

Oil is a liquid modern day society could scarcely live without. Roland Taylor takes a closer look at why.

Liquid gold

Massive fortunes have been made from it, wars fought over it and countries economies are based on it. What is it? Petroleum (crude oil) or, as some call it liquid gold.

This dark thick liquid which mainly contains hydrocarbons is found in sedimentary rocks in some of the most hostile locations around the globe. Through distillation processes, petrol, diesel, paraffin and lubricating oils are separated out and the residues produced include fuel oil, paraffin wax, asphalt and carbon wax.

These commodities have, over a number of

decades, shaped our lives and non-more so than in combustion engines for which they are the lifeblood - the petrol, diesel or paraffin to generate the power, and the oil to lubricate the components.

Engine oil has four main functions:

- Dissipation of heat
- Lubrication of moving parts
- Cleaning
- To Seal air from certain parts

By understanding how each of these functions plays its part, we are better equipped to recognise the importance of good maintenance procedures and, ultimately, how to get the best out of an engine both in performance and durability.

Dissipation of heat and lubrication of moving parts

In the case of a car engine, more than half a million explosions occur each hour. The temperature of exhaust gases reaches 1500 degrees and at 3000 rpms the valves open and close more than 25 times a second.

Water and air are used to help control temperature levels, but this is not the whole picture.

We all rub our hands in cold weather to warm them up.





When two surfaces move against each other friction is created which in turn produces heat. Without lubrication these surfaces would eventually weld together. This is exactly what happens when an engine seizes up. In some cases the heat is so intense that components melt.

The objective of oil is to form a film that keeps surfaces apart and enables them to glide smoothly against each other. This will help to eliminate friction as well as dissipating any heat build up. It is obvious therefore that any reduction in the oil film between surfaces will have a detrimental effect. Apart from the problems caused by heat, two surfaces that constantly rub against each other will quickly wear, thus drastically reducing their life expectancy.

Cleaning

At this point it is worth looking at a general formula for lubricating oil.

80% Oil
20% Detergent (which includes; anti rust, foam and viscosity additives plus a friction modifier).

There are other factors that also need to be taken into account.

Varnish

The heat produced by the engine oxidises the oil to form a varnish coating that adheres to internal components. This fouls up oil passageways and restricts the flow of lubricant to crucial surfaces. Deposits can build up in the valve guides causing a drop in power and an increase in fuel consumption. Any oil starvation, even over a relatively short period, will usually result in expensive repairs or, in some cases, the need for a new engine.

Sludge

As a warm engine cools down at the end of a day's work, condensation forms inside it. We have all seen the water vapour signs next morning when it is started. During this non-operational period, water droplets mix with the crankcase oil and the by-products of combustion, sulphur, nitrogen and hydrocarbons. The nett result of all this activity is sludge - a substance that will quickly block oil ways and filters.

Burning oil

If an engine starts burning oil it is

a warning sign that needs immediate attention. One or more of the following could be responsible

Valve seals

These stop oil flowing down into the engine from the valve chamber. A seal failure will result in the lubricant entering the cylinder where it is burnt off.

Worn valve guides

These wear with age and the gap created between guide and valve stem increases allowing oil to pass into the combustion chamber.

Pressurised crankcase

The crankcase needs to breathe. If the system becomes blocked up with carbon or varnish then pressure builds up forcing oil into the fuel supply system.

Worn piston rings

Piston rings perform two functions:
1. Seal the combustion chamber to maximise the power produced.
2. Lubricate the cylinder walls.

If they are worn or broken they allow pressure to build up in the



crankcase and oil to enter the combustion area.

What can you do to stop this all happening?

Engine parts will wear and there is no way of stopping this, but you can slow it down with regular maintenance. Modern engines work at high temperatures and compression ratios producing large amounts of friction and heat. In its main task of controlling these two factors, oil evaporates and breaks down. For this reason it is essential that the correct levels are maintained and manufacturers' recommended oil changes are adhered to.

Something that is often overlooked is the fact that when oil is drained from an engine, not all the suspended impurities are flushed out and as much as 1/2 litre of dirty oil and sludge can be left behind. Immediately a new supply is added, it becomes contaminated. There are products available that can be used to flush the system and it may be worth using one occasionally.

Manufacturers will recommend suitable oils for their particular

engine and as a general rule, it does pay to buy the best quality. There are ranges of synthetic oils on the market, but it is recommended that you check with the power-unit supplier before using one of these.

The oil must be of the correct viscosity (thickness) and this will depend on the time of year.

Where an oil filter is fitted, this will require replacing at the intervals shown in the instruction manual.

