



The robust Massey Ferguson 1260

There are three models in the Mistral compact series all are powered by green Yanmar diesel engines and have 12x12 synchromesh reverse shuttle transmissions. A 16x16 system with creep speed is an option.

Equal four wheel drive is the main feature of the four Discovery tractors which also incorporate a drivers platform that rotates 180 degrees to give full reverse drive for out front mowers, plus the company says, easier manoeuvring in difficult situations. Differential locks can be engaged simultaneously to front and rear wheels through a button on the dashboard.

JCB

JCB have come up with a unit that features the benefits of both a loader and tractor - the 2CXU Groundmaster.

According to the manufacturers this latest introduction has been specially developed as a highly versatile piece of kit.

A combination of conventional tractor pto, three-point-linkage and traditional loading shovel provides

the opportunity of using an extensive range of attachments plus various methods of transporting materials. A 0.8 cubic metre shovel is fitted, as standard. The tractor unit is powered by a Perkins diesel and has drive to all the four-wheels each the same size.

This configuration is said to provide maximum manoeuvrability with minimal ground disturbance.

Powered steering can be applied to either all, or just two of the wheels. This machine is another indication of the move by manufacturers away from the traditional tractor design.

Conclusion

As you will see from this there are changes taking place in the compact tractor market with new designs being introduced to increase the versatility - an important aspect when considering replacing equipment.

Clearly, tractor manufacturers are paying much more attention to the turf and amenity sectors and no doubt over the next few years we will see even more innovative introductions.

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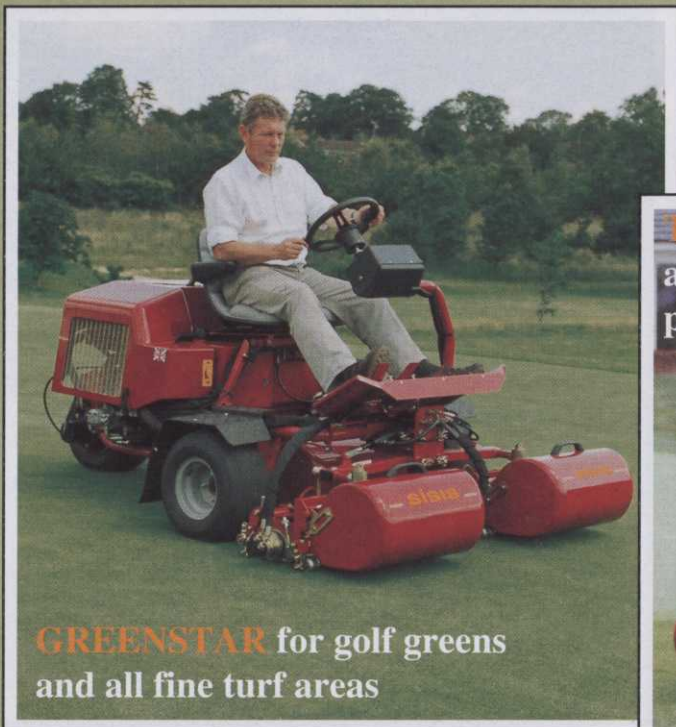
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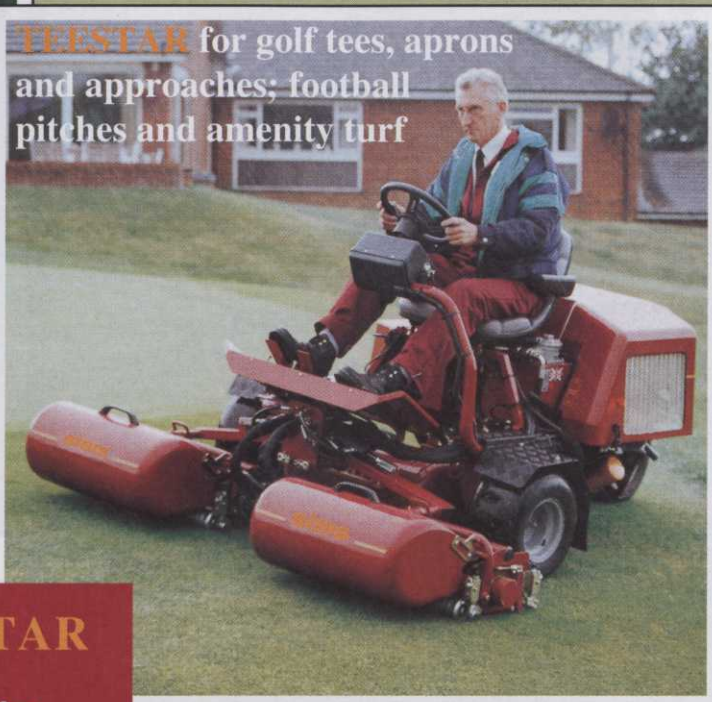
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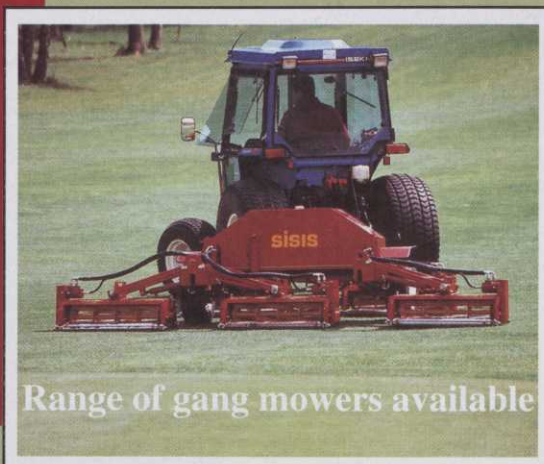
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In 1998, three Englishmen, Philip Armitage, Ben Allen and Neil Atkinson, and one Swede, Patrik Benneryd, enrolled in the Ohio State University International Agricultural Intern Program. Philip, Ben and Neil knew each other from their Reaseheath College days, where they did the HND course. Patrik soon became a great friend to them. This is a recollection of their experiences working in the US turfgrass industry, where they were all fortunate to be placed at Pinehurst Resort & Country Club, North Carolina...

