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220A



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TURF GATOR



1500 AERATOR



3235A



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The Turf Gator's unique combination of toughness and quietness make it perfect for the golf course. Toughness comes from uni-body construction and one-piece forged axles. Quietness comes from a large volume silencer, internal sound absorbing material, and golf-car-style transmission.

The 220A is the latest addition to John Deere's quality line of walk-behind greens mowers. 220A improvements include an isolation-mounted engine for reduced vibration, improved operator-presence safety system, and an easier-filling grass box design.

Add superior parts support and our existing line of quality mowers, tractors, aerators, root zone injectors and utility vehicles and you see why John Deere is the fastest growing golf and turf equipment name in the world. Talk with us soon for a first-hand look.



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BY APPOINTMENT TO HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN SUPPLIERS OF AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT JOHN DEERE LIMITED, NOTTINGHAM

# BIGGA's code of ethics: guiding principles for professionals

This Code is established to promote and maintain the highest professional standards of service and conduct among the membership of BIGGA. Through adherence to this Code, members will gain for themselves recognition of individual integrity, responsibility and professionalism whilst enhancing generally the respect and good will for both their profession and Association.

As a member of the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association, I accept this Code and pledge myself to:

1. Set standards of personal conduct which will enhance the stature of the profession of golf course management.
2. At all times carry out my duties and responsibilities in such a manner as to reflect

favourably on the profession and Association.

3. Seek to use every opportunity to broaden my professional expertise for both self-improvement and the good of the profession.
4. Follow, as a basic tenet, sound business and turf management principles in exercising the responsibilities of my post.
5. Observe the highest standards of personal integrity in my relationship with fellow greenkeepers as well as other associated individuals and at all times, as far as I am able, assist my fellow greenkeepers as required of me.
6. Pursue job advancement only where vacancies arise and not at the expense of a fellow greenkeeper and abstain from any action, comment or communication not founded on

truth which is likely to harm the professional reputation or practice of another greenkeeper.

7. Give endorsements of any kind only upon satisfactory personal experiences of the item identified.
8. Refrain from encouraging or accepting considerations of any value which might be deemed an inducement to find favour for a particular party or influence decisions in relation to that party and at all times avoid any exploitation of my Association, Industry or Profession.
9. Support at every opportunity the Association, its Regions and Sections in seeking to improve the public understanding and recognition of the profession of golf course management.
10. Report to the Association any evidence likely to be in violation of this Code of Ethics.

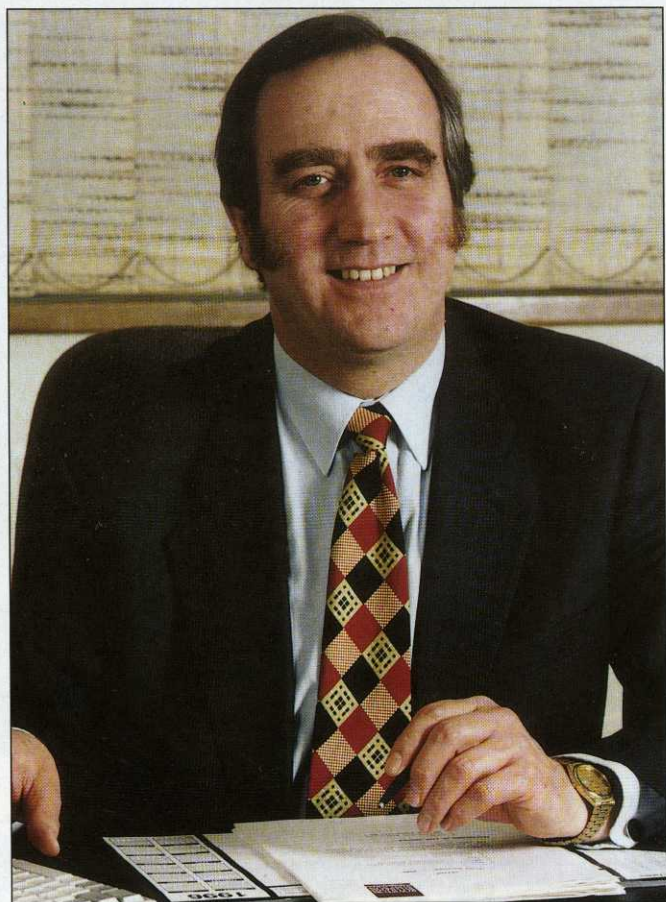
## Appointment strengthens Toro support

The Toro Company has teamed up with golf agronomy consultant, Bruce Jamieson, as part of a commitment to providing high level support to customers. This arrangement will further increase Toro's policy of supporting educational establishments.

Mr Jamieson, 39, has over 20 years of experience in the golf industry and was Director of Agronomy for the PGA European Tour for six years. He operates his own consultancy, B Jamieson Golf Advisors, in Hook, Hampshire and will act as an independent consultant to Toro in the UK and throughout Europe.

In announcing the appointment, Toro's European director of sales, Bob Buckingham, said: "The appointment is an indication of our commitment to supply 'Total Solutions' support to our customers."

Initially, Bruce will be working with Toro to provide specialised training for Toro's European distribution network. On new golf course construction projects, he will provide agronomic advice.



