

Blood, sweat and cheers

The winners and the people who put them there: from left, Barry Heaney, Gerard McCartney, Graham Dale, James Braithwaite, Edward Kitson, Stuart Adams and Mark Gunter



great affection and it is not without reason because it is a course upon which he has poured a lot of blood, sweat and tears.

"I began work as a labourer on January 3 1993 building the course. There was just the Head Greenkeeper, another labourer and myself with an architect overseeing the work. We did everything by hand, wheel barrowing, shovelling, and levelling with rakes. The greens are all USGA spec and we put in the drainage and the gravel carpet," explained James.

"It took us three months to complete and I lost nearly three stones in the time and suffered from wrist splints after damaging tendons. It was quite hard going," he adds with typical understatement.

The construction work complete James asked if he could go to college and was eventually given the go-ahead.

It was then that the need arose for the other two jobs to make ends meet and he began gardening and working in the nearby Walworth Castle Hotel.

"Getting to the finals of the Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year has been great because I have learned a lot from fellow student greenkeepers and tutors who were

excellent. The competition has opened my eyes to what you can do," said James, who played age level county cricket for Derbyshire as a leg spinning opening bat.

"Even if I hadn't won being one of the eight who made it to the final would have been wonderful for my future career prospects but to have taken the top prize is superb.

"It is my ambition to go as far as I can as fast as I can. I do need a lot of experience after all I've only got three years in the industry and less than a year on a working golf course.

"In the shorter term I'm doing my level 3. I'd also like to do D32 and D33 and become an assessor.

"Further down the line I'd love to be working on a top championship golf course. It's got to be everyone's ambition... or to turn a new course into a championship course," said James, who

lists his major influences as his first Head Greenkeeper Jim Webster, current Head Greenkeeper Richard Creane, as well as his tutors at Askham Bryan.

"I'd love to see our course expand and would be one of the best in the area. It is a long nine holes and it might go to 18," explained James, whose wife, Wendy, together with kids Carla (four), and Adam (nine months), are right behind him.

The finalists had battled through college and regional qualifying to earn their place at Aldwark Manor and the huge strides in greenkeeper education have made could be measured by the quality of the eight who made it so difficult for the judges to pick a winner.

The runners-up were 19 year-old Stuart Adams of Hartpury College and Forest of Dean GC, who has already completed Level 3 and is a qualified assessor and

Gerard McCartney, (33) who works at the four – all different types – hole Greenmount College course in Belfast and still has had time to produce seven children in partnership with his wife.

They will join the PGA European Tour at two tournament venues – the English Open and the German Open to assist with the preparation of the course.

The other five finalists were Martin Bond, Richard Mills, Chas Campen, David Ray and Stephen Gransby.

But let's leave the last word to Dean Cleaver, Chairman of BIGGA's Education Sub Committee.

"I have been in greenkeeping for 22 years and have seen the improvement in the quality of the education, and the students it is producing, and it makes me proud to be associated with the industry."

● What's in store for James: see overleaf.

It was fascinating to see another world of greenkeeping at work

The previous Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year, Euan Grant gives James Braithwaite some insight as to what he might expect while in the United States.

It is only after being back a short while and having been firmly reintroduced to a 6am start that the significance of my experience in the USA has become evident.

Upon selection as the Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year, I was very excited about being offered the opportunity to study turfgrass management in America on the eight week Winter School for Turf Managers at the University of Massachusetts.

The experience was invaluable, very educational and a great eye-opener. The depth of scientific detail offered required long hours

outside the classroom to become fluent with this information and to be able to convert theory into usable turf management practices.

There were 11 separate subjects including irrigation, plant physiology, design and architecture, turfgrass calculations, entomology (study of pests to me) which were all lectured very formally by specialists in their own field. I was certainly kept on my toes with seven exams and four reports to complete during this time.

The course taught me a great deal, and followed on very well from the craft level theory and knowledge that I gained from phase II City & Guilds Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Management. I did however find that more emphasis was placed upon the importance of efficient irrigation, precise scientific theory and computerised organisation.

Bridie Redican and other female greenkeepers can also take heart from the fact that there were double the number of women on the course than in the previous year.

There is a fantastic career in American greenkeeping with very good wages and job opportunities and due to this a lot of highly educated men and women enter the profession at a fairly high level (deputy or superintendent) – rightly or wrongly, that is a separate argument – with turf related degree qualifications from various universities, but relatively little practical experience in time management, prioritising and dealing with golfers.

One aspect of greenkeeping I noticed in the States was the lack of craft level education offered to “junior” greenkeepers. There does not appear to be an equivalent to our S/NVQ or City & Guilds phase/level 1 or 2, also no

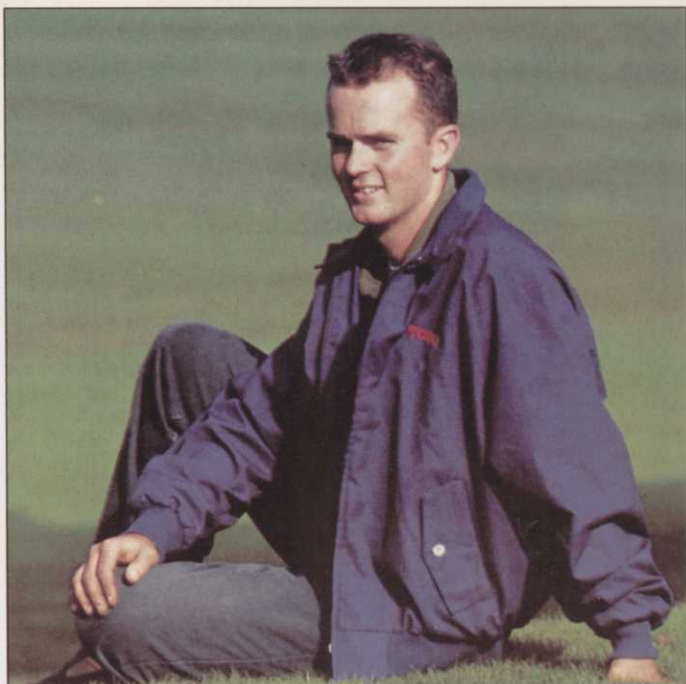
apprenticeships, or Government subsidised YTS schemes.

