





LARGEST EVER INTAKE OF MASTER GREENKEEPERS





The elite club at the top prestigious Master Greenkeeper programme received its largest ever intake when BIGGA announced the names of six Course Managers and Golf Course Superintendents who had earned the right to don the much sought after blazer.

The new intake takes the total number of Master Greenkeepers around the world to 28. Four of the six were presented with the blazers and plaques by BIGGA President Sir Michael Bonallack and BIGGA Chairman, Elliott Small, in Harrogate International Centre's Royal Hall with the remaining two being presented with the same during the Golf Course Superintendent Association of America's Show in Dallas

next month. The four are Stuart Cagle, Superintendent at Old Oakland Golf Club, in Indianapolis, where he has been since 1987; Geoff Coggan, an Englishman abroad, who is Superintendent at the Great Outdoors Recreational Vehicle, Nature and Golf Resort in Titusville, Florida; Walter Montross, who is Superintendent at the Westwood Country Club in Virginia, where he has spent the last 10 years, and David Murdoch, Course Manager at Liphook Golf Club in Hampshire, a Scot "abroad", who has been a greenkeeper for 15 years.

The remaining two are Brian Sullivan, Superintendent at the Bellair Country Club on Sunset Boulevard, Los Angeles and John Gasper, Country Club of the Desert, California.

The Master Greenkeeper programme is in three stages - the accumulation of 200 credits based on experience, qualification and continuing educational development; a course visit carried out by existing Master Greenkeepers and a two part written exam. The programme has been running since 1990.

MASTER GREENKEEPER CERTIFICATE

Anti-clockwise from top, pictured with Sir Michael Bonallack and Elliott Small are; Stuart Cagel, Geoff Coggan, Walter Montross and David Murdoch





TAM O'BIGGA

Those who enjoyed Kerran Daly's epic poem, Tam O'BIGGA, which appeared in the BTME catalogue may have felt it got off to a little bit of a slow start.

Unfortunately due to a production error the first line was missed off.

The first verse should have should have read;

When conference day is wearin' late And we're a' oot in Harrogate Gie'n chat in Yates's bar While supping down another jar The boys are limbering up for Jimmy's Where they can strut their funky shimmies And in the heat-hazed, flights o' fancies Fantasise one-night romances The night wears on, the girls get sweeter Steadfast souls begin to teeter Their spirits roused by sideways glances They vastly over-rate their chances Throu' heaving crowds Tam sallies forth To charm the lasses from up North But long before he meets his quarry He knows tomorrow he'd be sorry Tam wakes from his deceitful dream To inwardly abort his scheme And turning left instead of right He wanders oot into the night

Apologies to Kerran and I hope you enjoyed BTME 2001.

The entire poem - minus that first line - can be seen in both the BTME catalogue, and also on our website at www.bigga.org.uk/btme



Get a Headstart[®]...

Headstart[®] is a revolutionary biological seed treatment that can speed up germination by 20%.

Headstart[®] helps greenkeepers and groundsmen establish new turf or repair key playing areas when under pressure against time or weather conditions.

It also helps prevent disease and is used on the highly successful 'MM' range of grass mixtures from Advanta.

... beat the Competition!

Call today to find out how on +44 (0)1529 304511 or visit the website **www.headstart-advanta.co.uk**

Advanta Seeds UK Limited · Sleaford · Lincolnshire · NG34 7HA · Fax: +44 (0)1529 413137 email: amenity@advantaseeds.co.uk



SALES TEL:01361 884288 FAX:01361 882082. TECHNICAL SALES TEL:0116 2864514

NEW FOLIAR TREATMENT FROM LINDUM

Lindum Plant Nutrition launched a foliar treatment which aids photosynthesis. ProteSyn is a liquid, organic compound which encourages healthy cell division, respiration and energy conservation in turf.

By providing complete amino acids, proteins and carbohydrates which are usually deficient in turfgrass in intensive use and under stress, ProteSyn improves the sward's photosynthetic efficiency, thus helping the plants to help themselves. As with all Lindum Plant Nutrition products, this new foliar treatment is designed to be incorporated within a total turf programme which Lindum create on an individual basis for each client, following extensive soil analysis.

TEXTRON DEBUT LIGHTWEIGHT TOP DRESSER

The Turfco SP-1530 TM truck mounted broadcast top dresser made its UK debut on the Textron stand.

