

on the rotary front, there are high productivity ride-on mowers with collection facilities and extra wide tractor-powered units.

For anyone faced with buying new mowers whether they are gang mowers, ride-on fairway mowers, or rotaries, there are a number of factors that need to be taken into consideration before deciding on which one to purchase.

Each situation will have its own specific requirements but there are common elements to all.

Performance

This must be high on the priority list. How much work are you expecting to achieve with the unit in a given time scale. In addition the quality of finish is important.

Over-all weight

This is critical to minimise compaction and damage to the turf.

Power

In the case of gang mowers and trailed rotaries, the tractor will need to produce enough output to ensure that the mowers give optimum performance. With ride-on fairway units, if the engine has limited power reserves. There will be excessive fuel consumption, higher noise levels and the unit's life is likely to be shortened.

Greater stress will also be placed on all the machine's other components.

Traction

Where there is a wide variation in terrain, adequate traction is required to achieve a consistent finish, and limit turf damage.

Manoeuvrability

These machines are generally large and have wide working widths, so in areas where access is limited they need to be checked out.

Operator comfort

The mowers are going to be used for long periods at a time, so operator fatigue needs to be kept at a minimum. Most manufacturers recognise the importance of this

when designing a machine, so a close look at all these facilities is needed.

Access for maintenance

Low level maintenance routines and limited downtime are critical to an efficient operation. Check out access to cutting units, engines or transmissions.

If these are restricted, unnecessary delays in carrying out repairs or sharpening cutting systems can occur.

Replacement parts availability

These need to be readily available to minimise any downtime.

After-sales back-up

If there is no in-house service department then the question needs to be raised of what facilities are available locally and an indication of how quickly a service unit can be on site should a breakdown occur.

Finance

It is a highly competitive market so most suppliers offer finance packages that spread the load and make the acquisition of equipment easier. Ask for details.

The modern course manager and greenkeeper are faced with providing the public with high quality playing surfaces and at the same time they have to run a cost-effective operation. This means adopting new work practices and looking towards building a fleet of equipment that will give the best results.

Each piece of machinery has its place in time and, in their hey-day gang mowers were (and for some still are) the answer.

They produced results that at the time were considered far in advance of what had gone before and predictably, challengers came onto the market that were designed to match modern requirements and trends. This is progress.

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Scottish Region
Peter Boyd
Tel/Fax 0141 616 3440

Scottish

The Scottish Region once again offers members a subsidised package deal for BTME 1999. The package includes coach to Harrogate, entry to all seminars and exhibition, three nights bed and breakfast in en suite twin rooms in the Moat House Hotel, Harrogate on 19, 20 and 21 January 1999. Package costs £142. Partners are welcome at a cost of £102 for travel and accommodation. For booking forms call or fax Peter Boyd, Scottish Regional Administrator, 10 Meadowburn Avenue, Newton Mearns, Glasgow G77 6TA; Tel/Fax 0141 616 3440

North

Five more new members to welcome this month. David Mathie, Stuart Griffiths and Jordan Fairweather all from Letham Grange, Richard Aitken from Carnegie Club, Skibo and Steven Myers from Glenisla GC Alyth. At the other end of the scale so to speak, we wish Peter Tait a long and happy retirement. Peter has just left Inverurie after many years service, although a non golfer he was a regular at our outings. I have had quite a few comments about Dougal Duguids amazing score at our Autumn outing at Alford. It was his first victory after 31 years of attending outings in fact! One or two people were asking about a dope test, but rest assured we don't need a test! It's demo season again and some Aberdeen members were transported down to Central England by Barclay, Ross and Hutchinson for a look around the John Deere factory. There was a big turnout of North members at the SGM Open Day in Inverkiething, their new premises.

Martin Cameron, Buckpool, won the prize for nearest the pin on their par three hole. A hole in one would have won a greens mower, Martin got a signed Newcastle Rugby shirt from Doddie Weir. Members might not know that our Section is 50 years old next year, having been formed in a tea room in Dundee in 1949. Looking back in the minutes we find that the first golf outing was held in 1961 and two outings a year were introduced in 1967. We hope to mark our anniversary with an outing to a major venue. Watch this space! Finally, a reminder that the Section One Day Conference takes place on the 25th of this month, and we are hoping for a big turnout. All members should have received their application forms long ago. Anyone who has not, or people from outwith the Section who wish to go, please phone Dougal on 01224 740329 for an application form.

Tickets are £16.00 each or £12.00 for students in full time greenkeeper education, remember the venue is the

SAC Craibstone, Aberdeen and I am sure you will have a very worthwhile day. Everyone with an interest in golf and greenkeeping is welcome.
Iain Macleod

Ayrshire

Thanks to Chairman Jim Paton for deputising last month. As I pen these notes the October magazine has not yet arrived so I am oblivious to the contents. I'm sure Jim was able to deliver some points of interest. I had an enjoyable holiday and with only one 9 hole course on Menorca I was able to give the sun, sea and San Miguel my utmost attention. It was nice to return to some predominantly dry weather which I'm sure all of us are extremely grateful for after the excessive rainfall during July and August. The Autumn outing was played on September 22 at the one and only Golf in the world at Louden. A good turnout of over 40 enjoyed the day with the prizewinners as follows; Morning Scramble; Winners, Gordon Naughey, Roland Blackburn, Lee Blackburn and Neil Shuttleworth all Southernness. Runners up, Jim Smith, (Ardeer), Derek Duthie, (Aitkens), Martin Kay, (Irvine Bogside) and David McGlinchey, (Barassie). Afternoon Medal, Scratch, Lee Blackburn, (Southernness). Cat 1; 1. Andy Clark, (Louden), 2. Martin Kay, (Irvine Bogside), 3. Brian Finlayson, (Barassie), 4. Derek Wilson, (Irvine Bogside). Cat 2; 1. John McLaughlan, (Prestwick St Nicholas), 2. Jim Smith, (Ardeer), 3. George Morrison, (West Kilbride), 4. Gordon Haughey, (Southernness). Trade, Kenny Hunter, (Huxleys). The section would like to thank the captain and committee of Louden Golf Club for courtesy of the course, Head Greenkeeper, David Armstrong and his staff for presentation of the course and the Clubmaster/Mistress for the catering and refreshments service. The sound of wedding bells are ringing loudly again, so the grapevine informs me with the latest recruit to the ranks being one Mr Harry Diamond who tied the knot in Las Vegas. Congratulations from the Section. Scotsturf is yet upon us which gives the trade an opportunity to display their wares and also us a chance to meet old and new acquaintances. Maybe I'll see you there. Any news, call me on 01505 683278.

