

How have you gone about meeting the needs of the modern day greenkeeper? Discuss...

We marvel, and rightly so, at the adaptability of modern greenkeepers and their ability to keep on top of the developments which have moved the amenity industry well and truly into the high tech age. But what about the companies which have had to meet the increasingly sophisticated demands of people who are striving to produce better and better playing conditions for golfers? We gave several of the biggest machinery manufacturers a platform to discuss how they have gone about meeting the demands of the modern day greenkeeper as we approach the 21st century.

INTO THE future



Hayter

It is December 31st, 1999. The dying embers of the 20th century are smouldering in the grate and the midwife is about to deliver the new year. A new millennium is about to be born.

Actually, it's not. Mathematically, the third millennium does not start until 2000 years have elapsed and therefore we are all a year too early. And that presupposes that old Gregor, when he was devising the calendar we use today, managed to account accurately for the years after Christ's birth. There are some considerable doubts about this so maybe we are all worrying unnecessarily.

Maybe the year 2000 computer problems are all just an industry scare tactic. Maybe we have already passed the year 2000 without a problem. The trouble is, the computers still think we are where we think we are today. Confusing, isn't it? Anyway, what are we doing to adapt to the needs of today and what are we doing to address modern greenkeeping needs?

Today's greenkeeper is a very different animal to that portrayed by many of the "old brigade" of golf club members.

He or she is better trained and more professional than many of their forebears and their contribution to maintaining playing surfaces subjected to ever-increasing usage, is seldom fully appreciated.

Similarly, the machinery at their disposal has adapted to these changing demands. The true surfaces wanted by members and professional golfers alike require precision machines capable of maintaining accuracy in almost all conditions.

The development of power-driven cylinders was a major contributor to grass cutting in all conditions but the introduction of computer controlled equipment to make machine components, has transformed the accuracy of machinery design and repeatability of spare parts.

This has helped ensure that modern equipment used on golf courses gives longevity as well as consistent accuracy over its lifetime.

Computers now control the design, manufacture and finishing of modern machinery. From solid modelling and three dimensional computer aided design, through computer aided material turning, stamping, cutting, bending, joining, moulding etc. to computer controlled high class finishing, modern

machinery helps produce the quality of equipment needed. And all that at a cost that, in real terms, is stunningly competitive with days of old.

Manufacturing investment has been massive. The investment in logistical support has been equally impressive encompassing satellite ordering for next day delivery of spare parts; electronic cataloguing for the easy and accurate identification of the required parts; internet updating of relevant health and safety considerations; training CD's; operational instructions etc, etc. These are some of the benefits that have been passed on to the user. It follows therefore that, as the reliance on the computer becomes all pervasive, we must ensure we have contributed adequately to Y2K compliance.

Even if the date is wrong, the computer could still bring all the greenkeepers hard work to a standstill and render useless all the gains that have been made. Failing that, how many greenkeepers can still use a scythe?

Kim Macfie,
Sales and Marketing Director of Hayter



Charterhouse: Greenkeeping 2010...

When we look to the future we often find our thinking is restrained by the past which prevents us from imagining the outrageous or the totally radical. Let me give you an example. It was only 20 years ago that we used to struggle to find a telephone box which hadn't been vandalised. At the time it would have been impossible to imagine that almost everyone, including teenagers at school, would be carrying their own satellite linked mobile telephones.

Manufacturers have the problem of thinking the unthinkable to ensure that they do not miss future developments which could radically affect their industry. We all know about demographic changes which are already taking place. These include earlier retirement coupled with longer life expectancy and more affluence in retirement.

These changes are fast becoming matched with a 'healthy living syndrome' and if this movement continues, golf could become as much a part of the health care industry as the sporting one. Pork pies in the clubhouse being replaced by fruit and nut bars but on the course, environmental issues coming to the fore.

We have already seen the movement getting underway with battery driven mowers. As the battery industry becomes more proficient we could end up with all implements being electrically powered, including tractors. Failing this, the movement to cleaner engines (avoiding pollution) and probably using GLP as the power source could well become the norm.

In today's media we find enormous controversy raging around GM food but perhaps some of our problems with turf culture

could be solved by GM turf seed. What would the properties of the seed be?

- Hard wearing
- Less cutting required
- More tolerant of lower cutting heights
- Moss and disease resistance
- Better root formation

If this were possible what cultivation techniques would be required? Fewer sprayers, better aeration and cultivation techniques to ensure an all year round playing surface.

In farming, modern satellite technology has given rise to GPS land mapping. The system identifies exactly whereabouts you are and what crop techniques are required to within a few yards in order to produce the maximum crop potential.

Could the system in 10 years time identify to within 200mm areas which require moss treatment or specifically control the irrigation to only wet areas needing the extra moisture or even to tell the Head Greenkeeper which morning to mow the greens and which to avoid.

Many of these concepts feel uncomfortable but the industry will need to break free of its present paradigm in order to react to the vast changes that could happen! These will also include new buying patterns and use of the Internet at some stage with respect to equipment purchase and where to obtain the best service. Only time will tell in all these facets of the industry. Dialogue and creativity among the market place is an absolute must, starting now!

David Jenkins, Charterhouse



John Deere

Last year, by industry accounts, John Deere captured over 20% of the worldwide golf course maintenance market. Over the same period Deere & Company invested more than a million dollars a day in research and development, with a significant proportion going towards golf & turf equipment design.

The golf & turf business has been the fastest growing part of the company's commercial & consumer equipment division throughout the 1990s. Up to 30% of John Deere's golf & turf sales are delivered outside North America, the majority in Western Europe. For each of the last seven years Deere & Company has been getting the views of thousands of greenkeepers through its annual Feedback programme, which has now been held in the USA, Europe and Australia. A wide range of new and prototype machines are scrutinised, driven and commented on by the people whose opinions matter most to John Deere - the customers. "Feedback is the company's annual reality check," says John Deere Limited Managing Director Alec McKee. "We depend on these meetings, on pre-production demonstrations and on thousands of test hours on golf courses around the world to frame our product development and improvement programmes.

"We ask greenkeepers to be open, honest, and blunt - and they are. Greenkeepers are impressed not only because we are asking them for opinions, but because they can see that their suggestions are taken seriously.

"We've learned a lot from each Feedback we've held, and we still have a lot to learn. We want to be considered as business partners with our customers, and that means we look to

greenkeepers for ideas and information.

"We had more prototype machines in the field last year than at any time since we entered this market more than 10 years ago. Many of the modifications and refinements on several new models in the last year or two are the direct result of what greenkeepers have asked us for.

