



Located at Oakham Business Park, the Mansfield branch serves the East Midlands region, Derbyshire and South Yorkshire.

Alan Prickett (right) is managing the branch operation and commented,

"There will be a high level of expectation from our customers now that the Textron name appears above the door of these three branches.

It is my intention that the dealerships will not only achieve this, but surpass customer expectations to provide a level of service that customers have not experienced previously in these regions. Huge investment has been made by Textron to make this possible.

We have fully resourced parts departments with high levels of stock items right across the Textron product range, together with an impressive fleet of demonstration equipment. This includes Jacobsen golf course equipment, Ransomes municipal turf maintenance products, Ransomes litter/collector sweepers and a range of golf and light industrial utility vehicles including the new range of Cushman Diabline electric vehicles.

The branches are housed in some of the finest dealer premises in Europe. I've been fortunate enough to start with a clean can-

vas, so we have all the latest equipment for our service parts operation, together with a new fleet of service support vehicles. We have recruited a team of excellent people with a vast combined knowledge and experience of the turf care sector.

The knowledge gained from my recent visit to our branches in the USA, is the model for the operation here in the UK. I was very impressed with their commitment to go that 'extra mile' to ensure that the customer receives the service levels that they demand. This is the ethos that the staff here will follow.

Having just returned from Saltex, it was interesting to hear the rumours and speculation surrounding this new venture for Textron.

Is it the beginning of the end for the UK dealer network? Will we be operating on more favourable terms than our UK dealers? Will we be competing head-to-head with the major hire companies?

The answer to this is simply No, No and No. As Glynn Patrick, my sales director stated we will not be, and have no intention of replacing our dealership network. Experienced dealers are very few

and far between and Textron is fortunate to have some of the very best and financially viable companies in this business and we intend to keep it that way.

The ending of our agreements with Breakwell's and Henton & Chattell has provided this opportunity, but it is strictly a one-off to ensure that our



Alan Prickett

customers have service levels superior to that which they have previously experienced.

These three branch operations

customer with no carriage charges, whether supplied from Ipswich or the branches.



will be treated solely as all other dealerships except that they will trade under the manufacturers name. My terms of agreement mirror those of our other dealers.

And finally with regard to the hire companies, we will definitely not be competing with them. We will stay firmly with our core business, which is committed to supplying quality products in all the sectors in which we operate, supported by exemplary levels of after sales service."

Alan Prickett also confirmed that Service Parts ordered by customers will be dispatched on overnight carriage direct to the

Experienced people have joined the new branches and pictured here are (l-r) Spike Spires, Foreman/Technician at Mansfield, formerly with Henton & Chattell; Tim Vaughan, Service Technician at Mansfield; Gary Potter, Service Technician at Selby; and Des Clarke, Service Manager at Selby, another former Henton & Chattell employee.

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While greenkeepers continue striving to maintain golf courses to the highest possible standard, research scientists are working in laboratories on projects that could ultimately eliminate some of the obstacles to perfect course conditioning. This month Dr Sue Grayston, Principal Scientific Officer in the Plant Ecophysiology & Rhizosphere Processes Programme at the Macaulay Institute in Aberdeen, gives an insight into some of the work that is being carried out at the Institute on soil biodiversity.

Small but perfectly formed

Figure 1: 'A' Root

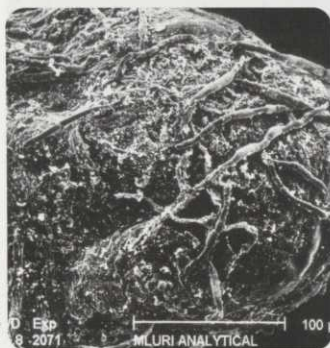


Figure 1: 'B' Root

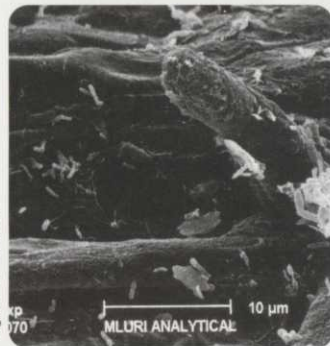


Figure 2

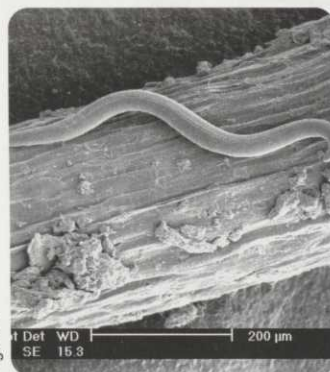
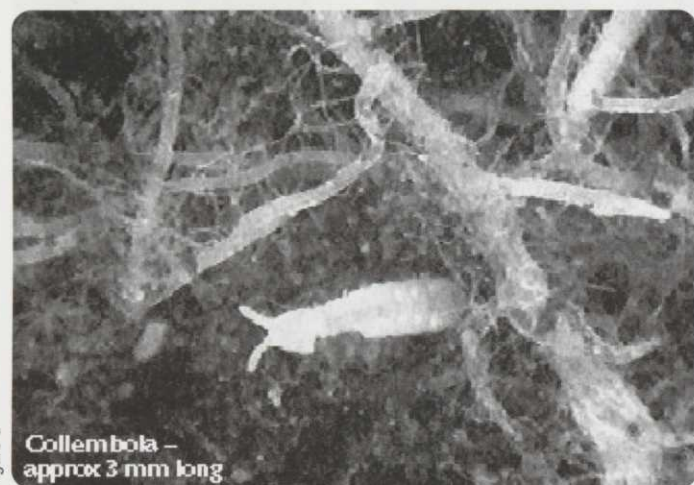


Figure 3



Did you know that soil probably harbours most of our planet's undiscovered biodiversity (Tiedje et al., 1999)? And yet we know very little about it. However, too small to be seen no longer means insignificant or valueless. Soil organisms are the key contributors to nutrient cycling, energy flow and storage in soil (Whitford, 1996). The soil biota recycle nutrients, produce and consume gases that affect global climate, destroy pollutants, treat wastes and can be used for biocontrol of plant and animal pests. Soil micro-organisms are the major sources of pharmaceuticals, antibiotics, immunosuppressants, enzymes and anti-tumour agents.

