



**We spoke to three of the major chemical companies to find out how they are marshalling their resources to fight a battle with ever decreasing weaponry**

# Cast of thousands

David Agar, of Rhone Poulenc Amenity; Bernard Hedley of Rigby Taylor and Alan Shaw, of Scotts UK Professional, all gave their views on the worm problem...

## **Rhône-Poulenc Amenity – David Agar**

The arguments for controlling casting worms in certain situations are well known and accepted. Not only do worm casts create a nuisance for both the golfer and greenkeeper by producing an uneven playing surface and affecting the roll of the balls but they also spoil grass surfaces in a number of ways. They are unsightly, prone to smearing and bring weed seeds to the surface where they provide ideal sites for weed establishment. Worm casts also encourage the spread of turf disease, and the presence of high worm populations in fine turf is likely to attract moles - with devastating effect.

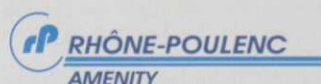
There are 25 species of earthworms commonly found in the UK, three of which are responsible for the majority of worm casting problems. One of the fundamental problems is that earthworms are encouraged by the conditions necessary to grow fine turf grasses and cultural control is therefore very difficult without affecting the health of the grass. Consequently, when worm casting reaches an unacceptable level, chemical control is the only reliable option for the greenkeeper.

The number of products available for the control of casting worms has recently been reduced with the

withdrawal of Camma-col from the market and there is no guarantee that the remaining products will not be placed under further pressure in the future. However, one thing that can be guaranteed is the fact that worm casts will continue to be a major problem for the greenkeeper regardless of the number of products available to control them.

So what is Rhone Poulenc Amenity doing to solve the problem both now and in the future? Well, not only do we have a number of existing products that we are actively supporting and defending but we are also investing in the development of new products. We have a number of exciting developments in the pipeline and have just been granted a new worm cast suppression recommendation for Mildothane Turf Liquid.

The existing product range



includes Castaway Plus and Cavalier which are both well known and widely used products. Castaway Plus is a leading brand containing the active ingredients thiophanate-methyl and lindane. Cavalier is based on carbaryl and is available only to contractors who

can prove that they have equipment that meets the conditions stated on the product label - that is a closed cab and low level induction-bowl.

Mildothane Turf Liquid which is well known to many greenkeepers as a reliable and effective product for controlling turf diseases, can now be used to suppress worm casts. In addition to the 20L/ha recommendation for the control of Fusarium, Dollar Spot and Red Thread it now has an economical 7.5L/ha recommendation for the control of casting worms. Based on thiophanate-methyl, Mildothane Turf Liquid offers selective suppression of the main species of casting worms leaving many of the other species unharmed. This is because the product does not work by direct contact with the worms but is taken up by the grass and the treated material is then ingested by the worms.

In summary, it appears that there may be fewer options available to the greenkeepers for the control of casting worms in the near future but we at Rhone Poulenc Amenity are confident that the investment and development we are currently undertaking will ensure that we will always be able to provide an effective and economical solution to what will continue to be a major problem for the greenkeeper.



# Cast of thousands

**Alan Shaw, of Levington Horticulture**

Over the years, the industry has seen an ever shrinking range of options for the control of casting worms on golf greens. That they need to be controlled on the greens is undeniable - the trick is formulating a product to do it that doesn't also carry all sorts of unpleasant side effects.

One generation of greenkeepers will recall Chlordane - which was a highly effective worm killer - and its recall on safety grounds. A previous generation may have sworn by Mowrah Meal - equally effective and equally undesirable. Most greenkeepers today will also be aware of carbaryl - another worm killer which has been withdrawn because of health and safety issues.

That the approval for use of horticultural pesticides is regularly reviewed, has to be supported and

**Rigby Taylor -  
Bernard Hedley**

There is a distinct possibility that in the future there will be few effective worm killers available for use by the Greenkeeper. This is already the case in some European countries such as Germany where there are no such products available and where Greenkeepers have had to learn to live with higher worm populations.

At present in the UK one of the most effective chemicals approved for this use is carbendazim, the active ingredient within Mascot Systemic, however, even this material is now under threat.

Any future development of products specifically for worm control in turf by agrochemical manufacturers is also unlikely as the initial screening procedure for potential products carried out by agrochemical companies rejects active ingredients that exhibit any harmful effects to earthworms. This is because in Agriculture, earthworms are quite rightly regarded as beneficial organisms and any such effect on worms would be a great disadvantage.

If new products are not going to be developed, what about using some of the old products that were used in the past, eg. Mowrah Meal, Derris Dust and Potassium Permanganate? These materials were used as expellants, they irritated the earthworms skin and brought the worms to the surface where they were collected. Unfortunately all of these materials had their drawbacks and their use

was very time consuming. Another treatment which has shown promise and which is currently being investigated is the use of Mustard as a worm expellant, however it can scorch and large amounts of water are required.

It is likely that the use of sulphur containing materials to acidify soil conditions will become one of the most important methods of minimising earthworm populations. It



may also be that machinery manufacturers will have to try to develop mechanical methods of earthworm control or equipment will be developed which can very effectively remove casts from the playing surface. Physical barriers to earthworm movement will also perhaps be included in the construction phase of greens.

Rigby Taylor Limited have always advocated the use of IMP (Integrated Pest Management) for the control of earthworms in turf, ie the use of all possible methods available to minimise cast formation without relying on chemical methods alone. Such methods include:

- The avoidance of pure organic fertilisers or top-dressings

on sites where there are high worm populations.

- Acidification of the soil by application of sulphur or ammonium sulphate.
- The avoidance of alkaline materials, e.g. top-dressing; and alkaline irrigation water.
- Boxing-off of clippings around approaches and surrounds of greens.
- Reduction of "thatch" build-up.
- Improvement of drainage.
- Brushing of casts off the surface if conditions allow.

Unfortunately, although these measures will help reduce worm activity, they will not produce the level of control that pesticide treatments can achieve and greenkeepers may have to learn to live with much higher populations of earthworms, unless new effective control measures are developed quickly.



applauded. If the Ministry did not do this we could still be flinging mercury and potassium cyanide around to control pests and diseases. However, the process has tended to result in more product withdrawals than there are launches. And in the case of worm cast control on the domestic market, has left the amateur gardener with no chemical control at all, following the withdrawal of carbaryl.