American beauty

"The United States has to move very fast to even stand still"
John F. Kennedy, 1963.



Above: The Carolina Hotel (or 'Queen of the South' as it is often renamed) is the main hotel at Pinehurst where guests stay

We all went to the USA in 1998, participating in the Ohio Agricultural Intern Program, set up some years ago by Michael Chrisman and Michael O'Keeffe. The program is dedicated to providing a US Golf Course Superintendent with an intern who has some degree of turfgrass education and work experience.

The program gives interns the opportunity to experience different approaches to turf management and different work ethics. It also gives interns the opportunity to experience a new culture and lifestyle. It is a

whole new challenge. Interns enter the USA on a J-1 'Trainee' visa which permits a maximum stay of 18 months. There are two choices of program; A (practical training & classroom study) or B (practical training only). Most interns, like us, opted for program B.

An intern is simply a student. The most famous intern, or infamous, of recent history is Monica Lewinsky, the girl who got Bill Clinton into a bit of trouble with Hillary (but our Superintendents did NOT expect any favours of that kind).

Mike O'Keeffe has some fantastic golf courses and resorts where interns can be placed. Pine Valley, Augusta, Westchester CC and Sahalee have all had OSU interns. But don't be under the impression that a famous golfing venue will necessarily provide a better internship than XYZ Country Club in Nowheresville.

Wherever an intern is placed, they have the opportunity to learn. You get out of the internship what you put in. Most importantly, having completed an internship in the USA, it shows a future employer that you



Above: A panoramic shot of the 9th hole on Pinehurst #8 looking from the green back down the fairway (Par 4 hole)
Right: Another shot of the 9th hole on Pinehurst #8 showing a deeper green colour, due to overseeding the golf course with Perennial Ryegrass

have shown initiative and a dedication to improving yourself and your career, and that you were prepared to do it some 3500+ miles from home.

Generally, Mike O'Keeffe will ask you what sort of grasses you want to work with; cool or warm season grasses. We all opted for cool season because we thought it would be useful for us to work with grasses that we might have to encounter upon returning to our respective homelands, both cool season grass climates.

We were placed at Pinehurst, North Carolina, which is in the transition zone in the USA. This is where the climate allows for the growth of both warm season (e.g. Bermuda) and cool season (e.g. creeping bent) grasses.

Pinehurst lives and breathes golf. It already has 144 holes of golf (eight courses) and more are expected to follow in the future. No community on earth, even St. Andrews, is more obsessed with golf than Pinehurst.

The village has a population of about 7000 and not a day goes by

without seeing a golf buggy driving down one of the village's main roads. The courses are a mixture of old and new. The most famous is the #2 course, the Donald Ross masterpiece and host to the 1999 US Open. However, the other courses each offer a good challenge to all types of golfer.

Upon our arrival at Pinehurst, we were all surprised to find out that, after the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent and Second Assistant, the OSU interns were the only other crew members who had completed some form of greenkeeper training. In the USA, education is very expensive. Day release greenkeeper education does not exist - period. If you want turf management education, you have to go to a university and enrol in a full-time course (either a two or four year degree). Tuition fees alone for these courses can total \$2000+/year!

Hence the reason why there is a huge demand in the USA for qualified turf management personnel, regardless of age.

We all noticed that US students, upon graduating from university, could immediately find an Assistant Superintendent position as their first full-time job. We observed it first-hand, and some of them had less experience than ourselves! Some UK greenkeepers may regard this as a risky approach, placing so much responsibility upon young shoulders.

But the management philosophies are very different in the USA from the UK. The Superintendent is generally responsible for long term planning and decision making while their Assistant will co-ordinate the day-to-day management of the golf course. This gives Assistants some degree of responsibility but it allows them to learn from their mistakes in

the capacity of an Assistant so when they move up to a Superintendent's position, they will have acquired a good range of managerial skills in order to cope confidently with a Superintendent's position.

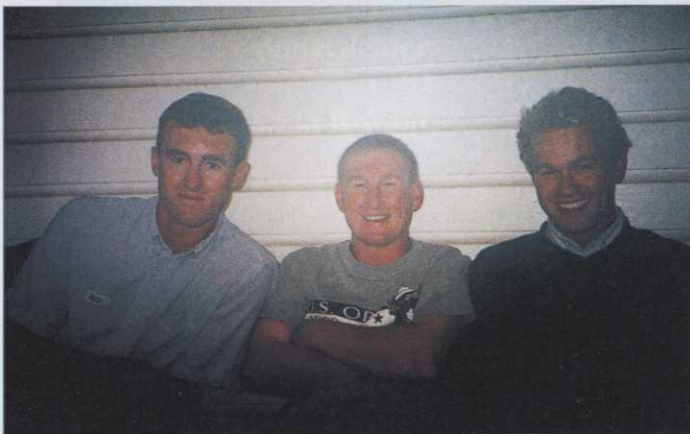
Given that we'd all had greenkeeper training, our Superintendents looked to us to perform a wide range of tasks including course set-up, mowing, aeration, spraying, irrigation work, overseeding and syringing greens (the latter two will be discussed later). As interns, we were seen as people who could show initiative, adapt to different situations, lead by example and also to try to encourage the regular greens staff to do their best.