"The basic design of any machine works worldwide, and greenkeepers' concerns are similar - they want performance, reliability, quality of cut, serviceability. The Feedback meetings help us to fine tune the equipment so each machine does the right job for each individual customer.

"The main difference between the European and American markets, for example, is in the number of people employed on the golf course. European greenkeepers tend to spend more time on their machines, as they are fewer in number compared to the USA, so they demand higher specification seats. Low noise levels are also driven by European requirements.

"Deere & Company is genuinely committed to British and European greenkeepers. The worldwide Golf & Turf Division Business Manager, Ken Edwards, has regularly attended BTME and SALTEx, and he and his factory colleagues have visited many UK and Irish golf courses to learn more about European conditions and requirements. The company also employs a European golf & turf specialist, Howard Storey, who is based here in the UK, at Langar.

"Regular staff and dealer training courses, and investment in new products and manufacturing systems, ensure that the company will continue to provide the most advanced and reliable machines possible for the professional greenkeeper."



Kubota

Kubota is recognised principally by Course Managers and greenkeepers for producing reliable, user-friendly compact tractors and ride-on front rotary mowers. However, lift the bonnet of many other makes and types of golf course machinery and there is a strong chance that you will find a Kubota engine providing the power.

Long established as the world's number one producer of small water-cooled diesel engines, Kubota power units are the first choice of 80 other machinery manufacturers, many of them leaders in their field.

Recognising the long hours and varied workloads of greenkeepers, Kubota is constantly seeking to enhance the comfort and convenience of its compact tractors and ride-on mowers to reduce fatigue and improve operating efficiency. Kubota was one of the world's first manufacturers to introduce tilt steering columns and fully adjustable seats to suit different size drivers.

Most Kubota tractors and mowers now come with rubber-mounted flat deck floors

which combine low noise and minimal vibration with plenty of leg and foot room, providing easy access from either side of the machine.

If your Kubota tractor or mower is fitted with a cab, you can be certain that all-round visibility, sound levels, ventilation and comfort are of the highest standards to promote smooth, efficient and safe greenkeeping operations from dawn till dusk.

Kubota appreciates also that first class service and parts support is a must for golf course maintenance machinery.

To ensure that performance is maintained at peak levels, all of Kubota's operations are regulated by ISO 9002 - an international quality control accreditation under which systems and procedures are con-

stantly checked and monitored to maintain a consistently high standard.

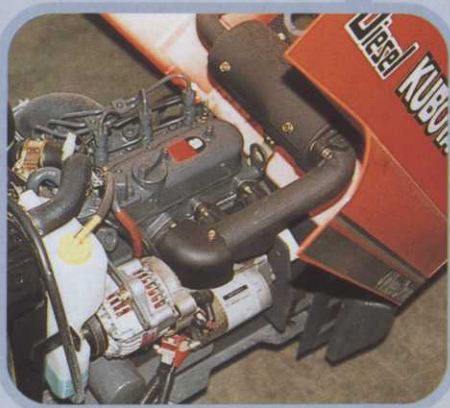
The most recent evidence of Kubota's total commitment to its customers is a £300,000 upgrading of its Thame, Oxfordshire headquarters, with the emphasis on extending and enhancing the parts storage and distribution operation.

To complement these steps, Kubota UK technicians and the company's appointed dealer staff throughout the UK and Ireland receive regular training from factory personnel so they remain right up to date with the latest technologies and developments.

Feedback from end-users in the golf course industry has always been a top priority for Kubota. To this end, the recently launched Kubota Owner's Club is now providing a closer link with customers via the club's quarterly magazine and national and local events supported by Kubota. Membership is automatically given to all new Kubota owners.

It is impossible to list all of Kubota's efforts and achievements aimed at meeting the needs of the modern greenkeeper. So here are just six to consider:

- The introduction of the first true four-wheel drive compact tractor.
- The introduction of the first four-wheel drive front rotary mower.
- The introduction of hydrostatic transmission systems on compact tractors and diesel ride-on mowers.
- The introduction of power steering as standard on 19hp - 45hp tractors and ride-on mowers.
- The introduction of Bi-Speed Turn, a system which automatically speeds up the tractor's front wheels when the turning angle exceeds 35 degrees, resulting in faster, tighter turns with less scuffing.
- The continuing introduction of approved matching implements to extend the year-round working range and versatility of Kubota compact tractors.



Traction Is No Longer An Issue



The traction, durability and comfort of Softspike's® revolutionary new Black Widow™ cleat has established new performance standards for the industry. The Black Widow™ is simply in a different league from anything else. Its cantilevered 'legs' flex as you walk to provide maximum traction, and gives the same protection against green damage as our popular XP design. The Black Widow's™ innovative polyurethane material makes it easily the most durable plastic cleat available.



Softspikes®

A new concept in cleats: Bite.



You've never seen a green-friendly cleat like this. With eight independent flexible legs, the Black Widow™ gives you a cushioned feel you can't get with any other cleat. Its springy reflex action 'bites' the turf, to give you traction you can't get from an ordinary cleat. And its unique polyurethane plastic is both sturdy and pliable to give you the grip you need in heavy rough or awkward lies.


Softspikes®

Softspikes® U.K.
Tel: 0800 917 6428
e-mail: sales@softspikes.co.uk

SISIS

SISIS has 13 salesmen and four demonstrators in daily contact with our customers, giving unrivalled opportunities to discuss problems, needs and current trends. This valuable information is reported back to Head Office at Macclesfield and used to formulate design and development policy for future projects.

SISIS believes in listening to the customer, then setting out to meet his or her requirements with well engineered, long lasting machinery.

Going back to the Company's foundation in the early 1930s, it was watching greenkeepers laboriously forking and hand raking their greens that led to the development of the first powered aerators and, later, scarifiers. In recent years fairway maintenance has become more important and here also SISIS had answers: the hydraulic Veemo to remove thatch quickly and efficiently; deep slitters and hollow corers for effective relief of compaction; the Quadraplay Fairway Groomer for fast, routine maintenance and improved presentation.



SISIS also enlists the help of greenkeepers to test new machinery. This ensures that controls are conveniently placed, tines are easily fitted, machines are well balanced and easy to handle. Pre production prototypes are often to be found on the SISIS stand at BTME for the final seal of approval before production.

In recent years everyone has become more environmentally aware and good mechanical maintenance techniques can often mean a reduced need for chemicals. Nevertheless, when pesticides are essential, the SISIS Ecospray with fully shrouded spraying units, allows the responsible modern greenkeeper to apply them without risk to adjoining vegetation and water courses. The importance of the Ecospray's unique features was recognised with the award of Millennium Product status.

