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PUMPS TECHNOLOGY

– the heart of the system

Irrigation systems are carefully designed by specialists to balance the local supply of water with the demand created by operating sprinklers. This balance can be achieved either by increasing water supply at the source; or, by limiting the number of sprinklers or zones of sprinklers applying water at any given moment.

Furthermore, sprinklers are designed to function at specific pressures. The water source must not only deliver an adequate volume of water, but also at the right pressure. This makes on-site pumps essential for proper irrigation on golf courses, parks and other large sites.

Considering golf courses have between 500 and 2,000 sprinkler heads controlled by many field stations, with generally only one pump station, the balancing act is

very complicated. Consider further that irrigation must occur in a limited time frame, that the amount of water being applied changes by station and by the irrigation event (with input of evapotranspiration data), and that higher elevation can reduce the water pressure available for sprinklers in higher zones. Now, you can appreciate why experienced engineers are needed to design and install large irrigation systems. Pressure and flow are related. If the flow of water used by sprinkler heads exceeds the supply, pressure will fall. If pressure falls below the design pressure of the head, it won't distribute water to the same rate, distance of uniformity.

One way to achieve balance is by regulating the number and types of heads operating at the

same time to match the water output of the pump station. You start with the known output(s) of the pump station and figure out a combination of zones to use this amount of water. You will also need to schedule irrigation so that all combinations of zones have the correct demand. The old way to do this was to pop in valve groups until the pump could just keep up. This is considerably easier today with the advent of computer flow management software and central controllers. Hydro-zoning of sprinklers and flow sensors make it possible to create an almost infinite number of sprinkler combinations.

■ **New pump technologies** – the other way to achieve balance is to regulate the output of the pump station by staging multiple pumps or by changing pump speed with variable frequency drive (VFD). This leads to a debate between pump station manufacturers regarding which is better.

Conventional electric pumps running on alternating current operate at one efficient speed. By staging pumps to come on one after the other as flow demand increases, the specified pressure and flow rate are met. When flow demand decreases, the pumps shut down in reverse order. Generally, a small pump runs constantly to maintain system pressure.

The rough edge of this type of system is the surge in pressure it can generate at start-up and shut-down. When electric current is supplied to each pump, it accelerates quickly to its design speed. The solution is to closely co-ordinate the opening and closing of sprinkler valves with the start-up and shut-down of the pumps in the station. Significant progress has been made getting pump controls to mate with sprinkler valve controls. However, the output is still restricted to the total of the pumps operating at any moment. Unless the irrigation schedule delivers a sprinkler demand that matches these staged outputs, some energy will be wasted.

VFD lets pumps ramp up and down to soften the pulse of pressure in the irrigation system. The

speed of these pumps can be changed to reduce or increase their output. While the efficiency of the pump might not be the greatest at lower rpms, some energy is conserved. The real question is when is the higher cost of VFDs returned by energy savings. The longer the irrigation system operates during the year, the more likely a VFD is to make sense.

■ Variable Speed Drive Pumps

The modern approach to pump station efficiency is two-sided. By communicating the pump station controller, a central controller can deliver greater efficiency and reduced pressure fluctuation. This results in lower energy consumption and fewer blowouts caused by pressure surges. Higher elevation zones can be recognised by the controller to signal the pump station to increase pressure. Since the pressure zones can be controlled to fit sprinkler design specifications, water distribution uniformity by the heads is optimised for the best control over application. Not only is energy saved, so is water.

Operating pressures are also coming down as lower-pressure turf heads are perfected. Older pump stations might need to be retrofitted to deliver less pressure.

Finally, as water supplies are stretched and lower quality water is utilised for large turf irrigation, filters must be engineered into the pump station. The needs of the filters must be met by the pumps, just as the needs of sprinklers have been. Backflushing and other types of filter maintenance must be considered in the irrigation schedule.

From the beginning, pump stations have been a critical component of irrigation system control. This role will continue to grow as water and energy become more precious.

SPRINKLER TECHNOLOGY – THE MUSCLES OF THE SYSTEM

Golf sprinklers have probably one common denominator – they all lay water down in a circular pattern. The basic principle of turf

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irrigation is to apply an even application of water over the irrigated area.

