



Above: 15th Hole, Par 3, Course No. 2. From Camera tower (Note that only aesthetics come from the green – creeping bentgrass. Bermuda grass being a rigid, upright growing plant, does not produce the great aesthetics that many people associate with U.S. courses.



Right: 15th Hole, behind Par 3, Course No. 2. Shows severity of slope-offs on greens of No. 2. This taken at eye level with green surface!

in the turf.

It has been documented in some Greenkeeper International articles that many American courses are intensively manicured and offer 'lush, green fairways', Augusta National GC being the most commonly used example. Have that many people been fortunate enough to play the 'lush' fairways of Augusta? Or are these assumptions made after four days of watching the Masters on TV? Anyone who believes that a US Superintendent prefers to maintain a lush, dense sward (rather than a tight, fine sward) is merely a fool.

Many American courses do require intensive maintenance but the Superintendent is, more often than not, given the budget in which to do so. This is because the demands from the US golfing public are much higher and climatic differences lead to more intensive maintenance of the golf course. But perhaps most importantly, the memberships/ownership companies of US golf courses realise that the golf course cannot be maintained to the highest standard on a shoestring budget (accounting for the aforementioned variables).

Pinehurst has bermudagrass tees, fairways and rough. For those unfamiliar with the bermudagrass growth cycle, it goes into dormancy during the autumn-winter transition and then re-emerges the following spring. This is because the lower winter temperatures are not warm enough for bermuda growth. The lack of chlorophyll production results in the plant turning white but still provides a good playing surface. In recent years, Pinehurst has

overseeded its courses with perennial ryegrass in the autumn. This is purely for aesthetics ie to provide a 'green' appearance year-round.

The recent introduction of new dwarf ryegrass cultivars are now commonplace in the USA. They not only have a fine leaf blade but also offer superb aesthetics. Overseeding is done in October after the courses have been verticut (to create a seed-bed for the ryegrass seed) and it has led to intensive course management year-round for Pinehurst Superintendents.

Here are several points of interest about Pinehurst in relation to overseeding (that results in a darker green, not lush, golf course):

- **The underlying soils are as sandy and free-draining as most links courses**
- **Dwarf ryegrass cultivars are now used which produce fine, tight swards**
- **Superintendents must irrigate regularly to prevent rye grass wilt, as Carolina's winter temperatures can still exceed 75 degrees**
- **The decision to overseed is from Corporate management. The Superintendents have no choice in the matter**
- **It is assumed that guests prefer to play on a green golf course**
- **Guests at Pinehurst pay between \$140 - \$250/round, depending upon which course they play. It is not unreasonable for these guests to expect a well conditioned golf course for these prices.**

The USA is the world leader in turfgrass research and development, having given us Pennncross, Providence, dwarf Bermuda & Ryegrasses among many other products. Last year, Michigan State University announced its trials of poa annua cultivar development. Food for thought for the BIGGA Turf Managers' fraternity!

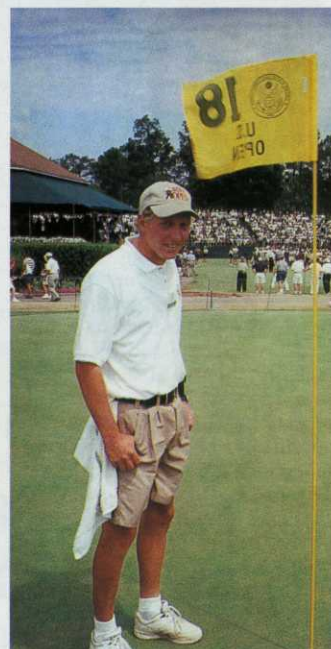
Perhaps younger readers may be thinking about enrolling in the OSU Program. Our advice is to go for it! In addition to performing a wide range of turf management practices, you'll also be able to attend the Florida Short-Course. This is a weekend of turfgrass seminars, hosted by OSU Professors, where you'll learn about pests and diseases, warm & cool season grasses etc.

Travelling the USA is fantastic too, with a whole variety of sightseeing and activities on offer. Interns have the opportunity to travel after the expiration of their visa. Watch a Broadway show in New York, sing the blues in Memphis, enjoy Mardi-Gras in New Orleans or marvel at New England's autumn colours. The choices are endless.

America is not a perfect utopia but it is a great country that is full of opportunities. Go try it for yourself – you may be pleasantly surprised!

Our sincere thanks to the Ohio State Intern Program 'team' for the opportunity to participate in this unique program, to Brad Kocher CGCS, Director of Golf Course Maintenance at Pinehurst for continuing to support the OSU Interns, to all our Superintendents we worked with in the USA: Joe

Alonzi CGCS, Brian Clodfelter, Jeff Hill CGCS, Paul Jett CGCS, Scott Kinnan and Fred Klauk Jr. Best of luck to the OSU Interns at Pebble Beach for the 2000 US Open. Finally, we'd like to thank the many other friends we made in the USA – someday we hope to return to see y'all!



Above: Patrik Benneryd, Pinehurst No. 2, 18th Hole. Just finished setting up.



Scottish Region
Peter Boyd
Tel/Fax 0141 616 3440

Ayrshire

There was no news last month with nothing much to report. As I type these notes on May 3 we are basking in glorious sunshine prompting the first real growth of the season. It's difficult to believe that only last week we were enduring sleet, hailstones and Baltic-like temperatures. Those of us who braved the elements at the spring outing will be able to relate to these conditions.