My belief is that, in general, British greenkeeping skills are improving rapidly with the necessary focus on education. In educating our whole workforce we are creating a base on which hands on experience can build. The S/NVQ qualifications are the means by which, either on one day a week part-time courses or block release courses, newcomers to the industry can incorporate both theory and practical, and importantly share their own work place gained experiences with others in the same situation. A business studies graduate would not expect a decent management position with British Gas, for example, without also having the necessary experience.

In educating our greenstaff we are climbing a great step to becoming a very professional career, in which people will take

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'The experience was invaluable, very educational and a great eye-opener'

SAYS LAST YEAR'S WINNER, EUAN GRANT (pictured)

interest and notice. Young people can now enter the profession identifying a career path with job satisfaction, increasing financial reward and, if worthy, job security. In return, golf clubs must recognise the importance of an entire educated greenstaff. Increasing the awareness of the whole greens team, is more essential nowadays given the latest health and safety legislation, European directives and the fact

that course managers are unavoidably spending less time on the golf course and more time in meetings, writing reports, analysing budgets and planning ahead.

It is imperative that all greenstaff, through college learning, seminars, information days and learning from our colleagues and superiors, have educated answers, holding educational evenings for the golfers, question

and answer sessions, machinery demonstrations and just talking on the golf course we can aim to constantly improve our image, let the golfing public know that golf courses do not look after themselves and that we do actually know what we are doing.

Britain is not such a long way behind the USA in the greenkeeping profession. They have some huge advantages, eg. budget, with which most of us cannot compete but our skills, knowledge and organisation right through the greens team is not inferior.

I must give a massive thank you to the Toro Company for sponsoring my chance to study and travel in the States, for giving me the opportunity to visit its machinery and irrigation factories and headquarters. Witnessing the research, manufacturing and testing facilities and procedures were fascinating, as was the San Francisco show.

Most of all, I made a lot of friends and contacts from all over North America and Canada. I have significantly increased my knowledge and have matured in my outlook to golf course management.

The job I'm always glad to see the back of is...



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Congratulations to James Braithwaite of Hallgarth Golf and Country Club Hotel, winner of this year's Toro/Lely (UK) Ltd/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper award

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Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

London

The winter workshops have now been organised and the programme is as follows:

Wednesday November 8th starting at 7pm, the subject is "Risk Assessment – Responsibilities and Control", the speaker is Mr John Allbutt. Wednesday December 6th starting at 7pm, the subject is "Identifying and Controlling Diseases" and the speaker is Dr Neil Baldwin. Wednesday January 11th starting at 5pm and the subject is "Manual Handling Efficiency" and the speaker is Mr W. Greenfield.

The Manual Handling workshop will allow delegates to receive a certificate of attendance which will be issued by our section. There is no charge for the workshops and this has been made possible by the sponsorship of the Grass Roots Trading Company. I would like to thank Jamie Bennett for his help in the organisation of the workshops. He has also mentioned that he will buy everyone who attends the first drink at the bar! Further details will be sent out and if anyone would like to reserve their places now then you can contact me on 0181 959 5629 or 0378 663576. The workshops will all be held at Mill Hill GC and it is located on the south bound carriageway of the A1 between Stirling corner and Apex corner (100 Barnet Way, Mill Hill, London, NW7 3AL).
Tony Dunstan

North West

The Autumn Tournament was played this year at Didsbury GC and once again the weather was kind to us, at least until we finished playing. Didsbury GC, which is a parkland course, was in great condition, thanks to Alec Davies and his staff, and although everybody had been suffering from the effects of the long dry summer, it was not evident at Didsbury. Alec tells me that, due to the course being low lying, they are not affected by drought, and all through the dry spell fairways were cut twice weekly. As previously stated, the course was in beautiful condition and a credit to the staff. I would like to thank Didsbury GC for allowing us the courtesy of playing on their course, the caterers for a lovely meal, the members for making us so welcome and for their gifts to swell the prize table, the bar staff, and John Fleet the Club Steward for lending me his best shirt, although I fail to see how it fits John if it fits me (Ha ha). The major prize winners were: Lowest Gross – Paul Pearse. 68 (2 under par). Lowest Nett – Dave Berry. 74-6-68. Over 55's – Bert Cross. 83-13-70. Supaturf Agg – Paul Pearse. 213.

Our friends from the trade, and guests supplied so many prizes that apart from the four major prizes, we had five nearest the pins, longest drive, three guests prizes, and 11 nett prizes. I would like to thank: Sisis, Farmura, Strike Turf, Acorn Equipment, Trident, County Crops, G.E.M, Gary Worrall Grounds Care, Gary Cusack, British Seed Houses, Richard Campey, Cheshire Sand & Top Dressing, Burrows, Construct Golf, Didsbury Club Members, Fairway Lubricants, Bathgate Top Dressing.

The Hayter final was played at another North West venue this year, West Lancashire GC. This course is a true links course proving even in reasonably calm conditions to be a good test of golf. I visited the course three weeks before the tournament and apart from the greens and tees, the course had that golden brown look about it. On the day of the tournament and after one or two showers and heavy dews, the fairways had greened up, and with the rough still having that golden look, the course was a picture of perfection. John Muir, the Head Greenkeeper, and his staff, had obviously put in a great effort and produced a course to be proud of, which was reflected in the comments from his fellow greenkeepers. Many thanks to West Lancs GC for use of their course, and their facilities. Thanks also to the senior members of the club, for ball spotting and keeping the games moving, and the two members who did a great job controlling the scoreboard for us. The team prize of £500 was won by the Scottish Region much to the delight of Elliott Small. The North West had one member in the frame, Paul Harley picked up a prize in division two.

I have just returned from the machinery exhibition at

Haydock Park, and it was nice to see so many North West members. While chatting to greenkeepers I realised just how many said that they would be starting hollow tining and top dressing once this week was over. This means of course that they now have a battle against the weather, and if over seeding, hoping that the frost keeps away. Perhaps it may be an advantage to carry out this work in mid-August when conditions are better, the seed will germinate quicker, and less disruption takes place. I know golf club members would probably snarl at the idea, but they would gain in the end. Just a thought but maybe worth trying. That seems to be it, but any queries or news please ring me on 0151 724 5412.