Iain Barr

Central

It appears that the "Boys", and I use that word loosely, from the Leven Links Sporting Club, are off in search of new sports/pastimes. This time they have taken to caravanning, with the man in charge being Stuart Sime, I don't know if this is before or after he has competed in the stock car racing at Cowdenbeath, but as far as I can gather, the first try at life in a caravan proved pretty good. Stuart

can vouch for the comfort of the beds, and they assure me that their next trip will include getting the caravan out of the sheds and onto the open road, if they can find someone to tow it! We extend a warm welcome to the section to Alistair MacFadyen from Crieff Hydro Golf Centre and also to Andrew Crawford from the Green Hotel Golf Courses at Kinross, who is rejoining. I keep saying that we hope to see new members at some of our section events but very few bother attending, and yet if a trade company has an open day or such like there are plenty Section members in attendance. Is this because there are "freebies" on offer and Section events have to be paid for? Roy Auld, formerly of SGM, is back on the road again with Geo. Henderson and it's nice to see his cheery face again (huh!), even if it does cost me for the coffee and biscuits every time he calls in. The entry forms for the 1999 Inter Club Tournament have already been circulated, so if you intend to enter a team, please return them as soon as possible in order that the draw can be made and the tournament started earlier than in previous years, probably in March. As I am writing this I have just received a phone call from former Section member Brian Inglis. Brian was at Callander Golf Club before moving abroad and is now in Germany, where he is on the look out for two enthusiastic assistants who fancy working abroad. If this appeals to you, Brian can be contacted on 00 49 2238 44664 and he will give you full details of what seems a pretty good package. With the Autumn Tournament not being held until the first week in October I have missed the deadline for the results appearing in this issue, so I will update you next month, along with a report from the AGM, for which five members have returned their forms intimating their intentions to attend. Not bad out of 212 members! Still we live in hope.

John Crawford

West

Winter has now come and I would hope it is far better than summer, surely it can't be wetter. Most people will have already completed their course and verti-draining. It will be interesting to see how places stand up to the winter play. A few things have happened recently. As stated last month, the five a side report. In all, nine teams turned out with three no shows. Names will not be mentioned. Needless to say this doesn't reflect very well on greenkeeping in general. A lot of work goes into these days, and plans made only to have them snookered at the last minute. Never mind, let's get on with the report.

From the Sections, Loch Lomond 1, Balmone, Deumpellier and Clydebank/Windyhill came out as semi-finalist.

Baltimore cruised past Clydebank/

Windyhill while Drumpellier and Loch Lomond had a penalty shoot out, Loch Lomond came out on top.

The final really became a poor example with no real excitement.

Loch Lomond eventually winning. The question was where did Glasgow come in. My team obviously missed my contribution of skill and stamina otherwise they would have won and that's fighting talk folks, wait till next year. The day appeared to go well other than the initial hiccups. As usual the referees did a fine job with a few red cards being shown.

Thanks are due to Brian Hillan for organising the day and Peter Boyd for presenting the prizes and helping out. Finally thanks to all who took part for their continued support.

Next on the agenda was the Autumn outing held at Cathcart Castle on September 10, and what a day that was. Before the Tournament started Robert must have been worried whether or not the day would even go ahead, I certainly was, phoning on a few occasions to see what the situation was. Courses all over were closed. I then tried to think when the last time was when an outing had been cancelled, but were my worries justified? No way. Robert had the course in great condition and very dry considering the previous days, weeks of rain. Congratulations to him and his staff for all their work, and well done. On the day of the tournament, I left Killermont where heavy rain was falling. On my travels I reached Hags Castle and the sun shine came out, that was the story for the remainder of the day. Now for the results; Scratch Prize, S. Taylor, Killermont, 74; 1st Class; 1. G. Beven, East Kilbride, 75-5-70; 2. C. Goodhall, Balmore, 75-4-71; 3. S. Ballantyne, Cowglen, 77-6-71; 2nd Class; 1. J. Brown, Beasden, 80-13-67; 2. M. Kelly, Lenzie, 82-12-70; 3. I. Nieol, Cathcart Castle, 85-14-71; 3rd Class; 1. A. Jack, Cathcart Castle, 102-24-78; 2. J. Bell, Kilmalcolm, 103-20-83; 3. N. Gibb, Brucefields, 102-18-84; Trade Prize, K. Hunter, Huxleys, 77-13-64; Visitors Prize, A. Peace, Cowder, 83-4-79; Hackers Prize, M. Carey, Balmore, too bad to mention. Poor Martin after all the glory times, but as was said on the day at least he was brave enough to hand in his card. Well done all the winners and thanks to all who played for such a successful day. Thanks also to the members for courtesy of the course, the captain for presenting the prizes, the catering staff for their food and services and finally my own committee for running everything nice and smoothly. Peter Boyd needs to be thanked for his starting skills, ushering people on to the 1st tee, well done to all. May I now convey a couple of congratulations to members in our Section. Firstly, Gary Kenny formally of Kirkhill GC now at Wentworth, well done on your new position; and all the best for the

future. Secondly my own Assistant head Craig Wylie who recently got married to Anna, all the best for the future. New members to the Section, Grant Peters and Paul McLearn, both of Loch Lomond Golf Club, David Wylie, Cawder Golf Club, and Christopher Chalmers, Campsie Golf Club, welcome to the Section, may you have a good association with BIGGA. James Mayhew, Michael Hamilton both Campsie. Finally on a note of thanks, the Autumn outing 2nd class prized winner was presented with a brand new trophy and this was due to Naim Brown Ltd supplying the West Section with a handsome piece of silver. Thanks to Naim Brown, Rigby Taylor and Daval Products this year three new trophies have been supplied, the west Section is extremely grateful for your continued help and appreciative of your contributions. Thank you.

