

"If we didn't get vandalised we would certainly look to improve the quality of our course furniture but it's really not worth it."

Working with such a small team ensures that no job is too big or too small for any member and the Bude staff – of Jason Chidley, Andrew Pollard and part-timer Greg Pett – are a tightly knit unit who have been together for some time.

"All my planning and paper work is done at home in my own time because if I did it during the day we wouldn't get finished on the course. I do the same jobs as everyone else. Fly mowing, divot filling, the lot."

The course is relatively maintenance friendly and a lot of areas can be cut with ride-on machines and they try to keep the use of hand equipment down to a minimum.

"The biggest user of time is the stream at the bottom end of the course which runs from east to west right across the course. We maintain about half of it on a regular basis



strimming and fly mowing and that itself takes three people just under a day."

Richard holds great store in aeration and always makes sure the course gets regular doses.

"I'm a great fan of slitting and we slit tine about 10 times through the autumn and winter, and also vertidrain in the Autumn. We've just quadra-hollow cored the greens which we always do in mid-March."

Among the on-going projects are a

bunker revetting programme and up-grading the paths from tee to fairway.

"Fairy rings are the only real problem we have and we are hoping that microbes might be the answer."

In his time at the club Richard has seen a steady improvement in both the quality of working conditions and the machinery fleet.

"When I arrived we had a shed which was more like a broom cupboard for three or four of us. It

wasn't ideal but was much better than a lot at the time. We also had to keep the machinery outside.

"Now we have a small fleet which is kept inside in our purpose-built sheds for which we have a replacement plan. Depending on the machine and how heavily it is used. The worst thing that can happen being isolated in Bude is a breakdown. If it is not too specialised a problem we have an excellent local commercial company which helps





and we make sure every piece of kit has an MOT every year. We do the general maintenance checks ourselves."

Last year was a memorable one for Richard who was the South West and South Wales representative in the final of the Toro Excellence in Greenkeeping Award having been originally nominated by the Club Secretary.

"The support I had from the club was tremendous and they were really willing me on... I think the possibility of winning the mower had something to do with it," he laughed.

It had not been an easy passage through to the final for Richard and his team.

"The two course visits were tough because I had the BIGGA Chairman,

Gordon Child, first of all and then, having qualified for the final, I had Walter Woods. Two hard men to please, particularly in Walter's case because we were the only links course in the final. What it actually did was keep us on our toes longer because we knew it was coming up and we couldn't afford to lapse at all," recalled Richard.

"It was a real honour to represent a Region which has so many fine golf courses and I will enter again. I thoroughly enjoyed it but you always feel a bit gutted when the results are read out and you've not won, even if you don't expect to win it... you always hope.

"I'd now call the rest of the finalists friends and having spoken a lot with them during our time at the final I learned a lot."

It is a learning ethic which Richard holds dear. He completed Level 3 over a six month period at

Cannington College so he didn't have to be away from work too much and he is hopeful of starting Level 4 later this year.

"You've got to try to keep one step ahead in this game."

It is a philosophy which has served Richard Whyman and Bude and North Cornwall Golf Club well.

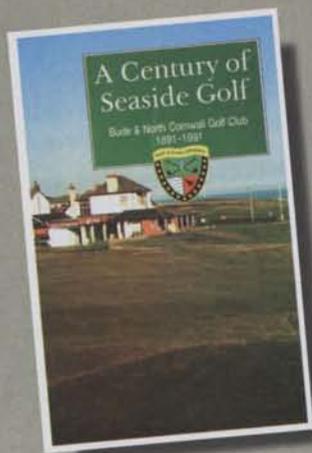
Above: A newly revetted bunker

Below: An example of some of the damage vandals can cause



Machinery Inventory

- Toro GR 3100 x 2
- John Deere 2653A triple mower
- Cushman truck
- Cushman Topdresser
- Hardi 300l sprayer
- Huxley deep splitter
- Iseki 22hp tractor
- Coremaster
- Kubota L275 with front bucket
- Kubota L3600
- Amazone 135 rough cutter
- Trailer
- Various hand machines



The club produced an excellent centenary book which details visits made by all three members of the Great Triumvirate, JH Taylor, James Braid and Harry Vardon and highlights Vardon's scorecard when he broke the course record with a 65 in 1909.

