



Phil James and colleague on the John Deere 2243 at Whitehill GC



Steve Putt on the Toro Greensmaster 3200D at Witney Lakes GC



this gives him more flexibility.

In terms of maintenance this has proved to be easy, and the ability to see and get to parts is a bonus. Nick cited the fact that the belts to the roller brushes are visible so that it is obvious when they need retightening or replacing. Grease points are easy to reach.

Since supply, Whites had fitted, free, a modification to the centre unit to make it quickly detachable so that it can be removed out under the side, without undoing the lift arms.

The machine is heavier than some others, including the GT, however as a disadvantage this is negated by the larger tyres and the fact that it is a well built machine designed to withstand heavy use.

The machine is only driven by the two front wheels, however Nick said with its weight distribution there is no tendency for slip and it goes up anywhere, and as the course has some quite steep slopes this is an excellent recommendation.

Overall Nick said he is extremely pleased with the machine, and next year it will become the No. 1 machine on the course.

John Deere 2243 at Whitehill Golf Club - Lydford, Somerset

This four year old private 18 hole course just off the Fosse Way in Somerset had a very limited budget and so when the decision was made to replace the elderly greens triple the original intention was to look for another good second hand machine. However Phil James, Head Greenkeeper, said they were unable to locate a machine which matched their requirements for price and condition. As a result they bought a new JD 2243 from Rochford Garden Machinery who were new JD dealers and had the machine, which is petrol engined, at the

right price (JD had just released the diesel model). Since new two years ago it has cut all the greens and not given any trouble. A recent oil leak due to a worn oil seal was sorted within a day by Rochfords and Phil said, "you can't get better than this".

Reel resharpening and bottom blade replacement are standard winter service items while during the season back lapping is practised as often as necessary to keep the edge, usually weekly.

One of the manufacturer's claims for the machine is that the offset cutting units allow the perimeter cuts to be made in alternate directions to avoid getting tracking. Phil commented that this noticeably works, and he has seen the difference between the JD and another machine of his experience where a perimeter track was noticeable.

Operation is simple with the boxes easy to put on and take off. Driving has proved easy and maintenance is simple. No groomers or verti-cutting units were bought, the latter operation being carried out by the club's pedestrian mowers.

Although the 2243 is only front wheel driven and petrol driven, Whitehill has found it has plenty of traction and power for this course which is mainly flat.

Phil said that he would certainly consider replacing the JD with another, but next time would prefer a diesel engined model while he would consider having groomers as a bonus.

Toro Greensmaster 3200D at Witney Lakes Golf Centre in Oxfordshire

Bought in November 1996 to replace a very elderly GM3 which was beginning to become demanding on replacement parts, the Witney 3200D is an ex-demo machine which was priced right by Handy Garden

Machinery of Swindon. Steve Putt, Head Greenkeeper, of this five year old 18 hole and range facility, said that Handy had proved their and Toro's ability to support the previous machine and this weighed heavily in favour of Toro for the replacement. Steve had considered another machine but although the franchised dealer was a known quantity, the machine itself was not. The ex-demo price made the Toro equal in price, and probably better in value.

The machine was bought without verti-cutters or groomers, but Toro's thatching reels, which Steve said, have the effect of verti-cutters have been ordered. These will also fit the older GM3 and Steve expected to use them mostly on that machine in future. The units are quick and easy to change. The centre pull design is seen as better and has reduced damage around the perimeter, however there is still some wear evident.

He too believes that the cut quality is better than hand mowing.

In the early stages of the course the greens were hand cut, however, this proved to expensive on time, so the GM3 was bought second hand to allow all greens to be cut within three hours by just one man. A leaking hydraulic line, which could not be seen by the operator, dropped a fine trail of oil on nine greens and this pressured the centre into investing in the new machine.

The ability for the operator to see most of the "plumbing" was cited by Steve as a plus for the Toro design - the GM3 leak was under a footboard. To date there have been no leaks or other major problem, although at the time of writing a failed exhaust bracket means that the exhaust is discharging onto the ground, and raising dust when on the tracks or around the compound perhaps more cosmetic than real as a problem.

While the GM3 was petrol engined the 3200 is Diesel, and very significantly less thirsty, a tank full of fuel allowing the machine to cut all the greens at least twice. Greens have been double cut for matches. The

engine is considered "quiet" nevertheless ear defenders are worn, but the one way in which the 3200D far outshone the GM3 was that it has hydrostatic steering which made manoeuvring very much easier. Steve added that there were other ways in which the new machine had taken some getting used to, mostly adapting to instincts such as having a foot speed control and hand lift/lower lever. These comments were not intended as criticism, just comment on adapting from older technologies.

Green speed was good, while the ability to control forward speed on the green was brilliant, but just reflects the advantage of hydrostatic transmission.