Soil organisms can be conveniently classified according to size. There are micro-organisms, which are invisible to the naked eye. They include bacteria, fungi and algae (Figure 1). These are the primary decomposers of plant and animal detritus in soil. The microfauna are the soil animals, less than 200µm long, therefore, also too small to be seen by eye and they include protozoa and nematodes (Figure 2). Mesofauna are animals of medium size (200µm - 1 cm in length) (collembola, mites, enchytraeids) (Figure 3) and macrofauna are animals who are cm's long, (earth-

worms, molluscs, arthropods, vertebrates) (Figure 4). Some soil fauna are predators of soil micro-organisms and other soil fauna, some are detritivores and others are plant herbivores.

Mature forest soils appear to have a diversity greater than any other habitat, with the possible exception of coral reefs (Behan-Pelletier & Bisset, 1992). The development and application of new methodologies to characterise, isolate and identify soil biota has indicated that we have only scratched the surface of soil biodiversity. Andre et al. (1994), using a new flotation method to extract mites from soil hypothesised that 10 million mesofauna in soil remained to be discovered. The situation is more dramatic with soil micro-organisms. Using molecular techniques it has been estimated that 1.5 million fungal species exist, yet only 5% are described. Similarly, for bacteria there may be 300,000 to 1 million species on earth, yet only 3,000 are described. A typical gram of soil contains 1 billion bacteria, only 10% of which are culturable (Torsvik, 1990a) and there may be 4,000 different microbial genomes present (Torsvik, 1990b). The total number of microbial cells on earth is far greater than individual animals and plants (Meyer, 1994). The survival of micro-organisms does not require plant or animal life, whereas the existence of micro-organisms is vital for plants and animals, including humans, and life on earth would cease if they became extinct. In fact, soil and its biotic component has been described as "our most precious non-renewable resource" (Marshall et al., 1982).

Bearing in mind the importance of soil organisms in ecosystem functioning and the fact that we know so little about individual identities and their specific roles it is vital if we are going to be able to manage different ecosystems effectively, or realise some of the potential untapped wealth waiting to be discovered in soil, we need more information on the char-

acter and functional significance of the soil biota. This statement holds true whether one is managing, at the one extreme a high input intensive grassland ecosystem, such as a golf course, or at the other extreme, a low input extensive pasture used as a grazing resource for animals. We also need to understand the key factors which affect the diversity and functioning of soil organisms. Availability of carbon (C) is a key factor affecting the growth of soil organisms. Therefore, any factor affecting soil C inputs will impact on the soil organisms. These factors include a) plant species - which vary in the amount and type of C they release to the soil, b) above-ground cutting, whether this be by an animal or a machine, - which alters C fluxes to the soil, c) below-ground root herbivory by insect larvae and nematodes - which increases C flow to the soil and d) soil amendments - which are used in intensive systems like golf courses as microbial stimulants.

Until recently it was felt that trying to identify the diversity of the whole soil microbial community was an impossible task because the techniques were just not available to study these small organisms. However, with the development of new molecular techniques like denaturing gradient gel electrophoresis (DGGE) to produce molecular fingerprints of microbial communities (Figure 5) and new chemotaxonomic techniques like phospholipid fatty acid (PLFA) profiling, which identifies characteristic 'signature' lipids found in the membranes of specific microbial groups, it is now possible to identify the total microbial diversity in soil. In addition, methods such as community level physiological profiling (CLPP) are being used to assess the functional diversity of the microbial communities in soil. The technique measures utilisation of a number of different carbon substrates (Figure 6) by microbial communities and is therefore relevant to soils, where microbial growth is carbon lim-

Figure 4

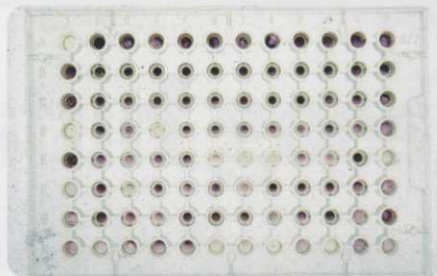


Figure 8: Bacteria



Figure 8: Fungi



ited. We have been undertaking this research at the Macaulay as part of these biodiversity programmes.

The use and further development of these techniques, applied to the research areas described above, is being undertaken at the Macaulay Institute in Aberdeen, as part of our core research programme funded by the Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department (SEERAD) and in our role as partners in two major UK programmes on soil biodiversity – the SEERAD Micronet Project and the Natural Environmental Research Council (NERC) Soil Biodiversity Programme. Both of these programmes are centred on the grasslands at the Macaulay Institutes Research Station near Yetholm in the Scottish Borders. Although this research is being undertaken on upland grasslands the research and findings are equally relevant to intensively managed grasslands, such as golf courses.

The SEERAD Micronet Project (<http://www.scri.sari.ac.uk/MICRO>) is a major 10 year (1994-2004) co-ordinated programme on soil microbial diversity which is developing and applying a suite of molecular and phenotypic techniques to characterise the spatial and temporal diversity of soil microbial communities across a range of pastures differing in management intensity at 10 sites in the UK (Figure 7). The overall aim is to try to understand how soil microbial community structure affects the fertility of the soil and

the composition and productivity of the sward. This is a major programme of international significance; there is no other programme in the world applying a suite of both molecular and physiological techniques to the same soil samples to quantify spatial and temporal diversity of soil microbial communities.






