

**Empowering leaders know the value of delegation. It not only benefits the manager by freeing up time so that he or she can lead more effectively, but also benefits the employee by developing them and helping them to feel valued. Brin Bendon explains the art of delegation...**

# Over to you

If I delegate responsibility for work to you, it means that I trust you to do a good job. If I never let go and delegate responsibility to you, it sends out a very negative message and you feel that I don't trust you enough. In turn you feel undervalued and distrustful of me.

So why do managers procrastinate over delegation? Managers are reluctant to delegate for many reasons:

- Fear of letting go and losing control
- Not being organised
- Failure to trust people
- Feeling indispensable
- Intolerant of differences
- Unwilling to let others take over the managers favourite tasks
- Afraid that others might perform tasks better than themselves

Such managers will often make excuses such as 'I'm the only one who can do this job.' 'In the time that I would need to tell someone what to do, I could have done it myself.' 'I'll only end up having to spend time doing it all over again.' 'Nothing that I do can be delegated.'

Your unwillingness to delegate any task that is under your control means that others never get a chance to prove they can do it. It may well be that you are the best person to do the job, but doing it prevents you from doing more. The belief that it is quicker to do the job yourself than to teach others is a view that guarantees that you end up doing it all yourself.

It does take time to coach people, but this is a far better use of your

time than continually getting involved in activities which detract from your efficiency. Many of the reasons given for not delegating have to do with the perceived lack of time, yet, it is a known fact that if time is considered to be the problem, it is usually the will to delegate that is really lacking.

There are also those who think they are really good at delegating because they give so many tasks away. But they may not have grasped that there is a considerable difference between delegation and abdication. If you give too much away, it means that:

1) People may have responsibility, but not authority, so they have little influence in getting things done should others prove unco-operative,

2) People can be asked to carry out tasks which are outside their skills and abilities, so they are unlikely to be able to complete them satisfactorily, and

3) People may not understand how their given task fits into the overall picture, so they are unable to produce their best work for the circumstance. The consequence is, that when people do not achieve results, they may become unresponsive and unwilling to take on anything extra.

So, despite your attempts to delegate, you end up having to do it all yourself. Even if people do achieve results, they can end up feeling disillusioned because they are doing all the donkey work while you appear to be taking any credit that is going. Giving too much away, is, in fact, just

as bad as not giving away anything at all.

There are many good reasons for delegating including making better use of your time, developing the skills of others and being able to get on with other important tasks.

To be effective however, delegation needs clear lines of accountability, clear responsibilities with the authority and adequate resources for people to do the task. It is unfair of managers to make people responsible without giving them the authority or the resources they need. It is also unfair to delegate tasks to people who have not been trained in the execution of such tasks. Hence we only fully delegate responsibilities to people who have been trained and are competent to perform the tasks.

The key to effective delegating is to be able to answer three basic questions:

- What job can I give away?
- What does the job involve?
- What do I need to do to ensure that people know what they are doing?

## **Deciding which tasks to delegate**

It is a mistake to think that you can delegate any task that takes your fancy, possibly because you do not feel like doing it. Or, because you have to keep someone busy. Deciding what to delegate requires you to consider everything you do and to make a list of the tasks you do under four headings:

## Circle of Delegation

Adapted from Eugene J Bengo



■ **Tasks you must delegate.** These are jobs you should not be doing at all. Very often they are jobs you have always done, or jobs which you particularly enjoy and are reluctant to give away to anybody else. Delegating these tasks enables you to make better use of your time while minimising the risk involved in handing them over to others.

■ **Tasks you should delegate.** These are routine jobs which you may never have considered delegating but which other people are quite capable of carrying out. Not only that, they could also find them both interesting and challenging to take on.

■ **Tasks you can delegate.** These are jobs which others could be doing if they were fully capable of doing so. Delegating these tasks provides them with the opportunity to develop their skills, so long as you ensure that the necessary coaching or training is forthcoming to enable them to require the requisite skills.

■ **Tasks you must retain.** These are the jobs which are your core responsibilities, such as planning ahead for future actions, selecting someone new, monitoring people's performance and effort, supporting, evaluating and rewarding people. This should prompt you to realise that you may still be carrying out some tasks which you really should have delegated years ago. However, this does not mean that you should delegate the dreary tasks while keeping all the attractive ones for yourself. Nor should you delegate work which you find difficult. If you have problems, it is unlikely that other people will do any better than you unless they are specialists.

Delegation is not the same as 'giving out work'. Giving out work is simply allocating jobs which already form part of the duties of subordinates. Delegation consists of charging the subordinate with the authority to take decisions within defined areas of responsibility. It is an effective use of peoples' time, talent and resources. We need to differentiate between responsibility, authority and accountability.

**Responsibility** in this context means the work delegated. The duties of the job itself.

For example, a Deputy could be given the responsibility to maintain the stock of chemicals.

**Authority** means charging the subordinate with the right to take decisions and the action to enable the responsibility to be successfully discharged.

For example, a Deputy could be charged with the authority of placing orders to replenish stationery.

**Accountability** means 'carrying the can' for the success or failure of the task. Leaders cannot shrug off their accountability by delegating. They are ultimately held to account.

For example, the Head Greenkeeper retains the accountability for controlling the course budget and should the Deputy over-order the stock, the manager still carries the can.

The task, duty and authority can be delegated; accountability cannot. You continue to 'carry the can'. So, before delegating any of the tasks you have selected as suitable, you need to evaluate how much of a risk you are taking when you pass on a job for which you are ultimately answerable. In practical terms, this means assessing.

1) How much risk - what are the consequences of the job being mis-managed and what are the chances of that happening?

2) How much responsibility - what obligations which you are relied upon to care about are you handing over?

3) How much authority - what extent of your command and control will you be giving up?

### Deciding who can do it

Once you have decided which tasks can, and should, be done by others, you have to decide who could do them. Ideal delegation is that which assigns a task to a person who is competent to do it, and who will find it stimulating and challenging. To get as near as possible to this ideal, you should look at the task you have decided to delegate and match it against the skills of the people who might best execute it. Not everybody is at the same stage of development in their knowledge and skills.

