

courses. John Waite has left Temple Newsome to take over as Head Greenkeeper at Scarthingwell near Tadcaster and Andrew Flemmings has taken over as Head Greenkeeper at Filey GC. John Heaton has taken over Andrew's position of assistant head at Filey. I would like to wish them all the best for the future.

Our next golf competition is President's Day at Woodhall Hills GC on June 8 at 2pm. Please contact me as soon as possible if you would like to take part. Tel 01274 601195.

MARCUS CORDINGLEY

London

The Hayter qualifier was held at Sudbury GC in April. The weather was excellent and the course was in fine shape. I would like to thank Jeff Robinson and his staff for preparing the course for our first event of the year. As we all know growing conditions have not been favourable since the start of the year and the course was a credit to Jeff.

The overall winner was Chris Carpenter with an excellent score and he also managed to win the nearest the pin. The qualifiers for the next round at Stockley Park are as follows.

Cat 1. 1. C. Carpenter 2. R. Phillips 3. M. Sheris 4. D. Burdis.

Cat 2. 1. A. Macindoe 2. P. Creeber 3. D. Badham 4. R. Washbrook.

Cat 3. 1. R. Elderfield 2. D. Smith 3. P. Gee 4. D. Dunne.

The longest drive prize was won by Mick Sheris on the 18th hole.

I would like to thank Sudbury GC for allowing us to use the facilities and a special thank you to the catering and bar staff for looking after us so well. I would also like to thank the club Captain Mr Mark Brazier for presenting the prizes, the General Manager Mr Alec Poole and the Greens Chairman Mr Graham Jones who all joined us for the day. It was nice to see such enthusiasm from club officials and we thank you for taking the time to join us. I would also like to thank the trade for its support and, in particular, Dennis Smith for acting as starter.

Any information regarding forthcoming events can be obtained from Don Wilson or myself. Please remember to keep me informed of any news which could be used in the magazine. Contact Don Wilson on 0181 440 3361 or me on 0181 959 5629.

TONY DUNSTAN

North Wales

Our Hayter qualifier took place at Abergele & Pensarn GC on April 19.

A total of 94 competitors took part and it was fortunate that it will be the excellent condition of the course that the day will be remembered by and not the bad weather that members and their guests had to put up with.

I would like to thank all those who contributed to making the day such a success – the staff of Abergele and Pensarn, the members and guests, who took part and all the sponsors who donated prizes.

The nine who qualified will be given the opportunity to go forward to the next round which will be held at Middlesbrough Municipal on July 4.

They are P. Valentine, D. Davies, J. Hughes, K. Jones, R. Walker, K. Jones, H. Jones, J. L. Jones and P. Davies.

TP EVANS (Competition secretary)

Devon and Cornwall

As Chairman of our Region I would like to express the region's gratitude and congratulations to Gordon and Marion Child who organised and ran this year's Westurf trade show superbly. Also on behalf of all the members in our region I would like to thank all the companies which took trade stands at the show. The success of Westurf is vital to our region, so we are able to continue our commitment to greenkeeping education.

As you read this article I will be putting the fin-

Around the Green



ishing touches to our fixture card for the forthcoming winter programme which should be with you shortly – once again our cards will be sponsored by Devon Garden Machinery. Before our winter programme gets underway members will have the opportunity, by kind permission of Mike Duval of WBB, to visit its sand works at Cornwood Quarry near Plymouth on September 27. Numbers are limited to the first 20. The agenda for the day is as follows:

9.30am-1pm. Visit Cornwood quarry sand plant, workshops and clay processing plant. 1pm-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 and see behind the scenes please contact me as soon as possible to avoid disappointment Tel: 01288 353438.

In conclusion a reminder to all our Cornish members that the summer evening meetings are now well under way with the next venue being at Perranporth GC on June 20, followed by meetings at Lanhydrock GC on July 19, Newquay GC on August 23 and Bude GC on September 20. For more details contact organiser Steve Evans Tel: 01208 863647.

RICHARD WHYMAN

South West

A smaller attendance than last year visited the Westurf Exhibition at Long Ashton GC. Nevertheless, putting aside, the weather which was probably the reason for some absences the show again proved successful thanks to the meticulous preparation from Gordon and Marion Child. Thanks also to everyone within the section who contributed both before, during and after the day.

It was to Bowood Golf and Country Club on April 6 that we gathered for this year's Hayter Qualifying competition. This young course constructed on land owned by Lord Shelburne holds enormous potential on reaching full maturity and was prepared brilliantly on the day by Course Manager Duncan Bawcutt.

A good response of about 60 meant a busy time for the caterers who provided an excellent roast dinner to complete the day. An excellent course meant some good scoring with Marc Haring, Duncan Smith and Sean Sage all winning their categories. They, along with four others and a reserve from each category, play at Carmarthen GC, Wales in the Regional Final with the winners then competing in the National Final at West Lancashire GC on September 13 and 14.

Thanks to Hayter for the day's sponsorship; to David Gwilliam of Gwilliam Kellands for presenting the prizes and to all at Bowood for their hospitality.

The qualifiers and scores for each category are as follows (all scores nett):

Cat 1. 1. Marc Haring 72; 2. Gary Cook 75; 3. Michael Fawcett 78; 4. Nick Perkins 81; 5. John Hogg 82.

Cat 2. 1. Duncan Smith 71; 2. Jon Scoones 75; 3. Anthony Knight 77; 4. Mel Dawson 78; 5. Paul Ferragut 78.

Cat 3. 1. Sean Sage 75; 2. Chris Sealey 77; 3. Martin Ford 78; 4. David Bateman 79; 5. Wayne Dunster 81.

KEVIN GREEN

East Anglia

Braintree GC hosted our first meeting of '95 with 50 greenkeepers playing for the "Winter Trophy"

and a place in the next round of the Hayter Challenge. Many thanks to Kevan Sharpe and his staff for their efforts and presenting the course so well. The competition was played over 18 holes Medal with the winner overall being Bill Chapman on countback with a score of 74 nett 69. The prizes were presented by Mike Lincoln-Smith of Hayter Mowers.

Results:

Cat 1. 1. B. Chapman 74 nett 69; 2. A. Sheehan 80 nett 75 (countback); 3. M. Virley 84 nett 75; 4. & Reserve. P. Howard 82 nett 76; 5. & Reserve. R. Pride 83 nett 78.

Cat 2. 1. I. Willett 85 nett 69; 2. D. Wells 87 nett 71; 3. M. Peters 91 nett 74; 4. & Reserve. A. Jenkins 96 nett 77; 5. & Reserve. A. Day 91 nett 77.

Cat 3. 1. S. Curtis 90 nett 69; 2. E. Hart 91 nett 70; 3. L. Upham 98 nett 70; 4. & Reserve. T. Huddlesden 96 nett 72; 5. & Reserve. S. Millard 96 nett 77.

The first three in each handicap section have qualified through to the South East regional final of the Hayter Challenge to be played at Stockley Park GC, Middlesex on Tuesday June 6. The guest prize went to Dave Gaunt 82 nett 68. Many thanks as always to the members of the trade who support the section, not only with prizes but also with their presence on these enjoyable meetings.

Prizes from:- CMW, E. Does, Eastern Tractors, Hayter, Levingtons, Parker Hart, Patissons, Rushbrook and Sons, Sisis and Turf Actant.

Sam Sylvester's crusade to get all members wearing official BIGGA ties stepped up a gear when he demanded a 50p fine from everyone not wearing one. It was such a shock I think all concerned paid up.

The next meeting will be June 6 at the Warren GC, playing for the "P. Tuckwell Cup" and "Spring Trophy". This unfortunately coincides with the Hayter Challenge but I am sure we will have a good turn out. On the subject of dates you should all have received a fixture card for '95 sponsored by P. Tuckwell/John Deere. If you have not received one and you are a member of the East Anglia section please contact Dave Wells and I am sure he will get one in the post to you.

Geoff Shelton became a father before Christmas and wife Yvonne and daughter Alice are both well. Another new arrival is William, the latest offspring of Andrew Cooke, also born just before Christmas.

Welcome to John Shurvell of Bury St Edmonds who has recently joined BIGGA.

The West Suffolk Greenkeepers Challenge was won by Gog Magog GC (Lyndon Upham, Julian Hill and Peter Mallows), the Atterton & Ellis/Toro Trophy was presented by Roger Denson of Atterton & Ellis in the company of David Cole, Sales Manager and Larry Pierman, Area Manager of Toro UK.

