

# addiction

said, "I know I was fortunate to find someone like Malcolm who was willing to take a few hits for me. I needed individuals support from some senior individuals within the club and that's what I got from Malcolm and Keith".

Gunn knew such backing was necessary because he was well aware it would not be easy to return Temple to its former glory. The only way was to kill off poa annua, a weak, shallow-rooted grass prone to disease, and, in turn, promote the return of native bents and fescues. This would have to be done by first starving the turf of water and fertiliser and then implementing an aeration policy designed to relieve compaction and promote root growth.

Neither is very difficult to achieve but both processes can cause short-term anxiety among members, particularly among those who fail to realise that the indigenous grasses will not return overnight. The greens, in fact, will look even worse before they

start to look better, which is why it is vital that a club talks to its members about what it is trying to do.

"I can't offer other clubs a simple solution, but what I would do is stress that communication is vital if they are to come through unscathed. Communication is king," Gunn said.

"You will never be able to appease the vocal minority, but what you can do is work on the silent majority. They are much more likely to be receptive if they know what you are doing and why you are doing it".

For a while at least even this determination to involve members was not enough to dispel all doubts. However, little by little, as the condition of the course began to improve and - of equal importance - as Gunn's natural maintenance techniques encouraged the return of indigenous species, the critics were silenced.

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ual whose advice was ignored in the first place, the Course Manager. And that point should have been emphasised.

The article also fails to mention that many of the recently built courses are on land once used for agriculture (or anywhere else the developer feels he can squeeze in a few holes) and not on the impoverished free draining soils of years gone by.

The problems faced by Course Managers on these sites have absolutely nothing to do with the situation at Temple. However, you can bet your life that members from these clubs read the article and drew their own conclusions. And the Course Manager will have to deal with the consequences. Again irresponsible.

Finally the article completely fails to mention the chase for speed on putting surfaces, and the intensity of cutting regimes, and the effect that this has on poa infestation. Another

missing fact of significance in the article.

Put simply, the journalist was trying to cover a huge subject, with years of history and research, and a massive diversity of opinions and situations and compare this with the success of Martin Gunn and Temple. The comments within the article about overfeeding and over watering were appropriate and useful (these were relevant to the situation at Temple and could be verified) The comments about the prime time of British golf courses, and the deteriorating state of British courses were dangerous.

At what point do we as an Association tire of these uninformed opinions that are being published in the public domain, and start to fight back? How many Course Managers and greenkeepers have to suffer the consequences of this ignorance before our voice is raised?

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

**East**

Sorry there was no article last month but with moving to my new job, moving house, and my son being in hospital since before Christmas, I just didn't have the time to put an article together. But here we are this month.

I would like to thank everyone who has called me to wish myself and my family all the best as we wait for my son to go to Birmingham to have a liver transplant. He is now needing this as his liver is starting to give up and the operation will give him a better standard of life.

We were down at the Birmingham Children's Hospital the week after BTME for a week of tests and now he is on the liver transplant priority list, so all we can do now is sit and wait. Hopefully by the time you read this he will have had his transplant and be on the road to recovery. It has been a very hard time over the last few months but knowing people out there are thinking of us makes it a lot easier, so thanks to you all for your calls and thoughts.

OK down to business; the new season is here and the first major of the season is only a few weeks away. The Spring Tournament at the West Course North Berwick is on April 26 and is the second qualifying round for the BIGGA Championship in October, so get your entry form back and if you score well at North Berwick, and also scored well at Newbattle GC, at the autumn outing you could be on your way to the final!

We hope to see a BIGGA turnout for the millennium outing. The Section had a trip sponsored by Scottish Grass Machinery to the premises at Inverkeithing then onto St Andrews to meet Course Manager, Eddie Adams. We viewed the maintenance facilities and preparations for the millennium Open, I am told

it was a very good trip and worthwhile attending. Many thanks to Scottish Grass Machinery for the organising of this visit.

The Scottish Region Conference was exceptionally good this year and a very good turnout was in attendance to hear some very good speakers; thanks to our Regional Administrator, Peter Boyd, for all his hard work in making this a great event.

Congratulations this month go out to George Purves and his wife, Sharon, on the birth of twin boys, Daniel and Jordan, who were born on February 18. Two brothers for Jamie! Well done to them and all the best for the future from all in the Section. Congratulations and all the best for the future to Swanston Head Greenkeeper, Richard Mullen and his girlfriend Claire, on their engagement earlier this year. (That reminds me, where's the 'phone number of the kilt hire shop?).

Well that's all for this month, hope to see you all at North Berwick at the end of the month. If anyone wants to drop me a line my new details are as follows: Chris Yeaman, The Head Greenkeeper's Cottage, West Linton Golf Club, West Linton, Peeblesshire, EH46 7HN. Telephone number 01968 661313 (home) I will inform you next month of my work number, 07901 846194 (mobile).

That's it 'till next time, cheers,  
Chris Yeaman

**West**

Welcome once more to another round up of Section news. Let us hope and pray that by the time this reaches print, that the weather has improved dramatically and all of our courses are in great shape for the summer ahead!

First this month Stuart Taylor pens a report on a football match played recently at Scotstoun.

