

Duncan McGilvray introduces a new series on management tips for today's head greenkeeper

Managing a golf course

Having worked for 27 years as a greenkeeper, the one area which has always seemed to me to be very vague and never explained or covered properly was the remit, or more accurately the job description, given to a Head Greenkeeper or Course Manager.

Over a number of years, following experiences working on various golf courses, I have given this subject serious thought and decided to prepare my own remit/job description. What emerged was a defined list of duties which I believed was essential if golf courses (particularly private members' clubs) were to be managed efficiently and realistically.

These duties will therefore be the basis of four articles which will appear in the forthcoming months.

This list is based on basic management principles, both theoretical and practical, and it is my hope that it will help apprentice to assistant greenkeepers by giving them a clear indication of what they should be aiming for and, indeed, what will be expected of them by future employers.

I hope also that it will not only help Head Greenkeepers achieve Course Manager status, but also give present Course Managers the opportunity to re-evaluate what they do and question if they do enough in the very many different areas of management which is called for to be successful and effective.

These articles should not be used in isolation but in conjunction with GTC approved training being given within the profession, in the form of Management Workshops, as well as within GTC approved colleges around the country.

The series will really be a practicing Course Manager's guide to managing a golf course, based on my experiences, both ups and downs, in moving from apprentice greenkeeper in Scotland in 1968 to Course Manager in England today.

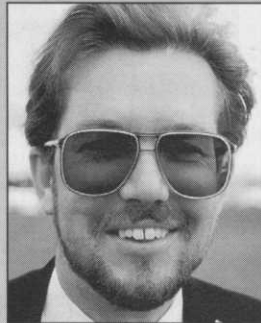
I believe that if we all manage our golf courses in a similar common sense manner our profession will move forward in a way which can only dreamed of at present.

Perhaps then we will not be perceived as mere grass cutters, but respectable, highly trained and efficient managers and be rewarded accordingly.

I also believe that working within a private members' golf club has its own problems, ie. working within a committee structure. This alone calls for tact and diplomacy, as well as a certain sense of humour and steely determination.

However I have found that if approached and presented in a professional way anything can be achieved (even through a committee) as long as what is being presented is justified.

I believe these articles will help particu-



Duncan McGilvray is Course Manager at Letchworth GC in North Hertfordshire. He gathered experience initially in his native Scotland and for the last 17 years has been Head Greenkeeper or Course Manager at three clubs in England. He has given numerous lectures to National Education Conferences, the BTME and English Golf Union seminars as well as the most important one – to his own members. He also sits on liaison committees at Oaklands College, St Albans, and gives regular presentations to Golf Course Management students. His subject matter has always centred around the Course Manager's own responsibilities and the communication of these to others.

larly those who work in this type of management structure – probably the most difficult in any industry – and one which I am sure will change to a more efficient system in the future. That will only happen through our own determination to be recognised as efficient managers and decision makers. Only then will golf club committees, and the members who democratically elect them, allow us to be totally responsible for managing their golf courses.

Over the next few months I will cover:

1. Managing and taking control

1. Taking a major role in the formulation of Policy.
2. Overseeing the short, medium and long term maintenance of the Course which is dictated by that Policy.
3. Presenting and implementing work schedules.
4. Presenting and implementing machinery maintenance programmes.
5. Keeping accurate records.
6. Keeping up to date with modern methods, materials and equipment.

This will cover the basic structure in which we should work – setting agreed pol-

icy and working within it – showing your employer that you are in control, and therefore gaining their trust in making day to day as well as more important medium to long term decisions.

2. Controlling finances

1. Formulating, presenting and maintaining agreed budgets.
2. Observing tight cost control and ensuring cost effectiveness.
3. Reaching a reasoned final decision regarding the buying of materials and equipment.

This is the one area which many of my colleagues shy away from, believing that a committee or Treasurer will do this work for them thus making their workload easier. I believe, however, that there is no-one better than the Course Manager for calculating how much it costs to maintain a golf course. This will be covered in simple terms.

A few days spent at the right time of the year in setting budgets makes the remainder of that year so much easier.

3. Managing staff

1. Supervising and assisting in the training/development and recruitment of staff.
2. Endeavouring at all times to improve supervisor and staff relations.
3. Delegating effectively.

"You are only as good as your staff" someone once said – and how true that is.

This is an enormous subject but I will try to cover obvious areas of supervision, and give some ideas on how to overcome staff "friction", which can be so harmful in small staff set-ups, as is so often the case on golf courses.

4. Communication

1. Endeavouring at all times to continually improve staff and golf club member/employer communication.
2. Ensuring the safety of the staff and the environment.

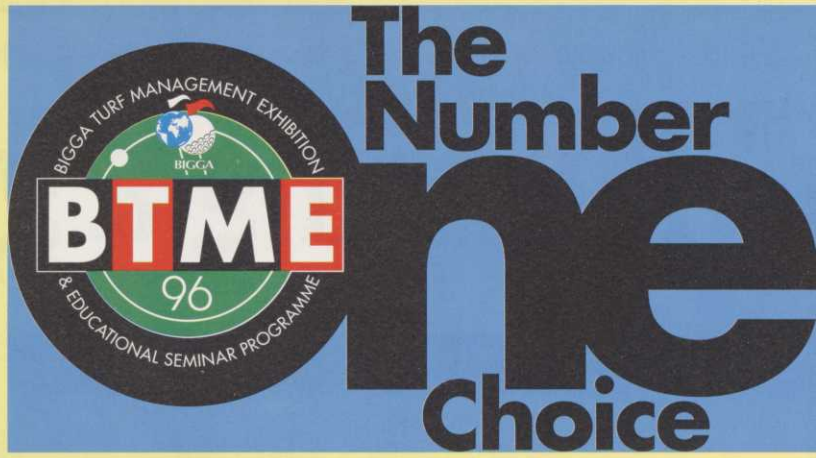
Although this is the final subject area, it is by all accounts, the most important – the more the golfer knows about the work of the greenkeeper the easier the job will become.