Finally Turf Actant is looking to hold a seminar morning followed by a cricket match in early August. Anybody interested in either of these events please contact Edward Clarkson of Turf Actant for further details.

STEPHEN MILLARD

Midland

As we are getting the courses ready for a busy season ahead, some sad news has been given to me. Richard Clarke, Course Manager of Trentham Park GC has died suddenly. May we all send our sincere condolences to his family and friends, from all at the Midland section.

The first golf tournament of '95 was held at Kenilworth GC, on April 26. Forty-two greenkeepers and seven trade members played. The weather was a trite windy, with the north easterly wind chilling us in the morning but the sunshine in the afternoon gave us a little welcome warmth. This was to reflect in my golf, being a little poor am and average pm. Mind you, I needed some of the trees pruning around the semi-rough, with my ball finding them a magnetic force!

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Keith Weston and his staff did a wonderful job in preparing the course, with the fairways and greens looking excellent. Some very good golf was played by the competitors, and the keenness and enjoyment was plain to see with the good humour in the clubhouse later on. One competitor was so keen he started playing another player's ball, just to be like Nick Faldo.

Thanks to John Hammond for starting us off, Burrow's for supplying the wine at dinner, Mike Lucas from FootJoy, and all the other trade members for their donation of prizes. A big thank you to Kenilworth GC for the use of the course and the clubhouse facilities, with a mention to Keith, John Lee, Peter and Lisa for the drink and food.

It was nice to see all the new faces playing and supporting the section. New players are welcome. We now have the new handicapping system up and running which means they can play two tournaments and receive a BIGGA handicap. So come along to the Warwickshire on August 17.

The results:

1. (Gross) P. Woodham 111; 1. (Nett) V. Lee 101; 2. P. Richmond 106; 3. P. Holtman 108.5; 4. T. Livingstone 109; 5. M. Hughes; 6. K. Davies (on count back) 111; 7. J. Palmer 111; 8. K. Blake 111.5 9. A. Roberts (on count back) 112.

Rufford Top Dress Supplies Nearest the Pin. T. Cheese. Longest Drive M. Cutler.

Trade Cup was won by I. Toon with (on count back) 112.

The draw for the single and doubles matches was done by Brian Booth from Rigby Taylor. The qualifiers for the Hayter Challenge Tournament will be notified and the names will be in next month's magazine.

Finally our thanks to R. Thomas for organising the event.

This month we welcome new members Peter Whitworth, Neil Orton and Darren Homer.

If any member wishes to write about events or any topical information for the magazine then contact myself on 01527 524217 or Scott MacCallum at Aldwark Manor.

KIM BLAKE

East Midlands

Not a lot to report this month and I'm sure you will find this article about the smallest I've ever written.

This month sees the move of Adie Porter from Crockett's Manor GC to Greatham Valley GC. I'm sure all members would like to wish Adie well in his new position.

A reminder to all entrants of this year's pairs and singles competitions. Please make sure your match is played before the closing date for each and every round.

This month we welcome the following new members to our section. Stephen Mackie of Wellingborough GC; Kenneth Payne and Scott Purdy of Ashbourne GC and Bryan Paton of Melton Mowbray GC.

If any member has any news they would like to see in this column they can contact me on 0116 2890301.

ANTONY BINDLEY

South Wales

At our last winter evening lecture Jim McKenzie, Course Manger of Celtic Manor Golf and Country Club, gave an up-date on the multi million pound developments going on at the Newport site since his presentation last year.

The first course, the 7028 yard championship "Roman Road", will open on August 1 with the second course, a 4132 yard par 3/4 short course "Coldra Woods" opening on September 1.

The development is causing quite a buzz around the Newport area and we as a section look forward to an arranged visit to view the complex and its facilities first hand shortly.

Our thanks to Jim for finding the time to make his presentation and who, for the second time in succession, brought in the largest attendance of

Around the Green



the series with nearly 40.

The recent South Wales Seminar "Mechanisation on the Golf Course" held at the St Mary's Golf and Country Club was hailed as a great success by all those who were in attendance.

Despite a few minor hiccups early on the day got off to a grand start with Howard Storey of John Deere UK Ltd giving a very informative talk on "Maintenance Vehicle v Compact Tractor". Howard's presentation was based on an unbiased view in selecting the right machine for the job - costings, purchase options etc.

John Deere tries to bring out six new products every year and we at the seminar were in the privileged position of being the very first in the UK to view the new John Deere 1200 A bunker rake.

Greenkeeping Support is still required for the Walker Cup to be played at Royal Porthcawl on September 9-10. Anyone available and willing to help over the period September 6-10 or part of that time should contact Peter Lacey, telephone: 01792 233923.

John Turner of Toro Lely UK Ltd followed on with his lecture "Developments in Fairway Mowers". Joe took every one on a trip back through time and the history behind the birth of fairway mowers from the first horse drawn to the first motorised gangs - claimed to be Toro - up to today's ultra modern marvels such as the Reel-master 5100 with "ACE" Automated Controlled Electronics - a diagnostic computer which not only controls reelspeed ensuring cuts per yards but also registers faults and leaks etc.

After lunch Paul Watson of Ransomes Sims and Jefferies Ltd made his presentation "Diesel v Petrol v Electric Mowers", a fitting title for the only company which at present makes all three types of ride-on mowers. The E Plex all electric greens ride on mower is causing quite a sensation at the moment and Ransomes claims that it cuts running costs by up to 50%. Also the newly launched G Plex range, that Ransomes claims to have developed in consultation with greenkeepers.

Lastly a sincere thanks to Keith Morgan, our local Jacobsen dealer, who came to the rescue when Paul Withers of Jacobsen UK Ltd, could not attend as a result of circumstances beyond his control.

Keith delivered Phil's excellent lecture "Triplex Mowers v Pedestrian Mowers" admirably and amusingly. Again the presentation was packed with technical information, facts and figures. Did you know that in 1832 the first cylinder mower replaced scything?

To all our speakers thank you and our sincere thanks to the sponsors, Toro Lely UK Ltd, Ransomes/R S Bird Ltd, Jacobsens/Keith Morgan Mowers Ltd and John Deere UK Ltd/Frank Sutten & Power Cut for your continuous support. Thanks also to St Mary's Golf and Country Club and to Peter Gillard and Pencoed College for their help in making the day such a success.

The Welsh Golf Union seminars which took place recently at the Morriston and Pontypridd Golf Clubs were thoroughly worthwhile if a little poorly attended.

A panel consisting of representatives from the WGU, the GTC and the STRI covered most topics

relating to greenkeeping and provoked many comments and questions from the floor. An enjoyable session and long may they continue.

Our spring competition and Hayter qualifier took place over the Creigiau course near Llantrisant. The weather ranged from warm sunshine through to thunder and lightning, hail stones and snow. This was my first visit to the course and I was pleasantly surprised. It is excellent, in a beautiful setting with a blend of natural features, including water, presented to an extremely high standard.

Congratulations to Robert Frater and his team but also to Bill Malcolm, Chairman of Green at Creigiau, for his support of the greenstaff which undoubtedly helps Robert to maintain high standards. Thanks to all at the club for making us so very welcome, the Secretary Mike O'Dowd and the Captain, Graham Joseph, for their hospitality and the caterers, headed by Sally Baxter for a superb dinner.

A huge thanks to Hayters for sponsoring the day.

Results:

The winner on the day, winning the Cardiff Cup on home turf with the best nett was Robert Frater. Winner of the Browns Shield for best gross was Gerwyn Price of Maesteg GC.

Hayter Category winners were: Cat 1. Robert Frater; Cat 2. Andrew Hatcher; Cat 3. Alan Critchton.

Congratulations to Ceri Richards, formerly of the Mountain Ash GC, on his appointment as new Head Greenkeeper at Worcester GC, near Evesham. Congratulations also to Steve Elms, formerly of the Parc GC, Newport who recently flew out to Switzerland to take up his new position as Head Greenkeeper of Mittelland GC near Oberentfelden. We wish them both well for the future.

Another congratulations, albeit for something entirely different, to David Gladwin who completed the London Marathon in a time of four hours 20 minutes - despite taking more than 20 minutes to cross the start line.

Lastly, thank God I hear you cry, (I don't think I've ever written such a long report) our good wishes to the Richardson family of Cefn Golleu Farm, Three Crosses, Gower on the opening of their new venture the Gower Golf Course this summer. The 140 acre course has splendid views overlooking the Louchor estuary, Carmathen Bay and the Black Mountains. It was designed by Donald Steel an is looked after by former Morriston Head Greenkeeper Steve Mills.