Maintenance is simple, although Steve commented that the engine filters are not quite as easy to change as he would have liked. Overall he thought it was a sturdy machine which was not likely to give trouble, although when questioned he admitted that there had been a few minor niggles, such as the throttle adjuster which worked loose - perhaps just a worn nylon nut, which could easily be righted.

Safety on the machine is excellent, and Steve liked the safety features although this did mean that the greenkeepers trick of grabbing the flag before cutting over the hole without getting off the seat did not work.

Damp grass could build up in the box and require more frequent emptying, but overall there was no complaint over this.

Back lapping is carried out manually using a hand brace, possibly with the advantage that no more metal is cut than is necessary.

Greens are topdressed monthly and cutting units are normally back lapped a few days later.

Height of cut adjustment is easy and effective, and is normally between 4.5 and 6mm. Most of the maintenance is carried out in-house, and because the owner has another business with resident mechanic only the more complex and technical repairs will go back to Handy's.



BIGGA NATIONAL TOURNAMENT 1997

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The 18th green after a hour of rain which would have got Noah a little twitchy and searching through his tool box

The preview for the National Tournament in association with Miracle Professional carried the phrase "Up Periscope". It was based on the fact that much of Cooden Beach Golf Club is below sea level. On the afternoon of the what should have been the final round of the 54 hole tournament a periscope was exactly what Head Greenkeeper, Stefan Antolik, needed as he sped off on a three wheeler to consider the future playability of the back nine after the thunder plump to end all thunder plumps.

As it was, just as he disappeared down the 18th fairway the rain started again and even the option of a 45 hole event disappeared.

Indeed the only way any golf could have been played on the Wednesday afternoon was if the Man from Atlantis, Captain Nemo and Jacques Cousteau had all doned waterproofs and teed it up.

A total of 51 millimetres of rain fell between 11.45am and 3.30pm which added to the 15 millimetres which fell after the first round give added credence to the views of Stefan in June's preview that he wouldn't mind the then drought continuing.

The golf itself was of a remarkable standard. Before the first round the Club Secretary, Terry Hawes, expressed his reservations about the ability of any of the competitors to get near par.

After two holes Steve Sullivan

WINNING in the rain

may have been forgiven for agreeing with him. He included a fresh air shot in an attempt to dislodge the ball from an awkward spot behind the green on his way to an 8. Channelled his anger in the most positive way possible the 3 handicapper from Craigie Hill GC in Perth retorted by birdieing the next three holes.

Gordon Child, BIGGA's Vice Chairman, and a fine golfer in his own right (although not this particular week), was the man marking Steve's card. Gordon's view was that the round was made on the back nine, playing at its toughest, when Steve produced a string of fine pars. The gross 73

was the round of the week and drew admiration from the Secretary, particularly as it contained that unwelcomed snowman.

Mike Hughes was not far behind after a 75 but the defending Champion, John Berry, struggled in the first round and his name did not appear among the prize winners at the end of the week.

Before the rains came in the evening - there was a three hour thunder storm - drinks were enjoyed on the veranda of the Cooden Beach Hotel during the traditional Monday night barbecue. The evening was spiced up by the appearance of magician,

Mark Wild, who kept everyone amused and by the end of the evening was a veritable Pied Piper to the children.

A familiar figure walking the beach on the morning of the second day was Roger Willars, former Midland Regional Administrator. Roger has shot a fine opening round and was either seeking inspiration from the English Channel or harking back to his days in the Home Guard. Only kidding, Roger.

Steve Sullivan, unhappy with his driving, shot a 78 in the second round, again with an 8 on his card. The gross prize for the day went to Richard Barker, who later



Report
and pictures
by SCOTT
MacCALLUM



saw his blazer used as a prop by comedian Barry (Harvest) Moon in the excellent post Tournament Dinner cabaret. I'm sure a darned needle will repair the damage.

The final day wash out left Steve Sullivan high, if not dry, as champion over the curtailed 36 hole distance.

It was perhaps fitting that he took the honours as he had featured in Greenkeeper International last year by saying that his favourite holiday destination was "Wherever the venue is for the National Tournament".

It was the fifth successive year that Steve his wife and, appren-

tice photographer son, Kevin, had visited the National Tournament but by far his biggest haul of prizes. He became the proud winner of four trophies, a framed picture of Cooden Beach GC donated by Stefan Antolik, a watch and a television set.

In fact the presentation resembled an episode of The Sullivans complete with repeats.

One man who had more time on his hands than he perhaps wanted on the final day was David Luxford, of Sisis, who had travelled down to present the SISIS Trophy for the best nett score on the final day. Alas no takers!