I will cover many different areas of communication under this heading, the importance of which cannot be overstated.

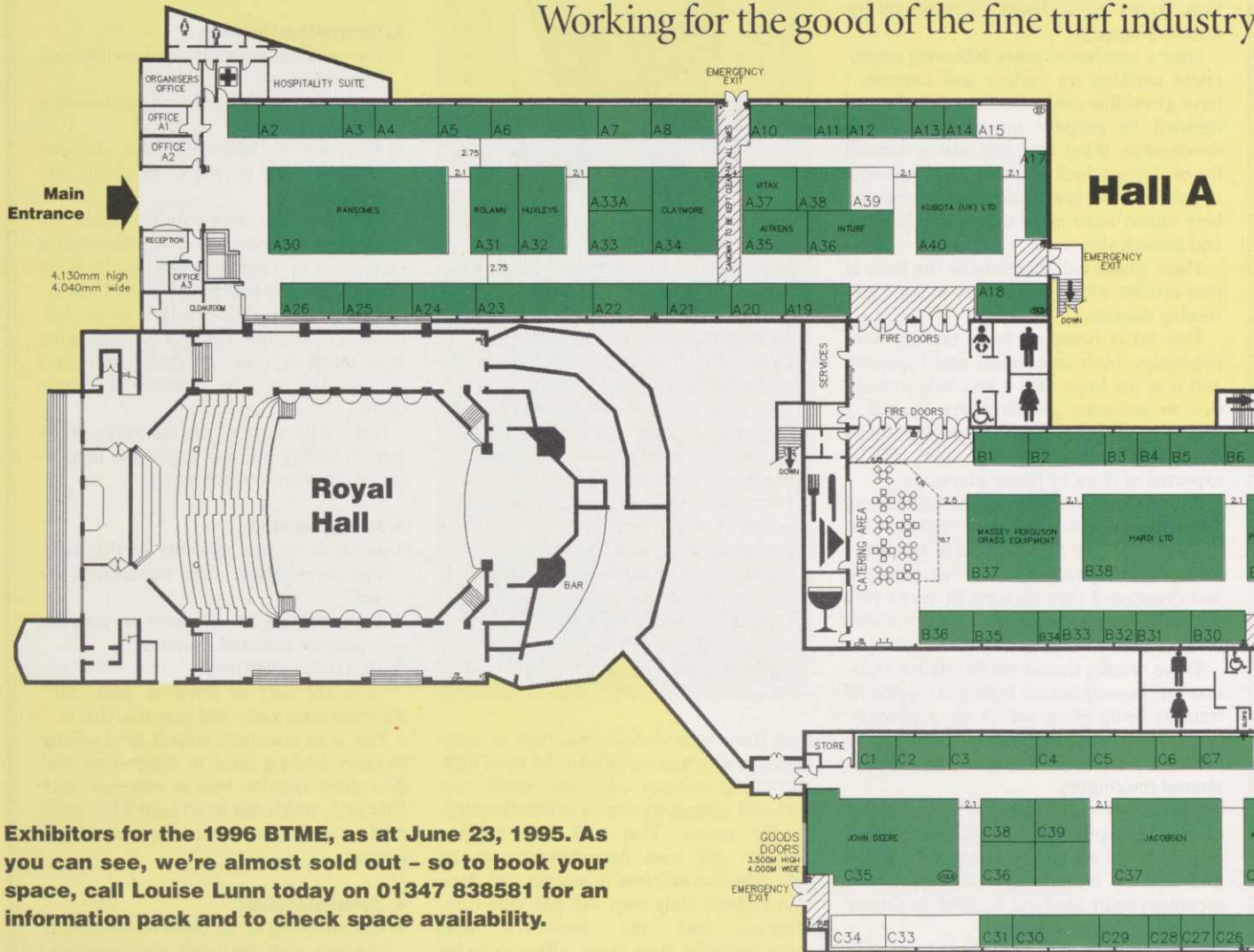
In closing, it is important to point out that it is my wish to convey a common sense approach to managing a private members' golf course. I therefore do not propose to go into any subject area in any great detail (I am no expert anyway!), the general aim will be – in the words of Billy McMillan – to "keep it simple".

EXHIBITION PLAN to date

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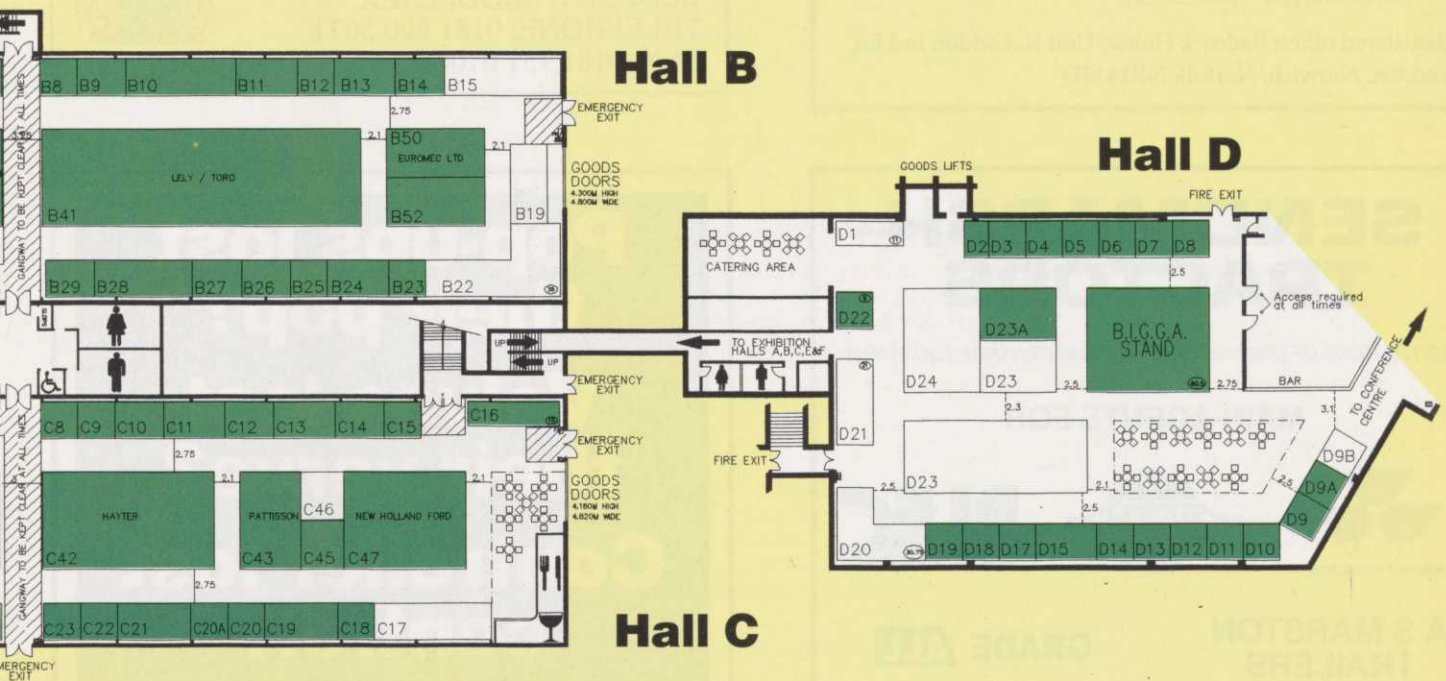
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Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