Report: At the last moment the pre-arranged match between ourselves and the East Section had to be cancelled. Instead we decided to play an Inter Section friendly with any interested parties. Stuart Taylor did a lot of 'phoning to raise the desired num-

ber for the day and although it was at short notice 20 people were arranged. As usual the casualties came but no notification was given, as it turned out 13 turned up. So why does Stuart even bother!

Eventually things got under way and six-a-side was arranged which turned out to be a good workout for everybody who participated. The final result being a nose in front for Stuart Taylor's team and Charlie Goodall's select fought hard to make it a tight result. Thanks to all who participated and the next game is against Central when they will make up the team. Against: Stuart Taylor, Gerry Bruen, Davie, Peter Cowan, Eddie Devine and Graeme Shearer. Can I say thanks to Colin Scott for being the referee as he came in for some real stick, how people change on a football pitch! Well done Colin.

Thank you to Stuart for supplying the above report, your efforts in organising these events is greatly appreciated by the participants and Committee alike.

The games night at Claremont Bowling Club, February 24, went ahead on schedule, however it was a disappointing turnout with only 20 in attendance. The results for the evenings play were as follows: Winners - Ronnie Bunting, Kilmacollm GC, and John Corbrick, Nairn Brown. Runners up: Cecil George, retired and Denis Tweddell, Bonnyton GC. Special thanks to John Scott Snr for all his hard work in setting up the night and to Nairn Brown and John Deere for raffle prizes, very much appreciated by the Committee and the members in attendance. Lastly thanks also the Hugh Somerville and Claremont BC Committee for use of their facilities.

Onto the 100 Club now; I was disappointed at the poor response from the letters sent to all ticket holders. Apologies to those of you, whose letter may not have reached its intended destination.

However, by 29 February, the deadline for closing, only 35 forms had been completed and returned. Thanks to those of you who were

prompt in returning your forms and monies. Therefore, the system of ticket and number allocation will be reviewed for the year 2001.

Thanks go to Mike Dooner, Thorntrees Landscapes, for sponsoring the 100 Club this year.

The spring outing is nearly upon us, April 27, Ranfurly Castle GC, please let the sun shine and the rain not. Please remember to return your entry forms as soon as possible to ensure a place on the tee.

Finally, congratulations are in order to Callum Gordon, Lenzie GC, and his bride Shonagh Taylor, married on March 11.

And so another Section news closes, if you have any snippets of information do not hesitate to contact me.

H: 0141 776 1532 M: 07050 173080 email: Ryrug@Lineone.net  
Gavin Jarvis

**Ayrshire**

The new season will be upon us by the time you read this month's notes, I hope the weather has picked up and we are enjoying a good spring. I can't remember the last good one. Ian Donaldson called in the other day to tell me he was leaving Routenburn en-route to the Shetland Isles where he will take up his second Head Greenkeeper's position.

Ian asked me to thank all his friends who had helped make his time in our area most enjoyable and of course the Ayrshire Section wish Ian all the best with his new job. On the subject of spring Ian, how do the Shetlands compare with Ayrshire!

As mentioned last month the spring outing will be held at Western Gables on April 26 which will be our National Tournament qualifier. The day is reduced to one afternoon medal round at a cost of £17. Derek Wilson will have letters out soon or just get your entry in now, give him a call on 01294 276177 to avoid disappointment.

The autumn outing has been confirmed for Largs Golf Club September 21 when I will look for-

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ward to your visit to Kelburn. As promised although not yet finalised the 2001 outings are being scheduled for Brighthouse Bay in the spring and Prestwick St Cuthberts in the Autumn all going to plan. That's all for this month, any news call me on 01505 683278.

Iain Barr

**Central**

New members are still coming in thick and fast and this month we extend a warm welcome to Robert Meikle, Craile GC; Gary McCandless, Balfon Golf Society; Christian Kitchen, the Duke's Course; Scott McKnight, Stirling GC; Stuart Robertson, Gleneagles; Peter Stewart and John Cunningham, both from St Andrews Links. Paul Murphy and his staff from Downfield Golf Club has also transferred to the Section but at the moment I don't have all their names so I'll give you them next month.

The lucky winner of the March draw for "Club 2000" is A. (Sandy) Armit, with ticket number 007 and a cheque for £50 is on its way to him. It appears I have upset a lot of members (so what's new) by saying that I will put their names in the magazine to remind them that they still have not returned their allocation of tickets for the draw, despite numerous requests for them to do so, well starting next month they will appear, as I don't know if they have been sold or not!

Andy O'Hara is organising a football match against the West Section for next month and has already held trial matches to select the strongest team possible as the West Section take their football very seriously. I'm not permitted to say too much about Andy's team selections or the team he supports, as this also upsets some members, not Andy, as he now has a fan club which covers the length and breadth of the country.

I have conceded one thing to Andy and that is if he scores the winning goal in the match he can write the next column for the mag-

azine. Will that keep you happy ML?

At the beginning of March a two day computer training course was held in Perth by Ken Richardson from HQ and I can recommend this course to anyone wishing to learn about computing, so if anyone is interested, please get in touch with me and I will arrange it with Ken for later in the year. Six members are required for each course.

John Crawford



**Northern Region**  
Douglas Bell  
Tel: 0151 431 0433

**North East**

Tyneside Golf Club again played host for our winter lecture. Our thanks to

Ged Cunliffe and Gary Waters on their presentation on behalf of Biotol. Not a bad turnout with 25 greenkeepers who all seemed to enjoy the talk.