Stuart Taylor



Northern Region
Douglas Bell
Tel: 0151 431 0433

Northern

The growing season is just about over, thank goodness as machines need a rest just like humans. I'm sure the machinery companies will be rubbing their hands at the thought of repairing or even replacing all that worn out tackle!

This years Invitation Day Tournament was held at Aldwark Manor Golf Club. May I thank Dennis Cockburn and Richard Gamble for sorting things out on the day in my absence. Many thanks also to the greens and catering staff. The results for the day were as follows; 1. Robin Smith, J Wilson; 2. Tito Arana, Richard Simpson; 3. Ken Christie, L Scasse; 4. Alan Baxter, Ian Summersgill; 5. Andrew Clarke, Chris Crossland. Finally, a big thanks to Rigby Taylor for their kind and ongoing support of this and other Northern Section events and to Norman Schofield for attending on their behalf. I hope Bernard, Peter, Andrew and all the lads are doing fine. Next year we have arranged another ten pin bowling evening on May 11 1999 at Keighley. More details will follow in subsequent issues. Anyone wishing to put their names down for the Christmas Golf at Keighley Golf Club on Wednesday, December 9, please contact me in good time as numbers are likely to be limited. Even if you cannot attend the golf please come along for the AGM, which will commence at around 5.30pm. If there is anyone from around the Section with any news, please contact me at 1 Cockley Meadows, Kirkheaton, Huddersfield, HD5 0LA or phone on either 01484-317813 or 0411-601420.

Simon Heppenstall

North East

The Autumn competition was recently played at Consett GC, our thanks to the committee for giving us courtesy of their course and to Head Greenkeeper, John Devlin and his staff, for presenting the course in great shape. On behalf of the Section we would like to thank Rite-Feed on sponsoring the competition and also the following; Shorts of Whitburn, Aitkens, Greenlay, Border Turf Services on sponsoring the lowest nett score on the par3's. Best Gross, D Cuthbertson, 71, Slaley Hall; Ransome Cup Best nett, B. Hughes, 89-20=69 Whickham; Greenlay Cup, S Cram, 76-5=71, Slaley Hall on back nine; Fewsters Shield, S. Pope; Leading scores; C. Parkinson, 73-2=71, Matfen Hall; I. Hutton, 76-5=71, Slaley Hall; G. Baxter, 78-6=72, So Shields; A. McClure, 72-0=72, Whickham; M. Lathan, 75-2=73, Hexham; J. Redhead, 85-12=73, City of Newcastle.

The next match is against SE Scotland at Slaley Hall on October 6 and all players have been notified.

Best of luck lads.

Jimmy Richardson

Cleveland

Well done to Wearside Head Greenkeeper, Barry Walker and his club pro, Doug Brolls, who went to the finals of the Lombard Trophy which was played in Portugal and won. This is a great achievement as it's the biggest Pro Am in Europe.

Very well done. Once again the greenkeeper v groundsman Christmas quiz is nearly on us once again. This quiz is run by Terry Charlton of Turfcare, and I must say he puts on a great night out. It would be nice if a few more greenkeepers would turn up every year as we are heavily outnumbered by the groundsman. That is why we never win! The date for this great event is December 16 at Mount Oswald GC, starting at 7.30pm. Be there, or be square.

Also well done to Richmond's Head Greenkeeper Tong Burge who won the Cleveland Section knockout. In 2nd place was Brancepeth Castle Assistant Greenkeeper Mark Brown.

Don't forget to wrap up warm when you go out one these nasty cold mornings - it's sheer hell out there.

Kevin (Scoop) Heslop

Sheffield

On September 29, we held our Autumn Competition at Gainsborough Golf Club.

It was a cloudy but dry day which makes a change this year. Our thanks go to Gainsborough Golf Club for giving us the courtesy of their course and to John Evison and his staff for the excellent condition of Gainsborough. Well done John. Thanks also to the catering staff for providing an excellent meal which was enjoyed by everyone. Also a big thank you to the trade members who once again

provided some excellent prizes for the prize table and raffle. Thanks go to Henton and Chattells, Pete Temp, Steve Burroughs, Purdys, Aitkens and also to Ping who provided some prizes. There was some excellent golf played and I think the day was enjoyed by everyone who played. The overall winner was Adrian Rhodes who played some excellent golf and

finished with 39 points. Well done Adrian! Results; 1. A. Rhodes, 39pts; 2. R. Ullathore, 37pts; 3. M. Coltan, 37pts; 4. K. Kirkham, 36pts; 5. J. Dorach, 36pts; 6. S. Currie, 36pts. The trade prize was won by Tony Dobson with 39 pts. Well done Tony! Nearest the pin was won by Kim Kirkham. Well done Kim, I think it's your speciality. Once again our winter

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lectures will be held at Rotherham Golf Club starting at 2.30 pm; November 5, Twose Turf followed by AGM; December 3, Richard Walton, Scotts; February 4, David Stansfield, PSD Agronomy; March 4, A J Wallis, Force Limmograin. Please support your Section and try to attend as many lectures as possible.