For the greenkeeper, however, Levington Turfclear (containing carbendazim), is specifically recommended for the control of the worm species which cause damaging and undesirable worm casts on the surface of the sward.

The non-casting worm species which are beneficial for drainage and soil aeration are largely unaffected.

As an added benefit, Turfclear is a proven fungicide which acts systemically against common turf diseases such as Dollar Spot and Fusarium Patch.

Its efficiency is unaffected by rain or irrigation, and no turf phytotoxicity problems have been noted when the product is used as recommended.

For the best results it should be applied as a preventative treatment in the Spring and Autumn to control casting worm species and diseases, or at the first sign of attack.



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# Around the green

## Keeping in touch with news and comment from the Sections



**Scottish Region**  
Peter Boyd  
Tel/Fax 0141 616 3440

### North

Another new member to welcome this month with Keith Dinwoodie, from Invergordon GC, joining the Section. There is a drive on to increase the membership of all sections just now and our Regional Administrator, Peter Boyd, should be in the area soon to visit clubs and try to recruit new members, while also speaking to existing members to find out ways we can improve our Association for the benefit of all.

The Scottish Greenkeepers' Championship at West Kilbride, Ayrshire is on the 23rd of this month. I know this is a long journey for our Section but hope there will

be a good turnout of North members. The trip will be worthwhile as West Kilbride is a lovely course and I am sure Jim Paton will have it in great condition. I hope to be there depending on the Board of Management Meeting I will be attending around about that time.

I was watching the football on Sky television recently and thought it was great to see the Groundsman for the home team being interviewed before the game, talking about the pitch and his preparation for matches etc. Wouldn't it be good to see Course Managers at European Tour events getting the same air time to raise the profile of Greenkeepers, who, after all, are among the most important people during the week.

It was also interesting that when asked if players came to complement him on the pitch at all, he said, no, they only speak to him if there is a problem and if the pitch is in good

condition, he knows because there will be no comments. Sound familiar?

Finally, I was looking through my Section notes for June last year and noticed that snow was reported to be falling at the time. Well we just had quite a bit of snow again this year, but the warm weather is back again as I write this year's report. Here's hoping it is here to stay.

Iain Macleod

### Ayrshire

The Spring outing was held at Stranraer GC on April 28 and around 40 members enjoyed the good weather and avoided the torrential thunder showers which hit the north of the county. The course was in good condition and the hospitality was very well received in the impressive new clubhouse. Our grateful thanks go to the Stranraer committee and staff for a most

enjoyable outing.

The course proved a good test of golf as befits one which was, in 1952, the last James Braid ever designed.

The men on form were as follows:  
The morning Texas Scramble was won by Ian McNab, William McMeechan, Martin Lothian and Steven Carmichael.

Afternoon Medal:  
Scratch - W. McMeechan  
Cat 1: 1. S. Gardener, 2. Wallace Mercer, 3. M. Kay.

Cat 2: 1. Neil Shuttleworth, 2. David Nelson, 3. Paul Tulloch.

Cat 3: 1. Marshall Sloss 2. Ian Donaldson 3. S. Carmichael.

Trade: Kenny Hunter.  
Congratulations go to all prize winners.

Thanks go to our Secretary, Derek Wilson, for the organisation of the outing.

I've heard no news this month so if

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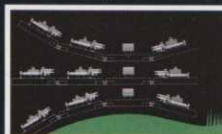
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## Around the green

### Keeping in touch with news and comment from the Sections

you have anything to report call me on 01505 683278 evenings, or 0498 634122.

Iain Barr

#### Central

The first golf event of the season was held in April when Ladybank GC was the venue for our Spring Tournament. We couldn't have chosen a better day for the 58 members and guests who attended, with the course in excellent condition and the sun shining throughout the day, everyone was able to forget about the cold weather of the previous couple of weeks.

Prize winners were as follows;

Best Scratch: K. Stirling, The Dukes, 74 bh

Best Nett: D. Scott, Scoonie, 67

Cat 1: D. McAllister, Ladybank, 70; 2. E. Small, Tulliallan, 73

Cat 2: 1. S. Sime, Leven, 71; 2. A. Torrance, King James IV, 73

Cat 3: 1. A. Arnott, Dunnikier, 72. 2. G. McRae, Ratho Park, 84.

Stewart's Quaich E. Small/S. Raeburn, Tulliallan, 148.

Patron's: C. Horridge, MAC, 75

Guests: S.Herd, Leven, 76.

Our sincere thanks go to everyone at Ladybank, especially Head Greenkeeper, Ian Menzies and his staff, for their presentation of the course, the clubhouse staff, Secretary, Mr. Sproule, and to Club Captain, Joe Lonie, who joined us for the day and presented the prizes in the evening. Thanks also to the Scottish Patrons, Chris Langdon, for all his work in issuing and checking the score cards and to everyone who contributed to the raffle.

A member on the move recently is Scott Robertson. Scott has left Elmwood to start as an assistant at Strathmore, we wish him all the best for the future in his new employment and hope that he will still be

able to attend our events. Another two members we hope to see at our events are Fraser Wright, from Lundin Links, and Michael Lindsay, from Scoonie, who join us this month. Welcome to the Section lads!

I was hoping to have some news of the activities of the world famous Leven Links Sporting Club but unfortunately their player/chief coach, Andy Vialli? O'Hara sustained an injury in pre season training (I think there was a spirit involved!) so has been unable to get started this season, and he says that "If I can't play, nobody plays". So we will have to wait a bit longer for news. In the meantime though, his much sought after A.O'H. tee shirts are again available following their sell out at Harrogate. If you want to obtain a collector's item just get in touch with Andy on his usual 0898 mobile number.

John Crawford.

#### West

Recently the Section has been quite quiet with only really the outing to report... but boy what an outing. A multitude of weather conditions were experienced starting nice and sunny with us dressed in tee shirts; then light rain, hail and finally thunderstorms. Sorry to say, after losing my ball, plugged at the 16th, I succumbed to temptation by walking in to avoid the lightning. Within minutes the course was unplayable.

Never mind there's always next year.

On the day the results were:

Scratch: G. Bruen, East Kilbride, 73-5-68.