It was nice to see people travelling from afar as Swarland Hall and Warkworth and Wearside, just goes to show you we must be doing something right! Many thanks to Terry Charlton of Turf-Care for bringing Biotol to the Section.

Congratulations to John Hood, formerly of Swarland Hall, on his new appointment at Linden Hall. Hope everything goes well for him.

As three members have resigned for different reasons, we have vacancies on the committee should anyone be interested please get in touch or we will see you at Bamburgh on the 13 April. Ken Rutherford and Ronnie Read have offered help on the competition days so that's a help at least.

Jimmy Richardson

**North Wales**

I've just heard that this winter is the sunniest since records began, I don't know where that was because here at Oenbigh we've got webbed feet! Ah well statistics, lies damned lies.

Talking of statistics, considering the

amount of greenkeepers in North Wales only myself and my deputy attended the recent first aid course run at the college. Remember it is law to have qualified first aiders at work so remind your secretary, committees, etc.

At the college we had the annual golf seminar which once again was excellent, but again statistically where were you? A lot of thought goes into this event as well as a lot of effort, I would like to thank all the trade for their support yet again, the WGU whose President chaired the event and Graham Wright for putting the day together, also a lot of praise must go to the caterers for an absolutely fantastic buffet. Don't get me wrong there was a good turnout, however it could have been better. I'm going to sound a trumpet for my own club here and say all the greenstaff attended along with the Secretary, a member of the greens committee and our Greens Chairman, Jim Wren, delivered a paper to the seminar. I felt proud of the dedication shown by my club. All that I am trying to say is if we can do it I am sure others can - just ask them - right, I'm off my soap box now!

Steve Jones, of Pwlllelli Golf Club, informed me of a Health and Safety course he attended in Anglesey which he said was superb and covered all aspects of health and safety law. If any of you out there are interested give Steve a ring on 01758 730 784. That's all for now folks!

Dave Goodridge

**Cleveland**

Very little to report this month, by way of a change hopefully there will be more next month as spring arrives and greenkeepers everywhere come out of hibernation and start to repair the damage caused by the swarms of winter golfers.

Bob Lawton, Course Manager at Billingham GC, has agreed to continue as Secretary of the Cleveland Section for another year, or until a replacement is found, anyone interested in taking over should come forward. We must thank Bob for his continued service, without his loyalty the Section may have folded, we

could do with a few more "Bobs". Please support your Section more by attending the events it arranges for your benefit. Events to look forward to this year start with the spring tournament on April 11 at Ramside, this is a magnificent venue and well worth a visit, if you would like to play there are still a few places left, the cost is £10 to include you meal; to book contact Barry (Macam) Walker on 0589 658161 or 0191 5200294 or myself on the number below, please note that spikes must be worn.

The annual golf match against the North East Section is pencilled in for later July early August at Brancepeth GC. The event is to be sponsored by Rite-Feed again, they put on a superb day at Beamish GC last year. Unfortunately we were beaten 3-2. This year we hope to get revenge on our own patch. Rumour has it that Ian Pemberton has been practising four hours a day for the match after his poor performance at Beamish!

Terry Charlton, of Turf Care, is organising an Inter-Section ten pin bowling knockout, watch this space.

Any news contact me (please) on 07808 196558

Steven Jaques

**North West**

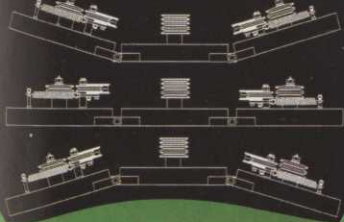
The end of February and still the rain persists, most courses appear to have spent the first two months of the year more often closed than open. Speaking to a couple of North-West members in mid February, they were saying that the courses were so wet the winter programme of work is way behind. Where have all the old fashioned winters gone? At least when the ground is frozen you can get machinery onto the course. Anyway the daylight hours are getting longer which is a good sign that possibly better weather is to come. The programme of events for the Section are complete and by now you should have received your fixture list. The first event is the Mere seminar, and with only 16 days to go from me writing these Section notes, the numbers are very low, I am hoping for a deluge of applications in the next few days. All the other events are: North

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West V North Wales; Hazel Grove GC; Thursday, April 20. Spring Tournament; Bury GC; Wednesday, May 3. Summer Tournament; West Derby GC; Wednesday, June 28. Regional Final; Fishwick Hall GC; Thursday 28 June. Roses Match; Longridge GC; Wednesday, August 16. Autumn Tournament; Denton GC; Thursday, September 7. Cumbria Cup; Penrith GC; Wednesday, September 13. Stewards Match; Stand GC; Monday, October 2. Presidents Cup; Wilmslow GC; Thursday, November 30.

Finally congratulations to Alan Jackson on his retirement. Alan has been a greenkeeper at Prestbury Golf Club for 25 years and officially retired on the February 25.

Alan was off work for the last ten months, after major surgery, and the golf club paid his wages right up to his retirement. We hope you enjoy a long and happy retirement Alan.

For the spring tournament at Bury Golf Club on 3 May you need to register with Bill Merritt, 225 Utting Avenue, Clubmore, Liverpool, L4 9RB, enclosing a cheque for £15. Entries will not be accepted after 28 April. Lunch will be served from 12.30 pm to 1.00 pm. Tee off from 1.30 pm.

Any news, views, please contact me on 0151 724 5412.