Mid Anglia

This month our summer golf meeting is being held on July 18 at Brickendon Grange, GC over 36 holes. Entries should be in by the time you read this. Also a reminder to all participants in the Lodgeway fourball competition that all league matches must be completed by the end of this month.

Colin White, who I'm sure you all know as the Rigby Taylor rep for this area, has now left and has taken up a new position with Avon-crop. Good luck with your new company, Colin.

Finally I would like to welcome the following new members to the section:- Neil Robson, Hammonds End GC; Peter Tiffney, Weston Turville GC; Jason Bonner, Jonathon Oliver, Peter Messer, Kenneth Stewart, Barkway Park GC; Nigel Robins, West Park GC; Peter Deacon, Three Locks GC; Alistair Connell, Collingtree GC; Clive Parnell, Stabrite and Andrew Milton, Synergy BMK.

GERALD BRUCE

East of England

There was a good attendance for the first event of the year at Elton Furze and the course was presented in excellent condition by Kevin Hodges and his staff. The day was sponsored by Peterborough Garden Machinery with prizes also donated by Chandlers, Field Care, Rigby Taylors, R Fitton and Colliers. After a filling dinner, our Chairman, David Walden (Greenkeeper of the Year) welcomed all in attendance and called on Alister Brown to present the prizes. Results:

1. Graeme Macdonald, Eyebury 33 pts; 2. Peter Down, Belton Woods 32 pts; 3. Fred Cobb, Newark 31 pts; 4. Jim Carr, Chandlers 30 pts 5. Ian Ross, Newark 30 pts.

Longest Drive Nick Dowman, Belton Park. Nearest the Pin Nick Dowman (disqualified after a stewards' enquiry).

The raffle collection was donated to the Peterborough Special Baby Care Unit.

Two local student greenkeepers have been nominated by their colleges to take part in the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year - Chas Campen (Orton Meadows) for Milton College, Cambridge and Kevin Hodges (Elton Furze) for Askham Bryan College, York. Good luck lads!

New members we would like to welcome are: David Welberry, Kirton Holme; Gary Nimmo, Oundle; Mathew Bishop, Belton Woods; Jim Fulton, Mommersteeg Seeds; David Williams, Southwell; Charles Britton, Gedney Hill and Gordon Taylor, Market Rasen.

Finally we are hoping to organise a social get together in July and details will follow.

Diary Dates. August 15, East of England v East Midland for the Toro Trophy, Market Harborough GC; August 23, Rigby Taylor Trophy, Carholme GC; September 28, Lambs Lawnmowers Trophy, Spalding; October 12,

EVENTS DIARY

July 20-23: The Open Championship, St Andrews

July 31-August 2: National Tournament, St Annes Old Links Golf Club, Lytham

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

East of England, Secretaries' Association for the Chandler Cup, Sleaford.

GRAEME MACDONALD

North Wales

As you can imagine it is difficult for me to write an interesting report when I have no news! The reason for this is that no-one actually contacts me with information for this section. If anyone does have anything to contribute - exam passes, job moves - please get in touch. This is your chance to tell other members what is going on.

The next greenkeepers' day will be held at Chirk Golf and Country Club on October 11. Entry forms will be sent out at the beginning of September and please reply promptly.

At the last day, on April 19, suggestion forms were handed out. Please could you fill these in and return them with any suggestions as soon as possible. If you didn't receive a form for any reason why not write in with your ideas anyway? Don't forget you run the North Wales section and the committee needs your input to make the best overall decisions.

Could I also ask all members to make every possible effort to attend the shows that take place throughout the year. It would be good to see you all on a day other than a golfing one.

I must inform you that the committee will be writing to various members asking them to define their positions of whether or not they actually work with fine turf as it has come to our attention that we have some members who may not be complying with the Greenkeepers' Constitution.

TP EVANS, Competition Secretary

Midland

The lecture at Telford G&CC was attended by 32 members who enjoyed Andy Coles' (STRI) talk on Thatch, Compaction and Black Layer and Mark Hunt's (Scotts) talk on Fertilisers in general and the difference between nutrient levels of root zone greens and soil greens. Thanks to both. At the end of the lecture Mark Hunt drew the winning number from the returned questionnaires belonging to Martin Jones of Bridgenorth GC. Thank you to Abbey Mowers and Jacobsen for their sponsorship.

I would like to welcome the following new members: Nicholas Brown, John Doig, J. English, Richard Slater, John Cassidy, Leigh Swann, Matthew Robbis, Jamie Askew, Shaun Christopher, Graeme Gallimore, Jack Cooper and John Meers. Associate members, Andrew Lisle and Edward Davies.