At the AEA's Annual General Meeting at the Savoy Hotel in London, Kim Macfie, Sales and Marketing Director of Hayter Ltd, was elected as the 1997/98 Chairman of OPEC, the Outdoor Power Equipment Council.

Kim has been "south" of the border since 1981 as General Horticultural Manager for Cowies Eastern Tractors, before moving in 1984 to his current position with Hayter.

Kim will have a particular eye for this year's Open Golf Championship having retained his membership of the Royal Troon club throughout his years in the south.

## Wait for the weather, urges expert

Greenkeepers planning to re-seed or grass new areas, should leave their seed in the bag until weather forecasts predict significant rainfall.

That's the advice of Force Limagrain's Andrew Wallis, following the driest March for over 50 years and continued April drought.

"Even in dry conditions, Fusarium – a disease which is endemic in UK soils – will quickly infect untreated grass seeds," he explains. "And the longer this seed lies dormant, waiting for rain, the better the foothold the disease will gain.

"Once soil moisture finally stimulates seed germination, the fusarium can finish-off the weakened seed, leaving patchy establishment of weakened grasses.

"Problems will be worst in areas shielded from rain and where winds continue to dry out soil moisture reserves.

"Untreated grass seed which lies dormant for two to three weeks or more will suffer in this way with a less than satisfactory survival rate.

Treated seed will provide better emergence and can survive after six weeks of dry soil conditions, but here again, Mr Wallis suggests turf managers are patient and wait for the weather.

"We desperately need prolonged periods of penetrating rainfall," stresses Mr Wallis. "The worst case scenario would be to run into a period of light drizzle or showers followed by a further dry spell. Untreated seed would germinate, emerge and then die due to lack of moisture.

## Test passed

A group of 12 STRI staff, including members of the agronomy team and plant pathology, undertook training for the BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection (Amenity Horticulture) and passed with flying colours.

Although BASIS certification is not obligatory, STRI felt it was an essential part of staff development with increasing concerns over use of pesticides and the changes to pesticides legislation.





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TECHNOLOGY



# **BIOSTIMULANTS & MICRONUTRIENTS**

*Professional Solutions for the Green Environment*

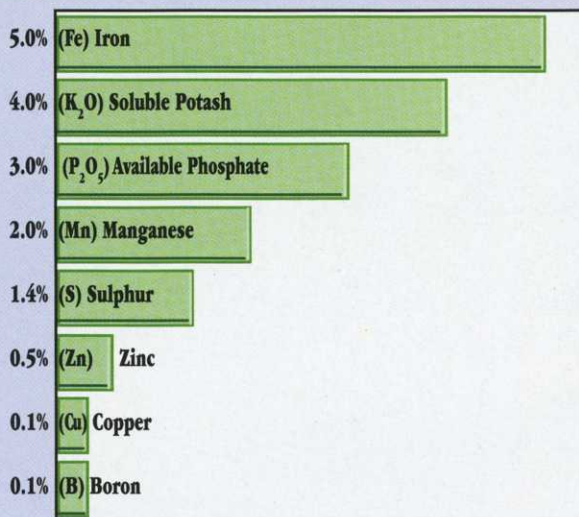
# AMTEC™ TURF HEALTHCARE

## 123 Premix™

**123 Premix™** is an easy to use pre-mixed formulation of three of the Amenity Technology micronutrient, biostimulant and wetting agent range. Contains 1 part AGRIplex™, 2 parts ironROOTS2™ and 3 parts NoburN™. Available in 10 lt. containers. Apply at 20 lts. per hectare every 4 weeks, or as Drencher 123 pellets for spot treatment of damaged areas.



## AGRIplex™



### AGRIplex™ Micronutrient for Greens and Tees

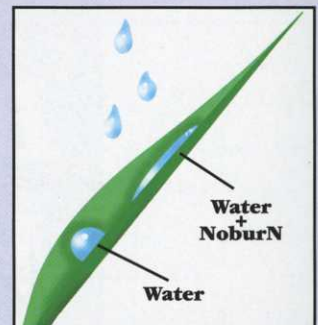
AGRIplex™ is a fully chelated micronutrient feed that provides specific, secondary and micronutrients necessary for the correction of nutrient deficiencies in turf plants. AGRIplex™ is designed to supplement all fertilizer programmes, especially on sand greens where nutrient leaching is a major problem. An application of 6 lts. per hectare every 4 weeks will provide all the necessary micronutrients for fine turf.

## NoburN™

### NoburN™ Natural Wetting Agent

NoburN™ natural wetting agent and soil penetrant is a non-scorching organic surfactant made with yucca plant extract. NoburN™ is used to increase water retention and percolation in dry, hydrophobic or compacted soils. NoburN™ will not burn or discolour turfgrass or plants, even when not watered in.

NoburN™ should be applied at 10 lts. per hectare every 4 weeks.



The effect of NoburN™ in reducing contact angle between a water droplet and a hydrophobic surface to improve surface wetting.