The Doyen of golf writers, Bernard Darwin, also visited the course and described it thus. "Bude is a place beloved by many summer visitors and the course is a good course if there are not too many of them upon it."

Written in 1910 some things never change!

However the real reason to look at the book is to read the section on "The amateur greenkeeper" which looks at some of the helpful hints written in the suggestion book over the years.

Included among the entries - which incidentally has a superb 1932 complaint about the

club's new hairbrushes only being suited to gigolos and that since the majority of members were getting thin on top the brushes acted as instruments of torture - is a most heartwarming put down by the Secretary of a over critical member in 1939.

The member had said that although a bad golfer he was able to distinguish between a good course and an extremely indifferent one. He grouped Bude in the latter category and listed a whole catalogue of complaints ending with..."In my humble opinion a cheap and bad greenkeeper is worse than none at all."

The secretary said that members of another club had visited recently and been full of praise and ended by saying, "Complaints about the staff should be made direct to the Secretary and not written in the suggestion book."

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TALKING

This month Greenkeeper International's bi-monthly series featuring Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers from every Region examines Cutting Regimes

Cutting Regimes

Compiled by Malcolm Huntington MBE



Kerran Daly
Course: Salisbury & South Wilts GC
Region: South West and South Wales Region
Course Type: Chalk downland
Number of Holes: 27 (three loops of nine)
Staff: Course Manager plus six.



Duncan Kelso
Course: Kings Hill GC
Region: South East Region
Course Type: Heathland
Number of Holes: 18
Staff: Course Manager plus six



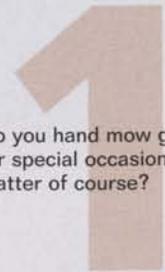
John Scotney
Course: Sleaford GC
Region: Scottish Region
Course Type: Heathland - almost inland links
Number of Holes: 18 plus six hole par-3 course
Staff: Head Greenkeeper plus three



Ian Holoran
Course: Middlesbrough Municipal Golf Centre
Region: Northern Region
Course Type: Parkland
Number of Holes: 18
Staff: Five in total



Ian McNab
Course: Dumfries & County GC
Region: Scottish Region
Course Type: Parkland and Heathland
Number of Holes: 18 Holes
Staff: Head Greenkeeper plus four



1. Do you hand mow greens only for special occasions or as a matter of course?

We use Toro triples five days a week in summer and only cut by hand for special occasions and also in winter.

We only cut by hand for special events in the summer, although in winter we do use hand mowers. We use triples normally.

We hand mow in winter and use triples in the summer. We don't have the time to hand mow in the growing season.

We use a Jacobsen Triplex Green King and have never cut by hand in the 11 years I have been here.

We hand mow greens from Monday to Friday each week and use triples at the weekend. Cutting is usually done on a daily basis in the growing season.

HEADS

2. Do you have specialist equipment for greens, tees and surrounds, fairways, banks and roughs or do you double up with some?

The Toro triple 3200D and Ransomes Super Certes are used for greens; the Toro 216 for tees and aprons; a Sabo Soberine for fairways; an Allen National for banks and the Dowdeswell roller mower and a Wessex flail for rough.

Greens - Toro GM3200, John Deere 220 pedestrian mower. Tees and surrounds - Toro GM3100. Fairways - Toro Reelmaster 4500. Banks - Saxon triple. Rough - Toro 455 quad float.

We have specialist equipment - two John Deeres, three Ransomes Auto Certes for greens; Sabo triking for tees; Ransomes T-plex for surrounds and winter greens and a hydraulic five-gang for fairways. We also have a John Deere rotary for semi-rough and a Saxon triple. A John Deere 955 and a Vortex nine-foot double up for the rough.

We use a Jacobsen Triplex on the greens, and also Jacobsen machinery on aprons and tees. Fairways are cut with a Jacobsen and a Hayter hydraulic five-set and the rough with a Kubota.

Specialist equipment. A Paladin 21 inch for the greens, Toro and Ransomes for tees and surrounds, a Ransomes five-unit for fairways and a Hayter for rough.

3. Is your cutting equipment all from one manufacturer - if so who - or a mixture, and why?

I believe a mixture to be better because I don't believe that any one manufacturer has the best quality item for the various purposes.

It's mostly Toro which has a proven history of reliability.