Here we are on the second half of 1995 already and it's amazing to think we are already having to think about winter projects.

The qualifiers for the Midland Section Hayter Qualifier are as follows:

Cat 1. 0-9. P. Woodham, M. Hughes, T. Cheese and R. Morton. Reserve. P. Loffman.

Cat 2. 10-18. V. Lee, P., Richmond, P. Holtham and T. Livingstone. Reserve. K. Davies.

Cat 3. 19-28. J. Palmer, A. Roberts, P. Fletcher and J. Randell. Reserve. J. Roberts.

I would like to welcome Colin Goldfinch to the association. If any members have not a fixture card or entrance sheet, they can write or telephone me and I'll send them on to you. If any member would like leaflets to promote BIGGA to fellow colleagues and prospective members, contact me or Aldwark Manor.

The next golf tournament is on August 17 at The Warwickshire. Entry form and money must be with R. Thomas by July 17. We hope to see more new faces playing.

Finally my address is 14 Croft Close, Winyates West, Redditch, Worcs B98 OJT. Tel: 01527 524217.

KIM BLAKE

East Midland

This year we were fortunate to be given courtesy at The Notts GC, one of the best inland courses in the country, for our spring tournament and Hayter Qualifier. On a cold and wet spring day with a turnout of 50 members some good golf was played despite difficult conditions. Results:

Cat 0-9: 1. R. Barker, Kirby Muxloe, 78-5-73; 2. P. Tatlow, Kedleston Pk, 81-6-75; 3. R. Allen, Horsley Lodge, 84-7-77; 4. M. Emery, Hinckley, 86-8-78.

Cat 10-18: 1. P. Billings, Cotgrave 85-10-75; 2. A. Porter, Greetham Valley, 89-13-76; 3. S. Goode, Scraftoft, 86-10-76; 4. D. Blacker, Manor GC, 91-15-76.

Cat 19-28: 1. A. Bindley, Kirby Muxloe, 86-20-66; 2. G. Arnold, Erewash Valley, 95-19-76; 3. M. Billings, Chevin, 100-22-78; 4. I. Dunmore, Longcliffe, 101-22-79.

All these members will represent the section at this year's Hayter Regional Final to be held at Erewash Valley GC.

Trade & Associate Mike Franklin 85-13-72.

Our thanks go to The Notts GC for its courtesy and hospitality towards our members on the day. Also thanks to all our sponsors especially Erringtons of Leicester. I would also like to thank the following committee members for their hard work on the day - Dave Leatherland, Richard Barker, Steve Goode, and Pete Forshaw. Not forgetting Paul Tatlow and Mark Bindley for their valuable support to the section. Hope to see you all at our autumn meeting on September 11 at Kedleston Park.

The Head Greenkeeper at The Notts GC, Graham Armson, recently completed 25 years service at the club and his work at the club

was recognised at the AGM earlier this year when he was presented with an engraved decanter and whisky glasses together with a personal gift from the Chairman of Green. Club Secretary, S F Goldie said, "The work that Mr Armson and his team does at our club is recognised far and wide as being of the highest quality."

An additional golf fixture has been arranged for this year. On August 15 we play host to the East of England section in a fourball better ball match at Market Harborough GC. A team will be selected to represent the section on this day.

Would all members who have entered the singles and pairs competitions please ensure that all their matches are played before the closing date and that the secretary has been informed of all results.

ANTONY BINDLEY

South Coast

On Friday August 11 we will be staging our summer tournament at Parkstone GC. This is an excellent venue and an early entry is recommended. For details please phone the Tournament Organiser, Mark Webb Tel: 01962 733061.

Incidentally the committee this year is as follows:- Jim Fry, President; Ken Lodge, Chairman; Alan Mitchell, Secretary; Mark Webb, Tournament Organiser; Ed McCabe, Martin Summers, Kerran Daly, Jeff Drake, Bob Cully, Bon Dennis and Paul Dredge.

There have been several new Head Greenkeeper appointments over the last few months. They include; Richard Warton, Dummer GC; David Matthie, Wickham Park GC; Steven Pellatt, Lee-on-Solent GC; David Murdoch, Liphook GC; Lauchran Miller, High Post GC and Harvey Tribe, Basingstoke GC.

We wish them every success for the future.

BOB CULLY

Bucks, Berks and Oxon

The much awaited football tournament took place on at Wycombe Sports Centre recently. Because of a lack of numbers it was decided to play 10 a-side Oxon v Berks and Bucks. It was the first time that Oxon had managed to put a team together so they started as underdogs.

The match got off to a bad start when inside the first 10 minutes Dean Thatcher picked up the ball in his own half, showed a little skill on the ball only to be challenged strongly by Ray Clark. Down went Dean with a thud and a scream (*nice bit of poetry - Ed*) with a dislocated knee cap (not a pretty sight). He played

Around the Green



no further part in the game and spent the next five weeks with his leg in plaster.

Berks and Bucks took advantage of the situation to race into a 5-2 lead before there was some reorganisation of the sides for the second half. It resulted in a much more even contest and it was only a last minute Gary Ader goal which secured victory for Oxon.

There were no hard feelings from Berks & Bucks. The better team won. Here's to the next sporting event - possibly cricket!

Finally I have to inform members of the sad news that Bob Plain died at Hazelmere GC on May 23. Bob always played an active role in section functions and will be sadly missed by all. Our thoughts go out to his family.

See you all at Blue Mountain for the next golfing event on July 5.

LINDSAY T ANDERSON

Ayrshire

Our section was well represented at the Hayter qualifier played over Cardross on May 30. The major success was in the top category where George Brown and Keith Hardie finished first and third, and Derek Wilson was fourth. If only the rest of us in the second and third categories had backed them up for the team prize. Everyone enjoyed the day, however, and thanks to Hayter, and the Cardross Club and staff for providing such a good test of golf.

Congratulations and good luck for the future go to Donald Kerr of St Nicholas, who is getting married to Linda, and Derek Wilson our ex-Chairman who has got engaged to a lovely Dublin lass Jacinta.

