

Winner has lot to look forward to

Now that my reign as Premier Greenkeeper of the Year is over I thought it would be the right time to wish my successor good luck.

After that final nerve wracking interview he will have been announced (the final was held as this magazine went to press). I didn't really feel nervous that day as I thought I surely couldn't win... although I hoped I might. When the results were announced – in true Miss World reverse order fashion – and mine was the only name left I had won!

Of course everybody at the club was thrilled for me. The Managing Secretary was grinning from ear to ear, the lads were wondering what to do with their share of the money and there was handshakes all round. During the next few weeks and months there were photo shoots, interviews and the once in a lifetime experience of a trip to the States

to take in the GCSAA Exhibition and Conference. If there is ever another opportunity to go I'll be the first on the plane.

Gradually news of my win filtered through to the members who greeted me by saying "I knew you'd get it right in the end" or "Well, you've got a good team of lads, haven't you."

It was nice to see my name in the papers but it was the acknowledgement of my fellow, long suffering professionals which meant most to me.

Everyone at Broadway fell a part of my success and we all benefited from it. The lads and I feel we're getting somewhere and our own morale and self esteem has been lifted, although unfortunately the whole year has seemed to rush by too quickly.

So all the best to this year's winner and I hope he has as pleasant a time as I've had.

Cedric Gough
Miracle Professional Premier Greenkeeper of the Year Broadway Golf Club.

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Salaries and conditions – recommendations

The following scale constitutes the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Greenkeepers' Salaries and Conditions. The Committee comprises representatives from the Association of Golf Club Secretaries, the Association of Golf Course Owners and the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association. The Chairman of the Greenkeepers Training Committee has attended in an advisory capacity.

The salaries quoted are the recommended minimum rate for each level of greenkeeper on appointment with effect from 1 January 1998 and represent an increase of 3.5% on the 1997 BIGGA recommended rates, this

figure being the Retail Price Index figure at August 1997. Any changes in this figure should be taken into account at the time of implementation. These recommendations do not take into account annual increments or other bonuses as may be paid to staff.

Basic conditions of employment for all greenkeeping staff should include the following in addition to the recommended salary:

- Non contributory pension
- Death in service benefit
- Subscription to BIGGA
- Provision for continuous professional development which may include time off to attend BIGGA conferences and seminars

NOTES:

1. The recommended minimum starting salary is based on a 40 hour working week.

2. Tied accommodation is a contractual matter for negotiation between the individual and club. The recommendations below constitute the minimum amounts the Standing Committee feels should be paid for doing the job in question, regardless of other contractual agreements. A draft contract for greenkeeping staff is available from BIGGA.

EXAMPLES:

1. Trainee "X" has been at the club for 18 months, having joined at age 17. Now aged 18 years and 6 months, he is working towards

his N/SVQ Level 2. Using the 1998 scale, he should be earning a minimum of £8,736.

2. Trainee "Y" has been at the club for 36 months, having joined at age 18. Now aged 21 he has gained his N/SVQ Level 2. Using the 1998 scale he should be earning a minimum of £13,793.

3. A Deputy Head Greenkeeper who is competent at N/SVQ Level 3 has just joined a 27 hole golf course. Using the 1998 scale he should be earning a minimum of £16,508.

4. A First Assistant who is competent at N/SVQ Level 2 but is still working towards Level 3 should on appointment earn a minimum of £13,093.

RECOMMENDED minimum starting salary for trainee and apprentice greenkeeping staff working towards N/SVQ Level 2 in Sports Turf maintenance

Age on appointment	16	Qualified	17	Qualified	18	Qualified	19	Qualified	20	Qualified	21	Qualified
Salary on appointment	£6,158	N/A	£7,032	N/A	£8,125	£8,938	£9,367	£10,304	£10,777	£11,848	£12,316	£13,540
After 6 months	£6,620	N/A	£7,559	N/A	£8,734	£9,608	£10,070	£11,076	£11,585	£12,657		
After 12 months	£7,116	N/A	£8,126	£8,939	£9,389	£10,328	£10,825	£11,907	£12,454	£13,526		
After 18 months	£7,650	N/A	£8,736	£9,609	£10,094	£11,103	£11,637	£12,800	AT AGE 21	AT AGE 21		
After 24 months	£8,224	£9,046	£9,391	£10,330	£10,851	£11,936	£12,509	£13,760				
After 30 months	£8,841	£9,725	£10,095	£11,105	£11,664	£12,831	AT AGE 21	AT AGE 21				
After 36 months	£9,504	£10,454	£10,852	£11,938	£12,539	£13,793						
After 42 months	£10,216	£11,238	£11,666	£12,833	AT AGE 21	AT AGE 21						
After 48 months	£10,983	£12,081	£12,541	£13,796								
After 54 months	£11,806	£12,987	AT AGE 21	AT AGE 21								
After 60 months	£12,692	£13,961										
	AT AGE 21	AT AGE 21										

NOTES:

1. The recommendation shows that trainees and apprentices receive an additional 7.5% every six months as recognition of the valuable experience they are gaining as they work towards their qualification. This is in addition to any increment they may receive on achieving a recognised qualification.

2. The "Qualified" figures shown in green include a 10% increase on the recommended rate for staff having obtained N/SVQ Level 2 (or NC/ND plus two years experience).

3. Staff who have obtained qualifications on a full time basis should not receive the 10% qualification addition to their salary until they have completed two years satisfactory service as a working greenkeeper.

4. The rates apply for all sizes of golf club. NB Over the age of 21 greenkeepers remain on age 21 scale except for annual increments or bonuses which may be paid to staff. Further increments for qualified greenkeepers depend on promotion to supervisory and management positions.