Another growing trend seen as we approach the year 2000, is more concern over cost effectiveness. Thus multi-purpose machines grow in popularity, the Quadraplay one-pass groomer; Rotorakes with eight interchangeable reels for powered scarification, shallow spiking and brushing; powered aerators

which will also operate brush, rake and spiker slitter. On smaller courses with limited budgets, deep aerators, hollow corers and top dressers only used once a year are hired. SISIS has risen to this challenge with SISIS Hire operating from three regional depots and now, with the acquisition of Huxley's Grass Machinery business, are able to offer an even larger range of equipment; including the Technicore vertical action corer; the Soil Reliever for really deep treatment; top dressers; seeders and just about anything else a greenkeeper could need.

To sum up, SISIS policy is to offer the busy modern greenkeeper his or her own local Area Representative to give advice and after-sales support, backed up by a truly excellent spares service and national network of service dealers.

Above all SISIS acknowledges that today's greenkeepers are to be listened to. And by listening SISIS will continue to offer a range of reliable, innovative, well designed machinery to enable modern turf professionals to give their golfers the very best surfaces on which to play, now and into the new Millennium.

Textron

What do military aircraft and mowers have in common? Not much, you may think. But Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products are adopting practices used by the defence aerospace industry to help ensure ease of maintenance on their new turf care products.

Textron, whose products include Ransomes, Jacobsen, Cushman, Ryan, Iseki and E-Z-GO, found through a series of user focus groups that turf care machinery maintenance downtime was a severe cost penalty to its customers.

"While we have always been aware that ease of maintenance was an important issue, we decided to introduce a Maintainability Assessment as part of the pre-production testing," explained Director of Engineering, Steve Chicken.

"The assessment placed a numeric value on the visibility, need for tools, safety, manual reach and grip, and prior actions required for each maintenance action. This measurement technique is not only used on new machines under development but we also use it on existing machines and competitors' machines. This helps us highlight good design features and also acts as a benchmark from which we improve new products," Steve added.

"As a result, our new municipal grass cutting machine, which is being launched later this year, has been designed with a 40% improvement in its measured ease of maintenance, and we're sure that's a new feature which every customer will appreciate," he said.

Other features are also being designed into new products to minimise the maintenance required. New machines being launched this year now have a 60% increase in hydraulic oil replacement life and in some the first five hour oil change has been eliminated completely. Textron have been working to introduce increased commonality of parts, such as filters and accessories such as cabs, and lighting kits.

This not only improves stock holding for the greenkeeper, it also makes training easier. The Parts service has also come under the spotlight and this year Textron have launched Parts Xpress - an overnight parts delivery service which guarantees delivery of Textron genuine parts to the Textron dealer by 7 am the next day.

Marketing Director, Peter Bell, explained, "We realise that when our customers need parts they generally need them yesterday rather than the day after tomorrow." The company has made a massive investment in a new computerised parts warehouse at Ipswich which now allows us to offer a parts service which we believe is second to none."

"As far as we're concerned it is all part of our philosophy of understanding the needs of our customers. Of course they want reliable and effective machines which represent good value for money, but they also want to keep machinery maintenance downtime to an absolute minimum and we hope that by making our machines easier to maintain, backed up with a parts service which is quicker than ever, we can help them achieve that aim," added Peter.

TEXTRON
TURF CARE AND SPECIALTY PRODUCTS

Toro

It is perhaps fitting that, in the run-up to a new millennium, it's a Toro-maintained world-renowned golf venue that is hosting the final Open to be fought out in Britain at the turn of this century.

For the simple but significant fact that Carnoustie Golf Links has teamed up with Toro for The Open in 1999, epitomises the unrivalled position at the top of world golf course maintenance that has been attained by the American pacesetter.

The Toro Company, from Minneapolis, in Minnesota, sees itself today as a provider of 'total solutions for outdoor landscapes' - and looks on its customers as 'caretakers of the environment'.

And so it is when it comes to meeting the needs of the modern greenkeeper. Commercial Products is the division responsible for all Toro professional turf machinery; although a key part of its market-leader strategy is that Toro also has irrigation systems too. Indeed, it's the only provider of both. But on the machinery side, providing today's Course Managers and greenkeepers with the products and back-up support they need to meet the heavy demands placed on them, is a continuous process that begins with listening to their needs and experiences and ends by

providing their staff with operator and service training. Along the way comes the development of innovative state-of-the-art products and the maintenance of a highly-professional national distribution and dealer network for complementary standards of sales and after-sales support.

The specifics of this scenario see The Toro Company itself, with its United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland distributors, Lely UK and Lely Ireland, hosting regular customer feedback events at Toro facilities in the US. There are sessions on machinery products at Minneapolis headquarters with engineering, manufacturing and product-testing, as well as visits to Toro's main Commercial Products' manufacturing facility in Tomah, Wisconsin, for discussion of product-related issues with senior production management. Toro European Sales Manager Bob Buckingham says: "Toro is committed to looking at customer needs on a worldwide basis, not just a US viewpoint. These occasions are for us to listen to what our UK customers have to say about the products and key turfcare issues that affect their daily work, so Toro can ensure it meets all their current and future needs."

On the product front, Toro excels in providing innovative solutions. As the proven industry leader in producing the highest quality cut, the company demands that every new prod-

uct meets similar quality standards. Classic examples include the Recycler mowing deck and the HydroJect water-injection aerator. While the latest innovatory coup is Toro's remarkable Reelmaster 3100-D Sidewinder - the first mower with cutting units that move sideways to increase their overhang, which is a boon for cutting around bunkers, aprons and obstacles.

As the national distributor, staff at Lely UK, in St Neots, undergo extensive training and service education classes specific to golf customers' own applications. In turn, Lely provides its national network of local dealers with parts and service training as well as operator training. This includes provision of a large demonstration fleet for customers to try out kit in their own conditions, as well as an efficient parts service.

New computer systems are embraced continually, such as the introduction later this season of the new Toro Recommended Parts Programme (TRPP). And of course Toro is at the root of one of the greenkeeping industry's greatest on-going challenges, that of raising standards and the professional status of the greenkeeper. This has come from its support for education and training via schemes with BIGGA and others such as The Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award and the Toro Excellence in Greenkeeping Award.