Considering capabilities. When deciding who might do a particular task, you should start by consulting your list of skills, and then consider the capabilities of the people available. You are likely to find that people tend to fall into three categories when you come to determine their abilities.

1) **Star performers** - these are your very experienced people. It is essential that they are left alone once the task has been handed over, unless help is requested.

2) **Average performers** - these are fairly experienced people, but need support from time to time. It is important to check progress intermittently and monitor unobtrusively while giving encouragement.

3) **Incompetent performers** - these people need to learn how to do the task, so you may not have considered them at all. But, a lack of experience should not be confused with a lack of ability. They ought to be told how to carry out the task and given feedback if they are to gain confidence and learn quickly.

Practice these simple techniques and you will find that not only will you become more effective as a manager, but your people will become more effective, since effective delegation promotes skill development and motivation.



Brin Bendon is the Managing Director of Vector Training Ltd., an approved training provider for BIGGA and many other corporate and public sector clients. Brin is well

known to many Greenkeepers in his role as one of the lead tutors on the BIGGA's Management Development Programmes. Vector Training can be contacted via telephone on 01904 642464 or by email: enquiries@vector-training.demon.co.uk.



# WEED FREE<sup>®</sup>

- Advice • Application • Supply • Training

DRIFT FREE Contract Spraying  
utilising our purpose built machine

## The SPRAYING MANTIS

Freephone: 0800 068 08 78

Fax: 07000 481022

Car: 0850 300104

Unit 14, Roundshead Drive, Warfield, Berkshire RG42 3RZ

WEED FREE is a Registered Trade Mark

# 20+ YEARS EXPERIENCE



## YOURS FOR THE ASKING...



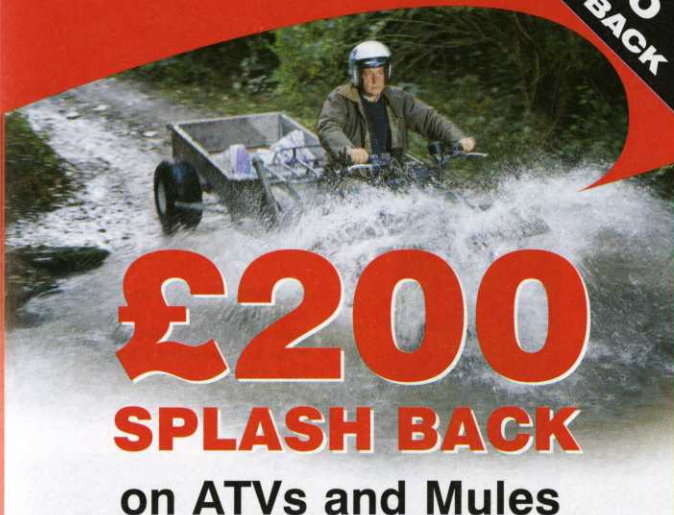
Irrigation systems, lakes and reservoirs, plus specialist contracting services for golf and golf courses



Unit 18, Downton Industrial Estate, Batten Road, Downton, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP5 3HU  
TEL: 01725 513880 FAX: 01725 513003

**Kawasaki**

**£200 CASH BACK**



**£200**

**SPLASH BACK**

**on ATVs and Mules**

Collect £200 'cash back' when you purchase any new ATV or Mule\*\* from Kawasaki's impressive range – some of the finest working machines on the market.

- Offer available throughout the UK and Republic of Ireland
- £200 cash back promotion runs to 31 July 2000
- Subject to model stock availability

\*Refundable to the owner \*\*Excluding Mule 2510 Diesel

**CALL FREE ON 0800 316 4448 NOW**

or contact your local dealer for further details

(Outside the UK, call +44 1666 511356)

# Lay down some Ground RULES



## Rotary Hoe, Stone Burier & Reseeder Combination

This unique machine is suitable for ground preparation in many different circumstances, from Agricultural to Amenity and Local Authority situations



Optional grass seed hopper attachment which distributes seed into the loose soil layer before being firmed with the rear packing roller



Tel: 01524 850501 Fax: 01524 850502

Major Equipment Ltd, Major Industrial Estate, Walkers, Whitfeton Road, Heysham, Lancs LA3 3UJ E-mail: major@getittd@msn.com

# TALKING

Six of the country's top men give their views on the effects of disease on their course and how they manage the problem

## Disease

Compiled by Malcolm Huntington MBE



Name: Paul Murphy  
Course: Downfield GC, Dundee  
Region: Scotland  
Course Type: Parkland  
Staff: Course Manager, plus six, plus mechanic



Name: Steve Oultram  
Course: Wilmslow GC  
Region: Northern  
Course Type: Parkland  
Staff: Course Manager, plus five



Name: Gerald Bruce  
Course: Berkhamstead, Herts  
Region: Midland  
Course Type: Heathland  
Staff: Head Greenkeeper, plus five



Name: David Everitt  
Course: Bognor Regis, Dorset  
Region: South West and South Wales  
Course Type: Mixture of downland, parkland and heathland  
Staff: Head Greenkeeper, plus four



Name: Ian Willett  
Course: Thorpeness GC, Suffolk  
Region: South East  
Course Type: Maritime heathland  
Staff: Course Manager, plus four



Name: Terry Crawford  
Course: Clandeboye GC, Bangor, Co Down  
Region: Northern Ireland  
Course Type: Parkland/Heathland  
Staff: Course Manager, plus 12, plus mechanic (36 holes)

# 1

1. Which diseases affect your course to the greatest degree?

1. Fusarium mainly with a touch of anthracnose now and again.

1. Fusarium, but it has become less of a problem in the last two or three years by adopting a policy of minimal watering, aeration, vertidrainage and micro-tining.

1. Fusarium and some anthracnose, but I don't spray for anthracnose.

1. Fusarium. We get it late autumn and early winter and can almost guarantee it as we have moisture caused by heavy mists in September, October and November.

1. Fusarium and anthracnose. I didn't use any fungicide for the anthracnose and put some turf tonic on which which took it away.