Bert Cross

### Northern

Unfortunately the Annual Dinner Dance had to be cancelled at short notice due to cancellations and a lack of support.

With better news the Northern Section & Rigby Taylor Seminar sponsored by Rigby Taylor at Bingley St Ives GC was a success with places having to be restricted to 80 people. This was a most informative day with speakers Martyn Jones on grass cutting - Myerscough College, John Holt on fertiliser - Rigby Taylor, Andrew Mair, Chris Peel, Nick Wright and Geoff Hodson on Golf Course Design, Construction and Environmental Issues - International Golf Design Practice and Associates.

Many thanks to Mark James for his attendance and Rigby Taylor for sponsoring and arranged the event. Thanks also to Bingley St Ives GC for their hospitality and catering.

The Spring Meeting will be held at Bradley Hall GC on Tuesday, April 11.

This event is kindly being sponsored by Whitemoss and SportsWorld and not by Rite feed as stated in March's issue. I apologise to both companies for this error on my part. Sorry.

Other confirmed events are as follows:- President's Day, Wednesday, 21 June, at Hollins Hall H&CC, Roses Match, Wednesday, August 16 at Longridge GC; Invitation Day, Wednesday September 6 at

Cookridge Hall G&CC.; Autumn Tournament, October 18 at Hornsea GC, Winter Golf, Wednesday December 6 at Huddersfield GC. All entries for the golf events are to be sent to myself and must be received along with the FULL amount of £17.50 no later than 7 days before the event. Entries will be on a first come first in basis, so book early to avoid disappointment. For the Roses Match if you want a hand in beating the old enemy then let me know of your availability so a winning team can be picked.

We welcome this month as new members:- David Griffin, Waterton Park GC; James Hewitson, Scarcroft GC; Gareth Butler, Knaresborough GC; Jamie Hainsworth & Nigel Graham, Shipley GC; Ed Carter, Calvery GC; Michael Pinfield, Painthorpe House G&CC; Lee Garrad, Otley GC; Frank Marshall, Boothferry Park GC. You can be assured of a warm welcome at any of our section events. If you have any queries don't hesitate in picking the phone up and giving us a ring.

There is no other news at the moment. If anybody has any information or ideas for section events either Educational or social then let me know. It is your Section. My address is 67 Asquith Avenue, Morley, Leeds, LS27 9QS or telephone at home 0113 2383188/mobile 07790 678572.

Andy Smith

### Midland Region

### East Midlands

On February 16 the Section held another Go-Kart evening at The Wymeswold Industrial Estate. The evening was generously sponsored by Toro-Lely UK, who not only subsidised the evening but also provided us with three great prizes! The evening consisted of a formula 1 format, of five races each and a semi-final and final.

After some eventful races, which included several shunts and near misses, the eventual winner was Andy McGreal, of Lingdale GC, with Adie Porter, of Greetham Valley, finishing second, for the second year running (third time lucky Adie!). Thanks for the evening should be extended to Andy Humble of Toro-Lely UK for the sponsorship and entertainment, and also to our Chairman Gavin Robson for organising the evening.

Also a trip to Toro-Lely was attended by 10 greenkeepers on 23 February. This consisted of a tour around the Toro-Lely premises escorted by Andy Humble, and the rest of the Toro-Lely staff. Unfortunately there were seven greenkeepers who failed to turn up for the visit. As meals have to be

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anything.



booked it is important to inform the Secretary if you find that you are unable to attend. However, on a brighter note those who attended the day were well catered for and received an excellent tour of the premises and were also rewarded with a free gift. Once again our thanks go to Andy and Toro-Lely.

By the time you read this article you should be in possession of your spring entry form, which is also the qualifier for this years Scotts/Charterhouse National Championship. If you have not received a form, please notify me as soon as possible and I will gladly send you one. Please remember that late entries will not be accepted.

Antony Bindley

**Mid Anglia**

Our first Section talk of the winter took place in late February, at South Beds GC. Mark Hunt, of Headland Amenity, gave an excellent presentation on "Understanding Fertilisers" and with so many different types now available on the market, I'm sure the people who attended were clearer on which types to use and when. Our thanks go to Mark and the 25 or so members who turned up and gave their support.

Our first golf fixture of the year is to be held at Northants County GC on April 20. This will be the usual qualifying event for the National

Tournament and the final format for the golf will be decided nearer the time. Entries by the usual form to Richard Saunders in good time please, should you wish to participate.

Paul Lockett

**Midland**

All the entry forms have now been sent out along with all the information regarding tournament. If you have not received your copy please do not hesitate getting in touch.

There is one error on the entry forms, this is regarding the price for the Rigby Taylor knockout. The correct price per pair is £5 not the £20 as advertised.

I will be able to report more news on the tournaments in future reports and if any of you are still unsure about playing in any of our tournaments please get your applications in early as they do tend to fill up very quickly.

Regarding information about this report, I will again ask for your input and news that will be of interest to the members.

My contact telephone numbers are as follows: Home 01562 861434 or Mobile 0370 956238  
Jonathan Wood

**Berks, Bucks and Oxon**

First of all I would like to echo the committee and indeed the members'

thanks to Tony French for the time he spent working hard to help make the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Section what it is today.

Tony is leaving the Lambourne Club for pastures new and we wish him all the best in his new venture.