Bert Cross

West of Scotland

Firstly, we must mention the disappointing result at the finals of the Hayter Challenge. The section representatives appear to have put aside all the traditions established over the years with regards to socialising. The Scottish representatives were, for a change, made up of people who could actually play the game. Only kidding folks, well done on a very successful trip south, the first ever win, may we have many more. Congratulations to our section members Sandy Brawley, David Mowatt and Martin Carey.

The Autumn meeting held at Helensburgh on the September 20 was a resounding success with over 50 competitors taking part. The course was set up in championship condition, fast greens and thoughtful pin positions. Well done Ronnie on producing the course in such good condition. Thank you to the Captain for presenting the prizes and the members for allowing our section members courtesy of the course. The catering staff should be congratulated on producing an excellent meal for all, matching the fine sunshine of the day. The results on the day were as follows: Scratch – S Hogg – Drumpellier – 72. 1st Class: 1st – S Taylor – Killermont 72-2-70, 2nd – D Johnston – 77-6-71, 3rd – G Bruen – E Kilbride – 81-7-74. 2nd Class: 1st – A McDowell – Torrance House – 84-16-68, 2nd – R Miles – Helensburgh – 83-13-70, 3rd – G Mowatt – Helensburgh – 85-11-74. 3rd Class – 1st – G Dingwall – Crowwood – 83-18-65, 2nd – J McCann – Gleddoch House – 96-24-72, 3rd – G Nisbet – Killermont – 100-24-76. Nearest the Pin at 16th – J Young, Apprentice trophy – G Bruen – East Kilbride, Visitor's prize – N Jenkins – Cawder – 86-11-75, Trade Prize – B Inglis – Souters – 73-1-72.

A couple of errors on my part in the last issue of the magazine, firstly the AGM date is December 7 at Renfrew instead of November 14, and secondly notification of events will be individual instead of booklet form.

Recently a challenge was received from the East section for an 11 a side football game, therefore a trial has to be arranged to select a team. A date will be chosen within November and members interested should contact a committee member to find the venue and date.

The five a side football tournament so far has had the following entries: Glasgow GC, Balmore GC, Douglas Park GC, Easter Moffat and Drumpellier, Pollock and Cowglen, Campsill, Renfrew and Gleddoch, and East Kilbride. The date set was Sunday 29th October from 10am -12pm although this may have changed dependent on availability of players and teams. The results will be included in the future issues.

Finally congratulations to Steven Hogg and wife Marie on the recent birth of a baby girl (Rebecca), I hope wife and child are in full health. If anybody has interesting information for publication please phone myself on 0141 942 5554 at any time.

Stuart Taylor

East Midlands

Our section had the privilege this year to play our Autumn Tournament at Kedleston Park. The course was in excellent condition which is a great credit to Dave Leatherland and his staff. Despite some awful weather forecasts we played on a lovely autumn day with the following members collecting the prizes:- Category 1: 0-9 – P Tatlow

(Kedleston Park) 75-6-69, R Barker (Kirby Muxloe) 76-4-72, P Forshaw (Ramsdale Park) 78-6-72, D Leatherland (Kedleston Park) 81-9-72. Category 2: P Billings (Cotgrave Place) 78-10-68, A Bindley (Kirby Muxloe) 84-15-69, J Dickinson (Hucknall) 89-10-79, S Goode (Scraftoft) 89-10-79. Category 3: T Foster (Cotgrave Place) 90-19-71, M Johnson (Hinckley) 92-21-71, G Robson (Lingdale) 95-24-71, M Bindley (Kirby Muxloe) 93-21-72. Nearest the Pin – R Barker, Longest Drive – P Forshaw.

Our thanks go the Kedleston Park GC for their courtesy and hospitality on the day, also to our sponsors for the day Charnwood and Highmeres Lawnmower Services for presenting us with such a fine prize table. This year's winners of the doubles K/O cup were D. Leatherland and P. Tatlow. Please try to attend this year's AGM at Kirby Muxloe as it is important that members bring forward their views and ideas for next year's committee.

Congratulations go to Ian Dunmore on winning the longest drive at the Hayter Challenge final.

Moving on to The Longcliffe Men's invitation and again section members fared well with Richard Barker and Richard Minton (of Miracle Professional) winning the Best Gross score of the day with 72, and Roger Barker and myself winning in the 2s competition.
Antony Bindley

North of Scotland

Remember what I said last month about the weather evening itself out, well I don't think it has stopped raining since. Some parts of our section had the entire September rainfall in 24 hours. Unfortunately our autumn outing fell on one of these days and had to be postponed and rearranged. We hope to visit Grantown for our Autumn outing next year. Meanwhile this year's outing was combined with our AGM in October at Peterhead, details of which will appear next magazine. The four 200 Club winners were, £30 no.55 Geddes – Ellon, £30 no.161 D Marnoch – Peterculter, £40 no.135 D Morrison – Alloa and £100 no.83 A Macrae – Dornoch.

Three more new members have joined the Section, Martin Smith a trainee at Torvean, Inverness; Garry MacLennan, a Trainee at Strathpeffer, and Angus Macrae, from Carnoustie, who is a student at Elmwood College. We welcome back to the Section Alick Mackay.

Congratulations to the Scottish lads on winning the Hayter Challenge, especially Section members Kevin Peace, Inverurie; Sandy Reid, Letham Grange and Patrick Wood, Newmacher. Sandy also won two individual prizes as well as the sweep that was organised by the Scots and Irish lads. Good and bad news from young Brian Cocker, the good news was his new job as Assistant Greenkeeper at Drunog GC in Fife, but unfortunately his first week there coincided with the Hayter final and when he got a call asking him to play as someone had pulled out he was unable to do so! Next year's Scottish final will be at Royal Aberdeen giving North members a great chance to make the team.

The two Patron's award recipients for this year are Gordon Mckie, Tain, and Hughie Mclatchie, Peterhead. Well done to these two and thank you for supporting your section so much over the past year. Spare a thought for Steve Sullivan, Craigie Hill, and Stuart Hogg, Fortrose, who actually tied with Hughie but lost out in the draw for the one prize, your turn will come if you keep attending events next year.

