

HEADS

2
How has your membership reacted to longer and more frequent course closure the weather has caused?

We have been closed for only four or five days and every closure has been due to snow rather than flooding so the members have been far happier than the majority in other parts of Britain where the weather has clearly been a lot worse.

We have never closed for rain and only six or seven times due to snow. We have been border line once or twice though.

It's been a frustrating time as we have been closed for 67 days. I would think 99% of our members, many of them five-day, are sympathetic but the weekend golfers don't always understand and get frustrated. It's the usual story of 400 good greenkeepers among the membership!

We have only been closed for about 15 days plus a few half days. Members have been understanding but then some have got a bit frustrated, which is understandable, as they haven't been able to get out and play their golf.

Very positively. The members have been very understanding about the problems and we have tried to open the course whenever possible.

Our course hasn't been too bad though we have been on temporary greens. We have been closed for about 20 days and the reaction of members has been 50-50 from a frustration point of view.

3
What policies have you put in place to protect your course during such a difficult time - trolley bans, temporary tees and greens etc.

We have been on temporary greens and tees a few times, but have used them as little as possible. There hasn't been a ban on trolleys, but we rope off or white line certain areas where, for example, we have re-turfed.

We are on winter greens on every hole and all 27 are USGA specification. This comes into operation on November 1 each year. No trolley ban, but we rest some walking areas and ask golfers to stay on the tarmac paths we have all round the course.

We have 18 temporary greens, 18 winter mats and winter teeing areas. Walkways are roped off and there has been a trolley ban for the first time. On some days we open half the course which is a lot drier than the other half, but still no trolleys.

We haven't had any trolley bans and this is part of or policy because we use ropes and this forces players to walk the way we want them to go, rather than walking across a green to get to the next tee.

Mats are used in winter along with temporary greens on the aprons which are maintained all the year round so that there is always a reasonable surface. We have had total trolley bans and also occasional trolley bans apart from medical reasons.

We have had temporary greens on every hole and trolley control with roped off areas, but we have not banned trolleys as the membership is quite old and they rely on trolleys.

4
What long term implications on the course has the bad weather had?

Hardly any. We are doing some drainage work, but that is normal and we haven't done any extra work.

I can't think of any long term implications as we are so well drained and have had no problems.

A thatch build-up on greens is one problem and we are spending £27,000 on draining the fairways in September. We have built four USGA greens and start on the other 14 in September.

It will mean that we have to spend a lot of money on drainage. Many of our old fairway drains are shallow and can be damaged by verti-draining. We have discovered springs and have a fair amount of clay content in the soil.

We have had flooding in areas never before experienced so we are working on new drainage as its been difficult to move water off the course. We have a programme for new drains on greens and fairways.

We will do more spiking and hollow tining on fairways getting down 12 inches when possible. We have also used a drill and fill machine.

5
What, if anything, will you be doing to be better prepared for a repeat in future winters?

We will aerate more and also slit and verti-drain to give more aeration to prepare for any bad winter we may have. I can recall far worse winters than the one we have just had. We will also gradually change all our greens to a USGA specification at the rate of two or three a year.

We will verti-cut more often, moving from two or three times a year to four on the fairways. We micro-tine greens once a month which should be sufficient.

A big drainage problem and we will be verti-draining the fairways. The new greens will be solid tined once a month. Having spent £57,000 on the front nine drainage we should be a lot better off.

The increased drainage programme we are putting in place with drains a metre deep, when we can get down that far, should be very helpful. In the last three years we have been working on drainage and now this will be done on a much bigger scale.

A complete drainage programme will help and we will also be verti-draining a lot more often rather than once very two or three years on the fairways. It will be more like greens three times a year and once a year on fairways.

I would say we will do considerably more aeration work before the wet weather starts.

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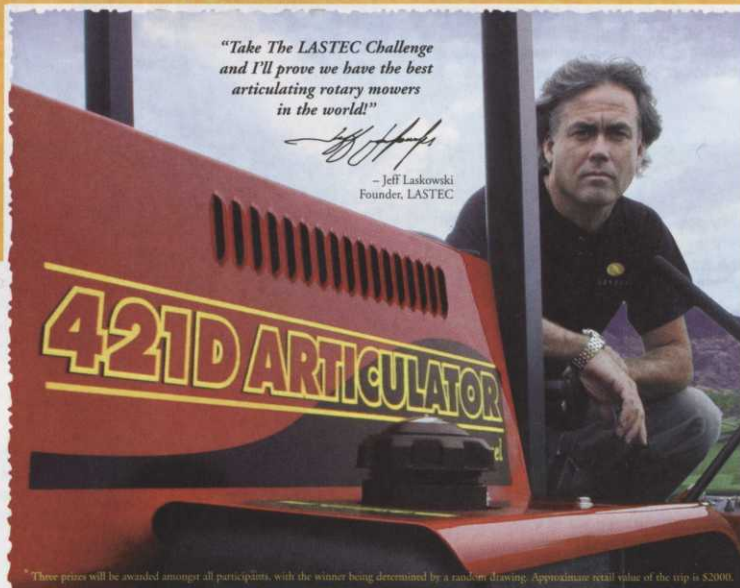


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Dr Kate Entwistle continues her regular series in Greenkeeper International by looking at leaf spot diseases

Spot

the difference

I would bet that if you were asked to name a handful of turf grass diseases, leaf spot diseases would not be among them. Diseases such as fusarium patch, red thread and take-all patch would almost certainly figure in your selection, not only because they are frequently seen on highly managed turf, but also because they are some of the most talked and written about cool-season turf disease problems. Brown patch and pythium diseases may crop up too because they are either frequently identified, or rather misidentified, as causing damage on cool-season turfgrasses or because their effects are so dramatic on the sward that once seen, they are never forgotten.

