

Two of the mites recently identified as causing damage to Bermudagrass



The study of genetics is extremely complex but we can try to simplify it to see how this relationship between the host and the pathogen works in disease expression. Taking a step back for a moment, it may be worth considering what happens during the development and selection of a new grass cultivar. Turfgrass breeders select two parent grasses, each of which possess characteristics that the breeder wants to introduce in to the new grass. Through crossing these two parent grasses, sexual reproduction in the plants produces a number of offspring (the seed of the plant) each of which will be different from the other. Growing each of these plants to maturity will allow the breeder to select for some of the offspring that have the best characteristics from each parent. These few can then be studied further to see if they have new or enhanced characteristics over and above those that have been bred in to the plants. After many years of study, a new grass cultivar will be brought to the market which will be better suited to the requirements of the present conditions, whether that be tolerance to close mowing, colour, wear tolerance or whatever. The process is extremely time consuming and also very wasteful because many plants are produced by these crosses

that will never be considered for production of a new cultivar. However, one of the characteristics that will vary in the offspring of these plant crosses is their ability to resist fungal infection and therefore, disease development.

Plants can be regarded as being either highly resistant or not susceptible to attack by a pathogen or alternatively, highly susceptible and therefore not at all resistant. Resistance and susceptibility are two ways of expressing the same characteristic and so it is important to be aware of both. In selecting turfgrass cultivars that have inherited a characteristic that was intended from any two-parent crossing, it is inevitable that other characteristics, including disease resistance, will be affected too. The best outcome that any breeder can hope for is that any parental crossing will result in offspring (or new cultivars) that have inherited all of the best characteristics from each parent. I would guess that the chances of this happening are extremely low and even if it were possible, who decides on 'the best'? What you may require from a grass may differ markedly from what others think is important. Hence the range of grasses available today from which you can select those most suitable for your particular conditions.



Head and body of adult mite (actual size approx 1 mm)

But this story of genetics and the plants' ability to resist disease does not end there. This is a game in which there are two players, the grass and the fungus and the fungus has good reason to cause disease. If it is not able to do so, it will die out. Therefore it will (perhaps not consciously!) do all that it can to cause disease to plants even if their resistance has been enhanced through plant breeding. It does so in a very similar way to that which occurs in plants. Most fungi have the ability to reproduce in one of two ways, either asexually or sexually. Through asexual reproduction, the fungus can produce vast amounts of inoculum (or spores) over a very short period of time and this way it is able to take advantage of sudden changes in environmental conditions to cause disease epidemics. Each of the fungal spores produced by asexual reproduction is, however, roughly the same in its genetic make up and so if the environmental conditions change so as to prevent one of them from causing disease, it will prevent all of them in the same way. Through sexual reproduction, the fungus is able to alter the genetic make-up of the spores in much the same way that the turfgrass cultivars vary from the two parents. The change in the genetics of the spores produced by sexual reproduction means that new 'strains' or 'races' of the fungus are produced. Ultimately, the new fungal populations that result from sexual reproduction, may allow the fungus to cause disease under slightly different environmental conditions from the original population or on host plants that were previously more resistant to that fungus.

One of the greatest differences between the host and the pathogen is the speed at which variation can be introduced into the population. For the turfgrass cultivar, the introduction of new genes and thus new characteristics, can take about ten years from the initial parental crossing. For the pathogen, you could be talking about ten days, or a few weeks, for new strains or races to be produced. This massive advantage in the reproductive ability of the

pathogen means that disease is inevitable. Not only that, but it is occurring most of the time at levels which cause us no concern and that probably go unnoticed. It is only when there is an 'explosion' of activity from the pathogen that the symptoms of disease become all too apparent.

So, fungal disease is an inevitability. Diseases are likely to develop on the new grasses and cultivars that are being bred for use in amenity areas in much the same way that diseases affect all plants around the world. In turf, the environment and the way we manage the sward affect the severity of disease expression. The greater the pressure we put on the pathogen population to try and prevent it from causing disease, the greater the chance of selecting a strain or race of the pathogen that can overcome it.

New fungal diseases are being identified on turfgrasses around the world, due in part to our improved ability to identify the fungi responsible and also to our introduction of new turfgrass types and species. In addition, there are invertebrates (nematodes and insects) that are being identified on grasses that in the past were not known to cause damage to these plants. Apart from identifying that a root knot nematode, *Meloidogyne* sp., is causing extensive damage to creeping bentgrass swards throughout the UK and Ireland, I have recently found a mite that is causing damage to Bermudagrass turf. Although the latter may not affect you directly, it is another clear indication that there is still more to be learned regarding turfgrass pests, be they fungal or invertebrate and anyone that says differently, is, in my opinion, fooling themselves.