1. Fusarium mainly with some anthracnose.

# HEADS

## 2

2. Have you noticed any changes in the type of diseases which has affected you in the recent past?

2. Less of a problem over the years. Snow and the fact that we have a lot of trees result in problems, but through good cultural practices we have fewer problems than before.

2. Not really. It's been Fusarium most of the time with the odd Take-All Patch affecting us.

2. I haven't noticed any changes in the time I have been here. Fusarium is the major problem and remains so.

2. No, I can't say I have. Fusarium is the common factor.

2. No. It's been Fusarium in the three years I have been here. I use one spray per season and that does the trick. We are very exposed with a North East wind in winter which cuts you in half, so that helps!

2. Diseases are more frequent although there are more fungicides available than there have ever been. Climatic changes with warmer weather and moist humid conditions are probably the reasons.

## 3

3. What has been the most surprising disease to hit your course in the recent past?

3. We call it St Mark's Fly, but maybe there is another name for it. The grub eats the roots of the grass and makes greens patchy.

3. Take-All Patch, which we have only experienced in the last three or four years.

3. Leaf blight, aschochyta but these are not on-going problems.

3. A few instances of Take-All Patch on newly constructed greens and anthracnose on the older established greens but these have never been real problems.

3. Not really. There's been the odd patch of disease but we have been largely disease free.

3. Anthracnose which is caused by compaction and more golf. We treat this with more aeration.

## 4

4. What policies do you carry out to alleviate or reduce disease?

4. Over the last five years we have adopted a very heavy vertidrainage programme of three times a year. Minimum fertiliser, minimum water, greens are treated separately as certain greens have different conditions. I don't top dress at the end of the year because it encourages disease. We put on potash at the back end.

4. Good regular top dressing, keep moisture away from the surface and in winter keep away from fungicides. I rely on sulphate of iron.

4. Good cultural practice, aeration, removal of thatch, minimum water, preventative spray in September or early October, spray through the winter period. I am reluctant to spray in spring or summer.

4. Summer solid tining and winter slit tining. Aeration. Cultural mechanical practices before applying fungicides. Switch daily if not cutting greens. Raise height of cut from five to seven mil in autumn. Sulphate of iron and liquid potassium helps to minimise problems.

4. Aeration, hollow tining, vertidrainage and iron application. I also use Vitax turf tonic, Rimidin and Rovril and I rotate the remedies all the time.

4. A lot of aeration and I also believe strongly in the quality of cut. We have our machines set up every day and check the height of cut. I use a preventative fungicide before top dressing.

## 5

5. If you had the ability to wipe out a single disease from existence which would it be and why?

5. Fusarium. It hits you quickly overnight and you go from being perfect to having problems. It's always a worry. We now clear greens of snow. We used 200 litres of chemicals every month when I was first here but not it's only 70 litres and we hollow core to get rid of thatch.

5. Take-All Patch because we are defenceless against it. We have cures for the other diseases. I believe some research is being carried out in America, but I haven't heard of any progress over here.

5. Fusarium is the one disease which affects all our courses and gives the most problems so I would gladly see the back of that forever.

5. Fusarium, which is the most common disease. It spoils fine turf and is difficult to treat.

5. Fusarium which seems to affect most courses all over the country.

5. Fusarium, which is so unsightly. If you get it late in the season it is often difficult to get a good covering of grass in the scarred areas.



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

**West Section**

Welcome once again to another round up of Section news.

Firstly a somewhat belated report on the Greenkeeper Convenors' match played at Cowglen GC in March.

A reasonable turnout on the day and for all concerned a rather fine spring-like day.

Congratulations to the Helensburgh team, we look forward to playing there in the spring of 2001.

Thanks go to the sponsors Aitkens and SGM and also to Derek Duthie and John Yeats for their organisation on the day. Finally thanks to Scott Ballantyne and his staff for preparing the course and having it in, I must say, fine shape, considering the rain that had fallen prior to this event.

Thanks also go to the Captain and Council of Cowglen GC for use of their Club and facilities.

My next report is of the spring outing played at Ranfurly Castle GC.

Although unable to attend in person, I have been reliably informed that the course was looking well and played well.

The results are as follows: Scratch prize - G.Bruen 74

First Class-1. I. Smith, Drumpeiler, 74-5(69); 2. G. Kerr, Gleddoch, 78-8(70); 3. R.McCleish, Vale of Leven, 76-5(71) BIH

Second Class-1. A. Miller, Wishaw, 86-13(73) BIH; 2. N. McKinlay, Lochgoilhead, 88-15(73) BIH; 3. T. Hindmarsh, Cathcart Castle, 85-12(73)

Third Class-1. D. Mowatt, Glasgow, 96-20(76); 2. E. McGhee, Blairbeth, 102-25(77); 3. T. Nisbett, Glasgow, 113-25(88)

Trade: Derek Duthie, 77-5(72) BIH

Visitors: Kenny Hunter, 84-11(73)

Longest drive: P. Boyd

Nearest the pin: R.Love-Kilmaccolm 110cm.

Team prize-Game 11 C. Goodall, R. McLeish and R. McFarlane. Total 220.

Best gross: G. Bruen. Best nett: J. Brown both qualifying for places in the National Championship.

Thanks to all the greenkeeping team, the steward and finally the Captain and members of Ranfurly Castle for use of their facilities.

Congratulations go to Kenny Henderson of East Kilbride for winning the first draw of the 100 club with ticket No. 25.

Any news or information please contact me on Mobile: 07050 173080, Home: 0141-776-1532, Email: rryug@lineone.net

Gavin Jarvis

**Central**

Joining the Section this month are Ali MacFadgen and Russell Crighton, both from Crieff Hydro Golf Course, and rejoining is Richard Hastings from Hollandbush Golf Club. Welcome to the Section lads! That's 50 members who have joined the section in the first half of this year, so hopefully, if we can keep up the numbers, we can reach the 300 mark this year.

Is anyone interested in a weekend on Islay at the Machrie Hotel and Golf Links? Head Greenkeeper, Simon Freeman, has been in touch and if we can get enough members interested, Simon can arrange accommodation at very competitive rates with as much free golf as you like. Can't be bad can it? This is another bonus of being a member of BIGGA. If anyone is interested in a weekend later in the year, just get in touch with me or fill in one of the forms you will soon be receiving.