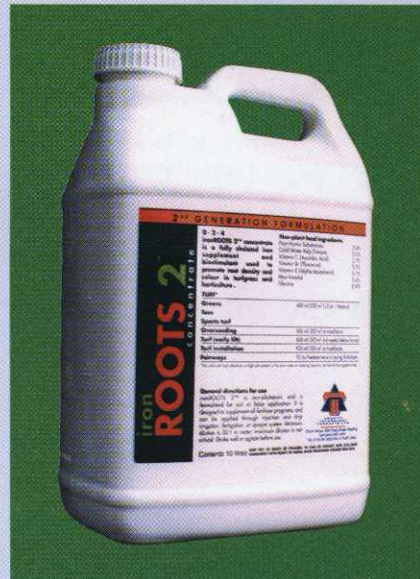


# ROOTS 2™ & ironROOTS 2™

## ROOTS2™ and ironROOTS2™

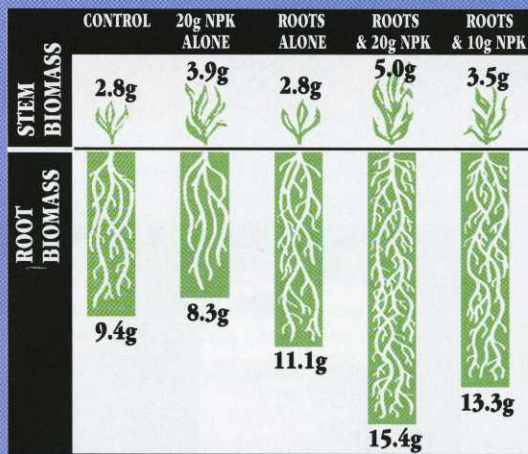
New second generation concentrated biostimulants

- Cold water kelp extract (giving 40ppm plant hormones)
- Proven blend of humic acids, vitamins and sugars
- Choice of iron for added green up
- Over 10 years of university research and development

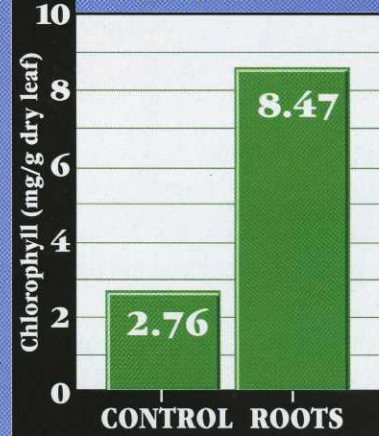


### YALE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH STUDIES

#### RYE GRASS LEAF AND ROOT GROWTH



#### RYE GRASS CHLOROPHYLL CONTENT



ROOTS2™ and ironROOTS2™ offer the best in seaweed and plant biotechnology. Tried and tested formulas have been proven to give increased stress and salinity tolerance. Tests have shown that with ROOTS2™ and ironROOTS2™ you can achieve increased root growth and better plant development with reduced fertiliser levels, saving both time and money in costly fertilizer applications. Use ROOTS2™ and ironROOTS2™ at any time during the growing season. For optimum results combine this with AGRIplex™ micronutrients and NoburN™ wetting agent for the complete nutrient supplement programme for fine turf.



# AMTEC™ IRON RANGE

The long cold autumn and winter months can leave sports turf looking pale and discoloured, especially if the sward contains a high percentage of annual meadow grass. The patented iron chelates and sulphur in the Amenity Technology range can help achieve a deep sustained green up of the playing surface, along with an increased hardness against disease and stress, until such time as spring feed can be applied. Designed for a quick response with a greener, longer lasting colour.

## SOLUplex™

### WATER SOLUBLE IRON

SOLUplex™ soluble iron is available in 1 hectare bags. SOLUplex™ is extremely soluble and very economical to use, making it ideal for bulk spraying of fairways and outfields.



## LAWNplex™ & Fe8%™

### LIQUID IRONS

LAWNplex™ and Fe8%™ offer advanced patented chelated iron formulas designed to give maximum iron uptake during reduced plant activity.

LAWNplex™ has been specially designed with sand greens in mind, with the inclusion of 2% nitrogen for increased nutrient iron uptake, along with all the advantages of 7% sulphur.

Fe8% and LAWNplex™ should be applied at 10-20 lts. per hectare for corrective treatment of iron deficiency, or at a maintenance rate of 10 lts. per hectare every 4 weeks.





**Gary Grigg, Master Greenkeeper and past President of the Golf Course Superintendents of America, describes work at Royal Poincianas, Florida, during the month of May.**

# May in Florida


The month of May is our busiest month in terms of maintenance operations. Perhaps I should visit a little about our club, our turfgrasses and our area of the United States before telling you what our operations are in May.

Royal Poincianas is an equity owned 36 hole facility with 600 regular golfing members. We have 440 acres of land with no development anywhere on the property. 300 acres is what I consider golf course. It is typical Florida in it's flora with palms, slash pines and cypress the dominate trees. It has a wide diverse amount of native fauna also. We have 75 acres of water in 10 different lakes, as well as two streams.


Of the 300 acres of golf, 160 are irrigated turfgrasses. The course was built in 1968-69 and originally planted to Ormond Bermuda grass with native soil greens of Tifgreen or 328 Bermuda grass. The course was reconstructed and upgraded in 1995-96. During this period the greens were rebuilt to USGA specifications and re-grassed with Tifdwarf, a superior putting surface to the older 328. Tees and most of the fairways were re-grassed to Tifway or 419 Bermuda grass. We currently have a mix of the new 419 and the older Ormond, with plans to kill out the Ormond and replant to 419 so the fairways are uniform.

Our golf course exists as a second club for mostly retired members who live in the northern states and come to Florida to live as part year residences during the winter months. Most of our members belong to the best clubs in their resident cities up north. Our golf season gets underway in mid-October and comes to an end by May 1st.

