become NVQ Assessors. It hasn't been an easy thing to do, especially as we have had to learn what seemed to be a new language altogether. So we all now know what PC stands for. No it's not Police Constable!

KIM BLAKE

Kent

Three months ago at the excellent Littlestone GC Andy Arthur and his brother won the Rigby Taylor Shield and being Bromley's answer to "Marvo the Memory Master" I forgot to mention it. So congratulations to Andy and Malcolm and thanks to Bernard Dibbins of Rigby's who put up the prize.

Herne Bay was the venue for our second golf day of the year. It was made all the more special as the club had invited us down to help celebrate its centenary year. Phil Hirst and his team worked extremely hard on the course to give us a great day and special mention should also go to Mr Brealy, the Owner, and Mr Westlake, the Captain, for donating the prizes and making us all so very welcome. I must also mention the catering and bar staff for their patience, good humour and fine evening meal. One of the most enjoyable parts of these golf days is the opportunity to meet with one's peers, develop friendships and discuss the weighty issues facing greenkeeping today. That is, of course, unless you are John Roots who entertained the whole gathering with a non stop barrage of jokes, all of which, as you can imagine, were politically correct, clean and bereft of sexism.

Unfortunately there is no room here to print these jokes but for anyone interested John will be busking outside BTME next year. On a more serious note the newly reinstated Parker Hart Trophy was won by Stewart Smith of Deangate Ridge with an excellent 65. Congratulations to him and thanks to John Noyce of Parkers for the trophy.

Finally a day for your diaries. Birchwood park GC September 25. Among other things this is the last round of the Eclectic competition and even if you are yet to enter a card you are still in with a chance of winning.

RICHARD PAGE

Sheffield

On July 3 we had our 27 hole National tournament at Cavendish GC. Our thanks go to Pat Heaney and his staff for having the course in excellent condition. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the course and we look forward to playing it again.

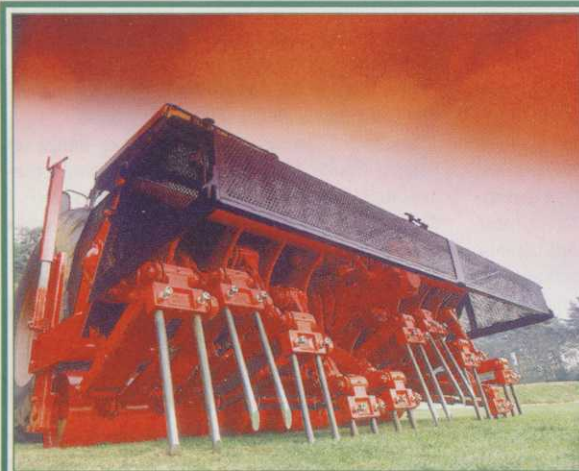
Results: Nine Hole Morning Comp.

1. R. Binns 20 pts; 2. B. Heaney 19pts.

18 Hole Afternoon Competition.

1. M. Clegg 68 (nett) 2. M. Coultas 69; 3. R. Needham 69; 4. C Hopper 70.

Our thanks for the prize table go to our trade members Rhone Poulenc, G. Brady; Barenburgh UK, A. Elliss; Alexanders, S. Chapman and E. Sommerfield; Amenity Sports Turf, S. Burrows; GEM, T. Adamson and S. Dyson; Rigby Taylors, B. Booth, Aitkens Sports Turf, P. Fell; Trident, M.



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The next golf tournament is at Coxmoor or September 25 and the first winter lecture on October 5.

RONALD ULLATHORNE

Sussex

On the premise that "no news is good news" Sussex must be doing very well. However, things have been happening in the section with our spring meeting at the Nevill GC in April at which Bruce Cruickshank educated us on the many and varied uses of hollow cores on the course. And they say the Scots are mean! The winners in the morning were Matt Saunders, Chris Reed and Carl Whyborne with Alan Wickens taking the Guest Prize. The afternoon winner were Chris Allen and Raymond Day with Sean Sturrock as Guest winner. Thanks are offered to the sponsors of the day, Culverwells and Rigby Taylor. Congratulations also go to those who qualified for the next round of the Hayter Challenge but more especially to Chris Allen and Raymond Day who have made it through to the Final - good luck!

Summer found us at Ifield on a blisteringly hot day. Thanks must be given to Alistair Cale and his team for their efforts in preparing the course for us - pity about the pin placements! The winners in the morning were Jon Hall, Raymond Day and Colin Martin with Gary Ogilvie taking the Trade prize. The afternoon winners were Andy Paynter, Lawrie Tremlett and Duncan Haste with Norman

Around the Green



Kennard and Peter Stuart collecting the Guest prize. Thanks again to the sponsors, Farmura and John Shaw (Machinery) Ltd

Special thanks must go to both clubs and their catering teams for looking after us so well.

While handing out the accolades, I would like to thank the Steering Committee of the Southturf Show for putting on another great event. However, one has to wonder at how sincere the support is for the Association when two of the South East Region manufacturers were not only absent but held private display days on either side of the show. It has been noted who they are. On the other hand support from Head Office was outstanding and I personally noted some "heavyweights" among the crowd.