The Carolina weather was a welcome change to the notorious British weather. The summers of both 1998 and 1999 were two of the hottest in living memory in North Carolina! We were all alien to temperatures exceeding 90 degrees F and the additional humidity levels. Still, we couldn't really complain! We can all remember wearing shorts in December '98 while sitting on a mower etc.!

The 1990s saw Pinehurst introduce a new cultivar of Creeping Bentgrass into its greens. Penn G-2 was first introduced to Course #8, which opened in 1996 to mark the resort's Centennial. G-2 was developed at Penn State University and it adapts well to hot, humid climates. Its high heat tolerance makes it ideal for use in the Carolina climate. G-2 has a shoot density that is around 2.5 times greater than Penncross and it is also extremely disease resistant.

The superb initial response to G-2 at #8 has resulted in Courses 1, 2, 4 and 5 converting to G-2 from Penncross. This trend is expected to continue at Pinehurst in the future.

Below: L-R: Ben Allen, Neil Atkinson, Phil Armitage





G-2 is an extremely high maintenance cultivar which demands regular, low mowing. Its optimum height of cut is below 1/8" (and it should be maintained below that year round. The greens are usually aerated monthly, using a combination of the Hydroject and, followed by, a light verticut. They are then given a light topdressing. This regular regime ensures that the greens remain firm and thatch build-up is minimised. The result is a very true surface which is arguably the finest putting surface to date.

However, G-2 does have its weaknesses. Its recovery from mechanical operations (such as scarifying) is quite poor, although we rarely encountered golfers who mentioned that aeration scars affected the playability of the greens.

Playability seems to be the most important factor at Pinehurst and is probably why the Hydroject has been used much more for deep aeration in the last few years at Pinehurst. Not only does it promote deep rooting, its minimal surface interruption allows the greens to be brought back into play almost immediately - a huge benefit to a resort like Pinehurst. The greens are also subjected to three or four major aeration operations a year. Hollow coring is scheduled for June/July, while scarifying is done in Spring and Autumn.

Although G-2 has a higher heat tolerance than Pennncross, the other cultivar used at Pinehurst, it can only withstand certain temperatures before it also starts to suffer from heat stress, or wilt.

Wilt usually occurs during periods of high temperatures and sunlight, low humidity and particularly on hot, windy days. Syringing is the method used to counteract wilt. Basically, the greens are cooled/misted with water from a hose. The idea is that any moisture loss from the plant will be, in effect, what you have misted onto the green. It is a task with which we all became familiar and although

repetitive at times, it does provide you with the luxury of cooling yourself off during those hot Carolina afternoons!

The golf & tennis villas is where all Pinehurst interns were housed and they proved sufficient for our needs. We basically had a hotel-type room each. They were furnished with a bed, shower, cable TV, refrigerator and air conditioning. Conveniently located

near work, the villas provided a nice refuge where we could relax after a long day in the sun. We would often go out to eat to a local diner and then retire to one of our rooms and relax with a cold beer, wishing that we could watch Match of the Day instead of Major League Baseball!

Next month, we will recount our experiences of the 1999 US Open, hosted on Pinehurst #2.

Below: Early photo of the 6th hole (par 3) on newly constructed Pinehurst #4, a Tom Fazio design. Construction began in early 1999, and play commenced on December 10, 1999



TALKING

Six of the country's top men give their views on communication within their working environments

Communication

Compiled by Malcolm Huntington MBE



Name: Marc Haring
Course: Cumberwell Park GC, Bradford-on-Avon
Region: South West and South Wales
Course Type: Parkland (27 holes)
Staff: Course Manager plus six



Name: Martin Gunn
Course: Temple GC, Maidenhead
Region: Midland
Course Type: Downland
Staff: Course Manager plus six



Name: Ronnie Bunting
Course: Kilmacolm GC, Paisley
Region: Scotland
Course Type: Heathland
Staff: Course Manager plus four



Name: Steve Cram
Course: Slaley Hall G&CC, Hexham
Region: Northern
Course Type: Mixture of parkland, woodland and heathland (36 holes)
Staff: Head Greenkeeper, plus 12, plus six casuals in summer



Name: Tom Smith
Course: Merrist Wood GC, Guildford
Region: South East
Course Type: Parkland
Staff: Head Greenkeeper, plus six, plus one mechanic



Name: Graham Wylie
Course: Malone GC, Dunmurry
Region: Northern Ireland
Course Type: Parkland (27 holes)
Staff: Course Manager plus 11 greenkeepers, plus 1 mechanic

1

1. How much importance do you give to communicating with your membership?

1. Very important, but being a proprietary owned club where the members have no actual control in decision making it is perhaps less critical than members' clubs.

1. Without communication you are not going to achieve anything. It is of paramount importance in everything you do.

1. Absolutely essential. We have monthly walks of the course and also nature walks in addition to e-mail. I explain reasons for heights of cut, for example, and point out the large number of bird boxes on the course etc etc.