Cat 1: 1. Smith, Drumpellier, 75-5-70; 2. S. Richardson, Williamwood, 78-7-71; 3. C. Goodall, Balmore, 78-4-74.

Cat 2: P. Yates, Balmore, 86-14-72; 2. T. Hyndmarch, Erskine, 89-16-73; 3. M. Kelly, Lenzie, 87-12-75.

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Cat 3: 1. T. Nisbet, Glasgow, 102-26-76; 2. D. Mowatt, Glasgow, 97-19-78; 3. G. Nisbet, Glasgow, 100-22-78.

Trade Prize: D. Duthie, Aitkens, 76-5-71; Visitors' Prize: J. McCulloch, Cawder, 77-4-73; Longest Drive: Cat 1: G. Bruen; Cat 2: J. Stokoe; Cat 3: No Winner; Nearest the Pin, J. McCulloch, Cawder; Putting Competition. I. Nicol.

Well done to all winners.

Now a few thanks. To Cowal GC for the courtesy extended to us on the day and to the Captain for putting up with my bad play. The green staff for the condition of the course considering all the heavy rain for days before. Well done Kenny. The catering staff for their service and attention, also for the refreshments. Then to Peter Boyd for his starting skills. Brian Hillen and Derek Duthie for the cards and presentation work (prize giving). To John Scott and Sandy for ferry work, cards, finances and other problems during the day. Robert Hogarth for prizes and helping out when needed, then Gary Burns for raffle ticket sales. Also Robert Bruce for delivering the flags for tournament display. The day went well because you all worked hard.

Finally to the prizes, of which many were donated by trade and committee. These events need support and we are all grateful for your continued help.

Now for special mention on the day two trophies were presented for Scratch Prizes and 2nd Class. Both trophies were donated and looked magnificent for which we are all delighted. The Scratch prize was a lovely Claret Jug which I'm sure will grace any mantelpiece beautifully. We have to thank Daval Industry Products for this and we are eternally grateful. David Happel, from Daval, said a few words of thanks.

The 2nd Class trophy is a lovely Rosebowl for which Paul Yates' wife will be very proud to show off. We thank Rigby Taylor for presenting

us with his delightful silverware. David Carson, of Rigby Taylor, apologised for being unable to attend.

The numbers were 55 and considering the trip this is excellent. Well done all those members.

Finally congratulations to Steven Hogg on his appointment as Course Manager of Crow Wood Golf Club. We wish him well and look forward to seeing him at future events.

Stuart Taylor



Northern Region  
Douglas Bell  
Tel: 0151 431 0433

### North West

After a slow and fairly stressful (for me) start, we eventually received 90 applications for the Mere Seminar on March 19. People always seem to leave things until the last minute and 10 days before the seminar the numbers were 40. Please in future if you intend playing in any of the tournaments or attending any other Section events be early with your application so that I can keep my sanity. A total of 600 application forms for the seminar plus fixture lists were posted to N/W members and out of the 90 delegates there were only 53 greenkeepers, the remaining 37 being members of the trade and local authorities. Many hours hard work go into organising the seminar and members have requested more education, so please try to support your committee in future by attending organised events.

The seminar "Construction and Management of Sports Turf" by PDA Agronomy Ltd was of the highest quality with excellent speakers. David Stansfield started with "The Role of the Agronomist", and the scientific approach to the management of grass. He stressed the point that the agronomist is there to advise where there is a problem, not to query the green-

keeper's skills. John Hacker followed with "Golf Construction in the Middle East". This was an excellent talk with plenty of slides showing the problems of building a nine hole golf course in the desert of Saudi Arabia. David Stansfield spoke on "Traditional Golf Links Construction" once again with plenty of interesting slides of the various stages of construction work, showing the difficulty of germinations of seeds through the movement of the sand.

After an excellent lunch Mike Harbridge spoke on the "Construction of Sports Stadia". Once again the talk was highlighted with slides showing the construction of football pitches and how synthetic materials are inserted in the sward and are hardly visible. Jay Dobson covered "Management of Diseases in Turf". A subject close to all our hearts and one which haunts us all. A couple of interesting points were made, how physical damage to turf can also appear to be disease, and pH disorders likewise. The day was rounded off with Gary Owens talk on "Materials testing and Site Monitoring".

I would like to thank all the speakers for a very interesting and educational day. Also Mere G&CC for their hospitality and use of their excellent facilities, Sisis, Acorn Equipment, Rigby Taylor, Rufford Soil Technology and Cheshire Turf Machinery for their support. The National Chairman Gordon Child and the N/W President John Walker for taking time out to attend the seminar and all those who attended making the many hours worthwhile.

April, not much happening this month other than rain, rain, rain. According to the Met Office, this month has been the wettest April for many years and I am sure that many of you have had problems due to the conditions. I feel sorry for the boys in the Midlands who suffered with severe flooding, but at least it kept the courses closed for a decent length of time.

April 2 was a good day weather wise, but not a good day for the N/W Section golf wise. The annual golf tournament between the N/W and N Wales sections was played at Prestbury GC. The course as always was in excellent condition, thanks to Anthony Davies and his staff, and the day was completed with an excellent meal. However, the result was an outstanding win for the North Wales Section 6.5 to 1.5. The only winners for the N/W section were Bert Cross and Mike Bottomley who played out of their socks to win 3 & 2. Once again the N/W Section struggled for a team and we finished with 14 instead of 16. Well played N Wales. I would like to thank Prestbury for allowing us courtesy of the course and the use of their excellent facilities, also GEM Professional for sponsoring the day for the eighth time.

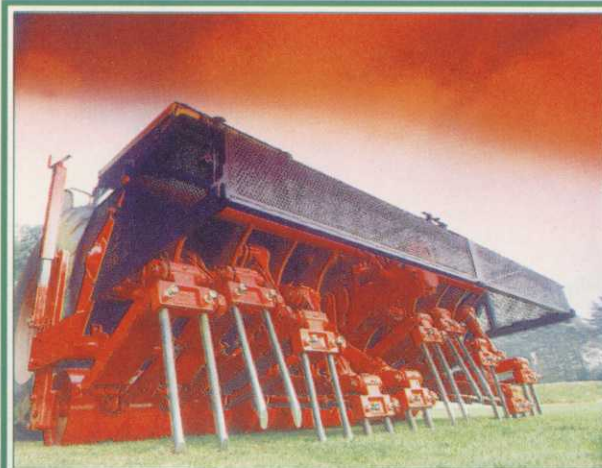
The next tournament will be the Summer Meeting, played at Haydock Park GC on Thursday, June 25, lunch will be between 12.30 pm and 1 pm. The first tee is reserved from 1.30 pm and starting times will be allocated on the day. The evening meal will be served around 7.30 pm followed by the prize presentation. Applications including a cheque for £15 to be sent to Bill Merritt, 225 Utting Avenue, Walton, Liverpool, L4 9RB. Tel: 0151 284 4416. No applications to be accepted after Friday, June 19.