It seems only a short time ago we were preparing for the last competition of the season and yet the start of another season is almost upon us, the winters seem to be getting shorter every year!

Golf Days have been finalised for the forthcoming season and are as follows: Spring Fixture, Wokefield Park, Monday, April 17. Summer Fixture, Richings Park, Thursday, August 3 Autumn Fixture, East Berkshire, Monday, October 2. Turkey Trot, Frilford Heath, Wednesday, November 15.

The Rigby Taylor Knockout is in the process of being arranged.

Could all members be reminded that membership should be renewed when due and any changes of address forwarded to the Head Office.

It has been agreed at committee that a fee of £20 will be charged for all the Golf Days and we hope that a good turn out for these events will continue in the coming season.

Congratulations to Kevin Tilly who has been appointed as the new Head Greenkeeper at Bishopswood GC. Kevin worked with me at Newbury

and Crookham Golf Club and I am sure he will do very well in his new position.

Once again I ask for feedback for this monthly report - tell us what is going on in your Section and in turn it will be relayed to the rest of the members.

Wishing you a good start to the season and look forward to seeing you at this years events.

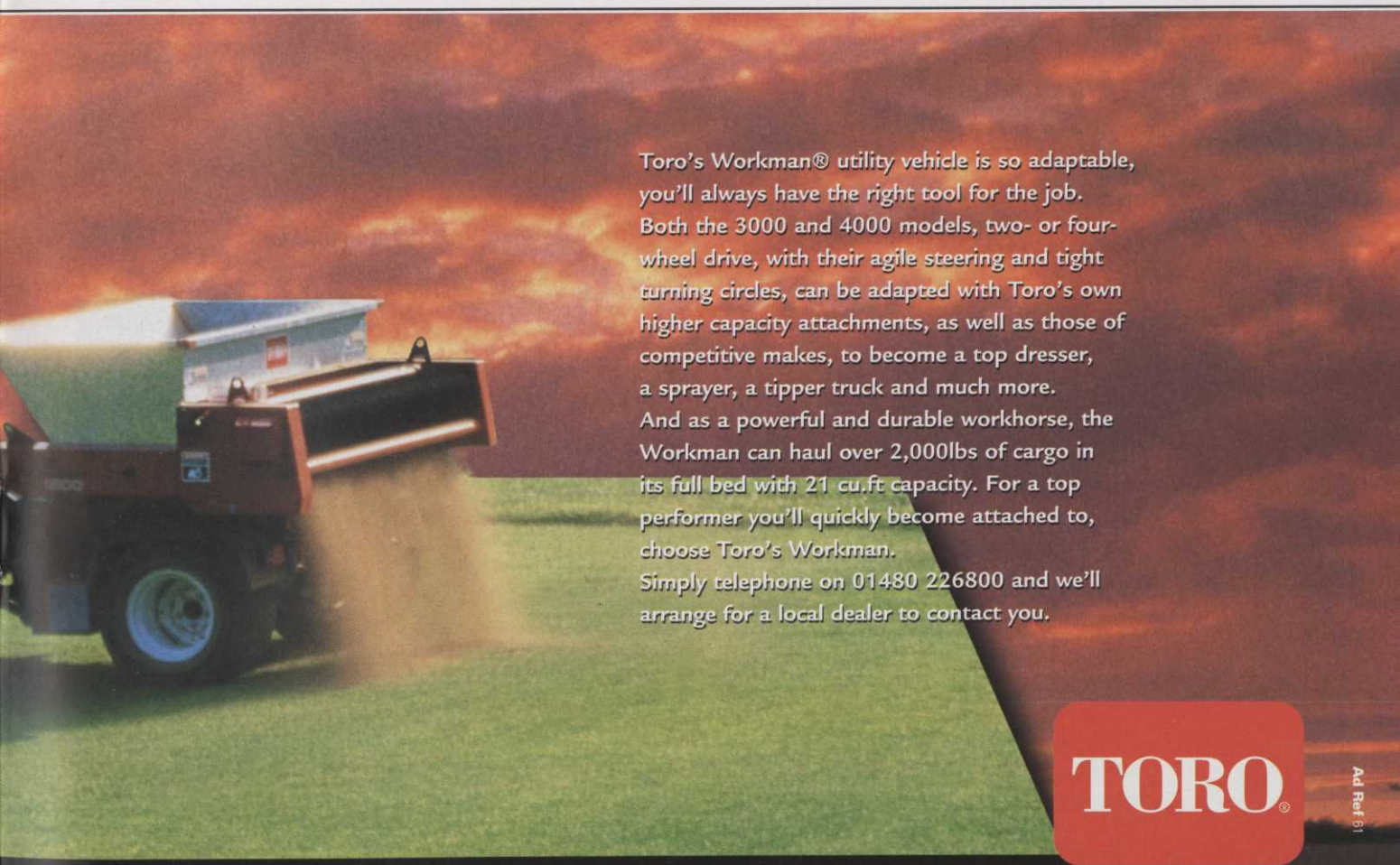
Ross Wilson



**Westurf - April 12 at Westpoint, Exeter**

All registration cards of those present on the day will be entered into a free draw. the prize will be a round of golf for four on the Nicklaus Course at St Mellion, two buggies and lunch. The total value of this prize is £200.

