

Below: Intensive aeration is essential to winter preparation, but is your timing right?



or Terra-Spike) may well form part of your aeration programme but with much more efficient aeration equipment available to us these days routine pencil tining throughout the year, backed up with further Verti-Draining, micro-coring, slitting and the rest, helps keep on top of thatch, retains decent root systems and sustains free drainage. It is even possible to continue with deep spiking through the summer with minimal disruption to putting surfaces. This is not to say that everyone needs to be out on their greens every fortnight punching some sort of hole into them. If you have a serious thatch problem this could well be necessary but nowadays aeration programmes take on a tremendous range of tine types, spiking frequencies and individual attention to problem areas of specific greens.

The days of hiring in a corer or deep spiker once a year and going through all 18 greens should be over. Every course should have a bespoke aeration programme for their greens, one designed to suit its needs rather than convention or historical precedence. The little and often approach to top dressing that has been advocated could just as well be applied to aeration work these days.

Dealing with thatch and poorly draining greens

There will be situations where an intensive aeration attack is called for. If you have inherited a severe thatch problem which causes the greens to turn to bogs at the first drop of winter rain then annual coring is not going to be much help. Steve Dixon, at Kingsknowe Golf Club in Edinburgh, cored his greens 18 times in two years (a combination of micro and Jumbo coring) to get on top of thatch. The Club now enjoy much firmer, drier surfaces throughout the winter months. Obviously, communication within the Club is vital if this sort of programme is to be accepted and Steve was fortunate enough to have a very supportive Committee. Even so, it takes guts to follow such a programme through.

If you are managing greens on a heavy soil base then the timing of pre-winter aeration is critical. Links managers and others fortunate enough to have sandy greens can get away with October, or even later, Verti-Draining. On soil based greens you need to get in much earlier, when the soil is relatively dry and when the shattering effect of the tines will prove beneficial. This means August or early September work, never pop-

ular with the members, at least initially. Deep spiking at this time will disrupt golf but for a much shorter time than later operations. It also allows time for a fairly heavy top dressing. Verti-Drain at the height of growth and the greens recover within a week or two, leave it until growth is in decline and true surfaces may not be restored until you can get a few light dressings on them the following spring. By deep spiking this early it is also possible to get away with far less heave to achieve the desired effect which means less surface upheaval and no major softness problems once the surfaces have been smoothed back down. Be brave, explain to members why you need to get in early and reap the rewards - firmer greens through the winter and better greens coming into the spring. A Club in Glasgow took this step and it proved so successful that there is an outcry from the members if there is any suggestion of putting the work back by even a week or two.

The evil that is Fusarium

The Course Manager should always be thinking at least six months ahead when it comes to maintenance and presentation of the greens. Do not think of winter preparation as simply

a means of reducing course closure but as an exercise in ensuring that there is a decent surface ready for your spring works so that good quality playing conditions can be prepared as early in the year as possible. One of the potential hazards in this regard is outbreaks of Fusarium patch disease which can result in severe scarring and a spring of repair rather than grooming towards summer condition.

The Talking Heads feature in the July 2000 issue of Greenkeeper International showed that Fusarium is still the greatest disease threat faced by greenkeepers in the UK. The changing climate has not helped matters with milder, wetter winters seemingly the norm, a weather pattern that, if anything, should promote the disease. However, at many clubs I visit we have seen a decrease in Fusarium in recent years and much of this can be attributed to adapting to the changing weather.