By the time you read this report I will be on the move to Dumfries where I am building a driving range and a pay and play golf course. My new contact number and address will be made available as soon as possible. Although going by past form not much news comes my way anyway. Come on then, prove me wrong and give me something to write about.

Until next month.

DUNCAN GRAY

West of Scotland

The spring outing held over Lanark GC proved a great success with an excellent turnout on the day. The course was very enjoyable, except for the greens. They were too fast for me! Thanks to Jim Lyons and his staff for their course presentation, to the Captain for presenting the prizes, the Secretary for providing me with plastic bags and cards and to the members for allowing 55 greenkeepers to tramp over their course at short notice.

On the day high winds caused problems for everyone but the eventual winners were:

Cat 0-9: 1. G. Brown, East Kilbride; 2. S. Hogg, Drumpellier; 3. A. Colquhoun, Carluke.

Cat 10-18: 1. S. Brawley, East Kilbride; 2. G. Miller, Cardross; 3. R. Ross, Renfrew.

Cat 19-28: 1. J. Tonner, Drumpellier; 2. D. Mowatt, Glasgow GC; 3. J. McCormack, Cawder.

Scratch: S. Taylor, Glasgow GC.

All these players qualify for the Hayter Challenge at Cardross, as do J. Brown, Bearsden, in the second category and M. Corey, Balmore, in the third category. Hope everything goes well for them on the day.

Special prizes were awarded for longest drive in Cat 1, D. Gall, Cat 2, S Imrie and Cat 3, G. Nisbet with a prize for nearest the pin at the 18th going to R. Wilson.

On a different note can the section wish all the best to Neil McLennan, Bothwell Castle, who is shortly to become Course Manager at Cawder and Douglas McIntosh, Bothwell Castle, who moves into the head man spot. I'm sure both will prove worthy choices.

Finally those interested in playing five-a-side later in the season should contact myself on 0141 942 5554. Remember all members of a team must be greenkeepers.

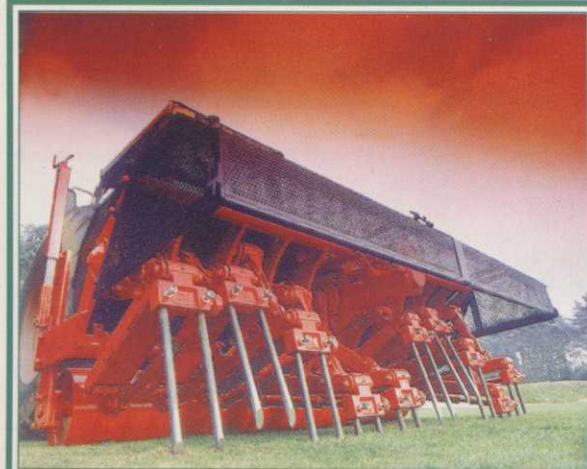
JAMES S TAYLOR

Surrey

Our spring tournament was held on probably the hottest day in May. Temperatures soared into the 80s - not ideal for 36 holes - but it was an excellent event. Thanks to the Blackmoor club and its staff for providing such superb facilities.

The scratch prize went to Kevin Boxall with a 147 gross with the overall winner Paul Robinson with a nett score of 138. 2nd was Mark Todd on 142 with A. Locke third on 144 (local knowledge). The trade winner was Brian Wilmott of Pattisson's.

The Hayter qualifiers were Cat 0-9. P. Robinson, 138; K. Boxall, 141; D. Langheim, 147; T. Edwards, 149. Cat 10-18. M. Todd,



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142; A. Locke, 144; E. Grant, 147; S. Bailey, 151.

The south east region has now appointed a new administrator, Geoff Hills and he can be contact on 01303 268053 (daytime).

Anyone interested in a visit to Ransomes' at Ipswich should contact the committee.

Vandals set to work on the 2nd green at Reigate Heath GC recently pouring petrol and oil over the front portion of the green then setting light to it. It happened just two days before the club's centenary week.

Forthcoming events include the MacMillan Tankard - limited to the first 40 applicants and the Parker Salver, Tyrells Wood GC, 26 pairs only eg. greenkeeper/committee member.

DAVID GIBBS

Devon and Cornwall

In a short while your section will have the opportunity of viewing and putting its views to the "Towards 2000" review document which has been drafted by a steering committee consisting of a member from each region. This review covers areas such as the constitution of our Association, National board structure, education and HQ accommodation which should see our Association grow stronger well into the next millennium.

It is in your interest to ask your local elected committee members about the review and to put any points you consider important to them as our Association will only grow stronger with your support.

A reminder of forthcoming events before our winter programme gets under way.

Visit to WBB sand works at Cornwood Quarry near Plymouth on September 27. Numbers are limited to the first 20. The programme for the day is as follows:

9.30 to 10am. Visit Cornwood Quarry sand plant, workshops and clay processing plant. 1pm to 2pm. Lunch at Cornwood Inn provided by WBB. 2.15pm to 3.15pm. Visit Shaugh Quarry sand plant. 3.30pm. Depart.

If you would like to attend this visit and see behind the scenes please contact me as soon as possible to avoid disappointment on 01288 353438.

Cornish summer evening meetings are now under way with the next venue being at Lanhydrock GC on July 19, followed by meetings at Newquay GC August 23 and Bude GC September 20. For further information contact organiser Steve Evans on 01208 863647.

RICHARD WHYMAN

Around the Green



South West

Good weather and a warm welcome once more awaited us for the Greenkeeper/Amateur competition held again this year at Minchinhampton Old course in May. This informal event grows ever more popular with this year over 60 members and their guests taking part. Those people who did not play last year and did not know what to expect were faced with a tough test of golf due to the fact that cutting and maintenance restrictions are imposed on what is common ground. Mind you, if identifying the ball from the daisies was not difficult enough then it was fortunate that we did not play a week later as Paul Worster had mentioned that they would have to contend with the cattle (and all they leave behind) due to them being moved onto the common to graze for the summer season.