Pictures, this page, clockwise from top: Quite a haul for winner Steve Sullivan • Johnny Beck, of Miracle Professional, about to break into 'Singin' in the Rain' • Stefan Antolik arrives at the halfway house during the second round • The lavish prize table from which the National Tournament in association with Miracle Professional has become known • Richard Minton presents Stefan Antolik with a tankard in recognition of the excellent work he and his team did to prepare the course



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→ The presentation also had one final drama. Richard Minton, of Miracle Professional, was deputising for Roger Mossop who was unable to attend due to business pressures. It was Richard's big moment – his one chance to get himself onto the cover of the magazine. Having geared up and beautified himself in preparation the camera decided to pack up just as his big moment arrived. Fortunately a new battery solved the problem and Richard had his moment. I hope you think it was worth it!



Peter Richmond is presented with the Vitax Putting Trophy by Alan Stowe



Stefan Antolik presented Steve with a framed print of the scene of his triumph



David Luxford, of Sisis, with the forgotten trophy



Barry Moon – no dark side to him!



Mark Wild keeps the Chairman's grandson and son, Lee and Ian, transfixed

RESULTS

Tournament restricted to 36 holes due to rain on the final day.

Overall

Miracle Trophy (Best Nett) - Steve Sullivan
Hardi Trophy (Best Gross) - Steve Sullivan

36 Hole

David Royale Trophy (Best Nett - 1-14) - Steve Sullivan - 145
Patisson Trophy (Best Nett - 15-28) - Paul Neve - 153

Toro Trophy (Best Gross) - Steve Sullivan - 151; 2. Mike Hughes - 152
2. (Nett - 1-14) Peter Holtham - 148
2. (Nett - 15-28) Roger Willars - 145
Best Nett (55 and over) - Peter Biscoe 152

Jubilee Cup (Section Team) - Midland

Daily Prizes

Day 1
Fisons Trophy (Best Nett) Steve Sullivan - 73 - (3) - 70
Best Gross - Mike Hughes - 75
2. Nett - Roger Glazier - 83 - 9 - 74
3. Nett - David Roy - 88-13-75

Nearest the Pin
Maurice Hume

Day 2
Standard Golf Trophy (Best Nett) Alan Roberts - 81 - 11 - 70
Best Gross - Richard Barker - 77
2. Nett - Peter Hotham - 81-10 - 71
3. Nett - Steve Wood - 85 - 12 - 73

Longest Drive
1st. Thorbjorn Raun.
18th Richard Pride.

Nearest the Pin
Thorbjorn Raun.

Vitax Putting Competition
1. Peter Richmond 32;
2. Neil Woolfry 34; 3. Robert Pearce 34.

ROUGH

Where is thy sting?

by Ian Dair

I think greenkeepers do a fine job. I have to think so for two reasons. I'm a great golfer (great in the sense of frequent) and there's nothing like playing on a course that's obviously well cared for. And I have a son who is a greenkeeper so I have to watch what I say. But, but – I can hear the readers of *Greenkeeper International* drawing in breath – wait for it? Here's another golf club member who knows nothing about the science of agronomy or the art of keeping 100 plus acres playable in all weathers, about to sound off with some ignorant opinions. Now, give me a chance, lads and lassies, I'm on your side. But, but – again, I can imagine you greenkeepers raising your mattsacks in a defensive/aggressive stance. Yes, I know, any complaints should go to the Chairman of Green and it's bound to be the fault of the interfering busybodies who call themselves the Greens Committee and they're only on that because they're retired and don't have a garden so they need to exercise power over something, or they've noted that the Club Captain often comes from their ranks.

I have to agree. I don't know my agronomy. However, I like to think I know my golf. It used to be a difficult game. You had to hit the ball straight because there were those areas to the right and left of the fairway called "rough". If you were lucky enough to find your ball in the grass/bushes/heather or anything else that grew naturally beyond the manicured fairway, you had to hack it out with something with a heavy iron head and a lot of loft. Golfers with a tendency to slice or to hook i.e. 99% of any club's membership, would spend many happy hours exploring the rough, increasing their affinity with nature or pondering on the mysteries of philosophy or plate tectonics. Or, if they had a good score going, praying that the next swipe of the long grass would uncover that shiny ball with a name and number roughly corresponding to what they'd hit off the tee.

It's different now. I don't mean that club golfers, with the new drivers that always go straight and the new balls that never veer off line, have become so good that the rough doesn't come into play. If anything, the wonderful new equipment enables the average player to hit it even further into the rough. But who cares any more? The ball makers should be worrying. Nobody loses a ball in the rough. Smack it in there and you can see it, sitting up, giving a juicy lie, better than the dry fairway, reach for the three wood, crash it towards the green and if it's still in the rough you'll get your wedge under it nicely and pop it on.