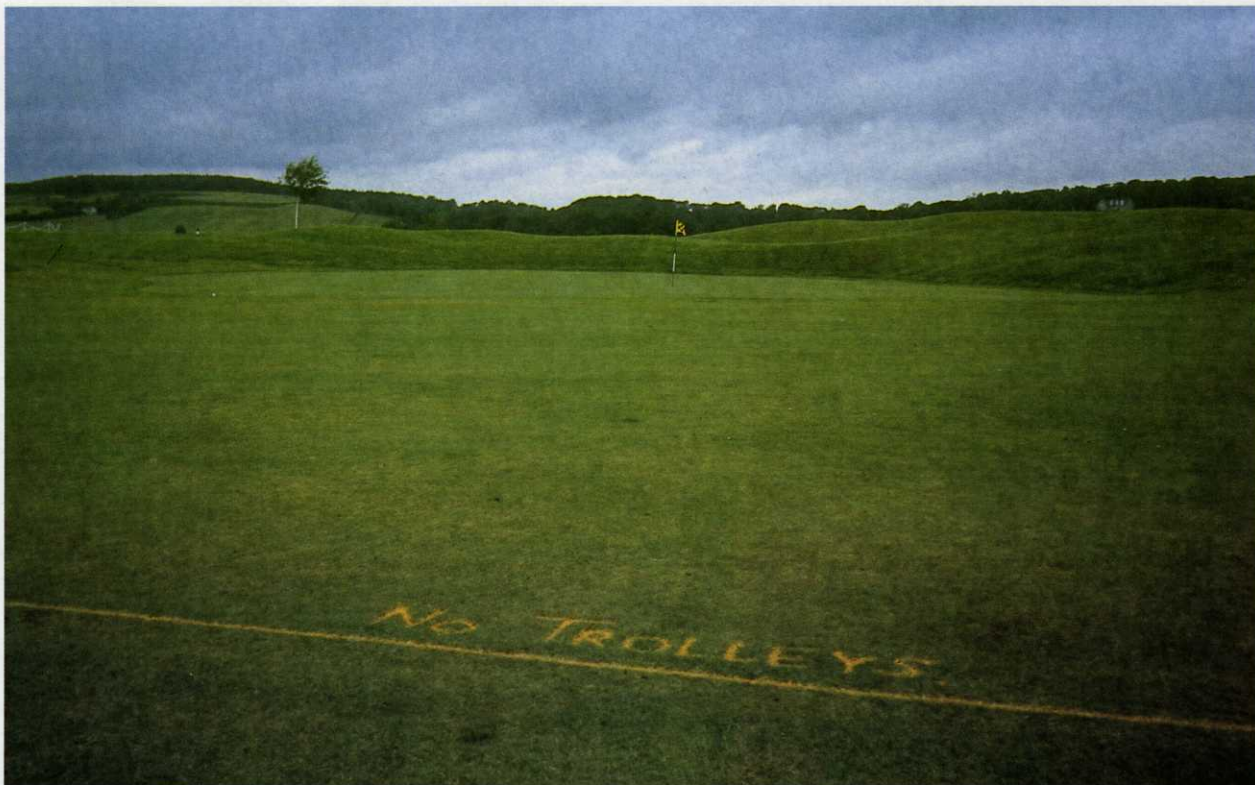
This may incorporate:

Avoiding late top dressing. Any dressing applied after the end of September has the potential to bring on Fusarium, particularly if combined with intensive aeration which always produces a growth spurt. This may not be as applicable the further



WINTER HEALTH CHECK

Bottom: The dreaded fus! Protect against disease by reducing autumn stress
Below: Line marking is a good way to divert trolleys



south you go but if you are plagued with persistent Fusarium attacks then it is something to consider.

Boosting potassium levels through the late summer months can also help reduce the level of Fusarium. Paul Murphy, the Course Manager at Downfield, cited this as part of his disease management programme in the Talking Heads feature.

While the conventional approach to fertiliser remains true, i.e. no significant nitrogen input after the end of August, the milder weather seen through October and November in recent years has led to a slight re-think on this issue. Certainly, those blessed (not!) with a high annual meadow-grass content have often seen the turf turn a sickly yellow

through the autumn months if their final feed was made in August or earlier. This turf is clearly under stress and is far more prone to disease than healthy grass. We have seen a return to autumn fertiliser treatment to compensate for this, though only with low nitrogen tonics to keep the grass healthy and less prone to disease attack through this period of late growth.

Course protection

In spite of all your efforts there will be times when temporary greens have to be brought into use. So, prepare temporary greens early so that you present a decent alternative. Siting of temporary greens is vital. So often we see temporaries in wet or shaded sit-

uations which are, at times, worse winter environments than the main putting surface. We would always advise against using green aprons as temporary putting surfaces. This moves us into another aspect of winter preparation, traffic management. Most of our courses were not designed for today's level of play, particularly not through the winter. Trolley traffic should be banned altogether or must be kept away from funnelled access points into greens. For some reason line marking seems the most effective means of preserving turf to surrounds. Yes, it can simply transfer the damage but surely this is far better 20 yards off the green than in the immediate fringe.

In an ideal world every course would have separate turfed winter tees. If available, great, if not then mats may be needed but whatever form of winter tee is employed an important part of the principle is changing the line of traffic flow. This will not necessarily mean altering the length of the hole. Balls fly and run shorter distances through the winter so the usual practice of pushing winter tees forward merely retains wear on the main landing area down the fairway. Additional measures may have to be implemented to protect fairways over the winter as these are often the wettest part of the golf course. If such a policy is implemented the means of protection should to be a decision for the members, under guidance from their professional Turf Manager. Small artificial grass mats (approximately 270

mm by 130 mm) have gained a following in Scotland. Their use originated on links to help preserve the shallow depth of topsoil found here but more and more courses inland are adopting this policy. At one club I visit the members like them because they help keep their balls clean! At another a lady member thought they were great as they kept one of her feet dry, the Captain of the day didn't have the heart to tell her that you were supposed to play your ball off it, not stand on it! Others go for pegging up, but look at how much protection your tees get from this practice. Roping off main landing areas and replacing balls in the semi is another alternative. At least all of these ideas show more imagination than the traditional winter rule of placing on fairways; why have one scar when you can have two!