It is intended to organise a visit to the trial grounds at Loch Lomond Golf Club later in the year and once again, if you wish to participate in this visit, please return your confirmation slip as soon as possible, as numbers may be limited.

The winning number in this month's bonus draw in 'Club 2000' is 00538 and the lucky holder of this ticket is Alex Robertson from Grangemouth. Well done Alex! A cheque for £100 is on its way to you.

Kenny Duncan has now been confirmed as Head Greenkeeper at Dunfermline Golf Club, Crossford, in Fife, and our congratulations go to him wishing him every success in the future.

Nominees for the annual Patron's Award from the Section will be decided on by the number of events each member attends, either at Section, Region or National level. This will include lectures, conferences, demonstrations, exhibitions and golf events, so if you attend any of these events, please let me know in order that a record can be kept, that is if you wish to be nominated for the Patron's Award, which is a very worthwhile expenses paid trip to the BTME at Harrogate in January.

John Crawford

**North**

The spring Section outing at Buckpool started off in pouring rain, but the sun came out mid morning and it turned out a fine day. Martyn Cameron and his staff had the course in excellent condition for the 80 players that ventured out and this was reflected in the scoring.

Our representatives at the BIGGA Scotts Charterhouse National Tournament in September will be Mike Wilson, from Forres GC, who shot a fine even par 70 and R. Pendle-

bury, from Peterculter, who had a superb nett 63 off his 10 handicap. We wish them every success at St Annes and Fairhaven later in the year. Prize winners were as follows. Scratch, M. Wilson 70, runner up, B. Wood, 71. Handicap, all nett scores, Class one 1. C. Pearson 67; 2. G. Lornie 68; 3. S. Herd 70 bih. Class two 1. R. Pendlebury 63, 2. S. McBain 68, Committee trophy winner also; 3. N. Ballingall 72 bih. Class three 1. A. Leslie 71; 2. H. Maclatchie 72; 3. C. Cummings 73 bih. Apprentice Trophy 1. I. Cowper 66; 2. S. Pettigrew 75. Veteran Trophy 1. R. Donald 74; 2. A. Grant 75. Trade P. Allan 74. Guest E. Simpson 72. Nearest the pin R. Pendlebury, longest drives Class one C. Pearson. Class two R. Hardie. Class three P. Watson. BIGGA blazer card draw winner N. Mackay, who incidentally is one of our newest members and this was his first outing.

The day passed off very smoothly with around 85 members, trade and guests present and thanks must go to the Section Committee for their hard work and organisation. Once again thanks to Martyn and the greenstaff and all at the club for a great day. The four lucky winners in 200 Club were, January £30 number 36 G. Thorn Aberdeen, February £30 number 123, J. Geddes and H. Maclatchie, March £30 Machrihanish, but soon to be Dumbarton, April £100 R. Patterson, Aberdeen. Finally I would just like to thank Elliott Small, BIGGA Chairman and John Scott, Scottish Chairman for attending the outing and being on hand to talk to members.

Assessors wondering what happened to the Moderation meeting in May might like to know that, after discussion, with the GTC, we have decided to hold it in the winter time when things are quieter on the course and it should be easier to attend, details to follow.

Just the one new member to welcome to the Section this month and that is Kevin Smith from Kirriemuir.

Finally, the Lady member who sued Section Secretary Dougal Duguid after she was injured when her golf ball allegedly hit a stone in the rough and struck her, has lost her case. Hopefully this sort of thing will not happen again, more details elsewhere in this magazine.

Iain Macleod

**East Section**

Well, I'm back. After two months away, here we are with some Section news. The reason there has been no reports for the last couple of months is due to my son being in Birmingham having a liver transplant as you will all probably know now, after all the reports in newspapers etc.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their kind wishes and thoughts for myself and my family through a very hard and testing couple of months. I

would like to thank everyone personally, but it would take up most of this magazine. I would like to say thanks to my PR team in the East Section, notably Steve Dixon, Craig Pennyquick and Stuart Greenwood who kept everyone up to date and informed of the situation. Lastly, I would like to thank all members of the trade who have been asking and thinking of us over the last few months and finally my club West Linton Golf Club who allowed me as much time off as I needed, which, considering I have only been here a few months, has been overwhelming. So a big thank you to the Captain, John Mackie, Vice Captain, Secretary, Greens Chairman Scott Mackay and the rest of the committee and all the members of the Club whose thoughts and kind words helped us all through this time. Thanks to everyone it has been quite exceptional.

The summer event took place on 26 April with the kind permission of the Captain and Directors of North Berwick West Golf Club. Stuart Greenwood and his staff had the course in immaculate condition, so all credit to them. It was just a pity the weather couldn't have been as good. I missed the day due to my son undergoing surgery in Birmingham, but I have been totally informed that the rain and wind had to be the worst ever encountered for an East Section outing. With water everywhere, gale force winds and totally black rain laden skies only a few brave souls went out - some only survived a few holes and very few played the full 18 holes. Most people stayed in the bar all day and got very wet inside but not outside. So, well done to the bar and catering staff who looked after the lads superbly on a terrible day. So few people completed their rounds or went out that we could not give all the prizes away in the 3rd class, but thankfully we got some prize winners. The results were as follows:

Scratch, P Hares. 1st Class winner, P. Hares, 2. I. Bell, 3. S. Greenwood. 2nd Class Winner, C. Pennyquick, 2. I. Cowan, 3. R. Mullen. 3rd Class Winners, C. Moffatt, Best nett of the day, C. Pennyquick, Veteran, J. Robertson, Trade, I. Thompson. New Member, I. Watson. Guest, D. Mcraw. High-est Score, C. Moffatt.

The qualifiers for the National Tournament in September are: Scratch, I. Bell, Glencorse GC. Handicap, R. Mullen, Swanston GC.

The Section's best wishes go with them to St Annes Old Links and Fairhaven on 25 and 26 September. Remember the silverware lads, all the best to you both.