Despite the long dry spell and its obvious effects on the course an enjoyable afternoon was had by everyone, culminating in an excellent buffet meal prepared, once again, by Margaret Webb and her staff. Grateful thanks are extended to Bob Clarke, the Administrator of the Old Course, for offering the course particularly as green fees were waived again not only to BIGGA members but their guests too. Finally thanks to the green staff and the trade for their generosity with prizes.

Results: 1. W. Vincent and J. Smith, 43 pts; 2. P. Ferragut and A. O'Hare, 42 pts; 3. N. Bennett and W. Dunster, 41 pts (on count-back); 4. J. Cooper and C. Powell, 41 pts; 5. D. Bougen and J. Laracombe 40 pts.

For those people wishing to play in the annual match against the south coast to be held this year at Lee-on-Solent GC on September 21, the section is looking to organise a mini bus for the day to lessen the travelling aspect for all. Details will be forthcoming closer to the time.

A reminder, if you have not already entered, the National Tournament will be held this year at St Annes Old Links GC, Lytham, on July 31 to August 2.

Long Ashton GC, Bristol, is the next oppor-

tunity for us all to meet and please remember if you wish to register for any training courses send back the slip of paper at the bottom of the registration form for the Long Ashton event.

KEVIN GREEN

North of Scotland

The north section welcomes four more new members, Denis Smith assistant greenkeeper at Dalfer GC, Aviemore, Michael Keay, trainee at Montrose and two from Royal Dornoch, Sinclair Moir and Iain Taggart. Leslie Rae has recently moved from Montrose to be first assistant at Forfar and George Paterson is leaving Fortrose to become head man at County Sligo in the Republic of Ireland. We wish them both well.

The spring outing at Newmacher was a great success despite the wet weather. There was a turnout of 86 with almost 80 playing. The prize winners were as follows: Scratch. 1. G. Paterson, Fortrose; 2. K. Peace, Inverurie.

Cat 0-9: 1. G. Mitchell, Newmacher; 2. P. Don Kemnay; 3. G. Leslie, Duff House Royal.

Cat 10-18: 1. A. Reid, Letham Grange; 2. D. Anthony, Duff House Royal; 3. C. Mackay, Cruden Bay.

Cat 19-28: 1. P. Wood, Newmacher; 2. M. Cumming, Nairn; 3. H. Maclatchie, Peterhead. Veterans: 1. G. Asher, Kemnay; 2. A. Williamson, Retired.

Apprentice: 1. N. Sadler, Granton-on-Spey; 2. D. Murray, Newmacher.

Trade: 1. J. Robertson, Aitkens.

Guest: 1. E. Small, Tulliallan

Regional Administrator Elliott Small came up for the day and showed most of us how to play the game with the second lowest score. We welcomed several new members and had a full turnout of our three lady members, Janice Florence from Royal Aberdeen, Aileen Snowden from Peterhead and Caroline Ross from Royal Dornoch. Phillip Don of Kemnay won the draw for the BIGGA blazer and the 200 Club winners were: January £30, 167 D. Henderson, Ardgay, Sutherland, February £30 96 A. Robinson, Rigby Taylor, March £40 97 A. Macleod, Stornoway and April £100 131 R. Napier, Dundee. A big thank you to Dale Robertson and his staff for their efforts on the course and to George Macintosh and everyone in the clubhouse. We were honoured to have the course designer, Dave Thomas, to present the prizes and club Captain to welcome us. Thank you both.

I am pleased to report that tickets for the dinner/disco are going well. Remember the

ITS EFFECT IS SHATTERING

Charterhouse



Deep aeration on an intensively used golf course is vital if the grasses which we require are to survive.

We purchased our first Verti-Drain back in 1983 and very quickly bought a second. Both these machines have been working on a continuous basis providing excellent results and utilising only a minimum of spare parts.

Comment From Walter Woods
St. Andrews Links Golf Course supervisor

For your free guide to compaction relief send this coupon to Charterhouse Turf Machinery Ltd., FREEPOST, (GI/2283), Haslemere, Surrey, GU27 1DW

Name: _____
Position: _____
Address: _____
Postcode: _____

GI/7.95

COURSES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

cost is £12 per person with overnight accommodation available at £20 per person if required. The date is Friday November 24 at the Westhill Hotel, Aberdeen so contact me or any of the committee to book your place. It could be a good time to do the Christmas shopping (*you should be fined for mentioning Christmas in July - Ed*) and make a weekend of it. All are welcome so bring along friends as well. Anyone from other sections are also welcome. The more the merrier.
IAIN MACLEOD

Cleveland

The spring tournament at Wearside GC was a successful and enjoyable occasion for all who attended. Congratulations must go to Head Greenkeeper Barry Walker and his team for presenting the course in such fine condition and to the club itself for hosting the event. Thanks to the sponsors for their generous prizes, Course Care, Turf Care, Rhone Poulenc, Aitkens and the local golf clubs. A mention too for Norman Sheddon who marked all the scorecards.

The overall winner and new holder of the Course Care Cup is K. Bush.

Results:

Cat 0-9: 1. G. Carmichael, 33 pts; 2. R. Douglas, 32 pts; 3. M. Sewell, 31 pts.

Cat 10-18: 1. R. Lawton, 32 pts; 2. A. Reed, 26 pts; 3. C. Fidell, 23 pts.

Cat 19-28: 1. K. Bush, 37 pts; 2. A. Cheeseborough, 33 pts; 3. C. Powley, 30 pts.

BRUCE BURNELL

South West and South Wales

With more than half the year gone it's time to look at what's coming up next. This region is pleased to announce that prices will be pegged for '96 and we are able to offer you a special package deal to the BTME at Harrogate - Tuesday January 23 to Friday 26 - at £99 for members (£75 for members' wives)

Around the Green



and £125 for non members. Once again we will be staying at our very comfortable hotel overlooking Valley Gardens. Included in the price will be coach travel from various pick up points to and from Harrogate, three nights B&B, all seminar sessions (excluding wives) and entry to the exhibition. This event is sponsored by Westurf, so make the most of your opportunity and give me a ring to reserve your place now!