Firm and dry, there is no other way

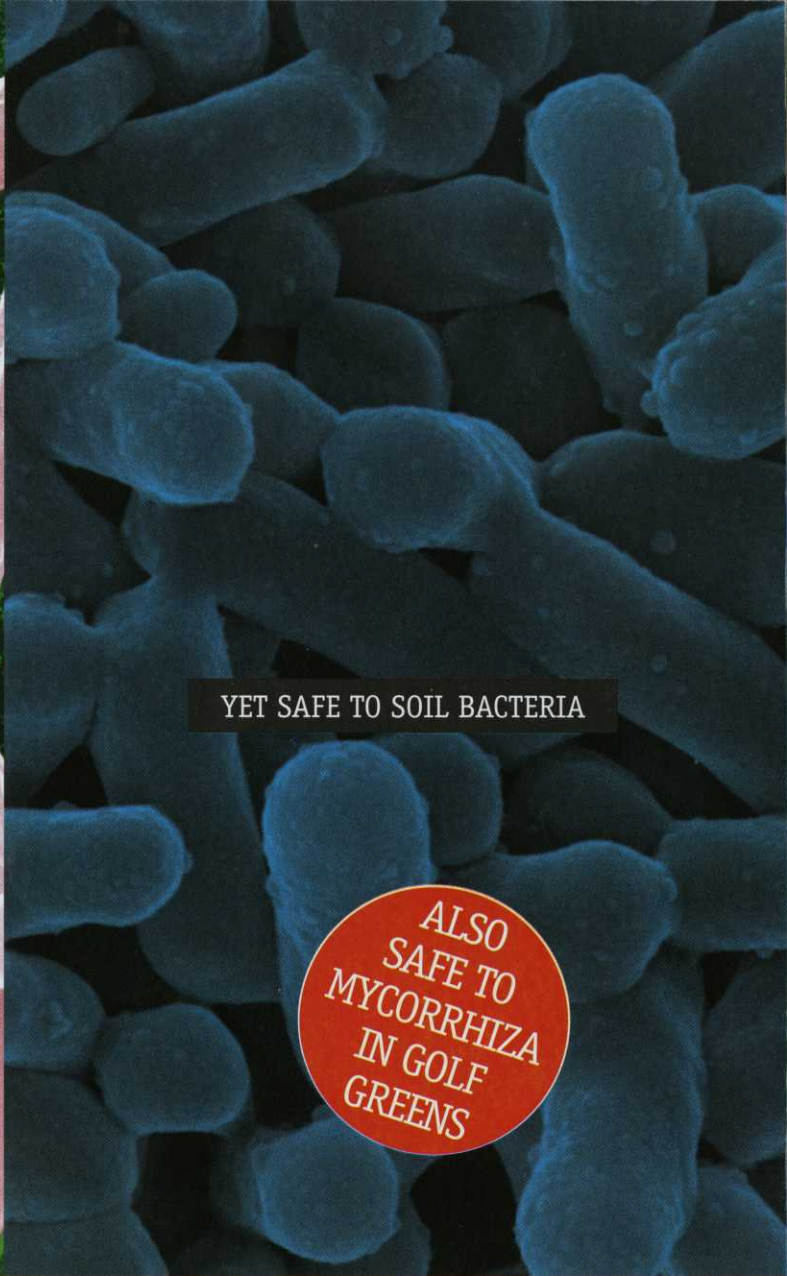
So, to get through the winter in better order be prepared. Follow traditional greenkeeping ideals of promoting firm, dry surfaces. This will involve a vast array of techniques, many employed year-round not just in the immediate run up to winter, providing a sensible level of protection for the turf through good greenkeeping practices rather than through panic induced closure.

Steve Isaac is the STRI Regional Agronomist for Scotland





DEADLY TO FUSARIUM PATCH



YET SAFE TO SOIL BACTERIA

ALSO
SAFE TO
MYCORRHIZA
IN GOLF
GREENS

TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT RIMIDIN

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The second Charterhouse/Scotts National Championship is set to be an exciting affair both on and off the golf courses

ARE YOU READY?



The bright lights of Blackpool are likely to be the setting for the victory celebrations of one of the players in the National Championship, and when the champagne corks pop they will do so to herald an extremely fine golfing achievement.

For to earn the title of Champion Golfer of the Year some excellent golf is going to have to be played over two of the finest courses in the country... never mind the Lytham/Blackpool area.

St Annes Old Links and Fairhaven are well known to BIGGA members hav-

ing hosted a National Tournament and a Hayter National Championship respectively in the past and, although close neighbours geographically, they are completely different types of course.

With that in mind the winner over the two days, is going to have to show an ability to adapt to the specific demands of each course and be on the top of his game.

Last year over the two wonderful courses at the superb Carden Park Resort near Chester, Tony James, of Tehidy Park, became the inaugural

Charterhouse/Scotts National Champion producing a blistering second round nett 64 over the Nicklaus Course to snatch the magnificent trophy from under the nose of David Cuthbertson, of Slaley Hall.

Whoever becomes the second name on the trophy will have to show similar such brilliance.

Anyone wishing to enter the Championship as a last minute non-qualifier should contact Sarah Sowerby at BIGGA HOUSE for further information on 01347 833800.