John Lax

North West

I am writing these Section notes in the last week of September, and I am sure you will all be enjoying the break in the weather from the persistent rain we have had for some months. September is usually the last opportunity to Hollow tine and top dress, especially if you incorporate overseeding, before the possibility of

winter frosts, so at least the dry spell has given you the start needed. If you have managed to carry out this work, a good idea is to go on holiday, so that you do not have to listen to the members' moans about uneven putting surfaces. The "Autumn" competition at Dean Wood GC on September 17 was a great day, with 42 playing and a perfect day weather

wise. The course was in lovely condition thanks to Chris Watson and his staff. Incidentally Chris had hollowtined and top dressed the first week in September, making sure he beat the frosts, and soon enough to have good fast greens for us to play on. I would like to thank Dean Wood GC for allowing us the courtesy of the course and for their generous

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welcome. Many thanks also to the caterers for a great meal, the bar staff for keeping the bar open all day, until the last went home (me). Thanks once again to the trade companies who helped to swell the prize table.

A final reminder that we have the Christmas competition and Annual General Meeting at Wilmslow GC on Thursday, November 26. We will also include the competition for the "Presidents Cup" which has been donated by John Walker, N/W Section President. All you need to enter is; send a cheque to Bill Merritt 225 Utting Avenue, Walton, Liverpool, L4 9RB and everybody bring a bottle, so that we all go away with a prize. The Tee is available from 10am. Richard Corless has moved from Sandbach GC to Mottram Hall as First Assistant. Any news, views, or enquiries contact me on 0151 724 5412. Bert Cross

North Wales

Well, hello, I'm back again. Firstly can I quash all rumours, it definitely wasn't my backside seen on TV on a beach in Ibiza. I'm 42 not 24, the British Consul did not leave because I arrived. The World in Action crew were not looking for me! Jeez, next time I go on holiday I'll keep my eye out for Kate Adie. One thing I noted was the local delicacy of squid for a plateful! As you can tell, nowt much to write about 'cause again, no one's got in touch, except the college. Once again they are running a series of short courses which I know from experience are excellent, and superb value for money. The dates are Monday, November 16, Engines 4+2 stroke; Monday November 23, Diesel Systems; Monday, November 30, Brakes and clutches; Monday, December 7, Blade Sharpening and Monday, December 14, Abrasive Wheels. The days start at 10am and finish at 3pm and the total cost for all five modules is £50. Contact either Phil Davies or Graham Wright on 01352 841055. Here's to a dry crisp winter season with enough snow to keep the course closed, enough frost to move material round the course, no fusarium, no moans, no groans, everything you've set out in your winter programme completed on time with no delay. Oh, look at that pig flying over the course. See ya,

Dave Goodridge



Midland Region
Peter Larter
Tel: 01480 437507

Midland

Midland Region Seminar 1998 - support your Region and attend the Midland Region Seminar at Mentmore Golf Club on Wednesday, November 18, 1998. Application forms for attendance were in the

September issue of Greenkeeper International. If you need a form contact the Regional Administrator.

The inaugural Midland Region Golf Management Trophy Competition was held at Cold Ashby Golf Club on September 24, 1998. The Region is extremely grateful to David Croxton and his staff at Cold Ashby Golf Club for extending the courtesy of the course and for their help in making the day successful and enjoyable for all. The competition was sponsored by Scotts Turf & Amenity and the Region's thanks go to Richard Minton for his support in getting this event off the ground. Twenty one golf clubs entered as four man teams comprising of the Course Manager or Head Greenkeeper, the Secretary, Captain and Chairman of Green. The prize was a tonne of fertiliser to the winning club, plus individual prizes to the leading teams. Lutterworth Golf Club, led by their Head Greenkeeper Gary Jukes, won first prize closely followed by Lingdale Golf Club in second place and South Staffordshire Golf Club in third place. The Region thanks all of the golf clubs for taking part and looks forward to holding a similar event next year.

Peter Larter

East of England

The fifth annual match between our Section and the Association of Secretaries took place at Toft Hotel Golf Club (near Bourne). The Chandlers Cup was retained, once again, by the Secretaries 5 1/2 to 2 1/2. Thanks to our team for all playing what was the secretaries home fixture. The talk, was, hopefully to play the secretaries at Stoke Rochford next year if it can be arranged. The Secretaries Association Secretary, Brian Harris, stood down this year and I wish him all the best in his retirement. The Head Greenkeeper, Barry Anderson, and his staff were thanked by both Associations for the excellent state of the course, and the catering was first class. One player who could not make it was Tony Fox, of Blankney. He was taken in to Hospital, and we wish Tony a speedy recovery. East of England scores; G. Macdonald + L. Siddon, Halved; K. Hodges + J. Hewson, Lost; R. Hewitt + F. Cobb, Won; J. Scotney + P. Wilkinson, Lost; B. Anderson + A. Thomas, Won; G. Ogden + R. Harrison, Lost; P. Fell + A. Clarke, Lost; L. Purdy, Lost. Last bit of news from around the region is that Kevin Hodges wife is to have a baby the day before we visit his course for our Section meeting. I will keep you posted to whether its a boy or girl or if Kevin made it to the golf meeting.

Graeme Macdonald

East Midlands

I would like to thank the following golf clubs in our Section all of whom have kindly contributed to the BIGGA Building Fund. Beeston Fields G.C.,

Erewash Valley G.C., Mapperley G.C. and Kirby Muxloe G.C. Your support is greatly appreciated. This year's Autumn Tournament was held at Scraftoft GC on September 2, with 30 competitors taking part. The winners were as follows; Category 1; 1. A. Thomas, Manor, 69-5-64; 2. J. Dickinson, Leen Valley, 79-7-72; 3. A. Foulds, Manor, 80-8-72. Category 2; 1. A. Porter, Greatham Valley, 83-12-71; 2. J. Bedford, Birstall, 88-16-72; 3. D. Mitchell, Springwater, 84-11-75; Category 3; 1. M. Bindley, Kirby Muxloe, 90-21-69; 2. F. Kempster, Glen Gorse, 90-19-71; 3. G. Robson, Lingdale, 98-24-74. Trade & Associate Winner, P. Larter, Regional Administrator, 82-8-74. Nearest the Pin, P. Larter; Longest Drive, D. James. I would like to thank Scraftoft GC for allowing us courtesy of their course and to the steward & stewardess for a really great meal, not forgetting Carl Chamberlain and the rest of the green staff for preparing a challenging test of golf.