Ideal for greens that will not accommodate a towed top dresser, the SP-1530 TM provides unparalleled performance for fast and light applications. It can be easily coupled to a four-wheel Cushman Turf-Truckster using a few simple mounting brackets and connectors.

The hydraulically driven conveyor belt and twin spinners provide a uniform application at any speed, with the spinner angle easily adjustable for maximum penetration. The distribution pattern is variable from 4.57m – 9.14m enabling the majority of greens to be covered in just two passes.

A large hopper ensures fast loading using a front-end loader and one operator can do the entire job; for the busy greenkeeper that's fast and costeffective greens management.

SISIS UNVEILS LATEST ADDITIONS

TWO NEW PRODUCTS COMPLIMENT SISIS RANGE

The new SISIS Rotorake is a thatch remover for regular routine use but also has the capability to work deeper when required, while retaining the finesse of the SISIS Auto-Rotorake and leaving a clean cut groove. The maximum working depth is 45mm.

The Rotorake 600 incorporates the SISIS Rotorake contra-rotation principle, whereby the reel rotates at high speed against the direction of travel. The blades therefore cut upwards holding the machine to the ground to maintain a regular working depth. A range of interchangeable reels is available. The new SISIS Tigarake, hydraulic

The new SISIS Tigarake, hydraulic scarifier, has been designed for fast, effective, thatch removal on golf greens, tees and approaches.

The twin scarifying units give a working width of just over a metre. The entire machine floats on a front roller, and each individual unit floats independently across the width of the machine. It therefore follows undulations maintaining the depth of cut and eliminating scalping.

ing. There are four interchangeable reels available thatch removal reel; verticutting reel comprising close-pitched triangular blades for light scarification during the growing season; brush reel to remove light surface debris and lift grasses prior to mowing; combined reel with thatch removal blades interspersed with brushes to remove thatch efficiently, with the added benefit of a brushes finish.

The angle of "throw' is adjustable for wet or dry working conditions. The large capacity collector tips for emptying or can be removed. The support legs slot away during work.





TORO AIM FOR A BLAST WITH LATEST SIDEWINDER LAUNCH

The Groundsmaster 3500-D Sidewinder from Toro is a rotary mower with cutting units that can be shifted to either side of the machine to provide an overhang for trimming grass edges such as bunker rims and fringes. The machine is fitted with rollers and produces a fine cut, and is suitable for other mowing work such as fairway semiroughs.

Toro says that the unit's key benefits are a superb quality of cut, high productivity and the delivery of an excellent after-cut finish that is aesthetically pleasing.

thetically pleasing. The GM 3500-D is designed to appeal to greenkeepers, grounds managers and landscape contractors. In golf, its use is primarily for surround mowing, trim work in roughs and for striping around the clubhouse and other desirable areas. The GM 3500-D's innovative cutting system comprises three individual, 27in floating rotaly decks with front and rear rollers which follow ground contours to virtually eliminate scalping. The deck overlap configuration prevents grass streaks in turns and on banks.

Versatility is provided by an adjustable width of cut, which allows the machine to be set up for three different cutting widths – 68in, 70in and 72in – by simply changing a bolted assembly. A 68in set-up gives additional protection against grass streaking on banks or when turning; while 72ins provides more productivity on non-hilly terrain or for straight-line cutting.

The Sidewinder system enables the decks to slide 12in left and right of centre. This provides a 12in overhang on either side of the mower at a 68in width of cut. At the 72 in cutting width, the overhang available is 14 in. Height of cut is adjustable in quarter-inch increments from three- quarters of an inch to four inches. The Toro GM 3500-D is fitted with a Kubota 35 hp turbo diesel engine and has permanent three-wheel drive for both mowing and transport. Mowing speed is factory set at 6 mph, but is adjustable, and the unit can travel at up to 9 mph in transport. The all-new Toro Groundsmaster 4000-D is a powerful lift rotary mower that is highly manoeuvrable and produces a superb, high-quality cut.

The machine is being introduced to meet the demand from those customers who prefer a large-scale rotary with a three-deck configuration. Toro says that the new GM 4000-D has been specifically designed to cater for five key customer requirements identified after extensive research. These are power, cutting performance, trimming capability, traction and operator comfort.

Therefore the unit has been given more power than competitors' equivalents with a Kubota turbo diesel, 2-litre engine developing 56hp (42kw) and providing plenty of power for a variety of cutting conditions.