And now to the future. The autumn meeting takes place on September 27 at Worthing GC. Are you ready for us, Rob? Please don't forget that if you have been unable to attend the last two meetings this is your last chance to be eligible for the

Turkey Trot (some time in December at Littlehampton GC)

STEFAN ANTOLIK

North Wales

I was saddened to hear that Peter Gabriel, the Head Greenkeeper from Carden Park, was made redundant recently. If anyone can help him out with either casual work or a permanent position please contact him on 01978 266284.

I have not been made aware of any other news around the area so I can only presume all is well in the North Wales section.

The only point I have to raise is that there is a required standard of dress for all greenkeepers who attend BIGGA Greenkeeper days and the committee would be grateful if all members would do their best to comply. If anybody has difficulty in obtaining the correct standard of dress please get in touch with me and I will do all I can to help.

Can I say well done to all the boys who took part in the Hayter Qualifier at Middlesbrough and my congratulations to Darren Davies of Flint and Ian Buckley of Northop Country Park who I believe got through to the Final.

Congratulations to Haydn Jones and Richard Taylor of Chirk GC in passing their Level 2 Greenkeeping this month. There goes the myth that you can't teach an old dog new tricks. Well done to both of you.

T.P. EVANS

Southern Irish Section

The Glasson Golf and Country Club in Athlone Co Westmeath was the venue for the Southern Irish Section of the Hayter/BIGGA Challenge.

Fine weather greeted the protagonists who managed to record some very healthy scoring.

The event was contested by 48 players which reflects a substantial increase in numbers from last year. Everyone agreed that the Glasson Golf and Country Club was a perfect venue being in the heart of Ireland and therefore within reach of all participants. The course itself provided a mix of challenging holes and superb scenery although not everyone enjoyed the 15th hole where both tee and green were islands on Loch Ree which adjoins the course.

Stan Mitchell of Dublin Grass Machinery played as a guest and his score of 70 would have equalled that of the winner.

The event was a great success for all concerned, particularly Hayter, whose new FM514 was demonstrated cutting the last six fairways. Earlier in the week Thomas Spratt, greenkeeper of West Waterford GC had placed an order for the new Hayter T93 following a successful demonstration organised via John O'Flynn/ Paddy Geary.

Results: Cat 1. 1. Des Murtagh, Tramore GC, 70; 2. David Casburn, Athy GC, 71; 3. Oliver English, Dun-

HAYTER CHALLENGE

dalk GC, 71. Reserve. David Behan, Killeen GC.

Cat 2. 1. Ciaran Gorman, Hermitage GC, 71; 2. Eddie Gilsinan, Skerries GC, 71; 3. David Molloy, Royal Dublin GC, 72. Reserve. Thomas Dorran, Westmanstown GC.

Cat 3. 1. Martin Browne, Skerries GC, 71; 2. Michael O'Brien, Royal Dublin GC, 72; 3. Paddy Guinnan, Island GC. Reserve. Colm McGuinness, Swords Open GC.

Northern Region

The Northern Regional final of the Hayter Challenge was held at the Middlesbrough GC in early July.

Thanks to Hayter for its generous sponsorship and especially Kim and Hamish Macfie for their help on the day. Thanks also to Bert Cross for starting and driving the mini bus, Howard McAddey and Ian Holoran for help with the scoring and everyone at Middlesbrough GC for making the event such a success.

Cat 1. 1. D. McJannet, Sheffield, 69; 2. D. Davies, Wales, 71; 1. Buckley, Wales, 71.

Cat 2. 1. P. Harley, North West, 66; 2. R. Johnson, Northern, 66; 3. M. Broughton, North West, 68.

Cat 3. 1. C. Powley, Cleveland, 68; 2. K. Bush, Cleveland, 68; 3. D. Cockburn, Northern, 69.

Midland Regional Final

The Midland Regional Final was held on July 5 at The Erewash Valley GC, Stanton by Dale, Derby.

Our thanks go to the Captain and Committee of Erewash for allowing us to stage the event and to Graham Arnold and his staff for getting the course in such superb condition under very trying weather conditions and to Doreen and her inside staff or an excellent meal.

Some very good scores emerged and as we know in the East Midlands we were Bindleyed again. It was nice to see Neil Thomas and Barry Heaney attend our event.

Special thanks go to Hayter for sponsoring the event (long may they do so) and to Kim Macfie and his entourage for all their help on the day.

Cat 0-9 1. R. Barker 72-4-68 on countback; 2. C.A. Macdonald 72-4-68; 3. J. Dair 71-2-69. Reserve P. Woodham 71-1-70.

Cat 10-18. 1. P. Richmond 86-16-70 on countback; 2. R. Thomas 85-15-70; 3. P. Holtham 82-10-72 on countback. Reserve E. O'Hanlon 91-18-73.

Cat 19-28. 1. A. Bindley 85-20-65; 2. I. Dunmore 91-22-69 on countback; 3. A. Roberts 88-19-69 on countback. Reserve G. Arnold 88-19-69.

Section Team Prize: East Midlands Section.

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