Finally a special thank you to Banks Amenity Products for their sponsorship of this event.

Next year's Autumn Tournament will be held at Erewash Valley on September 6. Finally on behalf of the Section, I would like to wish Martin Smith and his family, our best wishes for the future. Martin has been a keen member of the Section, and has now moved from Ramsdale Park to Burhill GC and will rejoin the Surrey Section.

Antony Bindley

B, B&O

The Autumn Invitational golf day was held at Harleyford last month and for once the weather was kind to all competitors. There's only one snag with regards to playing on a nice day and that is the scoring can be blistering! This certainly was the case with some amazing scores at the top of the leader board. Normally if you manage to finish with 40+ pts you would expect to make a visit to the Trophy table, however not on this day. 43pts (-7 par) was not even good enough! I felt my partner Peter Larter and myself played some good golf but our 37pts fell well short of the target. 1. J. Scoones & J. Coyle, 47pts; 2. A. Cooper & D. Herd, 46pts; 3. D. Goodchild & K. Benton, 44pts; LD, J. Scoones; NP, J. Coyle. I had the pleasure of sitting next to John Coyle at dinner and this gave me the opportunity to find out exactly how he managed to tear the course apart. They managed to score 26pts on the back nine alone the highlight coming on the 17th when he made Eagle which meant 5pts! I believe that when John finished his round, he was seen taking his putter into the shower, just to cool it down! Many thanks to GEM for sponsoring the day. This was appreciated by all who took part. Well done Bernie! Ray Clark and his staff are to be congratulated on presenting a first class course, also all the catering

staff are to be thanked for laying on a superb feast which was a welcome sight at the end of a long day. The next golf day takes place at Whiteleaf on November 26, and doubles as our AGM as well so if you have any thoughts for improving the Section then please come along and air your views. Finally the Regional Seminar takes place at Mentmore Golf Club on Wednesday, November 18, and your support is essential to make this a success. Lindsay Anderson

Mid Anglia

The Section's summer tournament was held this year in late August at Leighton Buzzard Golf Club; a lovely, compact Bedfordshire course. Bearing in mind this summer's weather, a fine day for golf was, luckily for us, enjoyed to the full. Thirty two members turned up for the day's golf, seven of whom were trade members. A Stableford was played in the morning, followed by a nine hole Texas Scramble, after lunch.

The results from the Stableford competition were as follows: 1. Steve Mason, Mount Pleasant Golf Club, 38pts; 2. Darren Brown, Stocks Golf Club, 37pts; 3. John Moorhouse, Brocket Hall Golf Club, 37pts. The trade prize was won by Tim Webb, from Tacit, with 45 points.

Our thanks to Jim Burton for running the Kingpin "nearest the pin" competition once again, which was won by Neil Pestle of Mid Herts. John Wells was second, Russell Housen third and Colin White of Avoncrop picked up the Trade prize. Neil Pestle also won the longest drive. A superb lunch was enjoyed, with everyone looking forward to the afternoon Texas Scramble over nine holes. The results of this were: 1. P. Judd, I. Jones, A. Males, 28.1; 2. J. Donaldson, B. Butfoy, L. Rance, 31.3; 3. R. Tarbox, A. Barker, D. Coleman, 31.8. Our thanks go to Leighton Buzzard Golf Club for the courtesy of the course and the superb hospitality shown to us; also to John Burchell, the Secretary, who attended our meal and presentation in the evening. Dave Piggot, the Head Greenkeeper and all his staff, must be commended on the excellent standard of the course.

Boughton Loam, represented by Mike Franklin, kindly sponsored the day and donated all the prizes, so many thanks to them and to all other trade members for supporting the Section so ably.

I would personally like to thank John Wells for stepping in to say a few words in the absence of our Chairman and Vice, and to Richard Saunders for his organisational prowess.

I would like to congratulate John Moorhouse on his appointment as Head Greenkeeper of the Melbourne Course at Brocket Hall.

The final of the Lodgeway Four

Around the green

Ball Tournament was played in early October at John O'Gaunt Golf Club over 36 holes. Steve Hesk and Darren Mugford of Aldwickbury came out winners.

It was unfortunate that one of their opponents, Mark Hendry, was injured and Neil Robson therefore had to compete on his own. Our thanks to John O'Gaunt for staging the final, and to Chris Rook of Lodgeway for sponsoring the event.

Steve Mason has done an excellent job in his first year of running the event. We all look forward eagerly to next year's event! The Regional Seminar is being held in our Section this year, at Mentmore Golf and Country Club, on November 18.

Please support the event; there are a wide variety of speakers lined up for the day. Our last golf event of the year, the Christmas Texas Scramble, will be held on December 4 at Ashridge Golf Club. Early team entries are vital, as this event is always extremely popular and is often over-subscribed.

Paul Lockett

Midland

On Monday, September 28, the Autumn Tournament was played at Edgebaston Golf Club.

The day was a great success considering the torrential thunder storms that occurred throughout the previous weekend. It was a great credit to Mike Hughes and his staff for presenting the course in such trying circumstances.

Many thanks on behalf of the Midland Committee.

The results are as follows; 1. M. Gash, 2. Clayton Lee, 3. Alan Cutler, 4. Dave Gibbons, 5. Jon Wood. 1st gross went to Tony Chesse. Longest drive was won by A Corns of Acorn Equipment.

I would also like to thank on behalf of the Section all our sponsors for the day who were Tacit, Acorn Equipment and Ruffords Topdressing. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Tacit for sponsoring the summer tournament, as I forgot to mention them in last months report.

