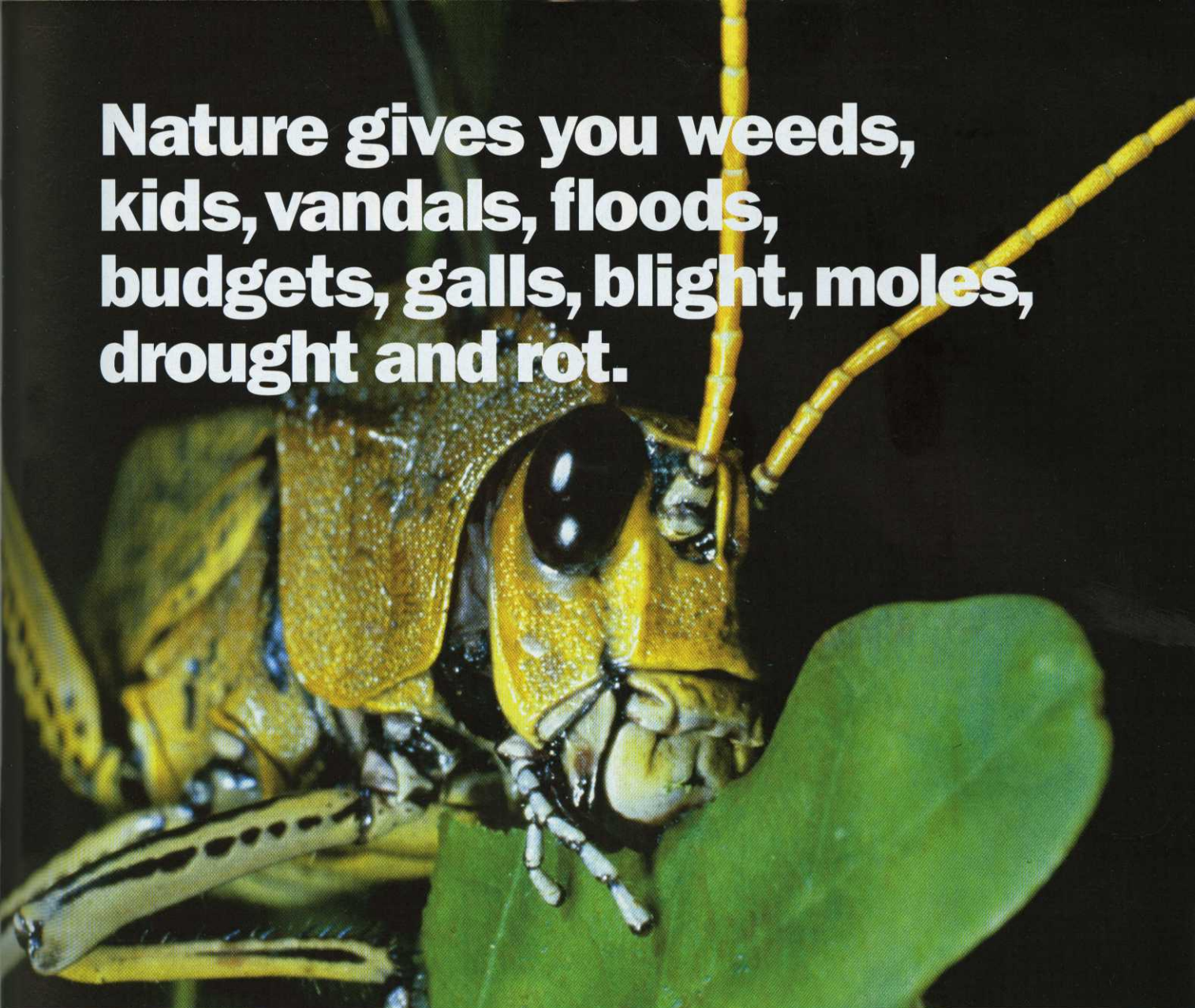


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# Preparing



Who will be on cloud nine after this year's Open? Picture by Brian Morgan

# tees fit for a Queen

**Jimmy MacDonald has seen it all before and he knows you do that little bit more when The Open pays a visit.**

The Open Championship, the pinnacle of the golfing year, is just six weeks away and the Head Greenkeeper of Royal Lytham and St Annes is in his office looking as relaxed as one would if it were the Club Championship that was just over the horizon.

Jimmy MacDonald is that type of character. Nothing much fazes him. Well why should it? He's already been Head Greenkeeper at three Opens and four Senior Opens, been Deputy at another Open, and also has a Ryder Cup and a Curtis Cup under his belt. He also coped with what would be many greenkeepers biggest nightmare during an Open.

"I'm led to believe that I'm the only living greenkeeper to have had both the Ryder Cup and The Open Championship."

For all that his Championship CV is unrivalled Jimmy had one regret.

"I'd have loved the Walker Cup. It would have completed the set for me and I'm sure we would've done well here because, other than amateur Bobby Jones, no American has ever won The Open at Lytham."