Below: Close-up view of red leaf spot on a bentgrass sward
Photo courtesy of Grass Science



How important are leaf spot diseases?

Once brought to mind, you may argue that their effects on turf are generally quite minor and therefore not of any great concern. Some of you may consider that because you have never noticed them on your course that they are not of any great importance. Alternatively, you may never have heard of them at all. Although I can understand each of these views, it is a fact that leaf spot diseases can cause a range of symptoms on all turf grasses throughout much of the year and under all management conditions. The fungi which cause them are diverse and differ markedly in their requirements for optimal growth. Their effects on the sward will vary from a virtually insignificant marking of the leaf blade to complete death of the grass plant. These fungi are active now and some leaf spot causing fungi will be active until the autumn and possibly year-round in milder climates.

The term leaf spot encompasses a

whole range of diseases caused by numerous different fungi, but they all have one feature in common - they all produce a defined, often discrete, mark on the leaf blade. The fungi that cause leaf spot diseases may not limit their attack to the lamina, indeed some are so aggressive that they can develop in to the crown and root systems of the plant causing its complete death. Some fungi that are responsible for leaf spot diseases can also kill seedling turf before the plants emerge from the seedbed and these pre-emergence diseases can account for large areas of poorly establishing turf. Mature turf does not go unaffected by leaf spots either and in some cases, it appears that the mature sward is often more severely affected by certain leaf spot pathogens than an equivalent younger sward. There appear to be few rules in this 'disease contest'. Basically, all grasses are affected by at least one leaf spot fungus and the severity of the disease development is a complex formula that deserves a closer look.

Information on turf disease outbreaks

Thank you to all of you who have responded so far to my request for information on turf disease outbreaks. I intend to collect information throughout the year on turf disease problems, so you can offer your information at a time to suit yourself. If you would like to contribute your information, please ask for a form from either Scott (at BIGGA) or myself. The details of your Club will not be published but are requested so that we can identify the location of disease outbreaks. Thank you.

Dr Kate Entwistle

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Above right: Ryegrass variety trial showing cultivar susceptibility to foliar disease. Photo courtesy of Brian Clifford, Novastara

Below: General view of red leaf spot on a bentgrass sward. Photo courtesy of Grass Science



What size are leaf spots?

How long is a piece of string? Many factors affect the size of the leaf spot, not least of all the width of the leaf blade. Grasses with a broad lamina may show individual leaf spots of around 5 mm diameter whereas grasses which have a more needle-like lamina may show comparatively smaller symptoms, even down to a fine 'dot-like' appearance to the leaf blade. Individual leaf spots may well increase in size from their first appearance on the plant and many will coalesce to increase the total area covered by the disease symptom.

What do they look like?

Leaf spots will vary in their appearance depending on which fungus has caused the symptom to develop and which grass the fungus has attacked. Some leaf spots will appear as no more than a pinprick in size and may well be dark brown or very dark red in colour. Other leaf spots will show, for example, a tan circular mark on the leaf that is bordered by a ring of dark coloration and possibly surrounded by a yellow halo. Leaf spot symptoms that are caused by any one fungus, may well change over time. The initial infection of a leaf caused by one fungus may start as a small dark spot but with time, may develop into a more complex and extended symptom which may in no way resemble the initial one. Some plants, when infected by a leaf spot fungus, show a general yellowing or browning of the leaf blade from the tip downwards and this symptom may well be more obvious than discrete spots on the leaf. If the sward looks 'off-colour', particularly following irrigation during the summer months, it is possible that a leaf spot disease is affecting the turf. In short, there is no definitive symptom expression and the only way to be entirely sure which fungus is responsible for the disease is to have it identified in the laboratory.

Why do leaf spots develop?

In order to survive, some fungi use the nutrients within plant cells for their own growth and development.



The disease symptoms that they cause fall into four main types: foliar blights, wilts, root and crown rots and leaf spots. With regard to leaf spot diseases of turfgrass, the exact way in which the symptom is expressed will vary depending upon the specific interaction between the grass and the fungus. However, it is possible to generalise and simplify this process to give an idea of why these symptoms develop.

If we start from the point where the fungal spore is on the grass leaf, we can follow the process of events leading up to the expression of the leaf spot symptoms. Initially, the spore germinates and the fungal hypha enters one of the cells of the plant leaf. Once inside the plant, the aim of the fungus is to obtain sufficient nutrition to sustain its growth and development for as long a time as possible. The plant will try to prevent the fungus from leaving the first cell that it has entered, thereby preventing further damage to itself. And so the battle begins! If the plant is fairly resistant to the given fungus, it will immediately recognise its presence and act so as to prevent the fungus from moving out of that first cell to any adjacent cells. The plant does this in one of two ways. Plants are able to either initiate the death of the cell which has been invaded by the fungus, thereby killing the fungus now inside it, or they can lay down a barrier around the infected cell through which the invading fungus is unable to pass. In this second situation, the effects on the leaf may be nothing more than a small pinprick sized dark mark on the leaf that would probably not be seen unless you were to look extremely closely. However, this response does not always occur. In many cases, either the plant is slow to react to the

presence of the fungus or the fungus is able to produce chemicals that 'fool' the plant so that the plant doesn't realise that it has been attacked. In these cases, the fungus is able to move out of the initial cell that it penetrated and into the adjacent cells. If the fungal presence has still not been 'recognised' by the plant, it is free to move out in to the next band of cells and so on. Eventually the plant realises what is happening and lays down a barrier to prevent the further spread of the pathogen. The longer the fungus has to invade subsequent cells, the larger the resulting leaf spot will be. If large leaf spot symptoms develop, it means that either the plant is slow in recognising the presence of the fungus or the fungus is able to move rapidly through the host plant tissues. Either way, the plant is showing an increased susceptibility to attack.

