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Hornsea Golf Club, winner of the '95 Golf Foundation Prize draw, has taken delivery of its brand new Kubota ride-on mower from the sponsor of the draw Kubota. In the 10 years that Hornsea GC has been taking part in the Golf Foundation Charity Prize Draw, the club has raised almost £10,000 for the Foundation in a series of special events. Kubota (UK) Ltd has been sponsoring the annual draw by donating a ride-on mower worth over £8,000 as a prize for the last eight years.

## STRI get a new man at the top

Dr Mike Canaway will take over as Chief Executive of the Sports Turf Research Institute on the retirement of the present Director, Dr Peter Hayes at the beginning of June (see Page 50).

A graduate in Plant Biology from the University College of North Wales, Bangor Dr Canaway arrived at the STRI in 1974 after working in agricultural grassland research in Aberdeen. He worked initially as a Research Officer before being promoted first to Senior Research Officer in 1983 and to Assistant Director in 1988.

He has conducted research into wear tolerance of turf grasses

developing a machine widely used for trials; grass mixtures, fertilisers, construction, playing quality, mechanical equipment, establishment, rootzone amendments and reinforcement systems.

He also submitted a doctoral thesis by part-time study to the University of Liverpool as a culmination of his research work and was awarded a PhD in December last year.

He is a Chartered Biologist, Member of the Institute of Biology, member of the Institute of Horticulture and UK Director of the International Turfgrass Society.

## The far eastern connection

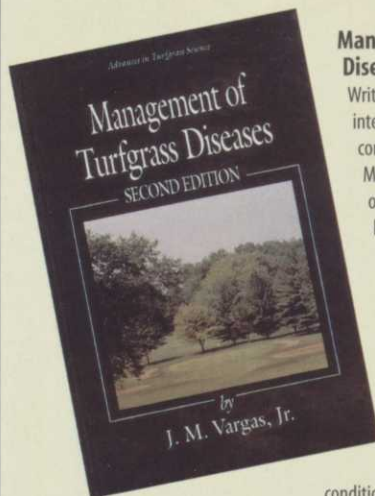


Staff from Ransomes in the UK spread their wings recently in a bid to attract new customers.

They travelled to the Singapore Island Country Club to demonstrate a range of equipment to more than 40 managers and greenkeepers from throughout Australasia. The

effort and travelling proved worthwhile with a range of machinery being sold to a new club being built in China while other demonstrations were arranged for specific machines for clubs in Australia, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and Taiwan.

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Hardback, 336pp: usual price £49,

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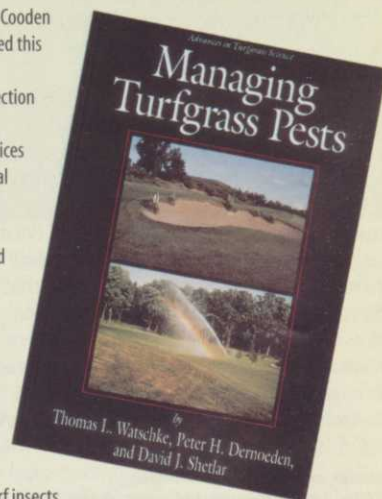
### Managing Turfgrass Pests

Stefan Antolik, head greenkeeper at Cooden Beach Golf Club, East Sussex, reviewed this book in February's Greenkeeper International, saying: "I found the section on Turfgrass Diseases to be of much interest, especially the cultural practices and the environmental and biological control methods... As a result of all the recent concern about the environment, it seems that more and more greenkeepers will need to revert back to cultural practices..."

Contents include: ● Monitoring disease and establishing thresholds ● Diseases categorised by season ● Seeding diseases and damping off ● Factors associated with fungicide use ● Turf insects and mite management ● Vertebrate animal pests of turf.

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# Guardian of the Links

**Walter Woods is gearing up for his fourth and final Open Championship – and his course is already in great shape. Scott MacCallum reports from St Andrews**

**T**here are some jobs which are the ultimate in their field. I'm not talking about being paid vast sums for doing not a lot or even one of those bizarre jobs which we know don't really exist but for which we've had a secret hankering anyway – like Chief Sun Tan Lotion Applier on Baywatch.