Since the fixture list for the year's events have been sent out we have had a number of new members. Any members who do not have a fixture list please contact me on 0151 724 5412 and I will post one immediately. Any news or views ring me.

Bert Cross

### North East

On April 24 we held our annual Spring competition at Warkworth GC. Our thanks to the committee for giving us courtesy of their course. A special thanks to Alan



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Dalby and his staff for the excellent condition of the course - perhaps we may get the chance to return there in the near future. Also thanks to the steward and stewardess for providing us with the superb meals. Doug Bell was also in attendance giving an insight in his role as the Northern Regional Administrator. I hope you enjoyed your day. Leading scores for the competition are as follows; Best Gross R. Black 71, Westerhope GC. Best Nett S. Quince 73-6-67 nett+cleek. Assistants' Best Nett D. Cuthbertson, Slaley Hall.

1. R. Bell, Slaley Hall, 87-17-70;
2. J. Storey, Alnwick, 77-6-71;
3. A. Ainscough, Whickham, 76- 4-72;
4. J. Richardson, Hexham, 78-6-72;
5. N. Parkin, Hexham, 78-5-73;
6. A. Mclure, Whickham, 72+1-73

Thirty two players took part in the above competition, such is that the Section has a strong golfing body that out of all the players no less than 21 people were entered in category 1.

The Section committee would like to thank the following sponsors; Ritefeed, Aitkens, Border Turf Services.

Jimmy Richardson

## North Wales

Our Spring meeting was held at Porthmadog GC, on April 21. Around 50 competitors took part. The weather stayed kind until the very end when the heavens opened. Everyone who played commented on the overall condition of the course, especially the greens which were exceptional and our thanks go to Bronco and his team for all their effort and also the Captain and the Club for allowing us to use their facilities. If I ate food like that every day it'd be Weight Watchers for me.

I would like to thank the sponsors, Ritefeed, Major Owen, Walker Engineering and John Osman. If I've forgotten anyone I'm sorry and please let me know.

The best gross went to Aled

Hughes and the best nett to Owain Aeron, both of Porthmadog (local knowledge I wonder!).

I have been asked if it is possible to run a coach to the Windsor Show in September. Again I need feedback to see if this is viable. If you are interested phone me on 01824 710693.

I attended the Golf Liaison Panel meeting at the Northop College on April 27 and again it was a very interesting meeting of all the bodies involved in the business. The college golf course is still at the planning stages as not only is there an Ancient Monument called Llys Edwin but also an area where the habitat is ideal for endangered species of animals. So watch this space. I haven't got the room to inform you of all the other things which are in the offing. However, I can tell you things are starting to look good for golf and especially greenkeeping in Wales because of the commitment being shown by the WGU, the GTC and the colleges.

One last thing, sat on a shelf in my living room is a shield - it looks quite good actually but judging by what's written on it I think it's in the wrong language as it's to do with the North West Greenkeepers against North Wales Greenkeepers and seeing as it seems to spend most of its time in Cymru I think it's about time something was done about it. Well done lads. By the way any of the North West boys are welcome to come and have a look at it if they want to remember what it looks like.

Dave Goodridge

## Northern

Unfortunately our Spring Tournament had to be cancelled part way through the day due to heavy snow. Only a few groups finished their rounds before the weather made it unfit to carry on. One player commented that his ball picked up so much snow when

he putted, that it would not fit in the hole! Thank you to Alan Court and his boys for turning the course out so well, especially when the weather had been so bad in the weeks prior to the event. Thanks also to the caterers and bar staff for feeding and watering everybody.

Our President's Day Tournament will be played at West Bradford G.C on Wednesday, June 3. Please book early as places will be limited. I can assure competitors that the trophies are well worth winning.

Congratulations to Mike and Ali Bussey on the arrival of their baby girl Jessica. Jessica makes up a trio with older brothers Robert and Alex. I think the trusted rusty Stanley knife and vice may be called upon shortly to do the honours!

Anyone with any news from around the Section please contact me on 01484 317813 or 0411 601420 or 1 Cockley Meadows, Kirkheaton, Huddersfield, HD5 0LA.

Simon Heppenstall

## Sheffield

On April 27 we held our first golf day of the year - the spring competition at Notts GC.

Our thanks go to Notts GC for giving us the courtesy of the course. It was in excellent condition and thanks to Phil Stain and his staff for the excellent work they have all done. Thanks also to the trade members who provided prizes once again.

I think everyone who played enjoyed their day, especially Andrew Lomas who won the competition. Well done, Andrew.

Results:

1. A. Lomas; 2. D. Chappell; 3. D. McJannet.

Guest Prize: 1. Alan Dyson - Well done Alan!

Congratulations to Derek McJannet and his wife on the birth of their baby boy recently.

Next golf is July 1st Worksop GC. Tee off 1pm.

J.V Lax



Midland Region  
Peter Larter  
Tel: 01480 437507

## East of England

The first competition of the year was almost cancelled due to lack of numbers, but with days to go enough members replied to warrant a competition.

All who attended played a course of the highest standard, manicured down to the last detail. Thanks goes to David Salisbury and his staff who produced a testing course (hope you enjoyed the whisky Dave). The Burghley Park Course withstood quite a downpour, but John Scotney, Sleaford GC, came through the rain for first place. Second went to Graeme Macdonald, Newark GC, and third to Barry Anderson, Toft GC. Nearest the pins were won by Les Purdy and John Scotney. First prize for the trade member went to Peter Fell, Aitkens. Everybody who played went home with a prize. This can only go to show that we have the best sponsors in the area.

A big thanks to Alisdair Brown, of Peterborough Garden Machinery, and Ben Petitjean, of Barenbrug Seed, our main sponsors of the day, for the superb prizes. The prize table was actually embarrassing. It's probably the best turn out of prizes since I took over the secretary's job.