Ayrshire

Duncan Gray
Alan Forrest

Central Scotland

Alex Robertson
David Leith

East of Scotland

Richard Mullen
Ian Bell

North of Scotland

Richard Pendlebury
Mike Wilson

West of Scotland

John Brown
Gerry Bruen

North East

Barrie Wilson
Steve Quince

North West

Kevin Irving
Jared Ellison

Northern

John Waite
Richard Harris

Cleveland

Darren McGee
Barry Walker

Sheffield

Mark Crawshaw
Andrew Lomas

North Wales

Andy Peel
Allen Lewis

East Midland

Antony Bindley
James Tudor

Midland

Nick Bird
Graham Wallace

East of England

Les Howkins
Graeme Macdonald

BB&O

Simon Austin
Mike Smith

Mid Anglia

Russell Howson
Mark Whittle

Surrey

Brian Turner
John Groombridge

Kent

James Bent
Andrew Howarth

Sussex

Richard Clarke
Dustin Houghton

London

Richard Andrews
Ian Semple

East Anglia

Robert Whiting
James Wright

Essex

Tony Kirwan
Andy Sheehan

South West

John Byrne
Gary Cook

South Coast

Marc Green
Darren Miller

Devon & Cornwall

Tony Ramsden
Mark Tucker

South Wales

Andrew Roach
Steven Lloyd

Northern Ireland

Eamonn Crawford
Nick Webber
Michael O'Neill
Noel Crawford



Mycorrhizal structures associated with turf roots

Intelligent disease control

Harmless to beneficial turf fungi

Still effective against disease



Fusarium



Dollar Spot

Amazingly, some species of fungus are hugely beneficial to your turf.

Mycorrhizal fungi develop a mutually beneficial relationship with turf roots for effective nutrient exchange, and increased resistance to drought, insect pests and disease.

As a result, turf associated with Mycorrhiza tends to be healthier.

You'll be pleased to hear then, that Rovral Green leaves these 'friendly' fungi completely unharmed.

You'll also be glad to know that Rovral Green is still as effective as ever at controlling the harmful species like *Fusarium*, Red Thread and Dollar Spot. No wonder it's still the UK's No 1.

Rovral Green - it thinks for itself.



Canadian Golf Superintendents Association Show and Conference 24-27 February 2001 in Vancouver



Why sharper practices are vital to greenkeepers

Quality of cut is of vital importance to today's greenkeepers, who are in the business of presenting turf to the highest standards 365 days of the year.

Operating world-wide Bernhard and Company manufactures specialist grinding equipment used by many leading golf clubs.

The company provides a regular programme of educationals and seminars to demonstrate the dramatic improvements that can be made to turf by making sure mower blades are kept really sharp. These have been developed to be of considerable practical benefit to existing and future greenkeepers as they practice and study turf management.

"The knowledge gained links plant physiology to mechanical issues," said Stephen Bernhard, Managing Director, "and shows how maintenance operations and costs can be reduced."

Bernhard promotes strong links with BIGGA and its members. Continuing this strong educational link Bernhard has decided to

sponsor a BIGGA delegation of greenkeepers to visit the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association Show in Vancouver in February 2001.

A total of ten BIGGA members will be selected, two from each region, and all costs are being met by the company. This includes, travel, accommodation and entrance to the conference programme.

"Forging closer links and sharing knowledge with BIGGA and its members will help to promote a continuous rise in standards of turf management," said Stephen Bernhard. "This will benefit the whole of the industry." Bernhard offers to work with greenkeepers and provides free demonstrations of their highly regarded Express Dual and Anglemaster combo - precision cylinder and bottom-blade grinding system. They also provide a free cost analysis service to examine existing costs and demonstrate the potential for savings and how they can be made: telephone 01788 811600, visit the web - www.bernhard.co.uk or e-mail info@bernhard.co.uk for further details.



Above: Stephen Bernhard, Managing Director of Bernhard and Co, and Neil Thomas, Executive Director of BIGGA

CGSA Show 2001 - Conference Seminar details

Turfgrass Ecology

Turfgrass Ecology introduces the participant to the major concepts of a sound integrated pest management (IPM) program. The five major concepts include minimal disturbance, management practices accumulate, self-thinning, the logistics equation and continual change. Participants in this one-day seminar will focus on how these concepts relate to management practices (such as mowing, fertilization, irrigation and winter overseeding of warm-season turfgrasses) and learn how to manage turfgrass under environmental stress. Pest management and pesticide resistance will also be discussed.

Instructor

Karl Danneberger, Ph.D., is a professor of agronomy in turfgrass physiology at The Ohio State University. His research in plant stress physiology has served as the foundation for his expertise in formulating IPM programs.

Budgeting and Forecasting

The budgeting process is a necessary element of enhancing your position as the manager of the largest asset - the golf course. This one-day seminar examines planning for positive financial results and helps you manage your resources. The participant is taught to revise budgets as necessary allowing your operation to run efficiently throughout the fiscal year. Major topics include preparing operating budgets, controlling with budgets, budgeting for capital expenses and managing cash budgets.

Instructor

Raymond Schmidgall, Ph.D., is Hilton Hotel's professor of hospitality for financial management at the School of Hotel, Restaurant and Institutional Management at Michigan State University.