We have been able to show that microbial community structure and activity is significantly influenced by grassland type and site, with intensively managed ryegrass, clover grasslands being a bacterial dominated system and the low input, extensive bent, fescue grasslands being fungal dominated (Grayston et al., 2001) (Figure 8). We have also shown that different grasses select for the microbial community in the soil surrounding its roots – 'the rhizosphere', through the variety of different carbon compounds they release from their roots (Grayston et al., 1998) (Figure 9).

The NERC Soil Biodiversity Programme (<http://mwnta.nmwa.ac.uk/soilbio>) is a five year programme (1999-2004), which aims to quantify the diversity of the whole soil biota in a bent fescue grassland in the Scottish borders, subject to a variety of management inputs (addition of nitrogen, lime, insecticide) (Figure 10). The key objective is to ascertain whether there is a link between biological diversity and function in soil. As part of this programme the Macaulay Institute, in collaboration with the Institute of Grassland and Environmental

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Figure 13

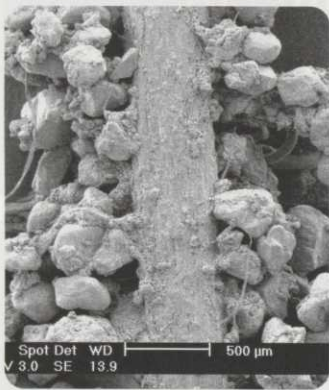


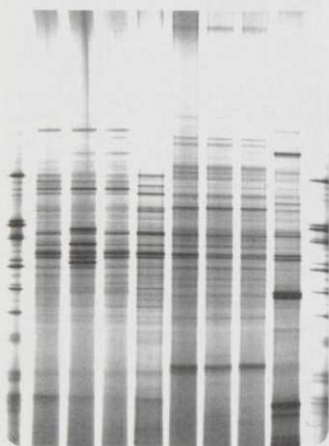
Figure 9



Figure 11



Figure 12



Gel



Figure 7

Research, North Wyke and Aberystwyth and Royal Holloway, University of London is quantifying the diversity of insect and nematode root feeders in grasslands and their impact on rhizosphere carbon flow and soil microbial communities.

This is the HUGBUG Project: (<http://www.mluri.sari.ac.uk/HUGBUG>)

Below-ground root herbivory by insects and phytophagous nematodes can result in qualitative and quantitative changes in soil carbon fluxes, which may impact on soil microbial diversity and functioning. We know something of the insect and nematode species that cause damage to agricultural grassland, and they are the same as those found in golf courses. However, the potential impact of root feeding by invertebrates on microbial driven nutrient cycling has not been evaluated.

Leatherjacket larvae (*Tipula paludosa*) are the dominant insect root herbivore in our bent fescue grassland (Figure 11). These larvae are also one of the biggest pests of turfgrass (see article by Yelland, Greenkeeper International, November 2000). In laboratory experiments at the Macaulay we have shown that root feeding by these larvae appears to be



Figure 10

plant species specific, the larvae significantly reduced the root biomass of ryegrass and clover, but not bentgrass. We have also shown, using miniaturised camera systems inserted into the soil, that these larvae differ in their root feeding patterns, preferring the laterals of ryegrass and the main roots of clover. Root herbivory by these larvae also resulted in increased C release to the rhizosphere beneath ryegrass and clover, which altered the microbial community structure in these soils. This change in microbial communities could obviously impact on soil functioning. Additionally,

the preferential feeding of this larva on different plant species could have an influence on plant community succession and explain why some plant species are better competitors. Currently, we are now assessing the impact of another insect root herbivore *Sitona* (Figure 12), and phytophagous (plant root feeding) nematodes on plant roots, rhizosphere C flow and the soil microbial community.

As part of our core funded research at the Macaulay we are assessing the impact of above-ground herbivory (frequency and height of cutting) on grass shoot and root growth, rhizosphere C flow, soil microbial communities and soil chemistry (Figure 13). We have been able to show that plants do differ in their response to cutting – e.g. bentgrass shows a significant reduction in root biomass with regular defoliation, ryegrass is more tolerant of cutting, in terms of shoot re-growth, than fescues, and bentgrasses, but not fescues can adapt their morphology in response to cutting, producing a shorter leaf growth zone. In addition, some plant species, like fescues lose more C from their roots into the soil after defoliation, which stimulates

growth of the soil microbial community.

All these responses can impact on the competitive ability of the different grasses, which we are trying to identify.

Microbes provide the underpinning of all ecosystems, therefore, it is vital we identify their diversity, function and the factors which affect their community size, structure and activity. By understanding how frequency and height of cutting, fertiliser, lime, pesticide application impact on the plant shoot and root growth, C fluxes and soil microbial communities and soil chemistry it will help us to understand why some plants are better competitors under different conditions and enable us to develop better management tools for our systems.

The Macaulay Institute receives funding from Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department (SEERAD).

Sue Grayston is a Principal Scientific Officer in the Plant Ecophysiology & Rhizosphere Processes Programme at the Macaulay.

The Macaulay's analytical division provide a wide range of QA soil chemical analyses. They also provide expertise on soil microbiological analysis, plant identification and analysis. They can also supply knowledge on the key processes governing plant growth and competition and welcome involvement in collaborative projects in these areas.

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Scotsturf goes from strength to strength

November 7-8, 2001, Royal Highland Centre, Ingliston, Edinburgh

Scotsturf celebrates its 21st Birthday this year! This dynamic show has matured into a valuable resource for the Groundscare Industry in Scotland.

Last year the number of exhibitors to the IOG exhibition grew by 17% and visitors were up by 13% despite severe flooding throughout Scotland. This year promises to be even better, with many national manufacturers recognising the scope and scale of Scotsturf as a business opportunity.