No, I mean a job where you are in constant touch with greatness and gives you the chance to leave your mark in some small way. There are a few people lucky enough to have one of these jobs – keeper of the Crown Jewels; mechanic on a Williams Renault Formula 1 car; trainer for the Brazilian football team; editor of *Greenkeeper International*; chef at the Savoy Hotel; caddie to Laura Davies. All of these positions give the holder a privileged chance to walk in the shadow of greatness and in some small way help it along its way.

Another of the jobs belongs to Walter

**Walter and Head Greenkeeper Eddie Adams discuss the work ahead**



Woods who, as Links Superintendent at St Andrews, is guardian of the most revered stretches of golfing land in the world. During his 21 years at St Andrews Walter has seen his greenkeeping skills not only come of age but mature to the extent that he is one of the most respected figures in the business.

Approaching his fourth, and final, Open Championship – he retires at the end of the year – Walter is confident that the man who joins his elite club of Champions – Jack Nicklaus, Seve Ballesteros and Nick Faldo – will have climbed to the peak of the leaderboard on a course as close to perfection as nature would allow.

“There is something about the Old Course which brings out the best in the best player of the time and they always appreciate the way the course is set up and hopefully it will be the same this time,” said Walter in his office deep in the heart of the hallowed links.

“Coming up to my fourth Open I worry about it just as much as I did the first. I've been lucky to have had good Opens and touch wood I'll have another one again but the pressure is so much greater now than it was in my first Open in '78. Just look at the amount of money riding on it. It attracts millions to an area, possibly as much as £15 million to this area, and there can be so much riding on just one putt.

“It means huge responsibility on the greenkeeper. If the tented village blows down it can be put up again but if there is something wrong with the course it can crucify you.”

You get a strong feeling of cautious confidence talking to Walter about The Open because he knows that however much you prepare and no matter how good you are it can sometimes go wrong.

With an Open Championship, however, there is very little left to chance thanks to the R&A and its hugely experienced staff who offer as much back-up as any greenkeeper could possibly want.



From two years before the Championship the greenkeeper is working closely with the R&A and its team with the emphasis very much on working together as a team.

“You won't get the R&A stipulating width of fairway or speed of the green for a championship. The Championship committee meets the greenkeeper many months before and will ask his opinion about how he thinks the course should set up. If the committee has anything to say it will do so right there and then. The R&A has its own agronomist and he is very knowledgeable and experienced. He's got a broad outlook on all the championship courses.

“The greenkeeper is ultimately responsible but he gathers knowledge from every area. When it comes to your greens you know that they have got to be firm and that the grass has got to be on the lean hungry side during the tournament.

“The only thing that can create a problem is the weather and you have to be prepared to expect anything to happen and be in a position to cope. Forecasting is extremely good nowadays but on a links the wind can whip up suddenly and dry the course out very quickly,” said Walter, before adding that at St Andrews they have wall to wall irrigation and a huge 357,000 gallon reservoir to draw on.

This year a radical new technique has been applied to ensure that the course will be seen



at its best for the Championship.

"At St Andrews we always attract a lot of visitors. It's the home of golf and people from all over the world want to come and play and divots are one of our biggest problems. A few years ago Carnoustie began using astroturf mats and we thought we'd follow suit. We use an oblong piece of astroturf a foot by six inches and a tee peg in it and the players carry them with them and this has helped us quite dramatically, because our fairways are virtually divot free. They are looking quite different from anything I've ever seen. They are absolutely perfect."

The mats have led to some strange sights on the Old Course with some innocent visitors using them on the greens and even in bunkers while many mats have joined tins of shortbread and tartan bonnets as valued souvenirs.

Walter is lucky to have a fine team of young greenkeepers working under him who will all be available to add weight to the Open preparations in addition to their own work on the other St Andrews courses.

"I've got five head greenkeepers and they are responsible for their own course through me. Eddie Adams is Head Greenkeeper for the Old Course."

Born and bred in St Andrew Eddie began his career in St Andrews and he works closely with Walter.