PETER LACEY

Mid Anglia

Royston GC was the venue for our first tournament of the year - a 36 hole event. An 18 hole medal was played in the morning, which was the qualifier for the Hayter-Beaver national tournament, followed by an 18 hole Stableford in the afternoon for those who were up to it!

The course was in fine condition for so early in the year and our thanks go to Tim McCreddie and all his staff. Thanks to Royston GC for the courtesy of the course and for looking after us so well on the day. Rigby Taylor was once again the sponsor so thanks to Rodger Bowles for providing the prizes and to all the other companies which supported the event in which 45 golfers took part.

Results:

Morning Round.

1. P. Briars, Chesfield Downs, 68; 2. D. Coleman, Leighton Buzzard, 69; 3. S. Cherry, Woburn, 69

Afternoon Round.

1. C. Toms, Woburn, 40; 2. K. Cheshire, Tilsforth, 38; 3. J. Blair, Brocket Hall, 38.

Nearest the Pin was won by P. Judd, Buckingham, and the Longest Drive by A. Grew, Berkhamsted. The Trade Prize went to C. Ayers, Lodgway Tractors, with 39 points.

The regional final of the Hayter-Beaver will be held on July 5 at Erewash Valley GC. The quali-

fiers are as follows.

Cat 1. S Cherry, Woburn; G. Boulton, Dunstable; R. McKeown, Arkley; J. Moorhouse, Brocket Hall. Reserve. J. Burton, St Neots.

Cat 2. P. Briars, Chesfield Downs; P. Judd, Buckingham; E. O'Hanlon, Chesfield Downs; R. Lawrence, Berkhamsted. Reserve. A. Barker, Tilsforth.

Cat 3. D. Coleman, Leighton Buzzard; P. Lockett, South Beds; M. McLoughlan, Woburn; D. Hand, Chesfield Downs. Reserve. T. Louch, Chesfield Downs.

If for any reason any player cannot make the regional final you MUST let me know so the reserve can be drafted in. Roger Willars, the regional administrator will send you starting sheets and directions nearer the time.

Next month sees our summer tournament which this year is being held at Brickendon Grange. The section has not visited before so it will be a good chance to play a new course. Entry forms should be sent to Richard as usual. The meeting will be 36 holes and is on July 18. Get your entries in nice and early please.

Finally Bocket Hall is confirmed as the venue for the autumn tournament on October 26. This will be 18 holes followed by the AGM in the afternoon.

PAUL LOCKETT

Central

April saw the first of the season's tournaments with the spring outing being played at Aberdour GC. We were honoured to have Association Chairman Barry Heaney and his lovely wife, Joan, and Scottish Chairman Gordon Moir as guests. The weather was superb and with the course in excellent condition, the food and drink just as good, we could not have asked for more.

Everybody enjoyed themselves and our sincere thanks go to all at Aberdour GC for their help and to everyone who contributed to the prize table.

Results:

Best scratch. D. McAllister, Ladybank, 72

Best Nett, A. Wallace, Dollar, 68 (On count-back).

Cat 1.1. G. Wallace, Westerwood, 70 (On count-back); 2. R. Hensbey, Tulliallan, 70.

Cat 2. 1. K. Duncan, Dunfermline, 68; 2. J. Oliver, Pitreavie, 71

Cat 3. 1. G. McRae, Aberdour, 78; 2. A. Nimmo, Alloa, 94.

Stewart's Quaich A. Dunn, J. Sievwright, Auchterarder, 146.

Patrons. K. Brunton, Souters, 73

Guests. J. Rudigan, Kirkcaldy, 74

Two ball foursomes. A. McGregor and J. Clark 27.

Qualifiers for the Hayter Challenge. Cat 1. S. McAllister, G. Wallace, R. Hensbey, C. Powrie.

Cat 2. J. Oliver, K. Duncan, A. Wallace, S. Syme.

Cat 3. G. McRae, A. Nimmo

Match Report by "The Selector". On March 12

Around the Green



the first football match between Central and West sections was held at Dalgety Bay Sports Centre. Honours were shared with West scoring with the very last kick of the game to tie the score at 4 all. The Central team was selected on the day with all shapes and sizes forming a formidable outfit. Ian Menzies and Kevin Brunton made up the back four (there wasn't room for anyone else) with some young talent up front.

The match was played in great spirit (not the liquid kind) and everyone enjoyed themselves with not a cross word being heard – until that last goal went in!

The return match was played at the all weather pitch at Ibrox on March 20 and a very even game was expected. Unfortunately due to some late call-offs by our top players we were left with our young colts to do their utmost. Playing into a very strong wind (almost too strong to spray) we quickly went two goals down but we improved when playing with the wind and only conceded one more goal. West were therefore comfortable winners at 3-0 so well done to them and bring on the next challengers.

Membership of the section is still increasing at a steady rate and we extend a warm welcome to John Stewart, Stephen Oliver, Stuart Cribbes, Alexander Barlow, Hamish Buchanan, Bruce Wedderburn and Michael Ewan.

Congratulations to Kevin and Lindsay Brunton on the recent birth of their first baby, Lindsay and Alice are both doing well with Kevin discovering times of the night he never knew existed. He will probably be putting on the "Hard Sell" act now that he has a family to support.

Committee member Norman Wood has resigned as Head Greenkeeper at Burntisland GC after 18 years to take up a similar post at Haddington in East Lothian. Billy Easton has left Stirling GC and moved down south to Royal Blackheath GC. Best wishes for a successful future go to them and everyone else who has moved or gained promotion in the past couple of months.

The first round of the sections Inter-Club tournament has been played and the winners will now move onto the next round. In an effort to keep as much interest as possible in this competition the first round losers will form a second league to play through to a final as in the main draw.

JOHN CRAWFORD

Surrey

Any members wishing to participate in the England v Scotland match should contact either myself for the England team on 01737 832 015 or Dougie Fernie for the Scotland team on 01372 740516. Numbers are limited to 12 a side and a venue has still to be decided.

Congratulations to Drift GC's greenkeeper/mechanic Ted Stiles upon reaching 65 although Ted assures us he is not yet ready for retirement. On behalf of the section I would like to wish Don Major of Betchworth GC all the best on his retirement.

Members interested in the dinner/dance should contact their committee members for tickets which will soon be on sale. The venue is to be the Reigate Manor Hotel on Nov 18. Tickets priced £18.

John Hardy celebrates 70 years employed with West Surrey GC. Born in 1910 John joined West Surrey when he was 14 and went part time when he reached 65. It was a slight stroke last year which convinced him to retire and his immediate plans in full time retirement are to sleep and smoke. Well done John.

The Huxley Bowl showed good support again with 34 pairs entered. Forthcoming events include the MacMillan tankard at Sunningdale GC on August 3; the Parker Salver Invitational at Tryells Wood GC on September 5 and the Autumn tournament at Home Park GC on October 4.

DAVID GIBBS

Ayrshire

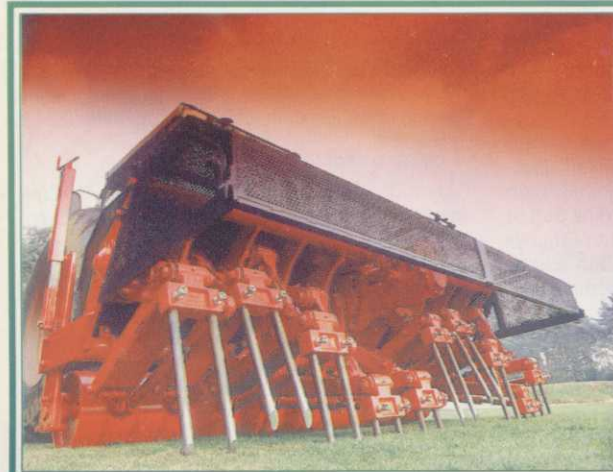
There have been no reports for the past two months as nothing has happened in the section area – or so it would seem from the deafening silence from the members.

There has, however, been a couple of events over the past month, the first being a quiz night held in the Parkstone Hotel in Prestwick. This was an excellent form of entertainment especially from some of the answers and some of the team names. The winners were "I'll have a Pee Bob" which gives some indication of how seriously the evening went and how much everyone enjoyed it. Don't miss the next one as I'll even make sure the quiz masters have the right answers.

Our second event of the month was the spring outing at Kirkcudbright GC which was held in lovely spring weather for a change. The Kirkcudbright course has gained immensely in stature over the past few years since expanding to 18 holes and this was our first visit for an outing. The general consensus among a large turn-out of members was that we would certainly love to go back some time soon.