RECOMMENDED starting salary for supervisory and managerial level greenkeeping staff

Position/size of golf course	18 Hole	Qualified	27 Hole	Qualified	36 Hole	Qualified
First Assistant (Competent at N/SVQ Level 2 working towards N/SVQ Level 3)	£13,093	£14,402	£13,093	£14,402	£13,093	£14,402
Deputy Head Greenkeeper (Competent at N/SVQ Level 3)	£15,111		£16,508		£18,475	
Head Greenkeeper (Competent at N/SVQ Level 3 working towards N/SVQ Level 4)	£21,010		£22,873		£25,616	
Course Manager (Competent at N/SVQ Level 4)	£23,111		£25,160		£28,177	

NOTES:

1. The "Qualified" figures shown in green include a 10% increment on the recommended rate for qualifying to N/SVQ Level 3 (or HND/HNC plus two years experience).

2. Head Greenkeepers and Course Managers

possessing D32 or D33 certificates should receive additional appropriate recognition.

3. The post of First Assistant is designed to recognise a third in charge. In cases where the First Assistant is the recognised Deputy, the Deputy Head Greenkeeper rate should apply.

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Central

The final golf tournament of '97 was held by courtesy of Auchterarder GC, on September 18, when 34 members and guests enjoyed a great day's golf in glorious sunshine and on a course in superb condition thanks to Head Greenkeeper, Archie Dunn and his staff. Our sincere thanks go to everyone at Auchterarder, especially Secretary Bill Campbell, Club Captain Alex Murray for presenting the prizes and to Sandra, Dougie and staff for their first class fare and service in the clubhouse throughout the day. Prize winners on the day were as follows:- Ransomes Shield (Best Nett Aggregate Spring & Autumn Tournaments) – Kenny Stirling, The Dukes Course; AMP Trophy (Best Gross) – Stuart Smith, Lundin GC; Aitken Trophy (Best Nett) – Donald McAllister, Ladybank GC; Division 1: 1. Kenny Stirling, The Dukes Course; 2. Rod Hensby, Tulliallan GC; Division 2: 1. Andrew Crawford, Kinross GC; 2. Stuart Sime, Leven Links GC; Division 3: 1. Peter Finlay, Auchterarder GC; 2. Ronald Peat, Fife Council; Patrons – John Souter, Souters Sportsturf; Associate – Ailsa Wade, Milnathort GC.; Guests – Sandy Herd, Leven Links GC.

Thanks to the Scottish Region Patrons for contributing towards our trophies and prizes and to everyone who donated to the raffle. I am still trying to secure venues for next year's tournaments so if anyone has any thoughts on this matter please get in touch with me.

On October 1 a number of members enjoyed a visit to the Stewart's of Edinburgh turf farm at Kinnesswood on the shores of Loch Leven where we were given an extensive and educational presentation of the work and investment involved in producing high quality turf for our profession (it still won't stop me haggling over the price!). It was nice to see that, although he has retired, David Sword, formerly Head Greenkeeper at Bishopshire GC, is still supporting the Section and joined us on the day.

Our thanks go to Alan Miller, of



Stewart's, for arranging the visit and for the hospitality which he extended to us at the local hotel prior to the tour of the turf fields.

We extend a warm welcome to the Section to the following new members this month – Derek Scott, Scoonie GC; Halldor Svanbergsson, Neil Middleton, Angus Miller and Suzanne Corgan, all Elmwood College, and Gary Smith, of Stewart's.

I have eventually managed to get all Section trophies together and I will now have them valued and engraved in time for the Spring Tournament when we can present them to the winners.

The Inter-Club Tournament is yet again running behind schedule (so what's new?) due to games not being played by the given dates. As this Tournament is a way of keeping in touch during the summer months and meeting fellow greenkeepers from other courses would everyone please try and bring their respective ties up to date in order that we can present the trophy at the Spring Tournament in 1998.

A matter which is causing concern to the Section Committee is that at golf tournaments we have reached the point where patrons and guests are giving greater support than greenkeepers. Does this mean that the majority of members would not bother if we stopped these tournaments? When you consider that for less than £20 you can have a round of golf (sometimes two), meals and be competing for around £500 worth of prizes you would go a long way before getting better value for your money. SO, WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM YOUR SECTION?

I will give you an update on the AGM in next month's issue, or perhaps everyone will have attended the meeting and know exactly what is going on. Ah well, I can always dream! Andy O'Hara had a dream which I may tell you about one day!

John Crawford

East

With the season nearing its end we had our last major of the season, the Autumn Tournament at Turnhouse GC, on September 25. A great day was had by all who attended but a very small turnout considering this was the first of the

two qualifying rounds for the Hayter Challenge (or whatever it is to be named). Only 44 people played and that included trade, guests and invited guests. So not a good turnout on a glorious autumn day. The weather couldn't have been better which provided us with some very good golf as the scores show.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Captain and Council for the courtesy of the course, the clubhouse staff for looking after us – the meals were great and last but not least Gavin Ballantyne, the Head Greenkeeper and his staff. The course was in great condition, guys. You did yourselves proud and it was very enjoyable to play. We would also like to thank Mr Jim McColl, the Greens Convenor, for presenting the prizes and also joining us for the golf. The trophies were shared between Swanston GC (my club) and Glencorse GC as you will see from the scoreboard that follows. (Ian, you will have to try and regain your aggregate cup in 1998).

I was pleased to be the first winner of the new Scottish Grass Machinery Cup and I would like to thank SGM for presenting the cup to the Section. It is a superb looking trophy which is worth winning. We look forward to seeing everyone at the Spring Outing in 1998.

The results were:- Gross:- D. Melville, Swanston GC, 72; Division 1:- 1. T. Murray, Ratho Park GC, 70; 2. I. Bell, Glencorse GC, 74; 3. J. Manuel, Goswick GC, 75; Division 2:- 1. C. Yeaman, Swanston GC, 73; 2. S. Halliday, Melville GC, 75; 3. G. Ballantyne, Turnhouse GC, 76; Division 3:- 1. A. Forrest, Swanston GC, 74; 2. S. Hall, Glencorse GC, 74; 3. J. Lumsden, Glencorse GC, 77; Veteran – R. Bullock, retired, 77; Trade – I. Thompson, Provan GC, 77; Guest – D. McGinley, Swanston GC, 73; Aggregate Cup Spring & Autumn – C. Yeaman, Swanston GC, 144; Best Nett of the Day – Douglas Melville, Swanston GC, 65. Turnhouse GC par was 69.