At 62 this will be Jimmy's final Open. "I feel I've just walked off the 17th and I haven't had many double bogeys but I haven't had many birdies either – I reckon I'm about level par," is his modest assessment of a career which changed course dramatically at the age of 27 after he had trained and lectured in ceramics.

It's his reserved and measured West Highland way and one which is ideal for coping with the conditions which are being thrown at him.

"With the drought of last year followed by a spring the like of which I've never experienced before it wasn't scary but it was slow. People have asked what I think will happen to the course but not many greenkeepers have experienced this so a lot of it is guesswork. You don't know what's going to be thrown at you," said Jimmy.

In those circumstances, although it is a new situation, experience is all the more important.

"We've had Fusarium on the odd green but I know that in '69 we had an extremely bad attack of it and it filled in in time and I'm relaxed in the knowledge that it should be fine by the middle of July."

The drought of last summer caused Jimmy and his team to assess the damage at the end of the year and put in place the measures necessary to bring the course to its peak for July.

"We used irrigation and over sowed many of the fairways. I'd have done some of the areas anyway but with The Open coming up I probably did about four times as much as I would have done normally.

"We did a tremendous amount of spiking



The greenkeeping team at Royal Lytham and St Annes. Jimmy MacDonald is pictured fourth from the right

and vertidrainning through the winter. I try to keep it simple and not be tempted to feed too early. Unfortunately I have the Lytham Trophy in May which is a big amateur event and I was tempted to cut a bit closer but I had to resist. As it was the course was not as good as it has been for other years for the event but it's a general feeling throughout the country."

Another area to which Jimmy pays particular attention in the run up to an Open is the fertiliser programme.

"I never want to overfeed although I know people would be tempted because of the weather situations but in the main we don't do anything differently to a normal year.

"We just maybe spent a little more time on jobs than usual. We keep the greens at a reasonable height as a little insurance, divot the fairways more regularly and cut bunker banks more regularly but perhaps not as close," he explained.

He goes on to explain the philosophy.

"If your dear old aunt was visiting you'd made a damn good tea but if the Queen were coming you'd do it a wee bit differently, wouldn't you?"

Like many, Jimmy has detected a slight change in the seasons which has perhaps accounted for some of the weather we've been experiencing.

"I've been looking through one or two old diaries from the 50s that are in the club. Things have changed. They mention 'gang mowers off for winter service mid October.' Not now they are still cutting. The change in standards may have something to do with it but they also mention greens being mown

three or four times a week in mid April so it looks as though the seasons have shunted just a little bit."

Being in an ideal position to reflect on the job of a greenkeeper he does feel that improved machinery has made it easier.

"But you still go out to a bunker like I did 30 years ago with a rake a brush and a shovel. When you build bunkers with reveted walls you still build them with the same tools.

"It is nice to see a young apprentice lay a turf and you watch as he pulls the top of it – just a little thing. I can remember the old man who taught me it the same way. The little things have carried on through the traditional elements. Being a Celt the traditional and folklore was important."

He is also immensely proud of his home nine hole course at Traigh in the West Highlands where he assisted in some rebuilding work. The 4th hole a 247 yard par-4 is called "Jimmy's Choice" after him.

"On the back nine on the scorecard it is called "Jimmy Choice" in Gaelic so I really have two holes named after me," he says proudly.

Among the other work carried out this year in advance of the Championship has been the complete rebuilding of 56 of the 185 bunkers to go along with the 50 which were done last year.

Work on developing a borehole is also well advanced and it is hoped that they'll be able to extract up to 80,000 in 12 hours, enough for one night's watering.

"It's not enough to keep them green in a drought situation too long. It's only survival kit – it'll still go brown but will recover faster after rain."

# Preparing tees fit for a Queen

Ah rain! This brings me to the situation at the last Lytham Open in 1989 which would have had many lesser men reaching for the strait jacket and voluntarily admitting themselves to the padded cell.

The Saturday of the '89 Open was completely washed out and Royal Lytham became the only venue to have had the final day of the Championship played on a Monday.

"In the end we made more friends than enemies by getting it right," recalled Jimmy.

"I just couldn't believe what I was seeing. I'd never seen anything like it before or since."

After a full day's torrential rain Jimmy and his Green's Chairman left the course at half past midnight.

"We left some pumps running and at that stage we weren't winning. It was stalemate. I went home and dozed in my chair and when I got back to the course at half past four what I saw was unbelievable – 80% of the water had gone. It must have stopped raining while I'd been dozing and while I was away the water must have penetrated the crust on top of the ground because the drains were empty."

Pressure was put on to start as soon as possible but Jimmy resisted and play resumed at 11am in threeballs.

"There wasn't a pool on the course. I felt the course that year was as good as I've ever had it

## THE GREENKEEPING TEAM

Head Greenkeeper: Jimmy MacDonald

Deputy Head Greenkeeper: Tom Knowles

Assistants: Phil Medcalf, Dave Throup, Richard Aitken, Mark Davies, Phil Ruffley and Paul Smith.