A diverse range of machinery and services will be on offer at Scotsturf. If you are in the market for buying,

leasing or hiring any equipment, from tractors and mowers to trimmers, Scotsturf has the solution. It is the shop window for all Scotland's major dealers and manufacturers – come and talk to the experts.

Take the time to talk through a new venture with a golf course or landscape architect or find a solution to a problem with advice on the perfect chemical or product.

All sectors of the industry will be represented including professionals from sports and golf clubs, national stadia, local authorities, schools, colleges and universities leisure

complexes, caravan sites and forestry.

The demand for exhibition space has been so high that the balcony areas in Hall A have been reintroduced. The East balcony will host the Scotsturf Education Village, which includes the Seminar Suite, Trade Associations and Colleges. The West balcony will offer a variety of stands that will be popular with new and growing businesses. Halls B & C continue to be very popular, and some sponsorship opportunities are still available to increase your product profile.



Our Scotsturf Preview continues over the page with important announcements from exhibitors

Confirmed Saltex Exhibitors

Alpha Plus (Scotland) Limited	Sisis Equipment (Macclesfield) Ltd
AM Phillip Spray Techniques	Sportsgrounds Ltd
Angus Horticulture	Sportsturf Services
BIGGA	Stewart And Company (Seedsmen) Ltd
Blount UK Ltd	Swan Plant Services Ltd
Brian Young (Garden Machinery)	Teleshore UK Ltd
British Seed Houses Ltd	The Play Practice
Cleveland Sitesafe Ltd	Thomas Sherriff & Company Ltd
Complete Weed Control Ltd	Thorntrees Landscapes
CSC Amenity	Tonick Watering Ltd
Dennis	Toro Commercial Products
Eagle Promotions Ltd	Totrax Ltd
Elmwood College	Trimax Mowing Systems Ltd
Envigo / TEG Environmental	Turf Irrigation Services Ltd
Enviromulch	Turf Machinery Ltd
Eric Hunter & Co (Tools)	Ultra Plant
Etesia (UK) Ltd	Vaderstad Ltd
Fraser C Robb	Vitax Ltd
Garfitts International Ltd	Wiedenmann UK Ltd
Greentech (Sportsturf) Ltd	Central Tyre Ltd
Groundsman Industries	Nordic Tyres
Hayter Limited	Enginetec Ltd
Henderson Grass Machinery Ltd	Kersten UK Ltd
Henry H Sheach Lawn Mower Services	Indespension Ltd
Hunter Grinders Ltd	Playworld Systems
Irrigation Scotland Ltd	Double A Trading Co
Kubota (UK) Ltd	STRI
Links Leisure Ltd	Overton (UK) Ltd
Logic Manufacturing Ltd	PLM Power Products Ltd
Long Equipment Ltd	Huxley Golf
Major Equipment Ltd	Chelwood Tool Company Ltd
McConnel Limited	Growing Concern Scotland Ltd
McLays Playground Supplies Ltd	Cheviot Trees Ltd
McNab Sport / Scottish Groundcare	Valtra Tractors (UK) Ltd
Melvins Ltd	David Ogilvie Engineering Ltd
Midland Power Machinery Distributors Ltd.	Yamaha Motor (UK) Ltd
Nairn Brown (Glasgow) Ltd	BAGO / Robert Acton Product Developments
New Holland UK Ltd	Terra Firma Ltd
Oatridge Agricultural College	A Plant
Ocmis Irrigation (Scotland) Ltd	Farm and Garden Machinery
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Ryotec Industrial Equipment Ltd	Avant Techno (UK) Ltd
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Scottish Amenity Marketing	Saxon Industries
Scottish Golf Course Wildlife Group	NFU Scotland
Scottish Grass Machinery Ltd	Wilkie Recycling Systems Ltd
Simon Tullett Machinery Co Ltd	Russell Groundcare Equipment Ltd
	Turf Seed UK Ltd
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Stand Number A20



Henderson Grass Machinery Ltd

Henderson Grass Machinery Ltd will be showing one of the new Same Dorado Amenity tractors which range from 55hp to 85hp.

These tractors are also proving popular with golf courses for the heavy tasks such as vertidrainage. There will also be a selection of equipment from the Charterhouse range including vertidrainage, Rapidcore and overseeding machines.

For more information, please visit our Stand or contact us on 01620 823171.

Stand Number A24



British Seed Houses

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E-mail: seeds@bshlincoln.co.uk

Stand Number A8



Valtra Tractors

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Stand Number C27



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Stand Number A2



Scottish Grass Machinery

Top dealer Scottish Grass Machinery, part of the SGM Group, will fly the flag for Textron at Scotsturf as its top UK dealer.



The latest product innovations from Textron including the new Jacobsen orange for the golf market and Ransomes green for the municipal market will be on show at the stand.

Company representatives from Scottish Grass Machinery and the Group's other three divisions, SG M Finance, SGM Industrial and the Golf Division will be on hand to advise.

Scottish Grass Machinery distributing Textron products throughout Scotland



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Also on display SGM Industrial will be showing the Ransomes Pathfinder Ride-On Sweeper, together with product information on the latest innovations from Renault, Spearhead, Ferris and Vermeer.

Customers will have the opportunity to talk to finance experts about spreading the cost of hiring and servicing quality ground maintenance equipment with the Group's Bank of Scotland backed finance division, SGM Finance.

Stand Number A35



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Stand Number B38



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Visit the Stand A21 to learn about the new Keratex K500 tyre which has been developed to minimise punctures.