Pull the dipstick and read the level every time the machine goes out and watch for any leakage signs both on the unit and on the floor where it has been standing overnight.

As was said at the beginning, oil is the lifeblood of an engine. If you starve it of oil you can expect problems. A few minutes taken to regularly check everything is okay can save the frustration plus cost of hours of remedial work later on.



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Live the American Dream...

GCSAA Conference and Show, New Orleans, 14-20 February, 2000

GCSAA's 71st International Golf Course Conference and Show will be held in the Morial Convention Centre, New Orleans from 14-20 February 2000.

As in previous years BIGGA is offering you the opportunity to travel on the trip to New Orleans.

The BIGGA party will meet at Heathrow Airport on Sunday 13 February for departure to New Orleans via Chicago at 10.00am.

BIGGA will be able to arrange accommodation for any member wishing to stay overnight before the flight at competitive rates.

The Hotel Monteleone, chosen by BIGGA to accommodate our party, offers excellent facilities and is ideally located in the historic French Quarter.

The GCSAA Conference and Show takes place from 14-20 February with

the trade show on 18-20 February. You will be able to attend the conference seminars and education programmes as well as take in the latest golf course equipment, products and services at the trade show.

Itinerary

Sunday 13 February

All members will assemble at Heathrow Airport and will take the 1000 hours American Airlines flight to Chicago before transferring to a flight to New Orleans. You will be transferred to your hotel for an eight night stay on a room only basis inclusive of private facilities.

Monday 21 February

You will be transferred to the airport for your return flight departing New Orleans for Chicago at 1240 hours with transfer to the overnight flight to London arriving at Heathrow at 0620 hours on 22 February.

Prices

£929 per person based on a twin share. £1389 per person based on single occupancy. Plus comprehensive holiday insurance for the duration of £35.

Included are:

Return Economy class flights London Heathrow/New Orleans with inflight meals and refreshments; UK and US taxes; transfer from the airport to hotel and return; eight nights accommodation on a room only basis and US accommodation taxes.

Please note: Registration costs for



the Pre-Conference seminars and Education programmes which run from 14-19 February and the Trade Show are not included in the package and bookings will need to be made directly with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. Details are available from BIGGA upon request.

Please forward full payment of £964 or £1424 (unless travel insurance is not required) to BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF to arrive no later than Friday 10 December; together with name, address and contact telephone number. If accommodation is required for the night of 12 February please advise in order for the hotel rooms to be booked. Payment will be made on checking out of the hotel.



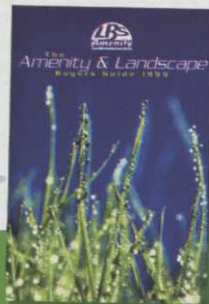
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...or see a little of Canada

CGSA International Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show. Ottawa, 4-7 March 2000

BIGGA has established close relationships with the CGSA and a large party of their members attended BTME. For the first time BIGGA is offering a package deal to the annual Conference and Trade Show which will be held at the Ottawa Congress Centre from 4-7 March. Departure will be from Heathrow Airport on Thursday 2 March at 1505 hours, returning from Ottawa on Tuesday 7 March to arrive at Heathrow the following morning. Accommodation will be provided at the Westin Hotel which is one of the CGSA official hotels with excellent facilities.

Itinerary

Thursday 2 March

Assemble at Heathrow Airport for the 1505 hours Air Canada flight

direct to Ottawa arriving at 1740 hours. You will be transferred to your hotel for a five night stay on a room only basis inclusive of private facilities.

Tuesday 7 March

You will be transferred to the airport for your return flight departing at 1900 hours to arrive in London at 0635 hours on 8 March.

Prices are £565 per person based on a twin share. £1141 per person based on single occupancy plus comprehensive holiday insurance for the duration.

Included in the price are return economy class flights from London Heathrow to Ottawa with inflight refreshments and meals; airport taxes; transfer from the airport to hotel and return; five nights

accommodation on a room only basis and Canadian accommodation taxes.

Please note: Registration costs for the Conference and Trade Show are not included in the package and bookings will need to be made directly with the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association. Details are available from BIGGA on request. Please forward full payment of £595 or £1171 (unless travel insurance is required) to BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF to arrive not later than Friday, 7 January 2000; together with name, address and contact telephone number. If accommodation is required for the night of 1 March please advise in order for the hotel rooms to be booked. Payment will be made on checking out of the hotel.



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WIN!

Welcome to the final part of our BTME 2000 competition, and your chance to win an exclusive accommodation package during the most important week of the greenkeeping calendar.