In some cases, the plant 'over reacts'. It recognises quite early on that it has been attacked and produces chemicals to prevent further movement of the fungus but, even when sufficient chemical has been produced and the fungus is well contained, the plant continues to produce the chemical. Leaf blades can be turned almost completely purple by this panic attack by the plant (as shown in the two photographs of red leaf spot on bentgrass). This over reaction will reduce the possibility of further attacks by the same fungus but, at the same time, will reduce the vigour of the sward by affecting the plants photosynthetic ability. It's a trade off - the plant will recover well from this given time, but it may take a little longer to do so. It has, however, succeeded in stopping the pathogen from attacking and causing a potentially serious infection of its tissues.



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Does the sward height affect leaf spot development?

Absolutely. In general, turf grasses that are maintained under close mowing, show significantly higher levels of disease when compared with the same grass that has been subjected to a less severe cutting height. This effect is dramatic and demonstrates very clearly how our management programmes may contribute to, or be used to reduce, the severity of certain disease pressures. Why should closer mown turfgrasses be more severely affected? There are two main reasons for this. Firstly, once the environmental conditions are right for the fungus to cause damage to the turfgrass, the fungus will enter the plant and initiate the plants reaction. With a small leaf surface area available, a relatively small number of fungal infections can quite easily cover the whole of the leaf blade. If the height of cut was raised, the leaf blade would have a larger surface area and the same disease pressure (number of infections formed in a given time) would cause correspondingly less severe effects on the plant. As the plant responds to the infection, the ability of the plant to photosynthesise is reduced. If the plant has a small leaf surface area to start with (ie under close mowing), the effect of the disease, which effectively reduces the healthy surface area, will have a dramatic effect on the ability of the plant to photosynthesise. As this ability is reduced, the plants food supply is reduced and the plant is put under further stress. While under this additional stress, the fungus now has an even greater opportunity to colonise the turfgrass plant and to cause even more damage. Many swards affected by leaf spot diseases are affected as much by the resulting stresses experienced by the plants as by the initial disease outbreak.

Does cultivar selection matter?

Yes, quite significantly. If you take any one leaf spot fungus and determine its effect across a range of cultivars of the same grass type, you will see dramatic differences in the extent to which the cultivars are affected.

The effect will range from virtually no observable infection to severe attack with significantly discoloured leaf blades and an overall decline in the vigour of the sward. Given the same fungus and the same cultivars, the observed effect will vary depending on the prevailing environmental conditions and the quality of the sward prior to attack.

To summarise...

Although leaf spot diseases are numerous and are not uncommon on cool-season grasses, it is perhaps fair to say that they generally express only minor symptoms on fine turfgrass swards. Occasionally though, they can cause dramatic effects and even the eventual death of the sward. The symptoms expressed depend on the sward composition, its quality at the time of the infection and the specific fungus present. Significant control can generally be achieved by relieving the stress on the turf either by increasing the height of cut or ensuring adequate but not excessive nutrition. As with all diseases of turf, accurate control measures can only be provided following an accurate identification of the cause of the problem.

Many physiological problems associated with turf can produce symptoms that closely resemble the symptoms of leaf spot disease. Make sure that you know exactly what you are trying to control before you implement any control options - it could save you time, money and your sward.

John Hughes offers Course Managers and Greenkeepers a reminder of Take-all, which is particularly relevant to staff involved in newly constructed courses or with newer greens

Winner takes all?

The use of bentgrass within new greens has been common for years. Various percentages of bents have been sown in conjunction with fescue and over recent years, some new greens have been sown with pure bent. New varieties have also become available, offering greater shoot density and greater tolerance of close mowing.

The main concern of using bentgrasses, is over their susceptibility to Take-all Patch - a disease that attacks velvet bent, creeping bent and colonial bent varieties. If unchecked the disease will spread, carried physically from one green to another by foot or machinery.

This overview sets out what to look for to spot the disease and tips on preventative and curative measures, should you be unlucky enough to be struck by this disease.

A survivor

"Take-all patch (*Gaeumannomyces graminis*) - or *Ophiobolus* patch as it used to be known - can survive as a saphrophyte in thatch and also survives as dormant mycelium in the plant. It is most serious in newly established turf and does its worst damage generally in new greens. The disease attacks velvet bent, creeping bent and colonial bent. Over many years, traditionally greens have been sown with fescue bent combinations. The fescues are resistant to the disease, the bent component however remains susceptible even in this situation.

Creeping bent does offer many advantages over fescue bent combinations, particularly in its ability to provide dense uniform swards in a relatively short period. However, it is recognised that the maintenance of creeping bent is more specialised, requiring careful management, and that creeping bentgrass, *Agrostis stolonifera* (var *palustris*) is the most susceptible to the disease.

Creeping bent is predominantly used in new greens as a monoculture and should Take-all occur, it will spread quite rapidly. Sadly, the choice of variety of bent has little bearing

on the resistance to the disease, in fact, very dense varieties may exhibit even greater scarring.

Furthermore, the pros of pure bent have to be weighed-up alongside the cons of the high degrees of maintenance associated with some varieties. For instance, some bent varieties are actually very difficult to maintain as they build up such a dense coverage. This in turn leads to difficulty in managing fertiliser applications and to increased aeration programmes - which combine to mean extra funding from the outset of a construction project. These factors should be taken into consideration, as they will have an effect on the future budgetary requirements of the course.

Symptoms to watch for

Take-all first appears as circular patches of slightly depressed grass with a straw to bronze colouration in appearance. These areas will begin as just a few inches in diameter and gradually increase, stretching to often several feet in diameter, with patches joining together to form large, irregular areas.