I would like to thank the trade members for providing the raffle prizes on the day, this is always much appreciated by the Section.

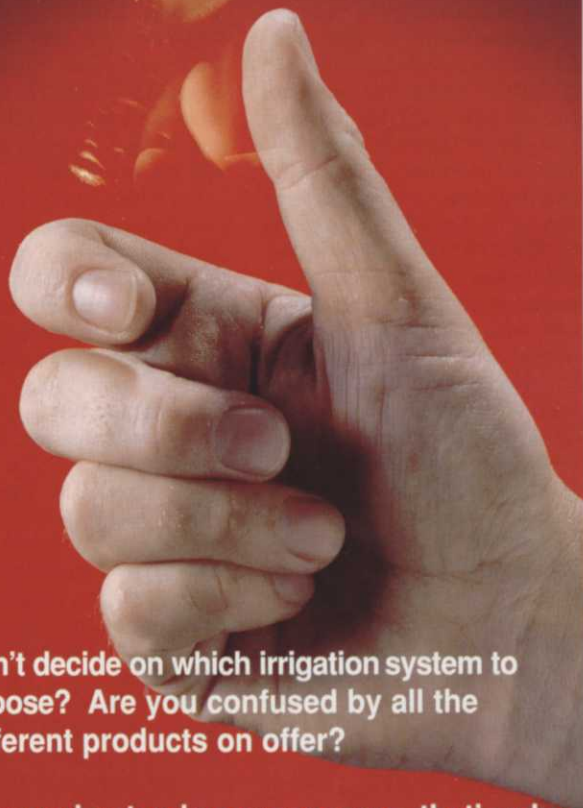
In October we also had the annual Stewart's and Co match with the North East of England Section at Haddington GC, East Lothian. A great day and night was had by all! Thanks to Haddington GC for the courtesy of the course, the Steward and Stewardess for the great meals and even better refreshments! Also thanks to Norman Wood and his staff for having the course in good condition for the visit of all these greenkeepers. The result this year was another victory by the North East lads by 3.5-2.5 so they retain the trophy again! We are going to have to do something about this. Possibly if they don't bring passports next time they try and cross the border they won't be able to get into Scotland and we will win by just turning up! No, we are not that lucky, we will have to improve our performances if we are to win back the coveted "Stewart's Quaich".

The team is looking forward to next year's match already and once again well done to the North East lads on a winning performance. We would also like to thank the match sponsors Stewart's and Co and their Technical Sales Rep, John Geddes, for looking after us all once again. Your support for this match is much appreciated by everyone who plays in this match. Thanks for everything you do each year to make this match a success.

Next on the Agenda is the AGM at Swanston GC. I will report on this next month. I am echoing an article from the Devon/Cornwall Section news that when attending all BIGGA events and functions, please remember you are representing your profession and BIGGA so please ensure you are properly dressed with collar and tie on arrival for lunch and afterwards for evening meal. The standards in the Section seem to be dropping so let us ensure that it goes back up to where it has always been.

If anyone has not got their dance tickets by now for the annual dinner dance they should give Steve Dixon a call now on 0131 660 3965 to reserve the last few tickets available for the night of the year. The date if you do not know by now is Saturday December 6 at the Kilspindie House Hotel, Aberlady. So if you need to drop me a line

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Just one last thing before I go, the Patrons' Awards for 1997 are to the two people who have attended all BIGGA events and functions over the past year. This year they go to Robert Thomson, Peebles GC and Gordon Trotter, Glencorse GC. Well done lads, you both deserve the awards. The prizes are a trip to the BTME 98, in Harrogate in January, which will be presented in December at the Patrons' Dinner and we are looking forward to seeing you down in Harrogate which is a great three days and is well worth attending. If anyone is thinking of going next year BIGGA Scottish Region are running a trip to include coach travel, Bed and Breakfast and entrance to all seminars and the show. If you are interested give our Regional Administrator, Peter Boyd a call on 0141 616 3440 for an application form and further details.

Well, that's it for this month, I hope to hear from some of our members soon!
Chris Yeaman

West

The first thing to report on is the result from the five-a-side tournament held on September 7 at Scotstoun Leisure Centre. The weather once again was fantastic, bright sunshine.

After a few hiccups the tournament got under way although the playing order was not quite what it should have been! Souters strolled through the first section then Windy Clyde secured their place

through a Campine player being sent off. East Kilbride as usual eased their way through from section three then a close fought battle in section four saw Rigby Taylor come out on top on goal difference. In the semi-finals East Kilbride beat Souters and Windy Clyde beat Rigby Taylor, both games being well contested.

Down to the final - Windy Clyde started well easing forward 3-1 with six minutes to go, then two quick goals saw honours even. It looked like penalties again but wait a minute, a pass back (or was it? Remember the ref's decision is final) and East Kilbride were awarded a penalty. The fourth goal came and a Windy Clyde man was sent off for disagreeing just slightly with the ref's opinion.

The whole tournament went, in the main, smoothly. A few words of thanks are extended to John Scott for presenting the prizes and for keeping control of the score board on the day. The referees are to be thanked. Everybody thinks it's so easy to control play but after watching and listening to play I think they have an extremely difficult job. Rigby Taylor were the main sponsors by presenting a magnificent trophy for the winners. We have to say thank you very much for their kind generosity and last but not least thanks to all the teams which took part. We are delighted the event is so popular and enjoyable.

A few things to remember for the coming months. The annual dinner is at the Admiral once again with the same format and it is booked for November 28 so please come along, tickets will be available shortly. The AGM come games night has been organised for December 11 again at the Claremont. This is a very good night, normally with free pies, so come along and enjoy the evening and if you wish, say a few words at the meeting!

The 11-a-side team have been in action recently against Allied Timber, a match Brian Hillam arranged

which will be a regular occurrence judging by the response. Plenty of activity on this front I would hope this year as a lot of interest has been shown.