■ Valve in Head (VIH) or Block Control?

There are advantages and disadvantages to valve-in-head control. The important point to understand is that certain sites suit VIH sprinklers whilst others do not.

With total individual sprinkler control, maximum water use efficiency can be achieved. This is probably the most important argument for valve in head sprinklers and is the main reason for their development. The most important point to note here is that the system must be operated efficiently, however it is expensive, it is complex and it works well.

■ New Sprinkler Technologies –

Low pressure, low precipitation irrigation through nozzle engineering is becoming more popular towards the millennium, offering the following advantages:

a) More efficient profiles are easier to maintain, closer head spac-

ing facilitates lowering of precipitation rates and head operating pressure.

b) Lower head operating pressure saves in energy cost to pump the system:

- saves in the wear and tear on system due to surges and water hammer (heads, valves and plumbing),
- creates larger droplets that fight wind better.

c) Lowering the precipitation rates will conserve water:

- matching application rates to soils infiltration will minimise run-off wastage,
- water stays where applied, reduces compaction, chemical waste and liability,
- better uniformity of water yields better turf appearance and improves playability,
- smaller lateral pipes, swing joints, fewer and smaller automatic valves, fewer stations/control zones and less wire,
- eliminates the need for higher maintenance valve-in-head sprinklers to control application rates.

d) The initial costs savings will be augmented by such long term benefits as extended system life, and lower ongoing maintenance costs, with no valves in the sprinkler heads, live pipework under fairways or playing areas, under lower pressure, all system components will work better and last longer.

■ Metal or Plastic?

At the grocery store it's "paper or plastic?" but with sprinklers the question becomes "metal or plastic?" The conventional wisdom is that metal is more durable than plastic, and therefore is better. Up until the late 1970s metal (usually brass, sometimes zinc) was the standard material from which almost all sprinklers were made. However, times have changed and now plastic is the state-of-the-art material for sprinklers. The primary reason for this change in materials is cost; machined metal parts are more expensive in comparison to injection moulded plastic. Fortunately, most of today's plastic sprinkler

heads are very well engineered and will perform as well as a metal sprinkler.

Hybrids: A few companies manufacture plastic sprinkler bodies which accept brass nozzles, which often results in a better water pattern. Other manufacturers claim that plastic nozzles give better performance than brass. I personally haven't noticed any significant difference in performance between most brass and plastic nozzles, although brass nozzles will no doubt last longer.

■ Impact or Gear Drive?

Sprinkler heads are divided into two types based on the method they use to distribute the water.

■ Impact Rotors – the example which most people are familiar with is the "impact" rotor sprinkler which moves back and forth firing bursts of water. You probably know this sprinkler best for the distinct sound it makes when operating – tooka, tooka, tooka, tic, tic, tic, tic, tic, tooka, tooka, tooka, etc... The impact rotors are rapidly being replaced now by gear driven rotors which are very quiet, lower maintenance, and much smaller in size.

■ Gear Drive Rotors – provide a steady, powerful rotation to the sprinkling streams.

Water under pressure enters the base of the head through a diffuser which converts it into high velocity jets. These jets are then impinged against a turbine-like rotor causing it to spin at high speed.

A gear train, driven by the rotor, reduces the high rotational speed and converts it into a powerful turning torque. This torque gives the nozzle assembly the relatively slow rotational speed required for good coverage and precipitation.

Part-circle models incorporate a reciprocating mechanism that slowly drives the nozzle-assembly back and forth over a predetermined arc. Gear trains are usually contained in separate housings to protect the gears from debris in the water.

Which to use, impacts or gear drive? Cost-wise it comes out about the same.

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Around the Green



BB&O

At the time of writing this article the Lambourne golf day was approaching, unfortunately the deadline fell before the event so for those of you who did not participate you will have to wait until next month for the results. The long running Rigby Taylor fourball knockout is finally taking shape with the favourites easing through the field towards yet another final. I am referring to Tony French and Geoff Wheeler, having disposed of R. Fletcher and D. Parrish, from Henley, with ease 5&4 they are fairly confident of brushing aside their next opponents in the same manner. R. Clark & C. Jacobsen, from Harleyford, will have other ideas after thrashing B. Holt & N. Wheedon 6&4 and then coming through a tough encounter with G. Austin & M. Rapley by one hole. I have a feeling home advantage may prove decisive for the Harleyford boys. Unfortunately in the bottom half of the draw things have been a little slow with several teams unable to arrange a suitable date to play their matches thus leading to a couple of walk-overs! This has been a big disappointment to the sponsors. I would stress that in future if you are planning to play in this event please make every effort to play your matches!