On cutting performance, the focus is on the quality of cut, mowing capacity, ground following and after-cut dispersion of the clippings. Rear dlischarge decks are fitted for even dispersion of cuttings for a clean aftercut finish. For even cleaner cutting management and added safety, these can be converted by customers to Toro's Guardian Recycler design simply by bolting on baffles and kickers.



Scorecards • Course Measurement • Yardage Books • Tee Signs Event Boards • Leaderboards • Notice Boards • Bag Tags • Green Fee Tickets Call Philip McInley on : 01883 344244 mail us: eaglepromotions@compuserve.com

visit our website @ www.eaglepromotions.co.uk





CHANGING ROOMS PROFESSIONAL SHOP













Agcokid the **BIG** idea in compact tractors

With front, centre and rear power take-offs, the Agrokid is equipped for the broadest range of applications. Speeds of 540 and 1000 rev/min plus ground speed for rear-mounted equipment, and 1000 and 2000 rev/min for front and mid-mounted machines means the Agrokid will earn its keep all year round. Combined with Deutz-Fahr's quality engineering and reliable technology, the Agrokid guarantees maximum economy because of its unbeatable utilisation potential.

Choose from 25, 35 or 42hp models.

For more information contact your Deutz-Fahr dealer or e-mail info@sdf.co.uk

Same Deutz-Fahr UK Ltd, Barby Lane, Barby, Rugby, Warwickshire CV23 8TD Telephone: 01788 891892 Fax: 01788 891387

DEUTZ

NEW FAIRWAY MOWER FROM JOHN DEERE

Featuring a 32hp liquid cooled diesel engine, hydrostatic transmission and power steering, John Deere's new look 3235B lightweight five gang fairway mower was unveiled at the show.

The machine offers higher capacity hydraulics, larger wheel motors and a maximum engine output of 38.5hp, with electric fans for quieter operation on golf courses and other amenity turf areas. There is a new ball joint and yoke design on the mower's standard cutting units, for improved grass collection. New reel motors and a new bedknife to reel adjustment, coupled with a new triple pump, increase the overall cutting performance. The 3235B fairway mower is avail-

The 3235B fairway mower is available with a choice of 12.7cm diameter seven blade standard, or 17.7cm diameter eight blade ESP (extra strength and precision), cutting units. Five and 10 blade ESP units are also available. The patented RFS (rotate for service) feature means the cutting units can be rotated and presented for easy servicing.

Overall mowing width is 2.54m, and the two front outer reels fold up to give a transport width of 2.2m). Height of cut ranges from 6.4 to 76.2mm, depending on model.

Further standard features include patented hydraulic down pressure on the reels to follow ground contours more closely, on board backlapping and simple reel speed adjustment. Options include four wheel drive, roll-over protection and John Deere's new FTC (fairway tender conditioner) with rear roller power brush attachments.

These provide a better, cleaner finish by grooming, recutting and dispersing grass clippings more evenly, particularly in wet conditions, without leaving unsightly clumps of grass on the fairway, and by reducing thatch build up.

thatch build up. Basic price of the 3235B is £29,301 with seven blade standard reels and £30,741 with eight blade ESP reels.

UPDATED SEED CATALOGUE

Barenbrug UK launched its new catalogue at the show. For the new Millennium the publication, Amenity Grass Seed and Wildflower Mixtures 2001', is double the size of its predecessors, now being in A4 format and 40 full-colour pages.

40 full-colour pages. It details all the company's products and services with a colourful, pull-out Mixture Selection Guide which makes choosing product quick and easy, while throughout the catalogue, panels spotlight helpful hints and technical information. Highlighted in the brochure are Barbizon and Barfelix, two varieties of a brand new species for Barenbrug, namely tall fescue. Specially bred for UK conditions, trials have shown these to be ideally suited for stressed soccer grounds and other facilities, being wear tolerant, disease resistant and even able to withstand waterlogging.

KUBOTA LAUNCH THEIR MOST POWERFUL ROTARY MOWER AT HARROGATE



The most powerful-ever Kubota ride-on rotary mower made its UK public debut at BTME. Known as the F3560, the new model extends Kubota's F Series front mower lineup to four machines rated at 18hp, 25hp, 30hp and, now, 35hp.