Other trade sponsors were: Greenpride; Aitkens; Rigby Taylor; Colliers; Fieldcare; Scotts; Tower Chemicals; Jacobsen; Purdys and Roy Harrison.

Thanks once again for courtesy to Howard Mulligan, Secretary, and the catering staff for a lovely meal. All of which made a great day out at Burghley Park GC.

Any news then please telephone Graeme Macdonald on 01636 626564.

G A Macdonald

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Comment From Walter Woods  
St. Andrews Links Golf Course supervisor

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**East Midlands**

This year's annual Trade v Greenkeepers golf match will take place at Morley Hayes GC on Tuesday, June 16. We require ten players for each side. Anybody interested can give me a ring for an entry form. The cost of the day is £12.50 with a Tee-off time of 3.30 pm. On the same subject, the annual East Midlands v East of England golf match will be held at Oundle GC on Thursday, August 20. Tee off 3.45 pm, the cost for the day is £9 which will include your evening meal. Any member who would like to represent the Section in this match can give a ring and I will send them an entry form. After last year's tied match we will need to field a stronger side to enable us to retain the Toro Shield.

Two greenkeepers who have recently moved golf clubs are Matthew Chambers, Charnwood Forest to Kirby Muxloe GC, and Steven Heap, Rothley Park to Forest Hills GC. On behalf of the Section I would like to wish both members all the best in their new employment.

Antony Bindley

**Mid Anglia**

Back in March a Section visit to Brocket Hall GC took place to walk around the proposed layout for the new 18 holes.

A very informative afternoon ensued and thanks to all those members who took time out to attend. Thanks also to Course Manager, John Wells, for providing the relevant facts. If it turns out as good as the existing course I'm sure we'll all look forward to playing it in future.

Our first golf event of the year took place in late April at a fairly new course, Lamerwood. Fifty three members attended in what was our Spring Tournament. This was certainly one of the best turnouts we have had for a Spring event and the change in format in the afternoon to a Greensome Foursome event made for an enjoyable day's golf. Bearing in mind the five or so inches of rain we had prior to the event, the course was obviously very wet in places but the greens were in fine condition and our thanks go to Sandy Anderson and all his staff for their efforts. Our thanks go to Lamerwood for allowing us to stage the event and their hospitality shown throughout the day.

Rigby Taylor was the main sponsors, along with Willmot Pertwee who ran the "Kingpin" competition. Our thanks go to Mark Stigwell and James Burton who represented their respective companies on the day and to all the other trade members for their continued support. The results from the morning round were as follows:

1. Mark Ellis, Mentmore GC, 37 pts; 2. Chris Brook, Chesfield

Downs, 36 pts; 3. David Wright, Brocket Hall, 35 pts. Nearest the Pin (Kingpin), Adrian Dancer, Shendish Manor; Longest Drive, Glen Lyme, Stockwood Park.

The pm prizes were allocated as follows:

1. John Moorhouse/Dick Coogan 38 pts. Longest Drive, Steve Mason, Trade Prize, Mark Stigwell, Rigby Taylor.

Finally the Lodgeway Fourball competition is well under way by now, so please ensure that League Matches are completed within the required time scales. All results should go to Steve Mason, of Mount Pleasant GC.

Paul Lockett

**Midland**

I would like to start by informing you of the sad news that Alan Borraston passed away during the weekend of May 2. Alan had worked in greenkeeping and served the Section for some 40 years. Alan was a great man and was the kind of person with whom anyone could have a conversation. There are many greenkeepers who will be very saddened by this news as Alan had many long established friends within the trade. He has left behind many friends at Little Aston GC where he spent a long and happy period. It is on behalf of the Midlands section committee and members that I would like to send the greatest sympathy to Alan's family especially his loyal son, Andrew, who worked with Alan and the close friends he had in his staff including John Barsby and anyone who had the pleasure of meeting Alan.

On a lighter note I would like to congratulate Rhys Thomas on his move to South Staffs GC and Tony Cheese on his move to Penn GC and wish them the best of luck in the future. In my last report I reported on the new members of committee, in that report I did not name Barry Wood, of Walsall GC, as a member of Committee. Apologies to Barry and I hope you enjoy your period on committee.

The trip to Turnberry is still to go ahead but we have had very little response and would encourage people interested to contact me on 01384 292396. I will be working to get a date finalised shortly. Andrew Smith is currently arranging a visit to the Massey Ferguson factory. This will take place on July 1 and will be in the morning, take two to three hours and lunch will be provided. Anyone wishing to take part should contact me on the above number or Andrew direct.

I would like to send on behalf of the Midland Section our best wishes and get well wishes to Trafford Stonebridge, our Chairman, who has recently been ill. Get well soon Traff and let's see you at the next golf day.

On a final note I would like to introduce you to some more new members Jamie Askew, Joseph Wooley, Graeme Bagnall and Michael Webster.

Jonathan Wood

**B, B & O**

The first golf event of the season was held at Reading GC back in April. This was well attended with 36 competitors battling the elements as well as the course. It has to be said that we never have much luck with the weather, especially the Spring tournament. I hate playing in the rain but I felt I could cope with my guaranteed waterproofs to keep me dry. How wrong can you be? Despite getting wet through along with everybody else it was an enjoyable day. My two partners, Steve & Liam deserve a mention for putting up with my atrocious golf, at least it can only get better! Jim Sutherland and his team have to be congratulated on the condition of the course it was a credit to all concerned. Thanks to the Golf Club for making us welcome on the day, the evening meal provided was first class. A big thank you to Patissons (Phil Sharp) for sponsoring the day and providing the many prizes it really is much appreciated by all especially the lucky winners. 1. Dan Schillaci, 66; 2. John Bowness, 69; 3. Jim Sockett, 69.

Thank you to Walter Wilders for covering the cost of posting all the invites for the golf day. Finally I would like to thank Richard Haynes for all his support and help at many of the events over the past few seasons, even if he didn't play he would always come along to help out with the cards etc. Good luck from the Section in your new job.