Our thanks to the club committee, secretary John Sommerville, caterer Mary and her merry crew and last, but certainly not least, to Sammy, Peter and the boys on the green staff for giving such good conditions to enjoy the golf.

The competition was intense especially with the



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Hayter qualifying places up for grabs.

Results:

Cat 1. 1. Keith McCartney; 2. George Brown; 3. Derek Wilson; 4. Kevin Hill.

Cat 2. 1. Steve Farrish; 2. Duncan Gray; 3. Jimmy Johnstone 4. Kenneth Haddow.

Cat 3. 1. Jim Paton; 2. Gary Crosbie; 3. Steve McWhan; 4. Sam McConnell.

Hopefully we are in for a good summer, both from a greenkeeping and the weather point of view, so I hope to hear a few snippets of news (even one would help) to put in the column.

DUNCAN GRAY

East Scotland

Bright sunshine, no wind! What a day to pick for our spring outing at Glen GC. I hope you all enjoyed the day as much as I did.

Special thanks must go to the Captain and council of Glen GC for giving us courtesy of the course at such short notice. Thanks to all who donated raffle prizes. They were very much appreciated. Congratulations to George Paterson and his staff for an excellently turned out course.

Results:

Best Scratch. G. Ferguson, Duddingston, 75 (on countback)

Best Nett. M. Pagan, Goswick, 75-6-69. 2. S. Greenwood, N. Berwick, 81-7-74.

Cat 2. 1. C. Yeaman, Swanston, 87-12-75; 2. A. Gordon, Duddingston, 94-17-77; 3. R. Thomson, Peebles, 91-13-78.

Cat 3. 1. A. Russell, Torphin Hill, 88-18-70 (on countback); 2. J. Thow, Gubeon, 88-18-70; 3. R. Hogarth, Innerleithen, 92-21-71.

Veteran. R. Smith, Harburn, 83-8-75. Trade Winner. I. Thomson, Provan Chemicals 90-18-72. Guest Winner. T. Ross, Uphall, 74-5-69.

The Hayter Qualifiers were:

Cat 1. M. Pagen, G. Ferguson, T. Murray, A. Homes. Reserve S. Greenwood.

Cat 2. A. Gordon, C. Yeaman, C. Pennicuik, P. Ormiston.

Cat 3. R. Hogarth, A. Russell, G. Hobbs, W. Hudson.

Finally if anyone has any information that he or she thinks might be useful for this column please do not hesitate to call me on 01721 722832.

ROBERT HOGARTH

North

Welcome to Scott MacCallum, the new editor of the magazine. We hope Scott, who hails from up here, will keep up the standards of our great magazine and even make it better... as long as he allows my articles. (*Flattery will get you everywhere! Ed*)

The section welcomes two more new members, Bradley Wood, assistant greenkeeper at Deeside GC and Paul MacKay, apprentice at Banchory. While on the subject of membership I recently heard of a member last year who did not receive his magazine for three months so

Around the Green



did not renew his membership this year. I have copies of magazines in case this happens, so anyone who has this problem please contact me for a magazine and then I can inform Head Office to get it sorted. Hopefully I can persuade this person to rejoin now that I am aware why he left.

I bumped into Robert Hardy recently back from a year in Malaysia and looking really tanned. He is working at the Kings Links in Aberdeen. Welcome back Bob. Still in Aberdeen George Mitchell has left Royal Aberdeen to take up a similar position at Newmacher. We also wish Paul Murphy all the best in his new position as Head Greenkeeper at Downfield GC, Dundee.

Having missed my D36 Advisor Assessment in Edinburgh, along with Alisdair McLaren, Nethybridge and Alan Holmes, Blairgowrie, I had to go to Aberdeen Airport to do it and be assessed in the departure lounge with airline passengers filing by all the time. Seriously it wasn't that bad and thanks must go to Margaret Ashby for flying up from Manchester in the morning, assessing and flying back at 2pm. That's my D32 and D36 completed only D33 to go, so if anyone needs advice or assessment you know where to come.

Finally I have been warned not to mention the weather again, some people think it's my fault for that all the bad weather we had after I went on about how good it was early winter. My forecast for the next month is \$*^~@&L\$^ . . .
IAN MACLEOD

West of Scotland

Since the last article a couple of things have happened of interest. The return football match against Central section at Ibrox turned out to be less exciting than the first encounter. Central missed their midfield muscle men and as a result went down 3-0 to a superior West section on the day.

A tournament for five-a-side is being considered for later in the year depending upon an interest. If your club wishes to put forward a team (greenkeepers only), then please contact me on 0141 942 5554.

The secretaries verses greenkeepers match on April 3 over Cowglen was a very enjoyable day. The greenkeepers were eventual winners 5-3 thanks to the old timers. The section wishes to

thank Scott Ballantyne and his staff for their efforts in preparing the course. Considering the weather it was in very good condition.

The committee is considering running a mini bus to the summer outing at Dornoch. The arrangements, provisionally, would be to travel up on Sunday evening, stay overnight, then travel back either on Monday night or Tuesday morning. Those interested should contact the secretary as early as possible.

Finally, I hope everybody has a good season and may I extend a warm welcome to the new members - Henry Farrell, Colne Valley; Martin Miller, Gleddoch House; Edmund Magee, Gleddoch House; James McCann, Gleddoch House; Douglas Murray, Gleddoch House.

Remember if anyone has interesting information please phone the aforementioned number.
STUART TAYLOR

Kent

April 20 found the section at Littlestone GC for the Hayter Qualifier. The weather was fresh to see the least but the course was in excellent condition which given the amount of rain that we had had this winter is due testament to the skill and professionalism of Malcolm Grand and his staff.

Results:

Cat 1. 1. M. Smith 71; 2. M. Morgan 73; 3. S. Suttle 74; 4. I. Rawlins. 80. Reserve. J. Wakelin 86.

Cat 2. 1. J. Bean 67; 2. N. Rourke 69; 3. M. Arthur 73; 4. J. Fuller 74 Reserve. S. Anderson 75.

Cat 3. 1. W. Banks 69; 2. P. Hiest 76; 3. M. Mewitt 76; 4. M. Grand 77 Reserve. J. Roots 79.

Congratulations to the winners and good luck in the following rounds. Thanks should also go to the members and committee of Littlestone GC as well as all the bar and catering staff who worked so hard on our behalf.

As I mentioned in last month's piece Steve Johnstone of Gillingham GC has taken over as our section secretary and at last month's meeting he allocated the committee jobs. Rob Lucas is the section treasurer, Andy Arthur is administering the handicap system and Peter Biscoe will be moving among you all with a questionnaire aimed at finding out exactly what you require of this section.

I understand Rob Lucas' first job was to open up new bank accounts closer to his home and I have it on good authority that he has lodged all monies in an ultra safe account held at William Hill's.

The only other change in personnel is that we have a new regional administrator in the shape of Geoff Hills.

The next golf day will be held at Herne Bay GC and all members will be contacted soon with dates and times etc. I am sure that this will be an excellent day with a high turnout.

RICHARD PAGE

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Comment From Walter Woods
St. Andrews Links Golf Course supervisor

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COURSES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

Thumbs up for the seventh Westurf

The seventh annual Westurf Exhibition at Long Ashton Golf Club in Bristol, at the end of April, proved a huge success for one exhibitor who launched a brand new Core Harvester at the show and sold one that same day.

Pro-Seed Equipment was able to demonstrate the equipment to Bernard McGowan of A and I Machinery of Dublin, and clinched the sale with an option on one other thus saving themselves a trip to the Emerald Isle.