BTME 2000 sees the introduction of the new Hall Q which is approximately twice the size of the original Hall G. This Hall boasts its own main entrance, along with an impressive linkway conveniently joining it to Hall C. In addition to Hall Q, BTME 2000 is proud to introduce the long-awaited Exhibitor's Lounge along with a Career's Clinic and a revamped Press facility, all situated within the King's Suite, adjacent to the new hall.

Prepare to be entertained! If you are planning on attending the BTME banquet, then you had better reserve your place quickly. The entertainment for BTME 2000 is being provided by none other than 'The Bootleg Beatles' one of the UK's finest tribute bands, and bound to be a 'sell out'. (For tickets call Sami Collins on 01347 833833).

CAN IT GET ANY BETTER?

It certainly can, you could be going to Harrogate in January and not paying a penny for your transport, accommodation or seminars! Here's your chance..

These are the final two questions in the series of six featured in the previous two editions of Greenkeeper International.

When you have completed all the answers, fill in the entry form below and you could be on your way to Harrogate!

NOVEMBER QUESTIONS:

1. Name two of the new features of BTME 2000.
2. Which UK town is associated with 'The (original) Beatles'?

And if you missed the others:-

SEPTEMBER QUESTIONS:

1. What is the number of the BIGGA stand at BTME 2000?
2. What is the theme of "The Learning Experience" in 2000?

OCTOBER QUESTIONS:

1. Name one of the new workshops introduced for BTME 2000
2. Which Hall makes its debut at BTME 2000?

Name: _____

Address: _____

Golf Club: _____

September Answers

1. _____

2. _____

October Answers

1. _____

2. _____

November Answers

1. _____

2. _____

Send your completed entry coupons to: Jenny Panton, BTME competition, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Airedale, York YO61 1UF
Entries must be received by November 11, 1999. The first three correct entries opened after the closing date will win the prizes. The judge's decision is final. Winners will be announced in the December 1999 issue of Greenkeeper International.

First Prize: Return rail travel from anywhere in the UK plus three nights accommodation at a top hotel in Harrogate with entry into the exhibition and all the education seminar sessions.

Second prize: Return rail travel from anywhere in the UK plus two nights accommodation at a top hotel in Harrogate with entry into the exhibition and all the education seminar sessions.

Third prize: Return rail travel from anywhere in the UK plus one night accommodation at a top hotel in Harrogate with entry into the exhibition and all the education seminar sessions.

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Scottish Region
Peter Boyd
Tel/Fax 0141 616 3440

As in previous years the Scottish Region once again offers members a subsidised package deal for BTME 2000.

The package includes, coach to Harrogate, entry to all Seminars and Exhibition, three nights Bed and Breakfast in en-suite twin rooms in the Moat House Hotel, Harrogate on 18th, 19th and 20 January 2000.

PACKAGE COSTS £156.00

Partners are welcome at a cost of £111 for Travel and Accommodation.

For booking forms call or fax Peter Boyd, Scottish Regional Administrator, 10 Meadowburn Avenue, Newton Mearns, Glasgow G77 6TA.

Tel/Fax: 0141 616 3440.

Arshire

The sections autumn outing was held at the Pines Golf Centre, Dumfries on the 30th September. A reasonable turnout was in attendance ready to brave the forecasted heavy rain and showers. Fortunately the severity of the forecast did not materialise and apart from one horrendous shower, which threatened the afternoon Stableford, the day remained mainly dry.

The Pines is an 18 hole course and driving range which was the initiative of our Chairman Duncan Gray who designed, constructed and now manages the complex. The presentation thank you speech was delivered by our Vice Chairman, whoever he is, with our chairman being mine host.

Duncan was congratulated on his achievements at the Pines. Much sterling work has been done and with extensions and improvements planned, the Pines has a big future. I will not elaborate as our Editor Scott McCallum was in attendance with his notepad and camera. The greenstaff were thanked for the preparation and presentation of the course and the catering/barstaff were thanked for keeping everyone well fed and refreshed throughout the day. Chairman Duncan Gray replied by thanking everyone for attending and hoped everyone enjoyed their day despite the weather and extended an open invitation if anyone wanted to return for another game. Secretary Derek Wilson then invited Scottish Chairman Jimmy Neilson to present the prizes to the following winners:

Morning, 12 hole Texas Scramble: 1. Keith McCartney, Dumfries & Galloway, Charlie Pickhall, Gatehouse, Jim Smith, Ruffords, and Iain Barr, Largs, 34.8.