Lake and Aquatic Plant Management

Put an end to stagnant or foul water areas. Topics include lake chemistry and biology that focus on the oxygen cycle; aquatic weed and algae identification and nutrients that fuel their growth; turf management practices that can impact lake water quality; design and construction of lake systems; lake management tools (aeration, biological, chemical, mechanical and cultural); aquatic herbicide application; and EPA and state permit issues.

Instructor

Terence M. McNabb, is president of Resource Management Inc., an environmental consulting firm specializing in lake and aquatic plant management. He is also the operations manager for ReMETRIX, one of the leading environmental mapping consulting firms in the water resource and golf course fields.

Sports Turf Management and Function

A one-day introduction to sports turf cultivation & management with emphasis on the linkages between management, turfgrass quality and functionality. The program includes the following content: a review of field construction techniques, soil vs. sand fields, mowing, fertility

and water management, secondary management; e.g. aeration and topdressing, integrated turfgrass management (ITM) of sports fields - a new perspective on IPM, quality evaluation of sports turf, functional evaluation of sports turf (e.g. hardness, ball response etc.) and construction, management and user levels - how much is enough?

Instructor

Brian Holl Ph.D., P.Ag. is a professor of agricultural sciences at the University of British Columbia. Research projects include fine fescue breeding, rhizosphere management and fertility management of turf using organic-based resources (e.g. biosolids).

Effective Soil Water Management for Quality Golf Course Turf

This half-day seminar (afternoon) includes the use of good agronomic practices and other practices available to effectively manage water for uniform turf quality. The physio-chemical properties of water, water movement, the interaction of water with soil particles, water use by the plant and factors effecting soil water retention are also discussed.

Instructors

Stan Kostka, Ph.D., is the director of research and development for Aquatrols Corporation, and John Cisar, Ph.D., is a professor and turf coordinator at the University of Florida.



Scottish Region
Peter Boyd
Tel/Fax 0141 616 3440

Ayrshire

This column has been blank for the past couple of months with holidays and no news to report. Jim Paton, from West Kilbride, called to say that two greenkeepers had played the final of their club championship with Barry Crawford, of Old Prestwick, defeating defending champion local man Brian Aitken. Is this a unique occurrence?!

A man on the move is my old apprentice from Beith, David Blair, who moves to Lochwinnoch Golf Club to be Alastair Law's First Assistant. Congratulations and good wishes with your new job David. Over the town in Largs, at Routenburn, First Assistant, Colin Sutherland, has been promoted to Head Greenkeeper. Congratulations and good wishes with your new job Colin also. That's all the summer news, well at least the weather has been good.

I was at St Andrews for The Open Championship with the Support Team which was again superb and a most enjoyable event. The highlight for me was being drawn with Tiger Woods on the first day and apart from being an awesome golfer he didn't bother going in any bunkers which he repeated for the entire Championship. I would like to pay a tribute to Jimmy Neilson and Cecil George who retired from the Support Team at St Andrew's, where it was started in 1984 with Jimmy and Cecil, among others, in the days of SIG-GA. They had been present ever since. Well done lads you have carried out a fantastic job and can now become full time ambassadors in the hospitality marquee. The autumn outing is on September 21 at Largs (Kelburn). Secretary, Derek Wilson, will be in touch soon with the final arrangements if you don't already have them. To book your entry give Derek a call on 01294 276177 or just return your entry form. I look forward to meeting you there. Any news give me a call on 01505 683278.

Iain Barr

Central

Sorry about the blank last month but I had very little news for you. Nobody thought to tell me that only nine members of the Section played in the Scottish Tournament at Newmacher, and that four of them were in the prize list! So they will just have to miss out on having their names in print. While I am on about the 'Scottish Tournament,' why was there so little support from the

Section? Was the venue too far away? Is it the wrong time of the year? Are there too many events being held? If you have any thoughts on the aforementioned, please get in touch with any committee member or Peter Boyd on the usual number.

Another three members have joined the Section and we welcome Adam Head, from Auchterarder GC, Alan Green, from Dunblane New GC, and John Forrest from Canmore GC. A man on the move this time is Abe Torrance. Abe has left the Green Hotel Golf Courses, at Kinross, where he was employed as an assistant and has taken up a similar position with Joe Oliver, at Pitreavie GC, in Dunfermline. Best wishes for the future Abe, you'll be able to get an extra half hour in your bed in the morning!

The entry form for the Autumn Tournament at Stirling GC on September 21 should be with you by now. So if you wish to play in the final golf event of this year, it is also the first qualifying round for the 2001 National Championship, please get your entries in as soon as possible. On August 24 we will have held a football tournament at Forthbank Stadium, Stirling.

The proposed visit to the seed trial ground at Loch Lomond has had to be cancelled due to circumstances outwith our control. Sorry if you are disappointed, but there was nothing we could do about it.

Richard Walton, of Scotts, is organising a visit to their fertiliser plant for next month and he is also hoping to include a visit to the STRI at Bingley on one of the two day programmes. Anyone interested should return their form quickly as numbers may be restricted.