The next Golf day is in a few weeks time at Richings Park, this is also our AGM.

Finally the Regional Seminar is on Wednesday, November 19, at Northampton Rugby Club. It would be nice to see a strong contingent from our section.

L. T. Anderson

Mid Anglia

This month our annual Regional Seminar takes place on the 19th at

Northampton Rugby Club. All members should have received an application form from Peter Larter, our Regional Administrator, a few months ago listing speakers etc and how to apply.

Next month our last golf event of the year takes place at Family Golf Centre, Chesfield Downs, Gravelly, on Thursday December 4.

It is the usual Texas Scramble format, so please organise your teams and make sure your entries are sent to Richard in good time as this event is sometimes oversubscribed.

The final of the Lodgeway Fourball Competition took place in early October between Gavin Simpkins and Steve Mason of Mount Pleasant GC and Rupert Lawrence and Eddie Thompson, of Berkhamsted GC. Eighteen holes were contested in the morning at the end of which Rupert and Eddie were seven up (local knowledge an obvious advantage!).

However, Gavin and Steve fought back during the afternoon round at neighbouring Ashridge, but eventually lost by 4&3.

Congratulations to the finalists and our thanks to Berkhamsted and Ashridge golf clubs for allowing the final to take place and also to Gerald Bruce and Jim Cassidy for the fine condition of both courses.

Once again, Chas Ayres, from Lodgeway, our sponsor, has organised the event well and I'm sure everyone who entered this year's event will be looking forward to next year's competition. Paul Lockett

Midland

On October 2 the Autumn Tournament was held at North Worcester GC. A great day was had by all and many thanks go to the greenkeepers who presented the course in superb condition and to the catering staff on the excellent meal. The results were:- Gross - M. Hughes, 69; Nett - 1. M. Jones, 65; 2. M. Hughes; 3. J Wood; 4. D. Fellows, 67. Trade Cup - R. Minton, Mira-

cle; Longest Drive - R Minton; Nearest Pin - T Cheese. We would like to thank our main sponsors for the day who were Burrows of Stafford.

The Christmas competition will be held on December 8, at Druids Heath. This will also be the venue for the AGM. It has been decided by the committee that the current officers will serve for two years so they have another year to serve. The other members of the committee are up for re-election so anyone wishing to stand must be put forward to me before December 1 with a proposer and seconder. We have decided to change the AGM in this way as to save any confusion on the night as there was last year. This will mean that there will be no nomination on the night. The same procedure will stand for questions to the committee. You will need to send me them before the above date but we do anticipate there will be some questions asked on the night. I would appreciate your commitment and support at this AGM as it is your Section and you have the opportunity to wish Andrew Parker Smith a very speedy recovery from a terrible accident. Andrew works for Soil Systems and mainly covers the south of our region so there will be a small number of you who will be familiar with him. Let's hope you make a speedy recovery and a full one - best wishes from the Section.

The Committee Cup was held at Walsall GC on September 17 and was won by myself. Thanks to Eddie Stant for organising the competition and to Walsall GC.

Jonathan Wood

SOUTH EAST REGION

Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260956

South East Region

What a difference this year! The similarity between Blackpool (last year's venue) and Scarborough is that they are both by the seaside. Scarborough however does not have the distractions of Blackpool,



doesn't stay open until the early hours, there isn't a bar every 25 yards and most significant of all does not have a 'Brannigans', which were some of the reasons for the South East's lack of success last year!

This year, as those of you who failed to qualify in a rain soaked 9 holes at Ham Manor for the Hayter Finals will be glad to know, the South East Team made the best of their good fortune in qualifying in such conditions and had a most successful few days at Ganton.