The F3560 ride-on front mower is powered by a highly fuel-efficient Kubota E-TVCS (triple vortex combustion system) 35hp diesel engine, renowned for its low levels of noise, exhaust and vibration. The F3560 has as standard single pedal hydrostatic transmission, tilt column power steering and shaft drive to its three-bladed 1.83m (72in) cutter deck. Mowing height is quickly adjustable from 25 to 102mm (1 -4in).

Sharing all the key features of its

F Series stablemates, the F3560 is

designed to operate for long hours on large areas of grass across level or hilly terrain. Its tight turning circle, compact dimensions and low centre of gravity make it equally well suited for work on banked ground and amongst trees and similar obstacles. A safety rollbar, weather cab or safety cab are all available.

Other important features include a hydraulically-actuated, oilimmersed PTO clutch which ensures smooth cutter engagement, minimising shocks and maximising clutch and drive line life. For optimum cooling efficiency and operator comfort, air drawn through the radiator is force-fed into the engine chamber before being discharged to the rear of the machine, keeping hot air away from the operator.

BERNHARD'S NEW GRINDER



Bernhard and Co introduced its most advanced rotary blade grinder, Rota-Master at the show.

An essential tool in the workshop this machine, once set up, can be left to complete the grinding cycle alone - due to the unique automatic infeed with auto cut-off.

Features include a quality balancer and automatic traverse with easily adjusted travel stops. With blades held securely in place both ends can be ground at the same time almost eliminating the necessity for postsharpen balancing.

sharpen balancing. Operators benefit from Rota-Master's ergonomic work height and built-in dust collection system - which has the added advantage of an attachment to vac out the working area. The grinding operation occurs away from the operator for added safety.

TEXTRON UNVEIL HANDY CONTROL SYSTEM

Also unveiled at the show was the Ransomes Super Certes walk-behind mower with MotivairTM, the new servo-control system for pedestrian mowers.

MotivairTM is easily identified by its distinctive profiled handgrips indorporating the engagement trigger and safety collar. The handgrip design provides the best user comfort possible, while complying with stringent safety legislation. A gentle squeeze of the trigger allows the vacuum operated servo-control system to engage the drive clutch. This new design provides an exceptionally smooth take-up of power with almost effortless operation and providing the user with a comfortable working platform.





From a lawn mower to a Muck spreader - your search for agricultural and lawnmower wheels ends at Totrax

We can supply standard wheels from stock or fabricate to customer's specifications

No order too large • No order too small We can deal with them all Including your tyre and tube requirements

For advice and/or technical information call:



Tel: 01205 280578 Email: sales@totrax.co.uk

COL

Fax: 01205 280520 Website: www.totrax.co.uk

Four Weeks

The time you could save to establish new turf

Ý	Quicker Establishment
¥.	Improved Performance
V	Reduced Stress Levels
v	Deeper Rooting
1	Environmentally Friendly

What is Vaminoc-G?

A mycorrhizal inoculant for fine turf that produces enhanced root density and depth and increased stress tolerance

For full details Telephone 01405 704 840



...the only way forward

Efficient grinding keeps your mowers on the greens and out of the workshop, saving you time and money.



When you have reached perfection in performance you can pay attention to detail

For full details of our range of **uno & Jupiter**

mower grinding machines contact:



Hunter Grinders Limited Delta Works, Hobson Industrial Estate, Burnopfield, Newcastle upon Tyne NE16 6EA Tel: 01207 270316 Fax: 01207 270312



Don't be handicapped by your tractor.

When it comes to seeking a rugged performer for work on or around the fairway, the Renault Pales is your answer.

With power outputs of 52hp, 67hp and 76hp, and the option of two- or fourwheel drive, Renault Pales has the reliability, manoeuvrability, power and speed you need to get jobs done quickly and efficiently.

Lightweight Compact 40kph available with 4WD Spacious cab Wide selection of tyre options High lift capacity



Renault Ltd, Shipston House, Darlingscote Road, Shipston-on-Stour, Warwickshire CV36 4DZ Tel: 01608 662727 Fax: 01608 662701 Contact us now to find out how Renault can reduce your operating costs, but increase effiency.





North

One new member to welcome to the Section this month, Ryan Ross from Royal Aberdeen. We look forward to welcoming him to future outings along with the other members of Royal Aberdeen GC.

Congratulations to Richard Ewan, of The Nairn GC, on the birth of his 10.5lb son at the end of year 2000. We hope all the family are well.