1. Very important. The course is attached to a hotel so there is communication between competition secretaries and the management as to their needs and then we discuss the issues.

1. Very important. We don't have a greens committee so what I have to do is be around and to talk to members. All our greenkeepers are members of the club and play in competitions so that there is plenty of opportunity for discussion. I also have a computer set up with e-mail

1. Great importance. We need to enlighten members as to what is going on on the course and we have a noticeboard which is constantly updated by the Club Manager

HEADS

2

2. Would you say you were recognised and known by the majority of the membership?

2. Absolutely. I would consider it essential that every Course Manager is recognised as a senior member of staff. Gone are the days when greenkeepers were considered to be a lower form of life that would hibernate in their sheds throughout the winter.

2. Yes, definitely. Infamous rather than notable you might say!

2. Very much so. I play a full, active part in the club and am very involved so I get to know a large number of members.

2. Very much so. All our greenkeepers are full members of the club and some of us play in the competitions regularly so we quickly become known to a lot of members.

2. Yes, very definitely. I have a slot at the annual meeting to give a talk to members and I also play a lot of golf with them.

2. I wouldn't say the majority, but by a good proportion of members, particularly those who are involved on the council or committees. I have an assistant called Bobby and we have similar looks, so quite often we are mistaken for each other and I get players saying "How are you, Bobby?".

3

3. How do you pass on information about forthcoming potentially disruptive course maintenance work?

3. We rarely, if ever, carry out such work. It's not so much the members but visitors and societies who have to be kept happy. We do all we can to stop problems building up to the stage where disruptive work is required. It is a case of keeping the greens in good all year round condition rather than great one day and diabolical the next.

3. We communicate in all sorts of ways. We have a bulletin board, a quarterly news letter, small group forums, open forums, via the parish council and the pro shop, where members and visitors are informed about what is going on.

3. We have a noticeboard and an eco-table and so can inform anyone and everyone of matters pertaining to the course. For example, I would tell them that at some time in the coming weeks, when conditions allow, such and such will take place. Burning heather was one aspect they were told about in recent weeks.

3. Through management meetings, via a noticeboard and through the pro shop where people are told whether hollow coring or other maintenance work is being carried out.

3. We have a fortnight in March and a fortnight in September when we do course maintenance and these dates are decided in November and put on the fixture list. On these dates greenkeepers have priority on the course.

3. Via the noticeboard and we also inform the pro shop. They then tell members and guests what is going on, if there is work on the course or the greens for example.

4

4. Do you hold regular Open Nights to inform members of what you and your team do on the course and if so how well attended are they?

4. No. However, I consider it essential that I maintain a good relationship with the members by communicating with them individually on an informal basis. The best thing you can do is to ask how their golf is going. If you can sit there and appear interested you will instantly become their best friend.

4. Not regular, but we have an annual meeting. I feel it is more important to have small group meetings to target specific items and then get a feedback.

4. These are taken care of in our regular walks of the course, dealing with environmental aspects of the club and we usually have good attendances.

4. No, we don't and it has never been suggested but I do think it would be a good idea to have them from time to time.

4. We have open nights every six months or so and these are well attended, but because we are in touch with members all the time there is less need for them than there might be at some clubs.

4. No, and it has never been mooted. We have an unusual set up in that everything works through a very large greens committee of 12, who have summer meetings on the course. They are active and pass information on.

5

5. In general terms how do you feel, greenkeeper-membership relationships could be improved upon?

5. We could improve by remembering they are not the enemy. They could improve by allowing the Course Manager to be on first name terms with all the membership. There are still many clubs where the membership expect to be addressed as Mr, Mrs or whatever by the Course Manager. Such archaic policy makes constructive dialogue all but impossible.

5. I feel it is most important that golf as an industry communicates with other sections on a realistic level of expectation. This could only come with golf as a lead body giving information to the end user.

5. We always encourage constructive feedback and there are always open information lines so I feel relationships are very good. Our greens staff are all in distinctive uniforms with the club logo on them which I feel is important.

5. Overall I believe it is a good idea for greenkeepers to play with the members because then members would more readily appreciate what is happening and why.

5. I believe we need to change our image and be a lot more professional in certain matters. We don't have a problem because our course is part of the college which trains greenkeepers but, in general terms, perhaps clubs could allow more dialogue between the greenkeeping staff and the membership.

5. I feel we could do more to educate members via BIGGA seminars. At some clubs you feel that members believe greenkeepers are just the people who cut the grass. It would be good if greens committee members attended a seminar on the issues. We have one at Greenmount College, Antrim, on October 25 and there is room for 200 so I hope clubs will send representatives.



Scottish Region
Peter Boyd
Tel/Fax 0141 616 3440

Scottish National Tournament

The Scottish National Tournament will be held on Tuesday 27 June 2000 over the Hawkshill Course, Newnacher, Aberdeen by kind permission of the Captain and committee.

The cost of the event will be £16 which includes coffee/tea, filled rolls and an evening meal.

Entry will be restricted depending on the number of entries received. Entry forms will be available at all Section Spring outings and from the Regional Administrator.

All entries with remittance must be sent to the Regional Administrator, Peter J. Boyd, 10 Meadowburn Avenue, Newton Mearns, Glasgow G77 6TA by Sunday 18 June 2000.

Cheques made payable to BIGGA Scottish Region.