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Email: sales@totrax.co.uk
Website: www.totrax.co.uk

Stand Number A21



BIGGA

BIGGA will be giving visitors the chance to find out more about all aspects of the Association and its activities, with our team on hand to answer all your questions and provide literature highlighting the benefits of membership. If you are already a member, you can get information about the prestigious Master Greenkeeper scheme, education and training courses, as well as updates about the highlight of a greenkeeper's year - BTME at Harrogate.

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Scottish Region
Peter Boyd
Tel/Fax 0141 616 3440

North

Two new members to welcome this month, both from the Highlands. Andrew Nixon, from Fortrose and Rosemarkie GC, and Ian MacEwan, from Strathpeffer GC.

On the move is Colin Irving, who has left Craggan GC to continue his career at Tain GC taking over from Gavin Neill, who is off to America for a year to work on a new golf course in New York State.

I would just like to congratulate a past member of the Section, Walter Woods, on being chosen to receive the Old Tom Morris Award by the GCSAA. This is the highest award given out by the American Superintendents' Association and recognises an individual's work in the golfing world, and Walter is a worthy winner. (See feature on pp 8-9).

I recently played in the Annual match between Scottish Sections for the Norrie Whytock Trophy at Auchterarder GC and am pleased to inform members that we won the trophy for the fourth time in the six years that it has been going. Representing the Section were Iain Macleod, Tain 38 points, Steve Sullivan, Craigiehill 36 points, Stuart Hogg, Fortrose 30 points and David

Marnoch 29 points. Praise to Archie Dunn for the condition of the course, especially as so much rain had fallen in the days leading up to the tournament. Once again we must thank sponsor, Aventis, for a great day and some excellent prizes.

Later this month we have our AGM at Garmouth and Kingston GC and this is your chance to do your bit and have a say in how the Section should be run.

Anyone wanting to stand for Committee please get in touch with Dougal on 01224 740329 and put your name forward. Come on it's great fun really!

As promised last month, the two Section members who are to receive the Patrons' Award of a trip to BTME 2002 are Robert Hardie, Craibstone GC and Kenny Kinnaid, Grantown-on-Spey, points collecting for this award next year started at the autumn outing in September, the results of the golf of which will be in the November magazine.

Iain Macleod

East

Welcome to this month's column. Yes, another month has gone by and we're approaching autumn so can somebody tell me where has the summer gone?

Well, results time. The Section held the Willie Woods Invitational at Winterfield GC on September 5.

Firstly, thanks to the Captain and Council for the courtesy of the

course; the bar steward for looking after us very well; the catering staff, for the food which was excellent; Head Greenkeeper, Craig Pennycuik and his team for the superb condition of the course. It was a credit to you guys so well done. Thanks once again to our sponsor, Ian Henderson, of Ian Henderson Finance, for providing the superb prizes and looking after us well once more. It was a pity you weren't able to be with us on the day but we look forward to your continued support next year Ian.

A great day's golf was had by all 16 teams and the weather was superb, as usual, apart from the slight sea breeze! There was some terrific scoring on the day by the prize winners except my score, which we won't mention - or even the words NR.

The scores of the day were as follows:

1. S. Nicol/G. Turnbull, Winterfield, 62+2/3 - 62 2/3;
2. I. Elliot/G. Wright, West Linton, 61+ 3 1/3 - 64 1/3;
3. S. Crawford/A. Chainey, North Berwick West, 68 -1- 67.

Well done to Steve and Graham on an excellent performance as I had the privilege of playing with them. Also well done to the teams in second and third place on some superb scoring. As Winterfield has hosted the tournament twice and the rule states that

you can only host for two years on the trot next year the venue will go to the runner-up's course which was West Linton. So we look forward to welcoming you all next year and hope we can have an even bigger turnout.

The Section's four man team played at Auchterarder GC in the Norrie Whytock Trophy in August hoping to retain the cup they won last year. They played very well again this year against some formidable opposition from the other Sections but they had to settle for fourth place this time with the North Section grasping victory to take the Cup north. Well done to the north lads on a good performance, but the east lads will be up for it next year to try and win the trophy back. Roll on next year. Also a big thanks to Aventis for another great tournament.

Coming next month will be the Autumn tournament results; Patrons' Awards winners; BIGGA National Championship highlights of Section members who are competing and anything else including any news from the Section AGM.

That's it, until next time. If you have anything of interest let me know so remember you can e mail, phone, or write to me on all the usual numbers etc. Come on let's hear from you as, remember, it's your Section.

Speak to you next month.
Chris Yeaman

COURSE MANAGERS | GREENKEEPERS | STUDENTS | PROFESSIONALS | GOLF CLUB SECRETARIES | GOLF CLUB MANAGERS | GOLF CLUB OWNERS | NEW 3-DAY FORMAT | OVER 200 EXHIBITORS | 8 EXHIBITORS

Experience



the most comprehensive Golf Club exhibition in Europe

The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition has been held in Harrogate, each year, since 1989 and is the biggest indoor show of its kind in Europe. More than 7,800 visitors were present at the Show in 2001 and this figure is set to increase in 2002, due to extended exhibition space in Hall B accommodating an even greater number of exhibitors, and the addition of the Golf Club Show running alongside BTME.



The Golf Club Show, will take place for the first time in 2002. Whilst BTME will continue as an exhibition with the whole range of products and services for the Golf Course on display, The Golf Club Show will aim to succeed as an exhibition wherein Secretaries, Managers and Club Owners will find that all their additional equipment, furnishing and service needs for their golf clubs can be fulfilled.