Apprentice: Andrew Webb

and if it hadn't rained and the sun had shone the greens would have been as good as I could possibly have wanted them. I've got video of all the Opens I've been involved in and watching the film of '89 the putts were rolling as truly as they could possibly go."

It says much for the condition of the golf course that year that it will always be remembered for the brilliance of Seve and his wonderful chip on the final hole to seal it against Nick Price.

"Wouldn't it be nice for Seve to win it at Lytham for a third time," said Jimmy, who is the proud owner of the flag from the 18th signed by Seve as well as a flag signed by both teams from the '61 Ryder Cup.

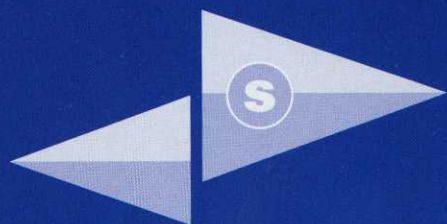
As in previous years Jimmy will be assisted during the week of the Championship by his

excellent team of eight – one more than last time – and his "Old Boys" – Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers at neighbouring courses who all worked under Jimmy either at Lytham or at Formby where he was Head Greenkeeper before returning to Lytham.

Chris and Geoff Whittle, from Royal Birkdale and St Annes Old Links respectively, Peter Simpson, from Fairhaven and Mark Broughton, from Morecombe, and possibly his son Derek from Formby supplement the existing team for the week and their local knowledge and general experience means Jimmy is happy to have them cut greens for him.

"It's always interesting during an Open. You get pressure and you find things go wrong but you think about them and draw on your experience. If conditions are right I know that I've got the staff and machinery go out and present a very respectable course. I think very highly of my staff they've all been to college and all have a great deal of experience and have been with me for a great many years. In fact excluding Andrew the apprentice we average 20 year's greenkeeping each and we have a total of 165 years between us."

To emphasize the fact Jimmy asks if I would mind if he listed the names of his team rather than give an equipment inventory. "They are far more important to me than machines."



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# Are you wearing the **RIGHT GEAR** this summer?

**H**ow do you buy protective clothing for yourself and your staff? Do you consider the job to be done and then seek out the specification that best protects those vulnerable parts of the body from the hazards identified as part of the risk assessment? If your answer is yes then you are one of the very few who have got it right!

In most cases protective equipment is bought on price (often the lowest!); this results in either a failure to protect, or a failure in performance, that is, it didn't do the job. In accident investigations involving injuries to the worker inadequate, or unsuitable, protective equipment is often found to be a contributory cause to the injury.

In our work conducting health and safety audits for clients we frequently find respirators hanging in sheds covered in dust, personal ear protection dirty, torn and left on benches, or worse! Face shields so scratched that they are almost opaque and chainsaw clothing torn, dirty, damp and left hanging on a convenient nail! This type of protective equipment requires special care otherwise it will not do the job, and even worse, it may even spread infection especially to ears and hands.

Manufacturers and suppliers of protective equipment have available detailed test information, and data sheets that provide sufficient information to enable the right choice to be made. If there is any doubt as to what would be the most suitable type for a given situation, there are technical staff available to give advice.

When reviewing your existing protective equipment there are several important points to keep in mind:

- The Personal Protective Equipment Regulations 1992 place duties on the employer: (Regulation 4) "Every employer shall ensure that suitable personal protective equipment is provided to his employees who may be exposed to a risk to their health or safety while at work"... "it is capable of fitting the wearer correctly, if necessary after adjustments within the range for which it is designed". Where you employ staff who are very small, or in the

## Safety is priority number one

By Arne van Amerongen  
April 29, 1996 was a bad day for me in my career in the golf industry.

I had made a report on safety regulations for the golf course I was working on at the beginning of January. One particular part of these regulations was safety clothing. Costs are becoming a more important factor with the increased competition, especially on new courses which are owned by the members. In this case we are talking about only £30 for safety shoes which had to be saved, though on the other hand money is wasted on other things. For example, £150,000 was spent on pathways which only a few members and green fee players will use.

I will make my point now. Saving £30 caused a terrible accident. On April 29 I was inspecting the 4th hole on the course, when one of the foreign labourers came to me and said in broken German, "Accident happened, please come". I drove to the chipping green area and there I saw the green staff helping a young wounded employee. When I got nearer to the 19-year old boy, I saw that his left foot was bleeding. And as far as I could see he was missing two toes. He had previously been fly mowing on a slope, slipped and his left foot had come under the flymo.

This young man was wearing trainers and no safety boots. He was working for £3 an hour. After I called the emergency number, a helicopter arrived within five minutes. He was transported to a hospital specialising in microsurgery.

Half an hour later I found his two toes, put them in a plastic bag and drove straight to the hospital. Unfortunately it is, not possible to sew toes back on.

The point of this story is, that if the job requires it, everybody must work with safety clothes, from head to toe and money does not play a role at that moment. The boy is slowly walking again, but it is still very painful for him. He will probably work again – two to three months time after the accident. It could also have been worse.