Dr Kate Entwistle runs The Turf Disease Centre, Waverley Cottage, Sherfield Rd, Bramley, Hampshire, RG26 5AG
Tel: 01256 880246 Fax: 01256 880178
email: Kate@theturfdiseasecentre.co.uk
Website: www.theturfdiseasecentre.co.uk



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JOHN DEERE



FEGGA Secretary, Dean Cleaver, reports on the latest work of the Federation

BIGGA has kindly allowed me to participate in your magazine on a regular basis to cover the European perspective on behalf of FEGGA. It is planned for this to be a quarterly page allowing me to share news and information from around Europe.

I have recently been in Iceland where FEGGA have launched the first of what will be a series of FEGGA road shows across Europe. The road shows will be done in association with Floratine and will take place over a period of possibly two years.

The road show in Iceland was a great success for all parties, and especially for the Icelandic Greenkeepers Association.

Iceland can at times because of its location be a country that is easily forgotten. This was the main reason for starting in Iceland, to make them feel part of the family and to see some of the good work they are doing and how this will benefit both greenkeeping and then ultimately the game of golf.

Iceland has some 55 golf courses serving a country population of 283,000, with some 101,000 living in the capital of Reykjavik. The Greenkeepers Association has 70 members and they are spread over quite a large area.

While on our tour we were able to visit the College in Akranes where they will start their own greenkeeper education next year. This will be done in partnership with Elmwood and marks a great step forward in Iceland for greenkeeping and the golf industry in general.

The education programme that was arranged for the members of the Icelandic Association as part of the tour was very well received. It was supported by their Golf Federation, in particular their Chairman who opened the day by informing everyone of the new fund being set up to carry out research on specific areas of turf related problems, in particular Winterkill.

Brian Goodwin, Vice President of Floratine, gave a very interesting presentation on plant needs and issues dealing with cold climate problems. This certainly got people thinking, judging by the questions that followed later.

Gerry Byrnes, Superintendent at the K Club in Dublin, Ireland. Gerry talked about the design and construction of the new course, followed by the grow in, both dealing with problems and looking at new techniques.

Joe Bedford, FEGGA Chairman and Superintendent at Hollystown Golf Club gave a very dynamic presentation on 'Motivation to enhance your

career. Joe looked at many issues regarding career and day-to-day life development. He looked at setting goals and how to achieve them.

I was able to talk about the role of FEGGA and how it's helping the industry. In particular I was able to talk about environmental issues, setting up an environmental programme and FEGGA's role within Committed to Green.

Looking ahead to next year we very much look forward to working with further associations in taking the road show to other Countries.

GLENEAGLES EXCELLENCE IN GOLF AWARD SCHEME 2003

I am pleased to announce that the Gleneagles Excellence Award Scheme will once again be running in 2003. The Award Scheme is open to all greenkeepers, and provides a wonderful experience for potential Course Managers/Golf Course Superintendents.

Applications should in the first instance be sent to the secretary. They should include a typed curriculum vitae (cv) which includes:

1. Covering letter from your Head Greenkeeper
2. Personal details
3. Qualifications
4. Other interests

Final selections for places within the scheme will then be forwarded on to me as FEGGA Secretary. Students will then be selected for interview during December 2002.

If you require any further information including the full prospectus of the scheme you can contact myself on 0044 (0)1789 762912 or via email at dean.cleaver@btinternet.com

I am pleased to say that following the success of the Gleneagles Excellence Award, both Gleneagles and Ransomes Jacobsen Ltd are supporting another Excellence Award Scheme in Southern Europe. This will allow greenkeepers the opportunity to gain experience in both north and south Europe. I will keep you posted on how we are progressing in the near future.

Finally can I wish you all a Merry Christmas and look forward to talking to you in 2003.



SCOTTISH REGION
Peter Boyd
Tel/Fax: 0141 616 3440

East

Welcome to December's column. Almost another year gone so here goes for the final one of the year. The Section held its final major of the year at Liberton Golf Club on October 10 - the first time we've been there since 1991 so we hope it's not as long till the next time. We would like to thank the Captain and Council for the courtesy of the course; the clubhouse staff for looking after us superbly, and Ronnie McCrindle and his staff for the superb condition of the course which was excellent, considering the weather we have had lately. Well done lads.