Again indoors at Westpoint in Exeter. Bigger and better than ever. Four Education seminars this year; Shaun Simones PhD "The benefits of Microbials in Turfgrass Management" David Shelton "Sportsturf Drainage - now affordable for the majority?" Nigel Church "Maintain to save"



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There will also be entertainment. See how long you can stay on the Rodeo Bull and try your hand on the golf simulator. There will be competitions for both of these with proceeds going to a cancer charity.

There will be first aid demonstrations and of course all the leading suppliers and manufacturers will be represented. This is the only show in the South West where you can see and compare all the latest machinery, technology and amenity products.

Paula Humphries

### Devon and Cornwall

More than 70 members attended the Section's Avoncrop-sponsored meeting held at Trevose GC on Thursday, February 24. With heavy rain forecast for the day we arrived at Trevose Golf Club to a very pleasant morning which was a relief to the fifty members competing for the Avoncrop Trophy and a place at this year's Scotts/Charterhouse National final.

Martin Townsend of Scotts was in attendance and kindly donated three bottles of port, two for our golfing members and one for our non-golfing members.

It was also nice to see 15 green-keeping members on the guided course walk. Our guide was Course Manager Trevor Bennett, as always when you are in Trevor's company the banter was excellent.

After a superb lunch John Palfrey representing the day's sponsors, Avoncrop, presented the Avoncrop Trophy and prizes on behalf of Avoncrop Amenity:- 1. M. Tucker, Saunton, +6; 2. T. Ramsden, Budock Vean, +5; 3. K. Yeoman, Dartmouth, +3. National Championship Qualifiers:- T. Ramsden, Budock Vean, and M. Tucker, Saunton.

Our afternoon educational talk was presented by solicitor, Julian Parry, on Employment Law which completed an excellent day, the Section would like to thank Trevose and all their staff who made our day so special, with a special mention to Trevor Bennett and his staff who had the course in excellent condition.

A big thanks to Avoncrop for sponsoring the day, also to John Palfrey and Martin Townsend, our starters.

Your attendance is required at this year's Westurf at Westpoint, Exeter on April 12, you will be able to view all the latest machinery and products available, there will be an excellent seminar programme and also there is a large demonstration area which is likely to be BIGGA than any company day!

Richard Whyman

### South Wales

On February 9 our evening lecture at Pencoed College was changed from guest speaker Peter Johnson to Jack Wheeler and Dave Nichols, part of the H20 Group Watermatation 2000. Jack gave us an insight into the types of sprinklers, use and their positioning. Also, which was most interesting, the different types of pipes, sizes and the flow of water through them. For what was a short notice, on behalf of the Section I would like to thank Jack and Dave for their informative but very interesting evening which was yet again well attended, keep it up!

I'll bring you up to date with the Annual Quiz on the fifth of this month with the IOG, also our lecture on March 8 and this month's WESTURF at Westpoint next month.

A date for your diary - May 3 our golf tournaments begin at Southerndown GC so when you receive your flyer fill it in and be set to win.

Last but not least, congratulations to Ian Dixon, who works at Royal Porthcawl GC, and his wife, Jennifer, on the birth of their second child and to Lance Evans, also from the Royal Porthcawl and fiancée Liz on the birth of their first child - who knows they might have green fingers too!

Richard Hatcher

### South West

The Winter Tournament sponsored by Lawson Products, was held on February 23 at Painswick GC.

At 4,780 yards, it is not the longest of courses, but it is by no means the easiest. The course is set high on the Cotswolds, with some stunning views across the surrounding countryside. It is also located on common land, which creates some unusual hazards and obstacles in itself.

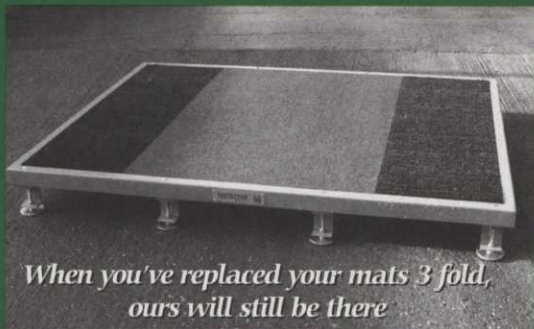
As we were about to send our drives off the second tee, a lady riding a horse pulled up alongside us, appeared lost, then cracked her whip and shot off straight up the middle of the fairway with huge turfs flying everywhere. She never even bothered to replace her divots! The third hole was also quite amusing with walkers and families rambling over the fairways with their unleashed dogs grabbing our balls and running off with them!

Despite all of this, some excellent scores were achieved on greens that were true and fast. Usually on common land the greenkeeper is restricted in their input of fertilisers, water, pesticides, etc to the absolute bare minimum; maybe this explains why the greens were so good.

Our new handicap officer, John Keenaghan, was also on hand at Painswick, and he was cutting people before they had even teed off. This I'm sure will result in more fairer and

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competitive tournaments. The actual results were as follows:

1. J. Keenaghan 40 points (best back 9); 2. M. Freeman 40 points (better back 9); 3. R. Darcy 40 points (better back 6).

Nearest the pin was won by M. Freeman. Best gross was J. Hamlet with 72. Winner of the "Hidden 9" was G. Ackerman and the best trade score was won by Mr Sinker Junior.

Once again our thanks go to George Sinker, and Lawson Products, who loyally sponsor this tournament year after year, and give particularly generous prizes.