We have a mixture because of funds. I would probably have all John Deere equipment if we were starting from scratch because of the spares and good back-up.

Jacobsen is used because of a contract price by the municipal authorities.

We have a mixture because different courses have different needs. Everything depends on the terrain.

4. How often do you sharpen the blades and how do you go about it?

We re-grind once a year in winter and back lap monthly or more often as necessary. We have our own in-house equipment for grinding and back lapping and it is all done by our greenkeeper-mechanic.

We do rotary blades ourselves and send cylinders away. Fairway machines are done once a year and greens equipment two to three times a year, but obviously if something needs attention we do it.

We back lap the cylinders on the greens units every two weeks and tees and surrounds equipment every three weeks, gangs as required. Some of the rotary blades we do ourselves and send others away.

We have back lap facilities in our own workshop and anything particularly troublesome can be sent to the council mechanics. They are all serviced regularly.

We sharpen blades two to three times each year. We send equipment to a specialist in Edinburgh, always at the end of May and the end of July.

5. What cutting heights do you employ for greens, tees and fairways in winter and in summer?

Greens - summer 5 mill, winter 7 mill. Tees - summer 10 mill, winter 12 mill. Fairways - summer 14 mill, winter 19 mill. For a handful of tournaments we cut greens at 4 mill but only for very short periods as it causes too much stress.

We cut at 4 mill on the greens in summer and 5.5 mill in winter. Tees are 10 mill in summer and 12 mill in winter while fairways are 12 mill in summer and 16 mill in winter.

Winter heights - greens 6.5 mill; tees and surrounds 15 mill; fairways 22 mill. Summer heights - greens 4.5 mill; tees and surrounds 13 mill; fairways 18-19 mill.

Greens are cut at 3 16ths in summer and 5 16ths in the winter. As we have 80,000 rounds on the course each year we tend to raise the heights round about the time of The Open Championship. Tees are 14 mill in winter and summer and fairways 18-19. Because of the wear we tend to have higher heights than many courses.

Greens are cut at five 32nds in summer and 6 mill in winter. Tees are cut at five 16ths all the year round and fairways 12 mill all the year round.

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Scottish Region
Peter Boyd
Tel/Fax 0141 616 3440

East

I hope this season has got off to a good start for everyone as the weather is being a bit kinder to us all now, with courses drying out after the very wet spell this past winter.

I heard some comments about the Scottish Conference in early March and was told there were some very good speakers on the day. I had to miss out due to work commitments but will be in attendance next year.

Well done to Peter Boyd and everyone, who helped organise this year's event. So, by the time you read this we will have held our Spring Tournament at Goswick Golf Club which will also be the qualifier for the new National Tournament at Carden Park in Cheshire. Results and comments next month.

You should also have received your 1999 fixture cards and again, our thanks to Greentech Limited for sponsoring these for us. As everyone now knows the dates of fixtures etc, we hope to see a good turn-out at the Section events. After all, it's your Section, so support it! If you did not receive a fixture card, give Steve Dixon a call on 0131 443 0235 and he will get one out to you.

If anyone is on the move or has any births, marriages or photographs of interest, give me a call or drop me a line and I will be only too pleased to put it into a future edition of Greenkeeper International. We are arranging another football match, this time against Mid Lothian District Council and a report will be done after this game, hopefully with better results!

On March 24 we visited Stewart of Dalkeith's Top Dressing and Kelpie plants.

Unfortunately I was unable to attend but feedback from members was very positive. Our thanks to Graham Forbes and everyone at Stewart's from all attending, for an informative and enjoyable afternoon. This was the last of the winter lectures for 1998/99, the committee are putting together an itinerary for Winter 1999/2000, so keep an eye on this column.

Well, that's it for this month, sorry if there is not a lot, but we seem to be in a quiet period.

Usual numbers, 0131 445 7165 work phone/fax; 01620 842037 home or 07901 846 194, so come on, let's hear from you.

Chris Yeaman

North

Congratulations to Iain Grant on his move to Head Greenkeeper at Strathlene GC, Buckie. I am sure Brian Cocker and all at Alyth will miss Iain, who was Deputy to Brian for a number of years. One of our Trade members is excelling in another sport. Andy Menmuir, of Rigby Taylor, is fishing for Scotland next month. We wish him success and tight lines!