"I've groomed Eddie to think on the tradi-

tional lines and he now thinks how I think," Walter chuckles. "He's learned the old fashioned ways. For instance when we spread fertiliser we don't use a spreader we do it by hand. I've taught all my young men to spread by hand.

"You might think it dirty and slow but it keeps your fertiliser down to a minimum, is a skilful way of applying it and you're guaranteed not to make a mistake. The one way a greenkeeper is sure to lose his job is to make a mistake. So you do everything on a championship course with patience with skill and how you are taught from the people who have done it before. Now Eddie has learned those things he puts it into practice and he is coming into a championship with a great deal of responsibility."

During the Championship Walter will also have the help of the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support team consisting of 45 British greenkeepers, two from Sweden and one from the USA who walk with every match to rake bunkers and generally assist with the evening divoting.

"The Greenkeeping Support Team started at the Open in '84 but when BIGGA was formed and took over the organising of it it has gone from strength to strength," said Walter, BIGGA's first Chairman.

In addition to The Open every five years or so Walter has prepared the Old Course for ten

Alfred Dunhill Cups which involved having the course in tip top shape in late October when many other courses are put down to sleep for the winter.

"Greenkeeping has reached a stage where we can do virtually anything at any time. Not only has knowledge improved and I've learned from greenkeepers all over the world but huge strides have been made in machinery.

"I've got triplexes which can cut beautifully. I've got aeration machines that can aerate leaving barely no marks. I've got machines which can aerate down to 16 inches, unknown years ago."

Working at the Golfing Mecca means that Walter must prepare the course at the same time as thousands of golfers are enjoying their once in a lifetime visit but he doesn't see that as an inconvenience.

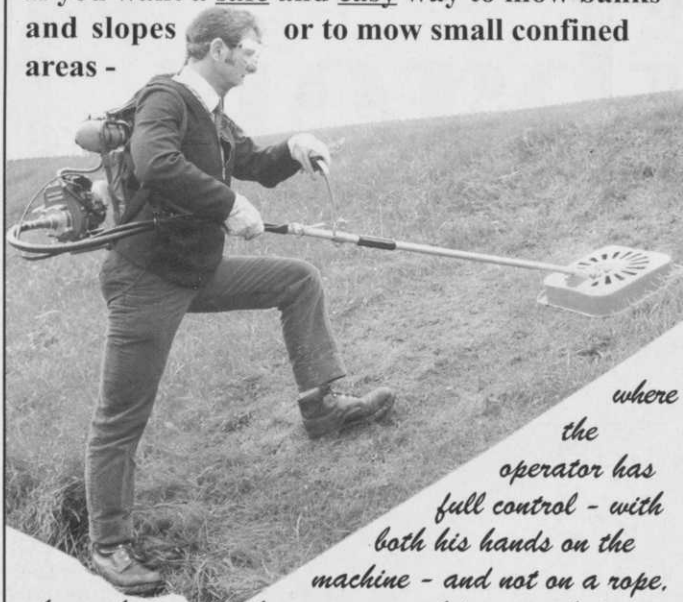
"It gives me great satisfaction that we can prepare a championship course in superb condition and still be open to thousands of visitors. Anybody can have a great golf course if nobody is playing on it, but just think how great it is to prepare it for lots of people to enjoy golf at the same time. How many people have come to St Andrews and taken up the game?"

It's a thought which obviously gives Walter great pleasure.

**Pictured: St Andrews' wall-to-wall irrigation system in action.**

Photographs by Scott MacCallum

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AD REF 214



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AD REF 35

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British Institute of Golf Course Architects

# Replacing divots on tees: British views are sought by American eager to learn

This letter is to enquire about the opinion of the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association on the subject of replacing divots on tees covered by cool-season grass (normally, I suppose, either creeping bent, Kentucky bluegrass or perennial ryegrass). The subject seems to be one of increasing disagreement. Some will argue that golfers should replace divots on tees to relieve the workload for the greenkeeper. Personally I have always understood that one should not replace divots on tees, since this only leads to loose and inconsistent turf texture, slow play and unsatisfactory recovery results due to the frequent scattering of divots.