Our climate coincides with the golf season. It begins to cool down in the middle of October to below 90 degrees F in the days and the humidity begins to lower as the rainy season comes to an end. The dry season gets underway in November and the temperature and humidity stay nice until the end of April. May again finds us over the 90 degree F mark, but it is hot and dry until July when the rains begin. We get an annual average rainfall of 65 inches of rain, with 55 inches of that in the rain season of July through September. In 1995 dur-




**A GREENKEEPER'S DIARY**  
IN ASSOCIATION WITH  
**PERRYFIELDS HOLDINGS LTD**  
THE AMENITY SEED SPECIALISTS



ing reconstruction of the golf courses we received over 100 inches of rain. We can also have drier than normal conditions some years, and 1996 was one of those years.

The good news is that Bermuda grass loves hot, humid conditions and grows rapidly during the summer season so that we have regenerated a good playing turf



**'In early May we fertilise everything to get a surge of growing'**

by the golf season in October. During the cooler, drier golf season we are very busy and most of our members like to ride golf cars, due to their age. Bermuda grass gets worn down from the intense traffic and does not regenerate well in the cooler months. Naples Florida is below the general frost line and we do not overseed the Bermuda grass in the winter months to cool season grasses as some clubs in the northern areas of the Bermuda grass zone do.

We spend the golf season keeping the course in excellent conditions and the summer months getting ready for the next golf season. May and June become the two months when we have little play, good growing conditions, but are not into the rainy season yet. As you can guess these are very busy months for our crew. My year around staff is 42 for both golf and grounds. Besides myself I have two assistants, one on each course, an administrative

assistant in the office, a irrigation technician on each course, three material applications personnel, our grounds staff is four, we have three in the shop and eleven labours on each course. We also sub-contract out such things as pruning our 8,000 plus trees and aquatic weed control on our 75 acres of lakes.

In early May we fertilise every thing to get a surge of growth so that our turf will recover faster from our intense practices. The first Monday after Mothers Day in early May we totally verticut all the turfgrass and double sweep the thatch cuttings up and haul them to a site for burning. When I say we verticut, we remove all the grass and thatch all the way to the dirt. We then topdress the greens and tees and topdressing mix of 85% sand and 15% peat moss and we heavy topdress the fairways with straight sand. Heavy topdressing of the fairways requires 2,000 tons of sand. We hire out the verticutting and sweeping to an outside contractor who brings in around 6 verticutting-cutters and 8 sweepers. The entire operation for all 36 holes takes only one day, daylight to dark. We topdress with our own crew. Greens and tees take only a day but fairways take a week to ten days to do both golf courses. We use a Terra Topper on the greens, Toro brush units on the tees and a Tycrop 4 cu/yd fairway spinner unit on the fairways. It takes about two weeks for the Bermuda grass to recover and once again to be a good playing surface.

As a side note we aerify all fairways later in the summer with 3/4 inch tines and again topdress heavy with sand and drag it into the aerifier holes. Greens and tees are also aerified in late May and again in late September.

It is absolutely essential that we dethatch once per year. Bermuda grass is very aggressive with its stolons and the consequences of not dethatching will lead to declining health of the turf due to the excessive thatch layer which harbours insects, disease and

stops water penetration into the soil. Topdressing fairways however is an option not too many superintendents perform, due to the cost. We feel here at Royal Poinciana that it leads to the outstanding playing surface we produce for our fairways.

Also in May, after topdressing we broadcast Ronstar herbicide for summer weedgrass control. Crabgrasses, both soft and hard, are major problems in our area and pre-emergence control is a must. The herbicide you use however is a choice. The hot weather of May also brings a major hatch of mole crickets our number one problem insect and we begin a never ending battle with them that lasts all season but is less severe in the cooler months. Sod web worms also become a major problem, along with army worms and grubs, all must be controlled on a regular basis. Most of our disease pressure of the season also occurs with summer as most diseases of Bermuda grass are summer problems.

Towards the end of May when everything has recovered and is growing fast we begin a program of slowing down the growth so we can handle mowing the turf during the rainy season, when we have a hard time getting on the courses to mow. That program consists of holding back fertilisation and a monthly application of the growth regulator Primo. We treat fairways with 8 oz Primo/acre once a month through to October. We treat greens and tees with 2 oz Primo per acre every two weeks through October. The Primo allows us to raise the height of cut on the greens and still have reasonable speed. The Primo also makes the turf denser. The higher height of cut and increased density keeps the intense sunlight off the soil and reduces an algae problem we encounter during the hot humid months of summer. Algae... now there is a real problem on sand based greens. My e-mail is ggrigg@gate.net for those of you who can help me on this one.

**A GREENKEEPER'S DIARY IS  
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# Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

## SCOTTISH REGION

Elliott Small  
Tel: 01259 731445



The Annual Match between the Scottish Region and the Scottish Region of Club Secretaries on Monday April 1 at Lundin Links GC was played in sunny, if somewhat typical, East Coast links weather. A wee breeze as they say, blowing a gale to others! After the usual pre-match soup and sandwiches and plenty of inter-team chat the teams were led out by Jack Walker, Captain of the Secretaries, and Sam Morrison, Chairman of the Scottish Region, and a win to the Secretaries in this match seemed a bad omen. The next three pairs were wins for the greenkeepers but in the next five games the greenkeepers could only muster one and a half points and as on many past occasions it was 4 1/2 - 4 1/2 and all on the last match. The smiles on the faces of the two secretaries as they passed the window gave it all away and the secretaries had gained a rare and glorious win 5 1/2 - 4 1/2. It was a grand day enjoyed by all, the weather was good and the course was excellent thanks to Willie Swan and his merry men; the food first class, thanks to chef, John Rae, and, of course, the amber nectar revived the spirits of many. So who cares about the result?