Westurf '96 will be on Wednesday May 1 at Long Ashton GC. Your support to the Region and Traders is vital. More details about that later. For our traders, costs are also pegged and stand spaces will remain at 1995 prices.

The last event of the year will be the Regional Seminar at Cannington College on Wednesday November 29. Full details will be out soon along with booking forms are the cost will be kept at the usual £10 for members and £15 for non members. It promises to be a very interesting and informative programme.

Incidentally, if you are a non-member and wish to attend our events, why don't you become a member now and enjoy the advantages that belonging to BIGGA can bring. Give us a ring now. The number is 01803 844056.
MARION CHILD

North West

On May 11 I ventured almost to the outer reaches of the North West section and met some of the members from the Cumbria area.

A golf day sponsored by Course Care was held at Penrith GC, giving the members from the far north of the section the opportunity of competing without having to travel long distances. It is hoped this will become an annual tournament to be played for the Cumbria Cup.

The course was in great condition, considering how cold it gets in 'them thar hills' but John Berry and his staff had done a great job in preparing the course for the big day. Also on the day we had the pleasure of a visit from the President of BIGGA, Viscount Whitelaw, who braved the cold wind and watched the members tee off. The day was most successful and I must thank the sponsor Course Care for its generosity - also Ian Holoran who instigated the day.

Peter Sproston has now joined the section from the North Wales section. Peter has moved to Sutton Hall GC from Chester GC after 17 years at Chester, the last five as Head Greenkeeper. Sutton Hall is a new course under construction and is due to open this autumn. Peter asked me to mention that his wife Julie gave birth to their first son Paul on November 11 last year. Another budding greenkeeper in the Sproston family no doubt - like father and grandfather.

West Bowling GC is the venue for the "Roses Match" on August 10 and I will require a team of 16 to help us retain the trophy. The tournament is sponsored by Patissons and is always a good day - especially when we win. Anybody interested please contact me as soon as possible on 0151 724 5412.

BERT CROSS

■ Scottish Region members were saddened to hear of the sudden death of Norman Whytock Rhône Poulenc Sales Manager for Scotland and Northern Ireland. "Norman was a popular figure in the industry and our thoughts go out to his family," said Elliott Small.

The Scottish Region final of the Hayter Challenge was held over the testing Cardross course on May 30. After some overnight rain, fears for another wet day were groundless except for a dull spell in the middle of the day and a lovely pleasant day was enjoyed by all.

Under the eagle eye of starter Cecil George (dragged out of retirement for the day) and presented with a new ball (first time some of them had ever seen a new ball) by Hayter's man on the tee Tony, the competitors were dispatched almost on time. There were some doubts whether the last threeball could possibly be greenkeepers, certainly judging the softness of their hands they hadn't dug a drain or raked a bunker for a long time - maybe they were course managers! However a bit of bribery and corruption, like a dram for the starter, and even they got off on time.

The course was in excellent condition and Davie Gall and his staff deserve all the compliments that were being handed out. In the clubhouse the needs of the inner man were more than adequately catered for by Mr and Mrs Gillespie. We thank them all and especially we thank Sandy Campbell, Cardross Captain, and his Council for allowing us to use the course in this its centenary year.

As the scores began arriving it was obvious that the course was a lot harder than was perhaps expected or was it just a bad day for most of the competitors? Maybe we should have given Edna a calculator to check the scores.

With clear cut winners in the first and third

HAYTER CHALLENGE

categories it was the second which was creating tension with five 73s waiting to see who had the best back nine.

And so to the presentation. A few kind words from Sandy Campbell, the club Captain and Gordon Moir, Scottish Region Chairman and finally from Kim Macfie, Hayter's Sales and Marketing Director. It was a great day, a long one for the lads from the far north and the deep south but another day of meeting upon with old friends and making new ones.

The region wishes to express its thanks to Hayter for its continued sponsorship of this marvellous tournament, long may it continue. On a personal note I would like to thank Cecil George for his assistance on the 1st tee and to Edna for all her hard work before, during and after the event.

Results:

Cat 0-9: 1. George Brown, Turnberry, 75-5-70; 2. Kevin Peace, Inverurie, 77-5-72; 3. Keith McCartney, Dumfries/Galloway, 75-2-73; 4. Derek Wilson, Irvine Bogside, 83-9-74.

Cat 10-18: 1. John Gray, Higgs Castle, 86-13-73; 2. Sandy Brawley, East Kilbride, 89-16-73; 3. Alex Reid, Letham Grange, 83-10-73; 4. Bryan Cocker, Alyth, 88-15-73.

Cat 19-28: 1. Patrick Wood, Newmacher, 89-19-70; 2. Martin Carey, Balmore, 92-21-71; 3. David Mowatt, Killermont, 96-20-76; 4. Robert Hogarth, Innerleithen, 100-22-78.

Team Prize: North Section.

■ The South West and Wales Regional Final was held at the historic Carmarthen GC which has beautiful views extending over five counties. Although quite difficult to find, and 200 miles plus for many of our greenkeepers, it was well worth the effort. A special thanks must go to Steve Evans who chauffeured the Devon & Cornwall bus in the early hours to make sure everyone arrived on time - in fact he hadn't slept at all as he was afraid to miss it. It was also good to see Neil Thomas visiting his homeland - shame about the rugby.

The windy conditions made play difficult, so much so some found themselves playing to alien greens, however scoring was remarkably good. Thanks to our starter for keeping everyone to time and Chris Hopkins for supplying halfway refreshment.

After dinner Kim Macfie presented the prizes and our thanks go to Hayter for sponsoring this excellent tournament which is appreciated by all.

Our hosts Carmarthen GC welcomed us very warmly with superb facilities and the co-operation received from the club helped to make the day a success. Results:

Cat 1. 1. S. Richards (nett) 72; 2. J. Borja 72; 3. A. Roach 72. Reserve C. Rawlings 74.