Lindsay T Anderson



South East  
Derek Farrington  
Tel: 01903 260956

**London**

On Tuesday, April 21 we held the London Section Spring Tournament. Although three weeks into a very wet and difficult April, the course was in excellent condition and Course Manager, Derek Mason and his staff are to be congratulated on providing all the competitors with a first class venue. Results are as follows: 1. Richard Andrews, Highgate GC; 2. Simon Walley, Sandy Lodge GC; 3. Richard Elderfield, Sandy Lodge GC. The Guest Prize was won by our Regional Administrator, Derek Farrington, and the longest drive was won by Daryl Jones.

The King Pin Prize for Nearest the Pin, is this year sponsored by Willmot Pertwee Amenity (formerly Kings) and the prizes were awarded by Mark Pyrah. 1. Richard Andrews, 2. Craig Handyside, 3. Richard Elderfield.

Mark announced that there was to be a roll-over for the trade prize because on this occasion he did not have a tape measure long enough!

Thanks again to the General Manager, the Catering Staff and Derek Mason at Highgate GC for providing the venue for a most enjoyable day.

While still in North London, news of another sporting achievement. Highgate's Deputy Head Greenkeeper, Russell Ling, turns out regularly as first team goalkeeper for Potters Bar Town FC in the Spartan South Midlands League. Russell has been the Town's goalie for two and a half years and the team are reigning League Champions for the 1996/7 season. This year the team reached the Quarter Finals of the FA Vase but despite Russell's heroic efforts, which won him "Man of the Match" they lost by two goals to Stoke on Trent. The Season's Honours haven't eluded him though because the "Town" have won the South Midlands Challenge Trophy Cup winning both legs 2 - 1.

Two new appointments in the Section. A warm welcome to Matt Smith who joined Arkley Golf Club in February as Assistant to Neil Whitaker and congratulations to Jeff Donovan, formally of Bridgedown GC, on securing the position of Head Greenkeeper at Boxmoor GC.

Paul Cooper, Head Greenkeeper at Bushey G&CC, has had an extremely busy 18 months with a remodelling of the course taking place. The 9 Hole Course has had 18 new tees constructed by Contractor, John Griesley, they were seeded in November 1997 and should be in play by June or July this year. The land drainage on the Course has been enhanced by new swales being dug, which pick up the existing drainage network. Steve Tingley's firm, Premier Sports Turf Services, were brought into construct trolley paths and build bridges for access over the ditches and swales. SJS Irrigation carried out a complete revamp of the irrigation on the greens and tees. Paul's pride and joy is the renovated lake which will be stocked with fish for the new Angling Club and there is to be a bandstand on the opposite side of the lake to the grassed picnic area with a view to holding open air concerts. The main Clubhouse is being refurbished completely with new Bar, Restaurant and Grill Bar together with an 800-member Health Club. The Club has purchased a new fleet of machinery to maintain the Course and Paul is hoping for a new Greenkeeper's shed in the future.

In February, Barry Neville, Head Greenkeeper at Stanmore GC, had a bit of extra disruption at the 9th. Eastern Electricity which has a Sub-Station next to the Club had contractors laying a new power cable from the Sub-Station through to Kodak in Harrow and the straightest route was alongside the 9th fairway. The cable had to be laid in ducts and the trench



required was 340 metres long by 600mm wide. The chain trencher used was powered by a 260hp diesel engine and weighed 28 tons, so the trench excavation was completed in one and a half hours! The laying of the cable and initial backfill took a further week to complete. Once the Electricity Board moved out, Barry enlisted the aid of S & G Limited to construct a new medal tee, reconstruct a fairway bunker which had been flattened by the trencher, lay a new path from the new tee and turf the trench line with Rolawn turf. All the work was completed before the wet weather started and it all looks as good as new.

Dates for your Diary: The Buckinghamshire GC, July 7; Brookmans Park GC, 20 August 1998.

Peter Hopkinson

### East Anglia

It was our privilege to play at RAF Lakenheath GC, on April 8. It is not everyday you get a private air display by F15 Fighter Planes, Screaming Eagles, their nickname. They gave one or two of us the Screaming Abdabbs but very impressive, unlike the golf.

Sixty two of us turned up for a very memorable day. All were greeted by Tim Russell who, along with Ian, worked tirelessly to make sure all went well as it did.

I actually played with Greg McHugh, the Greenskeeper (no it's not a spelling mistake) and his caddie, Art. The combination of American and Cockney expletives got quite colourful at times especially when he thought I was Australian!

Our football was going along nicely, sun was shining, birds (not eagles) were singing, then someone pulled us up for slow play. (I didn't know it was a race). Anyway he was told politely to go away & whistle Dixie. No pleasing some.

Then came the golf.

Cat 1: 1. Peter Howard nett 66; 2. Alan Carter, 70; 3. Euan Hunter, 71

Cat 2: 1. Ian Willett, 69; 2. Mike Virley, 73; 3. Steve Pigott, 71

Cat 3: 1. Toddy Huddleston, 69; 2. Tim Russell, 73; 3. Richard Mitchell, 73.

Longest was Roger's, sponsored by Barenbrug. Nearest was John Bidwell sponsored by Tomlins. John, incidentally has won the World Shotgun Championship three times so if he says he's nearest the pin, he's nearest the pin!

There were two guest prizes won by D. Keely, 71, and K. Taylor, 74. One trade prize won by L. Pearman, 74, and a bunch of flowers for our lady guests of which there were two and guess who won the loo seat (it wasn't me this time)? BBC, Big Bobby Chesham, the Play Better Golf video is his to keep. Mind you Bob Colin and Brian do enjoy themselves, don't moan about slow play and do a good job with the raffle. As does Greg McHugh with his collection for the Macmillan Fund from those of us not wearing a BIGGA tie he collected £49.

The prizes were presented by the Pro, John Anderson, and donated by Rigby Taylor, Rushbrooks, SISIS, Rhône-

Poulenc, Patissons, Atterton & Ellis, Toro, Colliers, and consultant Clarkson, whom, I am informed is no longer, Turf Acter as in a previous letter.

Derek Farrington tried to buy his raffle tickets with Dollars and Dimes. He must have thought he was in America, can't think why. Perhaps it was those burgers, steaks and cheesecake. Beautiful.

The course was in first rate condition thanks to Greg and his team. He wants us to go back late summer next time when the greens are like greased lightning (can't wait) especially if the pins are in the same place. The eagles won't be the only ones screaming.