Now the report, a good team was compiled even though it was a last minute fixture Allied proved good opposition. Our Section opened up the scoreline from Eddie Devine, Paisley GC. He apparently had an excellent game. Then disaster - they scored two goals to make half time 2-1 down. Next Graeme Shearer equalised and then they scored again - 3-2 with desperate action on both sides. However, with the last kick of the ball the equaliser and who was the scorer, yes Brian! We still remain undefeated, so well done.

I would like to wish a warm welcome to new member James McIntyre, Glasgow University Estates Manager. We hope to see you at some of the events.

Finally the Hayter report. This year three people represented the West Section and although an excellent time was had I'm afraid our performances left a lot to be desired. The course was long and tight which proved costly for any stray shots of which I had plenty. The event was extremely well run, very enjoyable and we should express our thanks to all those who are involved.

Thanks go to Ganton for holding the event, to Head Greenkeeper David Spurden for preparing the course in excellent condition, to BIGGA for running the tournament and last but not least Hayter for their support for sadly the last time.

On a sad note less than a week after the event the David Spurden was shot and died in an accident and we send our sincere thoughts of condolence at this time.

That's all folks, remember if you have something of interest then please contact me on 0141 942 5554.

Sorry, I nearly forgot, welcome to Peter Boyd, our new Regional Administrator - I hope we don't

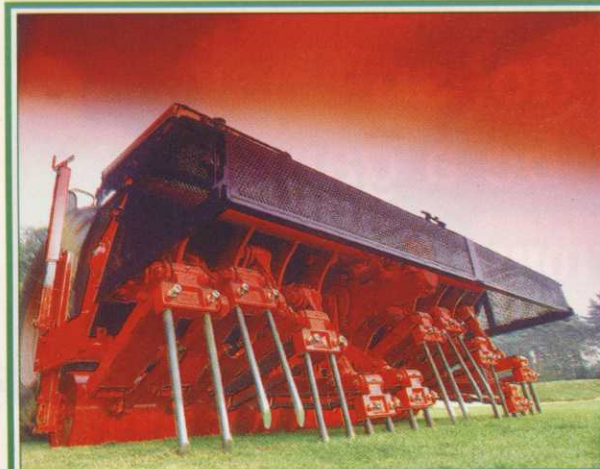
give you too many headaches!
Stuart Taylor

North

The Section outing to Alyth was a great day out on a superb golf course in lovely sunshine. Thanks to Brian Cocker, his staff and all at Alyth who made us very welcome. Prize winners were as follows:- Scratch, G Hampton Cup - 1. John Urquhart, Tain, 68; 2. Colin Forbes, Tarland, 73; Division 1 - 1. Bruce McLaren, Blairgowrie, 72; 2. Neil Kidd, Keith, 72; 3. Gordon Moir, St Andrews, 74; Division 2 - 1. (MacLean Trophy) Ross MacLeod, Tain, 67; 2. Scott Williams, Peterculter, 70 (also winner of Spring/Autumn Aggregate for the Meldrum Trophy with 132); 3. John Taylor, retired, 73 (also winner of M & M Trophy for Veteran Aggregate on 142); Division 3 - 1. Brian Cocker, Alyth, 69; 2. David Marnoch, Peterculter, 75 (also winner of Head Greenkeeper Aggregate Shield); 3. Michael Reid, Newmacher, 79; Veteran Toro Trophy - 1. Robert Napier, retired, 71; 2. Arthur Williamson, retired, 73; Apprentice - 1. Calum Faulkener, Strathpeffer, 70; 2. John Morton, Alford, 77; Guest - A. Fiddes, Alyth, 69; Trade - Pat Allan, Stewart's, 71; Longest Drive - Division 1 - Neil Sadler, Grantown; Division 2 - Gordon McKie, St Andrews; Division 3 - David Marnoch; Nearest the Pin - John Morton; Committee Trophy - Ian MacLeod, Tain, 75. The BIGGA Blazer was won by Willie Robertson, Elenisla GC. 200 Club winners were May £30 - Eoin Riddell, Royal Dornoch, June £30 - Kevin Fowler, Fortrose, July £30 - Murray Gordon, Braemar, and August £100 - Sam Morrison, now of Bothwell Castle. The final four draws will be made at our AGM this month at McDonald GC, Ellon.

Colin Mackay, Elmwood Golf Club, got a late call up to the Hayter Team at Grantown but unfortunately was unable to inspire them to victory.