Scottish Conference, Business Learning Centre Lauder College, Dunfermline.

Once again the BIGGA Scottish Conference returned to the Business Learning Centre, Lauder College, Dunfermline. The college offers everything, from superb facilities with helpful and courteous staff, to a central position with easy access from the motorway proving once again that this is an excellent location.

Our speakers were from a broad spectrum of the trade and brought a wealth of experience and this was evident in their talks. First speaker was Brian Robinson on 'Grasses into 2000' with a talk on new strains and grasses for the millennium. After Brian we had Neil Simpson of the Scottish Golf Union. Neil expanded on the role of the Scottish Golf Union and its splendid new facilities at Drumoig. Next up was John Quinn, Head of Golf Development at Elmwood College and one of only two Master Greenkeepers in Scotland. John talked about personal goals and how to achieve them and certainly left the audience with some ideas to think about. Last, but by no means least in the morning session, was Simon Barnaby who spoke about Integrated diseases. This was an excellent presentation that according to the audience was far too short.

The first speaker at the afternoon session was a well known greenkeeper in Scottish circles Ronnie Bunting from

Kilmalcom GC. Ronnie spoke about the Environment and his club. It was obvious from his talk that this is a subject close to his heart and showed he was very committed to good environmentally practices. Following Ronnie, was David Roxburgh, from Rangers Football Club, who had some very definite ideas on the role of the groundsman and left us in no doubt that the groundsman was on par with any Head Greenkeeper. He certainly proved his worth in promoting the groundsman side of things. Finally to round off the day we heard Alistair Connell, a person well known throughout the trade. He spoke on drainage and irrigation, a subject at present never far away from any greenkeepers thoughts especially if you are working in the West of Scotland. Alistair provided us with an insight into the work that goes into preparing golf courses and football pitches.

At the conclusion of the Conference it was clear that the needs of the members had been well met by the speakers throughout the day and this was reflected in numbers who attended.

The 150 who attended had obviously been attracted by the variety of subjects on offer and the quality of speakers.

It is hoped that that next year's conference can maintain the high standards set.

Peter Boyd

West

Welcome once again to another round up of Section news.

This month's news dominated by football. The following report, kindly produced by Stuart Taylor, on two matches played recently.

West Section v Central at Ibrox on 2nd April.

Team: B. Hillen, C. Scott, A. Smith, C. Goodall, B. Bolland, G. Burns, S. Taylor, G. Shearer, E. Devine, C. Davies, S. McGechie, and K. Hastings.

Nice to see all the boys could make the effort to come and I use the term boys very loosely as when the opposition appeared our team looked like the old crocks, no offense meant. Yes, they were a youthful side, but we had experience on our side and this is what proved decisive. Some good football was played at times, with only 15mins on the clock the West were two goals up with Gary Burns and Steven McGechie finishing well. Brian Hillens inexperience in goal showed with two mistakes causing the equalisers although he denied the second was his fault. Before half time two more for the West and one from the

Central section meant 4-3 at the break. The second half was all the West with three more goals coming, the final tally 7-3 to the West with the goals being supplied by Steven McGechie (4), Colin Davies (2), and Gary Burns (1). Lets say a word of thanks to Andy O'Hara and his team for a good spirited and competitive game, thanks to everybody who played for making it such a good day. Next report the match against the Police, and still the East Section to play.

Please let me know if you wish a run out phone 0141-942-5554.

Police game report

Well here we are again on the winning trail as we achieved a good victory against the Police. Near enough the same team as played the Central Section with Sandy Brawley and Gerry Bruen replacing Graeme Shearer and Charlie Goodall. This time the West took first blood with an excellent 25 yard rocket shot from Steven McGechie, five minutes later however the Police equalised through a free kick. A few minutes later and Gerry Bruen slipped past the defence to place the ball beyond the keeper, 2-1 West. Shortly after the Police equalised a cross ball leaving Brian Hillen and Gary Burns to wonder what happened as they had the ball covered. Next Steve McGechie again scored through good skills and placed the fourth in after opening up the Police defence. The Police had a consolation goal through Stuart Taylor's lack of decision. Thanks to all who took part, Bob Graham for the challenge match and for supplying the strips. Well done guys, come on the East this should be easy meat. Once again those interested in playing contact me, Stuart Taylor.

Thanks Stuart for that detailed account of the matches, a good result for the West.

Please make a note in your diary regarding the autumn outing at Lenzie GC, the date has been altered to Thursday 21st September, previously Thursday 14th September.

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

Gavin Jarvis

Central

We extend a warm welcome to Michael Booth from Dunblane New Golf Club who joins the section this month, Michael is an apprentice at Dunblane and hopefully we will see him at some of our forthcoming events. If you can play football Michael

get in touch with Andy O'Hara fast!

In the recent football match against the West Section at Ibrox, well across the road from it, the Central Section went down narrowly by seven goals to three, I am still waiting on the full match report from the team manager Andy "maybes aye maybes naw" O'Hara, but by all accounts our goalkeeper played a blinder, with blind being the operative word! Still, just wait until the return match on home soil.

The winner of the Club 2000 draw for last month was Colin Buchanan with ticket number 00185, congratulations Colin, you owe Kevin Brunton a drink for selling you the ticket.