Richard is also to be congratulated along with Stuart Hogg and Kevin Fowler of Fortrose and Rosemarkie GC, who, with myself became the first students to complete the SVQ Level three on fast track through Elmwood College, Cupar, Fife.

It was hard work, but also satisfying and is a great way for us older greenkeepers to gain recognised qualifications. I would like to thank Elmwood College for providing this course and Huw Parry and Allan Clark in particular for helping us through it. Hopefully we will be the first of many. This year's 200 Club tickets should

This year's 200 Club tickets should be sent out shortly and we are grateful to Ray Warrender and Barclay Ross for sponsoring it in the year 2001.

Please help our organiser, Stewart McBain, by sending your money back quickly, or if you really cannot buy it this year, let Stewart know as soon as possible so he can sell it to someone else. This is the only fund raiser for the Section and helps to keep the cost of the outings down, as we don't want to make money from them to run the Section. As long as we can sell all the 200 Club tickets, we can run the Section and offer our outings at lower prices, so please do your bit as it is much appreciated.

This month I am off to Dallas for the GCSAA Show, which I am really looking forward to and can thoroughly recommend to any member to try one year. The BIGGA package is good value and you will be amazed at the size and quality of the show and seminars.

Iain Macleod

Central

Will the following members please return their allocation of "Club 2000" tickets as they should have been sold or returned to me by December 31 2000.

A.Adams, T. Adamson, J. Aitken, J. Atherton, P. Atkins, M. Baird, S. Balfour, R. Balloch, R.Barron, S. Bayne, J. Beattie, A. Begg, W. Bell, J. Bone, M. Booth, P. Brown, D. Brown, M. Brunton, S. Bryceland, J. Campbell, M. Campbell, G. Campbell, A.Clark, J. Clowry, P. Murphy, J. Quinn, J. Colvin, T. Comerford, P. Conway. S. Crawford, R. Crighton. J. Cunningham, H. Davidson, R. De Rose, J. Kidd, W. Swan, A. Touch, I. Menzies. S. Ewing, A. Drummond, T. Edwards, B. Durkin, A. Duncan, 1. Donaldson, D. Deacons, M. Doris, I. Dye, J. Farrar, S. Fenwick, M. Gardner, G. Ferguson, A. Fleming, D. Gardner, A. Gibson, D.Gormen, V. Green, J. Grieg, A. Graham, M. Hall, D. Gray, J. Gowans, M. Geddes. L. Handyside, T. Harris, P. Harrison, K. Harrow, R. Hastings, B. Heggie, J. Henderson (Ballingry). Henderson (Kennoway), M. Herd. C. Hopkins, M. Horkan, S. Howie. I. Hunter. G. Innes, B. Irving, I. Jarvis, J. Jones, L. Kennedy, D. Key. P. Keyworth, 1. Kinley, C. Kitching, I. Knight, D. Laing, M. Laing, C. Law, G. Logan, G. Lorimer, G. Lothian, G. Luke, C.MacDonald, A. MacFadyen, S. McGregor, S. MacIntosh, MacMillan, J. MacPhail, R. MacMillan, MacPhail, Manatini, R. Marshall, I. Marshall, K. Martin, S. Martin, D. McAllister, S. McAughey, G. McCandless. A.McCulloch, I. McIntosh, D. McKenna, C. McKenzie, G.McLaren McLaren (St.Andrews), G. J.McLean, (Buckhaven), McLeish, R. McLuckie, D. McNeil, W. McWilliam, T. Meenagh. R. Meikle, W. Milton, S. Mitchell, B. Mone, S. Muir, C. Mulligan, S. Newall, B. Nicol, W. Nisbet, T. O'Connor, J. Paterson, S. Patrick, A. Paterson, S. Pearson, A.Peggie, W. Philips, J. Philp, S. Pilling, C. Powrie, F. Prosser, A. Purdie, C. Purdie, S. Raeburn, T. Rawlinson, W. Redpath, S. Reid, G. Reid, M. Ritchie, S. Robertson, R. Robertson, A. Russell, I. Salmond, B. Samuel, M. Shanahan, R. Sharp, C. Simpson, R. Smith, D. Shearer, C. Shepherd, S. Simpson, D. Simpson, I. Sinclair, C. Smith, G. Smith, S. Smith, A. Souter, I. Smith, T. Spence, S. Stenhouse, C. Stafford, P. Stewart. Stenhouse, C. Starford, F. Stewart, G. Taylor (Glenrothes), G. Taylor (Leven), G. Todd, A. Torrance, S. Turner, D. Urquhart, C. Webb, H. Wei, M. White, C. Wilson, G. Winter, S. Wood, A. Wotherspoon, D. Michte P. Varger D. Wright, B. Young. That's this month's Section news

That's this month's Section news folks!