2. Kevin Hills, Thornhill, Lawrence Foley, Thornhill, David Woodbyrne, Southernness, and Daniel Waddell, Thornhill, 35.6

Afternoon, Stableford: 1st Class: 1. Brian Aitken, West Kilbride, 35 pts (gross 71 and a new Pines Course record) 2. Lawrence Foley, Thornhill, 34 pts, 3. Scott McLean, West Kilbride, 33 pts, 4. Kevin Hills, Thornhill, 32 pts.

2nd Class: 1. Roland Blackburn, Southernness, 33 pts, 2. Marshall Sloss, Beith, 26 pts, 3. Stephen Brown, The Pines, 24 pts, 4. Ian Donaldson, Routenburn, 24 pts.

The patrons award winners for this year are Roland Blackburn, of Southernness, and Scott McLean, of West Kilbride. They will receive, among other things, a trip to Harrogate 2000. Congratulations to both on this achievement.

That's all the news for this month, any news or views call me on 01505 683278 or maybe I'll see you at Scotstuff.

Iain Barr

North

The section autumn outing and 50th Anniversary at Downfield, Dundee was a great success with a big turnout, wonderful weather, superb golf course and a great welcome from all. Paul Murphy and his staff are to be congratulated on the condition of the course and the clubhouse facilities were also first rate. We were delighted to welcome 95 people on the day with 86 playing golf. Guests included BIGGA Vice Chairman Elliot Small, Scottish Chairman Jimmy Neilson, Regional Administrator Peter Boyd and previous Section stalwarts John Flint and Willie Milton, who incidentally was Head Greenkeeper at Downfield for many years until retirement.

All who attended received a 50th Anniversary lapel badge, but the actual prize winners were as follows. Scratch K. Peace, Inverurie, 76, 2. S. Herd, Strathlene, 77, Class One 1. S. Williams, Inverurie, 78-6=72, 2. B. Cruickshank, Garmouth, 78-5-5=73bih, 3rd P. Murphy, Downfield 79-6=73. Class Two 1. C. Mackay, Elmwood 80-7=73, 2. I. Gunn, Strathpeffer, 82-7=75, 3. C. Ogilvie, Boat of Garten, 85-9=76. Class Three 1. I. Grant, Strathlene, 90-14=76, 2. G. Aitken, Peterculter, 97-17=80bih, 3. A. Wilson, Brechin, 98-18=80. Veterans 1. D. Patience, Tarbat, 93-13=80, 2. J. Taylor, Retired 89-7=82. Apprentice 1. A. Stewart, Royal Aberdeen, 81-6=75, 2. I. Cowper, Tain 88-11=77. Guest E. Small, Tulliallan 84-7=77. Trade P. Allan, Stewarts 81-4=77. The winner of the card draw for the BIGGA blazer was A. Wilson, Brechin. The winner of two tickets to a Dundee United home game presented by Rigby Taylor was Robert Patterson, Royal Aberdeen. Thanks to other trade members for donations to, what was, a large table of raffle prizes.

I had a bad back at the time so was unable to play, which was just as well because we were missing our hard working Secretary, Dougal Duguid, who was otherwise detained and we hope all has been settled satisfactorily in the matter by the time you read this.

The four lucky winners of our 200 Club draw were as follows: May £30 No. 4 B. Anderson, Aberdeen, June £30 No. 112 W. Morrison, Aberdeen, July £30 No. 132 A. Holmes, Blairgowrie, August £100 No. 163 J. Neilson, Edinburgh. I would like to thank all who supported the section by buying tickets this year as we sold them all once more and raised

much needed funds to help run the section. There are still four draws left, so you still might win!!

Finally, I feel I must say how disappointed I am that the Golf Course Design workshop due to be held in Aberdeen has been cancelled as only one member applied to attend. This is an excellent course and was available in the North at a much reduced cost. Apathy rules ok!

Iain Macleod

Central

The final golf tournament of the season was held at Balbirnie Park Golf Club, Markinch, Fife on September 21, when 40 members enjoyed playing on a course in excellent condition and sunshine, following what must have been the heaviest couple of days rain this year.

Our sincere thanks go to Craig Stafford (pity about the tie) and his staff for all their hard work. To Heather and the clubhouse staff for the first class service and meals, to club administrator Steve Oliver for all his support and to Vice Captain Dr. Krishnaswamy, who presented our prizes in the evening.