The final of the Rigby Taylor doubles, will be played by the time you receive the next report so I will keep you informed. The finalists are Mark Cutler and Alan Cutler against Paul Loffman and Trevor Morris. Briefly I would like to remind you of the Christmas tournament at Copt Heath Golf Club on Thursday, December 10, the AGM will be held after the golf so those of you who are not playing in the golf please come to the AGM. Finally I would like to introduce some new members; Daniel Jones, Jamie Wilson, Jamie Griffin, Mark Allen, Francesco Polino, John Hughes, Andrew Dalton and Steven Harvey.

Jonathan Wood

East Anglia

With the onset of Autumn our Nomadic band decided to go to Sheringham. Not a wise choice at that time of year you may think. Well, you would be wrong, only just mind, as it was a bad day the day before and a day you wouldn't send a dog out the day after, but our day with a slight breeze, well dry anyway. About 40 turned up as it was a restricted field, so the privileged few finally got to play Sheringham. I don't think many of us had played there before judging by the scores either, however someone has got to win. The scores were as follows. Are you sitting comfortably then I shall begin. 0-9 Section; 1. R. Whiting, 39pts (overall winner); 2. P. Howard, 37pts; 3. R. Plummer, 36pts. 10-18 Section; 1. M. Broughton, 33pts; 2. J. Willitt, 32pts; 3. D. Childs, 32pts. 19-28 Section; 1. S. Crab, 38pts; 2. T. Russell, 35pts; 3. M. Mison, 33pts. Guest prizes were won by Messrs Bray and Carr, Captain and Chairman of Greens respectively. The loo seat was won by yours truly not for the least points I might add, far from it. No, the loo seat has returned to Lathrope after many years not for poor golf as in the past but for the most bizarre event of the day; I was playing one of several bunker shots when I was hit smack on the top of the head with a ball. The Anglo Saxon was about to flow when I noticed my so called friend and playing partner Brian Lemon rolling around in fits of laughter. It was then that I realised it was my ball that had caught the top of the bunker, shot straight in the air and wallop, straight on the nut.

Of course, once this tale had spread around the clubhouse, afterwards, I was presented with the seat to remind me of the day, long after the headache has gone. Thanks lads. The main sponsors for the day were Bartram Mowers. Other prizes were donated by Colliers, Barenbrug, Rushbrooks, SISIS, Rhone-Poulenc, Willmot Pertwee, Lely, Consultant Clarkson and Tomlinson Ground Care. Our thanks to Sheringham GC for a great day. The course was in super nick apart from the face of that bunker on the fourth fairway.

Mick Lathrope



South East
Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260956

Essex

Well, November already, when signs and fencing of some type will be shortly set in place for the coming winter months to keep the wandering sheep off! Now on to our next social event. For the first time we will be

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holding an indoor Go-Karting endurance race along with the help of Grass Roots Trading Company. The venue, Indikart Racing Club, Colchester, Friday, November 20, arrival 1.30pm. There will be eight teams of four, £20 per man, with the race lasting 31/2 hours. For further details contact Richard Pride 01268 752281. An important date for your diary is your AGM to be held at Orsett GC on Tuesday, December 1. There will be a golf competition in the morning followed by lunch with the AGM after. Details will be sent out soon. Any enquiries please contact Richard or Martin Forester (01245 603131). One or two positions need to be filled on the committee. Anyone interested please ring Martin. The 1998 SE Region Education Conference will be on Tuesday, November 24, 7pm, Stock Brook Manor GC. Anyone interested to help please just turn up on the night or better still ring our Secretary Martin 01245 603131, who will let you have further information.

On to our latest new members. Adding to our ever growing Section, we would like to welcome both Graham Hipkin and Alan Smith from Clacton-on-Sea GC. From the Mardyke Valley Golf Centre Daniel Farrer and Joe Broderick from Stapleford Abbots GC.

Our last event of the year and a very pleasant one, was at Maylands Golf Club where I haven't played for years. Can I thank Phillip Taylor for letting us use the course. Paul Farrow, Head Greenkeeper and his staff for getting the course ready. Pauline and staff, catering and bar. Our sponsor for the event Avoncrop, thanks Wayne.

The winners were; Cat 1, Andy Sheehan, 36pts; Mick Fahce, 34pts; Carl Croucher, 31pts. Cat 2, Ray Clark, 33pts; Chris Ward, 32pts; Danny Farrow, 32pts; Cat 3, Jack Shelton, 35pts; Ian Mitchell, 30pts; Malcolm Smith, 28pts. Trade prize, Richard Lewis; Guest Prize, Phil Terry. Thanks to the Greenkeeping Supply Company who sponsored, Nearest the Pin, Neil Peachey; Longest Drive, Richard Pride.

The overall winner for the Autumn Trophy is Andy Sheehan. Thanks to these firms for the raffle prizes; Rigby Taylor, Tuckwells, Banks, Grass Roots, CMW, Bourne, Driving Force Leisure, Willmot Pertwee. Our AGM and Golf Day is on December 2 at Orsett Golf Club. Please, please make every effort to attend, yes attend, your AGM. Where we all can help to continue our success. Dave Wells

Surrey

Welcome, everyone, to this months compilation of news and useful information. Firstly our congratulations to some new parents; from the Drift Golf Club Mark Sutcliffe whose wife Deborah gave birth on September 1 to their daughter, Hannah, 8lbs 6ozs and from Worplesdon Golf Club, Ken Harding, and his wife Tracy, are celebrating the arrival of their son, Charley.

Effingham Golf Club will be running a Chain Saw Course in December and would welcome members from other Surrey clubs to participate and gain a Certificate of Competence. Please contact Peter Broadbent for full details.