John Crawford

East

Well nothing to report this month - as normal, everything is very quiet after Christmas, New Year, and, of course, BTME at Harrogate.

Hopefully I will have some stories to report from BTME or maybe some photographs, or someone might send me something to put in my article next month.

The Committee is, at present, putting together the fixture list for this year so you should have your Fixture Cards soon. Let us know if there is anything you would like to see us doing. As you will all know the annual dinner dance was cancelled last year due to lack of numbers but we all hope we can resurrect it in some form this year, maybe at a different time or a different format. Please let us know what you want because it's your Association. If you don't, the dance will bite the dust just like our skittles nights and summer matchplay competitions. Come on, the Committee needs to hear from you!

You can contact me at all the usual numbers (all in previous magazines). So don't forget we are waiting for your call.

Chris Yeaman

West

First of all let me wish you all a belated happy new year and I hope you have all enjoyed the holiday period.

The year 2000 has been a very successful one for West Section members with Jonathan Cleland, of Helensburgh GC, winning the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award & Ronnie Bunting, of Kilmacolm GC, extending his growing list of achievements by qualifying for the Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping and winning the Scottish Award in the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition. I would like to offer both my congratulations and that of the Section committee to you both and look forward to hearing about your experiences during both the competitions and about Jonathan's visit stateside as part of his prize

Hopefully 2001 will be just as successful if forward thinking club's continue to allow their staff to further their education within the industry.

I would also like to extend a warm welcome from the Section Committee to our newest members, Gary Anderson and James Muir McGowan, and look forward to meeting you at the up and coming West Section events.

Confirmed venues for the West Section outings are Kirkhill GC on April 25 and at Milngavie GC on September 20. On behalf of the Section members, the Committee would like to thank both Kirkhill GC and Milngavie GC for the courtesy of playing their courses.

The 100 club will again be run this year with three draw's made throughout the year. The numbers will be drawn both the spring & autumn outings and a further draw will be made at the Section AGM. Tickets will be on sale soon from committee members so book early to avoid disappointment.

One other golfing date to note is the Head Greenkeepers/conveners match to be played at Helensburgh GC on April 5. I am sure Ronnie Miles, last year's winner, will already be practising and getting the course into fine condition to defend his club's coveted trophy.

As Gavin mentioned in December's Section news the Scottish Educational Conference will be held at Lauder College, Dunfermline on March 6. All Section members who have the opportunity to attend this event should as in the past both the venue and the quality of speakers have been of the highest standard.

Well all that is left for me to do is wish you all a successful season. I look forward to seeing all the usual face's at the outing and hope that a few new faces will make the effort to come along to what are always very enjoyable days. All the best. If you have anything of interest to write in the column please phone me on 01355266862.

Brian Bolland



North West

Boxing Day, full of turkey and Christmas pudding, nothing to do, so I have decided to write the Section notes. This is not a chore I enjoy, because, other than the weather conditions, I find very little to write about, not having any news sent to me. However, we did have an excellent seminar in the North West on the 7th December at Penrith Golf Club. The Seminar was well attended with 70 Delegates and six speakers.

The first speaker was Alistair Beggs, turf grass agronomist with the STRI, his talk was on Pest and Disease Management, highlighting the problems of controlling pests and disease, due to the lack of chemicals available, many of which have been taken off the market because of Health & Safety Regulations. It looks as though we are going to have to revert to old methods, so I suggest that you get some of your old books out and look for some of the old timers' remedies.

Bill Powell, Business Development Manager with Marks & Spencer, then told us we all needed to know about stakeholder pensions, which was more interesting and which more young greenkeepers should look into.

Richardson, Ken **BIGGA's** Education and Training Manager, then updated us on greenkeeper education, and what is new. Some of the education courses aren't that new, like regional courses which are not so well attended. Apart from these courses there are many other things to organise. Toro Éxcellence in Greenkeeping; Golf Environment competition; Toro student of the year competition, and much more. Ken also reminded us about the library at BIGGA HOUSE, where you can borrow books free of charge, posted to your home. There are also six videos you can purchase at £14.95 each.