With a special thanks to all our Patrons for their continued support. Thanks go also to section Chairman Archie Dunn and Phil (five to reach the ladies' tees) Langdon for all their work in starting the tournament and checking the cards. Prize winners on the day were as follows: Best Nett Aggregate spring/autumn D. McAllister, Ladybank, 143 pts, Best Scratch D. Leith, St. Andrews, 71 pts, Best Nett S. Sime, Leven, 63 pts, 1st Class 1st H/cap D. McAllister, Ladybank, 69 pts, 1st Class 2nd H/cap A. Dunn, Auchterarder, 70 pts, 2nd Class 1st H/cap G. Taylor,

2nd Class 2nd H/cap T. Harris, Cupar, 71 pts, 3rd Class 1st H/cap A. Robertson, Grangemouth, 66 pts, 3rd Class 2nd H/cap A. Arnott, Dunnikier, 75 pts, Patrons K. Brunton, Greentech, 71 pts, Guests D. Walls, Grangemouth, 69 pts, Special Prize, donated by Rigby Taylor A. Crawford, Green Hotel, 71 pts, 1998 Inter Club Tournament S. Sime/A. Herd, Leven Links.

The reason no tee off times were allocated prior to the tournament was that at the closing date for entries I only had 13 names. So please return your forms in plenty of time in future.

I suppose I had better apologise to Stuart Sime from that Sporting Club in Leven as, even in spite of our usual immaculate planning, we managed to give him the wrong trophy and he has bet me (not a lot!) that I wouldn't put it in the magazine. Where's the money Stuart?

We welcome new member Kevin Rogalski, from Auchterarder Golf Club, to the Section and it was nice to meet him at our autumn tournament. That's what I call support; join, then attend the first event available.

The members at Grangemouth Golf Club, (the course is owned by Falkirk District Council) held a Greenkeeper's Day recently to show their appreciation for their staff who were presented with over £400. This is indeed recognition for

Head Greenkeeper, Alex Robertson, who only took over this year. It seems he is putting the same effort into his work as he puts into supporting BIGGA as he can be seen at every event, no matter where it is taking place. Well done Alex.

Could you please make sure that you have either bought/sold or returned your allocation (2) of "Club 2000" tickets by the middle of next month. There appears to be a mixed reaction to the committee's attempts to raise funds for the Section as I have had some tickets returned, in one instance it was by all the staff from the same club and some members have even put them in the bin. We are giving you the chance to win £50 a month for less than 2p per day!

John Crawford

East

The East Section held their annual Willie Woods Invitational Tournament courtesy of the captain and Council of Glencorse Golf Club. There was a good attendance on the day. The weather was very good as prior to the tournament we had some very heavy rain. We wish to thank Ian Bell, Head Greenkeeper, and his staff for the great condition of the course and also the clubhouse staff for looking after us so well on the day. The scoring on the day was very good as the results will show: 1. S. Millar/B. Oliver, Glencorse, 78-14-64, 2. G. Rodgers/I. Mackay, Glencorse, 70-4-66 bih, 3. S. Nichol/J. Findlay, Winterfield, 66-0-66.

Well done to the Glencorse team with a fine 64 and also to the other trophy winners, also thanks again to tournament sponsor Ian Henderson, Ian Henderson Finance, for his continued support of this event. Next year's tournament will be played over the links at Winterfield GC, Dunbar so we hope to see you there. The reason that we are not going back to the winner's course as normal is you can only hold it at the winner's course for two years. As Glencorse have done this and they were also second it then goes to Winterfield who were third, so we look forward to meeting you and your club officials next year.

The autumn Tournament and National Tournament qualifier 1st round was held at Newbattle GC. This is the first time we have been to Newbattle for about 8-10 years. We didn't actually think the tournament would go ahead as we had torrential rain on the Monday, so myself and Steve Dixon paid a visit to see if it was going to be playable on the Tuesday as on the Monday the course was closed due to the rain.

But we shouldn't have worried as Tuesday morning greeted us with warm sunshine and blue skies which led to some great scoring on the day. There were a lot of new faces at the tournament which was good to see and we hope this continues. Some handicaps will seriously need to be looked at. (These people know who they are, so beware. The axe is due to fall).

The scores are as follows: Best Scratch - S. Nichol 68, Best Nett - M. Ewing 81-17-64. 1st Class: 1. S. Greenwood

71-6-65, 2. J. Gallagher 69-1-68 bih, 3. I. Bell 72-4-68. 2nd Class: 1. M. Ewing 81-17-64, 2. K. Anderson 77-11-66, 3. R. Mullen 80-12-68 bih. 3rd Class: 1. J. Robertson 90-19-71, 2. J. Lockerbie 95-19-76 bih, 3. M. Keough 101-25-76.