For myself, as a consultant, after having written reports of what staff should wear, this accident has left a deep mark. From now on, when I write a report on safety and this is ignored, I will drop out as a consultant. I will not work for such clubs which only think in terms of money and not of human safety.

I hope that other consultants, Course Managers and anybody involved in work at golf courses will open their eyes and will, if necessary, lay down work if safety regulations are ignored.

case of greenkeepers, very large!, it may be necessary to order specially made equipment.

- The Regulations now set quality standards for almost all protective equipment, your equipment should have the BSI kite mark, or the CE mark, or both. If you find that existing equipment does not have the correct quality mark, then they may not be suitable.
- Before making a final decision on equipment for a job where you are not sure what would be suit-

able and/or adequate, seek advice. It may be better to buy one or two items and issue them to staff to use. If you do this you must monitor the use before making a decision.

- Where staff are issued with new equipment, they will need training that deals with correct use and maintenance. (Regulation 9)

- In addition to purchasing the equipment you must provide the correct facilities for cleaning and storage. This is very important

not only for hygiene reasons but it will also have a significant effect on the life of the equipment.

**Jon Allbutt**

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### CHANGING ATTITUDES FOR THE BETTER

Among the advances taking place on the golf course is the attitude to greenstaff clothing. This has been brought about by a number of factors including the need to ensure: 1. Safe working practices, 2. Protection from the elements, 3. An eye to security where staff can be identified from casual intruders on the course and 4. An extension of the dress code applied to players to the club's own staff, developing the professional image of the club.

As a result Course Care, which is already supplying a full range of consumables to the greenkeeper and Course Manager has undertaken a study and introduced the Course Wear range. Course Wear offers a wide range of clothing to meet all of the above needs. This ranges from Chain Saw trousers for foul weather trousers for machine work. It includes shirts and jackets with embroidered logos to identify the club and the wearer. Course Wear supplies fully water-

# Are you wearing the **RIGHT GEAR** this summer?

proof footwear and protective toecaps to prevent serious injury, safety wellingtons and even a safety trainer.

Embroidery of logos can be undertaken by Course Wear to any design required at an extra charge giving that extra look of professionalism and real feeling of identity for all staff.

## GETTING TO GRIPS WITH LAW CHANGES

The new legislation of Chainsaw clothing - known in the industry as PPEs - has caused confusion as to the level of individual protection needed.

As from July 1 1995 all chainsaw protective clothing had to be made to a CE standard, and display the Chainsaw in a shield logo. Also the clothing had to be tested to a certain speed rating and classed as follows. Class 0 - 16 metres per second, Class 1 - 20 metres per

second, Class 2 - 24 metres per second, Class 3 - 28 metres per second.

In addition chainsaw trousers are divided into three further categories. Type A. Front protection with some extra protection on the outside of the left leg. Type B. Front protection with some extra protection on the inside of both legs and some extra on the outside of the left leg. Type C. All round protection with the same amount of layers all around - usually nine or ten.

Types A & B are for ground workers and Foresters experienced in using chainsaw and certified to National Proficiency Test Council standard. Type C is for the climbing arborist and the occasional user. Most trousers are to Class 1 standard.

Leather and rubber boots come into this category but Class 0 will only be allowed

until December 31 1999.

Chainsaw mitts are usually to Class 0 with no time limit. There are two types. Type A which are chainsaw mitts which give coverage up to the fingers on your left hand. Type B which cover the whole of the left hand.

Most of the clothing apart from the boots use the long loosely woven fibre that will be pulled into the cutting trevin and clog chain rotation, whereas boots provide a medium that a chainsaw will not readily bite into.

Finally no PPE can give 100% protection against cutting by a chainsaw. Training and safe working practices are essential, workers must not become blasé because they are fully equipped with PPE.

Honey Brothers of Guildford, Surrey, stock a full range of trousers and bib and brace to the latest PPE standards and to

Class A, B and C standards.

The company also stocks tree surgeons trousers which have extra material in the knee and crotch for easy movement. Chainsaw Gloves to Class 0, Type A; Chainsaw Boots to Class 0 and Class 1, Chainsaw Wellingtons to to Class 2.

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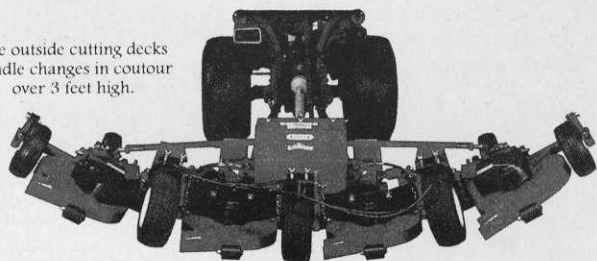


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# Mind your BACK!