Thanks to Eddie Adams, St Andrews for the first donation to my Augusta Fund, a similar amount from every BIGGA member should just be enough!
Iain Macleod

Scottish Region

"We are the Champions!" At last after eight years we found the winning formula and the Scottish Region won the team event in the Hayter Challenge Final. Played over the testing West Lancashire course the lads scored a convincing 10 shots victory over the nearest challengers. After the practice round it was obvious (to the manager anyway) that patience, not bravado was required to score over

this difficult true links course. Nett scores in the 70s were asked for and seven out of nine delivered. This on top of a marvellous 68 nett from Sandy Reid (four shots better than anyone else) was enough to put us in among the leaders after the morning 18. The manager was scenting a possible victory and a walk around the course to encourage the team gave him even more hope. However I couldn't seem too confident back at the clubhouse – in reply to a "Your team is looking good" a nonchalant "Aye, no too bad".

Our first two low handicap men followed up their steady morning rounds with two consistent nine holes and then from the man who had suffered (in more ways than one in the morning) and who had been asked for a 33 afternoon nine, that's what we got. Knew you wouldn't let us down George. Now we were looking good and when our fourth man returned a 37.5 we were now 12 shots ahead.

The manager needed a drink, who better to buy it than the Managing Director of our sponsors. Wait a minute though our next man in wasn't having a good day, the gap has closed to seven shots. But not to worry our last four "kept the heid" and closed out the opposition with great panache (well it sounds good). WHAT A TEAM! Every one a hero. And that team was:- Sandy Brawley, East Kilbride; George Brown, Turnberry; Martin Carey, Balmore; David Mowatt, Glasgow; Keith McCartney, Dumfries and Galloway; Kevin Peace, Inverurie; Sandy Reid, Letham Grange; Alan Russell, Torphin Hill; Patrick Wood, Newmachar. As well as winning the team event the following won individual prizes: Sandy Reid, Under 21's plus 1st in the first class, George Brown, Veterans, plus 3rd in the first class and David Mowatt 3rd in the third class. Well done lads you were brilliant. Every one of you. Elliott – Bernard Gallacher – Small

Devon and Cornwall

My report this month starts with your legal help card which you receive as part of your membership package. During the summer I needed the advice of the legal help line regarding my consumer rights after a problem in a shop. The advice enabled me to return to the shop armed with the legal facts regarding my rights, with this I was able to gain a satisfactory outcome. Speaking to many colleagues since the event it has become evident that many members do not realise that the legal help line can be used for any legal matter. So don't just put the card away and forget about it, use it if you have any legal problems you require advice on however small, it's your privilege as a member.

Our Christmas meeting will once again be held at Okehampton GC on Wednesday December 13.

As last year, numbers will be limited to the first 80 members who reply by the closing date. The day will commence with a greensome Stableford competition for the P J Flegg Trophy, as usual our non golfing members will have the now customary tour of the course before returning to the club house for some festive spirit! After Christmas lunch members can sit back and enjoy comedian Jasper who comes highly recommended by Tank Sherman.

Only a few places remain on the region's WESTURF-subsidised trip to BTME 1996 which is held in the splendid town of Harrogate. If you intend to take advantage of the package which includes return coach travel, three nights accommodation, entry to the exhibition and all seminars for only £99 contact Gordon Child at once on 01803 844056 to avoid disappointment.

Richard Whyman

Around the Green



Cleveland

Welcome to new members: Gary Carmichael, Billingham GC; Roger Douglas, Billingham GC; Andrew Hall, Middlesbrough GC; Paul Keyworth, Whitby GC; Stuart Cook, Saltburn GC; Roger Everson, Hallgarth GC.

Welcome also to section sponsor Dick Lawson Ltd, Kubota main dealer.

Future events include January 18 1996 Chris Peel ADAS, on "Annual Meadow Grass", February 15 Dave Stephenson of D & E Turf – Toro main dealer, March 21 British Seed Houses, Bob Tweddle on "New Cultivars".

Head Greenkeepers meet first Monday in the month at 1pm.

Our section sponsors are:- Dick Lawson, Brian Skeen, Liam Galloway, Turf Care and Bowes & Raine. Bruce Burnell

East of Scotland

Well not a lot to report this month so here we go. In October we had our Autumn Tournament at Prestonfield GC with kind courtesy of the course from Captain and Council. Thanks to them. It was a good day I have been told, as I was not able to attend due to other commitments so there will be a full report in next month's issue when I get a report of all the scores. Tickets for the dance on December 2nd are going fast with only a few left so get booking them now or you will be too late. The section AGM will be held at Swanston GC on Thursday November 23. The day will be sponsored by Stewarts & Co this year so let's see a big turnout for the morning seminar and the afternoon AGM, as the turnout has been poor in years gone by. Remember it is your chance to air your views about your section, so lets see you there. By the time you read this you will have entertained the North East of England greenkeepers in our annual Stewarts & Co match so we will let you know the result next month. Letters concerning the AGM and winter lectures will be with you soon. So if you have anything to let us know about drop me a line and I will put it in a future report. That's it till next time. Chris Yeaman

Surrey

On Tuesday September 5 the Parker Salver was held at Tyrells Wood GC, it was a better ball competition and 13 pairs played. The weather was dry for most part of the day but the last few pairings got caught in a heavy shower of rain but this did not deter the winners with an incredible score of 49 points obtained by Alex Bradshaw and I. Lambert of Malden GC, a right pair of "Bandits"! 2nd. Ronnie Christie and L Dennis-Smith with 46 points 3rd. the Box-all pairing with 45 points. All I can say about the scoring is that due to the long dry summer the ball goes a long way, but you still have to get the points. Some greenkeepers obviously pick guests with dodgy handicaps.

I should like to thank Tyrells Wood GC for allowing us the courtesy of the course. The caterers for an excellent meal and my staff for helping me through a hot dry summer and producing a course of which I am proud.

Bert Watson, Head Greenkeeper, Tyrells Wood GC. My thanks go to Bert for taking the time to produce this piece.

Dinner Dance tickets are still available November 10th Reigate Manor Hotel price £18.00.

Congratulations to Mick and Simon Kirkham upon achieving distinction in Phase IV Business Management at Plumpton College and Simon of Milford GC for also achieving Distinctions for practical, course work, written exam on NVQ Level 2 at Merrist Wood College.

A mention of the proposed visit to Ransomes at Ipswich. Any greenkeepers who would be interested should register their names with the Section Secretary. Obviously the more the merrier.

Committee vacancies are on offer, anybody interested in the running of the Surrey Section and would like to be more involved again please contact the committee members listed on the front of your '95 fixture list.