We are hoping to hold this year's AGM in the St Andrews area, with a talk on golf course machinery prior to the meeting and a visit to the maintenance complex following the AGM. That's another form for you to fill in!

The winning numbers in the 'Club 2000' draw for the past two months were No. 388, Joe Oliver from Pitreavie GC and No. 260 which was sold by Alex Robertson from Grangemouth GC. This year's 'Club 2000' tickets should be arriving with you soon and you will notice a difference in the monthly prize, instead of one winner of £50 we are making one of £30 and one of £20. Once again your support in this venture will be very much appreciated by your committee.

As in previous years, the Inter Club tournament has fallen behind schedule with a number of first round ties still to be played. It will be difficult for the committee to take any action on this one as four of them have teams participating in the event!

John Crawford

East

Welcome to this month's column. There's not a lot of news around just now so here we go.

The Section held their Summer Tournament at Melrose GC in the heart of the Scottish Borders. We had a good turnout on the day with 38+ in attendance and the weather was reasonably good which is very unusual these days. The way the weather is going, all I can say is roll on summer when it starts, I think that will be around October!

Thanks for the day go out to the Captain and Council for courtesy of the course, the clubhouse staff for looking after us very well and Head Greenkeeper, Stevie Dunn, and his staff for having the course in great condition for us, which is quite a daunting thought when you have 30+ greenkeepers going round your course. Well done to all. Also thanks to our trade members who provided raffle prizes and also gave a helping hand on the day.

Results of the day were: 1. S. Greenwood, S. Aird, M.O. Rourke, sec Melrose GC; 2. S. Gray, J. Robertson, E. Thomson; 3. T. Murray, S. Dunn, T. Scott.

The next tournament on the calendar is the Willie Woods Invitational at Winterfield GC on September 6, so hopefully you've got yourself a partner for this great tournament. If not, ask your Captain, Secretary, Vice Captain, Greens Chairman or anyone from your committee along for the day. If they have not been before, they will be pleasantly surprised, so we hope to see you there.

Following on from that will be the autumn outing, first qualifier for the BIGGA National Championship 2001. So we hope to see a big turnout at Duddingston GC on the 21 September.

Going back to the Willie Woods at Winterfield, having spoken to Craig, final preparations on the course are well under way for the tournament and he is looking forward to having us down in Dunbar.

People on the move this month are Iain Elliot, from Dalmahoy G & CC, who has moved down to the Borders to join my team at West Linton GC as First Assistant, third in charge. Welcome along to our team and all the best for the future.

I will have details of the Annual Dance and Section Raffle shortly and immediately I receive them I will put them in print.

Well, that's all this month.

Chris Yeaman

North

A couple of new members to welcome to the Section this month. Paul Fraser, from Brechin GC, and Robert Duncan, from Royal Dornoch GC, and rejoining the Section, now working at

Longside GC is Jonathan Lester. The Section continues to grow and grow and hopefully new members will remain with us for years to come.

The Open was another great experience at the home of golf, St Andrews. The Section was well represented as usual and full credit to Eddie Adams and his staff for the presentation of a fine links test for all.

The soccer match on the Saturday resulted in another Scottish win. If we win again next year we get to keep them! Ex-Section member, Gordon Mckie, nearly lost his gear when dropping off some of the London based lads at Edinburgh airport as they took his bags as well, but realised before boarding the plane, fortunately.

The Scottish Amateur Matchplay was held in the Section at Royal Dornoch recently and Bobby Mackay and his staff had the course looking superb as usual. This was a double for the North as the Scottish Strokeplay was at Letham Grange earlier in the year.

Are you remembering to send entries in for the Section's autumn outing at the end of the month at Peterculter.

David Marnoch and his staff will be wanting to show off their lovely course to as many as possible, so let's have a good turnout. We will have the next four draws for the Section's 200 Club, so if you're there you can pick up your cheque on the day, providing you win of course.

The two lucky members from the Section to win the year 2000 Patron Awards will be announced shortly with details in the next magazine.

So if you have been attending BIGGA events over the last 12 months, you could be one of the ones chosen for a trip to BTME next January.

Watch this space.

Iain Macleod



Northern Region
Douglas Bell
Tel: 0151 431 0433

Northern

A full report will be in next month's issue for Invitation Day. A date for your dairy is Wednesday, November 15, when, at Howley Hall GC, there will be a winter seminar during the day. More details of this event will follow.

The team for the annual Roses match against the North West Section is as follows:- Simon Heppenstall, Richard Smith, Jim Brown, Johnney Platt, Andy Smith, Nigel White, Alan Baxter, Eric Paley, Edwin Walsh, Alan

Court, Richard Harris, Roy Armitage, Dave Collins, Les Kirkbright, Alvin Fawcett, Peter Thompson.

Our next event is the Autumn Tournament, at Hornsea GC, 1.30pm, sponsored by F & G Adamson.

All entries for the golf events are to be sent to myself and must be received along with the FULL amount of £15 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.

We welcome this month new members:- John Burnside, Bingley St.Ives GC; Stuart Rogers, Philip Niven, Northcliffe GC; Andrew Slingsby, Hollins Hall H&GC.