More new members to the Section. This month we welcome Donald Mackinnon, Barra G C, and Fabrice Tournier and James Middleton, from Royal Aberdeen GC. I think that must be the full staff of Royal Aberdeen as members now. John Milne also rejoins the Section but has just moved from East Aberdeen GC to Gleneagles, so may move into the Central Section as a result.

One of my Club members came to see me with some news which might be of interest to North members. He has just returned from New Zealand, and while having a drink in a pub in the South Island, was approached by someone and asked if he was from Tain as he was wearing a Tain GC jersey. It turned out that the gentleman in question was Steve Macdonald, formerly a greenkeeper at Fortrose and Rosemarkie GC. Last I heard of Steve he was working in Holland and was in an article in this magazine about working in Europe. He is now working on a golf course in New Zealand, thoroughly enjoying life down under and is applying for Citizenship. We wish him all the best. If he ever gets up to the North Island, he should call on another Scotsman, Willie Carnegie, Head Greenkeeper at Redwood Park GC in Swanson, Waitakere City. I met Willie a couple of years ago at The Open and he came up to Tain for a game a couple of weeks later. He is a BIGGA member and so will see this. I hope all is well down under Willie.

Have you paid for your 200 Club ticket yet? The first draws are this month at the Spring outing in Inverness on the 18th. A big entry is expected, so see you there.

Remember, this is your chance to win an expenses paid entry into the Charterhouse/Scotts BIGGA National Championship at Carden Park on October 3 - 5. The best scratch and overall best net score on the day will win these trips. Next year, qualification will be combined Spring and Autumn scores, meaning you have to play both events and score well twice.

All D32/33 Assessors note there will be a Moderation meeting this month. Please try to attend, even if you are not assessing yet as we need to keep everyone informed of matters concerning education and the GTC, so these meetings are the

ideal opportunity to do just that and hopefully answer any questions you might have.

Anyone with news items or who wants to get in touch with me please note my new phone number: 07788 923214 and yes it still vibrates!

I A Macleod

Ayrshire

I pen these notes on a dull dreary Easter Monday evening which has seen the recent short spell of good weather come to an end. My only consolation is that the rain is washing in my Spring fertiliser.

A good few members are on the move to new jobs. I'll start with nearest to home by introducing George Morrison as my new Deputy Head Greenkeeper. George moves to Largs from West Kilbride where he has worked from apprenticeship. Staying in Largs, this time at Routenburn, Ian Donaldson has been promoted to Head Greenkeeper after Marshall Sloss's departure to Beith GC. Jim Smith, Head Greenkeeper at Ardeer GC, is moving to the trade Section as a representative for Ruffords. Jim's job will be filled by Steven Higgins who receives internal promotion. The much sought after position of Head Greenkeeper at Western Gables GC is to be filled by Jim Devlin, who moves from Royal Troon where he was Deputy Head Greenkeeper.

This position has become available due to Stewart Barr's imminent retirement after approximately 27 years service. The Section wishes Stewart well for his retirement and also congratulations and good luck to all the aforementioned greenkeepers who are moving to new jobs.

I will bring reports from the Committee Meeting and the Spring outing at Ballochmyle GC next month along with any other news. If you have any, call me on 01505 683278.

Iain Barr

Central

We begin this month's report with the sad news of the recent death of one of our former committee members, Jock Armstrong. Many of you will remember Jock as the jovial rep from Souter's of Stirling who went out of his way to help many a greenkeeper, even if they were not one of his customers and nothing was too much bother to him. He was appointed to represent the Trade on the Section committee at its inauguration on Thursday, 20 November, 1980 and served us well until 1989, when he felt it was time a younger person should have a chance. To say the

committee meetings were never the same after he retired is putting it mildly. As his successor (KB) never managed to organise the coffee and biscuits as well as Jock did.

The sincere condolences of the committee and members of the Central Section go to Jock's wife May and family at this very sad time.

This month sees another three new members joining us and they are Brian Heggie, from St. Andrews; Vincent Green, from Bridgend and District GC, and Kevin Wilkie from Stirling GC. Once again we extend an invitation to them to join us at some of our future events. This brings the number of new members this year, so far, to 32 which is very encouraging and hopefully we can keep the numbers increasing.