I know, I know. The rough needs rain and there's been little of that. And everyone hates slow play so the orders go out – cut the rough if it dares to grow more than the height of a ball. After all, say the Greens Committee, it's the same for everyone. No, it isn't. The absence of real rough changes the game. If you can hit the ball anywhere it takes away the skill. And it takes away the strategy if you don't have to think before you strike. No rough to speak of brings everyone down to the same level in a game where straight used to be good and crooked meant, possibly, several lost balls and, certainly, a higher score. When did anyone last play a recovery shot from the rough?

Who am I going to blame? We'll leave the weather gods out of it since they don't read this magazine. I don't know if Greens Chairmen do – they should. You greenkeepers can slip a copy under the Committee room door. And you can do your bit by suggesting to the powers that be that proper rough is a good thing. It is more natural and is a home for wildlife. It must be cheaper to let the rough grow instead of whizzing round on the mower whenever a few green shoots appear. It puts back into the game the need for judgment and, when even the good golfer nods, the well thought out recovery shot. All reasons for welcoming the rough back into golf.

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NEW PRODUCTS

■ Yorkshire based Course Care has launched Course Wear a range of stylish yet rugged workwear featuring the Tuckaway Rain Suit – a lightweight, ripstop, pu backed nylon rain suit which comes in its own drawcord stuff bag designed to “tuck away” in any machine ready for the operator to combat sudden downpours.

The Drill Suit is a 300gm cotton rich two piece, sold either as a suit or separates. The pullover V-neck top with collar has elasticsation at the waist, adjustable cuffs and a generous radio/mobile phone sized breast pocket. The trouser has an elasticated waist with draw cord and ankle zip, and is cut with extra long body length to ensure optimum movement, comfort, and good lower back protection. Course Wear unites corporate smartness with sturdiness and durability.

For further information Tel: 01535 611103.

■ Shropshire-based Links Leisure, has redesigned its golf practice net to include a one-piece net which, it claims, simplifies both installation and replacement.

Originally designed to allow golf clubs to make maximum use of the space available for practicing facilities, the Pro-Tee nets can be constructed in single or multiple ways.

Extremely robust and requiring little or no maintenance, the nets measure 3.5 by 3.5 metres in single bay multiples and each bay consists of a rust-resistant frame – either galvanised or coated in green plastic – and a cage net, plus a long-life baffle net.

For further information Tel: 01948 663002.

■ Following the successful launch of the Hosecomatic kit earlier this year with over 1 000 sold. Spalding have introduced a new Hosecomatic kit containing BSP fittings. Developed in close cooperation with their customers, the kit, say Spaldings contains 1/2 inch and 3/8 inch BSP fittings in both male and female hoses ends, 90 degree elbows and unique hose menders to fit both 3/8 and 1/2 bore pipe sizes.

The kit is ideal for in field repairs saving both the cost and downtime of call out charges or removing the pipe and returning



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it to the workshop for repair. No electric or hydraulic power is required making the kit totally portable. The kit is supplied with all the components required.

A full range of replacement fittings are available, say Spaldings, including JIC fittings and adapters from BSP to JIC.

For further information Tel: 01522 500600.

■ Two-stroke engine technology is constantly under development by Stihl, the international power tool company. The latest tool to benefit from the Stihl design team's attention is a new blower/vacuum unit – the STIHL BG75

The STIHL BG75 weighs only 4.3 kg, making the petrol driven lightweight ideal for unrestricted movement while the blast generated by its 25.4cc engine is capable of a maximum wind velocity of 60 metres per second – over 130 mph.

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starting, improved performance and optimum combustion. When using specially formulated Stihl two-stroke oil, the fuel/oil ratio can be reduced to 50 to 1 meaning carbon monoxide and hydrocarbon exhaust emissions are minimised to give the operator an almost smoke-free zone.

The new Stihl BG75 is priced £235 ex VAT.

For further information Tel: 0800 137574.

■ The Maestro Model 778S drinking fountain has an attractive “high-tech” appearance. Made of gleaming stainless steel the Model 778S features a sculptured bowl on a slim pedestal.

Robust and practical, the Model 778S requires minimum cleaning or maintenance. It also features a water bubbler with a special “anti-squirt” device.

For further information Tel: 0181 302 4035.

■ Over recent years many of the products that have been taken for granted by the modern turfgrass manager have become unavailable due to changes in

health and safety, and environmental legislation. In view of this it is logical that that alternate and effective products designed to ensure turfgrass health and quality would be developed.

For the past 25 years research has taken place in Germany into the development of substances known as membrane effectors which act on the membranes of micro-organisms, including those in the soil, and can stimulate or inhibit microbial activity. Most of this research has taken place in agriculture and horticulture however it has now been applied to fine turfgrass with impressive results.