Often as the disease spreads, the middle of the patches 'fill in' with resistant species, with areas of surviving





fescue becoming apparent in fescue bent greens. The roots of the affected grasses will actually become rotted.

Plants which play host to Take-all patch extend to some 40 species of grass, although not all of these hosts exhibit the symptoms associated with the disease.

Life cycle

Initial Take-all infection occurs when the mycelium penetrates the root crown or culm of the turfgrass. The pathogen then spreads by outward movement from plant to plant, spreading over roots, rhizomes and other tissues. In fact, infected material can be carried on machinery or by foot, potentially spreading the disease across all aspects of the course.

Over-wintering or survival in adverse conditions is accomplished by saprophytic infection of the debris of previous seasons plant material. The mycelium can also remain inactive within infected plants until conditions are ripe for a new phase of activity.

The most aggressive phase of the Take-all life cycle is typically seen in cool, wet weather conditions when the plant is actively growing.

Strategies to avoid Take-all

Take-all Patch can therefore survive as a saprophyte in thatch and as dormant mycelium in the plant. As already highlighted, it is more common in newly established turf commonly used on newly constructed areas of courses, normally peaking in three to five years, then declining due to antagonistic microorganisms.

High pH is a significant factor in the development of Take-all so, not only should the pH values of the root-zone and irrigation water be investigated to avoid high pH levels, but you should also look to use acidifying fertilisers. However, it is very important to monitor the greens for any indication of black layer over time.

Aeration plays a vital role in encouraging microbial activity, which is essential to the overall health of the green, as well as encouraging a natural system within the root zone for the recycling and utilisation of elements such as carbon, nitrogen and sulphur.

Gould (1973) observed Take-all patch was far more prevalent on greens which had been subjected to fumigation where soil organisms had been killed. As the turf matured,

Take-all patch occurred with much less frequency. This again points to the need for a good antagonistic microbial population - regular aeration and grooming of the sward are vital for healthy development.

The inclusion of a percentage of fescue in initial sowing mixtures has shown to be of value. Even if the fescue does not persist, it does provide an initial barrier within what would otherwise be a monoculture. Overseeding with fescue - ideally a slender creeping red fescue - will at least fill-in the scars caused by Take-all.

If Take-all does occur, there are cultural practices available to rectify the situation over time - consult your seed supplier or agronomist for guidance and information. If conditions are conducive to the disease, then any bent in the greens will be attacked. Remember: the disease can be carried physically by machinery or on foot from one green to another, so be diligent in preventing this immediately, should you identify Take-all on your greens. There are chemical treatments available for Take-all, but these are not currently licensed for use in the UK - this situation will change however, as fungicides become available to combat the disease.

Conclusions

Good cultural practices will always be necessary in any situation where Take-all occurs. Avoidance is by far the best strategy, so focus on monitoring pH levels, good aeration of the soil and grooming of the sward. Build quality and monitoring of materials is essential. A high quality course maintenance programme is the best policy - quick fixes often have a habit of causing problems at a later stage.

One note of consolation is that as the build-up of antagonistic microorganisms occurs, so the disease will fade. Even in sand greens bacteria and fungi have an uncanny habit of colonising and forming relatively stable populations.

The relationship between microorganisms and the balance that they create is complex and takes time to reach stability. The interaction between Take-all patch and its soil antagonists is an example of complexity leading to stability (Smith et al, 1989). Time is therefore a great healer, and being antagonistic is often not such a bad idea after all."

John Hughes is Amenity Technical Manager with Cebeco Oliver Seeds



Scottish Region
Peter Boyd
Tel./Fax 0141 616 3440

North

More new members to welcome to the Section this month. Frederick Elrick, from Longside GC; Colin Aiton, from Aigas GC, Beauly; Michael Mann, from Forres GC; Allan Paterson, from Tirlandie GC, Shetland Isles, and last but not least we welcome Frank Spencer, from Boat of Garten GC. The Section is getting bigger and bigger every month, so we like to think we must be doing something right!

Latest news?

www.bigga.org.uk/news.html

We wish Neil Ballingall all the best in his new job at the Sam Torrance golf complex near St Andrews. As soon as we hear who replaces him at Moray GC we will let you know. Also on the move is Gordon Wright who has left Aboyne to work at Inchmarlo. Good luck to him in his new post.

Tain, along with Royal Dornoch, Fortrose and Nairn Dunbar have recently hosted the inaugural Highland Golf Classic which unfortunately was hit by the Foot and Mouth misinformation epidemic. In early January there were nearly 100 entries with enquiries every day, then Foot and Mouth hit the UK and entries dried up. By the time the competition was played there were only 70 participants.

It is such a shame that here in the North we are losing visitors when the nearest outbreak is over 200 miles away!

We can only hope that those who played enjoyed it enough to come back next year and bring others with them, so that this event will blossom into a major annual tournament bringing much needed visitors to our courses.

At the time of writing, the Foot and Mouth epidemic seems to be under control and hopefully we can still have a good season in the North with many visitors playing our lovely courses, bringing in the revenue needed to purchase the new machines etc we require to do the job even better than we do already (if that's possible!)

I had a great time in Edinburgh recently at Section member, Gordon Mckie's wedding, spending most of the time with other members Gordon Moir and Jocky Urquhart, and no, we didn't spend too much time talking about greenkeeping, honest!

Iain Macleod

West

It is with great sadness that I heard of the sudden passing away of John Young who had been a long serving member and supporter of our Section. Everyone in the West Section would

like to pass on their condolences to John's family at this sad time.