Bringing the Section Past Chairmen up to date this month they are: 1993/4, Jim Easton, who was at Stirling GC, and now at a club in London. 1994/7, John Crawford, who was at Stirling GC and is still at Stirling. 1997/to date Archie Dunn, Auchterarder GC.

Best wishes for the future from everyone in the Section go to members Simon Freeman, who is leaving Crieff Hydro Golf Centre to take over at Machrie Golf Club on Islay, and Steven Ewing, who takes over as Course Manager at Letham Grange, where he was Deputy Course Manager.

In the annual match against the Golf club Secretaries held at Lanark last month, the Scottish Region of BIGGA regained the trophy and I'm glad to report that three members of the section, A. Dunn, A. O'Hara and D. Scott played their part in the winning team. If any member is interested in representing the Section in this annual match, which is held at a different venue each year, please get in touch with me and I will keep you in mind for the next match.

Ten teams have entered the Inter Club Tournament and drawn into two leagues of five with the winners of each league meeting in the final. Would team captains please ensure that each round is played within the given dates!

John Crawford.

West

Just a few items to report on this month. Firstly the West Section's Education Seminar held at Crow Wood GC. Chaired by Paul Brannan the topics included an overview of COSHH and what it means to us all and how we will be affected by changes now and in

the near future. Secondly, the effects of microbial activity within the soil profile and how to sustain these precious life forms for the long term benefit of the grass plant. Lastly, Steven Hogg, Head Greenkeeper of Crow Wood GC, spoke about the basic uses of the Weather Station. The emphasis with this apparatus is the potential to record and store data over given periods of time. Such records could enable us to predict the best time at which to apply pesticides and fertilisers, thereby reducing the costly expense of misjudged applications. Thanks go to Steven Hogg and Crow Wood GC for allowing us use of their clubhouse and facilities. Many thanks to CSC for their time and effort in presenting and organising this seminar. Well done.

On now to the Conveners' match held at Cawder GC. I understand that the day went very well and that the weather even managed to behave itself. The results for the day are: Winners, Cowglen GC, 38 pts. Scott Ballantyne and partner, runners up Balmore GC, 36 pts. Charlie Goodall and partner.

Thanks to Neil and all the staff for preparing the course, to Cawder GC for allowing us to share their facilities and thanks also to the bar and catering staff in attendance. Thanks also to the two sponsors of this event, Aitkens and SGM. Both Richard Aitken and David McNroy, in attendance on the day.

Now a report on a football match played last Thursday, April Fools Day no less. An 11-a-side game held at the University Science Parks, a sportsmanlike group of Greenkeepers v East Kilbride YM. Word has it that the game was quite a toughie. Despite Stuart Taylor's rallying cries of "Come on the Greenies" and with the astro turf surface playing havoc with limbs etc, the E. Kilbride boys took an early lead with Gerry Bruen scoring the equaliser and, alas, the only goal for the Greenkeepers. Finishing with only ten men after Sandy Brawley's sending off under mitigating circumstances!! the final score was 4-1.

Rumour has it that on the day some of the Greenkeepers may have been carrying extra baggage under their shirts! Ah well, at least you will all be in shape for the next match won't you?

Thanks to Stuart Taylor for arranging the game and please remember to contact him of you wish to partake on 0141 992 5554.

Finally, if anyone has any news of interest, ie. promotions, births, deaths etc., please contact me on 0141 776 1532 or 07050 173080 (mobile).

Gavin Jarvis



Northern Region
Douglas Bell
Tel: 0151 431 0433

North

Congratulations to Jonathan Leach on his appointment as Head Greenkeeper at Queensbury Golf Club. Jonathan has moved from Outlane Golf Club, where he had been Deputy Head Greenkeeper for the past four years.

Congratulations to Andrew Clarke who has taken the position of Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Hollins Hall Golf Club near Bradford. Andrew has moved from Settle Golf Club where he was Head Greenkeeper.

All of this year's golfing venues and dates have now been finalised. Anyone wishing to book a place at any of the events must let me have their names and money at least one week before the date. Spring Tournament; Hornsea G.C. 4 April, sponsored by F.G. Adamson; President's Day; South Leeds G.C. 8 June, sponsored by Greenpride; Invitation Day; Shipley G.C. 4 August, sponsored by County Crops/Biotol; Roses Match; Howley Hall G.C. 18 August, sponsored by Pattissons; Autumn Tournament. Bradford G.C. 20 October, sponsored by RiteFeed. Winter Tournament; Fulford G.C. 8 December, sponsored by Rigby Taylor.