In my experience, I have found two general approaches to maintenance of tees: One is the placement of soil-seed mixture in divot marks, carried out in accordance to, and immediately following the changing of the tee-markers (on a daily to weekly basis, depending on the ambitions and budget of the club). The other is hand plugging with fresh sod from the greenkeepers' turf nursery (if he has one), also carried out after the tee markers have been shifted. However, the art and science of greenkeeping is a dynamic affair, and there may well be a new order of the day, so to speak. As a non-greenkeeper, I can therefore only hope to be aware and appreciative of the new and improved techniques. I shall be looking forward to hearing from you.

**James H Duncan MSc (Civ Eng), 106 1/2 Linn Street, ITHACA, NY 14850, USA**

## 'Illogical' ideas need clarification

Apropos the article on the link between phosphatic fertilisers and annual meadow grass invasion of bent/fescue turf, it does seem to me that the illogicality of Mr Laycock's views and

## Comparisons make me think again about temporary greens and trolleys

I would like to congratulate you on the article comparing Middlesbrough Municipal Golf Centre with its 80,000 rounds of golf a year and Royal Worlington Golf Club, with its 350 (some very part time) members. It was extremely interesting to read how the two Head Greenkeepers manage their courses with their different soil conditions and play conditions.

However, as a greenkeeper at a private club where members have come to expect all year round golf, I feel I would like to raise two observations from the article. We are situated on the Chiltern Uplands on a soil classed as Pebbly Clay. Although free draining during periods of excessive rainfall, I am very aware that the soil is open to compaction.

I have been lucky enough to have played Royal Worlington and have to agree that it is an outstanding test of golf, with free draining firm and very true putting surfaces.

However, I feel the comment, "There should not be temporary greens anywhere in this country because the weather is not that bad. If you look after the greens in the summer, you will not need temporary greens in the winter", is slightly unfair to green-

keepers in this country who need to use temporary greens. In the article it states that Royal Worlington is built on a superb parcel of land with a sandy loam soil. For this reason and the fact that Royal Worlington only has 350 members (many of whom only play once or twice a year), I can understand why Mr Gee does not need to use temporary greens. However, some of us are not as lucky as he.

My second point concerns trolley restrictions during winter months. On some courses it has become a necessity to be able to restrict trolleys because of increased winter play. I totally agree that there is as much weight on the bottom of a trolley as there is on the bottom of a pair of feet. However golfers with trolleys will navigate a very similar path, leading to worn turf surfaces and compacted soils.

We all realise from first hand experience that golf is now more popular than ever before, and courses are expected to be presented to higher and higher standards. Only with the use of temporary holes and trolley restrictions can some courses achieve this.

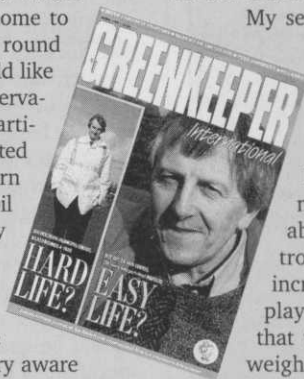
**G Bruce, Head Greenkeeper, Berkhamsted Golf Club**

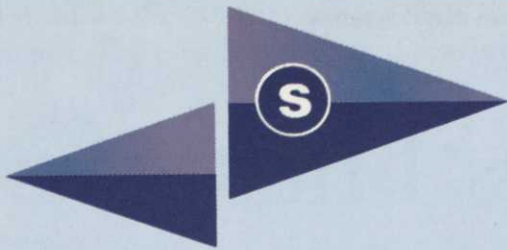
fertiliser form) encourage annual meadow grass invasion, is questioned. Yet this was the basis of the acid theory of the twenties (on which STRI was formed as the Board of Greenkeeping

Research then) and long before that old greenkeepers were noting the adverse effect of agricultural fertilisers, including basis slag, applied to feed the sheep on the course. Their stand-by was soot, a purely nitrogenous 'fertiliser'. Certainly immediately after the war, my colleagues and I at St Ives Research Station were advising as standard practice ammonia, blood, hoof and horn and iron – and that was only echoing what was standard practice, on links courses anyway, before the war. Are we to dismiss the proven soundness of advice and practice over a century, merely to further the gimmick of frequently repeated chemical soil analyses, which at best merely confirm what an experienced eye, be it of greenkeeper or agronomist, knows anyway?