The annual clash between golfers from England and Scotland took place at Epsom Golf Club on September 18. The course was in magnificent condition and the greens having been rolled with a turf iron were very testing. Unfortunately Surrey Section seems to have very few Scottish members at present as only three from North of the Border turned up. Still never mind the English contingent made up their numbers and the final result was a draw. The Parker Salver was played for at Reigate Heath Golf Club on October 1 and it was a pleasure to see the course in such excellent condition. Our thanks to Derek and Grant for the condition and our thanks to the club for the delicious food and hospitality. The results were 1. Derek Cunliffe, 30pts, 2. Michael McLoughlin, 38pts; 3. John Mathis, 37pts.

And now sadly the contents of a fax sent to me by Paul Crouch, Head Greenkeeper at Puttenham Golf Club. We are sorry to have to report the sad loss of one of our members of staff; 28 year old Patrick Boyd, Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Puttenham Golf Club, who died in tragic circumstances during a charity mountain bike ride. He leaves his wife Sara and 3 year old son, Callum, and will be sadly missed by all his colleagues at Puttenham.

Brian Willmott



South West
and South Wales
Paula Humphries
Tel: 01363 82777

South West & South Wales

Regional Seminar - Cannington College, November 25, £15 per head.

Book your places quickly as spaces limited. Frank Newberry is speaking, don't miss hearing him. Why not bring along your Secretary or Chairman of Green as well?

BTME - Coach places filling up fast. Reserve your places quickly - £95, 3 nights B&B, coach travel and entrance to seminars. Application forms from Paula Humphries, 01363 82777.

South West

November, what a delightful time of the year. The golden colour of the leaves as they fall to the greens, the fresh clear air, the sight of our native fauna foraging for food in readiness for the winter, the chronic outbreak of fusarium. Actually at the moment I am enjoying a little visit from our old friend Take All Patch. Can anyone tell me the best method of getting rid of this? Come to think of it, can someone tell me any method of getting rid of it? I have read all the books and they say that I am stuffed basically.

The members, despite patient explanation from staff and me are convinced we have a particularly virulent form of ringworm, and all the greens will have to be dug up and incinerated on sight. But enough of my problems, what has been happening within the Section. Not a great deal, as far as I can tell, which brings me to the conclusion that all members within the Section are going to have to give me a ring and let me know what has been happening within their lives. Has anyone out there recently joined the matrimonial institution? Are sprogs imminent or recently materialised? Is anyone about to leave employment elsewhere and so require good wishes?

Or maybe there are people out there who have finally reached the period of their lives when they can sit back and take it easy. No I'm not talking about getting a Course Managers job, I mean retiring. Please, please let me know the latest news so I can keep the Section informed. Coming up on December 10, we have the Christmas comp at Chipping Sodbury. Included in your details of the AGM at Saltford from Peter, will be five raffle tickets for the bargain price of £1.00 each. Send these back before December 1, and you may be up for winning a place to the BTME at Harrogate. This prize has been donated by HW to help the Section funds so please enter the raffle. The draw will take place at Chipping Sodbury so be there as this is always a great tournament to play in.

Marc Haring

South Wales

Thanks to Creigiau GC for their hospitality in granting courtesy of the course on September 2 for our annual match against the secretaries. The results were as follows; D Bray / R Patterson beat J Graham/D Fellowes, J B Jones/R Frater beat D Richard/H Edmond, A Abel/A Hatcher beat M Hughes/D Roderick, D Jenkins/A Cosh beat E Tose/B Player, P Lacey/A Panks Halved with R Bradley/R Howells. An outstanding 4 1/2 - 1/2 win for the "Greenkeepers".

Thanks to Bill Malcolm and Ken Jones who represented Creigiau GC, to the Secretaries who participated in the day and to Alan Abel the sponsor of the day from Complete Weed Control. The prize winners were; Longest Drive on the 12th P Lacey; Nearest the Pin Eric Tose on the 2nd / Andrew Hatcher 6th / Ken Jones 10th / Jim Graham 16th, an excellent day was had by all.

Again we sprung into action at Alice Springs GC for the autumn Tournament, on September 9, albeit blowing a gale with cold heavy showers. Again a good day was had by all. Our thanks to the sponsors John & Ben Morgan for providing the wine and to Keith Morgan for his kind words and courtesy of the course. The changes that have been made to the course Keith since our visit in 1993 are for the better. Winner of the day was Adrian Panks who received the Jacobsen Cup

and a Golf bag for the best nett of 69 on the back 9, second best nett 69 on back 9 Andy Cosh winning a golf shirt. Best Gross of 75 Andy Roach winning the Presidents Cup and Golf shoes, winner of the Waycott Cup was Gareth Evans with a 74 on the back 9 from D Morgan. Thanks to our President Colin Murphy for making the presentations. Rigby Taylor match play singles update; R Frater beat D Gladwin, Kerry Jones beat D Bray, Mike Norfolk beat A Phillips, G Johnstone beat J B Jones, Mike Jones beat P Lacey. Next round; R Frater v M Jones, G Johnstone v M Norfolk, and a bye for K Jones.

Our congratulations to David Ward for becoming the Regional Winner for the BIGGA/Amazone Environment Competition, (I might have a gold star for writing this) and for the majestic condition of the Royal Porthcawl GC during the Home Internationals in September. The Golf Management Trophy held at the Celtic Manor was a huge success with 20 teams attending, course in great condition, looking forward to next year.

Up and coming fixtures;

This year's AGM is to be held on Wednesday December 9. As always, at the Pyle & Kenfig Golf Club. See you there. There are still spaces available if you wish to attend the 1999 BTME so give Paula Humphries or P. Lacey a ring to book your place.

Richard Hatcher

Devon & Cornwall

My report starts this month with the news that Jeff Mills has just started his new job as Course Manager at Taunton & Pickenridge Golf Club. Our congratulations and best wishes are extended to Jeff. Also belated congratulations to Wyndham Potter on reaching retirement. We look forward to seeing you at our events Wyndham. Once again Christmas is approaching fast, so what better way to start the festive season than by attending our P J Flegg sponsored Christmas meeting which will be held at Okehampton Golf Club on Wednesday, December 9. As in previous years numbers will be limited to the first 80 members, so to avoid disappointment please return your entry with correct money as soon as possible, and before the closing date.