MASTERS IN WATER AND WEATHER MANAGEMENT



The Hydroscape Group Limited

Water House, 10 Carvers Industrial Estate
 Southampton Road, Ringwood, Hampshire BH24 1JS
 Tel: 01425 476261/2 Fax: 01425 472380

Phone now
 for your full colour guide:
01425 476261

UK and Ireland distributor for Toro Irrigation and Otterbine Water Quality Management Products

Ad Ref: 475



Scottish Region
Peter Boyd
Tel/Fax 0141 616 3440

Annual Match v Secretaries' Association

This year's annual match against the Secretaries' Association took place at Lanark Golf Course at the beginning of April. After last year's defeat at Glasgow Gailes we were looking for revenge.

The secretaries had certainly picked a very challenging course in Lanark GC one of the oldest golf courses established in 1851.

This year's BIGGA team had a mixture of youth and experience thus hopefully providing a winning blend and indeed this proved the case with us winning by 6 matches to 4.

Notable wins were by Duncan Gray & Andy O'Hara winning 7&5, Archie Dunn & Stephen Dunn by 5&4. Barry Gray & Colin McFarlane also recorded a fine victory by 7&5 wins for Alasdair McLaren & Chalmers Stillie, Colin Noble & Steve Sullivan and halved matches by Ian Bell & Sandy Bulloch plus Peter Boyd & Derek Scott completed our victory.

Our thanks go to the Captain and Committee of Lanark GC for the courtesy on the day. Unfortunately Course Manager, Jim Lyon, who was defeated along with his playing partner Stuart Greenwood could not put his local knowledge to good use but is to be congratulated along with his staff for providing an excellent course so early in the season.

After this victory we eagerly await next year's return match.

Peter J Boyd
Regional Administrator.

Central

I must begin this month's news with an apology to Alistair Philp, St. Fillans Golf Club, in a previous issue I mistakenly said Alistair was Head Greenkeeper at Comrie Golf Club when in fact he is at St. Fillans GC and lives in Comrie.

Sorry Alistair! Never mind you got mentioned twice in the magazine. I hope it is right this time as Alistair's wife, Helen, is a lawyer.

Also in a previous issue, I reported the death of Jock Armstrong a former committee member of the Section. Along with Past Section Chairman Bobby Fleming and Elliott Small, I attended his funeral at Falkirk Crematorium when tributes were paid to a great friend of numerous greenkeepers, young and not so young.

The first golf tournament of the season was held in brilliant sunshine at Lundin Golf Club, in April, when 62 members and guests enjoyed playing over a course presented in excellent condition by Head Greenkeeper, Willie Swan, and his staff. Our sincere thanks go to everyone at Lundin GC for the courtesy and hospitality which was extended to us on the day, especially Secretary, Mr Thomson, and Club Steward, John Rae, for making sure everyone was well fed and "watered" throughout the day. Also the patrons of the Scottish Region for all their continued support.

Prize winners of the day are as follows:- Best Scratch K. Stirling, Kingsbarns, 73; Best Nett. S. McMillan, Dunnikier, 70 1st Class 1. H/Cap C. Pollock, St Andrews, 73. 1st Class 2. H/cap A. Dunn, Auchterarder, 74. 2nd Class 1. H/cap D. Scott, Scoonie, 72. 2nd Class 2. H/cap A. Torrance, Green Hotel, 79. 3rd Class 1st H/cap I. Donaldson, St. Andrews, 77. 3rd Class 2. H/cap A. Arnott, Dunnikier, 78;

Stewarts Quaich C. Pollock/C. Mitchell, St Andrews, 148. Patrons J. Darling, Aitkens, 74. Guests D. Walls, Grangemouth, 74

Congratulations go to Kenny Stirling, Best Low Gross, and Sean McMillan, Best Low Nett, on qualifying for the Charterhouse/Scotts National Championship at Carden Park in

October. Disappointment on the new member front this month! No one to welcome to the Section this time, so far this year we have gained 35 new mem-

bers and if we really worked at it we could maybe reach 52 which would make it one new member for each week. So come on you must know some greenkeeper who is just waiting for that bit of persuasion to join us!

There has been a lack of news from the Leven Links Sporting Club recently. I don't know if they have disbanded, retired, gone caravanning, interior decorating or what! Maybe their manager is taking time out to write his memoirs. It's highly unlikely that they will be working too hard to have time to continue with their "sporting" activities.

John Crawford

North

Once again I start the column welcoming new members to the Section. This month we greet Scott Aitchison, Royal Dornoch; Justin Lochrie, Alyth; Keith Law, Forfar; Scott Barclay, Balmoral, and Neil Kidd, from Keith, the last three are rejoining us.

Judging by other Section reports, the Association is growing well this year. If we can retain last year's membership then there should be a significant rise throughout the country. Hopefully, at last, word is spreading just how good being in BIGGA is for greenkeepers everywhere and very reasonably priced too. I have just received my renewal for GCSAA dues and it is more than twice our fees, but that is still very reasonable I think.

This month we have the Scottish Greenkeeping Championship at East Kilbride. I hope we can have a big entry from the North and that we can come away with some silverware. I cannot make it myself as I have a meeting about then and my daughter's graduation the following week, so will be too busy but I intend to send some of my staff down.

If we think golf is expensive here, how about this tale from one of my members just back from Switzerland. He went to play golf with his son-in-law at a local club and had to show his passport and a letter from our club before he got a game. After six holes they then had to pay a further fee and again after twelve! His son-in-law lives there and would like

to join the club but the entrance fee is £18,000! Mind you, he says the views of the Alps from all parts of the course are breath-taking. Apparently the cost of living is so high in Switzerland that most people rent property rather than buy as prices are so expensive.

I read in last month's Central Section news that a football match is being arranged with our Section. I didn't know about this, but I am sure we can rise to the challenge. All ex-footie pro's please step forward as we don't want to let the Southern Softies beat us - only joking boys!

Joking aside, this should be good fun if it can be organised and I look forward to reporting all about it in this column.

Iain Madeod

West

Thursday, 29th April. What. was that day like?

Spring has definitely sprung in all its glory. As the saying goes "The sun shines on the righteous".

Well, it was a good turnout and despite the delay caused by tee off times, I think it all went rather well.

As for my game, well with the benefit of hindsight, I wish now that I had dusted my clubs off a couple of weeks prior to this event, as my partner Ian Smith & Alan Jack, I am sure, will no doubt concur!! Thanks for the game anyway lads. We thank the Captain Mr Alan Winning of Bothwell Castle GC for courtesy of the course and facilities on the day.

Bothwell Castle was in great condition and our thanks go to Sam Morrison and all his staff for their hard work. Well done Sam.

Thanks also go to the bar and catering staff, Terry Latby and his wife Sandra, thanks for an excellent meal.