Continue to Learn

Continue to Learn with BIGGA at Harrogate, in January 2002, when the National Education Conference and Workshop Programme runs alongside the extended BTME Exhibition. The formal conference is presented in a new format to allow delegates maximum flexibility to gain the most from their visit. The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition Seminars provide an opportunity to mix the Exhibition with a range of Seminars allowing all delegates the opportunity to Continue to Learn. New for 2002 will be the Golf Club Show Education and Training programme which is aimed primarily at Golf Club Owners, Golf Club Secretaries and Chairmen of Green. This programme incorporates the very successful Running Golf Courses in the 21st Century, run jointly with STRI, with a range of seminars. Both programmes are open to all delegates, although members of BIGGA receive preferential rates. The Key Note speaker is Roger Black and this Session is free to all delegates. Finally, the very successful Careers Clinic will run alongside BTME.

West

Sorry there was no report last month but here is this month's report.

The autumn outing at Milngavie GC will have been played by the time this newsletter goes to print. The committee would like to thank the committee and membership of Milngavie GC for the courtesy of their course and I am sure our members will have had a most memorable day. Results will be printed in next month's report.

On August 27 the annual Club Stewards v Greenkeepers match was held at East Kilbride GC. The trophy was keenly contested on the day with the match ending all square which meant the greenkeepers retained the cup.

Our thanks again must go to the committee and membership of East Kilbride GC for allowing courtesy of the course. Personal thanks should also be conveyed to my playing partners on the day whose jovial banter kept me amused when the golf wasn't quite up to scratch.

I hear congratulations have to be extended to the North Section for winning the Norrie Whytock Trophy at Auchterarder GC on August 22. The West team were runners up so well done lads, better luck next year.

Praise must also be heaped on Kilmacollm GC, who again are to go forward as Scottish Regional Finalists in the BIGGA Environmental Competition. Well done Ronnie and his team. Hopefully all your hard

work will pay off this year and you will be given the recognition you deserve.

Our section AGM will be held later this month, details to follow. Please try and attend the AGM as the turn out has been very poor in recent years and you should have a say in how your section is run. The Section annual dinner will again be held in Victoria's night-club in Glasgow.

Tickets will be available from committee members but you will have to get in early to avoid the rush. The venue has always proved most popular in the past with all age groups catered for. The dinner will be held on Friday November 30.

The committee would like to welcome Archie Hempstead to the Section. Archie is a member of staff at Dumbarton GC. We all look forward to meeting you at up and coming Section events. Well that is it for this month. As always if you have anything you would like added to the column please do not hesitate to call me on 01355 266862.

Brian Bolland

Ayrshire

The Ayrshire Team of Derek Wilson, Irvine Bogside; Brian Aitken, Turnberry; Marshall Sloss and John Mair, both Beith, finished a commendable third to the overall winners, the Central Section, in the annual Norrie Whytock Trophy played at Auchterarder. John Mair had a fine Stableford score of 40 points and was

the best individual on the day. Unfortunately the remainder of the team wasn't so clever and we are still trying to get our name on this trophy.

News just in, and on the move is Lee Blackburn, from Southernness, who is going to the London Club as an Assistant. Lee was seven years at Southernness under David Woodbyrne and was a past Patrons' award winner, twice member of the Open Support Team and a staunch supporter of the Ayrshire Section. Congratulations and good wishes Lee on your new appointment.

Any news call me on 01505 683278. See you next month.

Iain Barr



Northern Region
Douglas Bell
Tel: 0151 431 0433

North East

At last we managed to provide a full team for the Northern Region Finals this year. Pity about the results but everyone tried their best at Birchwood. I would like to thank Terry Charlton, of Turf Care Services, for not only taking the North East down but also the Cleveland section. I'm sure both teams thanked him for his kind gesture.

My thanks to Richard Campey for again sponsoring the event.

The annual match against the East

of Scotland will be played at Goswick on October 10. Team members will be notified.

Robbie Williams, assistant at Slaley Hall, may be on the move in the autumn. Rumour has it he could be working in the States and I hope to have more news on that subject shortly.

Stocksfield GC are shortly starting work on drainage of the first ten holes - first the greens then the fairways lets hope it keeps dry. Whickham GC's extra two new holes are well on their way. A thousand trees have been planted and when in play they will be a good test of golf.

Longhirst Hall GC have also recently opened an extra nine holes. Hopefully we will be playing next year's autumn Comp there.

Jimmy Richardson

North Wales

Well, yet again I have absolutely nothing to report, I know that I have been of no fixed abode recently, however my mobile is still 07787 586084 and now I've got a land line 01745 812691.

I don't know whether this arrangement is going to work with me not sitting on committee as no news filters through at all, I shall monitor the situation over the next couple of months, and, if nothing changes, I will give the job to a committee member who is nearer to the 'pulse'.

Anyhow if anyone has got anything they want putting in print then get in touch.

Dave Goodridge

VENUES | CELEBRITY SPEAKERS | PRODUCT DEMONSTRATIONS | COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMMES | SEMINARS | WORKSHOPS | CONFERENCES | MASTERCLASSES

National Education Conference

Monday 21 January and Tuesday 22 January,
The Majestic Hotel, Harrogate

Causes and Prevention of Turfgrass Stresses
Dr James Beard, President and Chief Scientist,
International Turfgrass Institute

Global Warming and the Golf Course
Keith Weatherhead, Cranfield University, John Bradwell,
Turf Seed UK and Augustino Gaude, Turf Seed UK Ltd,
Ruth Mann, Turfgrass and Plant Pathologist, STRI

Redesign and Reconstruction of Golf Course Features
Jim Moore, USGA Green Section; Brian Pierson, Golf Course
Constructor; Donald Steel Group, Golf Course Designers

Preparation for Winter Play
Ed McCabe, Course Manager, Brokenhurst Manor GC;
Arthur King, Brokenhurst Manor Golf Club; George Shiels,
Consulting Agronomist

Workshops

Monday 21 January and Tuesday 22 January,
The Majestic Hotel, Harrogate

Golf Course Design 1; Environmental Management;
Emergency First Aid; Running Golf Courses in the 21st
Century. All workshops run concurrently with
Conference Sessions

BTME Seminars

Wednesday 23 January, Spa Royal Hall,
Harrogate International Centre



Keynote speaker:
Roger Black M.B.E.
represented Great
Britain at the
highest level in
the world of
athletics, both as
an individual 400
metres runner and as
a member of 4 x 400
metres relay team.