"I've just returned from the United States where I secured further orders for the Core Harvester and of the 14 orders we now have I would say five of them were a direct result of showing at Westurf," said Ken Knowles, of Pro-Seed Equipment. "We invited several clients to the show and that

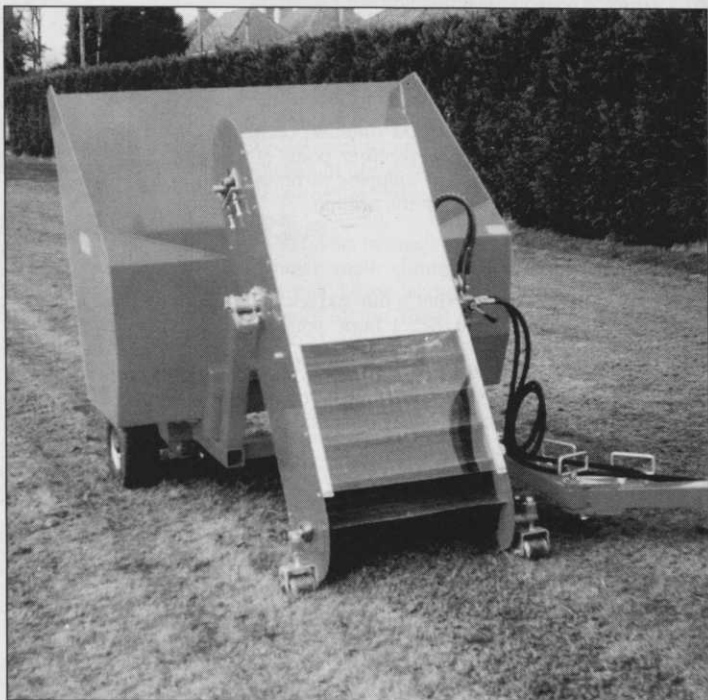
proved very productive for us," he added.

Steve George of Bristol-based BS Mowers said that the number of sales leads this year was on a par with last year.

"The crowds were down which was disappointing and I feel that the show would have had a greater impact if it was run over two days as it would allow greenkeepers who were committed to the one day to go on the other," he said.

Another company which enjoyed the day was Roffey Bros which took orders in excess of £30,000 for top dressing and root zone mixtures as well as for its new fertiliser, Gypronite.

Marion Child, who organised the show with her husband Gordon, agreed that the attendance was not quite as good as they had hoped.



The Pro-Seed core harvester sold at Westurf

"We got some excellent feedback from many exhibitors but we really would like more of the local greenkeepers to make an effort to attend. Westurf is run for them and their golf clubs and the profits from the show go to promoting green-

keeper education which in turn helps the golf clubs in the region."

Next year's Westurf will be on May 1, when hopefully the weather will be a little warmer, and will again be at Long Ashton.

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Southturf show has plenty of promise

The second Southturf Exhibition at Motspur Park on Wednesday June 21 looks set to build on the success of the inaugural event.

A large proportion of last year's exhibitors are returning again many with new products or updates and improvements on existing products while new exhibitors will, for the first time, get a chance to sample the unique Southturf atmosphere.

Among the stars of the show will undoubtedly be the Grass Roots stand which will feature a golf simulator which will allow visitors to play a hole at Torrey Pines in the United States or Mauna Kea in Hawaii without leaving the show ground, never mind the country. The simulator can also produce a swing analysis which will be available to the visitors.

"The event provides valuable income and exposure for BIGGA and a good turn out of members and representatives from their clubs would be



greatly appreciated," said Geoff Hills, the recently-appointed South East Region Administrator.

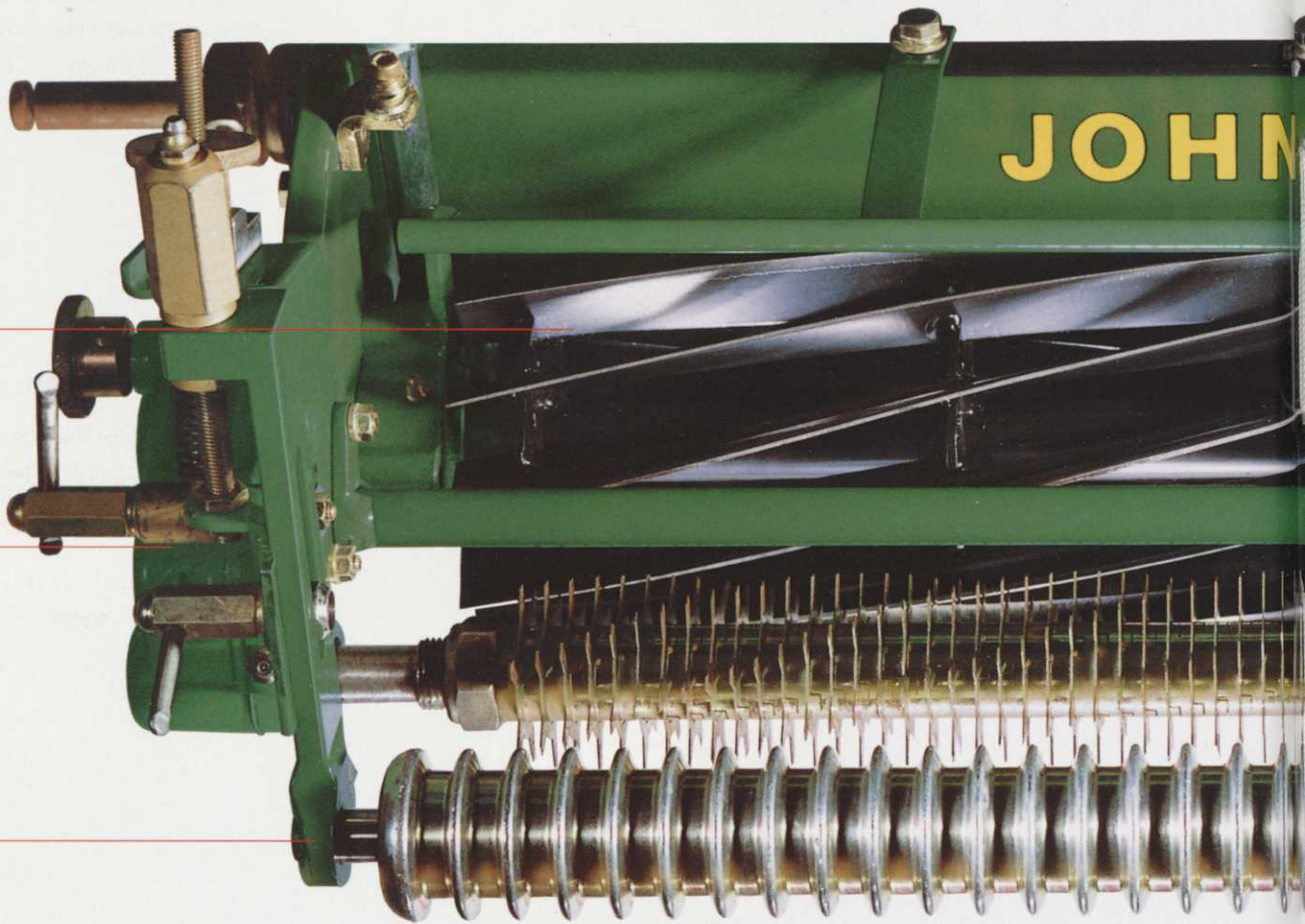
Among the exhibitors who have confirmed their attendance are:- Atterton and Ellis Ltd, Avoncrop Amenity Products, Barmonset, Better Methods-Europe, Bowcom Ltd, City Irrigation Ltd, Golf and Turf Equipment, Grassliner Products, Grass Roots Trading Company, Leisure K, Hadlow College, Lubrication Engineers (South East) Ltd, Meetens Industrial Engines Ltd, Miracle Amenity Care, Nescot Oaklands College, Parker Hart, Pattisons, Plumpton College, Risboro' Turf, Sparsholt College, Sovereign Golf (UK) Ltd/Envirogreen Ltd, Turf Machinery Ltd, Turf Management Systems, Vitax.