Veteran I. Aitchison 80-11-69, Trade J. Darling 72-3-69, Guest G. Davidson 80-9-71, New Member A. Jinks F/H 78 SCR, Aggregate Trophy S. Greenwood 73-65-138, Highest Score of the Day C. Moffat - 120.

The Section would like to thank the Captain and Council of Newbattle Golf Club for the courtesy of the course on the day, the caterers and barstaff for keeping us well looked after, the Head Greenkeeper Billy Hudson and his team for having the course in pristine condition, considering the weather we had been having prior to the tournament and Peter Boyd, Scottish Regional Administrator, for keeping the tee running smoothly and letting me get off second and not last as usual. Also thanks for the prizes for our raffle from the trade members who were present. So we hope to see you at the spring Tournament 2000 at North Berwick Golf Club which will be the second qualifying round for the National Tournament at Carden Park 2000.

The annual dance is just a few weeks away now and there are just a few tickets left so if you want some, also hotel rooms, get in touch with Steve Dixon on 0131 443 0235 (work) or 0131 660 3965 (home) ASAP. If you still have raffle tickets for the annual draw get them sold ASAP as they will be drawn at the dance on the night at Kilspindie House Hotel on the 4th (Saturday) of December, so hurry and sell all your quota and get ticket stubs and money back to Craig Pennyquick as soon as you can.

Well, that's it all this time. If anyone has anything of interest eg. marriages, births, people on the move etc or anything, drop me a line or give me a call or fax me on the usual numbers.

PS: On October 6 the East Section entertained the North East of England Section in the Annual Stewart's match. This year we played the match over the new course at Eyemouth Golf Club. The new layout is a good test of golf with the greens in good condition also fairways and tees considering it is only two years old. The Clubhouse which sits in the middle of the course, is also superb, high up overlooking the full 18 holes, so if you haven't played it yet get yourself down to Eyemouth because you won't be disappointed.

Down to the match which was well contested by both teams and ended in a two and a half-two and a half draw, so the North East lads retained the trophy they won last year. Well done to them but look out next year, at Slaley Hall. We will be better, bigger and ready to win the trophy back for the first time in a few years. Hopefully!

A big thanks goes out to Stewart & Company for sponsoring the day, the Captain and Council of Eyemouth GC for courtesy of the course, our bus driver for doing an excellent job of ferrying us around, Head Greenkeeper, Allan

Campbell, and his staff for the condition of the course which was excellent.

Also the clubhouse staff (catering/barstaff) who were excellent, the meals were superb, especially the battered haddock which nearly everyone had. If you are ever in Eyemouth give it a try. The refreshments were much appreciated.

Last, but not least, to the members of both teams who made it a great day and one we all look forward to each year. So cheers see you all next year.

Report from the Section AGM and patrons award winners next month.

Chris Yeaman



Northern Region
Douglas Bell
Tel: 0151 431 0433

North West

In September we had two golf tournaments, the autumn tournament at West Lancashire Golf Club, and the match against the Golf Club Stewards at Burnley Golf Club. I will leave the reports on the golf until later but first I would like to congratulate one of the most respected greenkeepers in the country on his retirement. Jim Macdonald, Head Greenkeeper at Royal Lytham & St. Annes, retired on 1/10/99 after serving 35 years at Royal Lytham.

He started at Royal Lytham in 1964 having been a teacher at Preston College teaching ceramics. In 1966 he became deputy and eventually became Head Greenkeeper. Jim has quite a record having prepared the course for five Open Championships, the Curtis Cup and the Ryder Cup. His dedication to greenkeeping has not gone unnoticed either by his club or by the professionals who have played at Royal Lytham. His club have made Jim an Honorary member, of which Jim is very proud and he has received letters of congratulations from Seve Ballesteros, Nick Faldo and Gary Player.

I asked Jim how he would keep himself busy in his retirement and he tells me he is involved in two nine hole courses in the north of Scotland, and he will be keeping his eye on them from time to time. I am sure you will all join me in wishing Jim a happy and long retirement.

The autumn tournament was played at West Lancashire GC on September 9 and for once the weather was kind to us. The day was sunny with just a gentle breeze, and despite the perfect conditions, the course lived up to its reputation as one of the best and most difficult links courses around. John Muir and his staff had the course in great condition, despite the fact that they were involved with installing a new irrigation system. I would like to thank John for the lovely condition of the course, West Lancs for allowing us the courtesy of the course, the caterers for excellent food and the members for their hospitality. Thanks also to the Section patrons, Burrows GM, Acorn Equipment, Cheshire Light Machinery, Rigby Taylor, Bleeper Services. Also L.B.S. Group,

Amenity Technology, Bathgate Sands, Ritefeed and other companies who helped to swell the prize table.