Turf-Actant-Z is a highly concentrated extract of membrane effector substances of plant origin, which when applied as a foliar spray stimulates photosynthesis. As a result chlorophyll production is increased and the resulting sugars are transported to the roots and secreted in the soil to provide nutrients for beneficial micro-organisms. Because of the increased nutrient levels soil bacteria multiply and produce more enzymes which liberates nitrogen and other nutrients from immobile reserves in the soil, in addition the phytohormones which stimulate root development are also secreted. With higher levels of photosynthesis a considerable “green up” effect is achieved together with a significant increase in leaf mass which results in a denser sward, at the same time savings are made as a direct result of the reduction in the use of fertilisers.

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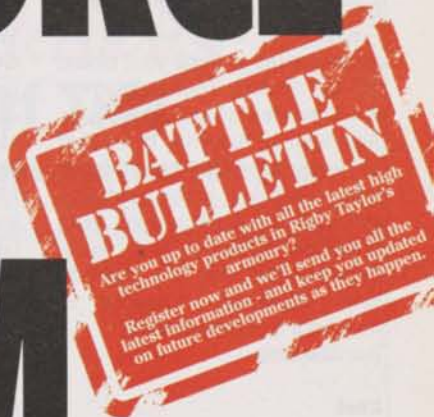
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Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

SCOTTISH REGION

Elliott Small
Tel: 01259 731445

North

Just the one new member to report this month, my newly-qualified Assistant Paul Rooney rejoins after one year's absence, welcome back.

We wish Stewart Hogg, of Fortrose, all the best as the Section nominee for the Toro Excellence in Greenkeeping Award. Anyone who has played Fortrose will know what a great job he does there and is a worthy representative for the Section. The Spring outing is there next year.

Good luck to the Scottish Team in this month's Hayter Challenge, we hope you bring back the trophy.

The Section was represented by four members in the Greenkeeping Support Team at Royal Troon for the Open this year, Sam Morrison, Royal Aberdeen; Paul Murphy, Downfield; Caroline Ross, Royal Dornoch, and myself. Everything ran smoothly due to the superb organisation of John Pemberton and all. I was on bus driving duty this year and apologise to anyone who hasn't recovered from one of my journeys. Thankfully I finally missed that kerb at the traffic lights in Troon on the Sunday.

I do not know how I did it but my ugly mug is in the *Golf Monthly* Open profile again this year, between Justin Leonard and Tom Kite. Signed copies may become available soon!

Finally I hope you all are remembering to book your tickets for the Section Dinner/Disco at the Cloverleaf Hotel, Bucksburn, Aberdeen on Saturday November 22 price just £12.50 per person with overnight accommodation just £38 for a twin room with breakfast. With the event on a Saturday this year you could do your Christmas shopping in Aberdeen at the same time.

Iain Macleod

East

Welcome to this month's article. I hope this great weather is pleasing you all. Since last month we have had our summer tourna-



ment at Harburn GC. Our thanks to the Captain and Council for the courtesy of the course and the facilities. Our thanks to the clubhouse staff for the excellent meals and refreshments and to Scott Ramsey and his staff for the excellent condition of the course, as was the weather on the day. We greenkeepers can arrange most things given time! Also, a big thank you to everyone else who helped during the day.

A special thank you must go to Craig Pennycuik who did the cards regardless of his broken leg – any excuse to sit in the bar all day and drink vast amounts of alcohol and then be driven home! We hope the leg gets better soon Craig. The Tournament this year was a Texas Scramble with teams of three which everyone enjoyed so we will continue this next year. It was good to see some new faces as well as the old diehards. Well done to one of our senior members, George Stavert who was part of the winning team playing with a couple of the Section's big hitters. George doesn't hit it very far these days (sometimes I think he is hitting his putter first!) but it is always straight down the middle of the fairway. Well done again George, see you soon!

The results were:- 1. T. Murray, I Thompson, G. Stavert, 61.6; 2. S. Ramsay, I. Henderson, A. McCleish, 61.6; 3. S. Dixon, C. Irvine, T. Wilson (Captain of Harburn GC), 61.7.

Next on the East Section calendar in September is the Willie Wood's Trophy at Kingsknowe GC. We hope to see a good turnout this year, so speak to your club committee and invite them along to what is a great day out. Entry forms will be out soon so fill them in and return them as soon as possible. No entries will be accepted after the closing date. The Autumn outing is on September 25 at Swanston GC. We hope to see a good turnout for the final major of the season, as it is also the first Hayter Qualifier so see you up there! We are in the process of finalising some winter lectures so hopefully I can notify you of these in the very near future.

I have been asked to mention that some people have been contacted by a company who are selling trees ie pines. They have been told they are from a cancelled order. People have gone ahead and bought these trees and have had a lot of problems with them dying off etc. If you are approached by anyone selling trees in this way think before you buy as it is you who has to answer to your club if problems arise after paying out valuable budget money for these trees.