Lastly, thanks to the trade for their support and prizes they brought along on the day. Thanks to you.



The Section Committee had their day out on May 30 to Aberdour GC in Fife, to play for the Eddie Holt Memorial Trophy, singles, and Chairman v Vice Chairman's match, team event. A very fine day was had by all on a day of cloudless blue skies which, these days, is unusual. We would like to thank the Captain and Council for courtesy of the course, the Clubhouse staff for keeping us happy in the food and liquid refreshment department. Also the Head Greenkeeper and his greenstaff for the condition of the course which was superb and a pleasure to play. Well done. Finally, A M Russell of Toro for sponsoring our day and their continued support of the section. We hope Brian Goudie and Dougie Jefferys enjoyed the day with us. I had the pleasure of playing with Dougie. This is the second time I have played with him and this time he bettered his score by 20+ shots, so I think he should play with me more often. Well done Dougie, look out Tiger! The results for this were = The Eddie Holt Memorial Trophy, Craig Pennycook, Winterfield GC and if Craig keeps picking up trophies instead of cutting his handicap, we will have to cut off one of his hands. Probably still wouldn't make a difference!

The team prize was won by Vice Chairman Tom Murray's team.

Stuart Greenwood, Chairman, was hoping to win it for the third year in a row, so he could keep the trophy but it was not to be this year. So, well done to all the winners concerned. Roll on next year.

We also had a putting competition that night after our meal, but I am not going to report on it as it was a carve up, conspiracy, etc. etc.

Oatridge College opened their 9 hole golf course on Friday May 26. The course was officially opened by former Ryder Cup Captain, Bernard Gallacher. Well done to Oatridge College Head Greenkeeper, Andy Forrest, and his staff and everyone concerned with this new venture. All the best for the future.

Well, that's it until next month when I will have a report from the summer tournament at Melrose GC. Pictures from opening day at Oatridge Golf Course and any information that anyone from this Section or any other Section in Scotland, England, Ireland or Wales want to send me.

The usual address is Westwyn, West Linton Golf Club, West Linton, Peeblesshire, EG46 7HN. Phone No. Home 01968 661313, Work/Fax 01968 661721 or mobile 07901 846194. So come on, let me hear from somebody about anything, please, as it gets a bit lonely sometimes!

Thanks and all the best.

Chris Yeaman

PS. We had better not mention Rangers 4-0 win in the Scottish Cup Final as our Editor, Scott MacCallum is an Aberdeen supporter! Say no more.



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

### Northern

A short one this month, the results for President's Day will be in next month's magazine. In the mean-time don't forget to let us know about your availability for the Roses match away at Longridge GC. The deadline is the end of this month, and the team will be published in next month's magazine.

Our next event is Invitation Day at Cookridge Hall Golf & Country Club on Wednesday 6 September. Please note that Invitation Day is for inviting club officials (eg Captain, Greens Chairman etc) 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.

Cheques to be made payable to BIGGA Northern Section. Entries will be on a first come first in basis, so book early to avoid disappointment.

A challenge has been issued by Rigby Taylor to a 5-a-side football match. If you would like to play then give us a buzz.

Not a lot going on this month except I've moved from Oulton Park to Howley Hall G.C. as assistant greenkeeper, to join our Section Chairman Simon Heppenstall.

We welcome this month a new member:- John Dobson, Kirkby-moorside 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, so if anybody has any, then please let me know. My address is 67 Asquith Avenue, Morley, Leeds, LS27 9QS or telephone at home 0113 2383188 / mobile 07790 678572.

Andy Smith

### North Wales

After last month's tirade I went for a lie down, still didn't calm down though, I stick by my comments. It's beyond me how personal vendettas can come before a game of golf, sad!

Anyhow the only news item I have this month is that Darren Anderson has achieved NVQ level 4. Congratulations go to him, keeping the family tradition, as his father Brian is the ex-chairman of our section, now back in his homeland of Scotland. I bet he's chuffed too! My email address for any news is: d\_goodridge@talk21.com

Dave Goodridge

### North East

The spring competition was held at Bamburgh Castle on April 13. Our thanks to the committee for granting us courtesy of their fine course again. Sadly, it was a terrible day for playing golf with no let up in the rain and wind, but 24 people played. The section would like to thank the following companies for their dona-

tions. Turf Care, Whitemoss Amenities, Shorts of Whitburn, Greenlay, Sisis, Aitkens, Border Turf Supplies, Thorntree Landscapes, Carrs of Hexham, Rufford Top Dressing.

The best gross: S. Quince, Alnmouth GC, 74. Best Nett, B. Wilson, Stocksfield, 82-8=74. Best Ass. J. Hutton, Whickham, 81-4=77. A. Dalby, Warkworth, 85-7=78. G. Wright, Crook, 93-15=78. R. Black, Westhope, 88-8=80. R. Reid, Prudhoe, 87-7=80. S. Hagar, Crook, 86-6=80.

The qualifiers for the National Championships are Steve Quince and Barry Wilson.

The qualifiers for the Northern Region Finals: 9 and under S. Quince, B. Wilson, reserve J. Hutton, A Dalby. 10 to 18. G. Wright, I Johnson, reserve, S. Pope, K. Rutherford. 19 to 28. R. White, G. Proudlock, B. Hughes, C. Elmsie. G. Proudlock's handicap has been revised and is now 28.

### Sheffield

A good turn out for our President's Day Tournament played at Wheatley GC in very good weather, sunshine all day. Our thanks to all trade members who helped to sponsor the day and our main sponsor Tony Beaumont, of GEM Professional. The course was in amazing condition and presentation was of a high standard. Our thanks go to Head Greenkeeper, Paul Docherty, and his staff. Also thanks to Steward and Stewardess Jan and Howard Green for the meal and hospitality. The members at Wheatley are very lucky to have such wonderful facilities indeed. Thank you also to your committee for allowing us the courtesy of your course.