The sunshine brought out some good scores on the day, so without further ado here are the results:-

Scratch Prize Douglas McIntosh, Cathkin Braes GC, scratch 70. 1st Class 1st Place Ian Smith, Drumpelieir GC 73-5(68). 2nd Place Peter Cowan, Clydebank GC 81-9(72)BIH. 3rd Place Scott Ballantyne, Cowglen GC 78-

The Articulator®

"Quality rotary mowers for a world that isn't flat"

Model 721X

124" wide

The finest Wide-Area Rotary available

The 721X Articulator® features seven individual 21" cutting decks which deliver a cut-path over ten feet wide. LasTec's revolutionary patented belt-drive system allows all seven cutting decks to articulate independently, but without messy, power-robbing hydraulic drives. The 721X Articulator brings you the best of three worlds - the unmatched cut quality of a single push mower, the high productivity of a wide-area mower, and a better price than any mower with its quality and capacity.



6(72)BIH. 2nd Class: 1st Place John Brown, Bearsden GC 80-13(67). 2nd Place Gary Semple, East Kilbride GC, 83-14(69). 3rd Place Alan Miller, Wishaw GC 83-13(70).

3rd Class: 1st Place Joe Bell, Kilmacolm GC, 94-20(74).

2nd Place Simon Murray, Douglas Park GC 98-21(77). 3rd Place Barry Brown Douglas Park GC, 104-25(79). The trade prize was won by none other than Derek Duthie 77-5(72). The visitors prize was won by Andy Pearce, Port Glasgow GC, 77-5(72). Nearest the pin was Peter Cowan winning a bottle of Vodka.

Thanks also to all the trade members for their help and support.

The 29th was also the first draw of the recently launched "100 club". "All 100 tickets sold successfully, weren't they Robert.

On such an occasion, I personally feel that a fanfare of trumpets or drum roll would have been in order, to build up to the moment that my ticket was drawn. Sadly though it was not to be, however the lucky number "21", the holder being Brian Bolland, well done Brian. Still, there's hope yet, two more chances one at the Autumn meeting and at one of the AGM. For the millennium Mike Dooner has kindly offered to sponsor the "100" club.

Please make a note in your diaries, Wednesday 22nd September, Autumn meeting at Windyhill GC

John Scott Jnr recently attended the Section Secretaries meeting, held at HQ and reported that the two day course was very good and most informative giving those who attended an insight into the workings of HQ. He also commented on the size of the new building and felt that it should be slightly larger, giving the number of people attending this particular event. Keep your eyes peeled for an article penned by Robert Hogarth. Robert has been asked to write an article for the magazine on the subject of, "The difficulties of an internal verifiers job". I must say I look forward to learning more about, what should be an interesting topic.

BIGGA have recently offered Sections the opportunity to provide "learning workshops", on any subject with the provision that it is in relation to greenkeeping. Subjects might include: Irrigation, Course Design, Construction, Soil Science, Using PC's, etc. The only requirement is that each course must have a minimum of thirteen bodies in attendance to justify the offer from HQ.

Anybody interested please write to, or contact S. Bulloch for further information. A date, to be finalised, in August has been arranged for a challenge match between Clubmaster V Greenkeepers. Numbers are restricted to 16, if you are interested and would like to take part contact S. Bulloch.

Finally congratulations to Steve Richardson, formerly Bothwell Castle GC, Steve's new appointment is at Wentworth. Good luck Steve, hope you settle in well. Congratulations also to David Huton who moved recently to Bothwell Castle from Hamilton GC Sam Morrison informs me that he and Ian Wilson are still good friends, despite employing one of Ian's men. Sam reckons that it was because he had plied him with drink to soften the blow!! (Which in its self is quite strange, you see I always thought Ian was teetotal?) Answers on a postcard please.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any news or anything you might think worthy of a mention.

M: 07050 173080 H: 0141 776-1532

Gavin Jarvis



Northern Region
Douglas Bell
Tel: 0151 431 0433

Cleveland

Well the Spring Tournament was held at Seaton Carew. Many thanks to the Head Greenkeeper and staff for an excellent turn out of the course. Also thanks to the steward and staff for the great meal, last but not least a thank

you to the Club Secretary and Captain for allowing us to play the Course. The results are:- Cat 1 A. Wood J. Eggelstone. Cat 2 N. Cain A. Cheesbough. Cat 3 T. Burge S. Jacques.



The lads who got through to the National Finals are A. Wood Best Gross T. Burge Best Nett. Many thanks also to our sponsors for the prizes.

Other Section news. Bob Lawton has been doing some construction around the course. Bob is Course Manager at Billingham Golf Club.

I know people get fed up of me repeating myself asking for news in the Section, but it is not all that easy to put together when you have nothing to go on, in fact one gets right p xxx ed off thinking of things to write. Don't forget I am as busy as any other greenkeeper.

Kevin (Scoop) Heslop

Sheffield

On 27 April we held our first golf competition of the year. It was held at Doncaster GC, who I would like to thank for giving us the courtesy of their course. It was a glorious day compared with the weather we had recently. Doncaster was in excellent condition and our thanks go to Kevin Kelsall and his staff. Well done Kevin. Our thanks also to the catering staff for an excellent meal which I think was enjoyed by everyone.

There was some excellent golf played in some very tricky conditions. The eventual winner was Paul Neve who played some very good golf. Well done Paul.



Results were 1st P Neve; 2nd A Lomas; 3rd C Hopper. May I also thank all the trade members who provided prizes for the competition and raffle.

There was also two qualifiers for the Charterhouse/Scotts National Championship. They were: Best Gross, A Lomas, Well done Andy! Best nett: P Neve. Well done Paul and good luck to you both in the finals.

The qualifiers for the regional finals at

Macclesfield Golf Club are: 1 - 9 A Lomas, J Dorach. 10 - 18 C Hopper, M Knowles. 19 - 28 P Neve, T Simpson. Good Luck to you all.

Finally congratulations go to Paul Neve on his appointment as Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Brough Golf Club. Well done Paul.

John Lax.

North West

I am so glad that we chose Fairhaven Golf Club for the "Spring Tournament," because the weather was so bad that I think most other courses would have had to close.

The day started off dull with possible showers forecast for later in the day. Once again the weather men had it wrong. By 11. 30am the rain started and continued for the rest of the day, becoming heavier as the day progressed. The last game, including myself, started at 3pm and we played in continuous rain for 18 holes. My feelings were not for myself or the other competitors, we have learned to accept wet weather in the last 18 months or so, but for Peter Simpson, Head Greenkeeper, and his dedicated staff who I am sure would have liked some decent weather so that the competitors could have appreciated more the superb condition of this very prestigious course. Despite all the rain the course did stay open and the competition did take place. I would like to thank Fairhaven Golf Club for allowing us to play their course, Peter and his staff for all their hard work in producing a great course in such difficult conditions, and the caterers and bar staff for looking after the hungry and thirsty.