The course which was in superb condition is a most attractive inland links with practically every hole being a potential "card destroyer" and Ganton have done a superb job in converting what appeared to be old open-cast mining sites and disused quarries into bunkers!

For the first time in a long while the South East got into the money being narrowly beaten into second place by first time winners SW & SW, but were more than compensated by the success of Dave Murdoch, Liphook GC, taking the best gross prize and Andy Sheehan, Bentley GC, playing superbly to level par taking the 2nd best net and the coveted English place in the International Match to be held at Atlanta, Georgia next year. Barry Jackson, Broke Hill GC, played very steadily to make the 3rd spot in the 19-28 Handicap Section.

As non-playing Team Captain (I didn't have enough golf balls to play Ganton!) my thanks are due to Dave Murdoch, Andy Sheehan, Neil Gilham, Jon Selwood, Jon Hill, Ian Sutcliffe, Martin Mison, Barry Jackson and Trevor Hindmarsh for applying themselves so well and for being a great bunch of lads and making my trip so enjoyable.

The Region's thanks are also due to Kim Macfie and Hayters for their generosity in sponsoring this event for the last five years and Kim - if you promise to improve the joke you can take this as an invitation to be the Region's guest at the Gentle-



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men's Dinner which will be held at Walton Heath Golf Club on March 6 1998.

Derek Farrington

Essex

On September 25 the Essex Section met at Writtle College to hear Dr Tim Lodge give us an insight into the use and misuse of top dressing and gave us an update on recent research into golf greens construction and maintenance. Our thanks go to Chelmsford Grass Machinery and Nigel Cornwell for sponsoring the lecture and to Pattissons, Pearl, Avoncrop, Kings and Parker Hart who provided raffle prizes. Thanks also to the 28 people who turned up for the meeting. If you require notes to this meeting please contact Martin Forrester on 01245 603131.

Our best wishes for the future go to Di Edwards and Tony Filbee who have both recently retired from Writtle College. We welcome Stuart Brown as a new member of staff at Writtle.

Dates for your diary - Presentation Dance on November 14 at Langdon Hills and the AGM on December 3 at Orsett GC.

Following two days of rain we were greeted by strong winds on October 9 when we visited Stock Brook Manor for our latest golfing challenge, sponsored by Grass Hopper. The course was in excellent condition and for a course so young Michael Fance and his greenkeeping team must be very proud. We would like to thank Mr Peachey, the owner, for making the club facilities available to the Essex Section. We would also like to thank Kevin and Alison in the Pro's Shop for marking the cards and to Gerado, Fernando and all the catering and bar staff. The results for the day were as follows:- 0-9 handicap:- 1. A. Toomey, 38 pts; 2. M. Fance, 31 pts; 3. J. Cook, 31 pts; 10-18 handicap:- 1. S. Townsend, 37 pts; 2. C. Ward, 36 pts; 3. J. Morgan, 35 pts; 19-28 handicap:- 1. G. Speller, 33 pts; 2. J. Barnard, 23 pts; 3. M. Forrester, 23 pts; Trade prize - S. Denton, 32 pts; Guest prize - B. Wallace, 38 pts; Booby prize - B. Speller; Nearest the pin on the 7th sponsored by the Greenkeepers Supply Company - M. Fance; Longest drive on the 18th sponsored by the Greenkeepers Supply Company - S. Cox; Putting competition:- 1. S. Townsend and A. Toomey; 3. M. Fance.

Thanks to the trade for their generosity in giving the raffle prizes:- Avoncrop, Collier's, Grass Roots, Kings, Parker-Hart, Pearl, Rigby Taylor, Scotts/Miracle and Tuckwells. We have already mentioned our sponsors for the day but a special thanks must go to Dill Barnard, from Grass Hopper, who

joined the 45 players throughout the day.

Our next function is on Friday, November 14. The disco and buffet evening will give us all a chance to bring our other halves! It will be held at Langdon Hill GC at 7.30 pm. Tickets are £8 each, for more information ring Carl Crocher on 01375 892354.

The Essex Section's first AGM will be held on December 3 at Orsett GC, please try and attend. More details will follow, if not please contact Andy Sheehan on 01277 215765. If you have any news or information you want to go in the magazine, call me on 01702 522202.