**Jon Allbutt concludes his three part series on Health and Safety issues which affect greenkeepers.**

It is a depressing thought that my own back problems, earned after over 30 years of abusing simple principles of correct lifting!, puts me in the that large group of people where it is not even a topic for discussion. It seems to be unusual to find someone of my generation without a back problem, even more depressing is the fact that we all know how it happened! And yet we are not taking some simple steps to ensure the next generation are able to walk upright, don't need painkillers, can play sport and work without fear of ending up laying on the floor for days! Why is it that we accept physical injury as an inevitable result of a lifetime at work. Have you examined your accident records, or staff sickness records lately? Have you calculated the number of days lost in the last year connected to work related injuries, sometimes old ones that keep recurring?. Well I do; as part of my health and safety inspection of clubs I ask to see the records, and to be honest, they make boring reading because of their similarity. I could almost predict the numbers of days off with arm, leg and back strains; the accident book entries for slips, trips and other injuries that happen involving handling of equipment and unsafe work practices.

It is also interesting that many employers are failing in their duties to report these accidents and illnesses as required by the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995; yes, 1995, these Regulations have been revised and extended so make sure you obtain the free leaflet "RIDDOR - Everyone's guide to RIDDOR '95" (HSE 31) available from HSE Books or their agents.

The Manual Handling of Loads Regulations 1992, and also the accompanying HSE guides and leaflets, make the position clear:

"Each employer shall so far as is reasonably practicable, avoid the need for his employees to

undertake any manual handling operations at work which involve a risk of their being injured"... "make a suitable and sufficient assessment of all such manual handling operations to be undertaken by them." (Regulation 4).

This means that the employer (who must be competent to carry out the work, or employ someone who is) identifies those aspects of the work that are likely to result in injury. In conducting a risk assessment of each identified task a decision must be made whether risk can be avoided by changes in design, or the use of mechanical equipment. If it cannot be avoided then staff may need to change work practices to reduce the risks of injury. A good example of this is to use a two man lift instead of struggling on ones own and risking an injury.

In identifying those manual handling tasks that can be eliminated by changes in design and work practices the following key areas are common in greenkeeping:

1. The delivery and subsequent manhandling of goods such as bags of fertilisers, pallets of turf etc. can be mechanically handled by the use of pedestrian controlled fork lift or pallet trucks. In this example it will be necessary to ensure yard and shed surfaces are sound and have no steps; this may involve some resurfacing work. Some doors will need changes of width and height to accommodate pallets and trucks. By making such changes in work practices there is also the opportunity of increasing operational efficiency by 20%, or more.

2. Hitching implements where staff have no formal training in tractor driving or hitching procedures. The common technique of dragging the implement to the tractor is incorrect and unsafe. The risk of injury is increased when the yard is unsurfaced and muddy with the chance of a slip or a fall. To avoid injury staff should be trained and supervised to see that the correct procedures are followed.

3. Loading/unloading equipment such as mowers on and off trailers without proper ramps or low loaders. There are some very

good designs of small low loader trailers that are ideal for carrying small machines behind utility trucks.

4. In the workshop where cutter units and other equipment needs to be lifted onto benches, often without any help, there is a risk of injuries to arms, legs and back. By providing a hydraulic platform or mobile hydraulic workbench the risk is almost eliminated

Regulation 4 also requires that the employer carries out training of staff (or arranges for it to be carried out) in safe handling techniques that are directly relevant to the workplace and uses the risk assessments to ensure staff are fully aware of their duties.

The Regulations also require that the significant findings of the risk assessments be recorded and made available for the use of staff.

The consequences of not carrying out these essential risk assessments and implementing an accident reduction programme, will be a continuing loss of time at work, the risk of staff being seriously injured and possibly unable to continue due to partial disablement.

There is of course another reason for dealing with this important health and safety problem; an employer has already been prosecuted under these Regulations following an investigation into an accident involving an employee who injured his back at work.

There are real efficiency benefits to be had from reducing manual handling at work, so what are you waiting for?

(If you would like further information ring Jon Allbutt on 01959-575575).



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# Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

## Scotland Scottish Region

Was there ever a saying so true as, "the sun shines on the righteous". On Tuesday May 28 it poured rain all day, on Thursday May 30 it poured rain all day, so what happened on Wednesday May 29? Of course it was the Scottish Region Final of the Hayter Challenge and what a grand day it was too. The sun shone, a reasonable temperature and just a light breeze, perfect! Royal Aberdeen Golf Club lies on Balgownie Links, a natural links which must rank high in the list of best links in Scotland.

Even though it was just a light breeze it was still a very stern test, in fact many found it rather more than stern. The first criteria was hit the fairway off the tee or you are in trouble and with quite a few long hard par fours scoring was never going to be easy. However Sam Morrison and his staff had the course in excellent condition, especially the greens and there could be no excuses laid on the course. We were met at Royal Aberdeen with great friendliness and hospitality from all on the staff and our thanks go to the Management staff and to the clubhouse staff under Maureen Sinclair, the service was first class and the food wasn't half bad either. Your sticky toffee pudding was excellent Maureen.