The best results of the day were: Best Gross. Richard Castle, Denton GC; Best Nett. Michael Nolan, Bampton GC; Over 55. Bert Cross. Dave Cowhigg had the longest drive on the 9th and Paul Daley had the nearest the pin on the 10th, both of these prizes donated by Rufford. Nearest the pin on the 17th was won by David Leach, this prize was a colour television donated by Turfcare. The nett prizes went down to 8th place. I would like to thank N/W

Model 425D 96" wide

Manoeuvrability, Safety and Accuracy

The 425D Articulator® features four articulating 25" cutting decks combined with a unique hydrostatic drive unit, and a Kubota 38hp water-cooled diesel engine. The result is a revolutionary, zero-turning radius, wide-area, contouring mower. The 425D has a wider wheel base, and lower centre of gravity to provide greater side-hill stability and safer cutting on severe terrain. A mulching kit can be added to dispose of leaves, and height of cut can be changed in just 5 seconds, giving you the finest finish mower in the world.



Our unique patented belt-driven articulating deck design gives you an unsurpassed quality and accuracy of cut

The Articulator®

"Quality rotary mowers for a world that isn't flat"

FREE DEMONSTRATION

Call for a free demonstration in your area NOW!

Scotland: Double A Trading: Sandy 01382 330556
North: Greenlay Ltd: David 01670 822857
Midlands: MGM: Dean 0116 289 2595
Wales: Major Owen: Andy 01766 770261
South West: PJ Flegg: Paul 01404 815666
South East: Marlwood Ltd: Keith 01622 728718

Court Lodge Farm, Forge Lane, East Farleigh, Maidstone, Kent ME15 0HQ
Tel: 01622 728718 Fax: 01622 728720

Marlwood Limited

patrons, Burrows (GM)Cheshire Light Machinery, Acorn Equipment and Rigby Taylor for their support with the prize table, also White Moss Amenity, Gary Worrall, Greenkeeping Supply Co, Aitkens, County Crops, Richard Campey, for help to swell the prize table.

The two members who qualified for free entry to the National Championship sponsored by Scotts/Charterhouse are, best gross, Richard Castle, Denton GC, best nett, Michael Nolan, Brampton GC.

The six qualifiers for the N/W team to play in the Regional Final at Macclesfield Golf Club on Wednesday 25th August are 0-9 Richard Castle, Denton GC; Tim Nolan, Denton GC; 10-18 Michael Nolan, Bampton GC; John Coar, Blackpool NS GC; 19-28 Mike Hogg, Childwell GC, Paul Eddlestone, Fishwick Hall GC This competition is sponsored by R. J. Campey(Macclesfield).

The next meeting is the Summer Meeting at Longridge Golf Club on Thursday June 17. Lunch 12noon-1pm Teeing time 1.30pm. If you have left it late to enter ring Bill Merritt on 0151 284 4416. Any problems or queries ring me on 0151 724 5412

Bert Cross

Northern

The Annual Dinner dance was again held at Bradford Golf Club. Many thanks to Dave Thackray and Mel Guy for the hard work in organising the event. This year we tried a carvery style meal which went down very well with everybody and once again a good time was had by all.

This year's Spring Tournament and Charterhouse/Scotts National Qualifier was held at Hornsea Golf Club. The weather was splendid, which enhanced the course presented to us.

Congratulations to Roger and his team for all the hard work in preparing the "track" to such a high standard so early in the year. The exceptionally warm welcome from the new lady Secretary, quality of catering and service from the bar staff made the day one to remember.

Many thanks to Adamsons for sponsoring the prize table, Turfcare for the donation of a colour TV for the nearest pin prize, Ritefeed for the picnic hamper for the longest drive and to the rest of the trade for their raffle prizes.

Division 1 D. Collins (best nett for national tournament), R. Bielby (best gross national tournament), R. Gee. Division 2 J. Platt, A. Baxter, A. Court. Division 3 J. Brown, D. Jordan, A. Gamble. Nearest Pin R. Bielby. Longest Drive A. Court. Trade Prize A. Dyson, Purdys.

Good luck to David and Roger when they compete in the Charterhouse/Scotts National Tournament at Carden Park later this year.

A couple of people have been moving within the Section. Jonny Platt has moved to Cookridge Hall G&CC as Deputy Head Greenkeeper from Crow Nest Park and Richard Blackburn has gone to Outlane as Deputy Head Greenkeeper also from Crow Nest Park.

Finally a little bird has informed me that Alan Lofthouse, of Huddersfield Golf Club, has got married. Congratulations Alan, you can buy the boys a beer later in the year to celebrate!

Anyone who has any news from within the Section, please contact me at 1 Cockley Meadows, Kirkheaton, Huddersfield, HD5 0LA or telephone 01484 317813 or 07788 442755. Don't forget to get your names & money to me in good time for any of the forthcoming golfing events.

Simon Heppenstall.

North Wales

May 4, weather brilliant! Shouldn't have said that, should I. May I offer my apologies to everyone, especially the committees that I sit on, well haven't sat on recently. If it seems I've been shirking my responsibilities, it's just that an awful lot has been going on in my private life which is not sorted, so I'm back on line, so to speak. I've been up to Aldwark with Howard McAddey to start the process of becoming I.V. for Wales, returned with half a rain forest neatly packaged in folders.

I also attended a course at the college on Basic H & S run by the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health. Very illuminating. I just hope I passed. Which brings me on to the next thing, first aid courses. Did you know that any work place employing more than five people MUST have a qualified first aider who has taken the 4-5 day course. Well you do now! The college is running four day courses on 21 - 24 June and the 12 - 15 July, costing £100 per person. Other refresher courses have been run, but by the time you read this it will be too late. I hope we can organise more later in the year. Remember, it is not only important, it is the law.

I believe a cracking day was had at the sprint meet at Llanymynech. Thanks go to Alan and his team and also the club for giving us the courtesy.