The main winners were: Best Gross Neil Gravener, Best Nett Dave McEvoy, Vets Cup Bert Cross, Aggregate Trophy Dave McEvoy.

The match against the N/West Golf Club Stewards was played at Burnley Golf Club on Monday September 27 and this time the weather was shocking.

The rain had been lashing down for the past 24 hours and decided not to stop when we arrived. Eventually we plucked up courage and the match began. The rain did not ease at all, but everybody continued to the bitter end and we finished with a result, match halved. This means that the greenkeepers retain the cup for a further year. Many thanks to Burnley Golf Club for keeping the course open to allow us to play the match, the

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club steward for a fantastic meal and the stewards for organising the venue.

The President's Cup will be played for at Wilmslow Golf Club on Thursday November 25 with the tee times from 10 am. This will be followed by the AGM and an evening meal and prize presentation. All competitors are required to bring a bottle, so that everybody takes away a prize. All entries to be sent to Bill Merritt, 225 Utting Avenue, Clubmore,

Liverpool L4 9RB. Please remember to include a cheque for £15, made payable to BIGGA/NW.

Bert Cross

Sheffield

On 15th September we held our Autumn competition at the Hallamshire Golf Club, and it was a very enjoyable day even though the sun didn't shine.

Hallamshire was in excellent condition

and our thanks go to Gordon Brammah and his staff. Well done Gordon!

Our thanks go to Hallamshire for giving us the courtesy of their course and facilities. Thanks also to the catering staff for the excellent meal which I think everybody enjoyed.

There was some excellent golf played and the overall winner with the help of local knowledge was Mark Crawshaw, who played some very good golf, well done Mark!

Results: 1. M. Crawshaw 40 pts, 2. P. Neve 37 pts, 3. G. Wells 36 pts.

Thanks also go to Henton & Chattells for being the main sponsors for the event and to all the other trade members who provided prizes.

Congratulations go to Jeremy Duffield on his appointment as Head Greenkeeper at Cleckheaton Golf Club back in his beloved Leeds. He moves from Doncaster Town Moor. Good luck Jeremy!



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Finally a message for one of our Section members, "Red is for Stop", no names mentioned.

J.V. Lax

Cleveland

This is my last news report so it will be brief. The Cleveland committee, mostly the Secretary, spend a lot of time and effort to get winter talks off the ground and when they are not supported by members it makes you wonder if it is worth it. Try to give a little time to attend talks and meetings as it's for all our good.

The next talk is November 11 at Darlington GC 7:30-8:00 pm start, the speaker is Par 4, so please try to attend.

Then the big one December 7, 7:30 Mount Oswald, Turfcare's Christmas quiz. We need a good turn out, as we have to beat the groundsmen this year to make it two wins in the last decade. Terry and his staff put on a very good night, let's give them the support.

North Wales

Not a lot to write about again this month. If any of you haven't received your programme of events, please let us know. On November 17 there's a lecture on R&D of pesticides/CDA sprayers at 14:30-16:30 which is preceded by a moderation meeting for all you assessors out there which starts at 12 noon, both at the college.

Also remember our Christmas meet and AGM at Royal St. Davids, Harlech on Thursday December 2. If there is anything you want on the agenda please get in touch, all numbers on programme of events card.

One last point, after last year's AGM anyone not properly attired will be barred. It's your association, make the effort.

Dave Goodridge



Midland Region
Peter Larter
Tel: 01490 437507

BB&O

The autumn event was held at the Springs GC on Tuesday September 21, but unfortunately I was not able to

attend. Thanks to Lindsay and Adrian for relaying the results of the tournament to me. 1. S Curley & M Walker, Stowe School 43 pts, 2. A Burnham & G. Clark, Donnington Valley 42 pts, 3. A Cooper & D. Greenfield, The Springs 40 pts. Longest drive Angie Bell, Caversham, Nearest pin Paul Chana, Huntercombe.

Paul was recently in the headlines when he managed to achieve two holes in one on the same day at Huntercombe.

Thanks also to the sponsors, Rolawn Turf, to Phillip Marsh for presenting the prizes and to Andy Church for organising all postage and prizes. Thanks to Adrian and his team, Lindsay tells me the course was superb.

New members this month are: Anthony Leinster, Bearwood, Matthew Evans, Oxfordshire, John Lister, Sonning.