We were delighted to have BIGGA Chairman Dean Cleaver and Executive Director Neil Thomas join us for the day and what better place for Dean to have his first taste of golf in Scotland (don't ask him about his two at the 8th) We were especially pleased to have with us for a meal and to present the trophies the Captain of Royal Aberdeen Golf Club, Jim Christie. A true gentleman and host we learnt quite a bit about Royal Aberdeen over the meal. And to answer the question that Royal Aberdeen had posed to Sam Morrison, yes we did think the course was in great shape. Sam, of course, as well as being Head Greenkeeper is also Chairman of the Scottish Region, so between an early morning start making sure the course was ready for us, then playing in the tournament and acting as host to our guests he must have been a tired man that night. The fact he did

not get to bed till 2am the previous night would have nothing to do with it, of course. But what about the important people and none more so than our sponsors Hayter led as ever by that, forced to live south of the border to earn a crust, Scotsman Kim Macfie (we'll accept that, Kim as long as you don't lose your accent) It's a great tournament Kim it gives so many people a chance to compete locally, regionally and nationally and we are indebted to Hayters for giving us this opportunity. The next most important people are of course the players and we had a great mixture from far and wide, and I'm sure the Dumfries lads did not get home the same day they started out. However it was a marvellous day, well as I said at the beginning "THE SUN SHINES ON THE RIGHTEOUS" Out of all those good players the following were the best and they qualify to represent Scotland at Fairhaven in September.

Cat 0-9: George Mitchell, Newmachar, 73-3-70; Bob McKay, Prestwick St Nicholas, 80-9-71; Ian Bell, Glencorse, 78-6-72.

Cat 10-18: Brian Hillen, Easter Moffat, 86-15-71; Tom Hindmarch, Erskine, 86-14-72; John McLachlan, Brunston Castle, 86-12-74.

Cat 19-28: Graham Shearer, Balmore, 98-24-74; Gordon McRae, Ratho Park, 97-22-75; Garry Crosbie, Dumfries and County, 97-22-75.

Inter Section Prize: West Section. Elliott Small

## North

The Section outing at Cruden Bay was a great success with 70 members, guests and trade participating. All credit to Hamish Stephen and his staff for presenting the course in such great condition, the only complaint I heard was from Scottish Chairman Sam Morrison about the stone in the 18th fairway which must have been there as this was the only way he reckoned Gordon Mckie could have beaten him in the longest drive competition. Seriously though, I envy Hamish having such beautiful links land to work on, no wonder Cruden Bay is so highly rated in world golf. The lucky prize winners were as follows: Scratch, 1. Colin Forbes, Aboyne 73; 2. Bradley Wood, Westhill, 79. Class

One, 1. Steve Sullivan, Craigiehill, 75-4=71; 2. Iain Macleod, Tain, 80-4=76; 3. Kevin Peace, Inverurie, 81-4=77; Class Two. 1. Gordon Moir St Andrews. 79-7-72; 2. Gordon Mckie, St Andrews, 87-11=76, 3. Ken Kinnaird, Grantown-on-Spey, 89-12=77. Class Three, 1. Steve Simpson Fraserburgh 95-18=77 (bih); 2. Wilson Morrison, Alford 96-19=77; 3. Keith Wood, Hazelhead, 101-22=79. Veterans. 1. George Asher, Kemnay, 104-28=76; 2. Roy Donald, Oldmeldrum, 86-7=79. Apprentice. 1. Michael Reid, Newmachar 98-16=82, 2. Kevin Keith, Fortrose, 103-15=82. Trade. Pat Allan, Stewarts, 84-6=78. Guest. Chris Campbell. Special prize Anne Strathnairn. Nearest the pin Patrick Wood Newmachar. Longest Drive, Class One, George Mitchell, Newmachar. Class Two, Gordon Mckie St Andrews. Class Three. Wilson Morrison Alford. Amid cries Of 'fix' Chairman Andy Wilson won the scorecard draw for the BIGGA Blazer. The winners of the first four draws of the 200 Club were: January £30 James Peace Newburgh GC, February £30 John Geddes Macdonald Ellon GC, March £40 Iain Macleod Tain (at last!) and April £100 Gary Urquhart Nairn GC. A final big thank you to Cruden Bay for making us so welcome, and we look forward to returning one day to see the new clubhouse shortly

This month sees the Open Championship at Royal Lytham and I hope to be there with Downfield's Paul Murphy to represent the Section on the Greenkeeper Support Team. Let's hope for a good week. Also this month at the Carnegie Golf Club at Skibo Castle in our section, we have the opportunity to see a challenge match in the Shell Wonderful World of Golf series. The match is between Greg Norman and Fred Couples and I believe is, the only one to be held in the UK, so if you have got the time to spare on Sunday July 14 you know where to go.