We've all heard about American hospitality but when was the last time someone brought drinks to you on the course, ice cold at that on a buggy? When did you last see a hut on the course with two huge vending machines in? And when did you last visit a golf club with an armed guard at the gate and F15's making sure no one nicks the flags? That's what I call security. Greg, give me five man.

Mick Lathrope

### Essex

Well, what a wet April, three and a half inches down my way so far.

The venue for our first Golf Day and Spring Tournament had to be changed owing to the weather and Burnham GC being unplayable. Step in Martin at Stapleford Abbots with the offer for us to play there, gratefully accepted.

So to the tournament sponsored by Doe's, thanks to Andy and Adrian for all their hard work, got under way with 42 playing in glorious sunny weather. Thanks to Jeremy Wright, the General Manager, for allowing us to use the course. Thanks also to the catering staff and the bar staff.

Results.

Cat 1: 1. R. Pride 73; 2. S. Cox 74; 3. A. Toomes 75.

Cat 2: 1. R. Clark 70; 2. M. Hucklegreg 73; 3. C. Ward, 74.

Cat 3: 1. N. Horgewell 71; 2. I. Mitchell 74; 3. J. Shelton 76.

R. Clarke, Spring Trophy; N. Peachey, Trade Prize; N. Brewster, Guest Prize; G. Speller, Nearest the Pin; M. Fance Longest Drive

Thanks to all the companies who donated raffle prizes:

Grass Hopper; Willmot Pertwee; Driving Force Leisure; Banks Amenity; Bourne Amenity; Grass Roots; Tuckwells; Avoncrop Amenity.

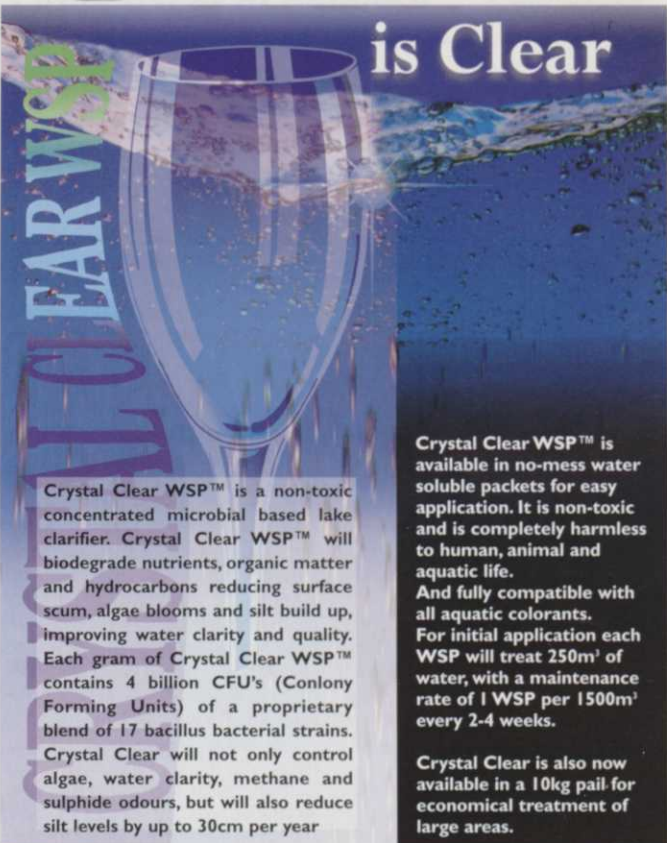
Nice to see some new faces at our first Golf Day. Our next one is at Channels Golf Club on June 2.

New Members: Ian Hutchinson, Thesdom Boig; Graham Milbank, Channels; Richard Dummow, Channels; Malcolm Smith, Regiment Way.

We wish David Hawkins, formally of Patisson, all the best in his retirement. New man at Greenkeeping Supply Company, Wayne Fearson, and moving to Driving Force Leisure, Richard Lewis. We wish them both all the best.

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Knock out pairs competition. Seventeen pairs are entered in four ball better ball match play which is really good.

Our next committee meeting is July 7<sup>at</sup> Thorndon Park GC. Captains v Greenkeepers is at Romford GC, on July 14. These are always very good days. Ask your captain for details.

Talking of Romford, The Open qualifier is to be held there on July 6. We wish Barrie Brown and his staff all the best.

Dave Wells

**Sussex**

The best day of the year seemed to be reserved for the Sussex Section Spring meeting held at Dyke GC high on the South Downs near Brighton. A beautiful spring morning on the downs is something to be valued and the condition of the course that Course Manager David Ansell had prepared for us just complemented the start of a beautiful day and 36 holes to look forward to.

Morning Results:

Cat 1: George Barr, Ray Day and Rowland Hughes

Cat 2: Neil Cleverly, Ian Stephens and Les Shrubbs

Cat 3: John Budd, John Luckhurst and Charlie Messenger

The highlight of the day, however, was saved for the afternoon Stableford. Ex-Secretary of the Section and present Regional Chairman, Raymond Day, playing off 2, returned a magnificent 41 points - a gross score of three under and came fourth! The winner of the afternoon competition being John Luckhurst on a countback from Charlie Messenger and Martin Broomfield, all with 42 points!

Bad luck to Raymond, what a great round that was and the Section is confident that he will be able to repeat it at the Summer meeting to be held at Slinfold Park on July 2.

Neil Cleverly

**Surrey**

The latest Surrey Section committee meeting took place at the Drift GC at the end of April. Your answers taken from the questionnaire sent to you all have been collated by Lee Strutt your assistant secretary. Four hundred and sixty two questionnaires were sent by post, only 38 members completed and returned them!

The information received showed that educational lectures on all aspects of greenkeeping would be most preferred, these to take place in the winter, with a 7pm start and at various venues throughout the Surrey section. Members would be prepared to pay between £5 to £10 each for professional speakers. Twelve members offered

their courses for a two to three hour visit by other greenkeepers with a number limit of 15-20, preferably during the summer. Members interested in an open forum numbered 28 and for this a winter meeting was recommended.

The next section regarding golf competitions proved that stablefords were enjoyed by most but that many would like to see more team events eg. Texas Scrambles. The consensus of opinion was that the number of competitions per year was about right but to include a four club competition and possibly an individual knockout on the Huxley Bowl principle. Friendly was the description of the atmosphere on competition days and an evening barbecue was preferred. A set meal was second choice.