Head Greenkeeper, Dean Roberts, and his staff are also congratulated for the set up of the course, the Secretary for allowing us courtesy of the course, and also the clubhouse catering staff for the meal afterwards (although I'm still wondering what ever happened to the pudding!).

The next event is just a couple of weeks away, and this is the Spring Tournament at Clevedon Golf Club on 18 April, so make sure you enter that one.

I've arranged a number of training courses that you may be interested in, which include the following: A Foundation Spraying Module on Thursday 11 May with two spaces left. A PA6 Knapsack Spraying course on June 8, which also has two spaces left. A one day First Aid course at The Southern Ambulance College,

Chippenham, on Wednesday, October 11. My telephone number is 01249 78332.

I am still receiving different views on how we can increase numbers attending Section events, and these will be passed on to the Committee. As I stated in last month's article, I am stepping down from this position at the next AGM in November, so please contact me if you would be interested in taking over. This position will look excellent on your CV and will seriously enhance your career (well that's what my predecessor told me!).

Paul Cunningham



This time last year a blocked drain on the course flooded most of the first fairway and such was the depth of water we needed a small boat to unblock the drain and as I sit writing these notes, the rain for the third day this week thunders on the shed roof - better get those oars polished!

Well, as I'm sure most of you are aware, two have become one. No, I'm not referring to a Spice Girl record, but the very successful merging of the North and South-East

Sections of BIGGA. An EGM was held at Greenmount on February 16, on a dreary winter's night and it was amazing to see so many people turn out and show a good interest.

The amalgamation got a definite yes vote and it was generally felt that this will strengthen and entice more people to join the Northern Ireland Region of BIGGA. This swells the numbers to over 80. This year's committee is aiming to double this figure, so if you're not a member please join and see the benefits for yourself. Education was high on the list with a series of golf events thrown in for get together and socialising. Hopefully a full agenda will have landed on your doormat before these notes reach you, giving you full details on what's planned.

The new committee remains somewhat unchanged from the old South-East section, but the line up is as follows: Chairman - Graham Wylie, Vice Chairman - Jonathan McCabe, Secretary - Ken Henderson, Handicap Secretary - Eamon Crawford.

I retained my position and gained a helpful assistant in the shape of Charles Edgar, from Castlerock GC. Hopefully between the two of us we can cover most of the province and keep you up to date as to what's happening.

Stakis Park GC has received another huge boost by the notification that a new centre of excellence is to be built. This will comprise of indoor practice facilities ie; chipping greens, putting greens and driving range and also outside three new greens will be built - all sown out with different cultivars. The centre will be home also to the GUI who will set up office there. This is a great lift for golf in the province backed by investment from the Sports Council and we have no doubt it will pay off.

Congratulations to Darren Clarke on winning the World Match play on February 28 - a stunning victory from home grown talent. Darren's father Godfrey, Head Greenkeeper at Baly Castle Golf Club, I'm sure couldn't be more proud. This is an excellent achievement, won by an extremely great ambassador for the sport.

Iain Harrison.



**Overleaf, Derek Farrington's review of The Gentleman's Evening at Waltam Heath**

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**South East**  
Derek Farrington  
Tel: 01903 260956

Firstly let me apologise to all those greenkeepers who sent off applications for the Annual Gentlemen's Evening and were unable to be on the start list as the event was a very early sell-out.

Invitations were sent out on 1 February 1 and by the 8th all available places had gone. Walton Heath do in fact ask us to keep numbers to 100. Don't tell them but we actually teed off with 108!

Talking of which, the intervals between each four-ball was reduced from eight minutes to seven and our Starters, Dennis Smith, of Rigby Taylor, and Allan Stow, of Vitax, did a great job getting everyone off on time.

The weather was marvellous, warm and dry with no wind to speak of and really should have prevented the five and a bit hour rounds that the back of the field had to contend with, but it did lead to some very good scoring.

Good scores for Walton Heath that is!

**Below: Dave Wall, of Rigby Taylor, and Allan Stow, of Vitax, have been linked to this event for over 16 years. As they announced their retirements, both were presented with a memento of the day.**



What a magnificent golf course and in such superb condition that Clive Osgood and his team really did deserve all the praise that was heaped on them at the end of the day.

I'm sure that I say it every year, but the reception that we get from Walton Heath is incredible, nothing is too much trouble, be it on the golf course or in the Club House.

The evening meal was superb and served with very generous portions of wine!

We were joined by the Captain of Walton Heath, Reg Hutchinson and Chairman of Green, John Jessop, together with lots of trade members who were unable to play as spaces were limited, but whose generosity helped provide such wonderful prizes. Sponsors of this event are listed below.

Robert Ryder, the professional from Ashburnham Golf Club in South Wales, replied to the Toast to Guests and proceeded to entertain all present with golfing stories and some very good impressions of well known personalities.

The problem now will be to find after dinner speakers as good as Robert! We could of course use Reg Hutchinson after his year as



**Above: Reg Hutchinson, (right) Captain at Waltham Heath GC presents Mark Harvey of Epsom GC with the Shulockie Putter**

Captain is over because his reply was very entertaining.

Next followed a presentation by the Chairman of the South East Region, Raymond Day, to two stalwarts of this event. Dave Wall, Rigby Taylor, has been measuring short holes at this event for 16 years and Allan Stow, Vitax, starting the event for just as long.