If anyone has any news or information from within the Section or wishes to place their names and money down for one of the above events, please contact me on 01484 317813 or 07788 442755. Alternatively by post at 1 Cockley Meadows, Kirkheaton, Huddersfield HD5 0LA.

Simon Heppenstall

North East

Just to remind members of what's happening this year on the golf competition. We are now having a summer competition on July 22, at Garesfield GC. Tee off time is between 2.30pm-4pm. All cups that were normally played for in the Autumn competition are to be brought forward for this event in the future.

The Autumn competition will still be played but in a different format. Just to remind members that it will be played at Carlisle and if there is enough interest we shall be laying on a coach for the day.

Graham Chambers, of Longhirst Golf Club, informed me that work is to commence on a further nine holes starting in May.

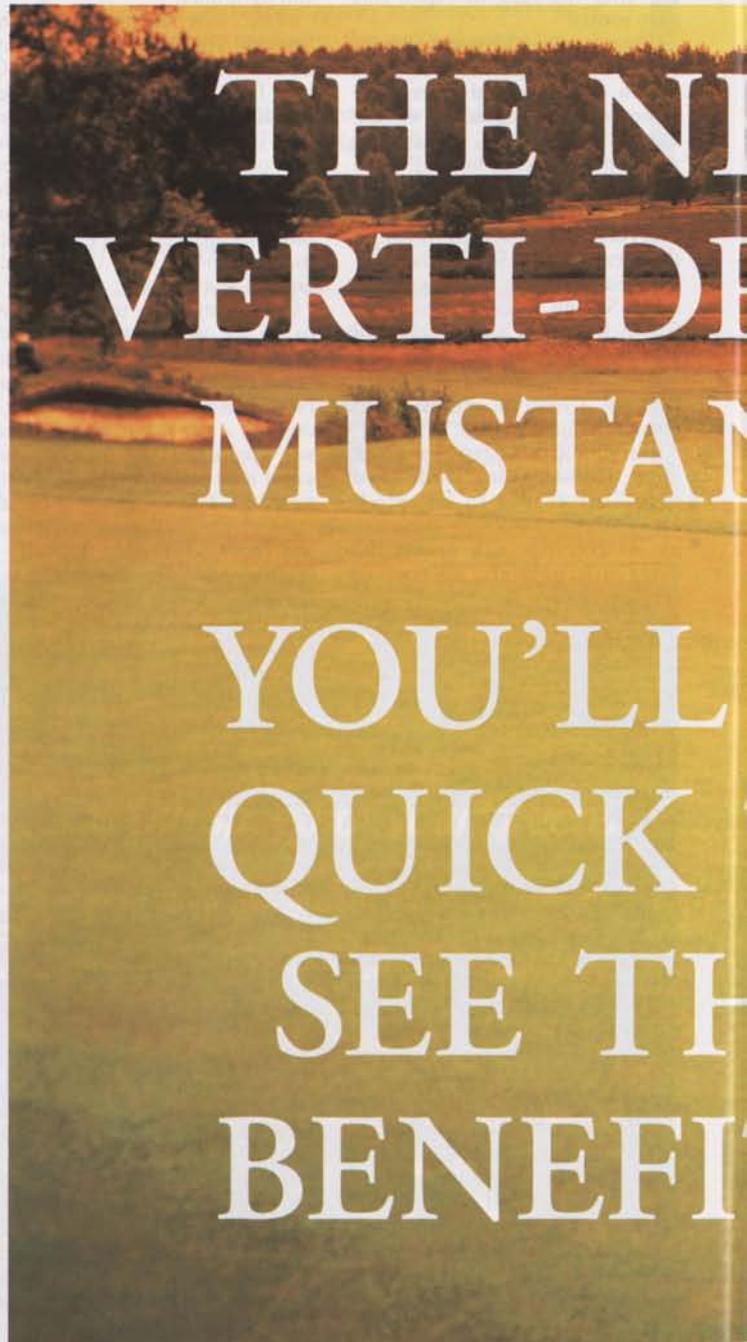
Alan Harrison of Garesfield has recently been promoted from assistant to the position of First Assistant.