I would just like to say how upset I was to hear the news of the



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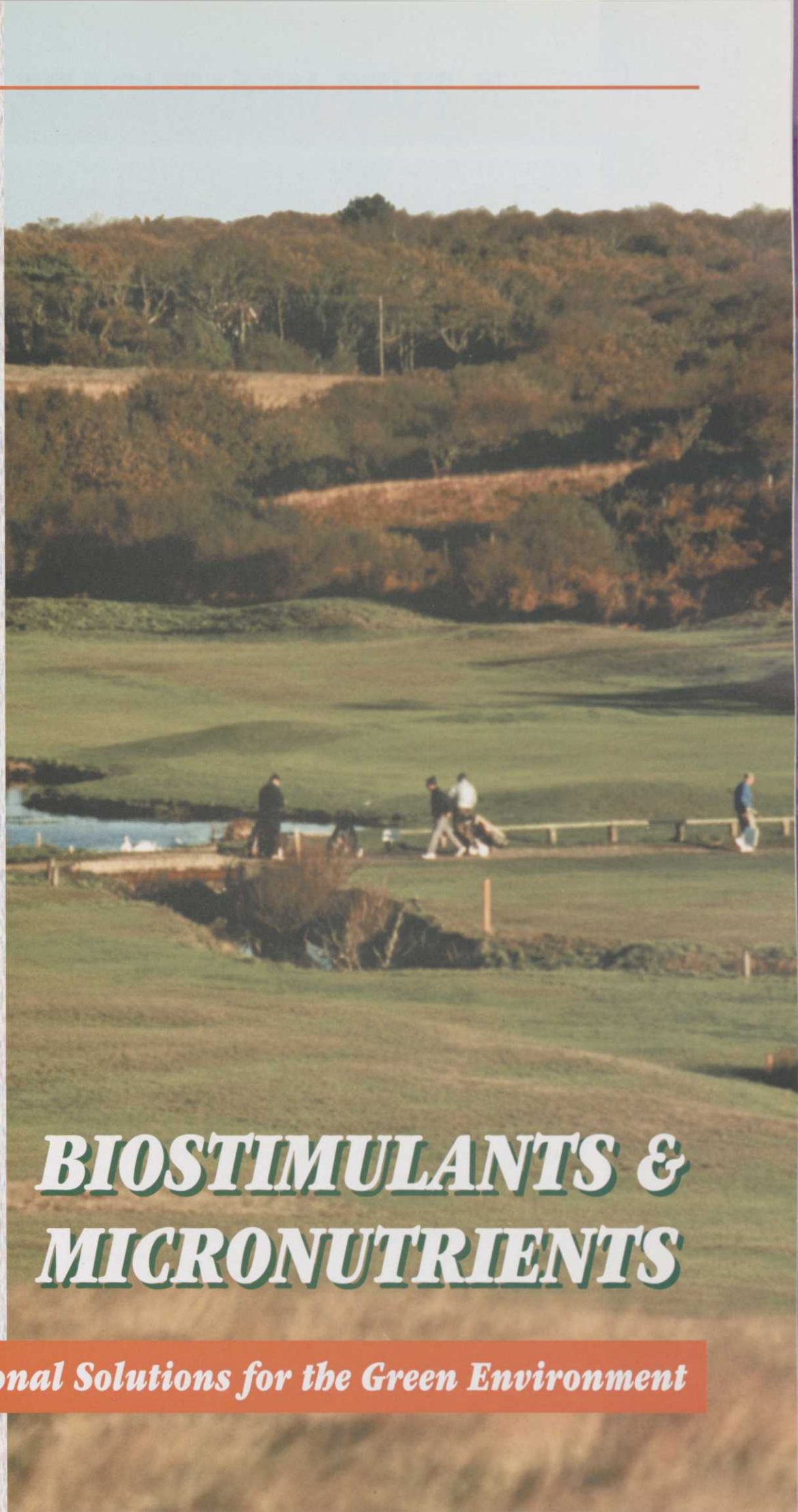
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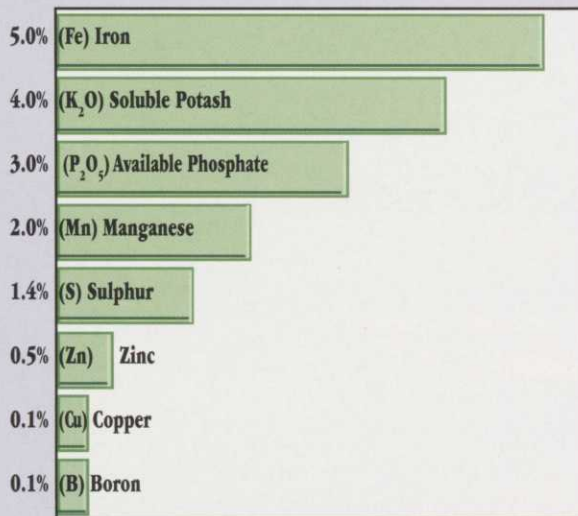
AMTEC™ TURF HEALTHCARE

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

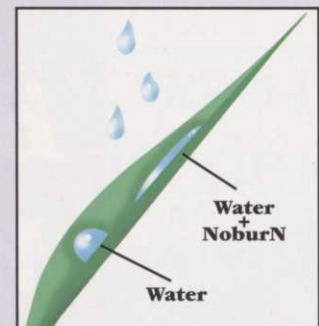
AGRIplex™ is a fully chelated micronutrient feed that provides specific, secondary and micronutrients necessary for the correction of nutrient deficiencies in turf plants. AGRiplex™ is designed to supplement all fertilizer programmes, especially on sand greens where nutrient leaching is a major problem. 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.

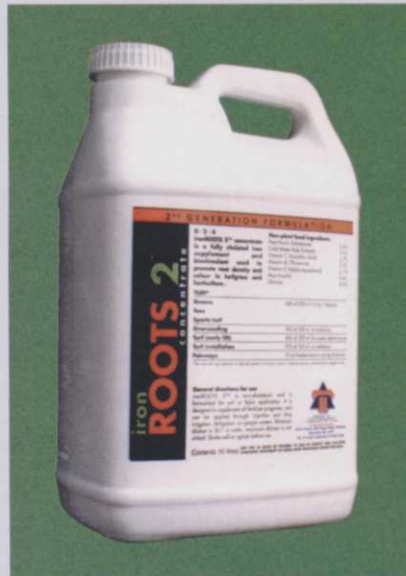


ROOTS 2™ & ironROOTS 2™

ROOTS2™ and ironROOTS2™

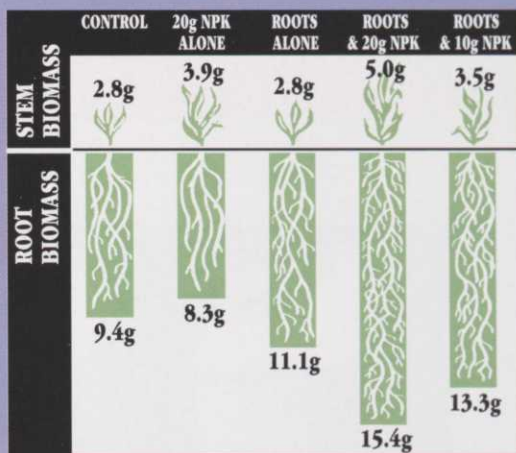
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- Over 10 years of university research and development

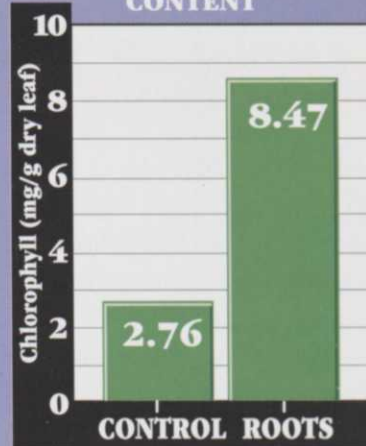


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RYE GRASS CHLOROPHYLL CONTENT



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.



tragic death of Ganton's, David Spurden, in an accident on the course recently. He was a good friend and I will miss seeing him at BIGGA events. My condolences to his family.