On April 3 the Secretaries' match was held at West Kilbride GC. On the day the match was drawn and so the Greenkeepers held on to the magnificent trophy which takes pride of place in John's lounge. It must be added that John Scott and I did not help the cause any by getting well and truly hammered, a dog's licence being mentioned. Jim Paton and his staff are to be congratulated on the fine condition of the course so early in the season.

On April 5 the Greenkeepers'/Conveners' match was held at Helensburgh GC. The leaders in the clubhouse for sometime were the Helensburgh II team which seemed to annoy Ronnie somewhat who had been determined not to hold this early season tournament over his course next year. However, the Lenzie team came good and secured a late victory taking this great tournament to Lenzie next spring. The Section would like to thank the sponsors on the day R.Aitken Seedsmen and Scottish Grass Machinery. Thanks should also go to Ronnie and his team for all the hard work that must have gone into presenting the course in such condition after all the heavy rain that had fallen in the week leading up to the competition.

John Robertson and the committee would like to wish Stuart Cameron every success in his new assistant's position at Airdrie GC. Stuart previously worked at Hilton Park GC under John and joins David's team at Airdrie in a "season" when David should be a happy head man.

New members to be welcomed to the Section are Garry McShane, Cochrane Castle GC; Gareth Thomson, Drumpellier GC; Graeme Hope, Erskine GC and, last but not least, Jim Wilson, Langlands GC returns to the Section. I look forward to seeing you all at Section events.

Well that's it for this month. As always, if you have anything you want added to the column do not hesitate to call me on the number below. The report on the spring outing will be included in next month's report.

Brian Bolland 013552 66862

Phone a friend?

www.bigga.org.uk/contact.html

Central

We start this month by welcoming another two members to the Section and they are Joe Wallace from Glenbervie Golf Club. Welcome back Joe and Steven Couper from Bridgend and District Golf Club in West Lothian.

And now some members who have moved recently, Albert Arnott and Shaun McMillan have both moved from Dunnikier golf course to Lochore Meadows, or "The Meedi's" if you come from that neck of the woods and Steven Ewing has moved from Letham Grange to Thornbury

Golf Club near Bristol. We wish them every success in their new positions.

Winners of the April draw in "Club 2000" were Peter Finlay with ticket number 271, Peter wins £30 and Bobby Fleming wins £20 with ticket number 231. Also the winners in the May draw were Mrs Whitelaw with ticket number 10, £30 and David Beardwood who wins £20 with ticket number 122. Well done folks, hopefully you have received your cheques by now!

Section Event?

www.bigga.org.uk/events.html

As I said in last month's news the spring tournament was fully subscribed very early, but, due to the number of members who wished to take part, Scotsraig Golf Club kindly granted us times for another 20 players which meant we had an attendance of 78 with 72 playing. This is the highest number we have ever had at a Section tournament, so, in future, get your entries in early, as all clubs may not be so accommodating as Scotsraig.

Our sincere thanks go to everyone at the golf club for the courtesy and hospitality which was extended to us on the day, especially Head Greenkeeper John Moffat and his staff for having the course in excellent condition so early in the season, the clubhouse staff who kept us fed and suitably refreshed throughout the day, Club Captain Rod Ford, who did us the honour of presenting our prizes and to Club Secretary Barry Liddle for all his assistance in making the day possible. Obviously with so many players it made for a long day for those who were out early but the majority were able to remain for the presentation of prizes, prior to which one "older" member was heard to remark "This never happened in my day." The reason could be that in "your day" we were lucky if 28 and not 78 attended a golf tournament. That's what we call progress! And long may it continue!

Prizes winners were as follows;

Best scratch

K. Stirling, Kingsbarns, 75;

Best nett

W. Woods 78 - 4 - 74

Cat 1

1. A. Philp, St. Fillans 78 - 2 - 76 bh; 2. K. Mitchell, St. Andrews, 81 - 5 - 76

Cat 2

S. Pearson, Aberdour, 87 - 12 - 75; 2. I.

Leith/K. Mitchell, St. Andrews, 160 - 6

Cat 3

A. Robertson, Grangemouth 97 - 21 - 76;

2. G. McRae, Ratho Park, 99 - 18 - 81

Stewart's Quaich

D. Leith/K. Mitchell, St. Andrews, 160 - 6

- 154. Patron's. K. Brunton, Greentech, 76

- 1 - 75. Guests. B. Liddle, Scotsraig, 80

- 9 - 71. Longest Drive. J. Darling,

Aitkens.

Nearest the Pin

S. Smith, Lundin Links.

50/50 Draw

W. Bell, Tulliallan

John Crawford



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Cleveland

The Section has three new members this month. Liam McGeough, Shaun Stokell, and Scott Esgough all work at Richmond Golf Club. Welcome to the Section lads.

A general knowledge quiz was held at Darlington Golf Club, organised by the Section Secretary, Barry Walker. It was well attended and a good night was had by all. Eventual winners were Ian Pemberton, Martin Hargrave and Tony Cheeseborough. Thanks to Barry for his efforts.

Turf Care had a bowling night at Teesside Park. A great night was had by the many that were there. A big thank you to Terry Charlton and his staff for organising the event and providing a meal afterwards. After the meal Section Chairman, Tony Smith, announced that he had asked Terry Charlton to be President of the Section Terry was proud and honoured to be asked and accepted the role.

Congratulations to Martin Wood, of Wearside Golf Club, and Tony Smith, of Teesside Golf Club, who have just passed their Level 3 at Houghall College.

The spring tournament took place this month at Wearside Golf Club; the weather was superb, as was the course. A great day was had by everyone thanks to Barry Walker and his team for their efforts and to Wearside Golf Club for allowing us to use their facilities.