Jimmy Richardson

Sheffield

On 14 March we held our final Winter lecture at Rotherham Golf Club and I would like to pass on my thanks for once again letting us use their facilities. The first lecture was given by Mr Crowther from Glenside Organics on organic fertilisers and the second

lecture was given by Mr Hodgkiss from Perryfields Holdings, formerly Johnsons seeds, on grass seeds. I would like to express my thanks to the two gentlemen for an excellent lecture and also thanks to Roy Ullathorne for organising the Winter lectures once again.



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THE NEW MEDALLION TURF FOR 1999 has been grown from 12.5% Aberelf (perennial ryegrass) 12.5% Elka (perennial ryegrass) 20% Bargreen (chewings fescue) 35% Barcrown (slender creeping red fescue) and 20% Limousine (smooth stalked meadow grass).

MINSTER BENT FESCUE TURF FOR 1999 has been grown from 40% Bargreen (chewings fescue) 40% Barcrown (slender creeping red fescue) and either 20% Heriot (brown top bent) or 20% Lance (brown top bent).

MINSTER STRAIGHT FESCUE TURF FOR 1999 has been grown from 50% Bargreen (chewings fescue) & 50% Barcrown (slender creeping red fescue).

Please examine the sown percentage figures. Now you know what 100% of the sown seed mixtures are in Rolawn turf. To our knowledge no other grower gives these figures. That shouldn't stop you asking for them though.

KNOW WHAT YOU ARE BUYING. At Rolawn we want you to ask about seed mixtures and we also want you to know what is in the *finished turf*. So every year when our new crop of turf is ready for harvesting we get Europe's largest independent turf body, the Sports Turf Research Institute to inspect the botanical composition of a large part of our production. We don't devise the tests that they conduct. They do. That is what gives the tests their credibility. No one else does this either.

Then we give a copy of the results free to anyone who asks. This is an extract from their last report.

"It must be stressed that the turf examined was remarkably free of weed grasses and other weeds. Indeed, of the 4000 spot assessments made only one annual meadow grass plant was found. In addition there were no broad leaved weeds found at all". "The turf was also attractive and uniform in appearance and free of turf diseases".

For applications where a very high bent grass content in the finished turf is important our **ADVANTAGE GREENS TURF** which has been in production for many years will be available during 1999 after which time it will be discontinued.

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On the golfing scene our annual competition will be held at Abbeydale Golf Club on Monday 12 July.

John Lax

Cleveland

The Section had two lectures on 16 March. Turfcare had an Open

Day at Ramside GC. It was very well attended by both greenkeepers and groundsmen. The speakers were very interesting and everyone came away a bit wiser. As usual Terry Charlton put on a very good day. The meal was excellent. Our thanks to Roger Shaw and his staff for letting us

loose on his course with the demo gear.

The second lecture was on the night at Darlington GC. The speaker was Gordon Holms from CSC on Risk Assessment. About 20 greenkeepers attended.

All seemed to enjoy it and our thanks to the Darlington Steward

for a first class supper.

Once again any news, let me know at work 0191 378007 or home 0191 3781912. Next Section news will have the latest from our Spring Tournament.

That should make riveting reading!

Kevin (Scoop) Heslop.



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North Wales

Easter is upon us and, wow, the weather's lovely. This time last year we had about nine inches of snow. Oh, the British weather - don't you just love it!

On March 10 we held a seminar at the college on Water Management and the movement of water through the soil and the effects of wetting agents. It was very educational and I'm glad to say, very well supported. I never got the exact figures but suffice to say if we can get that many members interested in future lectures etc., then it will certainly be worthwhile organising them. If any of you out there have any suggestions, please let me know.

I am now starting to go through the process of becoming the Internal Verifier for Wales with the GTC (at long last) and, hopefully, by the time all you assessors read this, you should have had your first moderation meeting with Howard McAddy and myself. Fingers crossed.

I haven't got any college news this month as they are on their Easter break as I write, and to be quite honest, I haven't got anything else to write about either, so if there is anything you want mentioning, please get in touch.

Membership News. It's welcome back to Dave Proctor of Storws Wen Golf Club and also Nicholas Pearson, Nigel Barton, Damian Isado and Stuart Macdonald, all of North Wales Golf Club. Hope to see you all at our future events.

That's all folks.
Dave Goodridge.