Finally congratulations to Muir of Ord Assistant Stevie Macintosh on winning the North District Championship at windswept Tain with a 36 hole score of 142, just two over par which was excellent scoring as a cold North West wind gusted over the course all day. Iain Macleod

## Northern North West

Penrith GC, once again played host to the Cumbria Cup competition, sponsored by Course Care. This competition in its second year, is mainly for greenkeepers in the N/W section, who work in the Cumbria area, and are out on a limb as far as getting involved with most of the N/W competitions. Course Care sponsored the day, the prizes, and the meal for the competitors. We were also honoured to have Lord Whitelaw, the President of BIGGA, join us for a meal, and the presentation.

The course was in great condition thanks to John Berry and his staff and I must admit I was also pleased to see so much wildlife of the course. (The animals and birds of course).

The spring tournament on the 30th May, was played at Morecambe GC, and almost a record number of 60 played. Myself and many others not having visited Morecambe before, were pleasantly surprised to find, not a links course, as expected, but a well established parkland course, in beautiful condition, with magnificent views of Morecambe Bay, and the lake district.

Mark Broughton, the Course Manager, whom I am happy to say, has gained his Master Greenkeeper Certificate, had the course in excellent condition considering the bad start to the season we have all had.

Many thanks to Morecambe GC, for allowing us the courtesy of the course, and to Ken Dean and his wife, Eileen for the fair banquet they gave us.

The results were:

Best gross. P. Pearse. 68; Best nett. P. Simpson. 80-14-66; Over 55s. W. Shipley. 82-11-71; 2, nett C. Ball; 3, nett C. Stanley; 4, nett J. Coar; 5, nett W. Merritt.

Many thanks to the companies who supported us with the prize table. They were: SISIS, Acorn Equipment, Gary Worrall Course Care, Rhône Poulenc Premier Turf, Miracle Grow, Gem, Hayter.

The competition was also a qualifier for the Hayter Regional Final, and the qualifiers are:

0-9. P. Pearse. W. Merritt. J. Berry. Reserve. C. Hulme.  
10-18. P. Simpson. C. Ball.

C. Stanley. Reserve. J. Coar.  
19-28. A. Holt. N. Berry. A.  
Davies. Reserve. J. Fitzgerald.

The regional final to be played  
at Abergele & Pensarn July 3.

Finally the Roses Match will be  
played at Whitefield GC, on  
Wednesday 14 August. A team of  
16 will be required so anybody  
interested please contact me on  
0151 724 5412.

Bert Cross

### Northern

Well, it's well into the year and  
most courses seem to be strugg-  
ling to get any kind of growth in  
the right places. But at least every-  
body seems to be in the same  
boat, so that's not too bad.

With regards to our Spring  
Tournament held at Scarborough  
South Cliff Golf Club, may I thank  
Nick Gray, Managing Director of  
Martin Brothers (UK) Ltd, for  
their kind sponsorship of the  
prizes and Mel Guy who repre-  
sented them on the day.

I would like to welcome the fol-  
lowing new members to our sec-  
tion and look forward to meeting  
them at one of our forthcoming  
events: Kevin Alderson, Shipley  
Northcliffe G.C.; Steven Slator,  
Beverley & East Riding G.C.; Ben-  
jamin Pearson, Shipley Northcliffe  
G.C.; Eric Garlick, Redhall Ser-  
vices; Stephen Dwards, Swingtime  
GC; Stephen Couzens, Flambor-  
ough Head G.C.; Roger Bielby,  
Hornsea G.C.; Leslie Bunker, Filey  
GC.

Anyone who has any problems  
or wishes to put their name down  
for any golfing days, please con-  
tact me Tel: 01484 519829.

Finally, I am pleased to  
announce that Andrea and I were  
married in the Caribbean on the  
13 May 1996.

Simon Heppenstall

### Sheffield

Firstly, good luck to Paul Unwin  
who after 21 years at Hallowshire  
GC is leaving. He is to run his own  
pub in Sheffield called The Hal-  
lowshire Hotel which, I am told,

## Around the Green



has nothing to do with the golf  
club!

Just a reminder of a couple of  
dates – our annual competition on  
July 9 at Abbeydale GC and our  
autumn competition at Hickleton  
GC on September 2.

Finally it is with regret that I  
have to report that Tony Wadkins  
passed away recently. May I, on  
behalf of the Sheffield Section  
convey our sympathies to his fam-  
ily.