Our thanks to Lundin Links for their hospitality and my thanks to Alex Berridge, the Secretary of the Secretaries Association for his organisation. We look forward to

next year gentlemen when we come to regain that trophy!  
Elliott Small

## North

There is a large influx of new members to welcome to the Section this month. From Downfield comes James Gowans, James Frearson and Colin Mullican from Craggan, Fergus Laing from Grantown-on-Spey, Graham Lornie from Newmacher and from Aigas Beaully Peter Masheter. Roy Becone joins us from Brechin, Kevin Scott, from Drumoig; Graham Mellis, from Muir of Ord; Brian Hunter, from Longside; Neil Young, from Kenney; Brian Scott, from Blairgowrie, and, last but not least, Ross Macleod from Forbes. The Section Secretary tells me there are still a few from last year that have not renewed, come on - what are you waiting for?

Last month I welcomed Neil Ballingall to Moray GC but failed to mention his predecessor. Some 20 years ago Mike Campbell volunteered to take on the job when Moray were struggling to get someone. A big chance for an ex-fisherman! History records what a good job he did and we wish him a long and happy retirement. Maybe we will see him playing golf at our outings. Come on Mike!

This month sees a big change in the North as Moray Tractors ceases to trade. We are sorry to lose our main dealer in the Highlands and hope all staff manage to find alternative employment. Thanks to them for all their sup-

port over the years. All is not lost though as Scottish Grass Machinery are going to bridge the gap with its range and will have full-time mechanics based in the area for quick response to breakdowns etc.

A word of caution to members with trainees at their course. If the Head Greenkeeper is D32/33 qualified there is no problem and your trainee can attend college for only five weeks instead of seven as you can assess him at the course on site while he is working. However if there is no D32/33 Assessor on your course and your club chooses to send the trainee to college for five weeks instead of seven remember to inform them that a D32/33 Assessor from a local college will have to come and assess your trainee in his workplace. This will cost £12 per hour plus 28p per mile travel expenses. So let them know this so as not to leave them thinking this service is free. Better still apply to get trained up yourself.

See you at Duff House this month for hopefully a great day out.  
Iain Macleod

## West

Welcome to summer, what great temperatures we've had and even growth - a big difference from last year. Long may it continue.

March was a fairly busy month so there are a few things to report. The Loch Lomond day visit was well attended with nearly 60 people turning up to be given an informative talk from Mike Watton and Ken Siems. The

itinerary involved a tour around the sheds and storage facilities followed by a walk of the course in the afternoon. All mod cons at Loch Lomond and the set up was first class even in the wash bay area. The Service Manager/Head Mechanic gave a very fruitful talk with many tips of the trade. Lunch followed and then it was out onto the course where the weather could have been kinder! A lot of discussion was raised with plenty to think over for our own situations, maybe some day the rest of us could emulate perfection as well. I hope everybody enjoyed themselves and if you are interested helping the Loch Lomond World Invitational support team then contact Cecil George.

The next day proved a cracker, beautiful sunshine, glorious golf and a lovely golf course. Kirkhill was the venue and the day was a Green Conveners/Head Greenkeepers Tournament which saw 17 teams compete. John Scott and his team are to be congratulated on the course presentation and condition, well done lads! The sponsors, Aitkens and Scottish Grass Machinery, are to be given a vote of thanks for their continued support for this event. This is very much appreciated by all in the Section. Richard Atken said a few words on the day which adds a nice personal touch to the event.

The eventual winners were East Kilbride on 40 points. Well done to them but winning is only part of the day, mixing and expressing views with committee men and fellow greenkeepers is



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# Redexim

- Unique patent adjustable parallelogram forced heave
- Simple tine design
- Leaves playing surface in superb condition



## THE CHOICE OF CHAMPIONSHIP CO

the main goal. I hope everybody will enter next year and thanks to the people involved for organising the day. Sorry, I nearly forgot to mention, Gordon Kerr, Gledoch House, won the booby prize with 29 points. John Scott said to be sure to put that bit in!

On the agenda the next football is against the Central Section in Stirling when you eventually find the place. Nothing to do with your directions John (Crawford), just me! I was on the correct road only to turn off 15 minutes late! A very entertaining game was well fought, well behaved and there was a well deserved victory for the West Section. 4-3 was the score with goals coming from Stevie McGechie, Brian Hillam disputed, Graeme Shearer and a toe bash from Gerry Bruen for the winner. Scoring wins matches, being there, mixing and playing is what counts – supporting the Section and creating a greater bond between Sections and greenkeepers alike.

Brian Hillam will be arranging a match against the East Section and Loch Lomond this summer so those interested please contact him on 0420 610160 or 01236 434323.