Saltex has come and gone again and we are at the time of year when boats would be more appropriate than tractors, not to worry through it will soon be summer again (I wish!). Hopefully everyone is managing to cope with the dreary weather and I look forward to seeing everyone at the next outing.

Ross Wilson

Midland

On September 15 the autumn tournament was played at Ross-on-Wye Golf Club. The day proved to be a great success and many thanks go to the greenkeeping staff and to the catering staff for making the day run smoothly. I have to be very conservative with what I say about the course, as most of you are aware I am the Course Manager, but it was a very good day and I do hope everyone enjoyed the day.

The results are as follows: 1st Gross Tony Cheese, 1st Nett Rhys Thomas, 2. Clayton Lee, 3. Rod Hunter, 4. Tom Haskett, 5. Mike Hughes, 6. Alan Roberts.

Nearest pin - Mark Cutler, Longest drive - Tony Cheese. The trade prize went to Andrew Corns.

The finals of the Toro Award for Excellence are to be held shortly and we have a member of our Section involved, he is Kim Blake from Fulford Heath Golf Club. We wish him all the best in the finals.

Early in September the Midland Section held what is hoped to be the first of many matches against the Midland Section of the Stewards' Association.

The event on the day was very professionally organised by Mike Moffitt, Steward at Sutton Coldfield Golf Club. The venue was Kington Golf Club on the Welsh border, with magnificent views of the surrounding countryside.

The result of the match was a well earned win of 3-2 to the Stewards, but don't worry we will be back next year with our first team. A singles Stableford was also incorporated of which the winner was Tony Denham, Steward at Stone Golf Club, with 46 points, second on a last 9 count back representing the Greenkeepers with 39 points was Nigel Tyler and in third place was our Chairman Peter Richmond.

The prize giving was carried out by Alistair Reay, Chairman of the Midland Stewards Association, and Steward at Robin Hood Golf Club. These comprised of a large shield awarded to the winning team and smaller memento shields to each of the team members, engraved winners and runners up respectively.

Thanks must go to Kington Golf Club for allowing us courtesy of the course, and to the Stewardess and Chef for the excellent catering on what is traditionally Stewards day off.

Thank you once again to the Ladies and Gentlemen of the Stewards Association for such a wonderful day out and to all the Greenkeepers who turned out at such short notice. Well played all of you.

Belated congratulations to Jim Ewing, First Assistant at Walmley Golf Club, on his recent marriage to Lorraine. Best wishes to both of you for the future.

Christmas tournament and AGM to be held at Little Aston Golf Club on Wednesday December 8. First tee time 10:30 am. AGM will be held at 4:40 pm cost £16.

Jonathan Wood

East Midland

This years autumn tournament was held on September 6 at the delightful venue of Erewash Valley. With the

weather set warm, dry and fine some low scores were expected. The only disappointment on the day was the poor turnout of 24. The scores were as follows: Best Nett: A. Bindley, Kirby Muxloe, 85-15-70, Best Gross: B. Fillary, Willesley Park, 76-5-71, Category 1: A. Hawkes, Cutgrave Place, 79-5-74, Category 2: A. Porter, Greetham Valley, 87-12-75, Category 3: M. Bindley, Kirby Muxloe, 91-21-70, Trade: Kevin Kinzer, E.T. Breakwells, 94-20-74, Nearest The Pin: Jeff Dickinson, Longest Drive: Alex Hawkes.

I would like to thank Graham Arnold and his staff for presenting an excellent golf course for this tournament. Also thanks should go to the caterers for a fine buffet and to all those committee members who helped organise the day. Finally, a special thanks should go to Banks Amenity Products Ltd for the very kind and valued sponsorship. I would also like to remind members that this year's regional seminar will take place at Mentmore Golf and Country Club on November 17th.

It is with deep regret that I report the unfortunate death of Nick Webb. Nick was a trade member of the Section from Tacit and had supported Section events for the past two years. Our condolences go to all his family and friends.

On a much brighter note, congratulations should go to Ian Needham, of Beedles Lake GC, for winning the men's invitation at his home course with a nett score of 66 (6 under par). Ian's shot of the day came at the 18th hole, hitting a full 9 iron into the wind to leave a 4 ft putt and save par, winning the competition by two strokes! Thanks once again for the invite, and well played partner!

On September 19 Alan Roberts (he is an Assistant Greenkeeper at Sutton Coldfield, in the Midland Section) and myself finished second with a six under par score of 65 at the Hinckley Open.

If any other members can give me any information for future Around The Green articles I would be most grateful.

Anthony Bindley

East of England

The Annual match against the East Midland Section took part at Ramsdale Park.



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