The day will start as usual with golfing members playing for the P J Flegg Trophy with the format being greensome. For those of you not wishing to play golf, the now customary course walk will start from the club house at approximately 10.30 with Head Greenkeeper, Richard Wisdom, showing members his fine work. Lunch will be followed by our afternoon cabaret and the day will conclude with the raffles. I like to remind you that the region's annual seminar will be held at Cannington College, on Wednesday, November 25. Places on the Regions package to BTME 99 which includes transport,



accommodation and entry to the BTME show and seminars are going fast to avoid disappointment you are advised to return your booking form as soon as possible. If you haven't already booked your place for the seminar or BTME Package don't delay call our Regional Administrator, Paula Humphries, today on 01363 82777. If you have any news, you would like me to include in the monthly reports please let me know in writing, my address is on the front of your fixture card. Reports have to be in one month beforehand (for January issue reports have to be in by December 1).

Richard Whyman



Northern Ireland

We had our Sportsturf show at the beginning of October in the Kings Hall in Belfast. This year we also held a seminar at the show. Those who attended enjoyed a variety of speakers including the IOG, BIGGA, Force Limagrain, Elmwood College, Texron/Ransomes, Frank Ainsworth and

David Jones. We would like to thank all the speakers for giving up their valuable time. It was a lively and highly entertaining session especially by some computer buff by the name of Fair Wanks North. We would like to remind all our members that the seminars like this count for credits towards their Master Greenkeeper Certificate.

We also held our AGM and the committee was voted in to carry on with its agenda. For any member who does not know it is Eamonn Farrell Chairman and Liaison Officer, Mark Farrell Secretary and Neil McLoughlin as Education Officer. Members wishing any information or who have any ideas please contact any of the committee members.

Eamonn Farrell



See you all next month!

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Atlanta, Georgia, setting for Gone with the Wind and the '96 Olympic Games, as well as home to Coca Cola and CNN, played host to the second Hayter International Cup and the occasion more than lived up to its surroundings...

Sweet Georgia greens

The second Hayter International Cup proved to be almost as tight as the first - when the Americas won on the final green in the final match. Extended to three days, with a series of foursomes joining the fourball and single matches, the result was in doubt until a handshake on the 16th green in the final match signalled the Americas' second win.

Below: With the water threatening, Al Pondel plays to the safe side of the green at Peachtree's picturesque par 3, 14th



While such a fine victory, by a score of 13.5 -10.5, was the cause for justified jubilation for the home team, losing was not a term which could easily be attached to the Rest of the World team. How could it when the 12 players had enjoyed the opportunity of playing over some of the finest, and most exclusive golf courses in all of America?

Under the non-playing Captaincy of BIGGA Chairman, Gordon Child, the 12 RoW players were drawn from 12 different countries but the way they gelled over the week says much for the power of greenkeeping as a bonding agent.

Players from Scotland, England, Ireland, Wales, Spain, France, Sweden, Norway, Switzerland, Finland, Australia and Germany joined the Americas team made up of Americans, Canadians and Argentinians bringing 15 countries together and none of the players were slow to make friends and discuss matters greenkeeping.

While the play was serious, and keenly contested, events off the course were just as important to the success of the occasion.

In addition to the three courses used for the competition two others were tackled - the exclusive Golf Club of Georgia and Cherokee Country Club which is about to open a wonderful new 18 holes. Also on the schedule were two fine dinners, including the final banquet at the majestic Cherokee Town and Country Club a short distance from the Governor of Georgia's mansion, as well as a traditional southern "cook-out". Fine southern hospitality indeed!

"I cannot recall a more enjoyable five days," said RoW Captain, Gordon Child.

"The golf courses were of the highest possible quality, the golf unforgettable and the friendships formed everlasting. Our very special thanks must go to Hayter, and in particular Tony Bourke and Kim Macfie, for making such an event possible," said Gordon.

Those sentiments were echoed by BIGGA's Executive Director, Neil Thomas, who paid tribute to

Hayter's contribution.

"Hayter's support of the International Cup, as well as their five year sponsorship of the Hayter Challenge, has ensured many opportunities for BIGGA members and indeed greenkeepers throughout the world to meet, enjoy their golf and experience the true benefits of the fraternity of greenkeeping."

"The spirit, the friendship, the golf courses, the competition, the organisation - were all of the highest order. I do hope, and believe, that everyone who participated will have very fond recollections lasting a very long time. I know I certainly will.

The 24 players competed with true professionalism and sportsmanship which enhanced and set the right tone for such an important international event. I thank them all," said Hayter Sales and Marketing Director, Kim Macfie.

Day 1

The first day was the fourball event and was played over the Highland Course of the Atlanta Athletic Club - the home club of the great Bobby Jones. A magnificent course it has hosted the 1963 Ryder Cup, the 1976 US Open, won by Jerry Pate in spectacular fashion, and is shortly to welcome the USPGA Championship.

Andy Sheehan, of England, played the first shot - a fine drive down the middle of a tight fairway - but it was the Americas who were to have the better of the opening exchanges. Americans Al Pondel and Tommy Witt and Argentina's Ricardo de Udaeta and Alejandro Young won the second and third matches comfortably while a slice of luck down the final hole saw Canada's Doug Meyer and Sylvain Alarie edge out Jorma Eriksson, of Finland and Andy Sheehan.

After such a disappointing start it was good to see Remy Dorbeau, of France, and Derek Wilson, of Scotland, clinch the fourth match.

The last two matches went down the final hole with Eugenio Rezola, of Spain, having played a magnificent 7-iron to eight feet, watched his putt