Dave Wells

Sussex

The autumn meeting was held at Birch Grove which is a course I had heard a lot about but never had the pleasure of playing before, and what a pleasure it was. The layout, setting and presentation was first class. Can I pass on our thanks to Jon Hill for arranging the day for us and to him and his team for presenting the course so well? As many of you know, the aim of the day was to raise money for the Brighton General Renal Unit where Chris Allen has his treatment. As there are no clubhouse facilities at Birch Grove, Jon arranged for his local publican to do the bar and catering for us. This was a great success with bacon rolls on arrival, a ploughmans lunch and a barbecue to end the day. After all costs were taken out we managed to raise around £500 with which we will be purchasing some colour TVs for the unit. Ray Day will be arranging the presentation. Before I get on to the results of the competition there is one more thank you to the sponsors for the day, that is Parker Hart for providing all the prizes and Miracle for the half way house. Without support from companies like these the cost of golf days would be far more. The results are as follows:- Morning Stableford - 1. Jon Hill, 36 pts; 2. Chris Reed, 34 pts; 3. Shaun Sturrock, 32 pts. The longest walk was Johnny Beck, of Miracle (sorry Justin, you can't win all the time!). Afternoon Stableford - 1. Neil Cleverly, Gary Ogilvie, Mike Butrymoyicz; 2. George Barr, Colin Cathie, Paul Ward.

The next meeting is the Turkey Trot on December 12, at Littlehampton. Don't forget to return your entry form as soon as you receive it as there is usually a big response to this event.

Since staging the National Tournament at Cooden Beach, Stefan Antolik has been invited to play in the Kubota Challenge at the Belfry. Good luck Stefan and have a great time.

By the time you read this article you will have received notification of this year's AGM. We want as many members as possible to attend as it still seems to be the same old faces every year. I also understand that some of the committee who have worked hard for the Section over the years would like a rest so some posts will be becoming vacant.

Colin Cathie

SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH WALES REGION

Paula Humphries

Tel: 01363 82777

South Coast

Our Christmas Turkey Trot will be held at Royal Winchester GC on December 1. This will be followed by the AGM. On completion of the AGM there will be the Christmas Dinner and prize giving. All members wishing to play golf should send their names complete with current handicaps and a cheque for £12.50 to:- Tony Gadd, Cherry Trees, Lymington Road, Milford on Sea, Hampshire, SO41 0QL, telephone 01590 643746. All cheques should be made payable to BIGGA South Coast Section. All entries should be with Tony by Friday November 21. Anyone who just wants to attend the AGM and the Christmas Dinner are most welcome. Please contact Tony in the usual way. Anyone wishing to be nominated to serve on the committee or if you have any items for the agenda then please contact our Secretary Jef Drake, 10 Coldharbour Lane, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP2 7PN, telephone 01722 503938.

Our Region/Section seminar will be held at Sparsholt College on February 26 1998. The speakers will include Janet Adamson, from BIGGA Headquarters; Allan Mitchell, our Section Chairman; John Noyce, from Scott Fertilisers, and John Wells, the Course Manager from Bocket Hall. There will also be two students who will be talking on a greenkeeping subject of their own choosing. The cost for the day will be £15 for members and £20 for non-members which will include lunch. All entry forms should be filled in and returned complete with cheques to our Secretary Jef Drake. Previous years' seminars have been a great success. This is all down to our education sub-committee who have been responsible for the organisation and the choosing of some very good speakers.

BTME will soon be with us again. I am told that the regional coach is filling up fast. Hurry up and get your completed forms and cheques to our Regional Administrator Mrs Paula Humphries, Truants Cottage, Zeal Monachorum, Crediton, Devon, EX17 6DF, tele-



phone 01363 82777. All of you who are travelling on the coach and wish to make use of the South Coast Section feeder catch, contact me on 01329 282362. I will then know what size coach to book and also be able to arrange the various pick-up points.

I have just heard that Brian Gauntlett, who is an Assistant Greenkeeper at Romeşy GC, has just become the proud father of a baby daughter. Megan was born on Saturday September 20. Congratulations to Brian and Natasha on their happy event.