You can be assured of a warm welcome at any of our Section events. If you have any enquires 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 then let me know.

My address is 67 Asquith Avenue, Morley, Leeds, LS27 9QS or telephone at home 0113 2383188 / mobile 07790 678572, or my new email: andy_smith21@hotmail.com
Andy Smith

North West

I have just returned from The Open at St Andrews and feel completely jet-lagged, although we travelled by car. Long days without my evening's nap, while 'Neighbours' is on, catches up in the end. Back to The Open and what a finish by Tiger Woods. When he thought he was going to be caught on the final day, he shifted into another gear and left them all standing.

The course was in lovely condition and on the Wednesday the greens were reported to be 11 on the stimpmetre and the fairways measured 8. The bunkers seemed to cause problems for some of the players, and I must admit just peering into them made the mind boggle. Of course they posed no problem to Tiger who missed them all. I feel the reason for this is that he was able to out drive them all. As you all know, the weather could not have been better and it was a great week to remember, especially meeting up with old friends in the Support team.

Anybody interested in education can find plenty of information in the magazine about training courses at BIGGA HOUSE, also regional courses. If you require any further information, give me a ring.

The Cumbria Cup has been renamed 'The Whitelaw Bowl' and will be played for at Penrith Golf Club on Wednesday, September 13. Anybody wanting to play should ring Andy Vincent, of Course Care, on 07971 292 626. We have a match against the Golf Club Stewards on Monday, October 2, at Stand Golf Club and I require a team of 16 players. If you are interested, please give me a ring and you don't have to be the best golfer in the world.

That seems to be it for now, but if you have any news or require any information, you can contact me on 0151 724 5412.

Bert Cross



Midland Region
Les Emery
Tel: 0116 287 9036

East Midlands

It is with deep regret that I report the sad death of Gerald Darby. Gerald was a popular member of the Section during the 1970's while working at Birstall Golf Club. He then moved South to the Surrey Section before retiring about five years ago. Our

condolences go to Gerald's wife and two daughters. The Section was represented by two of our members, Dave Leatherland and Richard Barker at this year's Open held at St Andrews.

Finally, all members should be in possession of their autumn competition entry form. If you wish to play in this tournament please return your form before the closing date. If any members have not received a form, please contact me and I will gladly send you a copy.

Antony Bindley

Midlands

On July 19 the summer tournament was held at Walsall Golf Club. The day proved to be a great success with the English weather being very kind to us for a change. Many thanks to Steve Wood for presenting the course in such splendid condition and to all his staff, also to all the associated golf club staff for making the day such a great success. The results are as follows: 1. Gross, Mike Hughes. 1. Net, Eddie Stant. 2. Alan Roberts, 3. A. Lang, 4. Brian Nuttall. Nearest the Pin was won by Peter Holtham. Martin Sowerby won longest drive. Peter McCrainger won the trade cup.

Jonathan Wood

Your greens' quality is riding on it.



East of England

The Purdy's Golf Day took place at Kenwick Park Golf Club, Louth. As usual the organiser was late, but eventually the competition got under way.

Head Greenkeeper, Geoff Henderson, and his staff, were praised for the excellent condition of the course.

The winner of the Purdy's/Toro Cup was David Hornsey, of Woodhall Spa - 33 points; 2. Graeme MacDonald of Newark with 32 points; 3. Simon Gazda of Kenwick, - 31 points. The main sponsors of the day were Andy Hardie and Les Purdy, of Purdy's Grass Machinery, and thanks to them for the usual excellent prizes for the winners.

Everybody went home with a prize even if it was only a raffle prize.

The day was also capped off with a super donation from Toro towards the meals for which we are truly grateful to Andy Hardie and Toro for organising.

Other sponsors on the day were Rigby Taylor, Tower Sports, Green Pride, Barenbrug, Scotts and Aitkens.

Unfortunately the Scotts fertiliser/chemical factory tour on August 2 had to be cancelled due to poor support, but thanks to David Truby for his support in organising the day.

Look out for other events which are in the pipeline - ie seminar in November.

G A MacDonald

Mid Anglia

Our autumn golf tournament will be held slightly earlier than usual this year, on Wednesday, September 27, at Mid Hert's Golf Club. Please have your entries in on time to Richard Saunders at the usual address should you wish to enter.

The golf event will be followed by the Section AGM, which is open to all BIGGA members of the section, so please feel free to attend.

I'm sure the Section Committee would welcome input from the members on how the Section is run at present and would consider any new ideas for the future.

The final of the Lodgeway 4 Ball Tournament will be held on October 5, hopefully over the two courses at Brocket Hall. Good luck to all the participating finalists.

For those of you who did not photocopy the entry form for golf events, Richard's address is 55 Leys Road, St Neots, Huntingdon, Cambs PE19 1EP. Please enclose a cheque for £23.

Paul Lockett



South East
Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260956

East Anglia

The day was warm and overcast when teams from Essex and East Anglia came together for the biannual golf match at Stoke by Nayland Golf Club. My guest, Peter Bevin, stated on the first tee "That this is a young man's Golf Club." Personally I preferred to think that a few genetic characteristics of a mountain goat may have come in handy.