The spring tournament was held at Western Gailes Golf Club on Wednesday, April 26. It was played under extremely testing conditions described above. It was commendable that more than half the field actually returned a scorecard when the clubhouse was the only sensible option of the day.

My thanks to David Woodbyrne, of Southernness, who inspired me to continue when Brian Inglis of Greentech retired. He quipped in his Irish accent "Sure you can only get so wet and I'm going to stroll around the other half of this beautiful golf course. Don't let me keep you out here I'll just join the game behind".

I'm glad I battled on to make the prizes. Thanks David. The prize list was as follows:

Best scratch - Alan Forrest, of Western Gailes, with a little bit of local knowledge.

Best net - Duncan Gray of The Pines.

Alan and Duncan both qualify to represent our Section in the National Tournament at St Annes and Fairhaven. Class 1 - 1. Iain Barr, Largs Kelburn; 2. Brian Finlayson, Barassie; 3. John McLaughlan, Prestwick St Nicholas. Class 2 - 1. Marshall Sloss, Beith; 2. Andrew Reading, The Pines; 3. Gordon Haughey, Southernness.

Chairman, Duncan Gray, in his presentation speech welcomed everyone for attending on such a terrible day, with mention to Regional Administrator Peter Boyd and National Chairman, Elliott Small. He commented that it was a privilege to play at such a prestigious venue for our spring tournament and thanked the captain and committee of Western Gailes for granting us courtesy of their course. Jim Devlin and his greenstaff were thanked for presenting the course in such fine condition and the clubhouse staff were also thanked for keeping everyone well fed and refreshed all day.

The annual challenge match of the Region versus the Secretaries Association was played at Luffness New Golf Club where I had the honour of partnering Tom Murray

of Ratho Park to a narrow victory in an overall 8-2 success for the Greenkeepers. The only other Ayrshire representative was Keith McCartney, of Dumfries and Galloway, who partnered our R A Peter Boyd to victory also. Keith told me that he has been appointed Interim Head Greenkeeper with a view to a permanent appointment if all goes well. Congratulations on your promotion Keith and I'm sure it won't be long before you make an impression to confirm your position

Remaining on the promotion subject, George Brown has appointed Jimmy Johnstone to Head Greenkeeper of the new Arran course at Turnberry. Congratulations to Jimmy and good luck with all the development on the Arran course.

Finally, just a reminder that the Scottish National Tournament will take place at Newmachar Golf Club, Aberdeen on Tuesday 27 June. All entries should be forwarded to our R.A. Peter Boyd. That's all for this month. Any news just call on 01505 683278.

Iain Barr

Central

Another five new members join us this month plus two members are rejoining and, as usual, it's a warm welcome to the following; Mark Geddes and Gary Thomas, from Canmore GC in Dunfermline; Patrick Benneryd, from the Dukes Course; Craig Purdie, from St Andrews Links; Thomas Comerford, from Grangemouth, plus Peter Findlay, from Auchterarder, and Alan Purdie, from Crail, who are both rejoining. Welcome back lads!

The first golf tournament of the season was held in April when 75 members and guests made our spring tournament the best ever as for attendance, 69 players enjoying an excellent challenge over the Jubilee Course at St Andrews, despite the wind and rain. Our sincere thanks goes to everyone at the St Andrews Links Trust for the courtesy and all the assistance on the day, with a special thanks to Head Greenkeeper David Wilson and his staff for presenting the course in such excellent condition despite the weather. Also, thanks to everyone who helped on the day and to Regional Administrator, Peter Boyd and Scottish Chairman John Scott, who did us the honour of presenting our prizes to the following winners:-

Best Scratch - B. Heggie, St Andrews, 70. Best Nett - D. Leith, St Andrews, 74. 1st Class 1st H/Cap - K. Stirling, Kingsbarns, 75 BIH. 1st Class 2nd H/Cap - K. Mitchell, St Andrews, 75. 1st Class 3rd H/Cap - A. Paterson, Gleneagles, 77. 2nd Class 1st H/cap - S. Pearson, Aberdour, 76. 2nd Class 2nd H/Cap - D. Scott, Scoonie, 79. 2nd Class 3rd H/Cap - T. Harris, Cupar, 81. 3rd Class 1st H/Cap - A. Robertson,

Grangemouth, 76. 3rd Class 2nd H/Cap - A. Arnott, Dunnikier, 77. 3rd Class 3rd H/Cap - D. Brown, Muckhart, 80. Stewart's Quaich - B. Heggie/D. Leith, St Andrews, 144. Patrons - K. Brunton, Greentech, 76.

Guests - G. Moir, St Andrews, 73. Longest Drive - D. Simpson, Crieff. Nearest The Pin - S. Pearson, Aberdour. Mike Dennis Prize - D. McAllister, Ladybank, 79.

The qualifiers to represent the Central Section in the Charterhouse/Scotts National Championship are David Leith, with the lowest gross score, and Alex Robertson with the lowest nett score from both the autumn '99 and spring '00 tournaments.

Congratulations to them and I am sure they will do their best to bring the trophies back to the Central Section.

The autumn tournament is at Stirling GC in September and hopefully we can have just as large an attendance. The entry forms will be sent out in plenty of time along with details of the next football match and next year's allocation of "Club 2002" tickets.

I am still waiting for the match report regarding the football match against the West Section. It's either very long or Andy is still trying to find adjectives to describe his team's performance!

This month's winner of "Club 2000" is Owen Browne with ticket number 0057 and a £50 cheque is on its way to you Owen. Congratulations!