Venues are still required for 1996 so if you are interested in hosting a BIGGA event in the coming year, telephone Derek Walder on 01737 246088. The second winter lecture has been organised for February. The lecture is to be given by British Seed Houses. Date and venue to be announced.

Forthcoming events include 1st winter lecture by Gordon Jaaback at Kingswood GC on November 13, also the Turkey Trot at Effingham GC on December 6. David Gibbs

Northern

By the time you read this the heatwave and drought will be a distant memory and no doubt hollow tining and top dressing will be complete and your efforts will be directed towards winter construction work.

Section plans for the winter programme will include a lecture on Golf Course Design and Construction to be given by ADAS at West Bowling GC in November and a talk on Irrigation by Par 4 of Ripon in March also at West Bowling GC. The Christmas golf competition is in the process of being arranged and it is hoped this will be held early in December followed by the AGM. A mailshot giving further details will be circulated to all members as soon as possible.

A two day Northern Region Management Course will be held at the Dean Court Hotel in York, February 7 and 8. The Course will be £50 per person and includes one night's accommodation and meals. Anybody interested should contact Bob Lupton, Regional Administrator on 01782 750539 as soon as possible as places are limited.

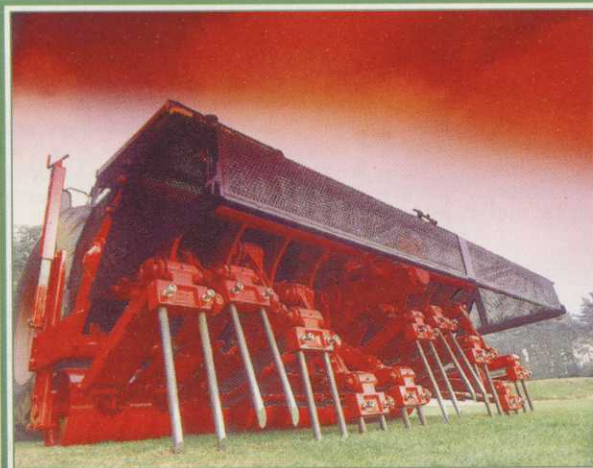
Our good wishes to Brian Carr who has left Howley Hall GC and taken a post with Chapel Allerton Tennis Club. Brian was unhappy with the structure of the golf club committee at Howley.

Norman Seddon, sales representative for Aitkens, retired at the end of August and his many friends in the Northern Section wish him a long and happy retirement.

If you have any news or information which would be of interest to Northern Section members please contact me on 01423 889058.

Ayrshire

The section's autumn outing was held on the 16th September over Kilmarnock Barassie. It was a welcome relief from a summer spent mostly holding hoses at all.



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- Leaves playing surface in superb condition



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hours of the day and night. Apart from a couple of showers and a fair coastal breeze the day was excellent for golf, although many of the scores would have you believing the aforementioned hoses were being used instead of clubs. The prize winners were as follows:- Scratch - I McNab, 1st Class - 1st G Brown, 2nd - K Hills, 3rd K Haddow. 2nd Class - 1st - G Haughey, 2nd - D Gray, 3rd - G Morrison. 3rd Class - 1st J Johnstone, 2nd - M Lothian, 3rd - D Nelson. The guest prize was won by E Small and the trade prize by B Ingles. The morning scramble was won by S McKay, R Bruce, K Hills and K Haddow, with runners up P Rae, R Blackburn, D Nelson and A Lee.

A good turnout of over 40 certainly enjoyed the day, and our thanks must go to the Captain, Mr J Morrison, and the Kilmarnock Barassie members for the courtesy of the course, also to Ruby and her staff for a memorable meal (with accompaniments) and lastly to Brian Finlayson and his staff for the excellent condition of the course. My new phone number for any news is 01387 710389. Till next month.
Duncan Gray

East of England

The autumn East of England section tournament was held at Spalding GC. Sponsoring the day was Lambs Lawnmowers of Peterborough, with other prizes donated by Aitkins, Oliver Bro Seeds, Fieldcare, Rigby Taylor and Lubrication Engineers. The course was in superb condition thanks to Head Greenkeeper Tony Ward and his staff. The course has four new holes which matched in well with the existing course and was a stiff test especially off the white tees. The winners coming through a tough challenge were as follows: 1st - G A Macdonald - Eyebury - 32 points, 2nd - S Piggot - Belton Woods - 29 points, 3rd - R Owen - Boston West - 27 points, 4th T Scotney - Sleaford - 26 points. Nearest the pin - S Dunthorne - Elton Furze.

The next event is on the 12th October at Sleaford GC when the Greenkeepers take on the Association of Golf Club Secretaries.

The AGM is in November when we hope to organise nine holes before the meeting. A winter lecture will be run in February following on from last year's successful seminar, hopefully at Kenwick Park (more details will follow).
Graeme MacDonald

South Wales

Congratulations to Neil Smith and his wife Meryl on their recent wedding celebrations, I hope the hangovers have subsided and the mower lines are back on course.

My personal thanks to all of those who gave up their holidays and free time to be a member of the Greenkeeper Support Team at the recent Walker Cup. There are too many to mention personally, but you will all know who you are! A sincere congratulations to David Ward and his committed young team of staff who worked tirelessly to bring the course to perfection only to see it attacked mercilessly by the dreaded Take All Patch Fungi. I'm sure that I speak on behalf of everyone that was present when I say that an enjoyable time was had by all, it was an experience and a pleasure to be involved. Our thanks also to the Royal Porthcawl GC for their invitation to be involved and for their hospitality during the event.

Fabulous weather, a glorious location, the autumn competition at the Langland Bay GC for the Jacobsen Cup. A sincere thank you to Keith Morgan for his continued support and sponsorship of this event. As always the prize table that was on offer was superb, our thanks also to Martin and Jonathan Morgan who represented Keith Mor-

Around the Green



gan Mowers in Keith's absence. The attendance could have been better, but as they say "it's the quality that counts".

Results:- Winner of the Jacobsen Cup, with a Nett 66, winning a golf bag was Andrew Hatcher of the Creigiau GC. Second best nett with a 70 was P Lacey (yours truly) winning a "Hippo" sweater. Winner of the Presidents Cup, with a Gross of 76 and winning a windcheater was Inco's Mike Jones. Winner of the Waycott Cup with a 72 was Caerphilly's Julian Bartlett Jones. Our thanks to all at the Langland Bay GC for their hospitality, to the caterers for an excellent meal and to Ken Payne and his staff for their hard work in preparing the course, (who would have thought that they had Verti-Drained the Greens one week prior to our arrival), that's what you call living dangerously.