Results, Best Gross - Alan Lewis 74 (nett 69) say no more! Charterhouse/Scotts National Championship qualifier, Carden Park. Best nett John Humphreys 68,

Charterhouse/Scotts National Championship qualifier Carden Park and Lesco Trophy. 2nd Andy Comes 3rd Don Ravlando 69, 4th C. Rogers 72, 5th R. Lewis 73, Longest Drive R. Lewis, Nearest the Pin, Haydn Jones 3'5", Guests 1 G. Fitzpatrick 68, 2nd E. Heaps 69, 3rd M. Jones 70, Longest Drive Llanymynech Lady Captain (Ladies tee 168 yards forward of men's). Nearest pin R. Owens 15'11", 2's Haydn Jones, Adrian Ellis, Marc Brute, P Farzay G Fitzpatrick (6 balls each).

Thanks again go to the Trade for their support. Acorn, Walker Engineering, John Osman, ALS, Oakleys, Rigby Taylor, Greenkeeper Supply Co. Aitkens, Charterhouse/Scotts. Regional qualifiers for Macclesfield will be notified Cat. 0 - 9, 10 - 18, 19 - 28.

Our secretary Gary has told me that no one replied for the N. Wales, N. West pitch so he had to phone around to get a team. Come on lads, in future pick up the

phone. Anyway, once again we won. As I've said before, the GEM Shield seems to be written in the wrong language as it spends all its time in Wales. Sorry Bert.

Last but not least, Autumn meeting is at Nefyn on 13 October. I'll buy you a drink Pat. The Christmas meet is at Royal St Davies, 7 December. Even my clubs will be coming out of retirement. See ya.

Dave Goodridge

THE NEW
VERTI-DRAIN
MUSTANG
YOU'LL
QUICK
SEE THE
BENEFIT

Without doubt, the new Verti-Drain Mustang is the fastest, most effective aerator on the market today.

Whilst it still features the unique, patented 'heave' action, there are many new improvements, including single point arm adjustment, a stronger tine support system and fewer working parts.





Midland Region
Peter Larter
Tel: 01480 437507

Berks, Bucks & Oxon

The opening golf day of the season was held at Beaconsfield GC on April 20. The day was a great success with

around 40 entrants competing for two spaces in the national finals at Carden Park in October. The only problem was the continuous rain which I suppose was to be expected in April.

Our thanks go to Bill Patterson and his team who presented the course superbly, it was certainly a credit to all concerned. The meal was also very good, altogether a great venue and one I hope we will be able to return to. The

prizes for the day were supplied by Gem Professional, thanks to Bernie for his continuous support for the Section. Last but not least thanks to Richard Fontmeuller, and ETT, who supplied all the raffle prizes.



The results of the day were as follows: Best Gross R. Wilson 74.

Best Nett T. French 76-7-69. 2. C. Taylor 87-16-69. 3. G. Wheeler 90-17-73.

Congratulations to all winners the weather made the scoring very difficult. Tony French and myself will do our best at Carden Park to represent the Section.

Lindsay Anderson has now passed over the writing of this article to me but continues as Secretary. Thanks for the tips, Lindsay.



It can drive its 6" tines, solid or hollow, at a faster rate than any other aerator, which makes it the perfect machine for high speed runs down the fairway and for even shorter work on the greens.

The new Mustang joins the market-leading range of Verti-Drains that have

outsold and outperformed all competitors for the past 20 years.

And, with an aerator to suit virtually every application, it's the widest range available anywhere.

But one word of caution.

The new Mustang is fast; so fast that you may get done in a flash.

Contact us now for further information or a demonstration of the new Verti-Drain Mustang on 01428 661222.

Charterhouse Turf Machinery Ltd,
Weydown Industrial Estate, Weydown
Road, Haslemere, Surrey, GU27 1DW.
Tel: 01428 661222. Fax: 01428 661218.



E-Mail: ctm@dircon.co.uk
Web Site: <http://www.redexim.com>

Simon Austin who is Lindsay's apprentice at Badgemore had a hole-in-one last week at Badgemore Park on the par three 17th with an 8-iron. Hopefully the first of many Simon well done.

Finally I would like to welcome Colin Hutt into the section he has taken up the post as my Deputy at Donnington Grove. Any news for the article would be much appreciated and you can contact me on the number below.

Ross Wilson 01635-821333

East Midland

I have just had news from an old friend of our Section, one of our former secretaries, Gordon Mitchell. Gordon has returned to his native Scotland, working at Piperdam Golf & Country Club, in Dundee.

Gordon formerly worked at Melton Mowbray GC and Westwood GC, in Staffordshire. If any member would like to contact Gordon he has passed on his address and telephone number to me and he would like to hear from his old friends from within the Section. On behalf of the East Midlands section I would like to wish Gordon all the best at Piperdam Golf and Country Club.

Next year's Autumn Tournament will be held at Market Harborough GC on September 20 and will again be generously sponsored by Banks Amenity Products. Results from this year's Spring Tournament will appear in next month's article.

Finally if anyone has any information they would like to see in this article please let me know.

Anthony Bindley

Midland

The spring Tournament was held at Walmley Golf Club on a fine, sunny April day. The day was a real success and was enjoyed by everyone who attended. Many thanks on behalf of the Midland section to all the staff at Walmley Golf Club and especially to Andrew Greenaway and his staff for presenting the course in such good condition. A big thank you to all the sponsors for the day who were as follows, E T Breakwells for the prizes, Ruffords for longest drive and nearest the pin and Bathgates for the wine with the meal.

I have all the results and they are as follows: Best gross - G Wallace. Best nett - P Loffman. 2nd M Gash. 3rd M Jones. 4th D Fellows. 5th T Cheese. 6th K Weston. 1st Trade N Tyler. 2nd Trade R Minton. Nearest the pin P Loffman. Longest drive G Wallace.

On a more serious note, on behalf of the Midland section I would like to send our best wishes to Neil Horton and his family as Neil has recently had a major operation and has been very ill. So, get well soon Neil.

Finally I would like to introduce you to some more new members - Thomas Moulds, Craig Souter, Justin Roberts, Mark Roche, Douglas Macgregor, Colin McBeth, Steven Heath, Adrian Harris and James Wicks.

Jonathan Wood

East of England

The first competition of the year was held at Thorp Wood, Peterborough, where the small turn out played over a testing course set by David Walden. The course was in great condition and held up well to the atrocious weather conditions.

The sponsors Piboro Garden Machinery and Barenbrug seed pleaded for the golf day to be sponsored next year in a warmer month as they have been the April Competition for the last five years.

Thanks to Alisdair of PGM and Ben Petjean of Barenbrug for their support in sponsoring the competition. They brought some great prizes and the raffle prizes which were donated by other trade members, were much appreciated by our members. The eventual winner was Graeme MacDonald of Newark G.C. 36 points. Second was David Welberry of Kirton Holme 31 points and Kevin Hodges of Ryston Park 30 points. Leigh Siddon of UAP took home the trade prize of 26 points.