Next month is the first of our bonus draws, when the prize will be a massive £100 so look out for next month's magazine, it could be your lucky number which is drawn out. That is if you bothered to buy your tickets!

Ten teams have entered this year's inter club tournament which is now well underway. Please remember to phone me with the result as soon as you have completed each match so that results can be kept up to date.

John Crawford

North

Anyone out there wondering what happened to my Section notes in the April magazine? Well, I did send them in but they got mislaid somewhere along the line. First time they have gone missing in over eight years and I have been assured it should not happen again.

Looking through them there are some parts still relevant. New members to the Section were Leslie Phillip, from Nairn Dunbar, and Graham Lornie, from Royal Aberdeen. Congratulations to Gordon Mckie, St Andrews on his engagement to Susan. Unfortunately, as a result of this, he has moved to Edinburgh and

joined the East Section, so the longest drive in class two is up for grabs again.

No new members this month, but one or two on the move to report about. Stuart Hogg's new First Assistant is Kevin Fowler who has been promoted from within, while joining the staff at Fortrose is David Duggan, formerly at Ullapool GC. Paul Ross leaves Nairn after 15 years to take charge at Lumphanan GC, in Aberdeenshire. His place is taken by Ross Hamill, who worked at Craggan GC, Grantown-on-Spey previously.

At the end of this month we have the Scottish Greenkeepers Championship here in our Section at Newmachar GC by Aberdeen. Let's have a big entry from the North and hopefully we can win a few trophies over Dale Robertson's excellent course. It is one of the toughest courses I have played, so get practising.

I have just received confirmation of my entry to the BIGGA National Championship in Lytham later this year. Hopefully, next report I will be able to tell you that I have won a place at our spring outing in Buckpool and am awaiting a refund!

Iain Macleod.



Northern Region
Douglas Bell
Tel: 0151 431 0433

Cleveland

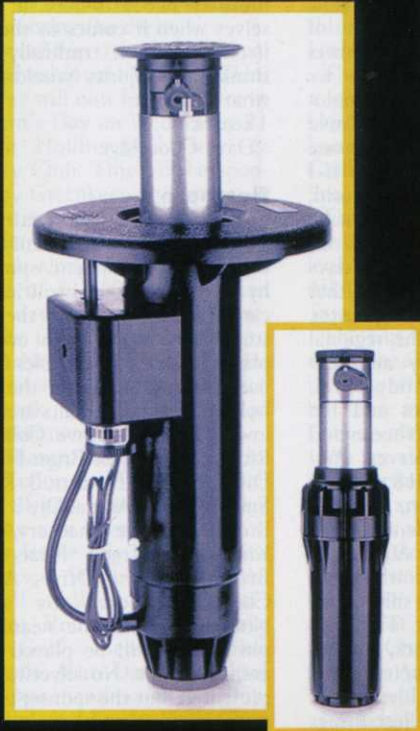
The weather tried its best to spoil the spring tournament at Ramside Hall on the 11 April, but despite the persistent rain all 29 competitors completed their rounds, although some scorecards were hardly legible. The course was in excellent condition, a credit to Roger Shaw and his staff.

Results: Category 1 sponsored by Border Sports was won by Darren McGee nett 73; 2. Andrew Wood nett 75; 3rd Ian Rowe nett 76. Category 2 sponsored by GEM was won quite surprisingly by Olly Sheppard nett 69, who would have expected a greenkeeper from Richmond winning a category?! Second and third were the Wearside pair, Barry Walker, nett 70 and Tony Cheesebrough, nett 71. Category 3 sponsored by Sportlands was won by the bookies favourite and the housewives' choice, Ian Pemberton nett 73 - his four hour practice sessions have paid off! 2. Neil Rogers nett 76; 3. Chris Powley nett 76. Prizes in each category were: 1st CD Players. 2nd Personal Stereos. 3rd Cameras.

Best nett on par 35 sponsored by Rite Feed was won by Barry Walker.

The two qualifiers for the Scotts/Charterhouse national final in Blackpool are: Best Gross - Darren McGee. Best Net - Olly





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Sheppard. Good luck to both of them.

Entries for the Cleveland Shield, sponsored again by Carrs, were taken and a good response was had. Entrants will be informed as soon as the draw is made.



Any news contact me on 0780 8196558.

Steven Jaques

North West

Beginning of May and at last the weather has warmed up and the rain has eased, at least for a few days. It certainly puts a different outlook on things with the trees coming into leaf and people are more pleasant. Today a member of one of my bowling clubs actually said "Good morning" and commented on how nice the green looked.

On April 20 we played at Hazel Grove GC and although the rain had not ceased for the previous seven days, we had a dry day except for the last few holes, which gave the tailenders a good soaking. The game should have been a match between the NW Section and the N Wales Section with two teams of 16 players, but the N Wales Section could only muster six players so the N W Section claimed the GEM trophy. This did not spoil the

day for those who did turn up as we had a sweep and the day was enjoyed by all. I would like to thank Gem Professional for once again sponsoring this annual tournament which has been played for many years. Thanks also to Mike Davie, Head Greenkeeper at Hazel Grove GC and his staff, for what must have been a mammoth task to have the course in such great condition and playable after the continuous rain. Thanks to Hazel Grove GC for allowing us courtesy of the course and the caterers for a great meal. I would also like to thank everybody who turned up to make it a great day and especially the six from N Wales. I am sure you thought it was worth coming.