Cat 2. 1. T. Pipe 72; 2. K. Piper 72; 3. V. Lewer 73. Reserve A. Knight 73.

Cat 3. 1. A. Crichton 70; 2. S. Sage 71; 3. C. Sealey 71. Reserve L. Johnson 72.

The Regional Shield was won by the Devon and Cornwall Section.

Ransomes take the wraps off

■ **Ransomes** has launched a new top of the range walk behind greens mower and a new all-hydraulic tees, greens approaches and surrounds triplex onto the market.

The Greens Super comes in mowing widths, of 20, 22 and 24 inches each with a precision ground 11 blade reel for cuts from .06 in to 0.06 in. The new 3.7 hp petrol Kubota engine allows a cut speed of 246 cuts per metre as opposed to the 140 available on the existing machines in the range.

Among the other features are operator presence controls on counter-balanced floating handles, two section aluminium rear roller with differential for easy turning without turf scuffing, a choice of plain or grooved front roller and can be specified with Ransomes' verti-groom attachment and wheels, without loose parts, are supplied for ease of transportation.

Price of the machine, which will receive its first public showing at the IOG Saltex Exhibition in September is from £2,330.

The Ransomes T-Plex 185 mower is a three unit 6ft cut machine in a choice of 19hp or 18hp petrol engines with constant drive to all three wheels and a maximum speed of 9.3mph – maximum mowing speed is 5.6mph.

The machine, a prototype of which was unveiled secretly to greenkeepers at last year's Saltex Exhibition for their input, features power steering, an up-front operating position unique to tees and surrounds mowers giving the operator excellent visibility and walk through platform.

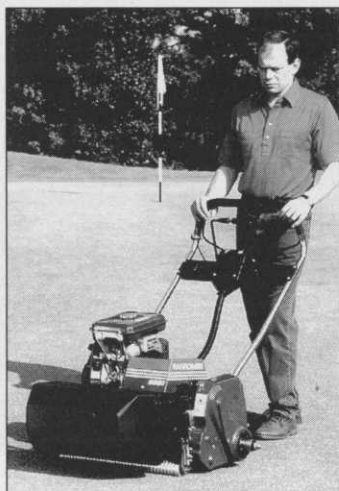
Cutting units can give front and rear discharge of clippings and can be partially lifted or raised to 45 degrees to narrow the width and make transportation easier.

The machine is priced at £12,695 with the 19hp diesel engine and five bladed cutting reels. Seven or 11 bladed reels add £435 and £495 respectively.

Ransomes is also taking orders for a new 33 horse power four wheel drive fairway triplex with 22 inch width cutters and six and a half inch diameter cylinder.

For further information contact Ransomes, 01473 276302.

■ Carnoustie has bought the first



Top: The Ransomes T-Plex 185
Above, The Greens Super

Grainskeeper Greens Brush in Britain to assist Links Superintendent John Philp and his team in the preparations for the Scottish Open.

■ Designed for fitting to power units such as the Kawasaki Mule the latest addition to the **Amazone** range of spreading equipment is the GS 10 de-mountable spreader unit.

Capacity is 600 litres and the body comes complete with sup-

Amazone Ground Care - De-Mount spreader body



port legs for parking when demounted.

Sand, grit, fertiliser, salt and other abrasive materials can be spread to a wide range of application rates using the GS 10 Top Spreader. Spreading width is 1.5 metres.

The price of the GS 10 in standard form is £3,260. Further information: 01579 351155.

■ **Amenity Technology** has launched the Moisture Smart Watering Gauge onto the British and European market.

The gauge lets you know when water is needed, the amount of water that is being used, the amount of water that is being applied from rainfall or irrigation, how much water to apply and how long to operate an irrigation system.

Developed in America the gauge combines a miniature evaporation pan and rain gauge.

The gauge costs £37.50 + VAT per unit and is available through Amenity Technology Network. Tel: 01734 510033.

■ A new three in one professional power tool is being introduced by **Partner Jonsered**. The Jonsered Combi range provide facilities to cut grass, lawn edges and hedge trimming with on a single change of cutting head. The range includes an anti-vibration system which isolates the lower shaft and engine from the upper section, including the handlebar mounting. Tel: 01453 820305.

■ **Lemken Tri-Ag** has launched a new turf aerification machine.

The Turf Quaker slices into compacted turf and loosens it with a vigorous side-to-side action causing decompaction.

The Turf Quaker is an aerifying machine with its slitting blades mounted in a scroll pattern rather than mounted straight across a power driven rotor. It is able to work in all soil types through its Selectatilt gear box which permits the speed or blade rotation to be increased or decreased. Rotor speed options are 165, 190, 210, 235 at 540 pto rpm.

Price is £3,550 and for further information Tel: 01953 605151.



The Huxley Grainskeeper

■ The **Huxley** Grainskeeper mounts on the front of a Huxley, Toro or Jacobsen ride-on greens mower and has hydraulically driven contra-rotating brushes which gently work top dressing, sand and grass in all directions without bruising the turf.

Used prior to spraying liquid fertiliser, the Grainskeeper stands the grass up and ensures better leaf coverage.

The price is £2,500 + VAT and demonstrations are now available from Huxleys. Tel: 01962 733222.

■ **CB Designs** has supplied two major new clients with tee signs, The Old Course at St Andrews venue for this year's Open Championship and Valderrama in Sotogrande, Spain, venue for the 1997 Ryder Cup.

The Old Course obtained traditional cast metal plaques finished in the St Andrews blue with all the detail hand painted and set in replica granite. The signs have a special fixing system to prevent souvenir hunters removing them.

Valderrama has granite boulders with the detail engraved in fine detail including graphics provided by Strokesaver.

Further information: 01494 432452.



Whatever time of year, this busy greenkeeper needs the right tools behind him to keep the golf course superb. With the Workman 3000 Series which boasts a large flexible carrying capacity, four-wheel

stability and three-wheel manoeuvrability, that's precisely what he's got. Toro attachments or those of our keenest rival can be mid or rear mounted in almost any combination. It's another example of how we've worked to