On a much warmer day the Purdy's Cup and Charterhouse/Scotts Championship qualifier was played over Les Purdy's home course at Retford. This course was in excellent condition thanks to John Shan and staff. Les, as usual, produced some prizes which would benefit any Captain's Day prize table. Thanks to Les, Annie and Andy for the sponsorship. Also thanks to the other sponsors, Tower Chemical (Gary you will hand out those hats/Cooper) Rigby Taylors, Aitkens, Greenpride and Roy's bottle of wine.

The Charterhouse/Scotts National Championship qualifiers were G.A. MacDonald, Newark with 74 - 5 - 69 nett winner and Josh White, Belton Park taking the gross with an 84.

The Purdy's Cup went to G.A. MacDonald who has been cut again by Kevin Hodges with a score of 74 - 3 - 71.

Second was Nigel Marshall, Belton Park, 100 - 28 - 72. Third John Hewson 92 - 19 - 73 of Market Rasen. Trade prize went to Peter Fell 77 - 12 - 65. Any news or ideas from the section, do not hesitate to call me on 01636 626564.

G.A. MacDonald



South East
Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260956

Surrey

After all the rain thank goodness for the recent spell of sunshine that made the end of April and beginning of May so warm and a pleasure to be in the open air.

Alec Bradshaw must have either sold his soul or spirit or spent all of the previous Sunday praying for fine weather for the Spring Tournament at Malden Golf Club. Well, whatever he did it worked. The sun shone and shone and made this first golf day an absolute

pleasure to be part of.

The course was in excellent condition, beautifully presented and we thank Malden Golf Club for their courtesy and the catering staff for the superb meal.

The day was sponsored by Turfcare and the prizes were presented by John Hobbs.

The results were as follows:- 1. Gareth Rogers, nett 63; 2. Brian Turner nett 68 on countback; 3. Steve Holmes, nett 68; 4. Alan McDougall, nett 70. Trade prize Brian

Bowles nett 74.

The Charterhouse/Scotts National Championship qualifiers are Gareth Rogers, best net and Brian Turner best gross.

There have been a few changes in Surrey and we congratulate Terry Huntley who as most members know is now Course Manager at West Hill Golf Club and James Andrews who has been appointed First Assistant at Puttenham. Ron Christie and his wife have had their second baby, this time a daughter named Beth.

Richard Evans, also of Addington Place, it must be something in the air, is a proud father for the first time to a son named Evan.

To Ron and Rick our warmest congratulations and also to Simon Haynes, from Purley Downs Golf Club, whose son, Thomas, arrived five weeks early at the beginning of the year.

Brian Willmott.

Essex

On April 13, 40 souls ventured over to Burnham-on-Crouch Golf Club for the Spring meeting of the Essex Section. It was so cold and wet I'm surprised everyone finished. Thanks to Pattersons for sponsoring the event, the club for making us so welcome and Paul for having the course in such good condition, despite the wet winter. Raffle prizes were kindly donated by Rigby Taylor, UAP, Grass Roots, Avon Crop, CMW, Does, Tuckwells, Greenkeeping Supplies and Gem.

Onto the prize winners:-

1-9 Category: Jeff Robinson-78; Andy Sheehan-80; Carl Croucher-80. 10-18 Category John Winters-77, Richard Dunmow-78; Dave Wells-80. 19-28 Category Paul Copsy-74; Malcolm Smith-78; Martin Forrester-81: Guest Prize. Sandy Anderson. Trade Prize: Andy Church, Mark Day.

Greenkeepers Supply sponsored the Longest Drive, won by Andy Sheehan and Nearest the Pin, won by Richard Pride.

We would like to welcome the following new members to the Section, Daniel Harvey, Three Rivers Golf Club, Andrew Miller, The Warren Golf Club, Martin Howard and Nicholas Kikkades, of Theydon Bois Golf Club.

A special thanks goes to Graham Paul for all the hard work he does for the Section.



Now for the important bit, qualifiers for the Charterhouse/Scotts National Championship, best gross score- Steve Cox-83, best nett score- Chris Ward-72.

Good luck to you both.

See you all at Colchester on June 23.

Dave Wells

East Anglia

Well what a start to spring! Sun, rain, sleet, sun again and then snow, all coupled with winds from varying directions, has meant that soil temperatures have risen and then fallen, more often than a team of continental footballers in 90 minutes play!

Wishing for at least one settled day were 49 members of the Section who entered our first golf day of 1999, which was held at the Links Golf Club, Newmarket. Threatening skies through the competition was all the heavens offered but all around the neighbouring counties heavy downpours were the order of the day. Wind though was certainly not in short supply, as it was strong, with swirling gusts enough to test any high approach shot.

The Charterhouse/Scotts National Championship qualifier was played over 18 holes medal play.

Results: 1-9 handicap. 1. N. Brewster, 78 nett 72; 2. T. Morton, 76 nett 72; 3. A. Carter, 78 nett 73. 10-18 handicap. 1. G. McHugh, 85 nett 73; 2. S. Sylvester, 88 nett 74; 3. S. Curtis, 88 nett 74. 19-28 handicap. 1. T. Russell, 91 nett 72; 2. E. Hart, 95 nett 74. 3. K. Titchell, 99 nett 80. Guests. 1. P. Carson 87 nett 74; 2. Mrs D. Kerchiss 99 nett 74. Nearest the pin on 9th. P. Carson, Longest drive on 18th. G. McHugh; Loo Seat. M. Day, for ditching his van on the way to the meeting.

Qualifiers for the Charterhouse/Scotts National Championship are N. Brewster and T. Morton. Before the link Club Captain Mr D. Orwell presented the prizes. He thanked the club's Head Greenkeeper for his hard work on the course, and presenting it in such good condition. He then went to praise all Greenkeepers and Course Managers, on behalf of all the golfers around the world.

Ian Willett thanked the Captain and then thanked Rob Boyce and his team of greenkeepers for the excellent course. Also a big thank you to our trade sponsors for their support. They are, Atterton & Ellis, Barenbrug, Colliers Turf Care, Consult Clarkson, CMW, Grass Roots Trading Company, Hardley Tools, Patissons, Rhone-Poulenc, Rigby Taylor, Rushbrooks, Sisis, Tomlinson Ground Care, Toro UK, Turfcare Ltd, UAP Ltd.

The collection that has now become part of all our meetings towards the Macmillan Nurses Fund raised £44.73.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 16th June at Ufford Park