The next tournament is the summer meeting at West Derby CC on Wednesday 28 June. Lunch will be served between 12 noon and 1pm. The tee will be available from 1.30 pm. All applications, including a cheque for £15 made payable to BIGGA N.W. to be sent to Peter Cross, Harthill Lodge, Harthill Road, Liverpool L18 3HU, no later than Friday 23 June. Evening meal and prize presentations to take place once the golf is completed. Smart dress in the evening please.

Any news or complaints you can contact me on 0151 724 5412.

Bert Cross

North Wales

The annual N.West versus N.Wales match, was lost before a ball was hit. A combination of Easter weekend and trade members not allowed to play meant we couldn't raise a team. Our apologies go to the N West, Hazel Grove and Gem the sponsors. It's just one of those things. I know even if I was the keenest golfer in the world, I wouldn't have been able to make it. Three short weeks on the run isn't conducive to taking extra days off, especially with the weather leading up to and including Easter.

More golf. We got the regional qualifiers wrong. They are Sc-9 Allen Lewis and Andy Peel, Reserves Darryl Davies and Ian Buckley. 10 - 18 Craig Wheeler and Mathew Pooley, Reserves Paul Massey and Les Parry. 18 - 24 Jeff Jago and Pete Sproston, Reserves Eric Rowlands and Aiden Jones to be held on the 10 August at Fishwick Hall. I hope we've got that right now. Golf, silly game, far too complex for me. Think I'll take up quantum physics, far simpler and I bet it's far less irritating. Don't get me wrong, love green-keeping, but the game just brings out the worst elements of human nature and I for one don't need the hassle that goes with it. Nothing ever goes smoothly. A lot of effort is put in and a load of rubbish comes out. Maybe I'm holding the

clubs wrong. Now, seriously, I think that everyone involved in this industry needs to look at themselves when it comes to the game itself, analyse it truthfully and I think the majority wouldn't like what they saw.

See ya

Dave Goodridge

Northern

It had to happen again. Our return visit to Bradley Hall GC for the spring tournament, sponsored by White Moss Amenities, was cancelled again due to the white stuff, heavy hail. With everyone playing at least seven holes and we had a count back over the last 3 holes played, the results are as follows: Div 1. 1. Dave Collins, 2. Richard Barker, 3. Brian Hudson. Div 2. 1. Alvin Fawcett, 2. Richard Smith, 3. Tito Arana. Div 3. 1. Jim Brown, 2. Dave Thackery, 3. Les Kirkbright. Trade Prize, Mike Breare. Longest Drive, Andrew Clark, sponsored by Acorn. Nobody reached the nearest pin so this will be played for at another event. No silverware was presented, but the sponsor's prizes were given out as normal.

Many thanks to the Head Greenkeeper, Alan Court and his staff for the condition of the course, shame about the weather, and their assistance on the day. Thanks also to the catering staff for

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the meal and the golf club committee for the golf course. Final thanks to White Moss Amenities for sponsoring the event.

The qualifiers for the National Championship and Regional Final Golf Day will now be played for at President's Day on Wednesday 21 June at Hollins Hall Hotel & Country Club. This will be sponsored by Greenkeeping Supply.

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 seven 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.

We welcome this month as new members: Stephen Edwards, Kirkstall Valley Golf Centre; Nicholas Robinson, Boothferry Park Golf Centre; Simon Hardcastle, John Daniel and Paul Gawthorpe, Sandmoor Golf Club; Matt Bolton, Leeds Golf Club; Michael Patrick and Mark Pryce, Ganton Golf Club. You can be assured of a warm welcome at any of our section events. If you have any queries, don't hesitate to pick up the phone and give me a ring. There is no other news at the moment. If anybody has any, then let me know. My address is 67 Asquith Avenue, Morley, Leeds LS27 9QS or telephone at home 0113 238 3188/mobile 07790 678572.

Andy Smith



Midland Region
Les Emery
Tel: 0116 287 9036

East of England

Sorry there has been no articles for the last few months, but things seem to have been quiet in the East of England.

On May 3 the Section held the first golf day out at Canwick Park Golf Club (Lincoln). Although the day was damp a good turn out of members enjoyed an excellent testing course set out by Head Greenkeeper Steve Webster and his staff.

Thanks to Canwick for the courtesy of the course and the hospitality on the day.

Stuart Jeffs, of Rigby Taylor, the main sponsors, was unable to present the cup but we hope he is on the mend and playing with us soon.

The cup and the Scotts /Charterhouse Low Handicap qualifier went to Graeme Macdonald of Newark Golf Club with a 73/4/69.

Second and the best gross went to Les Howkins of Cleethorpes Golf Club with an 82/7/75 and third went to Russ Moody of Lincoln Golf Club.

The nearest the pin was won with a great shot of 21" by David Hornsey, of Woodhall Spa, and the Longest Drive was taken by Graham Bontoft, also of Woodhall Spa.

Thanks to all other sponsors on the day for making the prize table look so full. Sponsors:- Barenbrug, Atkins, Bourne Nursery Supplies, Tower Sports, Alpha Amenity.

The trip to the Scotts factory is to go ahead and I will be writing to those who have shown interest, but there are still some places left (phone me).

We are also thinking of running a Go Karting night but we are looking for a sponsor.

There is also possibly going to be another Golf Management Team Competition, which will be held at Glencorse (Leicester). The team consists of the Head Greenkeeper, Greens Chairman, Secretary and Captain. Anybody interested contact myself for more details.

On behalf of the East of England Section I would like to welcome Les Emery to his post as the new Regional Administrator for the Midland Region.

If you hear of any news please telephone me on 01636 626564 or 0860 502464.