The Section patron winners are Dale Robertson, Newmacher, and Bradley Wood, Westhill, who win a trip to BTME 1998. Thanks to the Scottish Patronage Scheme.

All the best to Sean Jaffrey, who moved from Strathmore to Ellon recently. Congratulations to Steve Sullivan, Craigie Hill, for sweeping all before him at the BIGGA Championships at Cooden Beach in August. Steve would like to start up a Four Ball Better Ball Knockout in the Section next Spring. Early rounds will be regional to cut down on travel to start with. For more information and to enter phone Steve on 01738 643778.

Finally have you got a library book from the Section? There are three missing. Contact Hugh McLatchie on 01779 470173 or Dougal Duguid on 01224 740329 if you know where they are.

Iain MacLeod

NORTHERN REGION

Douglas Bell

Tel: 0151 431 0433

North West

This month's news unfortunately starts with some sad news. John Lennard, a member of the North West Section for many years has died after a long illness. John, who worked at Prestbury GC some years ago, moved on to Northenden GC and then on to Shrigley Hall where he carried out some major construction work. Eventually he made his final move to Merriydale GC where he constructed 9 holes before becoming ill.

More sad news is the death of David Spurden, a member of the Northern Section. David was Head Greenkeeper at Ganton GC for 17 years and had just hosted the Hayter Challenge Final at Ganton one week before his untimely death. Many of the North West

members will have known David from the Roses matches and the Greenkeeping Support Team at the Open.

The weather just before the Autumn tournament at Keswick GC on September 9 had been continual rain for days and John Turner, the Head Greenkeeper was anxious to say the least as to how the course would be on that day. No problems! The sun shone, the course was in great condition and thanks to John and his staff everyone enjoyed the day. The views from the course of the surrounding mountains are breathtaking and we were even treated to the sight of a buzzard flying up the valley. The prize table took us through to 11th nett but the main prize winners were:- Best Nett - Peter Rainey; Best Gross - John Berry; Over 55s - Bert Cross; Aggregate Trophy - Alec Davies. We were fortunate to have a very special guest with us on the day. Lord Whitelaw came along and presented the prizes to the winners before joining us for dinner. I would like to thank Lord Whitelaw for allowing us the pleasure of his company, Keswick GC for allowing us the courtesy of the course, John Turner and his staff for their hard work in preparing the course, John Fleet and his wife for the lovely meals and bar service and the companies who helped to swell the prize table, namely Rigby Taylor, Supaturf, Ritefeed, GEM, Martin Brothers, Cheshire Sand and Top Dressing, Cheshire Turf Machinery and Bathgate Top Dressing.

The Hayter Challenge Final at Ganton GC was played on September 18 with 63 competitors who had won through from their various spring tournaments and regional finals. The course was immaculate thanks to David Spurden and his staff and it is easy to see why this course is classed as one of the best and most difficult courses around. The course is heavily planted with gorse and trees and there are plenty of bunkers waiting to catch the way-

ward short. I think the bunkers were designed by Adolf Hitler and constructed by this war planes with landmines they were so deep! The competitors had plenty to play for with prizes but also with places for next years Rest of the World team to play in America. Unfortunately we had no winners from the North West.

This year's Christmas competition is at Wilmslow GC, on Thursday November 27. The Section AGM will take place immediately after the golf and will be followed by a Christmas Dinner. The tee will be available from 10 am and all entries must be in by Saturday, November 22, with your deposit of £10 to Bill Merritt, 225 Utting Avenue, Clubmore, Liverpool, L4 9RB. All competitors will be required to bring along a bottle so that everybody takes home a prize.

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

Bert Cross

North East

The Autumn Competition was held at Boldon GC, on Thursday, September 25. Forty members turned up to play which for me as Secretary was very gratifying considering there were a few familiar faces missing. Steve Miller and his staff had the course in excellent condition and we thank the committee for giving us courtesy of the course and also to the Stewardess for a great meal. Donations were received from The Ryton Gravel Co, Aitkens, Boldon GC, Stocksfield GC, Greenlay, Border Turf Services and Turf Care Supplies and on behalf of the Section I would like to thank all the sponsors. The results were as follows:- Best Nett (Ransome Cup) - B. Wilson, Stocksfield, 73-6-66; Best Nett, Greenlay Cup 0-9 handicaps - R. Reid, Prudhoe, 75-7-68; Best Nett (Fewster Shield) 10-28 handicaps - G. Wright, Crook, 85-15-70; Best Gross Salver - A. McLure, 75. Other scores were B. Walker (guest), 83-14-69; M. Woods

(guest), 80-10-70; A. Mooney, 91-20-71; D. Sharkey, 76-4-72; G. Baxter, 78-6-72; J. Redhead, 84-12-72; D. Dalby, 82-10-72; D. Street, 83-11-72; K. Mould, 87-15-72.

The annual match against SE Scotland will have taken place by now, hopefully we shall regain the cup at Haddington.

Both Brian Hughes and Kevin Mould, of Whickham, have done well this year in passing Phase 4 and Phase 2 respectively, better late than never with that news. May I remind you that some of the players who played in the knockout competitions have not paid their entry fee. Please get in touch with David Cuthbertson, we need the money for the prizes.

Sometime in December we are having a competition at South Moor followed by the AGM presentation of all the trophies played for in 1997 followed by a meal. All members will be sent a letter asking if they would like to attend. The President of the Section Mr Tony Chambers of Shorts will present the trophies.