My sincere apologies go to Kevin Green and his team organisers for the Annual Match between the sections that didn't take place. For those who don't know, the match that should of taken place at the Cotswold Hills GC, Cheltenham had to be called off through lack of support. Again apologies to the South West Section and also to Cotswold Hill for wasting their valuable time.

Dates for the diary: November 22nd - STRI Seminar, The Celtic Manor GC. November 29th - the Regional Seminar, Cannington. December 13th - Xmas Competition, Pyle and Kenfig GC. January 22-26th 1996 - The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition.
Peter Lacey

Midland

Having spoken to several Head Greenkeepers/Course Managers in the area, we all seem to have the same problem. Members, with short memories of the very dry summer, who wonder why we have bare patches on the fairways etc.

The Autumn Tournament was played at Maxstoke Park GC on September 25th. The weather held good for the whole day, which we all expected as it was the Reverend's (Traford's) retirement day with his BIGGA colleagues. Results:

1. (Gross) P. Woodham 111; 1. (Nett) D. Fellows 106; 2. P. Loffman 107; 3. V. Lee 109 (Countback); 4. P. Holtman 109; 5. A. Roberts 110.5; 6. J. Palmer 112; 7. M. Cutler 112; 8. M. Hughes 113.5; 9. M. Jones; 10. R. Thomas 114.5; 11. P. Richmond 115.

Longest drive sponsored by TACIT - P. Woodham; Nearest the Pin sponsored by TACIT - P. Woodham.

The trade prize was won by Ivan Toon (ALS) with an amazing score of 102. Unfortunately the video cameraman put off another good contender for the prize when a case of camera shyness got the better of him.

Thank you to Maxstoke Park GC, the Captain Mr Walker, Andrew Ross and his staff and finally to the clubhouse and catering staff for their warm welcome.

Many thanks also to Sunderland for the prize, all companies for their support and R. Jones (Motrac) and John

Mullins (Supaturf).

The section presented R. Stonebridge with a Whisky Decanter and four glasses with a plaque from the Midland Section.

The Christmas Tournament at Worfield GC will be followed by the AGM at 5.30pm - as mentioned in the October issue.

New members into the section are - Peter Wooldridge, Andrew Lane, Reginald Ilsley, David Richardson and David Shortridge.

Finally to end on a sad note may all the members of Midland Section send sincere condolences to the families of Mr Peter Dodds and Mr Bill Boyce who died recently
Kim Blake

South West

With Winter now upon us and colleagues having enrolled students for full and part time courses in Greenkeeping Management so the opportunity for education at section level becomes available in several respects.

Firstly, as briefly mentioned in last month's report, Education Officer Ken Richardson has now confirmed that a management course will take place at Thornbury Golf Centre near Bristol on February 12 and 13, 1996. Frank Newbury is the instructor for a course entitled "Essentials for Busy Supervisors". There are vacancies for a maximum of 12 people at a greatly subsidised figure of £50 per head which includes accommodation and meals. Anyone interested should contact Ken at Headquarters sending a cheque for £10 as a deposit to secure a place.

By now everyone will have received an application form for BTME 1996 with prices kept at £99 for members. Many people have already shown interest so an early return of the booking form would be advisable.

Another date for the diary as stated last month is this year's Regional Educational Seminar to be held once again at Cannington College on November 29.

Finally to conclude the education theme a First Aid course has been arranged for November 21 at Filton GC, Bristol, to be run by Medical Training Services. This worthwhile course covers emergency treatment from the small cut or sprain to giving life-saving heart massage. If interested please contact me as soon as possible on 0117 9793127 to book a place. The cost of day to include lunch will be determined dependent on numbers.

Our winning run in team matches came to an end on September 21 when we played the South Coast Section at Lee-on-Solent GC and were beaten convincingly. Those who went thoroughly enjoyed the day which culminated in an excellent evening meal and late return home! Thanks to the South Coast lads for organising the day and for their hospitality.

The match against the South Wales Section unfortunately had to be cancelled due to unavailability of members from the South Wales team.

A belated welcome to Janet Adamson who has taken on the position of Membership Services Officer for the Association. Janet has already made several changes which should improve communication when dealing with new and existing members. The Section membership can play its part by informing her and myself as soon as possible of any change of address and/or particularly any new telephone number. On behalf of the Section we wish her every success in her new position.

Finally this year's Christmas Tournament is to be held at Puckrup Hall Hotel and GC on December 14. Morning golf and Christmas lunch followed once again by a comedian who hopefully will create more laughs than last year.
Kevin Green

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*Comment From Walter Woods
St. Andrews Links Golf Course supervisor*

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COURSES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

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Sheffield

On September 25 we held our Autumn Tournament at Coxmoor GC. Our thanks go to the committee of Coxmoor GC for allowing us the courtesy of their beautiful golf course. Also thanks go to Kevin Atherton and his staff for having the course in such excellent condition and the stewardess for providing us with a very good evening meal. Results:

1. Barry Kilcline 38pts; 2. Steven Currie 37pts; 3. N. Maltby, K. Kirkham, M Coultas and P. Neve 36pts.

Our thanks for the prize table go to John Price of Yorkshire Mowers, main sponsor for this tournament, A Dyson-Gem; S. Burrows, Amenity Sports Turf; B. Booth, Rigby Taylors; P. Fell, Aitkens Sport Turf and L. Purdy, Purdy's.

On October 5 we held our first winter lecture at Rotherham GC. Our thanks go to John Hughes of British Seed Houses and Mike Robinson, President of Seed Research of Oregon, USA. Our AGM was held after this lecture and the following members were elected on to the committee for 1995/96. President, Mr K. Arnold, Secretary, R. Ullathorne; Chairman, N. Maltby; Treasurer, D. Milbourne; Committee S. Hird, E. Mone, J. Lax and S. Currie.

Dates to remember - Christmas golf competition, November 29, Wortley GC and December 14, Nick Bissett, Askham Bryan College.