John Lax

### North Wales

The Section's Spring tournament  
and Hayter qualifier was held on  
May 14 at the Bull Bay Golf Club,  
Almych, Anglesey. Given that we  
have had such a cool start to the  
year it was an unusually sunny  
day with temperatures into the  
high 70s and hardly a cloud in the  
sky, at least one member was  
sighted wearing regulation shorts  
and I for one was suffering from  
sunburn the following day. Eighty  
five members and guests took part  
in the competition and for those  
members who did not play, you  
missed a real treat. We have quite  
a few thank yous to say for what  
was a wonderful and most pleas-  
ant day out. Firstly to Bull Bay  
Golf Club, which at short notice  
provided us not only with cour-  
tesy of the course for the day but  
also with a splendid venue and a  
good challenge of golf, also to the  
caterer and his staff who provided  
a beautifully prepared and pre-  
sented meal and not forgetting  
the splendid job done by the bar  
staff in Re-hydrating us on such a  
hot day. Our thanks must also go  
to Andy Peel and his staff for pre-  
senting the course in such fine  
condition, especially the firm, fast

and true greens. Last but by no  
means least our thanks must go to  
our sponsors for the day who pro-  
vided all the prizes:- Hayter, Acorn  
Equipment, Gem Professional,  
Grosvenor Nurseries, John Osman  
Machinery, Ki-Chem, Major Owen,  
Martin Brothers, Mommersteeg  
International, Richard Campey,  
Rigby Taylor and Walker Engi-  
neering.

The results of the competitions  
were as follows:

The best scratch score was  
achieved by R Cowell 68 – 5 – 63  
a little bit of local knowledge  
might have had something to do  
with this, he is Captain of Bull  
Bay. Very well done.

The following qualify to repre-  
sent the section in the next round  
of the Hayter Competition.

Cat 1 Pat Valentine 76-6-70.  
Darryl Davies 81-6-75. Ian Buck-  
ley 83-7-76.

Cat 2. Craig Wheeler 83-15-68.  
Steve McCabe 90-17-73. Andrew  
Jervis 89-16-73.

Cat 3. John L. Jones 93-22-71.  
Don Rowland 96-24-72. Stuart  
McCall 96-24-72.

We are pleased to welcome two  
new trade sponsors for the sec-  
tion: Aitken Sportsturf (Nigel  
Prestwick) and Strike Top Turf  
(David Robertson).

Our Chairman Brian Anderson  
wishes to thank our Section Presi-  
dent Terry Adamson and Vice  
President Phil Davies for the effort  
and hard work that they have  
given to the section over the years  
and especially in the last few  
months, it is only with support  
like theirs that we have such a  
active and successful section.  
Brian also wishes to thank Andy  
Campbell for his support and ser-  
vice. Andy resigned as Section  
Secretary in May and has trans-  
ferred to the North West section.  
It has been decided that all future  
section competitions will have  
properly organised starting times.  
This will entail a bit more work  
for our Match Secretary (MS)  
Terry Evans. Entry forms will  
require you to indicate at what

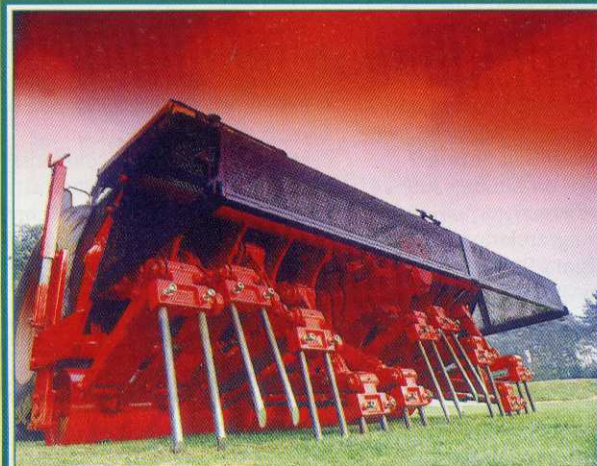
time you would wish to start your  
game and will need one person to  
act as the contact for the MS to  
advise you of your allocated start-  
ing times. To make life easier for  
the MS entry forms will also  
require you to indicate for each  
entrant whether they are guest or  
member. Completed entry forms  
will of necessity have to be  
returned to the MS approx. one  
month prior to the competitions.  
Please remember that first come  
will be first served and the earlier  
you return your entry forms the  
more likely you are of teeing off  
when you want to. It should also  
be noted that as we are granted  
courtesy of the host golf clubs our  
guests are expected to be golf club  
related ie. Captains, Vice Captains,  
Secretaries, Green Chairman etc.  
Our Match Secretary, Terry Evans  
would like the winner of the '95  
Christmas Cup at Prestatyn and  
the cup winner of the Autumn 95  
Chirk competition to contact him  
on 01352-720692 as soon as pos-  
sible.

With over 130 members in our  
section I am sure there must be  
some news out there or someone  
with an idea for a new activity or  
event. Remember that this is your  
magazine and if you have any-  
thing that may be of interest to  
the rest of your colleagues please  
feel free to phone me on 0151-  
336-6675 or write to me at 11  
Ashtree Close, Little Neston,  
South Wirral, L64 9QS.  
Trevor Johnston

### Cleveland

Our Spring Tournament was held  
for the first time at the new course  
at Ramside Hall Hotel golf com-  
plex, Durham City. This magnifi-  
cent 27 hole centre is now fully  
open to all.

Our congratulations must go to  
the owner Mike Adamson, for the  
wonderful layout and to Roger  
Shaw, Course Manager and staff  
for the fine fescue greens and fair-  
ways and the tee mix of Bent  
grasses. The condition of all was  
superb.



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