Graeme Macdonald

East Midlands

By the time you have read this article, this year's spring tournament will have been played and enjoyed by 34 members with the best Nett and Gross winners qualifying for the Scotts/ Charterhouse National Tournament. The qualifier itself was played at the pleasant course of Chilwell Manor in Nottinghamshire, with prizes for the day sponsored by E T Breakwells. More information and scores will appear next month.

This month also sees the addition of several new members and the reappearance of old members, names should appear elsewhere in the magazine. Also the following members have transferred from the Sheffield Section to our Section. J. Kirkham, K. Taylor, J. Cumberland, A. Rhodes, D. McJannet, P. Duff, B. Bowring & B. Paling. Hopefully all these members will participate in Section events as they will be made most welcome.

On 30 April Alan Roberts, of the Midland Section, and myself travelled to Workshop for the Kilton Forest Open and finished second with a Better-Ball score of 6 under par. If any member has more golf news or any relevant information for this report, please let me know.

Antony Bindley.

Mid Anglia

An open forum discussion group took place at South Beds Golf Club in late March. Although only a dozen members attended, a lively discussion took place on various subjects including "health & safety," "bugs," "better methods" and "fertilisers."

Our first golf event took place on April 20 at Northants County Golf Club, the spring meeting qualifying event for the National Tournament. As I'm sure all our members can recall, April was notable for rain and yet more rain; not the best conditions to prepare for 30 greenkeepers playing your course so early in the year! It did actually stop raining for a few hours, however, which enabled us to enjoy a wonderful golf course in excellent condition for the time of year. Our thanks to David Low and all his staff for their gallant efforts - it was much appreciated. Thanks also to Northants County for allowing us courtesy of the course and for an excellent meal afterwards.

A Stableford competition was played in the morning, the results of which were as follows:

1st - Richard Goddard, Shendish Manor 35 points. 2nd - John Blair, Brocket Hall.

35 points. 3rd - Kevin Armstrong, John O' Gaunt 35 points. (winning order decided on countback).

Longest Drive was won by Geoff James, of John O' Gaunt, and Nearest the Pin by Tom Houghton, of Pytchley Golf Club.

The afternoon round - an 18 hole medal - was the qualifying event for the National Tournament, to be played at St Anne's Old Links and Fairhaven Golf Clubs in September. The two golfers who qualify for this event are Russell Howson and Mark Whittle, both from Woburn, who had a 72 gross and 79 net respectively. I'm sure they are both pleased to represent the Section and Midland Regional team at such a prestigious event. We wish them both well.

Our final thanks go to all our trade members, who once again supported our golf day; particularly in this case Rigby Taylor, represented by Mark Pyrah, who provided the prize table. Simon Hedley, of Boughton Loam, was the best trade player on the day with 32 Stableford points in the morning round.

Teams who entered the Lodgeway Four Ball competition should have received the draw by now, please ensure all matches are played by the appropriate dates.

David Forsyth, of Mid Herts Golf Club, has been recruited onto the committee as Handicap Secretary in place of Neil Whittaker. A new Regional Administrator - Les

Emery - has recently been appointed to replace Peter Larter.

Paul Lockett

Midland

With record levels of rainfall recorded and the cold temperatures we have experienced in April, it has not been one of the easiest months for all greenkeepers. It was then no great surprise that our scheduled spring tournament at South Staffs had to be cancelled.

I do hope all of you who entered this tournament got the message and can make the rearranged date. I will therefore have to report all the results in next month's issue.

As I have mentioned in my previous report, the Midland Committee have decided to put together an agenda which sets out our intentions for the year to come. The agenda is as follows-1. To organise and promote four golf tournaments for its members. 2. To organise and promote a doubles knockout tournament. 3. To organise and promote three matches against other golf associations. These will be dependent upon the commitment of the section members. 4. To organise an educational trip to a major golfing venue. This will be again dependent on the commitment of the Section membership. 5. To keep membership informed with any information that is of importance at section level.

Once again I would ask anyone who has information to put into this report please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

Jonathan Wood



South East
Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260956

East Anglia

Our first meeting of the year was held at Haverhill Golf Club on a bright spring day. The 18 hole Medal competition was the section qualifier for the Charterhouse/Scotts National Tournament. The course was in excellent condition and all credit must go to Alan and his team; Glen, Jamie and Gary for all their hard work. Signs of the one inch of rain that fell the previous day were barely noticeable, although the amount and speed of water that ran through the stream on the course provided us with a reminder of the conditions the day before. Once again, many thanks Alan.

Steven Nicholes, Haverhill's captain, welcomed the Section and hoped everyone enjoyed the day, which went without saying. Robert Whiting thanked Alan for the presentation of the course and Ian Willett for his hard work organising the day and ensuring things rang smoothly.



John Noyce, of Scotts UK, presented the prizes on behalf of Charterhouse/Scotts UK and the qualifiers for the National Tournament are: Scratch, R. Whiting, Handicap, J. Wright. Results: 1-9 handicap - 1. R. Boyce, nett 68, 2. R. Whiting, nett 69, 3. T. Moreton, nett 70. 10 - 18 handicap - 1. J. Wright, nett 67, 2. I. Willett, nett 69, 3. S. Millard, nett 69. 19 - 28 handicap - 1. G. Rayfield, nett 76, 2. J. Pymmer, nett 83, 3. K. Titchal, nett 84. Trade - 1. T. Bonner, nett 68, 2. S. Nicholes, nett 70, 3. L. Pearman, nett 70.