More information was wanted in 'Around the Green' and this you humble servant will try to do. Any news and views will be gratefully received. Quiz nights also proved very popular with those who replied and so one will be arranged in November. Well that's what 38 of you think, I wonder if the remaining 424 agree with them?

The Spring Meeting was held on Friday, May 8 at the superbly presented Farnham Sands GC. We thank Peter McMorran and his staff for excellent afternoons golf and his club for the delicious evening meal. The results were as follows: Cat 1: 1. J Mathis, 2. R Christie, 3. R Glazier. Cat 2: 1. C Webb, 2. A Holehouse, 3. K Pinks. Cat 3: 1. S Johnson, 2. T Stiles, 3. L Strutt. Our thanks to Rigby Taylor for sponsoring the Medal competition and congratulations to Dave Wall for having the lowest nett score in the trade section. The overall competition was won by Steve Johnson nett 66. 2nd was John Mathis nett 69 and 3rd but not least Ron Christie nett 71.

Brian Willmott.



South West  
and South Wales  
Paula Humphries  
Tel: 01363 82777

**South West**

As I write this we are just coming to the end of the wettest April since the world began. Cries of "Close the course" and "It's ruined, the whole course is ruined" are often heard among other highly intelligent comments such as "When are you going to drain the fairways?" Quite a difficult thing to do at the weekend when you have 200 acres of sodden clay. One man who I am sure can relate to this is Kevin Innals, the Course Manager at Isle of Wedmore GC, who had the unenviable task of preparing a golf course for about 40 greenkeepers in the very worst of this permanent downpour called spring. This he managed to do admirably

and despite the odd disappearing ball syndrome we all got round safely on his delightful course.

Many thanks to the owners, Ken and Geoff Abrahams, and Andrew Edwards for the use of their course and to Caroline the caterer for the apres golf gastronomic experience we enjoyed.

The results were as follows:

Cat 1: P. Worster, 72; G. Cook 74, M. Fawcett \*74; S. Capen 78 and a highly consistent NR from M. Haring.

Cat 2: D. Bougen \*67; A. Knight \*67; J. Coverdale \*69; R. Gorwill 70; M. Pearce \*70. Cat 3: C. Sealey \*71; J. Braithwaite 74; T. Humphrey 76; L. Johnson 80; P. Cox 84; (\* denotes bandit).

Nearest the pin prize which raised £40 for the club's charity went to Bob Gorwill. Westurf took place at Long Ashton, on April 29, and despite a forecast of floods, pestilence and a plague of locusts, Paula's first show was a great success. The rain just about held off until the end and the attendance was good considering the metopological prophesies of doom. We must thank the many guests from headquarters and indeed it seemed from all over the country for attending. It seemed as though all the big names in greenkeeping were there, not just the stars of the south west. Congratulations to Paula, she did a tremendous job. Many thanks also to all the unsung helpers who donated their time and expertise to make this such a welcome annual fixture.

Mike Haring

**South Wales**

Westurf has again come and gone, thankfully this year we had some reasonable weather, which in turn, led to good attendances especially from our side of the bridge. Nice to see so many familiar faces.

Congratulations to Paula for organising such a good show. Also thanks to the trade for supporting it.

Congratulations also to Rob Freiter, from Creigiau GC, on his recent marriage. All the best!

The Cardiff Cup at Southerndown looks like being hotly contested this year with 35 entrants already.

And, finally a good luck in the future to Fred Smythe, from Cardiff GC, who has recently left to pursue another career.

Chris Solman

**South Coast**

On April 7 we had our annual match against the Secretaries. This was held at Highcliffe Castle GC. The Secretaries won 3.5 to 2.5. Trevor tells me that the weather was good, the course was good, the food was good and the company was good. You can't ask for anything more than that. Thanks must go to the Captain and Committee for allowing us the use of their course. Also thanks to the Greenkeeping and Catering staff who looked after everybody so well. Last,

but not least, thank you to Course Care in particular John Wood and Paul Dyter who sponsored the day's events.

Our Spring Tournament was held at Knighton Heath GC on April 22. It was contested by 47 players. The results were as follows:

Best Overall Gross, Bernard Emberley; Best Overall Nett, Bernard Emberley

Cat 1: 1. Simon Ridland; 2. Tony Gadd; 3. Joe Newman

Cat 2: 1. Del Northway; 2. John York, 3. Neil Stevenson

Cat 3: 1. Allen Rideout; 2. Steve Pellet; 3. Keith Hill-Jones

Christopher Fry Under 25 Trophy: Neil Stevenson

Nita Stimpson Over 50s Trophy: Joe Newman

Trade Trophy: Phil Greenway

Longest Drive: Paul Jackson

Nearest The Pin: Tony Gadd

I am told that the course was in excellent condition and played very well. Thanks must go to Derek Cheetham and his team for all their hard work. Local knowledge seem to have a lot to do with the top prizes. Best gross and best nett to Bernard Emberley. Well done Berny. Our thanks to the Captain, Committee and Members of Knighton Heath for allowing us the courtesy of the course for the day. Congratulations to the catering staff who produced an excellent meal. At the evening meal we were honoured by the presence of the Club President, who also presented the prizes. I hear that Eddie Fox was looking after the score cards again. This seems to be a habit that you can't seem to get out of Eddie. A lot of the older members will remember that Eddie was our Tournament Organiser for a number of years.

Seriously, Eddie, thank you for all your help on the day. We must not forget John York who organised the raffle and managed to extract a few hard earned pounds from the members. The man who organised the day's events was Fred Deamon He was well assisted by a good team but overall he was the one who was at the helm. Congratulations Fred for a job well done. Last, but not least, where would we have been without our sponsors for the day. Our thanks to Roffeys, Sheerwater Leisure, Huxleys Grass Machinery and D J Scott. Between them all they provided us with an excellent Prize Table.

Our Summer Tournament will be held at Bramshaw GC on Thursday, July 23. All applications along with current handicaps and cheques for £15 per person should be sent to: Trevor Smith, Manet, Horton Road, Horton Heath, Wimbourne, Dorset, BH21 6SB, Tel: 0410 835242.

The format for this tournament will be a Fourball Better Ball 18 Hole

So you think you're the best?