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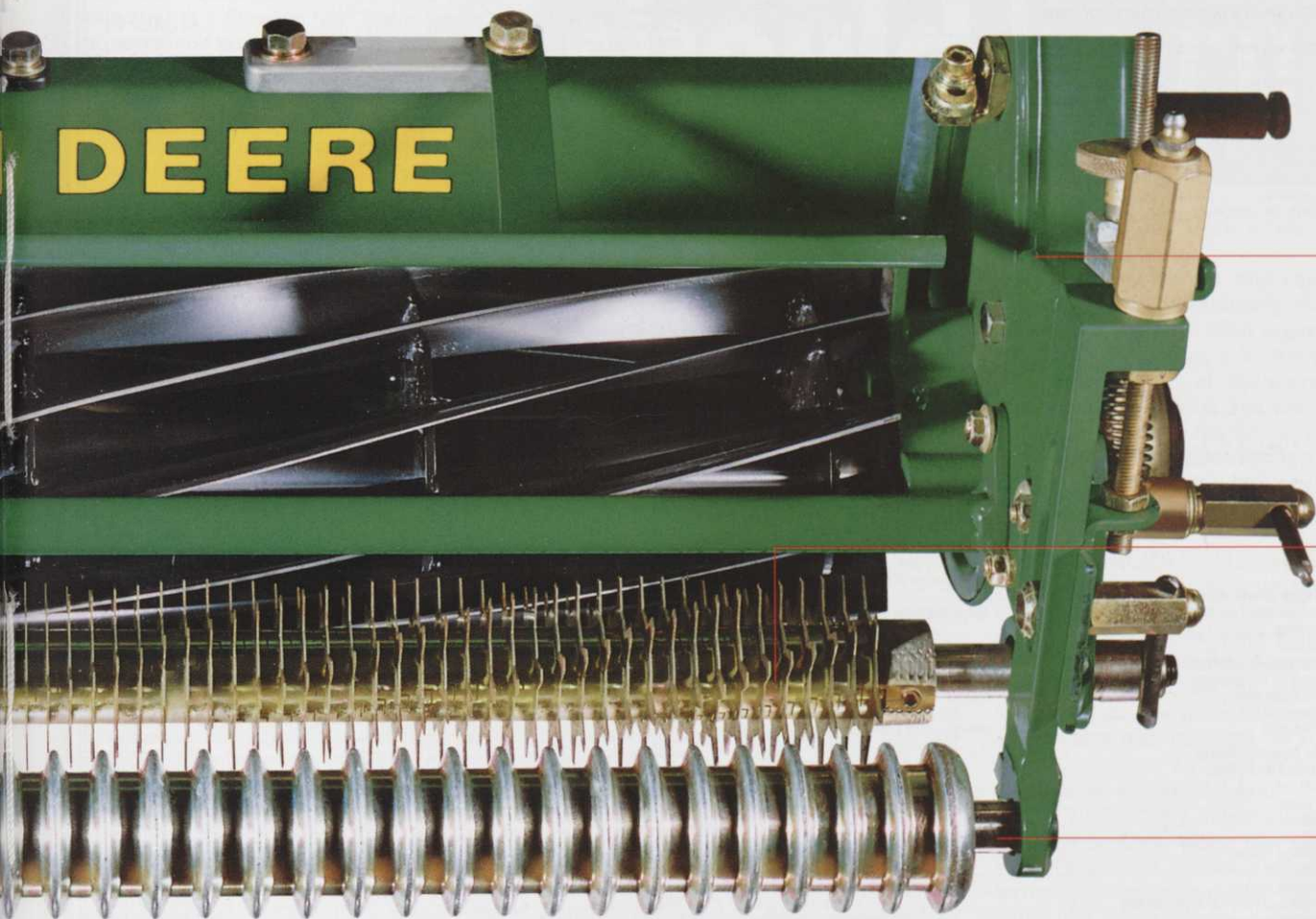
Greenkeepers noticed the dif-

ference immediately. A measurable difference. A difference you can see using tools like the prism gauge. They told us they liked the fact that these cutting units mowed tight and true, were easy to adjust, and held both their edge and adjustment as

well as any cutting units they'd ever seen.

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TING UNITS



3235 Lightweight Fairway Mower, to the new 220 Walk-Behind Greens Mower. And it's no coincidence that "exceptional quality of cut" is the phrase that gets repeated over and over when greenkeepers evaluate any John Deere reel unit.

So please take time to read more about our new John Deere 220 Greens Mower as well as the job-proved 2243. Experience the dedication to quality as well as customer service at your John Deere dealer. For the name of your nearest

distributor, or more information on our full line of golf equipment, call or fax us today.





220

220 Walk-Behind Greens Mower

(Specifications and design subject to change without notice.)

- Engine:**
 Category 3.7-hp Kawasaki, air-cooled FE120G, 4-stroke
 Engine power according to ECE-R85 2.4 kW at 1800 rpm
 Maximum torque 14.9 Nm at 1800 rpm
Idle speed at output shaft 650 rpm
Maximum speed at output shaft 1800 rpm
Park brake Band-type, lever activation
Cutting equipment:
 Cutting width 56 cm (22 in.)
 Cutting height (minimum)
 Standard - 3-mm bedknife 3.2 mm (1/8 in.)
 Optional - 2.5-mm bedknife 2.8 mm (7/64 in.)
Frequency of clip* 3.9 mm (.155 in.) standard, 4.9 mm (.195 in.) optional
Reel:
 Diameter 12.7 cm (5 in.)
 Number of blades 11
 Material Heat-treated special alloy steel
 Bedknife 3 mm thick x 56 cm long (.118 in. x 22 in.)
 Bedknife (optional) 2.5 mm thick x 56 cm long (.98 in. x 22 in.)

- Grass catcher** Approximately 3.2 kg (7 lb.)
Traction drum Smooth dual aluminium
Traveling device:
 Forward speed 9.2 km/h (5.5 mph) with transport wheels at 1800 rpm
 Mowing speed 5.5 km/h (3.4 mph) at 1800 rpm
 Roller (rear) Aluminium, 19-cm (7.5-in.) diameter
 Roller (front) Machine-grooved or smooth, 50.8 mm (2 in.) diameter

- Dimensions:**
 Length (with tyres installed) 94 cm (37 in.)
 Width (with tyres installed) 94.6 cm (37.25 in.)
 Height (with tyres installed) 1190 mm (46.8 in.)
 Weight (less brush drive and transport wheels, with catcher) 98.6 kg (217 lb.)
Certification AINSI B71.4 - 1990

* Frequency of clip is defined as distance Greens Mower travels between reel blade and bedknife cutting contacts. Frequency of clip is affected by:
 • Ground speed
 • Number of reel blades
 • Rotational speed of reel blades



2243

2243 Professional Greens Mower

(Specifications and design subject to change without notice.)

- Engine:**
 Category 18-hp Kawasaki FD 590V, V twin, OHV 4-stroke (Gas)
 18-hp John Deere Series 220, 3-cylinder (Diesel)
 Engine power according to ECE-R85 and -R24 13.4 kW
 Air cleaner Semi-cyclone, dry-type, dual stage
 Cooling Liquid
 Oil filter Full-flow filter
 Pressurized lubrication system Standard
 Number of cylinders 2 (2243 Diesel, 3)
 Displacement Gas, 585 cm³ (35.7 cu. in.); Diesel 784 cm³ (47.8 cu. in.)
 Starter Electric (solenoid shift)
 Alternator 16-amp with regulator (2243 Diesel, 20-amp)

Vehicle Specifications:

- Wheels and Tyres:**
 Front 18 x 9.50-8, 2 ply, smooth
 Rear 18 x 9.50-8, 2 ply, smooth
Brakes Single pedal, 2-wheel disc brakes
 Type Dual 15.2 cm (6 in.)
 Mowing speed 0 to 6.4 km/h (0 to 4 mph)
 Transport speed 0 to 13.7 km/h (0 to 8.5 mph)
 Reverse speed 0 to 4.8 km/h (0 to 3 mph)
 Ground clearance with catcher 10.2 cm (4 in.)
 Fuel tank capacity 37.9 litres in dual tanks
 Muffler Horizontal discharge below frame
 Hydrostatic and reel drive system capacity 22.7 litres
 Hydrostatic reservoir capacity (only) 16.6 litres

Transaxle, Reel Drive:

- Drive wheels Front
 Traction drive Hydrostatic, 2-pedal control
 Reel drive Hydraulic
 Pump Gear
 Reel Control Valves Electro-hydraulic, one valve reel on-off and one valve raise-lower
 Filtration 10 micron

Mower:

- Number 3
 Size 55.9 cm (22 in.) floating standard
 Backlapping On machine, variable adjustment capability (2243 Diesel, optional kit)
 Clip frequency* 5.8 mm at 6 km/h (0.97 mm per km/h) with 9-blade reel
 Front rollers Optional, smooth or grooved
 Reel diameter 12.7 cm (5 in.)
 Bedknife adjustment Reel-to-bedknife
 Height of cut 2.4 to 19 mm (7/32 to 3/4 in.)
 Number of blades 5, 7, 9, or 11
 Mower Lift Cylinder for front two units, cylinder for centre unit

Operator controls:

- Steering Hydrostatic adjustable column
 Reel drive and reel lift Foot-activated switches
 Throttle Hand
 Park brake Foot
Hydrostatic speed:
 Forward Right foot
 Reverse Right foot
 Ignition Key start and shutoff

Instrumentation:

- Glow resistor Toggle switch w/light
 Engine oil pressure Warning light
 Alternator Warning light
 Hydraulic oil temperature Warning light
 Engine coolant temperature Warning light
 Hourmetre Gauge

Safety interlocks

- Neutral start switch, operator presence switch, mow/transport switch, park-brake-set switch

Weights and Dimensions:

- Wheelbase 129.5 cm (51 in.)
 Tread width 101.5 cm (40 in.)
 Mowing position width 157.5 cm (62 in.)
 Turning radius, uncut circle 45.7 cm (18 in.)
 Empty weight (full fluids no operator or fuel) 576 kg (1270 lb.) Gas
 641 kg (1414 lb.) Diesel

Certification

- ANSI B71.4 - 1990

Attachments:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Greens Tender Conditioner | Fairway bedknife | 5-blade cutting units |
| Rear-roller power brush | Machined, grooved front rollers | Vertical cutting units |
| Light kit | Roller scrapers | Traction units |
| Hydraulic oil cooler kit | | Greens and turf conditioners |
| Five-blade cutting units | Add versatility with: | Smooth roller scrapers |
| Traction drive tyres | Grooved front rollers | Front light kit |
| Tournament bedknife | Machine-grooved front rollers | |
| | Rear-roller power brush | |



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The average golf club membership of today is much more active than in yester year. Most members play more regularly and expect higher standards on the course than ever before. Indeed deficiencies in the golf course itself are often used for excuses for poor play as players are less willing to accept the "rub of the green"

So who would be a member of a Green Committee at a time like this? Green Committee members often have to be very thick skinned to be able to fulfil the duties and obligations of their office. There can be great satisfaction from seeing the golf course in immaculate condition, and the membership enjoying its golf. However, it is usually impossible to satisfy everyone and many clubs have a group of dissidents who will complain whatever happens.

So before we start discussing the role we should give three cheers for those individuals who are willing to give up their free time to receive a lot of flak and ear-ache from other members who are more vocal but less active in running the club.

Who then makes up the Green Committee?

The exact composition of the Green Committee can vary from club to club. It usually contains members of the ruling body, be it a council, main committee, or board of directors. A Chairman will be elected who may be in office for one or more years with other committee members taking their turn. Membership may include past Captains, the Secretary, the Professional and, of course, the Head Greenkeeper. Representation from the membership would hopefully include a range of playing abilities so that the course is not set for either high or low handicappers. In addition, there may be other groups within the club which may wish to be represented but if the committee is truly representative it can become unwieldy and very difficult to manage and requiring strong Chairmanship.

It has been said that the Green Committee should contain no more than one member ie the Chairman. However, this is extremely unrepresentative and may lead to conflict in the club but clearly if decisions are to be made quickly and efficiently there should be as few people as possible involved in the decision making process. At the sharp end I would suggest the Green Chairman, Secretary and Head Greenkeeper are all that need be involved in the day to day working of the course. The Vice Chairman of the Green Committee would deputise for the Chairman when he was unavailable. It must be remembered though, that the running of the golf course has usually been delegated to the Head Greenkeeper who is a full time professional. There is nothing to be gained from the Chairman of the Green Committee deciding to take on the role of Course Manager. Such intrusion into the day to day running of the course will only cause frustration and difficulty for any Head Green-

How a Green Committee should be run

keeper worth his salt. But if running the course on a day to day basis is not the role of the Green Committee what is?

Duties and Roles

The duties and roles of the Green Committee will be defined by each individual club. They will have a different set of circumstances which will define what they require of their elected members. However, the following roles and duties will probably be required of every Green Committee.

Policy Determination

The prime function of any executive is to determine policy for the future. It is amazing how many clubs seem to go from year to year changing with the whims of every new elected body. This is extremely poor management as far as the greenkeeping staff are concerned as they have no idea of their long term aims and objectives. The club should therefore be able to develop a simple and straight forward policy on how they wish to run and develop the golf course over the next 20 to 30 years. From this policy document an implementation document can be developed.

Within the policy document items such as course layout and development, course reconstruction, course shaping and presentation, course ecology course manning levels, machinery and responsibilities should be discussed.

The club can also be "with it" in management terms by developing a "Mission Statement" for the future which gives a simple statement of the aims and objectives of the club and its staff.

The implementation document will discuss maintenance or reconstruction programmes designed to implement the policy earlier itemised. This will contain a number of plans for the future to include long term programme (20-30 years), a mid-term programme (10 years) and a short term five year rolling programme. This will enable the club to look at all aspects of the course including tree planting for the future and next year's maintenance programme for today. Having a five year rolling programme enables the Head Greenkeeper to use his initiative to utilise resources

efficiently and still work within an agreed long term programme.

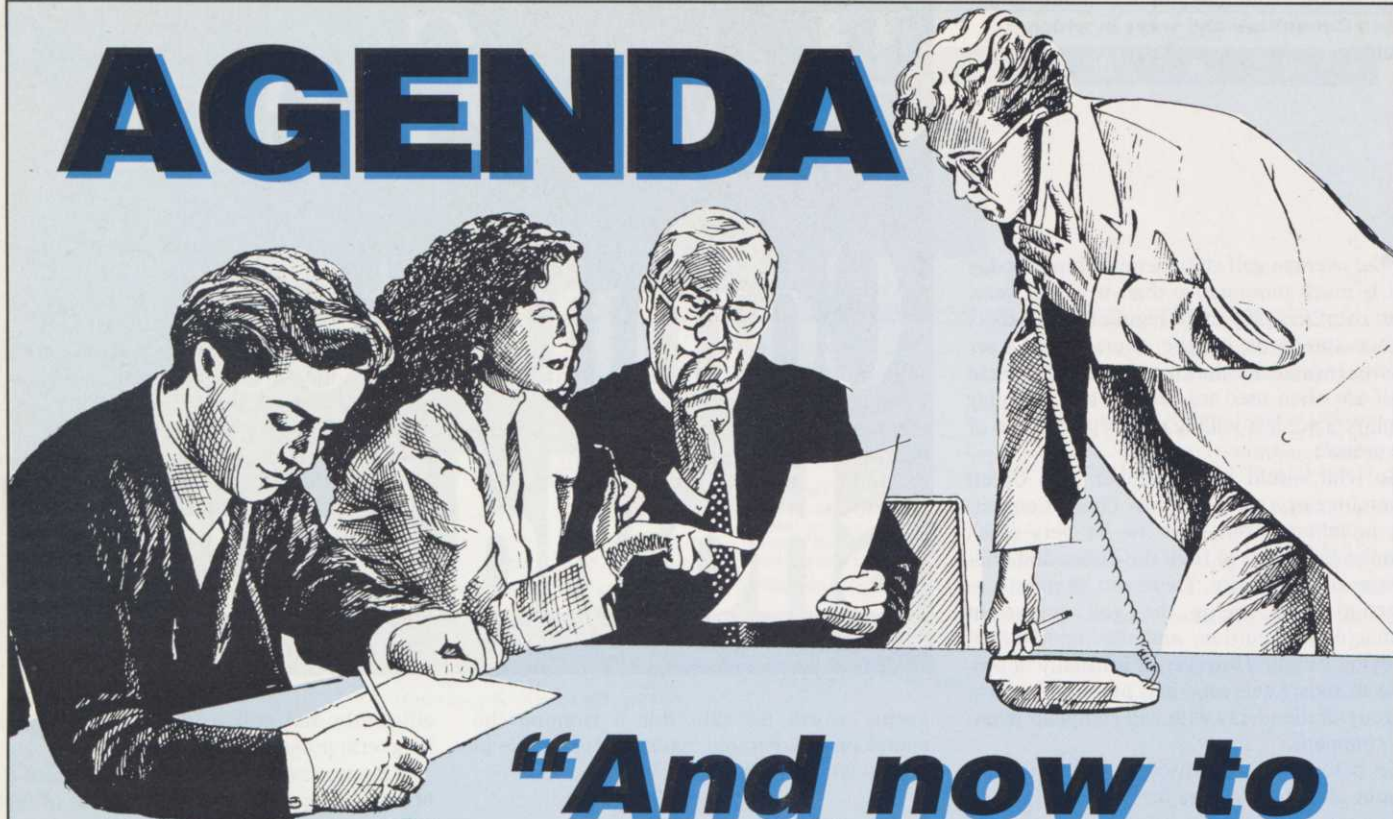
It is surprising that the most important role of any management committee, that of forming a policy, has been often neglected within the golf club. However, it is very pleasing to see that a number of clubs are seriously addressing the problem and are developing policies to deal with the future. The English Golf Union has been undertaking a number of workshops on policy documents to show good practice to all member clubs.