Toilet seat, M. Taylor again! This was won for failing to return the seat after earning the right to have his name engraved on it at our last meeting. As members of the Section know, this trophy represents those times when the BOTTOM drops out of your game, but in this instance I think Mike just wanted to SIT on it a little longer!

Thanks to all the trade for their company and for their help with the prize table. Charterhouse, Scotts UK, Aventis, Rigby Taylor, Rushbrook & Sons, Sheriffs, Sisis, Tomlinson Groundcare, Toro UK, Turf Care.

Future dates and venues: June 9 - Rushmere; July 25 - Stoke by Nayland v Essex; August 15 -

Royal Cromer; October 10 - Waldringfield Heath; December 19 - Thorpeness.

2001 venues: Felixstowe Ferry, Eaton, Richmond Park, Purdis Heath and Thorpeness. Last, but by no means least, it was good to see Derek Farrington swinging a golf club again. He appears well on the mend.

See you all at Rushmere. Steve Millard

Surrey

I am typing this on May 5 and hopefully the second spring of the millennium has arrived and the gloom on the faces of our members has been replaced with the warm glow of anticipation of fine dry summer days with a hint of rain during the night. By the time you all read this in June, we will know.

Our spring golf meeting took place on May 4 at Merrist Wood Golf Club and the best nett and best gross qualifier for the Charterhouse/Scotts National Competition. Best Gross, Brian Turner. Best Nett, John Groombridge. 2. Steve Holmes, 3. John Mathis. Nearest the Pin 2nd hole. Bob Rogers. 8th hole Justin Llewellyn. 11th Hole. Bert Watson. Nearest the Pin in 2 shots 12 hole. Dave Murdoch. Longest Drive 17th hole, Nigel 2 Iron Colley. The hole-in-one prize sponsored by John Shaw of Toro was not won.

Many thanks to Merrist Wood Golf Club for the courtesy of their course and a special thank you to Tom Smith and his team for the fine presentation. The only mild criticism from some of the longer hitters was that perhaps next time they should play from the ladies tees and the less able golfers should stay in the bar. Joking aside, Merrist Wood is a long course and a true test for all amateur and professional golfers.

Our next Golf Day is on June 30 and the venue is Gatton Manor Golf and Country Club, somewhere in the deepest Surrey countryside. Please contact the Course Manager, John Davidson, who will be willing to supply, for a small fee, a map, a compass, a passport and the optional inoculations some think advisable when on safari.

Brian Willmott

Essex

New Members: Mark Paxton joins us from Canons Brook Golf Club in Harlow, along with Jody Hawkes from Regiment Way and Nicholas Pomfret of Bentley GC.

Golf Days: Forrester Park was the venue for this year's Charterhouse/Scotts sponsored National Championship qualifier and Avoncrop Amenity/Tuckwells sponsored Spring Trophy, with 40 people including trade and guests attending the day. On a wet and windy day and on a course with

fairways no wider than your average 'A' road, scores were expected to be high, but all sections were won by scores within one or two of the par 72.



Qualifiers for the National Championship were: Best Gross, Andy Sheehan, Bentley GC. Best net, Tony Kirwin, Colchester GC. Best of luck at Royal Lytham fellas, I have heard the night life is great Andy and the practice facilities aren't too bad either Tony. The Spring Trophy results were as follows: Cat 1. 0 - 9, 1. Steve Crosdale, 2. Carl Croucher, 3. Steve Cox. Cat 2. 10 - 18. 1. John Selwood, 2. Malcolm Smith, 3. Chris Ward. Cat 3. 19 - 28. 1. Mark Stopps, 2. Peter Cannon, 3. Keith Chinnery.

Trade prize went to Steve Denton, of Rigby Taylor, who shot a magnificent nett 66 with Forrester Park Social Secretary, Peter Stuart winning the guest prize with a nett 69. Longest Drive went to Forrester Park Head Greenkeeper, Roland Hughes, and a surprise Nearest the Pin winner was Martin Forrester. All in all a very good day for the committee who, with the exception of Dominic Rodgers. Come on Dom, took home some lovely prizes including 'boof' coloured wind proof tank tops, or were they muscle tops?

A 'red engine' that doesn't believe in scalping.



Special thanks to past Captain, Dennis Cornwall, along with all the staff at Forrester Park for the hospitality shown. This should be extended to Simon Banks who did a great drag act doubling as a rather fine waitress.

The trade as usual continue to strongly support our Section, Rigby Taylor, Sherriff Crop Care, Gem Professional, Bourne Amenity, Banks Horticulture, Grass Roots and Driving Force Leisure all donated raffle prizes. Thanks guys. Longest drive and nearest the pin prizes were donated by Bill and Liam Galway, of Greenkeeping Supply Company.

Our next event is the Summer Trophy held at Theydon Bois GC on June 13. Hopefully information will have reached you well before the publication of this edition of the magazine.

Education: As yet, John Sinclair has been too busy visiting bike shows and relaxing in Crete to arrange any seminars, but rest assured there will be more opportunities in the near future for you to get out of the house for a few hours and end up in the nearest public house. Who knows, you might even learn something in the process.

Steve Crosdale.



South West and South Wales
Paula Humphries
Tel: 01288 352194

Devon and Cornwall

The Westurf 2000 took place again at the purpose built arena at Westpoint, Exeter, located just minutes off the M5 motorway. The indoor arena created a superb atmosphere, very similar to BTME, allowing visitors to catch up on the latest developments within our industry.

Visitors also had the chance to sample the hospitality on the BIGGA stand and to meet our Chairman, Elliott Small, Executive Director, Neil Thomas and Tracey Maddison, who were on hand to answer any questions. The seminars were very well supported and run throughout the day.