The results were: Qualifiers for the National Championship: Best Gross, A. Lomas, Best Nett, M. Crawshaw. Qualifiers for the Northern Region

Tournaments to be played at Fishwick Hall Preston 10 August. 0-9 A. Lomas, M. Knowles, Res, J. Darroch. 10 - 18 I. Lilley, N. Maltby, Res M. Lake. 19 - 28 M. Crawshaw, L. Robinson, Res. B. Kilcline.

New Members: S. Swindell & K. Riley, Phoenix GC; R. Wood, Hardleywood Golf Range; G. Crofts, Doncaster Townmoor; D. Rutledye, Rother Valley GC; T. White, Bondhay GC; R. Ardrorn, Handley Wood GC.

Next Golf Competition 10 July at Matlock GC. Tee off 1.30 pm.

R Ullathorne

### North West

How about the Volvo PGA at Wentworth? The golf was good and Monty showed how good he is at his job but Chris Kennedy and his staff were excellent. The weather certainly put the course and the staff to the ultimate test to get the tournament completed, and this they did. Well

done lads, you did a great job and proved how good our greenkeepers really are.

Dave Berry and his staff also deserve applauding for the way they had prepared Bury GC for our spring Tournament on May 3. The weather on the day was dry and fine, but the weather prior to the tournament had been wet and cold for weeks. Apart from this, the growth up there is always a month later than most courses in our Section, but the course was in great condition on the day. Many thanks to Bury GC for allowing us courtesy of the course and the caterers for excellent meals. The results on the day were: Best Nett, J. Ellison. 69-5-64. Best Gross, John Coar, 77-12-65. Best Vets, Brian Turner, 88-16-72. Trade, Andy Cornes, 84-10-74. Longest Drive, Tom Wilkinson. Nearest the Pin, Mike Bottomley.

The longest drive and nearest the pin prizes were donated by Rufford Soil Technology. The nett prizes went to 13th place and this was due to N/W patrons and trade members who donated prizes helping to swell the prize table.

The two members from the N/W section who qualified for the Charterhouse/Scotts national championship are: Best Gross, Jared Ellison, Manchester GC and Kevin

Irving, Brampton GC. The qualifiers for the Regional Final to be played at Fishwick Hall GC on Thursday 10 August are: Cat 0-9 J. Ellison, M. Davie. Cat 10-18, J. Coar, M. Nolan. Cat 19-28, K. Irvine, P. Eddlestone. This Regional Final is sponsored once again by Richard Campey, Macclesfield. I still require a team of 16 to play in the Roses Match at Longridge GC on Wednesday 16 August. A few places remain to be filled, so if you are available call me on 0151 724 5412. I hope you all managed to see our swinging greenkeeper Michael Cheers on the telly on the Never Try This at Home programme on June 24. Rather him than me.

That's it for now. Any news or views, don't forget to ring me.

Bert Cross

### Cleveland

Matches in this year's Carrs sponsored Cleveland Shield are starting to be played and already two low handicappers have bitten the dust leaving Pembo almost a clear run. The Beast of Bedale, Alex Russell, was beaten by Chris Pouley at Dinsdale Golf Club and shanking Jim Thompson was beaten by Martin Woods in the pouring rain at Wearside. Jim said the course was in excellent condition and well worth a visit.

On page 6 of last month's magazine, two handsome young men, myself and Lewis Meek, Head Greenkeeper at Wynyard can be seen attending the Rainbird Training Day at Gleneagles. The course was to learn how to operate Rainbird's Cirrus Nimbus II and Status II Irrigation

Control Systems. A very useful and informative course it was. If anyone gets a chance to go on it, I recommend they do. Thanks to Mark Ganning and Rainbird for their friendly approach and hospitality while we were there. The draw for the second round of the Cleveland Shield will not include Jim Thompson of the Wynyard Club. He was beaten by Martin Woods of Wearside.

Anthony McGeough, first assistant at Richmond Golf Club, returned to work after being off for several weeks with a broken hand which he suffered while white water rafting in the Grand Canyon. He has drawn me in the summer knockout, so things are not getting any better for him. Speaking of the knockout, did I mention Jim Thompson had been knocked out in the first round. Still, mustn't grumble Jim, there's always someone worse off than you. Any news, contact me on 07808196558.

Steven Jaques



Midland Region  
Les Emery  
Tel: 0116 287 9036

#### East Midlands

This year's spring tournament played on 10 May on a cloudy but dry spring day at the wonderful

venue of Chilwell Manor GC was enjoyed by 31 members. In reasonably good weather conditions some good scores were expected, although the rough was quite penalising for those of us who ventured into it.

This Tournament was also the Scotts/Charterhouse National Tournament qualifier. The scores were as follows. Best Net and National Qualifier: Antony Bindley, Kirby Muxloe, 84-15-69. Best Gross and National Qualifier, James Tudor, Chilwell Manor, 73-2-71. Category 1. 1. Pete Billings, Cotgrave Place, 80-8-72. 2. Russell Allen, Horsley Lodge, 80-7-73. Category 2. 1. Ian Needham, Beedles Lake, 84-13-71. 2. Adie Porter, Greatham Valley, 86-12-74. Category 3. 1. Lee Hughes, Chilwell Manor, 100-25-75. 2. Gavin Robson, Lingdale, 99-22-77. Trade and Associate Winner - John Burnham, Sisis, 89-14-79.

I would also like to congratulate Ian Brown, of Ramsdale Park GC, who, having entered his first BIGGA tournament, still returned his card despite a nightmare round which meant he beat the eight No Returns. Also, I would like to welcome the following members to their first Section tournament. Lee Hughes, James Tudor, Simon Hedley and Russell Latham.

Hope to see you all again on 20 September at Market Harborough GC. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody at Chilwell Manor GC for their hospitality and the use of their fine course for our tournament. The Steward and his staff served us all with an excellent meal and congratulations should be extended to Terry Porter and his staff for providing us with a good test of golf. It is the first time since at least 1979 that the Section has visited Chilwell. Finally, a special thank you should be extended to our sponsor for the day, E.T. Breakwells Ltd, without the support of which we would not have a prize table. Please may I remind all members that to attend any Section event your entry form and payment must be returned before the closing date. Finally I would like to thank the following committee members for helping in the smooth running of the day. Richard Barker, prizes. Dave Leatherland and Jeff Dickinson, Starters, Ian Needham, scorecards, Adie Porter, Raffle and our Chairman Gavin Robson.