Sadly one of our older members from the days of SIGGA has passed away in mid-July. Charlie Newlands, a past Chairman of the Association (SIGGA) was also a founder member of the Association of which he was very proud. Charlie was a true character. He could tell more jokes than Frank Carson and it was always great to sit in his company at a golf outing. He was Head Greenkeeper at Newbattle GC for almost 27 years before retirement. He is survived by his wife Janet and two daughters and a son and grandchildren. He will be sadly missed. Our thoughts go out to them all.

Any member who has not received a fixture card – kindly donated by Souter of Stirling (Sportsturf) Limited – please contact Steve Dixon, Secretary, on 0131 443 0235 and he will send you one out.

If anyone has any suggestions on courses for outings next year or an offer of your course then please drop me a line with any information you can give us. It would be much appreciated.

The membership at the time of writing has dropped dramatically in the Section from 170+ to 140+. We would like to know why as we wish to Section to get bigger and not smaller. If you know the reason behind this fall please drop me a line or ring any of the committee members whose numbers are on the back of the fixture card. Even if you know of anyone that has not rejoined speak to them and try and get them to reconsider. Explain the benefits of joining BIGGA – remember, your Section needs you!

We have arranged an 11-a-side

football match against Provan Chemicals on Wednesday September 3 at Meadowmill Sports Centre so I will be calling people who wish to play in the match as we will need to win this one as they beat us last year in Bathgate. We want revenge this time!

Well that's it for this month and as I say every month if you want to drop me a line at 74 Muirfield Drive, Gullane, East Lothian EH31 2HJ or call me on 0131 445 7165 (work) or 01620 842037 (home) feel free as I would like to hear from you as I don't get much feedback from the membership of the Section. If you are reading this but a member of another Section I would be pleased to hear from you about anything that may interest the member of BIGGA.

So I would like to hear from you with any suggestions, useful information or offers of money etc. Winging is not accepted, take it out on the ball!

PS – it was good to see our old Secretary, Robert Hogarth, as part of the Open Championship Greenkeeping Support Team at Royal Troon taking a well earned rest on the grass outside the Portakabin. I take it it was raking all these bunkers and not the late nights/early mornings that forced him to have 40 winks in the shade. However the weather was very hot that week so the need to consume various amounts of liquids may have had something to do with it!

Chris Yeaman

West

Firstly, thank you to all those members who have phoned to give information about special events or things which have happened over the season. Although summer isn't quite over it just feels as if it is – what summer there was that is! One consolation has been the good growth weather but the stuff just hasn't stopped jumping!

The Autumn outing is just around the corner so make sure to submit your entries. This, and the Spring outing, go towards qualifying for the Hayter Tournament next year. Hilton Park is bound to be a good venue, tight,

well groomed, windy and I'm sure in splendid condition. We will look forward to the experience.

An evening out will be arranged for September/October and notification to all members should have been received, please make the effort to attend. The Section needs as much support as possible and we look forward to seeing a few different faces.

The Loch Lomond Support Team was a big success with some 17 members from all over Scotland helping out and working well along with the staff. Ronnie Bunting is to be thanked for his help in the organisation and he has stated those interested for next year should contact him as soon as possible.

Ronnie and Robert Hogarth will be running a moderation meeting in the Autumn for those D32/D33 assessors to try and iron out any problems.

Once again, if you have any interesting facts or information then please contact me on 0141 942 5554. Last but not least the Cathkin Brass position has been filled by Douglas MacIntosh, Bothwell Castle. We wish him well in his new position.
Stuart Taylor

Central

Unfortunately the proposed visit to Parkhead Stadium, originally planned for August 8, had to be postponed due to the lack of confirmation in writing from the Celtic Facilities Manager. At the moment the reasons are unclear but I have asked if they can accommodate us later in the season so I will keep you informed as to when the visit can take place.

The arrangements for the visit to Stewart's Turf Farm at Kinnesswood are that we will meet at the Lomond Country Inn, Kinnesswood between 12.30pm and 1pm for a light lunch and then proceed to the farm. In order to finalise catering arrangements would you please return your forms to me by Friday September 26.

I received a call the other week from former Section member, David Murdoch. David was employed at Dunfermline GC for a number of years before moving down south. He is now Course Manager at Liphook GC in Hampshire and from all accounts he is thoroughly enjoying himself

there. If you know any former Section members who have moved down south or abroad for that matter, ask them to get in touch and we will let their friends know how they are getting on.

We extend a warm welcome to the Section to Dudley Aitchison, from Scoonie GC, in Leven, and look forward to meeting him at some of our future events. We are now down to averaging one new member per month which will leave us well short of our target for '97 - we were hoping for a total Section membership of 250! So come on, let's try and achieve it - at the latest count we are still needing another 25.