Bob Taylor, Senior Ecologist with the STRI, gave an interesting talk about the benefits of being environmentally friendly. Bob is also ecologist to the R&A undertaking ecological assessments on the Open Championship courses and also judges the BIGGA Environment



Competition. After lunch Tom Rickerby, Chairman of Greens Committee at Lancaster Golf Club, talked about the role of Chairman titled, "A Personal View" with good points raised.

Martin Jones, head of Turfgrass Science at Myerscough College fin-"Climate & Golf Courses." This sub-ject is very topical at the moment because of the dreadful weather over the last 12 months. The weather changes so quickly, as I am typing these notes - from freezing to snow-ing, so at least it will keep the golfers off the courses. Many thanks to all the speakers, thanks to Penrith Golf Club, and to the caterers for a magnificent buffet. Not forgetting Doug Bell, the Regional Administrator, who arranged the day.

Some dates to remember: Mere Seminar, Thursday March 22; Spring Tournament, Mere Golf And Country Club – Monday April 23; Summer Tournament, Mottram Hall Golf & Country Club – Tuesday, June 12.

Once all the fixtures are finalised you will receive a fixture list for the vear.

Any news, views and complaints, you can contact me on, Mobile-07761583387 or 01517245412. Bert Cross

Northern

Well done to Bob and Katie Harthorne as they are are now the proud parents of a little girl, Emily Rose who weighed in at 71bs. Unfortunately she looks just like Bob, but never mind, I am sure it will be a passing phase!

Congratulations also to Jim Brown on his appointment as Course Manager at Penwortham GC, over in Lancashire.

We welcome Paul Marc, from Harrogate GC, and Roger Heeley, from Meltham GC, as new members.

There is no other news at the moment, but if anybody as any then let me know. My address is 67 Asquith Avenue, Morley, Leeds, LS27 9QS; Tel: 0113 2383188: mobile 07790 678572, Email: andy smith21@hotmail.com Andy Smith

North Wales

Apologies for the following column being late and a month out of date, but there seems to have been a mix up at HQ. Please get in touch with me if you have anything I can write about as I am not on Committee anymore so I need to be contacted - all my contact numbers are on your diary of events leaflets. Yet again it's rain, rain, rain - I

wish I was in Spain instead I'm

watching water going down the

drain... pain! The lecture at the College in November was attended by 75 delegates which was absolutely fantastic and made all the effort so worthwhile. Thanks go to Trevor Chard, of Lely UK, Andy Jones and Glyn Hughes, of Major R Owen, for an excellent overview of routine maintenance versus expensive breakdowns. An extra thank you to Majors for sponsoring the refreshments (the mince pies were great). Thanks also to Derek Green, Course Manager at Royal Liverpool, who educated us on bunker construction. It also served to give warning to those members playing in our Christmas tournament the type of revetted faces awaiting the wayward shot. Never failing to get a locomotive engine into the talk, we were treated to a number of impressive South African sunset shots to end an excellent day. The next lecture is on Wednesday 10th January at the College, on Course Design and Plantings, starting 2.30 pm - see you there.

The annual coach to Harrogate was run again on Wednesday 24 January. This year things were dif-ferent. Forms were be sent to the section and a £10 refundable booking fee was be requested, so if you booked and got on the coach you got your money back. However if you booked and didn't turn up, you forfeited the cash. This had to be done so we knew what size coach to book.

The Section would like to wish a very happy and long retirement to a man, who, I imagine, is one of the longest serving greenkeepers to sin-gle club in history. The man in question is Aneurin Hughes, of Rhos on Sea Golf Club, who had an article about him in G.I. not long ago. He has served the Club for an incredible 51 years, a fantastic achievement – all the best to you.

The Christmas tournament at Royal Liverpool was played in lovely conditions and the course was a credit to Derek Green and his staff. All the work now being done is amazing and will hopefully get the course back into open reckoning. Our thanks go to the Captain, Council and members of the Club for allowing us the honour and pleasure of playing such an auspicious course and to the catering and bar staff for providing such splendid after game meals and refreshments.

The results were Shaun Pritchard, Lanymynech 38 pts, who retained both the Toro Trophy and the Bill Lawson Shield for the best under 21 (he is still only 19). Allen Lewis won