Jimmy Richardson

Cleveland

The Turfcare sponsored quiz versus the Institute of Groundsman takes place at Mount Oswald GC, Durham at 7.30 pm on December 10. The brilliant two Kevins from Brancepeth GC need help to defend the greenkeeper's record, so turn up lads and show your talent!

Our Secretary, Gary Munro, has been busy as Manager of the Wynyard GC. His course was host to the European Tour "School" recently in a 54 hole event. 150 entered with passports into the final qualifying stage on the Costa del Sol up for grabs.

George Salabank, Student Greenkeeper, at Eaglescliffe GC has, after three months employment, been taken on for a further year. Earlier he completed a two year course at the Scottish College where he obtained a HND in Sport and Leisure. He plays off a handicap of 11.

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Comment From Walter Woods

St. Andrews Links Golf Course supervisor

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The Full Monty!

It's almost here and BIGGA will be showing the lot!

Seminar success

Ken and Sami report that the education programme is rapidly filling up. Hardly surprising when you see this year's programme! See The Learning Experience or phone Sami for details.

The banquet

Have you booked your ticket yet for the most sensational night of the year? Due to ever growing demand, the venue this year will be Hall D of the Exhibition Centre and tickets are selling like hot cakes.

Exhibitors galore

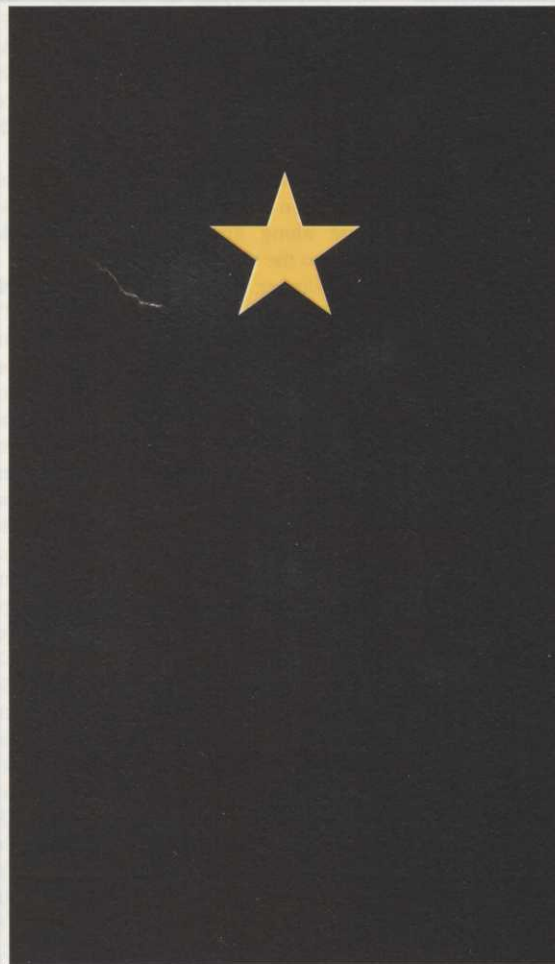
More exhibitors than ever will be revealing all at this year's show. Over 175 companies to date have staked their place for the 1998 event of the year!

You've seen the film of the year – now see the show of the year!

So, if you haven't seen BIGGA in all its glory, then make a date for the event of '98!



Who's coming to dinner?



Find out more in next month's

GREENKEEPER
International

Around the Green



Shaun Carroll is to attend a machinery training course in an effort to help out at his Club with machinery troubles in the future. Machines are getting more and more sophisticated, and costly!

The dry weather in September is great for treatment of greens and tees and there's no sign of worm casts yet!

There will be more news in the members' newsletter from our Secretary.

Bruce Burnell

North Wales

Well, it has been a long time hasn't it? May I first introduce myself - I am David Goodridge and Acting Chairman and Press Officer of your Section and Head Greenkeeper at Denbigh GC. The last 12 months have seen a turbulent time at committee level with resignations flying about and all the gossip and innuendoes that go on. Most of us have to deal with committees in our working life and know all the inherent short falls etc. However it is democratic even though things don't always go the way you would

want or expect. Remember it is YOUR Section and it needs YOUR input. I am available on 01824 710693 for your views, news and basically anything to do with golf and greenkeeping including births, deaths, weddings... I sound like a register office!

But seriously we are looking for a Secretary as Trevor Johnstone finds he hasn't got the time to do both the Secretary's and Treasurer's job. The position does take time and you will find your ear has to be surgically removed from the phone at times but there must be one of you out there that would love to know everything that's going on as well as contributing a hell of a lot to the Section.

The AGM will be held at the Christmas meeting, on December 3. More details will be available from me soon.

Onto a more sombre note, it is my sad duty to inform you that Ken Hawkins passed away on August 8 after spending some time in hospital after suffering a stroke. Any of you who played in the meetings at Cardon Park, Porthmadog or Frodsham will remember Ken as a starter who made sure everything ran smoothly, always had a laugh and a joke and showed such enthusiasm that starting a round of golf and the clubhouse afterwards will never be the same.

It is always best to finish things

on a high note and for one of our members I suppose a few thousand feet over the Atlantic next October is pretty high. The said member is Russell Lewis, of Northop Country Park. Russell who plays off 3 is representing Wales in the Hayter International Challenge Cup after winning his way through Frodsham, Maften Hall and Ganton and he finds himself on his way to Atlanta, Georgia. Nice one Russ, let's hope it's the Dragon that flies top of the pile. I'm sure the whole Section will be willing you on.

Anyway, it's Friday, it's 7.30pm, now where's that beer?
Dave Goodridge

Sheffield

On September 22 we held our autumn competition at Sicklehome GC. It was a perfect day for playing golf and was enjoyed by the 38 members who played. Our thanks go to Sicklehome for giving us courtesy of the course. Thanks also go to Mike Lake and his staff who presented the course in such lovely condition. Well done, Mike!

Thanks also go to the stewardess and her staff for the excellent meal which was enjoyed by everyone.