Anyone who missed the Annual Conference at Dunfermline recently missed excellent presentations by all the speakers who covered a variety of subjects and once again our thanks go to Peter Boyd for organising another first class event. The Central Section was well represented at the conference, but amazingly, as last year, not one of the three local clubs were represented, I wonder if they know where the Lauder Tech is?

With regard to the survey form which was sent to you all recently I would like to thank everyone who took the time to fill them in and return them, your committee will endeavour to organise a number of your suggestions during the current year. A special thanks to Owene Brown from the Dukes Course, Simon Freeman from Machrie, Mike Dennis from Rigby Taylor and Richard Walton from Scotts who have all offered to become involved in organising some events for our benefit.

At the time of writing the entry for the Spring Tournament at St Andrews is fully subscribed, I hope this is a sign of things to come for future events, there will be a full report in next months news.

The draw for this years Inter Club Tournament should be with those teams who entered and hopefully we will manage to get this tournament finished in the same year as it was started and not like last year's which has carried over to another millennium!

John Crawford

North

New members to welcome to the Section this month are as follows: Nick Mackay from Kemnay, Grant Clark from Caird Park, Donald Meldrum from Taymouth Castle and from Blairgowrie we welcome back Stevie Macintosh and Bruce Maclaren.

PASSPORT



John Deere

**Welcome to
John Deere**



Club Bonmont Geneva



Name
HAESLAR, VICTOR
Title
SUPERINTENDENT

Victor not only is greenkeeper at Club Bonmont – he actually assisted in the building of the course. “I knew nothing early on about golf course building or greenkeeping – I started by picking up stones with machines, 5000 cubic metres in all.” Victor quickly learned his trade. Eventually, he discovered John Deere. “I first experienced John Deere in 1993. In 1998 we purchased a Aercore Aerator 1500. It consistently aerates at a high level and servicing it is easy.”



Aercore Aerator 1500



Kaga Central Golf Club Kaga City



Name
HAYAMI, MANSHIRO
Title
SUPERINTENDENT

Kaga Central was literally carved from a mountainside. Many tons of granite were removed to make way for a championship course. The job of keeping Kaga Central in top form falls to Manshiro. So he counts on John Deere. “From past experience, I knew John Deere had the kind of reliable equipment needed to meet the demands of this course. We mow our greens with the 220A Walk Behind Greens Mower to give our course a true championship finish.”



220A Walk Behind Greens Mower



Old Head Golf Club Kinsale



Name
GALVIN, MARTIN
Title
SUPERINTENDENT

Only open since the summer of 1997, Old Head is already ranked as one of the top 100 facilities in the world. A lot of the credit for this goes to Martin and his crew who regularly battle 50-mph winds on this historic Irish headland. Martin gives credit to John Deere. "The John Deere Gator Utility Vehicles are excellent. We have a lot of stones here, (as befits a new course) and they stand right up to the conditions."



Turf Gator



Horizons Golf Resort Salamander Bay



Name
WATSON, DARREN
Title
SUPERINTENDENT

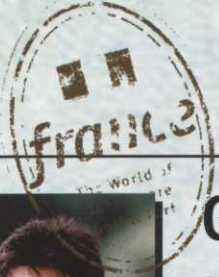
Two hours north of Sydney, Horizons Golf Resort started as little more than a swamp and has quickly turned into one of the leading golf resorts in Australia. Darren Watson and his crew are responsible for all of the landscaping on this very unique property. "We will not settle for second best in anything we do and that includes the equipment we use.

John Deere's 2653A has been impressive – it runs all over the others we've tried."



2653A





Name
MOREAU, XAVIER

Title
SUPERINTENDENT

Golf de Limère Orléans

Golf de Limère hosted three major championships in its first three years, so Xavier and his crew are familiar with what it takes to keep a course in peak form. They place special emphasis on reliable equipment. "Keeping 90 bunkers in top condition is a challenge. Our number 10 hole is a sea of bunkers with almost 18,000 square metres of sand. We rely heavily on the 1200A Bunker Rake to help us keep them in pristine condition."



1200A Bunker Rake



Carden Park Golf Resort Chester



Name
CAMPBELL, ANDY

Title
SUPERINDENDENT

Carden Park started as a country estate, dating all the way back to the 13th century. Today, it boasts two 18 hole golf courses, with the newest one being a Jack and Steve Nicklaus design. Master Greenkeeper Andy Campbell oversees both courses and does it with the help of John Deere equipment. "I really like the new 2500 Tri-Plex Greens Mower. It's great to use from a comfort point of view and consistently delivers an excellent cut."



2500 Tri-Plex



Castelconturbia Novara

Castelconturbia hosted the Italian Open in 1991 and 1998. A Robert Trent Jones design, Castelconturbia has hosted ten other championships at the course. The task of keeping the course in championship form falls to Carlo. "Our fairways have seen a big improvement, thanks in part to our two 3235A Lightweight Fairway Mowers. They're easy to use and I like the fact that, with the Rotate For Service (RFS), you don't have to take reels off."



Name
QUERZOLI, CARLO

Title
SUPERINTENDENT



3235A Lightweight Fairway Mower



Cortijo Country Club Canary Islands

The Cortijo Country Club is extremely isolated, located in the Canary Islands, approximately 2000 kilometres south of the Iberian Peninsula. Fernando knows full well the importance of having parts when he needs them. "When we were deciding on equipment, the ability to get parts in a timely manner was a significant factor in our decision. That's why we chose John Deere. They were the only brand that could offer us the parts service in less than 48 hours."