I would be the first to admit that many trials could be faulted for sloppy techniques or on technical foundations. STRI trials and others were not with conventional root zones but with sand-only and it is fully accepted that such sterile root zones need not only NPK but lime and even trace elements, but these are quite atypical. Nevertheless there are trials (and I have read them in detail) where the link is proven, but even if this were not true, then hundreds of experienced head men and advisers have first hand experience of the invasion of annual meadow grass into fine bent or fescue turf as a result of one incautious dose of complete fertiliser.

We are told that most soils contain too much phosphate even in agricultural work. Precisely! So why apply more, wasting money and producing negative results. There are many excellent examples of bent/fescue greens with soil analyses showing 3 ppm of phosphates and hundreds of very bad overfed annual meadow grass greens with levels of around 1,000 ppm, as proven by surveys reported by STRI (reference Hayes, Arthur: 'Greenkeeper' July 1986).

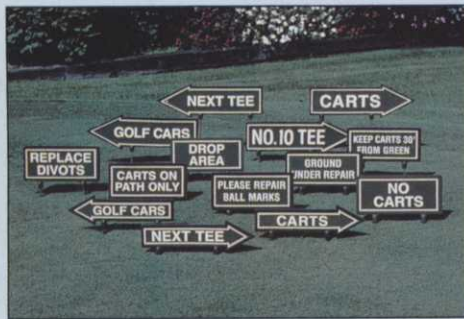




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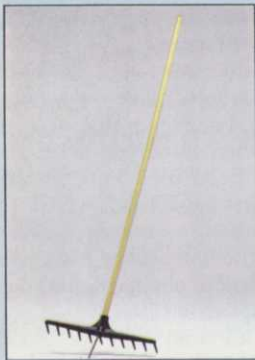
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# 'It is perhaps healthy that the basics of our profession should be examined and indeed modified if the need is proven beyond doubt'

*From previous page*

It is admitted that applying phosphates on alkaline soils will bring in annual meadow grass, but today most root zones are on the alkaline side of neutral. Acid soils lock up fertiliser phosphate – which was the basis of the old acid theory – so on both counts it is at best wasteful to apply phosphates in fertiliser form. Most top dressings today contain quite enough phosphate to meet the very modest nutritional needs of fine turf.

It is perhaps healthy that the very basics of our profession should be examined and indeed modified if the need is proven beyond doubt. We have to accept that modern pressures on golf courses make old techniques impracticable, but this does not mean that the principles are wrong and one can but deplore the current tendency to dismiss all the practical experience and countless examples which prove our basic beliefs in favour of some modern gimmicky analytical approach which means nothing. What does it profit us to know what the levels of certain plant foods are in soil or vegetation, when there is little that we can do to reduce levels that are too high. Hence my fairly jaundiced view on the value of chemical (not physical!) analyses and my comment that, "The ideal pH is the one you have got – since it is hard to reduce it on greens". The real danger of these heresies is not to experienced men but to

students and starters who may be encouraged to reject proven truths – they should listen to the advice that I received when I first joined Bingley immediately after the war. "We have made many mistakes in the past and you will be no exception, but for goodness sake do not copy the ones we have already made!"

J H Arthur BSc (Agric)

## My ideas on moving forward

I propose a building fund be adopted and all monies raised go directly to purchasing a building solely for BIGGA office use. I envisage two ways in which capital could be raised:

- 1 A £10 levy on all members on top of their annual subscription.
- 2 Life Membership to be made available for a maximum of 100 members. The figure of £1,000 per person for this scheme appears favourable.

I suggest we do away with 'gimmicks' for membership – such items as the wallet and pen. These items cost money, and I am sure we could manage without them. The sticker 'A Cut Above the Rest' is a way of advertising BIGGA, but I personally do not believe in cheap advertising.

I do hope you find the above suggestions useful and that they may raise a discussion at your next meeting.