Our congratulations must go to our Regional Administrator, Paula and the Regional Board, for an excellent show which saw a rise in attendance. Hopefully next year, as the word gets around, we will have many more trade companies exhibiting and even more people attending.

Richard Whyman

South Coast

Very little to report this month. At going to press we had not played

our spring tournament. Remember the summer tournament is at High Post on July 19, your entries are requested early and this time to Chris Sturgess on 07777 3138409 before 8pm please.

Welcome to six new members in the South Coast Section. Let's see you supporting the golf and lectures. Anyone with information about moves, promotions or just interesting facts about people and greenkeeping, please let me know.

Lastly, remember BIGGA members are the best and we always present ourselves that way. Many clubs operate a mobile phone ban, so please be discreet with yours. See you around the Section.

Tony Gadd

South Wales

We gathered together on April 5 at Pencoed College for a combined BIGGA/IOG

Quiz. Five teams of three people answered question from our very own Chris Tarrant, Malcolm Davis. Team 1 The Handsomes: H. Evans, A. Hatcher, T. Cavell. Team 2 The Wellies: C. Jones, H. Purnell, A. Hughes. Team 3 The Academics: P. Gillard, P. Discome, M. Cook. Team 4 The Not Intelligence: Myself, A. Panks, R. Patterson. Team 5 The Poa's: T. Horne, D. Ward, P. Lacey. Thanks to score master Colin Murphy for the final outcome with team one winning

with 52 points and a bottle of whisky each, lucky them: Team 5 second with 50 points: Team 3. third with 49 Points: Team 4. fourth with 42 Points: Team 5. fifth with 39 points. No wonder team 1 won they had Ted Cavell on there side who has seemed to have travelled the world like Fillias Fogg and team 2 had David Ward, an old seadog himself.



I can only express what I have heard about Westurf which was again a good success with many trade stands and good entertainment.

On May 3, at Southerndown Golf Club the Spring Tournament was held with best Gross 80. A Roach. Best Net 64. Steven Lloyd receiving the Cardiff Cup.

Both the Best Nett & Best Gross also won themselves entry to this year's National Championship courtesy of Scotts. 2nd Best Net 65. Gareth Evans: 3rd Best Net 75 Bob Hanford just beating Chairman Adrian Panks by one shot. Thanks also to secretary Alan Hughes and to Southerndown GC for courtesy of the course and to G Johnson and his team. To the caterers for food and thanks again to Martin Townsend from Scotts for sponsorship of the day.

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BRINGS QUALITY TO THE SURFACE

Secretaries is to be held at Tredegar Park GC. on August 11. 1pm tee off.

Richard Hatcher

South West

Well, finally we have reached the halfway mark of the year and of course the weather in June will be gloriously hot. This is a far cry from the erratic spring weather we experienced. April had three times its normal rainfall and had depressed greenkeepers reaching for the bottle of Prozac.

This weather was typified at Clevedon Golf Club which hosted the spring tournament and National Qualifier, sponsored once again by Scotts and Charterhouse. The rain came down in biblical proportions. However, it was nice to see a number of new faces attending a sectional event for the first time.

Paula Humphries and Martin Townsend, from Scotts, saw all the competitors off from the first tee. Everyone agreed that the Clevedon greenkeepers had done an amazing job in getting the course cut and looking superb despite the weather. The greens in particular remained excellent to putt on, although eventually the rain won the day and a couple of the greens started to flood severely.

By the time everyone had passed through the 11th hole, a decision was made to abandon the tournament and the winners would be decided from a count of the front nine scores only.

The results of the National Qualifier sponsored by Scotts and Charterhouse were as follows: Low Handicap Winner, Gary Cook. Lowest Gross, J Byrne. Kevin Day and Ben Davies were runners up.

Without doubt, the main talking point of the day was a hole-in-one at the 11th achieved by Maurice Pearce. This was also the nearest the pin hole. Maurice then purchased a bottle of whisky and placed it on the bar for anyone to celebrate his achievement with

him. At that very moment, Matt Hawker shot to the bar like a greyhound released from his trap and poured himself a large treble.

Once again thanks should go to Scotts and Charterhouse for their continued support of this event, the Clevedon greenkeepers, catering staff and the secretary for allowing us courtesy of the course.

The next tournament will be the summer tournament at Erlestoke Sands Golf Club in Wiltshire on July 13. I'm sure this event will attract large numbers.

Remember to contact me if you would like to participate on a particular training and education course. I am also still waiting for the first person to show an interest in taking over the monthly report writing and education and training officer. I step down at the next AGM in November, so someone will have to take over. Get your applications in early to avoid disappointment.

Paul Cunningham



It's the first week in May and I'm sitting outside the Green Shed writing these notes (on my lunch break I might add). The sun is burning the top of my head (after a closer than usual crew cut) and I'm watching golfers on the green just in front enjoying their golf; yes conditions at present are heavenly - great cutting days, fine growing conditions, and, with the sun shedding its golden glint over the course, everything looks super. It was great to see the sun after such a long absence and it took my staff and me a few days to work out just what that great yellow thing was in the sky. But anyway enough rambling, here's some news.

The first of our socialising events or golf days was held at Belvoir Park on Tuesday, April 11. The weather wasn't the kindest, what

with heavy hailstone showers and a bitterly cold wind, but a turn out of around 36 ventured out to brave the elements.

The course was beautifully presented and full credit must go to Pat Devlin and his staff for courtesy of the course and also the catering staff who served up excellent grub that was eaten rapidly.