Cat 1 (Border Sports)

1. Andy Wood, Seaton Carew, 73 bh;

2. Martin Woods, Wearside, 73;

3. Ritchie Hood, Mount Oswald, 75.

Cat 2 (Aitkens)

1. Phil Hargrave, South Shields, 68;

2. Tony Burge, Richmond, 73 bh;

3. Allen Reid, Saltburn, 73.

Cat 3 (Greenkeeping Supplies)

1. Mark Brown, Brancepeth, 69;

2. Chris Powley, Dinsdale Spa, 71;

3. Ian Pemberton, Bedale, 76

Best nett

Phil Hargrave, 68.

Best gross

Andy Wood, 77

A big thanks to the trade for their support of this and other Section events. The draw for the Carrs sponsored Cleveland Shield took place at the event and anyone who wants to know their opponents should contact Barry Walker on 0191 5650691.

And, finally, I have moved to Ramside Hall Hotel and Golf Club. I was sorry to leave the Wynyard Club, but the opportunity of working on one of the top courses in the area alongside one of the finest greenkeepers in the country, Roger Shaw, was just too tempting and so far it's been everything I expected and more.

Any news contact me on 07719 193381

Steven Jaques



Midland Region
Peter Larter
Tel: 01480 437507

Mid Anglia

Our first golf event of the year took place in early May; our spring tournament at Overstone Park GC over 36 holes. After the exceptionally wet spring, it was a relief to have dry conditions and an enjoyable day all round. Twenty-eight Greenkeepers and Trade members entered on the day and the results were as follows:

Best nett

Leon Cant, Brocket Hall, 73,70.

Best gross

Gary Boulton, Dunstable Downs, 79,73.

Morning round

1. Mark Ellis, Stocks, 69;
2. Nigel Phelan, St. Andrews Hospital, 71;
3. Leon Cant, Brocket Hall, 73.

Afternoon round

1. Leon Cant, Brocket Hall, 70;
2. Gavin Simkins, Mount Pleasant, 73;
3. Gary Boulton, Dunstable Downs, 73.

Longest Drive, am and pm:

Chris Yeoman, Tilsworth.

Nearest the pin, am

Tom Houghton, Pytchley.

Nearest the pin, pm

Geoff James, John O'Gaunt.

Our thanks to Philip Helm, Course Manager, and the golf club, for their hospitality. Our main sponsor of the day was Rigby Taylor once again, represented by Mark Stigwell. Thanks also to all other trade members for their support.

Those entered into the Lodgeway Four Ball competition should have received the completed draw by now. Please ensure that these games are played as soon as possible, to avoid the problems experienced during last year's event.

Our next golf event is the summer tournament, to be held at Harpenden Golf Club, Hammonds End, on Wednesday August 22.

Paul Lockett

East Midlands

On March 26-27 I attended the BIGGA Section Secretaries meeting at BIGGA HOUSE. This is a biannual meeting, and again it proved to be

very informative. If any member has any queries regarding their membership benefits etc please get in touch with me and I will attempt to help you out.

The evening lecture held at Kirby Muxloe GC on April 10 proved to be a very successful evening with 32 delegates listening to our four speakers, covering varying topics. Sam Maclean and Peter Hampton spoke about Bernards Grinders and grinding in general, Ken Richardson, CPD and my own subject was Greenkeeping in Canada. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sam, Peter and Ken for their presentations and to all those members who supported the evening. I would also like to thank the following committee members for donating a prize for the raffle, Gavin Robson, Richard Barker, and Andy McGreal. Also thanks should go to Andrew Astle of Alpha Amenity for his generous prize donation. I would also like to thank all those committee members who helped in the smooth running of the evening. Finally, one last thank-you should go to John Cooledge, Steward, for a great chicken curry meal, and to Kirby Muxloe G.C. for hosting the evening. Remember, with your support we can arrange more evenings like this.

On August 15 the Section will host the annual East Midlands v East of England Golf match at Cotgrave Place G.C. We require a team of ten so anybody interested in playing can contact me by telephone or Email. The first tee is booked from 3.45pm followed by an evening meal. So again please try to support your Section.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome back Peter Larter as our Regional Administrator.

Antony Bindley

East of England

Unfortunately the first Section golf day at Luffenham Heath had to be cancelled due to flooding, but we will rearrange it for later in the year.

There was not a cloud anywhere on the second outing at Cleethorpes GC, and the course looked in excel-

lent condition thanks to Les Howkin and his staff.

This year's sponsor and hopefully for many more, was Amenity Technology. Thank you to Graham, from Amtec, who brought along some great prizes. Other sponsors on the day were Tower Sports, Aitkens, Scotts, Lincsgreen, Rigby Taylors, Greenpride and Mansfield Sands.

The winners on the day were;

1. K.Hodges, Ryston Park. 35pts:
 2. R.Moody, Lincoln GC, 32pts:
 3. G.Macdonald, Newark GC, 30pts:
 4. S. Lidgard, Kenwick GC, 29pts:
- R. Aitken took the trade prize with 37pts. Nearest the pin for the Lambs Cup went to PFell
The Purdys Longest Drive cup went to Les Howkins.

The Section was delighted to welcome Jim Brown, Northern Section Chairman, who played at Cleethorpes.

The meal by the caterers was recommended by the club secretary. Apparently it was their speciality and I could see why. The fish, chips and peas tasted as if it had just been caught. Thanks to the Club for a great day out.

Forthcoming Events

May 24 - Evening Seminar IPM talk by Simon Barnaby of Scotts, sponsored by FTS.