If any members would like to play in this year's clash with the East of England section on Tuesday August 14, tee off 3.45 pm, please inform me as soon as possible and I will send you the entry form. A team of ten is required, so it will be based on a first come first served basis. Also, if any

Head Greenkeeper member wishes to play in the year's Scotts Golf Management Trophy, please contact our Regional Administrator, Les Emery. At the Belton Park Open, Alan Roberts, Midland Section and myself, finished in second place in the afternoon better-ball pairs competition with 42 stb points. If any other members have any news they would like to see featured in this article, please let me know.

Antony Bindley

#### Berks Bucks & Oxon

The regional qualifier for the National Championship was held at Wokefield Park Golf Club on 16 April and the two qualifiers were: Best Gross, Mike Smith, Donnington Valley, 74. Best handicap, Simon Austin, Badgemore Park, 66.

Nearest the pin on the day was won by Pat Whelahan and the longest drive was again Simon Austin. Congratulations to all the winners and good luck at St Annes and Fairhaven in September.

A big thank you to Wokefield for holding the event and to Robert Weir and his staff for the condition of the golf course on a week that brought atrocious weather. No one would have wanted to host a BIGGA event in conditions like that, but the course



ALWAYS OUT FRONT

# SMITHCO

4 Sprayer models available



A range of utility vehicles & trailers available



2 models available



12 models of bunker rake available



for details or a demonstration contact...

**Marlwood Limited**

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

email: marlwood@kentnet.com.uk



was presented admirably. Thanks also to the competition sponsors, Colin White, from Avoncrop. A good entry was received for the Rigby Taylor pairs and entrants should now have played their first round matches, any doubts about the rules, please contact either Ray Clarke or myself.

To finish this month, congratulations to John Scoones on the opening of Caversham Heath in late April and also to Mike Smith, Andy and the team at Donnington Valley, who also opened their new holes in April. We are very close neighbours to Donnington Valley and wish them all the best in their new venture. However, to relieve a bit of confusion, ie. arriving at the wrong course etc., Donnington Grove has now changed their name to Parasampia Golf & Country Club.

Section AGM will be held at the Springs, Wallingford, in October and the next outing is at Richings Park on 3 August.

Remember to get those Rigby Taylor matches played early. It is the only way to run the competition successfully. Ross Wilson

#### East of England

The second Section golf event of the season took place at Peterborough Milton. The day was sponsored by Peterborough Garden Machinery and thanks to Alister for his great assortment of prizes. The main prize was

won by Les Howkins, 31 pts, of Cleethorpes. Second, N Smith, 28 pts of Market Rasen and third went to Kevin Hodges, 23 pts of Ryston Park. Guest prize went to Peter Fell. Longest Drive, Norman Hewson and Nearest the Pin was won by Gary Cooper.

A good turn out for our section at Peterborough Milton considering how busy everybody should be, trying to keep on top of growth. Head Greenkeeper, Brian Taylor, and staff of Milton certainly kept on top and produced an excellent conditioned course for all our members to play around. Although I was unable to play, the comments in the bar were none but praise about the course. Thanks also to all the other sponsors, Barenbrug Seed, Aitken, Boughton Loam, Tower Sports and Rigby Taylor for their generous help towards the prize table.

G A Macdonald.

#### Mid Anglia

The next golf event within the section is the Summer Tournament on Monday August 7. The venue will be Aspley Guise, a golf club which I believe has never hosted a Mid Anglia BIGGA event before. We can therefore look forward to a new challenge and a great day. Entries to Richard Saunders in good time please, using the usual form.

Paul Lockett



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

#### Sussex

Firstly the results of the Spring Meeting which took place on May 4 at Royal Eastbourne Golf Club and was also the qualifier for the National Championship which is to be held at Lytham St Annes Old Links Fairhaven Golf Club on 25 and 26 September 2000. The morning round was sponsored jointly by Scotts UK Professional and John Shaw Machinery Ltd.



The results were as follows: Best gross scores, Richard Clark 77, Raymond Day 77, George Barr 93, Richard Clark wins on count back and also qualifies for the

National Tournament. Best net scores Dustin (Austin Powers) Houghton, sorry Dustin could not resist 69, Darren Mitchell 69, Rob Hudson 73. Dustin Houghton wins on count back and qualifies for the National Championship.

Trade/guest winner was myself, oh well! and no, I don't qualify for the National Tournament.

The afternoon round was spon-

sored by Rigby Taylor and was a stableford event. The winners were as follows, 0-15 Handicaps, 1. Chris Read, 35 points, 2. Stefan Antolik, 35 points, 16-28 Handicaps, 1. Rob Hudson 37 points, 2. Rose Gould 34 points. Trade/guest winner John Roberts, 35 points.

There were also prizes for nearest the pin and longest drive throughout the day. Nearest the pin on the 15th Rose Gould, on the 18th Rob Hudson, cut him!

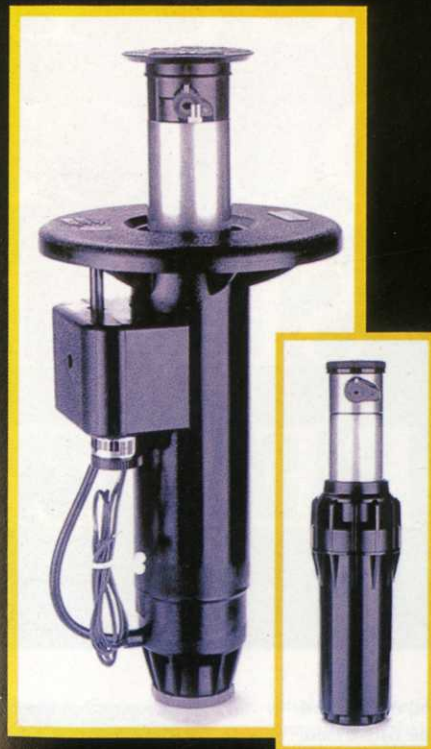
Longest drive on the 12th hole was Raymond Day with 150 yards, only person to hit fairway, only joking Ray, with about a 300 yards mammoth drive. Well done to all the winners and thanks to everyone who turned up.