North West

The Seminar at Mere G&CC on March 23 was attended by 64 delegates who enjoyed an excellent day's education. The day started with an excellent talk and slide show by John Nicholson of Eamon Wall & Co. The subject of his talk was "History of Trees in Golf

Course Architecture" and this man knows his trees. John has worked for Eamon Wall for a number of years and has advised over 150 golf courses ranging from new courses to long established courses, covering all aspects of woodland design and management. The talk was very interesting and also the advice on the availability of grants for tree planting.

The second speaker was Alan Gibbons, of Physio Control, whose talk was entitled "The need for Early Defibrillation." A defibrillator, for those who do not know, is a machine that can re-start the heart by means of electric shock treatment.

Alan had brought along a portable machine which could become an essential part of the first aid kit on golf courses. After an excellent lunch the seminar continued with Richard Stillwell, Director of Greenkeeping PGA European Tour, whose talk was "Preparing Golf Courses for European Tour Events." Richard has been greenkeeping for 34 years and has been Head Greenkeeper at Royal Porthcawl and Royal Dublin before starting his own advisory company. For the past 12 years he has been consultant to the PGA European Tour, preparing for over 300 tournaments including three Ryder Cups, the Volvo Masters and has travelled to every country in Europe. A folder on "Course Preparation Guidelines" was given to all delegates and Richard spoke on all aspects of the paper starting with preparation months in advance to the final things like out of bounds markings, Hazard markings, GUR etc. This was an excellent talk and he stressed that the tournament director and agronomist will work closely with the Head Greenkeeper/Course Manager. The final speaker of the day was Jim Croxton, Regional Secretary PGA North Region, and his subject was "Rules of Golf

Related to Greenkeeping." This was obviously a very interesting subject for a greenkeepers' seminar and of course many questions were asked and answered.

The old question of bunker rakes was raised and argued about, where do you leave the rake, in the bunker or out. The answer appears to be as close to the bunker without interfering with play.

I would like to thank all the speakers for making this an excellent seminar, Mere Golf and Country Club for allowing the use of their excellent facilities and caterers and all the delegates who attended.

The next golf tournament will be the "Summer Tournament," at Longridge GC, on Thursday June 17. All applications to be sent to Bill Merritt, 225 Utting Avenue, Clubmore, Liverpool L4 9RB, including a cheque for £15. Applications must be in by Saturday 12 June. Any news or queries, ring me on 0151 724 5412.

Bert Cross



Midland Region
Peter Larter
Tel: 01480 437507

East Midlands

This year's Better-Ball Pairs Tournament will be hosted by Charnwood Forest GC on August 23 and will be played over 9 holes. This will hopefully be followed by an evening lecture. Anybody interested in playing or attending the lecture will find further details in future editions of this column. This year's Regional Seminar will be held at Mentmore GC on Wednesday, November 17 and promises to be full of high profile speakers. Further details will follow in future editions, but it is hoped that many more members will sup-

port this annual event.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish Steve Goode all the best in his new appointment as Head Greenkeeper at Kilworth Springs GC. Steve formerly worked as an Assistant Greenkeeper at Lingdale GC.

Antony Bindley



South East
Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260956

Essex

Risk assessment. Two words that put fear into most people, but Jon Albutt put us right on a Health & Safety evening at Writtle College. It was an eye opener for me and the 30 greenkeepers present. An interesting evening. Thanks Jon and thanks to Doug, at Grass Roots Trading Company, for sponsoring the evening.

My Greens Chairman and I had a great day out at Walton Heath at the Gentleman's dinner. Good to see some Essex boys there. None of us won anything but it was a good day out with Clive having the course in pristine condition as usual. Derek, you owe me a glass of red wine. Don't leave the country!

New Members: Bob Spurway, Richard Linnen, Colin Robinson, Richard Wood, Tony Goddard all of Upminster GC; Andrew Taylor, Bishop Stortford GC; Steven Tovey, Jay Clark of Orgett GC; Ian Morrison, Saffron Walden GC and Michael Oakeg of Rochford Hundred GC.

The draw for the singles match play is as follows: R. Pride versus M. Forrester, R. Hughes versus M. Allen, D. Wells versus I. Mitchell, W. Wingfield versus S. Reeves.

That's all for now. Risk Assessment, where do I start?
Dave Wells. 01702 522202

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