Kevin King and his staff had made a splendid effort in producing a first class course for the lads to play on, 45 in all, and the staff in the clubhouse went out of their way to provide excellent service, our thanks go out to everyone at the golf club. The Sponsor for the day was Tuckwell Ltd and Neil Peachy and Ian Willett made sure that the day ran as smoothly as possible. Our thanks go out to Tuckwells for their continual support and sponsorship.

On to the winners:- 0 - 9

handicap 1. A. Kirwan 39 points; 2. D. Beale 35 points (on countback); 3. P. Howard 35 points. 10 - 18 1. S. Curtis 44 points (Steve also won best of the day and had his handicap cut by two shots); 2. G. Nash 41 points;

3. S. Townsend 40 points. 19 - 28 1. J. Pymer 32 points; 2. K. Chinnery 28 points,

3. M. Forrester 25 points. Guest and Trade prize was won by W. Assenheim 41 points. Longest Drive - A. Kirwan, Nearest the Pin - G. Bird.

Now onto the coveted Tuckwell Cup, where it was agreed to take the eight best cards from greenkeepers from each Section. Essex accrued 274 points and East Anglia 299. It gave me great pleasure to accept the trophy as Captain of the East Anglia Team. Many thanks to all those who took part in the competition and well done to all the East Anglia Team. A splendid effort.

Ian Willett

Kent

The Section's second golf day was held on July 25 at Broke Hill Golf Club.

A total of 60 members, members of the trade and guests



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played in this invitation stableford competition. 1. Andy Pearson and Ken Robinson with 67 pts (BIH); 2. James Duncan and Graham Collins with 67 pts; 3. Chris Marsh and M Young with 65 pts (BIH). Trade Prize - Peter Leeves and J. Moir. Longest Drive - Terry Edwards.

Nearest the Pin - J Moir.

It has come to our attention that the tee shot of J. Moir finished approximately five feet from the hole, beating the previous nearest (held by Gary Ogilvie, a four handicapper from Avoncrop) by only a few inches. Congratulations on a fine shot Mr Moir, but Gary, would like you to talk us through the three putts!

Out thanks to Barry Jackson and the rest of the staff at Broke Hill for a great day.

The course was in excellent condition and the evening meal was first class.

A big thank you also to Alistair and Bernie for their help on the day, starting people and organising the nearest the pin and longest drive.

The next golf day will be held at Kings Hill in October, hope to see you all there.

Congratulations to John Noyce, of Scotts Fertiliser

Company, on his forthcoming wedding. A lot of you will know John from his time at Parker Hart and I am sure you'll join us in wishing them future happiness. Sorry John, but we don't know the name of your good lady.

As always, the Section is open to offers for courses for next year's golf events.

If any of you would like to put your club forward or if you have any information for this Section, please contact me on 01277 750281.

James Duncan

Surrey

As there have been no golf competitions since last month's edition and the September edition's deadline, today August 5, there are therefore no results to report.

I will take this opportunity, however, to remind all members that on September 27 we are playing our autumn tournament at Laleham Golf Club and the Turkey Trot and AGM at Tyrrells Wood. By the time you read this we will have played the McMillan Tankard on August 21 and Addington Palace on the 30th.

Results will be shown in

October's edition.

A number of our members have been, or are about to move and I ask you all to welcome Ian Wylie, the new Head Greenkeeper at Selsdon Park Golf Club. Congratulations to Stuart Patterson, who is leaving Woodcote Park to become First Assistant at Westerham GC. Stuart has been at Woodcote for three years and previously at Selsdon Park, also for three years.

Ian McMillan is, as I am sure you all know by now, leaving Hankley Common to take up his position as Course Manager at Queensland Golf Club, Ottershaw, a new exclusive course still in the development stage.

Gareth Roberts will be stepping into Ian's shoes at Hankley and Paul Hutton will take over as Assistant Course Manager, well deserved after 17 years service.

Well that's it for this month except to inform you of the danger when Roger Tydeman is off road at Croham Hurst.

His pick up has a blind spot when he is watching juniors in his side mirrors and drives straight into unsuspecting trees!

Brian Willmott



South West and South Wales
Paula Humphries
Tel: 01288 352194

South Coast

Autumn will be upon us by the time you read this. Several excellent golf days have been enjoyed by the Section this year. Firstly, the match against the secretaries was played at Basingstoke Golf Club with the greenkeepers winning easily 5-1. Thanks to Course Care for sponsoring the day and Basingstoke for allowing courtesy. Well done to Harvey and his team for the excellent course conditions.

The summer tournament was our guest day played at High Post Golf Club sponsored by Rigby Taylor and again Course Care. Well done to Lauchlan Millar and his team for the super conditions.

Winners with an obscene 48 pts was Joe Newman and his Guest, from Downshire GC.

Second was Ian Noble and guest, from Moors Valley GC, 45 pts. Third was Alan Rideout and guest, from Bournemouth Services, 44 pts.

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