Both are retiring and each received a memento of the occasion presented to them with grateful thanks for services rendered.

With dinner and speeches over it was time for Reg to present the prizes, the winners being: 0 - 9 Handicap and the Shulockie Putter, Mark Harvey, Epsom GC. 10 - 18, Ray Clark, Channels GC. 19 - 28, Malcolm Smith, Regiment Way, Guests and Trade, Tom Henner, The Drift GC. Greenkeeper playing with Club Official, Carl Crocher

and John Cook, Orsett GC. Sisis Putting, Mick Burton, Rigby Taylor Short Holes, Mike Gould, Copthorne GC, Ian Willett, Thorpeness GC, George Brown, Deansgate Ridge. I would add that the Toro Workman 2100 put up by John Shaw as a prize for a hole in one at the 11th was unclaimed!

As promised, here is a list of our sponsors for the day: Aventus Environmental Science, CMW Equipment Ltd. E & S Sports Grounds Ltd. GEM Professional Ltd. The Greenkeeping Supply Co. The Scotts Co Ltd. Sheerwater Leisure Ltd. Sisis Equipment Ltd. Uap Ltd. Avoncrop Amenity Products. Ernest Doe and Sons Ltd. Farmura Ltd. Rigby Taylor Ltd. Rolawn Ltd. John Shaw (Machinery) Ltd. Sheriff Crop Care. Tacit. Vitax Ltd.

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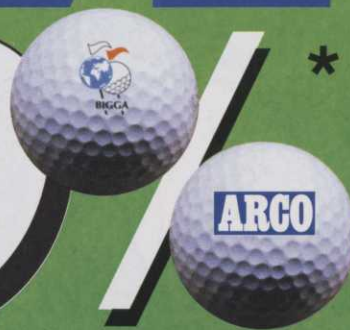
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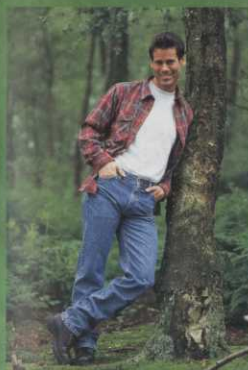
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**Arne van Amerongen describes his work on a course where nose bleeds are an occupational hazard...**

# Once in a lifetime

The opportunity to build a golf course at an altitude of 1900 metres (well over 6000 feet) comes but once in most people's lifetime so naturally I was very pleased to be asked to supervise the extension of the golf course at Arosa, a small skiing resort not far from Davos, high up in the eastern Alps in Switzerland.

The original nine holes were designed as long ago as 1941 by Donald Harradine, an English golf professional who, pre-war, became Golf Course architect in Switzerland. However, the golf course was not built then but opened in 1946. Fifty three years later Donald Harradine's son, Golf Course Architect Peter Harradine, re-designed a complete new layout to extend the Golf Course to 18 holes.

Co-incidentally, Jim Arthur, advised on maintenance at Arosa during his regular visits to many of Donald Harradine's courses in the late 1940's.

It goes without saying that this site produced many unusual problems – not least being the rarified atmosphere at this altitude. This was a particular problem to me, as it was not possible to use vehicles on this mountainous terrain if damage was to be avoided, and it took me some three weeks to become acclimatised.

Walking as opposed to riding has, of course, one major advantage familiar to all greenkeepers, namely that you see far more on your feet than on wheels, and so can avert problems by timely detection.

A major problem in these mountains is, naturally, the weather. Even in summer (June until September) you can expect at least one day of snow in every month. However, during this construction, rain, rather than snow, was our major problem. We had suffered 237 mm in August and 270 mm in September! We had only four to five months for construction so such heavy rain was a considerable hindrance and, over and above this, snow started in earnest in the first week of October.

Fortunately, we were blessed by having more than 40 cm depth of good top-soil over most of the site and there were no big boulders to move. We "used the land we were given," retain-



Snow stopped construction in October, last year

ing the natural contours as much as possible, with virtually the only earth-moving on green and tee sites.

Ponds were also constructed, both for ecological reasons and attractiveness and, indeed, throughout the whole construction we had to be extremely conscious of conservation restraints.

For earth movement we used smaller machines, such as the Cat 215 and the Akkermann II 14, but one machine which we found to be especially useful on such steep slopes was the Mezi Muck. This was nicknamed the spider because it works on four independently operated legs, rather than tracks, giving it great stability.

In addition to conservation, restraints we had to cope with cows which graze the Golf Course in Summer. Greens and tees have to be protected by electric fencing when the Golf Course is in play, but luckily during construction the cows were moved elsewhere!

Greens, tees, fairways and surrounds were seeded with a higher percentage of highland bent (*agrostis castellana*), which is much tougher than the so-called creeping bents which were judged not to be satisfac-

tory under these testing conditions. Construction was to full perched water table standards, with particular attention to intercept drains on the perimeter of greens to intercept both surface flow from surrounding steep slopes and also sub-surface lateral drainage, as well as a conventional herringbone system.

This attractive course, set in spectacular Alpine scenery, with a

wonderful flora and wild life, may have a very short season, as well as high rainfall and snow, but it dries remarkably quickly and one can play (and work!) only three days after the snow thaws.

My view is that the future trend of architectural work will be in renovation, re-modelling and extending existing golf courses rather than in building new ones.



The new 18th green showing herring-bone and perimeter drain lines