Seminar topics are as follows:

Bunker Renovation, Biological Disease
Control, Higher Education in Sportsturf -
MSc, 24 Staff, 18 Holes and a 6 Month
Season, A Career in Greenkeeping, Gizmos,
Gadgets and Inventions, Sulphur Burner
Technology, Is It Right for You?, Preparing
for the Ryder Cup in 2005, Designing the
Future with Strategic Planning, Turfgrass
Management, Training and Professionalism
go Hand in Hand.

Golf Club Show Seminars

Wednesday 23 January, Majestic Hotel

Programme includes: Health and Safety,
Working Time Regulations, Minimum Pay,
the Rules of Golf and Financial Aspects of
Golf Course Management.

Two Exhibitions

Running the Golf Club Show alongside the well
established BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition
is an exciting new concept which will enable golf
club industry personnel of all disciplines to research
and meet their product and service needs under
one roof at the Harrogate International Centre. As
such, visitors will be well rewarded for attending an
event which enjoys a unique atmosphere and
continues to be eagerly anticipated by
exhibitors, delegates and visitors alike.

Banquet

The weeks events are rounded off on
Thursday 24 January by the BTME/Golf Club
Show Banquet, which is open to delegates of
both shows. Returning to the Majestic Hotel,
the Banquet stars the comedy duo Brahms
and Liszt supported by the Nightjars.

JANUARY 22-24, 2002

HARROGATE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE, ENGLAND

Visitor hotline 01347 833833 Exhibitor hotline 01347 833800 Online www.btme.org.uk Email reception@bigga.co.uk

Northern

Northern Section 4 - North West Section 3. Well done to the victorious team in the recent Roses' Match, sponsored by Patersons, against the North West Section. It was a close one this year with good natured banter on both sides as is the tradition with this annual fixture. The weather at Sandmoor GC. was perfect for golf and congratulations must go to Head Greenkeeper, Gavin Clark and his team of three including Gavin. The other two members of the team are recovering from broken limbs.

This year a new tradition was started with each member of the team from both sides receiving a commemorative medal of the day, which was presented by Sandmoor GC. Vice-Captain Colin Littlewood. Well done to the following members of the team:- Tito Arana, Bob Bennet, Alan Court, Dave Collins, Ian Donaldson, Alvin Fawcett, Richard Harris, Martin Heggie, Simon Heppenstall, Brian Hudson, Johnny Platt, Peter Thompson, Andy Smith, Richard Smith, John Studdard, Nigel Wild. Once again many thanks to Patersons, Sandmoor G.C., Gavin Clark, and last but not least, the lads from Lancashire. Win or lose it's a good and most look forward to fixture for both sides, although it's nice to win again!

At the time of writing this, it is just a week away from Invitation Day and there appears to be confusion over days. Always check the latest magazine report / mail shot / Section website to make sure of the correct information.

This month is the AGM and Autumn Tournament at Woodsome Hall GC on Thursday, October 18 with the AGM starting at 11.30 am. followed by the golf in the afternoon.

Don't forget to book early as tickets are selling well for the Section's Annual Dinner Dance on Saturday, November 10, at Bradford GC. Carvery plus Disco 7.00 pm 'til late. This is an open event so bring along family and friends for a fun night out. The price for this is only £17. To book for this event contact our social man, Dave Thackray, on 01274 640739 or 07976 876264 or 16 Westwood Avenue, Bradford, West Yorkshire, BD2 1NJ.

Also in November on the 21st is the Section seminar at Howley Hall GC. More details will appear next month.

Hard luck to the team in the Northern Regional Final golf day at Birchwood GC. Representing the section were Richard Harris, Tony Gerrard, Andy Smith, Brian Hudson, Mike Gregson, John Wood. We came a gallant 4th with the Cleveland Section winning again.

For those of you on the Net, the Section website address is www.northernsection.co.uk and we would welcome good or bad feedback about the site. Please note my email address as now changed. We welcome James High as a new member this month from Hornsea G.C.

That's all for now, if anybody as any news then let me know. My address is 67 Asquith Avenue, Morley, Leeds,

LS27 9QS; Tel: 0113 2383188; mobile 07790 678572, Email: andy@northernsection.co.uk
Andy Smith

North West

While I write these Section notes, end of August, you can feel autumn fast approaching and wonder where the summer went. Apart from the few good weeks in June and early July summer seems to have missed us. At least the two golf meetings that we had in August were fine days while we played.

The first golf day was the Regional Final played at Birchwood GC on Wednesday, August 15, and although the weather was great during the day after the golf finished the heavens opened and we had torrential rain. This made driving conditions hazardous on the motorways and with some of the Sections travelling long distances home, I just hope that everybody had a safe journey. The course at Birchwood was in great condition due to much hard work done by Andy Holt and his staff, in preparing the course and still carrying out work not completed due to the bad weather last winter. The final was the six qualifiers from each of the six Sections in the Northern Region. N/West, N/Wales, Northern, N/East, Sheffield and Cleveland. The par 72 course proved to be a good test of golf, which the best five scores out of six proved. The results were: 1. Cleveland Section, 376; 2. North West Section, 386; 3. Sheffield Section, 386; 4. Northern Section, 406; 5. North Wales Section, 412; 6. North East Section, 412.