Last year we had 10 teams competing in the five-a-side tournament and this year we are hoping for 16. Those interested should contact me on 0141 942 5554. Teams can consist of up to seven players, two clubs can join forces but no ringers, strictly greenkeepers (with the exception of trade of course). The cost is £15 per team, entry forms will be sent to everybody but the closing date is June 30. Last year the weather was super and sandwiches were provided. All attending enjoyed the day, even the referees. The teams which took part last year were Winners:- Campsie/A M Russells, Runners-up:- East Kilbride/Pollock, Semi-Finalists:- Rigby Taylor and Clydebank/Windyhill. The other teams which competed were

Bishop Briggs/Lenzie, Hilton Park, Drumpellier, Douglas Park, Glasgow and Souters.

Any interesting information please phone on 0141 942 5554. Remember, this is your Section. Stewart Taylor

#### East

Firstly people on the move – Neil Ballingall, Assistant Course Manager at Muirfield GC, has moved after four years at the East Lothian course to become Head Greenkeeper at Moray GC, Lossiemouth, and Craig Gilholm has taken over as Assistant Course Manager at Muirfield where he was previously Assistant Greenkeeper.

The Section would like to wish them both best wishes for the future in their new jobs. Section membership has dropped over the last few months which we don't like to see. So if you know anyone who has not rejoined find out why, they can call any committee member to discuss any problems they may have with the Association as we would like to see them back in the Section. Also if anyone knows of any person that is not yet a member tell them the benefits of joining BIGGA. They can call our Secretary, Steve Dixon, at home on 0131 660 3965 or at work on 0131 443 0235 for a membership form or call Headquarters at Aldwark Manor.

The aim of the East Section is to have all greenkeepers in our area members of BIGGA and with your help we can do it, so come on, give it a try. The social committee have just completed a list of functions, outings etc for the Section. A fixture list and details of all the events will be with you shortly. Having spoken to people who attended the Scottish Conference they said it was an excellent day and congratulations go to the Central Section and the North Section who jointly organised this years conference. A small word from Steve Dixon,

who had two of his club officials at the Conference and they commented on the high calibre of the speakers, the professional way the Conference was run and that it was a very informative day. Well done to all. It was just a pity that I could not make it due to work commitments so roll on next year. So by the time you read this the good weather should be with us, hopefully it will not turn out like the Spring of '96 and we hope everyone has a good golfing season.

Don't forget if you have any photos of information for the magazine let me have them. You can contact me at home on my new number 01620 842037 or office 0131 445 7165 to discuss anything we could put in the magazine.

Chris Yeaman

#### Central

We start this month's news with the result from the football match played again the West Section at Forthbank Stadium, Stirling in March. Unfortunately we lost by four goals to three and this was after being three up at half time. The half time team talk in the visitor's dressing room certainly had its effect, but Andy O'Hara has assured me that he will change the tactics for the next game so that the training in the bar is done AFTER the game! By all accounts everyone enjoyed themselves during and after the match so if you want to be involved in the forthcoming matches get your forms back to me as soon as possible.

Our last mailshot was sent out to some 240 members and patrons and at the moment I have had 16 completed forms returned. Please give your committee some support. After all we are organising events for everyone's benefit. If you cannot take five minutes to complete and return a form then don't complain that BIGGA does nothing for you. Perhaps it may be the

other way round. Right, that's the moaning out of the way!

The Section was well represented, both on the programme and in the audience at the Scottish Conference in Perth and I am sure that everyone, including the National Chairman, Pat Murphy, who attended was impressed by the quality of all the speakers and the various topics on which they spoke.

We extend a warm welcome from the Section to Ronald Peat, from Dunfermline District Council, and Jim Ellis, of Glenbervie GC. Jim was always a familiar face at our golf tournaments and hopefully we will see him at many more now that he has rejoined.

On the form for the Inter-Club Tournament the format should have been Two Ball Foursome and not a Two Ball Better Ball as stated. This will be confirmed when the draw is circulated.

The Scottish Final of the Hayter Challenge Tournament is due to be hosted by the Central Section in 1998 so if you fancy having this prestigious tournament at your course please get in touch with me as soon as possible and I will start the ball rolling regarding arrangements.

Well, that's it for this month, not a lot I know but hopefully I will have more news for you next time!

John Crawford

#### NORTHERN REGION

Bob Lupton  
Tel: 01782 750539

#### Northern

Our annual dinner dance was held at Bradford GC and what a superb evening it was. The food was excellent. Thank you to all the staff at the club for their hospitality and making it a very enjoyable event.

A total of 113 people attended the dinner which I believe is the best turnout to date. Many thanks to Dave Thackray and Mel Guy



## ITS EFFECT IS SHATTERING

# Charterhouse



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

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

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

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for their help in arranging the function and to everyone who contributed towards the raffle prizes. Plenty of effort went into the organising but I'm certain all who attended agreed it was worth while.

May I thank Pat Murphy, our National Chairman, and his wife, for attending in a year which I'm sure is exceptionally hectic. Thanks are extended also to Ian Holoran and his wife and Bob and Sara Lupton for coming.

An excellent event and I hope we have as much support from greenkeepers, trade and friends at future dinner dances. Finally thanks to you all for your support to the Section.

Entries are rapidly increasing for the Hayter qualifier at Wakefield GC. Some people will be disappointed for not booking earlier.