June 12 - Match against Stewards/Secretaries at Ryston Park.
June 28 - Section Golf day at Spalding sponsored by PGM
G.A. Macdonald



South West and South Wales
Paula Humphries
Tel: 01288 352194

Devon and Cornwall

The Foot and Mouth crisis now seems to be improving with fewer cases being reported. The crisis has had a big effect financially on the Region with Westurf having to be cancelled with the loss of deposits at the show ground and hotel. Also the Section has been slightly hit with the loss of March 1 meeting at Thurlestone Golf Club. To address the loss of this meet-

ing we have arranged a Section meeting to be held at Trethorne Golf Club Nr Launceston on Tuesday, June 19, hopefully the meeting will be sponsored by Avoncrop but this has still to be confirmed going to press as the Region has offered companies the chance to sponsor all four Sections in a one off payment at a very competitive cost. Only time will tell if this has a detrimental effect on the Section.

Details for our summer meeting are as follows; Bacon roll & coffee on arrival, golf tee times between 12noon and 1.30pm, non golfer Irrigation workshop 2pm, 6.30pm two course dinner followed by Devon v Cornwall ten-pin bowling match.

For more information please contact me on 01288 353438.

Richard Whyman

South Coast

Did you see me on the telly? No, then you missed a real treat! I was interviewed by the legendary Carl Tyler, the man who reads the weather on Meridian News, about the gold fish found at Salisbury. You must have heard about that. No again? Then I shall tell you about it.

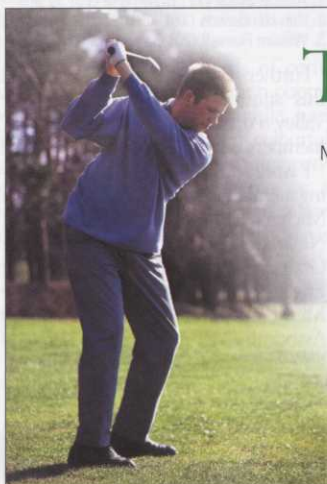
On one of the very wet days in April we had 15 gold fish come down in one of the heavy downpours. This amazing phenomenon is so rare that we had national newspaper coverage, dozens of radio interviews and I was the lucky one who had to be interviewed on Live Television!

My autograph is now available upon request, signed photos will carry a small charge to cover my costs. (Only joking, unless you really want one!)

The spring tournament, which should have been played at The Army Club, had to be cancelled due to inclement weather. The Army Club gave 12 hours notice of the competition being cancelled. But all was not lost!

The whole thing had been rearranged within the same 12 hours to take place at Basingstoke Golf Club, on May 31. Many thanks go to Basingstoke for giving us the opportunity at such short notice.

So with all that in mind, the results



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of the competition will be printed next month, and not this.

The summer tournament is not so far away now either, Thursday, July 12 to be exact. The summer tournament is an invitation event, so all those wanting to play have to invite someone from their club and they can be an official or just a member.

The competition will take place at Broadstone Golf Club, and will cost £18 per head. Numbers are limited to 44 players, so don't dilly-dally about in getting your entries to Chris Sturgess. Please make cheques payable to BIGGA, and send them to Chris Sturgess, 40 Kinsbourne Way, Thornhill, Southampton, Hants, SO19 6HB.

If you have any queries regarding this, or any other competition, then you can phone Chris on 0777 313 8409.

Well, that's it for another month. I'm off to open a supermarket now. Mike Cartwright.

Section Event?

www.bigga.org.uk/events.html

South West

The team led by new Captain, Knobby Knight, started with a 3.5 to 1.5 victory over the Secretaries team at a well presented Manor House. Our thanks go to all the staff at the Manor House for use of their facilities. Also to the sponsor of the day, Avoncrop, and their representative, Neil Weslake, for the prizes. I would also like to thank the Secretaries of the South West for turning up to play us from as far as Cornwall and Devon or as close as Bath. The next team match is against the South Coast in August. You can contact John Kennaghan on 01454 646837 if you want to be considered (don't offer to play him at snooker).

The tour's next event is at the Kendleshire (soft spikes only) on July 24. Contact Kevin James for more information.

D.Bougen



South East
Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260956

Sussex

I have a confession to make. Those of you who read last month's around the green would have read that I said "by the time you read this we would have already played our spring meeting at Cowdray Park." Well I can only put this down to the fact that I was looking forward so much to playing a course which had not turned itself into the Sussex equivalent of the Everglades, that I must have dreamed I had already played, in reality we were not due to play Cowdray Park until April 19. By the time you read this we would have played our spring meeting at Cowdray Park. Thursday the 19th turned out to be a beautiful day to be playing golf on such a fine golf course,

even if it did start a bit on the cold side. A total of 37 members turned out to support the day of which 12 walked away with prizes. The day consisted of an 18 hole morning medal and a 9 hole Texas scramble after lunch.

The morning round was sponsored by John Shaw Machinery and the results are as follows:

Nett scores

1. Jon Hill with a net score of 71;
2. Rob Hudson, 77;
3. Rob Short 78.

Gross scores

1. Robert Welford 77;
2. George Barr (never heard of him) 82;
3. Jonathan Smith, with 87.

Best trade or guest - Alan Bartup.

Nearest the Pin on the 3rd Jon Hill.

Nearest the pin on the 11th Lee Holloway and **longest drive** on the 14th Jonathan Smith.

Thank you to the sponsors Driving Force Leisure, Sheerwater Leisure, and Vitax.

Rigby Taylor sponsored the afternoon Texas Scramble:

1. George Barr, Jon Hill, and David Ray;
2. Mike Gould, Derek Farrington and Steve Northeast.

A special thank you to Steve and his team for presenting us with a great golf course and to Cowdray Park for letting us play at such a great golf course.

Also to the members of committee who organise these days for us, especially Rose and Mike Gould our Match Committee. The next meeting is the Club team challenge to be held at Ifield G.C. on June 26.

On a passing note, the girl who beeped Rob Hudson as he was on his back swing on the 17th tee has since been disqualified from driving as it is illegal for any person who is certified blind to be in control of a vehicle.