R. Ullathorne

South Coast

Our next meeting is on December 5 at The Royal Winchester GC and is a Turkey Trot competition followed by our AGM. The day's format is an 18 hole Stableford teeing off at 10am with the AGM at 4pm followed by an evening meal at 5.30pm. Any members wishing to play should send their handicap and a fee of £13.50 to Mark Webb, 12 Lime Rd, Alesford, Hants, SO2 49LD. Cheques to be made payable to BIGGA South Coast Section. All golf entries must be in 10 days before the competition.

Any nominations for committee members or items for the agenda should be sent to Alan Mitchell, 45 Constable Close, Sholing, Southampton, Hants, SO2 8EN, three weeks before the AGM.

The South Coast v South West team match took place on September 21 at Lee on Solent GC. Congratulations to our team on a resounding 4-1 victory, the first I understand for quite a few years. It's a pity our Captain didn't do better.

The Autumn Tournament took place on October 3 at Ferndown GC. Results:

Jacobsen Trophy. 1. John York 40pts (on countback); 2. Shaun White 40pts; 3. Jason Moody 39pts; 4. Andy McDonald 38pts; 5. Paul Jackson 37pts. Nearest the Pin Roger Williams.

Thanks go to Ferndown GC for its hospitality, the catering staff for a great meal and to all the sponsors. Also a special thanks to Head Greenkeeper Phil Longman and his staff for producing an excellent golf course.

Jeff Drake

Mid Anglia Section

All Section members should have, by now received a fixture list for 95-96. As you can see, the committee have endeavoured to book some excellent golf courses for next years events. The only event not listed is the Texas Scramble for 1996, which will probably be at Dunstable Downs, another top course in the area. This will be confirmed at a later date.

The regional seminar will be held on November 29 at the Sketchley Grange Country Hotel and Conference Centre. Further details of speakers etc will be forwarded to all members by Roger Willars, the Regional Administrator, by mid-November. I know that it involves a long journey for some members, and attempts have been made to bring the event closer to home, but suitable venues have been hard to find. Last year there were only four members from the Mid Anglia section in attendance, so I hope we can improve on that this year.

A Health and Safety update has been arranged on January 9 with John Allbutt. This will take place at the Family Golf Centre, and is an all day event. Also arranged is a "Course Visit" to Ashridge GC on the March 6 with Jim Cassidy. If for any reason you have not received a fixture card please contact Gerald Bruce, our Section Secretary. An entry form for our Christmas Texas Scramble Competition on December 1st should also have been received. This event takes place at Ashridge GC, with a £20 cost for members and £30 for guests. List your team on the form and enter combined handicaps. If you do not have four people to complete a team, and still wish to play, send the form off and Richard will try to put you with other members in the same situation to make up a team.

Around the Green



The final of the Lodgeway Fourball Competition was held on Friday 6 October at Woburn Golf and Country Club.

It was played over 36 holes, 18 on the Duke's Course and 18 on the Duchess. The finalists were Rupert Lawrence and Eddie Thompson from Berkhamsted Golf Club, against Jon Moorhouse and John Wells of Brocket Hall GC. I joined the match at the start of the afternoon round on the Duchess Course with the two Johns two up. The match ebbed and flowed and was all square on the 16th. The 17th was won by Jon Moorhouse with an up and down from a bunker, for a par 3. By this time the weather had deteriorated to torrential rain and I did not envy the four players as they prepared for their tee shots at the 18th and final hole, with the match poised as it was. Anyway, Jon and John managed to win the 18th as well to win 2 up. Congratulations to them both for winning and to Eddie and Rupert, congratulations as well for making such a hotly contested final in such appalling conditions. Although I wasn't playing, it was quite clear to see that the greens were in top condition for the event. Many thanks to Neil and his staff, and to Woburn for allowing us to stage the final there. Also thanks to Chas Ayres once again for organising the competition and to his company Lodgeway Tractors for its committed support of the event. I'm sure we will all be looking forward to next years event.

Paul Lockett

Sussex

The Sussex Section had a very well attended Autumn Meeting at Worthing GC with 57 players. Congratulations to Rob Short and his team for preparing both courses to an excellent standard with no signs of damage from the drought. Parker Hart sponsored the day with magnificent prizes, as usual, and we had further pin and raffle prizes from Avoncrop, Vitax, Bourne & Co, Pattisons, Kings, Rigby Taylor, Farmura and CMW. Our sincere thanks to you all for your ongoing support.

The free entries to the Turkey Trot on 8th December at Littlehampton go to Ray Day for the best three Medal scores, and to Chris Allen for the best 3 Stableford scores this season. Congratulations. We will run this same scheme again next year and, if you play in all three meetings, who knows... it could be you!

Congratulations also to Rob Short on his marriage to Sarah on October 28, Andy Ford to Sue on September 23, and Mike McQueen to Janine on June 23. We hope this is not going to affect your golf in any way!

We have had a very good year and have gained more and more playing members as the year has gone on. Next year we start at East Sussex National in the Spring and look forward to a record turnout from you all. In the meantime, warm wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Stefan Antolik

North Wales

I can say without any hesitation that a great day was had by all at our Autumn Meeting held at Chirk GC on 11th October 1995. George and his staff looked after us very well with regard to the course, which I felt was a credit to them all. The food and service by all the staff within the clubhouse was second to none and once again on behalf of the Association I would like to thank you all.

85 entrants proved to be a good turnout as many Greenkeepers were still busy on their course. Alan Lewis of Llanymynech GC took the best gross with 38pts just beating Terry Adamson of Gem Professional on the back nine. The following prize winners were:- Kevin Jones, Abergele; Edward Ainsworth, Caldyl; Andrew Jarvis, Chirk; George Whitty, Chirk; Chris Davies, Abergele; John Humphreys, Oswestry; Phil Davies, Mommersteeg; Alan Kift, Northop; Les Parry, Arrowpark; Andy Campbell, Carden Park; Pat Valentine, Abergele; Haydon Jones, Chirk; Mrs E Barlow, Nine of Clubs; Andy Peel, Bull Bay. Nearest the pin was won by Mr M Harbour and the ball sweep by T Marriot and G Timmis each received 12 balls. My congratulations to you all for being amongst the prizes and better luck to the rest of us next time. My thanks to all the spon-

sors we are all grateful for your kind donations:- Gem Professional, Mommersteeg International, Major Owen, Acorn Equipment, Ki Chem, John Osman, Pro Turf, Rigby Taylor, R D Jones Golf Construction. We hope to see you all again in December.