Anthony Davies



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# Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

## South Coast

The recent seminar at Sparsholt College was excellent being both well supported and of good information value. The speakers included Arthur King of the EGU, David Golding, Education Officer of the GTC, John Pierson and George Shields.

Our spring tournament was held at Covehampton GC on April 10. Played in delightful spring sunshine the 36 hole Hayter Qualifier was enjoyed by all. Thanks to Mark Webb for running the event.

Results:

Gross. 1. Darren Miller 147, 2. Paul Fitzjohn 161 3. Tony Gadd 162. Nett. 1. Andy Doolan 143, 2. Phil Wentworth 143. NITA Simson Trophy. 1. Joe Newman, 2. Bob Walker. Under 25s Dave Wadkins.

We are grateful to our sponsors and Covehampton Golf Club for their support of this event. Also to the sponsors of the Sparsholt College seminar.

It is encouraging to note that membership of the section continues to grow rapidly.

BOB CULLY

## Cleveland

Head Greenkeeper, Barry Lee, tells us that the new six holes at Chester-Le-Street were officially opened on April 1 by the Earl of Scarborough.

The first part of the March meeting was taken by Ian Webster from Houghall College in Durham and was on the National Vocational Qualification which has been introduced bring about common standards in the assessment of task, knowledge evidence and equipment presentation.

NVQ is achievable without going to college as creditation is given for prior learning. Assessment at work by Head or first assistant, who must be a qualified assessor.

To qualify to be an assessor we must attend a training day at a D32 Creditation Centre of Learning, and present a portfolio of evidence for assessment to verify NVQ competence in all units. Good Luck!

The second part of the March meeting was a talk by a Vitax technical rep, on disease control. Fusarium, active pathogen, environment - Surf Surface; Stress and how to manage it; Anthracnose - sealed surface and water on surface.; too many pin positions on the same area = severe compaction. Aeration in summer is vital and seaweed is of great value, avoid weak growth and reduce surface moisture.

BRUCE BURNELL

## Bucks, Berks and Oxon

The season's first golf event took place at Beaconsfield on April 5. However the turnout was less than expected with 25 entries including some trade members. From a membership of 250 this is poor. I have to say that it is very disappointing for everybody involved especially to trade members who provide excellent prizes for the events. So come on, let's make an effort for the remaining events of the season.

Those people who did play had a cracking day's golf on a superb course. An extra incentive to play was the chance to play in the Hayter Beaver Regional final. It's not the easiest event to host being so early in the season (a greenkeeper's nightmare) so thanks to Bill and his staff for presenting the course in excellent condition. Judging by the scores there were plenty of putts holed on

## EVENTS DIARY

June 21: South Turf, Motpur Park, South West London

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

the fast greens.

Results:

Gross 1. J. Texeira 73 (on count back) 2. S. Adby 73. Nett. 1. G. Butler 64 (on back nine) 2. L. Liliton 64 3. M. Shelton 67.

The wooden spoon was won by Andy Goodall - apparently he collects them. Ha! Ha! Only kidding Andy.

The following players qualified for the Hayter Beaver Regional Final to be play on July 6.

Cat 1. J. Texeira, S. Adby, L. Anderson, T. French.

Cat 2. M. Shelton, G. Walsh, G. Wheeler, D. Childs and B. Plain (reserve).

Cat 3. G. Butler, C. Lileton, J. Socket and J. Bevan.

If any of the above can't make it can they please contact me as soon as possible.

A special thanks to Risboro' Turf, Sta-Brite, CMW, Parkers, Standard Golf and Rigby Taylor for supporting the event.

Thanks also to Bill Lynch of BIGGA for a lively after dinner discussion.

Finally thanks to my playing partners Geoff and Mark for putting up with my boring golf (straight down the middle!). The next golf event is at Blue Mountain on July 5. See you all there. Anyone with points of view should contact me on 01491 578147.