Tim Balcombe, Assistant at Scarthingwell GC, sadly left us to seek his fame and fortune in his native Canada. Best wishes to Tim and his family from all members who knew him. Hope he finds employment in greenkeeping over there, as he truly loved his work on the golf course.

Earlier this year Roy Spencer, a former Section Chairman, retired having reached the "required" figure of 65. Roy had been Head Greenkeeper at Hanging Heaton GC for the past eight years, previously at Fulneck GC for 14 years and Calverly GC for four years. Best wishes in your retirement Roy.

In June this year Adrian Robertshaw, a former Section Secretary, retires after nearly 50 years in greenkeeping. Having started at Bingley St Ives Research Station he then became an assistant at Shipley GC, First Assistant at Leicester GC, Head Greenkeeper at Otley GC and then to his final "resting place" at Ilkley GC as Head Greenkeeper for the past 28 years.

Retirement will not mean rest for Adrian, whose hobbies include gardening, golf, woodwork and walking. The latter involving the company of his wife Marlene and faithful friend Toby the dog. Best wishes in your retirement Adrian.

Forthcoming section golf events include:

President's Day, Wed, June 25, South Leeds GC. Tee off 1pm.

Invitation Day, Wed, September 3, Skipton GC. Tee off 1pm

Autumn Tournament, Wed, October 8, Brid' Links GC. Tee off 10.30am

Winter Tournament, Wed, December 10, Scarcroft GC. Tee off 10.30am

Anyone wishing to book a place for any of the above events please send your deposit to: 1 Cockley

## Around the Green



Meadows, Kirkheaton, Huddersfield, HD5 OLA. Or ring me on 01484 - 519829 to book a place, then send the deposit to the above address.

Simon Heppenstall

### North West

The North West Seminar, at Mere Golf and Country Club, was once again well attended after a slow start to the applications coming in. We started the day with a well presented talk from Graeme Francis, Marketing Manager of Toro Irrigation, explaining the advantages of having your own water supply from a borehole and the management of your irrigation system. Graeme only had 45 minutes to attempt to cover a vast subject and was only able to briefly touch on the red tape involved in getting permission to carry out the sinking of your own borehole. If you wish to receive further information Graeme can be contacted on 01425 476261.

Derek Green, Course Manager at Royal Liverpool GC, followed with a very interesting and knowledgeable talk on bunker construction. This is a never ending job on the golf course, either links or parkland. Derek also showed the BIGGA video on bunker construction in which he starred, and if you wish to purchase the video, it can be bought from BIGGA Headquarters.

The afternoon spot was to be filled by Guy Longshaw and Paul Hartley from Symbio. Unfortunately Guy Longshaw was taken ill on the morning of the seminar making a hurried change to the programme. Martin Ward, the Executive Director of Symbio, briefed us on the way he started the Company with his knowledge of Biology. He was followed by Stella, one of his technical team, who covered the highly technical chemistry side of the Company. Paul Hartley was the final speaker and he covered the practical side of the Company in the North West.

I would like to thank all the sponsors for sharing their time and knowledge with us, Mere Golf and Country Club for allowing us the use of their superb facilities and the four companies who supported us by paying to advertise their products. These were SISIS, Rolawn, British Seed Houses and Burrows GM.

I have been asked by Les Kernott, past Head Greenkeeper of

Warrington GC and a very respected member of BIGGA, to make a statement on his behalf. Les would like it to be known that he retired from Warrington GC on the grounds of ill health by mutual agreement with the golf club. Les has suffered from angina for the last 12 months and on the advice of his Doctor asked for early retirement from the club which the club agreed to and pensioned him off.

Longridge GC, Preston is the venue for the summer meeting on Wednesday June 25. Applications including the payment of £15 must reach Bill Merritt, 225 Utting Avenue, Clubmore, Liverpool, L4 9RB no later than June 18. Lunch will be served between 12 noon and 1pm. The tee off time is from 1.30 pm and tee times will be allocated on the day. An evening meal and presentation of prizes will follow in the evening. Please note that proper dress is essential.

Any news, views or otherwise then please contact me on 0151 724 5412.

Bert Cross

### Cleveland

The early March Spring weather is enabling work outdoors to progress provoking the questions will the ground be firm enough for the machinery and is this our normal false start or is it an early spring? Time will tell!

The March meeting was postponed because of a double booking at Darlington GC, however the Toro event will be rearranged for next winter's programme. We did have an enjoyable talk held at Darlington GC though from Mark Hunt from Scotts Fertilisers.

The Spring Tournament will be held at Bedale GC on May 8 starting at 9.30 am. The Beast of Bedale is looking for revenge following his poor showing at Wynyard Hall!

Thirsk and Northallerton GC will open their new nine holes on July 13. The full 18 hole course will be 6600 yards long, SS71, Par 72. Bill Rank and his staff are working very hard on the preparation and we wish them well.

Bruce Burnell

### Sheffield

On March 6 we held our winter lecture at Rotherham GC. Our thanks go to Phil Davies, from Mommersteeg, who gave a very interesting lecture on grass seed, which was enjoyed by a good number of our members.

On April 3 we held our final winter lecture again at Rotherham GC. On behalf of the Section I would like to thank Rotherham GC for letting us use their facilities again this winter.