Name
SUAREZ, FERNANDO

Title
SUPERINTENDENT



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On the move are Chris Cumming, leaving Fortrose after many years service to go to Peterculter and Andrew Shade who leaves Peterculter to take over the head job at Spey Bay. Andrew has the task of restoring this lovely course back to its natural links state.

Andy Menmuir, our Rigby Taylor rep who married Cordelia last year is now expecting the pater of tiny feet as Cordelia is expecting a baby in August. Congratulations to both.

I should have kept quiet about the weather, it is early April as I write this report and it has been snowing over the last couple of days, hopefully this is the last of the winter weather.

I am in possession of the portfolios of all the newly qualified D32/33 Assessors in the Section and we hope to have a Moderation Meeting this month where I will hand them out. All Assessors should attend this meeting to hear the latest news and air their views.

The Section outing at Buckpool, Buckie this month will decide who from the North will win the expenses paid trip to the BIGGA National Tournament in the Autumn and also the first four winners of the 200 Club, so get your entries in quick and please pay for your 200 Club ticket, thank you and good luck.

Iain Macleod



Northern Region
Douglas Bell
Tel: 0151 431 0433

Northern

Nothing much to report this month. The Spring Tournament at Bradley Hall GC sponsored by White Moss/Sports World will be reported on next month. Our next Golfing event is President's Day at Hollins Hall GC on Wednesday 21 June. This is being 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. Entries will be on a first come first in basis, so book early to avoid disappointment.

We welcome this month as new members:- Matthew Winn & Andrew Powell, Cookridge Hall G&CC; David Mulholland & Colin Mulholland, Pontefract & District GC; Craig Hustwit, Calvery GC; Peter Delannoy, Hessle GC; Gareth Potts, Howley Hall GC; Andrew Percival, Masham GC; Richard Hall, Calvery GC; Darren

Hargreaves, Nigel Wood, Jeffery Holmes, Adam McCallum, Skipton GC; Scott Lambert, Wensleydale GC.

You can be assured of a warm welcome at any of our Section events. If you have any enquiries don't hesitate in picking the phone up and giving us a ring. There is no other news at the moment, if anybody has any information or ideas for Section events either Educational or social then let me know. It is your Section. My address is 67 Asquith Avenue, Morley, Leeds, LS27 9QS or telephone at home 0113 2383188/mobile 07790 678572.

Andy Smith

North West

Many thanks to Martin Gunn, Jonathan Tucker, Bob Taylor and Alistair Beggs. These of course were the speakers at the seminar at Mere Golf & Country Club on 16 March. We had an excellent day with 75 delegates in attendance including Greenkeepers, Golf Club Secretaries, Chairmen of Greens and members of the Trade. Martin Gunn, Course Manager, at Temple Golf Club, and winner of the BIGGA Environmental Award, gave us an insight into the management of running his course and gaining the interest of his members in becoming environmentally friendly. His hard work and dedication to his profession, plus the help from a strong committee and advice from the STRI has paid off making the course a "Temple of Excellence".

Jonathan Tucker, STRI Golf Course Architect, spoke on what to do and what not to do when designing a course. The improvement in the quality of the golf ball and the golf club has certainly brought great changes into the design of the course. The positioning of fairway bunkers has certainly seen major changes and Jonathan suggested bunkers on wheels might be an improvement. After seeing some of his slides on DIY Greens Design. I think it advisable to call in the expert every time.

After an excellent lunch, Bob Taylor, STRI Senior Ecologist, spoke on Practical Assessments on Golf Courses throughout Europe, with the aim being to improve environmental/ecological management and awareness on golf courses. He is also Ecologist to the R&A and is responsible for undertaking ecological assessments on all the Open Championship courses. Bob has written widely over the past few years and one book especially "A Practical Guide to Ecological Management of the

Golf Course" which is an excellent book available from BIGGA house at a cost of £3 for members and £7 for non members.

The day was rounded off by Alistair Beggs STRI Agronomist, North West. Alistair's talk was 'Pest and Disease Management - What does the Future Hold'. The future seems rather bleak, as Alistair explained there are so many pesticides and insecticides becoming banned because of health and safety regulations that the control even of the 'Fuss' will become a major problem. This is worrying, even now the control of worms and leather jackets is becoming more difficult with the banning of well proven pesticides. I think we will have to revert to some of the old remedies. I might mention that the three speakers from the STRI can be contacted at Bingley Telephone 01274 565131.

The Summer Tournament will be played at West Derby GC on Wednesday 28 June. Lunch will be served between 12.00 and 1.00 pm. The tee will be available from 1.30pm. All applications including a cheque for £15 made payable to BIGGA N/W. Applications to be sent to Peter Cross, Harthill Lodge, Harthill Road, Liverpool L18 3HU no later than Friday 23 April. Evening meal and prize presentation to take place once the golf is completed. Smart dress in the evening please.

In any case any members do not know, we have an excellent library at BIGGA House and all books are available for loan for a 6 week period at no cost.

Any news or views you can contact me on 0151 724 5412. Bert Cross

North East

On behalf of members who made the effort, we would like to thank Terry Charlton of Turf-Care for the recent outing at the local ten-pin bowling, a rather disappointing turn-out considering we had unlimited bowling and it did not cost the member anything, but that seems to be the norm these days. The winner, if any of you are interested, was Barry Walker of Wearside Golf Club who goes onto the grand final with Garry Batson of Burgham Park in second place, please note the distance these people travelled to support the Section!