So far I have not heard any stories concerning the fishing on Loch Leven so I don't know if those who took part are very modest or if they failed to catch anything! I hope a certain A. O'Hara was not taking part or we will never hear the end of it, even if he catches the smallest tiddler or on the other hand it would give me something to write about!

I am still searching for courses to host our various tournaments in 1998 so if you fancy holding one PLEASE get in touch with me.

Former Section Secretary and Chairman, Elliott Small, is retiring as Regional Administrator for Scotland next month and on behalf of the members I would like to thank him and Edna for all the hard work they have put into the running of the Region over the past seven years.

The next main event is the Section AGM which will be held at Kinross GC on Wednesday October 15, details of which should be with you all by now so if you have any grievances with the way the Section is being run now is the chance to have your say. Hopefully we will have more than the faithful dozen at this year's meeting.

John Crawford

NORTHERN REGION

Bob Lupton
Tel: 01782 750539

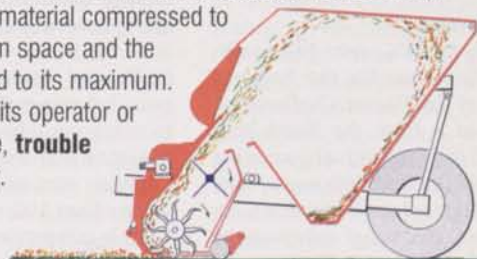
Cleveland

We wish David Boocock, STRI Senior Agronomist our best wishes for his impending retirement due in October. He has been of enormous help to many Head Greenkeepers and his advice has

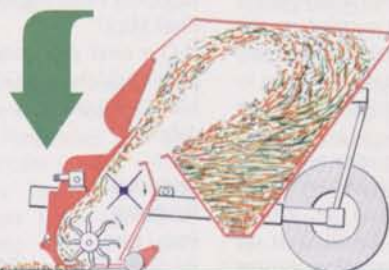
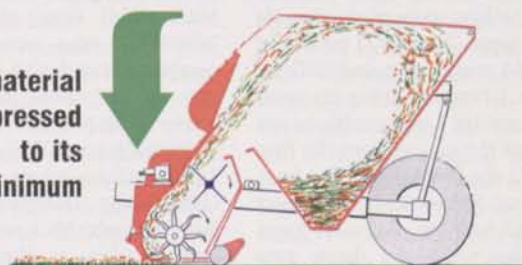


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Around the Green



seen courses improve over time. David thank you, and we all wish you well.

Now is the time for greenkeeper students to book in at college.

Bruce Burnell

North West

Maften Hall GC, near Newcastle, was the venue for the Regional Final of the Hayter Challenge. A team of 9 from the North-West played their individual games but we only finished with one winner to go forward to the final at Ganton. Paul Pearse not only won the Scratch to 9 Section but came in with the best score of the day. He shot a gross 72, nett 71 on what I am told was a long and difficult course. Of course, doing my usual job as starter, I was unable to see more of the course than the first tee and the first fairway but I am told that Jimmy Richardson and his staff had the course in great condition. We did have two reserves, Sean Moon and Andrew Bennett both got pipped at the post for third place in their categories and will have to wait to see if anybody drops out before September.

I have not long returned from The Open at Troon and we had a good representation of greenkeepers from the North West on the Support Team. The course was in great condition and listening to some of the comments from the players it was tough going especially when the wind came up on the Wednesday. I am now packing ready to go to the National Tournament at Cooden Beach GC, Bexhill-on-Sea. Three members from the North-West will be playing – myself, John Berry and Neil Woolfrey so at least we will be able to take part in the team prize. While I am away the North West will be playing their annual tournament against the Golf Club Stewards at Saddleworth GC so I hope I can report in the next Section news that a win was recorded. Anybody with any news, views or queries please contact me on 0151 724 5412.

Bert Cross

Sheffield

On July 7 we held our annual Tournament at Silkstone GC. Our thanks go to Silkstone for giving us the courtesy of the course. Silkstone was in excellent condi-

tion and our thanks go to Mick Crossland and staff for all the hard work they have done on the course. Thanks also to the steward and his staff for providing an excellent meal which was enjoyed by everyone. Our thanks also go to Brian Booth from Rigby Taylors for sponsoring the competition and to Steve Burroughs, Les Purdy and Peter Fell who also provided prizes. Congratulations to everyone who won prizes at Silkstone and well done to Mark Knowles who with an excellent score of net 102 won the overall 27 hole competition and also won the 9 hole competition, well done Mark. Well done also to Ian Whitehead who won the gross competition with 119. The results for the 27 hole competition were:- 1. M. Knowles, net 102; 2. D. Neve(!), net 109; 3. P. Hill, net 109. Congratulations go to Mick Coltas who qualified for the Hayter Finals. Mick won the Second Division at the Northern Regional Final – good luck in the final Mick!