Our final lecture was given by Mr Mike Franklin and Mr Danny Godfrey from Boughton Loam Ltd. Our thanks go to Mike who gave a very interesting lecture on Rootzones and Top Dressings and our thanks also to Danny who gave a very interesting lecture on grass seed and grass seed mixtures. The two lectures were enjoyed by the members who were present but unfortunately there wasn't our usual good turnout.

Just two new members this month. They are John Fowler, from Roundwood GC, and Paul Hude, from Hickleton GC.

John Lax

### North East

Tom Harrison, Head Greenkeeper at Stocksfield GC, would like to wish one of his assistants, Clifford Bunn, well on his recent move to nearby Hexham GC. The questionnaire we sent out was well received and only a handful failed to send them back. On looking them over the committee can decide what you the members are looking for. May I remind all those persons who said that they would send Section news in to get cracking.

One definite suggestion which will be going ahead with was the most popular time and that was between 7pm-9pm.

Plans will be going ahead on looking for various companies and golf clubs to hold the seminars during the coming months.

Other suggestions to come out were to have a winter target golf competition, and a quiz was mentioned several times.

Golf days are to remain the same except that we are going to have a Christmas comp, followed by a Christmas dinner, then on to an AGM and a prize giving. A golf club venue has been suggested and hopefully we will hold it at the start of December.

Jimmy Richardson

Editor's Note: A special mention for Jimmy who is the first member to send his Section Notes in by E-mail.

### MIDLAND REGION

Peter Larter  
Tel: 01480 437507

### East Midlands

This year's pairs competition took on a different format with the trial of a better ball Stableford tournament in an attempt to attract more members. Unfortunately this did not work out as only six pairs entered. However all those who participated enjoyed an excellent day sponsored by Scotts UK and ALS. The results were: 1. A Bindley & M Bindley, Kirby Muxloe, 40 pts; 2.



D Leatherland & P Tatlow, Kedleston Park, 40 pts; 3. P Forshaw & R Fletcher, Ramsdale Park, 36 pts.

Thanks go to Lingdale GC for hosting the Tournament and to Gavin Robson and his staff for setting up a fine course. Also thanks should go to the Steward, Barry Dunstan, for an excellent meal.

It was a great honour for the Section to be joined on the day by Eric Taylor, Greens Chairman of Lingdale GC who presented our prizes at the evening presentation. Finally I would like to thank Scotts UK and ALS for the generous sponsorship and to appeal to more members to participate in next year's event.

This year's Regional Seminar sees a change in venue from Sketchley Grange to Northampton Rugby Club on November 19. For this year a high calibre of speakers have been chosen so it is hoped that as many members as possible will be able to attend. For further details contact our Regional Administrator, Peter Larter.

At the Longcliffe Quiz Night the Section was represented by three members, Richard Barker, Mark Bindley and myself and also the former President of the Golf Club, Roger Barker. Under the title of BIGGA & Better the team, after leading the first two rounds,

## Around the Green



eventually slipped down into third place.

Antony Bindley

### BB & O

Hopefully by the time this article goes to print you will all have received the entry forms for the first golf event of the season at Castle Royle on May 13. If there is anybody still not receiving post then please contact myself as soon as possible.

I am personally looking forward to the first event as it doubles as the Hayter Qualifier so plenty of incentive to get some practice in. If you are successful at qualifying through to the Regional Final a day at The Warwickshire awaits. In all, the years of this event I don't think as a Section we have had much success, in fact we normally compete for the wooden spoon! I think it's about time we sent a team capable of winning the event, we certainly have enough good golfers in the Section.

The second of the winter lectures took place at Warren Farm

back in March. this was an evening with Martin Jones of The Oxfordshire on the subject of tournament preparation. I was unable to attend myself but the reports were all positive. The expectations of the professionals on tour are frightening with nothing short of perfection acceptable. Is perfection attainable I wonder? Thanks again to the College for putting on this evening. I am sure everybody looks forward to next winter's programme with anticipation.

Moving on nicely to the next item, Martin is looking for volunteers to assist in course preparation prior to this years Benson and Hedges Tournament which kicks off on May 8. I was involved with the work party last year and found it quite enjoyable to be involved for such a prestigious event. There are a couple of incentives for any volunteers taking part ie free passes to view the tournament and the possibility of the Oxfordshire hosting one of our golf days in 1998. If anybody wants to help out then please contact myself as soon as possible.

I would like to thank GEM Products for sponsoring our fixture card. Once again this was due to the stern efforts of Bernie Wall. I am sure you will all agree he is a gem, cheers Bernie!

One last point, the last two golf

events were oversubscribed last season so please send your entries in as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

Lindsay Anderson

### Midland

Let me start by clearing up a misunderstanding. In the report for the March issue I listed our new members and one of them had the name Steve Blakeman and many of you thought Steve Blakeman, of Rigby Taylor, had made a return to our membership. In fact he had never left and this Steve Blakeman was genuinely a new member. Sorry to you both.

The trips to Championship courses which I have mentioned in previous reports are now fully booked and are in the final stages of preparation. Thank you for your support. On the Education side Andrew Smith, from the North Warwickshire, has some ideas for future events, such as a mechanics' day about which I will give you information in future reports. I would like to remind you again to get your entries for the summer tournament in early as we are getting lots of interest for our tournaments. So first come first served. This tournament will be held on July 7 which is a Monday, at the Worcestershire GC.

It would be a great help to me if anyone with news or ideas can

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