My thanks to all who took part in the raffle for Kids for Kids, Julie Hargroves did a great job for me making an even £100 which I have delivered to the charity and I am sure a letter of thanks will follow.

Can I beg forgiveness from Dave Proctor after reporting wrongly his move from Baron Hill, he has moved to Storws-Wen Golf Club, Brynteg, Benllech and once again wish him luck for the future.

"OK, what's coming up next?", we have our Christmas meeting at Prestatyn Golf Club on the 13th December, you should receive your forms at the beginning of November. Prompt replies please. There is also a trip to Holland on the 15/16 of March 1996 I am sure this outing will be popular so if you feel you are up to it see either Terry Adamson or Phil Davies. I hope I have not missed anybody out. See you all at Prestatyn.

Terry Evans

North East

Thursday September 28 saw us playing the Autumn Competition at Garesfield for the first time.

Congratulations to Derek Cruddas and his staff for the excellent condition of the course especially the greens a bit too fast for the most of us, but everyone enjoyed the day. Our thanks to the following donators:- Ryton Gravel Co, Shorts, Rickerbys, Fewsters, Greenlay, Stewarts, Aitkens, Sport Turf Services, Border Turf Services and to the following Golf Clubs:- L. Tyneside, Arcot Hall, Whitburn, Whitley Bay, Stocksfield, Warkworth, Consett, Prudhoe Bolden, winners of trophies as follows: Best Gross, A McSure - 75 - Whickham GC, Best nett, Ransomes Cup, R Black - 70 nett - Westerhope GC, Greenlay Cup, D Street - 73 nett - Bolden GC, Feusters Shield, T Mooney - 79 nett - Bolden GC.

On October 5 the annual match against the East Lothian section took place at Hirsell GC, Coldstream. Again it was a hard fought match with only a 10 man team for the N.E against a full strength 12 man team for the Lothian. However the North East managed to retain the trophy by drawing 3-3; thanks to Stewarts of Edinburgh again for sponsoring the day and providing the prizes. Results as follows: R Black & D Dally beat T Murray & A Holmes 3/2, K Rutherford & A Dally halved G Thompson & T Shepherd, D Street & B Wilson beat R Hogarth & S Crawford 3/2, T Mooney & G Atkinson lost to G Wood & A Forrest 6/5, J Johnson lost to C Noble & J Neilson 4/3, J Richardson halved S Dixon & C Yeaman. On behalf of the North East Section we would like to thank the Scottish lads for their nice gesture of giving us a moonies on departing from the golf club.

If anyone has a vermin problem on their course they can contact David Reid of the Hobson Golf Club between 12noon and 12.30pm, phone number is 01207 270790 he tells me he's doing work for a couple of courses in the area.

Congratulations to Paul Robison of Ryton GC who recently got married. Also I hear that Barry Wilson of Stocksfield GC is also tying the knot in November.

Jimmy Richardson

B, B & O

Although you are reading this article some four weeks after the last golfing event the results will not be posted until the December edition.

This is due to the deadline date for publication - I'm sure the suspense is killing you.

Due to lack of entries the Rigby Taylor Fourball is postponed until the spring. This is thought to be a better time to play the event - longer days, better weather etc. All the people who did send their entries should be informed of the situation and cheques returned.

Events taking place in the near future are the Regional Seminar at Sketchley Grange on November 29 and the Turkey Trot at Frilford Heath on December 4. Good luck to Locky Morrison on his move to Dulwich & Sydenham Hill Gc. Locky is well known throughout the section having worked at Mapledurham GC for the past three years.

Lastly because of the poor turnouts at golfing events this year all golf days will be subsidised to keep the cost of the day down. This will take effect from the spring tournament 1996. Hopefully this will encourage more people to play.

If you have any comments with regards to this decision then please come along to the AGM in December. This takes place after the Turkey Trot at Frilford Heath.

Lindsay T. Anderson



The rise of the CLUB MECHANIC

The Club Mechanic is becoming an increasingly important member of a staff at golf clubs

How many clubs rely on a mechanically minded greenkeeper to get a machine back on the fairway when it falters? As often happens, the result of his efforts is your man covered from head to foot in axle grease and the machine still immobile. The dealer would then be called and "a man who can" despatched to administer whatever assistance was required.

All this time the stricken machine would lie idle, an unsightly reminder of an important job not completed.

Nowadays many clubs are "insuring" themselves against such a scenario by employing their own mechanics and it is a policy which looks to pay dividends.

One such course is Greetham Valley, near Oakham in Rutland, where Steve Randall has recently taken up the post of Club Mechanic in charge of the club's £200,000 worth of equipment.

"It is brilliant. Having a mechanic gives you so much peace of mind. You can relax knowing that when you turn the key it will start. It's



STEVE RANDALL:
'I'm a big believer in preventative maintenance'

great having Steve about," said Adrian Porter, Head Greenkeeper.

"We have such a lot of machinery it is easier to have an on site mechanic to keep it maintained so that it all runs smoothly. It keeps cost to a minimum because you don't have the yearly expenditure of expensive mechanics.

"Normally if something broke down on the course you just had to leave it, ring up and get mechanics out. It wasn't always the case that the mechanic could come out that day.

"There have been cases that they could come out in an hour or bring you another machine but it could be a day or even two days to come out."

Steve (46) worked for a main Toro dealer in

Leicester before taking the job at Greetham Valley.

"I had been with them for nine years as a mechanic working on all Toro greens machines. I gave it a lot of thought before joining a golf club but decided I would like to get out there in the field," explained Steve.

"I was the other side of the story, going out to golf clubs to repair machinery. I found the clubs were getting young chaps to learn mechanics on these golf courses which is a slow process so we were losing work with clubs doing their own."

It could be an expensive business for a golf club which tries to take short cuts instead of using qualified people.

"On numerous occasions we would find that people had tried to do the jobs themselves. I remember one particular time where it cost the club nearly £2,000 to put it right because someone had put something together incorrectly. If that happened on two or three different jobs over the year it would be very costly."

Like all good mechanics Steve doesn't just sit in his workshop waiting for a machine to start playing up.

"I'm a big believer in preventative maintenance. If a bearing is even thinking about



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