One last piece of news - I have just had a telephone call from Tony Gadd who informs me that the South Coast have retained the trophy in the annual match against the South West Section. The score was three games to two. It sounds like it was a very close fought game - well done lads! One thing Tony did not tell me was whether he won his match or not!

Ken Lodge

South West

Winter is here and everyone will be well into their Autumn and Winter programmes. The professional has started his money counting operation and so will be busy until Christmas while the greenkeeper is getting the blame for everything from the captain's hernia to the Bosnia crisis.

Image becomes a real problem for the greenkeeper at this time. Gone are the heady days of summer where we could take on a God-like persona as the men responsible for the lush fairways and superb greens. It is now that a low profile is adopted or better still a long vacation is taken, preferably in a different hemisphere. I have always envied the professional at this time. Image for them has never been a problem. After all they are the ones that have what every club golfer longs for, the ability to play golf. They are there at the hub of the golf club with their bouffant hair styles and designer couture selling magic wands to the gullible masses while occasionally disclosing snippets of information on the latest swing techniques. Is it any wonder that when a nubile young female accidentally strays into the confines of a golf club it is the assistant professionals that get their grubby little mitts on them long before any greenkeeper gets so much as a sniff in the relevant direction?

But enough of my bitter envy, what has been happening within our Section? Well, two matches have recently taken place and it has become clear that Tim Dabernett's departure from greenkeeping was in fact a desperate ploy to relinquish his captaincy as we complete a 100% record in all three

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Around the Green



matches this year ie losing the lot! Following on from Tim, vice captain Matt Hawker took over the reins in a four matches to one loss against the South Wales greenkeepers at Thornbury. Thanks to Robin Greaves and his crew for their usual high quality course preparation for that one. I must apologise to the rest of the team for not being able to attend the meal which I have been informed was excellent, but I made the mistake of taking the only set of house keys with me to the match and as my locked out wife likes to punish such misdemeanours with justice based on Islamic principles I felt it necessary to return home quickly. Matt, following his traumatic experience against the Welsh, gave the job of captain to Terry Humphries at High Post against the South Coast greenkeepers. Unfortunately the South Coast like their South Wales counterparts continued the unsociable habit of playing good golf and so came out three matches to one victors in that one. But we all enjoyed the excellent course maintained by Lauchlan Millar and his team and a very pleasant meal to follow. Getting the team together once again proved to be very difficult so please could everyone try and make themselves available for these fixtures as they are great fun and help keep the links between all other greenkeepers going.

There is however some good news on the golfing front as congratulations must go to Anthony Knight, from Kingsdown, who showed his true form in taking Ganton apart and coming second overall in the Hayter Final as well as winning his handicap category.

Best wishes must also go to Terry Humphries, our long serving committee man on his retirement from Filton and also to John Barr from Bristol and Clifton who is travelling North of the border again for a new project up there.

So what events are coming up? Well, actually quite a lot. Firstly we have the annual South West regional seminar at Cannington on November 26. Everyone should have had their forms for that by now and as you will be able to see it promises to be a good one. We also have the Christmas Tournament at Minchinhampton on December 10. This is always quite popular and great fun so please go along to that to support the Section and to enjoy yourselves. Then in January we have the BTME at Har-

rogate and the Region's coach party so if anyone wants to go along and I am sure there will be many, then give Paula Humphries a ring.

Marc Haring

Devon and Cornwall

Could members please note the change of date for the Avoncrop sponsored meeting which will now be held on Tuesday March 3 1998?

Once again Christmas is approaching fast, what better way to start the festive season than by attending our P J Flegg sponsored Christmas meeting which will be held at Okehampton GC on Wednesday December 10? As in previous years numbers will be limited to the first 80 members so to avoid disappointment please return your entry with correct money as soon as possible and before the closing date. The day will start as usual with golfing members playing for the P J Flegg Trophy with the format being greensome. For those of you not wishing to play golf the now customary course walk will start from the clubhouse at approximately 10.30 with Head Greenkeeper Richard Wisdom showing members his fine work. Lunch will be followed by our afternoon cabaret and the day will conclude with the raffles.