Our sponsors for the day were Drilling and Pumping Services. This is a company relatively new to our industry, which provides a full range of irrigation installation and superb back up. Alastair Wilson, the Managing Director and Partner, joined in the golf and afterwards at prize giving gave us a brief chat about the services his company provides. Drilling and Pumping services can be contacted on 028 9181 8347. Once again many thanks. The prizes were won by Stephen Brady, of Royal County Down, in first place, Gary Murphy, of Silverwood Golf Club, in second, and in third place Noel Crawford, also from Royal County Down.

Apologies to the sponsors - our Chairman, Graham Wylie, wasn't there, but he allegedly attached the wrong date to the wrong day and in a tizzy completely missed the whole event. At least that's his side of the story, but no harm done as the day was a great success.

Congratulations to Terry Crawford and Nigel Aitken who have been picked to go to

St Andrews to join the BIGGA Open Championship Support Team. Volunteering your own time and holidays is very commendable and I hope you enjoy your trip.

New members to the Region are William Walker, from Royal Portrush, and Gavin White, from Portstewart Golf Club. We'll be delighted to see you at the events.

June 30 sees the Annual Charity Event to be held at Clandeboye Golf Club. If you wish to play in this even phone Terry on 0410 076663 and book a tee-off time. Please do not turn up without booking as this is a very well attended event with upwards of 100 players, and you may find that you might not be accommodated.

A fee of £20, which includes your golf, supper and entertainment should be paid before you play on the day. This is open to all Greenkeepers, Secretary Managers and Green Conveyors, so please do try to make the effort to come along. It's a worthwhile cause.

See you later!
Iain Harrison



See you next month!

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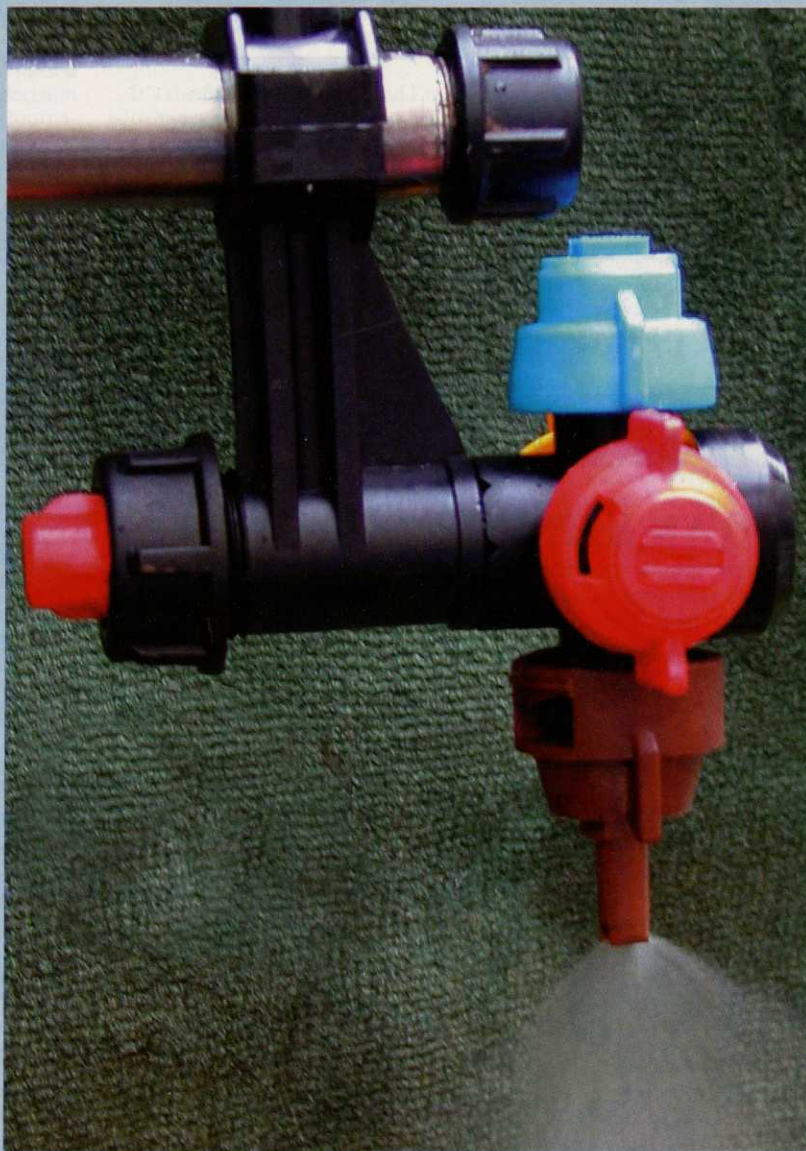
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Ad Ref 22

Bill Oliver looks at the latest legislation which effects sprayers and gives some useful advice on how to stay on the right side of it...

Spray away



It is virtually impossible for dealer sales staff to be on top of all the latest in sprayer health and safety legislation so perhaps the best policy is to ask the people at the sharp end – the manufacturer, through its sales representative.

With that in mind I offer the following assistance in understanding the latest regulations which have been brought in to assist with safe spraying.

Ground Water

Ground water regulations after spraying. You are not allowed to flush sprayer washings down the drain or onto waste ground.

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Carry extra water. In a full rinsing system this must have a rinsing head fitted to clean tank properly and have at least 10% of tank capacity of clean water. Rinse and operate all controls. Spray out as required

Have cleaning head fitted and put clean water at least 10% of tank