Our thanks go to Tony Dobson, of Henton 7 Chattells, who were the main sponsors of the competition and for providing the excellent prize table. Other trade members who provided prizes were Glen

Hardcastle, County Crops; Alan Dyson, Gem; Brian Booth, Rigby Taylors; Steve Burroughs, Amenity Turf Supplies; Peter Fell, Aitkens, and Les Purdy, Purdys.

Congratulations go to all the prize winners at Sicklehome and well done to Craig Duncan who, with an excellent score of 38 points, won the competition. I think local knowledge helped Craig. Well done.

Results: 1. C. Duncan, 38pts; 2. M. Coltas, 37 pts; 3. P. Neve, 36pts; 4. P. Docherty, 36pts (I heard you had a bit of fun on the 18th, Paul!)

My apologies to Paul Neve who also qualified for the Hayter Final. Unfortunately, Mick Coltas and Paul didn't have any luck in the final.

At the National Tournament Paul had better luck because he won his Handicap Division thus qualifying for the Kubuta Challenge. Well done and good luck Paul.

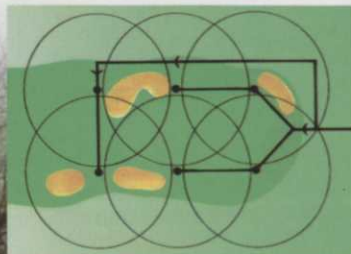
Congratulations go to Jeremy Duffield who has been appointed Head Greenkeeper at Dore and Tootley GC. Jeremy moves to Dore from Howley Hall in Leeds. Good luck, Jeremy.

A few dates for your diaries .

Golf:- November 24, Christmas competition at Rotherham GC.

Lectures. December 4, Mr R. Laycock, Turf Consultant; February 5, Mr N. Baldwin, Service Chemicals, ex- STRI and March 5, Mr A.

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or (01425) 479232



Around the Green



➔ Morton, Maxicrop. All at Rotherham GC at 2.30pm.

Finally, Barry Heaney recently retired from Wortley GC due to ill health. I hope you have an easy and happy retirement, Barry. Barry has done a lot of work for the Association and is still doing it so you deserve a happy retirement. Good luck.

John Lax

Northern

This year's Winter Tournament which is at Scarcroft GC is to be held on Wednesday December 3 and NOT Wednesday December 10 at previously advertised. The tee off time will remain the same at 10.30 am. The AGM will follow the golf and meal with a start time of 6.00 pm.

This year's Invitation Day Tournament was held at Skipton GC. Unfortunately I was unable to attend but reports have filtered back that the day was a success. Many thanks to committee members for sorting out the proceedings on the day. Thank you to Ritefeed for sponsoring the prizes and to

Alan Cordingley for attending on their behalf. The greens were apparently in excellent condition so thanks to Gary Potter and his boys for their hard work preparing the course. Results for the day were as follows:- 1. A Baxter & M Collins; 2. A Court & J Oxley; 3. K Christie & T Jackson; 4. C Hill & A Cooper; 5. K Purdy & I Summersgill. Nearest the pin:- 1. P Kavanagh; 2. G Potter.

Congratulations to three of our lads within the Section on recently reaching Head Greenkeeper status. Firstly to Telford Jarvis, at Scarcroft GC, secondly to Tito Arana, at Riddlesden GC, and finally to Gavin Hawker, at Silsden GC. I hope you all settle in your new roles.

At a recent section committee meeting a couple of things were agreed upon. Firstly that the golfing events for 1998 will have to be paid in full at least one week before the tournament - no name and money before hand means no play on the day. This will hopefully prevent problems we have encountered in the past.

Secondly that the Annual Dinner Dance is again to be held at Bradford GC at the date agreed upon, March 14 1998. The agreed price is £16 per head to include the meal, wine on the table and entertainment.

It was nice to see our new

Regional Administrator, Doug Bell, attend our meeting. Doug stated that everything was a little strange to him at the moment but I am sure that he will soon get into the swing of things. No doubt many of you will be seeing Doug at your golf clubs - maybe he will even be able to persuade some to pay the recommended rates!

Again, if anyone has any news from within the Section please do not hesitate to contact me at 1 Cockley Meadows, Kirkheaton, Huddersfield HD5 0LA, telephone 01484 317813.

Simon Heppenstall

MIDLAND REGION

Peter Larter

Tel: 01480 437507

East Midlands

This year's Autumn Tournament was played at the excellent venue of Chevin GC on September 3. Although heavy rain had been falling for several days prior to the Tournament and on the day, the course was presented in pristine condition by Mike Billings and his staff. In difficult conditions some respectable scores were posted with the winners as follows:- Category 1: 1. P. Billings, Cotgrave Place, 82-8-74; 2. R. Barker, Kirby Muxloe, 78-3-75; 3. A. Foulds, Manor, 84-9-75. Category 2: 1. A. Bindley, Kirby Muxloe, 91-16-75; 2.



K. Davis, Lutterworth, 92-15-77; 2. D. James, Scraftoft, 94-16-78. Category 3: 1. M. Bindley, Kirby Muxloe, 91-21-70; 2. S. Heap, Rothley, 102-22-80; 3. M. Billings, Chevin, 104-22-82. Trade and Associate: G. Thurman, Charnwood Forest, 86-8-78.

The Section's gratitude should go to Chevin GC for courtesy of their fine course and to the Steward for an excellent meal. Also I would like to thank our very generous sponsors for the day, Charnwood and Highmeres Lawnmower Services who unfortunately could not be with us on the day because of the Saltex Show. Also I am most grateful to all those committee members who helped to run this event.

This years Supaturf K/O Cup was won by Adie Porter, Greetham Valley, who defeated Dave Mitchell, Springwater, by 6&5 in the final held at Lingdale GC. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Lingdale GC for hosting the Final on their excellent course.

In the Cosby Am-Am Richard Barker, Adie Porter, Roger Barker and myself finished with a 2-over-par score of 144 with the highlight of the round on the par 3, 185 yard 14th hole. After hitting a 5-iron onto the green Roger then knocked in a 30 foot putt for a birdie 2 giving the team a share in the 2s sweep. Antony Bindley

➔ Page 36

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