The day was for the third year running sponsored by Richard Campey (Macclesfield) and although Richard could not make it on the day, two of Richard's representatives, Tony Cundall and Will Kidd, attended for the day. Many thanks to Richard for his kind sponsorship. Thanks also to Birchwood Golf Club for allowing us the courtesy of the course, and the caterers for excellent meals. Congratulations to all the competitors, and I hope you all enjoyed the day. Back to the computer after seeing England beat Germany 5-1.

The second golf tournament was of course the 'Roses Match'. This annual match between the Northern Section and the North West Section has been going on for so long we seem to have lost count, nevertheless this tournament was played once again at Sandmoor Golf Club, and we could not have had better weather. The course was in great condition but not flat as promised, and my partner Chris Sheehan and I managed to get into more bunkers than "Rommel" therefore losing our match, but at least the scenery was nice. The final result was a win for the Northern Team 4 1/2 to 3 1/2. The N/W team would like to thank the Northern Team for their hospitality, the Sandmoor GC for allowing us the courtesy of the course, and of course the sponsor, Patissons, who have sponsored this tournament since its inception.

The final meeting of the year will

be the President's Cup and AGM at Wilmslow Golf Club on Thursday, December 6. Bacon baps and coffee before playing and the Tee is available from 10:00am. Applications to Bill Merritt, 225 Utting Avenue, Cubmoor, Liverpool, L4 9RB. Tel: 01512 844416. Including a cheque for £15. Everybody bring a bottle on the day so we all go home with a prize. Any news or views contact me on my mobile 07761 583387 or 01517 212454

Bert Cross

Cleveland

Congratulations to the Cleveland Section Golf Team who went to the National Final and retained the Trophy. The six man team was Jim Thompson, Anthony (Titch) McGeough, Alan Reid, Mark Brown, Richie Hood and Chris Powley. Well done lads.

As you would have read in your newsletter the Autumn Tournament will be on October 16 at Teesside Golf Club. The cost is only £10 and that includes a three course carvery. To book call Barry Walker on 0191 5650691 or 07968 308892. Places are limited.

This year's AGM will be at Darlington Golf Club on November 22 at 8pm. Please make an effort to attend. This Section needs you. A pie and pea supper will be served during the evening.

And finally. Congratulations to Martin Woods, of Wearside Golf Club. He got married this month then jetted off to Barbados on honeymoon.

Any news call me on 07719 193381
Steven Jaques



Midland Region
Peter Larter
Tel: 01480 437507

The remaining Scotts Golf Management Trophy Competitions were successfully held at the South Staffordshire GC on August 16, Rothley Park GC on August 31 and Ryston Park Golf Club on September 13. The winning club at South Staffordshire was Drayton Park Golf Club led by Head Greenkeeper Richard Lowe with a team score of 129 strokes, closely followed by Ross on Wye Golf Club on 130. The Rothley Park event was won by the home club on 130, with Glen Gorse second on 132. Ryston Park winners were Oundle Golf Club who scored 135 on a difficult day on a last 9 holes count-back from Felixstowe Ferry Golf Club.

Congratulations are due to Rhys Thomas and staff at South Staffordshire, Stav Wooding and staff at Rothley Park and Kevin Hodges and staff at Ryston Park for producing golf courses in superb condition.

The Region was pleased to welcome our National Chairman, Clive Osgood, to the Ryston Park day; and all present had appreciated the effort that Clive made to be with us. Our thanks go to Scotts for sponsoring

these events and particularly to Nick Martin, from Scotts, who was a great help in supporting these three competitions. These were all excellent days and our thanks go to all the host Golf Clubs for their hospitality and co-operation in staging the competitions.

Peter Larter

East Midlands

This year's East Midlands v East of England golf match was kindly hosted by Cotgrave Place GC on August 15, and generously sponsored by Barenbrug. On a fine dry summer evening 20 golfers took part in a keenly contested match. Most of the matches were very close, none other than my own against Fred Cobb and Alan Buckley. We were two up after six, then two down with five to play. Only to then win the next four holes, courtesy of some sterling golf from my partner, Kristian Hibberd. David James & Gavin Robson were also eventual winners 2&1, with Mark Bindley and Lee Mitchell winning the 18th hole for a hard fought half. Steve Levers and Ian Needham played some fine golf to win their match comprehensively. The only defeat in the side went to Richard Barker and Alex Hawkes despite a fine effort from them both. The eventual result was a 3.5-1.5 win for the East Midlands Section. But not to be outdone the East of England won both The Longest Drive through Graeme Macdonald and Nearest the Pin with Alan Buckley.

Congratulations to you both.

I would like to thank Cotgrave for allowing us courtesy of their fine course and to the Steward & Stewardess for a great meal. Pete Billings and his staff for a great golf course and to our sponsor Barenbrug. Finally I would like to thank everyone from the East of England Section who helped to make this such a great day.

Our Section was represented by the following members, Richard Barker, Alex Hawkes, Ian Needham, Steve Levers, Antony Bindley, Kristian Hibberd, David James, Gavin Robson, Mark Bindley & Lee Mitchell. This year's AGM will commence at 4.30pm at Mapperley GC.

Antony Bindley

Mid Anglia

The Section's Summer Tournament took place in August at Hammonds End GC, Harpenden and attracted an entry of 28 golfers. By all accounts, the course was in excellent shape, so thanks to Stewart Boyce and his team for their efforts. Also thanks to Hammond End, for courtesy of the course on the day and to our main sponsors, Boughton Loam, for once again supporting the day. The results were as follows:

1. A. Dancer, Slendish Manor
 2. C. Slimm, John O'Gaunt
 3. D. Houseden, Tilsworth
- Longest Drive: C. Yeoman
Nearest the Pin: C. Yeoman

Our next golf event is our Texas Scramble tournament, on Thursday December 6 at Dunstable Downs