Our next golf competition will be at Sickleholme GC on September 22 at 1.30 pm.

John Lax

MIDLAND REGION

Peter Larter
Tel: 01480 437507

East of England

Last of the individual competitions took place at Boston GC. The course was in excellent condition and thanks go to Bruce Hicks and his staff for the day. The greens stood up really well considering the torrential rain we all had to play in. Some members called it a day after nine holes but Richard Owen, Boston West GC, came through the storm to take home the Lambs Cup with 35 points. Second was Graeme Macdonald, Newark GC, with 33 points and last year's winner Barry Anderson, Toft GC, was third with 27 points. The guest prize went to Peter Pearson with 36 points. Peter is Boston's Greens Chairman and gave our members a warm welcome at the dinner.

As usual our sponsors looked after us again and everybody who played received a prize. The sponsors were Lambs Mowers, Fieldcare, Colliers, Amenity Technology, Rigby Taylors, Purdys, Chandlers and Roy Harrison.



The conclusion to the Order of Merit came to a head and saw Graeme Macdonald, Newark GC, win the second Order of Merit BIGGA Blazer with an overall score of 22 points, followed by Richard Owen, Boston West, on 16 points.

New appointments this month – Kevin Hodges takes on the Head Greenkeeper's post at Ryston Park.

If anyone has any news or information to pass on then simply pick up the telephone (01733 260297 or 01636 626564) or drop me a line at Newark GC.

That's all this month!
Graeme Macdonald

B B & O

The second golfing event of the season proved to be successful – phew! The Course proved to be the winner again with only two people breaking par out of a field of 36. I am sure you will all agree this was partly due to the testing pin positions set by Dean. I can provide his phone number if you want to pass on any comments personally!

The day was a success thanks to our sponsor Rolawn providing some excellent prizes, I wonder what Steve has done with the telly? Andy Church, from Rolawn, deserves a big thank you for his contribution. Andy had a bit of a dilemma as he was leading in the clubhouse with only two groups out on the course. The whispers around the bar were that he was going to take the prizes home with him, thankfully Steve Putt saved his blushes by romping in with a splendid 40 pts! I am sure everybody that is reading this article will think that name seems familiar and so it should because Steve actually won the Spring Tournament as well. I have already had Colin Vernon, Handicap Secretary, on the phone to say that Steve's new handicap is +2 so as to give everybody a chance! The results were:- 1. Steve Putt, 40 pts; 2. Trevor Hookham, 35 pts; 3. Ray Clark, 35 pts; Longest Drive – Brett Moggridge; Nearest the Pin – Ross Edmonds; Wooden Smith – Richard Haynes.

Thanks to Jon Connel, the new Director of Badgemore, for giving us the courtesy of the course and also thanks to all the staff at the club for looking after us on the day, the food was excellent.

Thanks to my staff for all their hard work prior to the day, it was much appreciated.

The Rigby Taylor matches are underway so I will inform you of the results as and when they come through.

The next golfing day is at Lambourne in October – see you all there.

Lindsay Anderson

Midland

On July 7 the Summer Tournament was held at the Worcester G and CC on a very hot and humid day. The winners were as follows:- 1. T. Cheese, nett 70 (gross 72!); 2. P. Holtham, 70; 3. M. Hughes, 70; 4. M. Bryan, 71; 5. M. Cutler, 71; 6. A. Roberts, 71; 7. E. Stant, 72; 8. J. Wood, 72; 9. R. Hunter, 72. The Trade Prize was won by Nigel Tyler of County Crops. The Longest Drive was won by Richard Minton and Nearest the Pin by Mark Cutler.

We would like to thank our main sponsors for the day who were ARC and Bathgates. I would also like to thank Worcester GC for hosting the Tournament and to all of you who took part under very demanding conditions.

The annual match against the Mid Anglian Section is to take place on August 12 at Harpendon GC, best of luck to those taking part.

I will ask again to any members who have any information or news that could go into this report to please contact me.

Finally, I would like to introduce our new members to the Section, they are as follows – Charles Paul Duffy, Mark Black and Jon Philip Jinks.

Jonathan Wood

East Midlands

Firstly I would like to thank the following members Richard Barker, Dave Leatherland and Steven Heap for taking part in the BIGGA Support Team for this years Open at Royal Troon.

A reminder to all entrants of the singles knockout that your matches must be played by the closing date, September 30 for the Final.

This year's AGM will be held at Greatham Valley GC on November 5 at approximately 4.30pm. The Christmas Tournament on December 17.

At the BIGGA National Tournament the Section was represented