The Employer

The role of the employer is usually delegated to the Green Committee when it comes to the greenkeepers. As an employer the Green Committee will have a number of legal obligations including making sure the green staff are abiding by the law when handling chemicals and working with machines. In addition, the Green Committee will need to monitor standards on the course. Clearly the standard and rate of work is very important and this can often be an issue when new demands are being made on green staff due to the increased demand for quality and excellence. Often the greenkeepers do not have the resources in materials and machines necessary to achieve those standards seen on the televised competition courses. While the Head Greenkeeper is generally in charge of hiring and firing it is the Green Committee's ultimate responsibility to hire and fire staff including the Head Greenkeeper. Similarly, while the Head Greenkeeper should deal with minor aspects of staff discipline, the ultimate sanction will be an interview with the Chairman of the Green Committee and written warnings from him.

Along with hiring staff comes the requirement to determine pay and conditions of service. These will vary from club to club although BIGGA has suggested rates of pay and conditions of service for greenkeepers in the UK. With greenkeepers becoming more professional, the general standard of golf courses is improving with higher rates of pay and better conditions in which to work. It is now common for greenkeepers to be allowed to go for training/education to colleges to

AGENDA



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“The cutting unit sits on a flat bed – avoids angled set-ups”

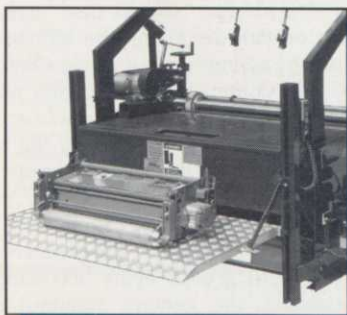
“A single action foot pedal to set-up – simple one-man operation”

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“Choice of machines, Express Dual ‘1000’ or the new multi-featured ‘2000’, with new features as shown – a relief may be ground on the cylinder cutting edge and our heavy gang units can now be positioned on the grinding table by one man”



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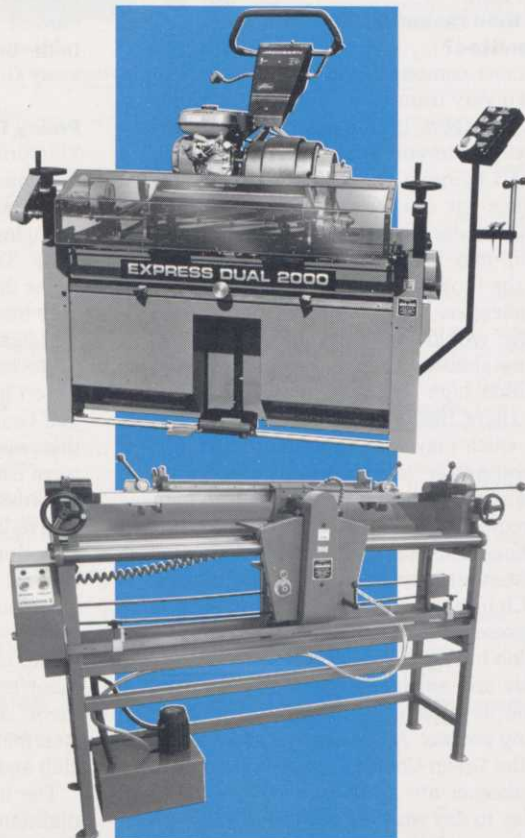


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“Costs are reasonable and we’ll be able to keep on top with the grass cutting – the members will benefit and the GREEN ISSUE will be a thing of the past!”

“That’s a unanimous vote in favour I believe – I’ll advise the Greenkeeper to go ahead”



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How a Green Committee should be run

gain and improve their knowledge of green-keeping. For Head Greenkeepers additional training will be required with regard to supervision of men and management of resources.

The working conditions of greenkeepers are also beginning to improve. The days when greenkeepers were found in decaying sheds hidden behind trees without electricity or water are hopefully fast fading. It is now very important that, to gain the high quality of staff required, facilities should be suitable for the 1990s. This will include providing a clean mess room with cooking facilities, adequate toilets and shower facilities, the correct machines for the job and adequate workshops and sheds in which to maintain and keep the machines. Clearly, to have the best men you must provide good facilities. Good greenkeepers do not wish to work in 19th century conditions, nor should they have to.

Liaison with the Membership

As an elected body, the Green Committee needs to liaise regularly with the membership.

This can, of course, be done in many ways, informal as well as formal. The formal channel of communication will be through the regular main Committee or Council meeting held perhaps monthly throughout the year.

In addition, there are many informal ways when the Green Committee can inform the membership of what is happening on the course and gain reaction from them. This includes general socialising at the bar and club social events as well as when playing competitions. It is also very important that the greenkeepers be encouraged to be friendly and informative on the course when meeting members. Clearly this does not mean them stopping work every five minutes to have a chat, but does mean some form of informal and friendly communication when appropriate.

Other common means of liaising with the membership include having a suggestion box and putting items of importance upon the notice board. Often, though, suggestion boxes can be mis-used with members putting in critical comments without wishing to add their name. Any suggestion or comment made by a member who is not willing to put his or her name to it should, in my opinion, be thrown in the bin immediately.

Notice boards are sometimes a point of consternation as many people consider that the best way to keep a secret is to write a notice and pin it to the notice board. However, the notice board is in part a place where the agreed policy document and monthly work plan could be pinned to enable members to see up and coming work programmes. Major renovation works can be notified to the membership on the board to prevent disappointment or upset at the time of the work being done. In addition, clear liaison with the Secretary and Competition Secretary is essential so that the major work is not undertaken at times of major events. The Head Greenkeeper has a very clear role here in making sure that the course work runs smoothly with the running of competitions and playing of golf on the course.

Expenditure on the Course.

The standard to which the course is maintained is far the club to decide. While many Head Greenkeepers see themselves as the defenders of standards on the course this is, in reality, a false assumption. There can be no doubt that it is for the members to decide the standard of maintenance they require. It is, however, the role of the Head Greenkeeper to

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How a Green Committee should be run

let the membership be aware of the standards that can be achieved if the resources are available. It is very easy for the Head Greenkeeper to box himself into a corner by setting standards far higher than the club can resource. This leads him to undertake excessive overtime in an attempt to maintain the standards he would like to see on the course. If this continues, then the Head Greenkeeper can be frustrated and disillusioned as he tried to achieve the impossible. Having said that most clubs are trying to strive for standards higher than in the past. Clearly this requires additional resources than those provided in the past. Resources include the number and quality of staff, the budget available for maintenance, the general machinery budget for repair or procurement of new machinery and general funding for sundries on the course. It is the job of the Green Committee to determine expenditure and put forward a budget to the main Committee or Council. Ideally, this budget should be drawn up by the Head Greenkeeper and discussed with the Green Committee prior to submission. The Head Greenkeeper is the professional who does know the requirements for the standard set. In addition to the annual maintenance budget there may be a requirement for additional

reconstruction on the course. Commonly many clubs are rebuilding and enlarging tees, rebuilding defunct soil based greens, improving pathways and rebuilding bunkers. Such new construction needs to be planned years in advance so it can be adequate resource.

It should be noted that some clubs see the control of the budget as one of limiting expenditure and not controlling expenditure. While these two are often taken as one, they are completely different. It may be that the club will need to increase expenditure to maximise its resources and achieved the desired standards. A large initial capital outlay to purchase new machinery might enable the course to be run more efficiently. This could have two benefits, either additional part time summer labour that is normally taken need not be employed, or that labour can be redeployed to increase and improve course presentation.

Conclusion

The role of the Green Committee is therefore diverse and wide. It is not in any way a surro-

gate Head Greenkeeper and should leave the professionals to do the job that they are employed to do. Fundamentally, the role is one of initially determining policy and then seeing that policy implemented by liaising with the Head Greenkeeper on a regular basis. To enable that policy to be implemented will require regular liaison with the membership to ensure that continued support and funds are available to undertake the necessary work.

The secret of success is to develop what might be called the "Green Team", a true liaison and rapport between the Green Committee and the Head Greenkeeper and his staff. The Green Committee needs to support, facilitate and communicate regularly with the green staff if both parties are to be successful.

Whatever members might think, there is one thing that the Green Committee and green staff both want ardently and that is to provide the best golfing facilities for the membership. Once again three cheers for the Green Committee member for there can be few other club members whose handicap increases the more time they spend at the course.

■ John Hacker is senior agronomist with PSD Agronomy.

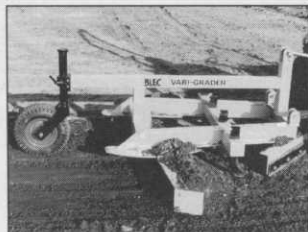
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