I would like to remind you that the Region's annual seminar will be held at Cannington College on Wednesday November 26. Places on the Region's package to BTME 98 which includes transport, accommodation and entry to the BTME show and seminars are going fast so to avoid disappointment you are advised to return your booking form as soon as possible. If you haven't already booked your place for the seminar or BTME package don't delay, call our Regional Administrator Paula Humphries today on 01363 82777. Richard Whyman

South Wales

Our Autumn Tournament was played for recently over the Tenby Links, a super golf course that breathes character and tradition, the only downfall being that it lies far west, certainly too far west most people must have thought. That was a pity and certainly their loss for we were greeted with warmth and hospitality and were made to feel at home by each and everyone at the club. Where else does the Secretary buy you a drink on arrival and the Captain buy you a drink with your meal? The weather was glorious, warm sunshine with a stiff breeze (gale force 3) - the Captain informed us that it was considered a gentle breeze for Tenby and ideal golfing conditions. The course itself was in excellent

condition and the greens were just a little on the quick side, a tribute to the dedication of Head Greenkeeper Chris Jenkins and his staff. Chris incidentally dusted down his clubs and joined us playing his first 18 holes in let's just say a long while! We hope that we will see a lot more of him in the near future, he's still got the swing you know!

Winner of the day and the Jacobson Cup was Daryl Bray of Morriston GC with a nett 73 winning a golf bag. Second, winning the President's Cup was Andy Roach of Haverfordwest GC winning a trendy long handled putter. Winner of the Waycott Cup was Langland Bay's Ian Harwood who also won a Ryder Cup sweater.

Our sincere thanks to the sponsors, Keith Morgan Mowers and to both Ben and Jon Morgan for their continued support. A special thank you to the Tenby GC for granting us the courtesy of the golf course and to their Secretary Jeff Pearson who really did make us feel welcome. Thank you to the caterers and Roger Phillips for a wonderful feast and to the Captain, Mr Howard Griffiths for his kind words. All in all we had an excellent day!

At the Thornbury GC, Bristol the Annual Match South Wales versus the South West was recently contested. The South Wales Section were out to avenge the white washing they received at the hands of the South West team at Tredegar Park GC last year. It very nearly didn't happen for at 3.00 pm on the evening before the match was due to take place we had registered only 4 players! 6 hours of frantic phone calls later we had a team of 9, would they all turn up? Yes they did and I'd like to thank them all for doing so. For the match that very nearly didn't happen turned out to be our best win for a number of years.

The results were:- Match 1 - Peter Lacey/Adrian Panks won 3/2; Match 2 - Daryl Bray/Dennis Jones won 3/2; Match 3 - Vince Northey/Ray Everson lost 4/2; Match 4 - Laurence Walter/Lee Carter won 3/2; Match 5 (singles) - Kerry Llewellyn won 6/4. A sincere thanks to all those who turned up and helped in bringing the Shield back across the water. Hopefully we can keep it this side for at least a few years! Thanks also to Matthew Hawker and his team for the spirit in which the matches were played and to all at the Thornbury GC who contributed in making the day such an enjoyable one.

Please book early for the Winter Tournament, Christmas Competition and AGM at Pyle and Kenfig GC on Wednesday December 10 since I've a feeling we are going to be a bit stretched! Peter Lacey

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Profile

Usually the spotlight falls on the Course Manager or Head Greenkeeper at a Club. Now it is the turn of those whose work often goes unheralded to star...



Name: **Alan Buckley**
Club: **Newark GC**
Position: **Assistant**
Age: **47**

1. How long have you been a greenkeeper?

Five years

2. What education are you currently undertaking?

Hoping to continue NVQ III at Askham Bryan

3. Which one task do you most enjoy doing?

All types of construction and setting the course out for the larger competitions

4. Which one task do you most dislike doing?

Divotting

5. What job other than greenkeeping might you have ended up doing?

Burglar alarms service engineer.

6. Who has been the biggest influence on your career?

My brother Ian at Rhuddlan GC.

7. What would you do to improve the life of a greenkeeper?

Alert the golfer that our work is done to improve their golf if given time to do it

8. What are your hobbies?

Golf, DIY and gardening.

9. What do you get out of BIGGA?

Information on all aspects from course to machinery and education

10. What do you hope to be doing in 10 years time?

I would like to be Deputy or Head Greenkeeper.

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