I would also, on behalf of the Sussex Section, like to thank David Hannan and all his staff for presenting Royal Eastbourne Golf Club in such fine condition. Thanks again David.

The next event on the Sussex calendar is on July 11 at Cophorne Golf Club and will be a fourball better ball followed by a Tapas Bar.

Please arrive at 1pm for 1.30pm for first tee off time of 2pm.

One last note before I close, I would like to wish all the very best to Bob Moore on his retirement after 50 years in greenkeeping, which were all spent at the one club, Seaford, Blatchington Golf Club. Bob is a keen golfer who plays off 15 handicap an



# Hunter<sup>®</sup> Golf

From The  
**Irrigation Innovators**  
**Setting The Standards**

UK Distributor - Evenproducts Limited  
Evesham Worcestershire  
WR11 4TS

www.evenproducts.com

Tel: 01386 41212 Fax: 01386 423769



is now a part-time gamekeeper. I'm sure Bob would be welcome at any of the forthcoming golf events.

From everyone in Sussex, best wishes for the future Bob and enjoy your retirement.

Gary Ogilvie



**South West and South Wales**  
Paula Humphries  
Tel: 01288 352194

### South Coast

The spring tournament was played at Alton Golf Club over 27 holes. All credit to Fred and Darren for the excellent conditions. Not many would disagree that the course was set up at its most difficult. Many thanks to Alton for courtesy and hospitality. Also thanks to the sponsors for the day, Avoncrop, Scotts and Huxley Cambell Turf.

Results: Qualifiers for the Scotts/Charterhouse National Championship were Darren Miller and Mark Green. The Huxley Shield went to Matt Blake, with M Grogan and J Newman second and third. The Avoncrop Trophy was won by Kevin Glass with H. Tribe and Neil Davies second and third. The Roffeys Cup was won by Alan Rideout with P. Dudgeon and D. Hewitt second and third.

The Nita Stimpson Cup for over 50 was won by Alan Rideout and finally the under 25's cup presented by Christopher Fry went to James Martin. Congratulations to Rob Philips for his hole in one. Rob went on to record the highest score of the day!

The summer tournament is at High Post on July 19. Remember, this is a guest day but your partner must have a proper handicap and preferably be a member of your golf club. Entries to Chris Sturges at 40 Kinsbourne Way, Thornhill, Southampton SO19 6HB. Tel: 0777 313 8409 before 8pm. Cost of the day is £34 per pair. Tony Gadd

### Devon & Cornwall

The Section would like to take this opportunity to thank Rigby Taylor for sponsoring our fixture cards once again. The fixture cards are about to go to the printers and will be sent out to you during August. Our meetings for the coming season are as follows

October 25, Dainton Park. November 15, Launceston. December 6, Okehamp-ton. January 31, RND. March 1, Thurlstone. March 28, Roserrow.

The section would like to congratulate Steve Peters on his new appointment which sees him move out of the Section, although he did say to me that he will be able to see the mighty Whites play at Elland Road more often. The Section would also like to congratulate Jim Arthur on receiving his Honorary Membership of BIGGA. Jim has been the guiding light to all greenkeepers, if at times slightly controversial.

Richard Whyman

### South Wales

A good summer so far for some of us working on links courses but may not be for others, will it change I wonder? Unfortunately, little news to report, although hopefully the Wales Open held at the Celtic Manor Resort went well, perhaps we will be able to report on that again next month.

South Wales and South West Region Course Management Trophies will, this year, be held at Salisbury and South Wilts Golf Club, on August 2; Celtic Manor, on August 15 and Manor House, Castle Coombe, on August 22. If you have not received an invitation and would like one please contact Paula Humphries Tel: 01288 352194. The tournaments are team events, comprising the Captain, Secretary, Head Greenkeeper and Chairman of Green.

Once again they are being sponsored by Scotts Professional UK.

Congratulations to Robert Frater and wife, Ruth on the birth of their baby daughter.

Catch up with more news next month. Please contact me on 01443 204392 or 07932710286 with any news or gossip for your around the green.

Richard Hatcher

### South West

Just a quick reminder that the summer tournament will take place at Erlestoke Sands Golf Club on July 13, so there may be just enough time to book your place.

The following courses have also been arranged. A PA2 Tractor Mounted Sprayer course will take place at Cumberwell Park Golf Club on 18 July.

A one day Fire Safety for Greenkeepers course has been arranged for Thursday 7 September and will take place at Gloucester Fire Station. I've already got three names booked and looking for three more. The price of this course will be approx £45.

A one day Emergency First Aid at Work Course has also been arranged for Wednesday 11 October at the Southern Ambulance College in Chippenham.

To go on any of these courses, please telephone me on 01249 783382.

Paul Cunningham



**Northern  
Ireland**

I think that's it - summer's over. Three glorious weeks in May when the sun smiled strongly and now the first week in June and the greens are being squeegeed again. There's no doubt, get a bunch of greenkeepers together and I assure you the main topic, next to women, will be the weather. I remember a golfer saying to me "Wouldn't it be great if you could control the weather!" After thinking about it, I concluded that it would probably be in a worse state than it is at present.

Talking about the weather, it wasn't kind to us yet again when our region played Kilkeel on May 24. We all set off on our round in short sleeves and finished drenched under an almighty thunderstorm. Some people wisely walked in, but two guys in our four-ball had a good score going, so we continued to wave a lightning conductor at the golf ball regardless of lightning.

Head Greenkeeper, Jimmy Jones, must be commended and congratulated

for the condition of the course. Jimmy has limited staff numbers and limited machinery, but yet produced a very well manicured course. The recent alterations to the course have improved it dramatically, and it is now recognised as a tough course to play, with very strong par 4's and interesting par 3's. I'll not talk about Par 5's, because, let's just say, I admired the scenery on those holes.

Our winners at Kilkeel were 1. Noel Crawford, Royal County Down. 2. Iain

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

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

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