Another event took place at Tyneside Golf Club on the 23 March, again sponsored by Terry Charlton - the subject Health and Safety - OK not the most popular subject but wouldn't it be nice to turn up or like some of us, send apolo-

gies. I could not believe that no-one turned up at all! If you found that the lectures we have had are boring at least get in touch with us and tell us what you want to have, I bet we get a better turn-out at the golf meetings!

Jimmy Richardson

North Wales

A committee meeting was held on March 7 to organise our spring meet and sort out a few things. We do need feedback on certain suggestions made.

Harrogate - options 1. Stay with same coach format. 2. £10 returnable deposit to save being out of pocket. 3. Run mini busses, find trade sponsorship or offer a package which includes overnight stay on Wednesday, so we arrive late Wednesday afternoon, can take in the AGM and all the other excellent night life attractions, spend Thursday at BTME, leave Thursday afternoon. WE DO NEED FEEDBACK!

Our final winter lecture at the college on laser levelling and the rules of golf was again superb and the attendance was brilliant. All the lectures have been a complete success. Our thanks go to the college, our education officers, ALS for providing the refreshments and all of you for attending. If there is anything you would like on the agenda for next winter's lectures, please contact Phil Davies and put the ball in motion.

Windsor: any of you wanting to attend the IOG Show, please contact Stuart McCall; If there is enough interest, an overnight package could be arranged, pick up that phone. Call numbers are on your events card. My mobile has changed: 0778 7586084 and I now have an e-mail: dgoodridge@talk21.com.

Welcome to new members Andy Roberts - Caldry, Stuart Mason and Alex Cochran - Padeswood and Buckley, Ken Smith - Rhuddlan, Barry Rogers and Paul Lowe - Eastam Lodge, Mark Richards - Welshpool, Mathew Pooley and Tom Fowles - Chester and Steven Leg - Vicars Cross.

The spring meeting was held at Frodsham. The weather was fantastic as was the golf course. Full praise must go to Paul Massey and the team for the amazing condition of the course considering we had just come out of such a wet winter and snow just two days before the event. Everything about it was first class, whichever way you looked at the course it was a picture. The members at Frodsham are very lucky indeed. Tees, fairways, the whole shooting match top

notch!
Our thanks go to Frodsham for having us, a very enjoyable day indeed.

Also our thanks go to the trade, Acorn, Aitkens, ALS, Amenity Technology, Burrows, Major R Owen, John Osman, Rigby Taylor, Sportsworld and Walker Engineering and of course Scotts and Charterhouse.

The results were: Best net Allen Lewis 71. Best Gross Andy Peel 79. Craig Wheeler net 73, Darryl Davies net 74, Paul Massey net 75, Mathew Pooley net 75. The first two qualify for the National and the next four for the Regional.

The winner of our new trade shield went to Andy Cornes of Acorn Equipment and the best guest was Eric Roylance. 77 players took part in the event, again a fantastic turn out. My apologies for not being able to stay for the presentation, so I will take this opportunity to explain that the price of entry this time was kept low as it was the first meet of the new millennium. However, prices will now revert back to the normal rates. Please remember meals cost £10 or more. Whilst I'm on

about meals, the food at Frodsham matched everything else at the club. Top notch!

See ya
Dave Goodridge.



Midland Region
Les Emery
Tel: 0116 287 9036

Midland

It is with great sadness that I have to report the death of a long serving member and friend of the Midland Section. Alan Cutler of Edgbaston Golf Club died tragically on March 15.

Alan had worked at Edgbaston for some 33 years and was the longest serving member of staff at the Golf club. He will be sadly missed by all his colleagues at the Golf Club, he was an ever present at all of the Midland section events and many National events and his absence will be very apparent to everybody who had the pleasure of meeting him. On behalf of the Section I would like to convey our deepest sympathy to Alan's family and friends.

The results from the spring

tournament will be available for the next report and all the qualifiers for the National Championship.

Finally I would like to report on the success of Adam Throssall, of Gaudet Luce Golf Club, who recently became the National Under 21 champion for table tennis, congratulations Adam.

Jonathan Wood



South East
Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260956

Kent

Welcome to this month's news from the Section.

Over the past few months your committee has been hard at work arranging events for the forth-coming year.

By now you should all have received a fixture card and covering letter. If anyone has not received their fixture card please contact me.

Again this year the Section has been well supported, through sponsorship from the following companies: Avoncrop Amenity,

Barnonset Limited, CMW, Ernest Does, Farmura, Gem Professional, Godfreys, Bournes, Rigby Taylor Limited, Mobile Mower Services, John Shaw Machinery Limited, Scotts UK, Sherriff Crop Care, Greenkeeping Services, Palmers Agricultural, Sheerwater Leisure Limited, UAP, Grassroots and European Turf Technology - our thanks to them for their generosity!

The number of new members joining the section this year is on the increase and we extend a warm welcome to them and hope to see them at this years events.

Congratulations go to Philip Belton on his new job at Westerham Golf Club - good luck Philip.

Congratulations also to Clive Pearson, of Gem Professional, and his wife on the birth of their new son Jack, who weighed in at 10lbs 2oz. A little birdie tells us Clive is planning on employing an Italian nanny to assist Jack's chances of making the Chelsea team - Bella! Bella!

A request has also been made for Richard Haynes to help Clive out by donating some of

Your greens' quality is riding on it.