Football results to be printed next month.  
LINDSAY T. ANDERSON

## North East

On April 27 we had our annual spring competition at Alnmouth village's nine hole course. What a pleasure it was to play there. The hospitality we received from the club was excellent and the course was a delight to play. Credit must go to Barry Weddell, the greenkeeper. Thanks also to the club committee for giving us the courtesy of the course and for coming to our rescue at such short notice and to the stewardess and the match secretary.

Donations were from Shorts, Rickerlys, Turf Care, Aitken's, Border Services, Boldon GC and Swardland Hall GC. Thanks to them and to Terry Charlton on the nearest the pin at the first short hole won by Barry Wilson.

Results:

Gross. M. Lathan, Hexham GC 74; Nett. D. Street, Boldon GC, 70 (86-16)

Assistant's Cup Nett 1. C. Parkinson, Slaley Hall, 71 (76-5) Better inward nine; 2. B. Wilson, Stockfield GC 71 (77-6); S. Quince, Alnmouth GC, 71 (76-5).

Qualifiers for Hayters Tournament.

Cat 1. B. Wilson, C. Parkinson, S. Quince. Reserves R. Black, M. Lathan.

Cat 2. D. Street, S. Pope, D. Dalby. Reserves W. Holden, G. Atkinson.

Cat 3. B. Hughes, A. McDonald, T. Mooner. Reserves K. Rutherford, A. Wright.

JIMMY RICHARDSON

## North West

Our spring tournament, held at Wilmslow GC on April 13, was attended by 38 greenkeepers and eight guests who, according to their comments, enjoyed themselves thoroughly. The course, built in 1889 and the second oldest in Cheshire, was in beautiful condition thanks to Steve Oultram and his staff. Steve said that the course was covered in frost when they arrived for work and had to wait sometime before they could cut the greens.

I would like to thank Tony Laurence, Secretary/Manager and the Wilmslow committee for allowing us courtesy of the course and also Mrs Chason for a great lunch and evening meal.

Results:

Best Gross, Paul Pearse; Best Nett, Mark Broughton; Veterans, Bert Cross.

The prizes went down to 13th nett thanks to the support of the following companies:- Acorn Supplies, Cheshire Sand and Top Dressing, Henry Royle Ltd, Turner Groundcare, Sisis, Grow, High Speed Lubricants, Cheshire Light Tractors, Martin Bros, Strike Top Turf.

Your support is always appreciated.

Incidentally the 13th place was won by Arthur Moorey and the prize was an edging iron and a rake so I can assume that the bunkers will be in great condition at Didsbury GC when we play the autumn tournament there in September.

The spring tournament was also a qualifier for the Hayter regional final on the qualifiers are.

Cat 1. P. Pearse, C. Hulme, B. Merritt.

Cat 2. M. Broughton, P. Harley, T. Manning.

Cat 3. S. Mosley, N. Berry, J. Fitzgerald.

The regional final will be played at Middlesbrough on July 4 and I wish you all good luck. The next tournament will be the summer meeting at Hazel Grove GC on July 17. All entries to be sent to Paul Pearse, 1 Swan Close, Poynton, Stockport SK12 1HX Tel: 01625 859258 with a deposit of £10 not later than July 12. Lunch will be served between 12-1pm and tee times are from 1-1.30pm. Tee times will be allocated on the day.

On a more serious note, approximately 120 members North West members have not renewed their membership for 1995 so if you are reading these notes in someone else's magazine, get your subs paid and read your own magazine. The whole membership package is value for money. Finally any queries or problems ring me of 0151 724 5412.

BERT CROSS

## Northern

The first of this year's tournaments got under way on April 12 - the Hayter's qualifier. We could not have wished for better weather. It was as if summer had arrived early at Hessle GC.

Results:

Cat 1. A. Anderson, 2. A. Gerrard, 3. G. Potter;

Cat 2. 1. D. Collins, 2. R. Johnson, 3. R. Smith;

Cat 3. 1. D. Cockburn, 2. A. Gamble 3. L. Kirkbright.

I would like to thank all the sponsors for their support our event. They were: Hayter, Martin Bros, Trident and Rhône Poulenc. Many thanks once again. I would also like to thank the green staff and catering staff of Hessle GC for making it such an excellent day.

I have been asked to inform you about two members who have recently moved to different