Jon Budd
jonboy69@ukonline.co.uk

Essex

This year's spring meeting scheduled at Frinton GC was in doubt due to adverse weather conditions so in stepped Carl Crocher to offer Orsett GC as an alternative, and what a great alternative it turned out to be. The course was so dry compared to all others in the area that you could have been excused for thinking you were on another continent let alone, another county. As usual, Orsett GC was very well presented and a pleasure to play, this despite the fact that the longest drive was set up on a dog leg which favoured players who hit with a draw. Know anybody like that Mr Crocher?

The meeting was split into two categories 0 - 14 and 15 - 28 plus an overall winner. The main sponsors were Rigby Taylor, and thanks go to Mr Steve Denton. Results were;

Cat 1

1. Ray Clark, Channels GC
2. Carl Crocher, Orsett GC
3. Jon Selwood, Abridge GC

Cat 2

1. Malcolm Smith, Channels GC
2. Martin Guy, Great Hadham G&CC
3. Stewart Wren, Great Hadham G&CC

Overall winner with an excellent 35 points off a handicap of 5 was

R.Hughes, he takes away the coveted Spring Trophy.

Longest Drive and Nearest Pin, which were both sponsored once again by The Greenkeeping Supply Company went to Jon Selwood and M.Bartlett (guest) respectively. D.Kelly picked up the guest prize with 37 points, again off a 5 handicap, with runner up going to D.Cornwell with 34.

The event was again very well supported by the Trade which made Mick Fance's win with 38 points even more impressive. Rumour has it that Mick only left greenkeeping (again) for the trade so he could win a golf day.

Speaking of the Trade who I think managed to win back all of their raffle donations we must say thanks to Tacit, Driving Force Leisure, Vitax, Ernest Doe & Sons, Banks Amenity Products Ltd, Advanta and Gem for the continued and very much appreciated support.

As mentioned previously, this event was staged at short notice and as such and extra special thank you must go to all the staff at Orsett GC who once again made us more than welcome, well done to everyone concerned.

On the education front the evening lecture at Writtle College last month had to be cancelled due to the Foot and Mouth outbreak, we will try to rearrange this and will inform all members of the new date.

Only one new member this month, Tim Simmons Head man at Warley Park in Shenfield, see you soon I hope Tim.

The Secretary of our Section, Martin Forrester, has moved to pastures new, he now presides over The Essex Golf Club while Pete Blackeby fills the vacancy left at Stapleford Abbots. Good luck to you both. Another mover from our midsts is Andy Sheehan who lets his former assistant Mark Stops, take over the running of Bentley and takes charge at Ely GC. Once again good luck lads.

Our next Section event will have taken place by the time this is in print, and it's the Summer Trophy to be held at Bentley GC. This meeting also incorporates the National Qualifier, which I have heard is having its name changed to the 'Andy Sheehan National Qualifier'. Hope every body had a good day and good luck to those that join Andy in the Regional Final. Results will be posted in next month's edition.
Steve Crossdale



Northern Ireland

I would like to start this month's report by apologising for the omission of notes in last month's magazine. Due to a sudden family illness I was unable to make the deadline but thankfully normality has returned and my wife's health has improved. The event scheduled for Downpatrick Golf Club towards the end of March had to be cancelled because of the Foot and

Month restrictions. The committee hope to arrange an alternative date later in the year for this event.

I had the pleasure in attending a recent major Turfgrass seminar at Lisburn Golf Club. The seminar was organised by the Scotts company and its NI distributor John Lindsey. The main speaker was the world renowned Turfgrass scientist, Dr James Beard. Many interesting topics and issues were discussed including plant nutrition, hydrophobic dry patch, top dressing compaction, GM plants, reduction of mowing heights on greens and the resulting problems, irrigation water quality, and creeping bent grasses formed the major part of Dr Beard's presentation. Many thanks to Richard Walton and Simon Barnaby, from Scotts, and John Lindsey for bringing Dr Beard to NI. The seminar was a very interesting and enjoyable experience.

The Section event at Loughall on April 26 went ahead as planned with a visit to the grass trail ground at the Plant Breeding Station. David Linton, Area Manager with Barenbrug, gave us a detailed tour of the trial area with special interest in the fine turf grasses. Many thanks Barenbrug and the Dept of Agriculture for letting us visit the area during this sensitive time.

Members moved across the village to play the new golf course open in June 2000 by Armagh District Council. Barenbrug and thanks again to David Linton for providing the prizes sponsored the competition. The new golf course at Loughall is a real gem with every hole providing challenge and interest throughout. The course presentation by Head Greenkeeper, Brian Tedford and his team, was very highly praised by all the members. I was particularly pleased to meet my former work colleague, Wayne Haffey, who now is part of the greenkeeping team at Loughall. Wayne and the greenkeeping team at Loughall are playing the course in gross 75s on regular occasions. Wining club competitions and prizes on a weekly basis. It has got to be local knowledge. I would also like to thank the Manager of the facility, Greg Fearson, and Armagh Council for allowing us to come and play the course. The results of the competition were;

1. Allison Sloan (17) Ballymena GC, 39 pts;
2. Ken Henderson (16) Allen Park GC, 35 pts;
3. William Russell (20) Ballymena GC; 33pts.

Further competitions are planned this summer at Royal Belfast, The Valley Portrush and Hollywood GC members will be notified.

I would like to welcome the following members to the Section this month Michael Fenney, City of Derry GC; Norman Orr, Ormeau Park GC; Graham Paxton, Michael Radford and Eugene Hennessey K Club, Corporate Member Ian McClements and Associate Member Kevin Kennedy University College Dublin.

Ken Henderson

Phone a friend?

www.bigga.org.uk/contact.html