There was a good turnout of people, 44 in all present on the day who all enjoyed themselves, and would you believe it the weather was kind to us which was unusual! Well done to all the prize winners. Results:- Scratch (Stewarts Quaich) I. Bell, 67. 1st class (Watermation Cup) 1. I. Bell, 67-5-62 bh; 2. S. Greenwood, 70-8-62 ; 3. I. Laing, 71-7-64. 2nd class (SGM Cup) 1. A. Russell, 76-10-66; 2. N. Jacobs, 79-12-67; 3. C. Yeaman, 81-12-69 bh, 3rd class (STS/ Rigby Taylor Cup) 1. J. Neilson, 94-22-72; 2. S. Muir, 101-25-76; 3. G. Stavert, 107-28-79. Best Nett (Russells Quaich) I. Bell, 67-5-62. Veteran prize (Eddie Holt Trophy) J. Neilson, 94-22-72. Trade prize (Autumn Trade Cup) J. Zavinski, 94-28-66. New members prize R. Prowse 79-10-69. Guest prize G. Richen, 85-15-70, Highest Score of the day, J. Dalrymple, 107 wih. Aggregate Trophy Spring & Autumn (Bill Beveridge Trophy) A. Russell 131.

A big thanks to all the trade members in attendance and for bringing along some nice raffle prizes. Thanks also, and well done, to everyone who attended and we hope to see you all next year at all tournaments. The Annual Stewarts match against the North East of England Greenkeepers took place in late October. We lost this year, but only just, so you can have a loan of the trophy till next year, lads, when we will be looking to take it north of the border once again. A big thanks once again to Stewarts and Company for the sponsorship of this long running tournament, because if it wasn't for you we would not have this annual get together which is a bit of fun at the end of a long hard season.

The section AGM took place at West Linton Golf Club on October 30. First of all a big thanks to Captain, Bill Blackwood and the Council, for the use of the clubhouse facilities; Paul and Louise for looking after us at the bar, and as normal the excellent food, and finally, Richard Aitken and Co, for sponsoring the day and bringing along three very interesting speakers

who were all interesting and informative. Thanks also for putting on a super lunch. So Jim could you take back a big thanks to your company for a great day? The turnout was very poor with only 19 members in attendance and we would like to know why we don't get more at our AGM. If you know let us know why or is it just the trend as its happening in all Sections or we must be doing a good job for the section so let us know. The AGM went off quietly as normal with discussion on a few ideas which the committee will discuss at their first meeting in mid November so watch this space. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Tom Murray, who has now completed his two years as Chairman and has now stepped down to take his place on the committee as Past Chairman. Thanks Tom for all your hard work and I hope you enjoyed your time and look forward to working with you on the committee over the next few years. Enjoy your well earned rest. So the new Chairman is your's truly and I can't wait to get started as I think we need to give the Section a revamp and try and get the members back to outings and events - back to how they were way back in the early 90s when we used to get 60-70 at an outing. We seem to be missing something so myself and the committee have some hard work ahead of us and any input from you is also very helpful. So come on let's start building for the future.

I am glad to announce that Graham Wood, Dunbar Golf Club, has taken up my offer of the position of Vice Chairman. I look forward to working with Graham over the next two years and welcome him on board. There was one place up for grabs on the committee as a result of Richard Mullen's resignation and as there was only one nomination, Iain Watson, Gullane Golf Club, was duly elected. Welcome on board, Iain, we hope you enjoy your time on the committee. The rest of the committee members were voted back on so welcome back lads. The committee now reads: Chairman, Chris Yeaman; Vice Chairman, Graham Wood; Secretary/Treasurer, Steve Dixon; Past Chairman Tom Murray; Stuart Greenwood, Jimmy Neilson, Stuart Crawford, Andy Forrest, Robert Hogarth, Craig Pennyquick, Peter Ormiston and Iain Watson. If you wish to speak to a member of the committee here they are.

So come on, let's get this Section back to work because it's your Section.

People on the move is Richard Mullen, from my old course, Swanston GC. I brought Richard to Swanston as my deputy just over four years ago so we all wish him all the best in his new job at Old Meldrum Golf Club, slightly north of Aberdeen. We wish him and Claire all the best for the future from the Section. By the time you read this we will have had the Annual Dance so hopefully we will have had a good night and I have no doubt we will. There will be a report

next month.

If you need to get in contact here is the contact is: Home, Westwyn, West Linton Golf Club, West Linton, Peeblesshire, EH46 7HN. Phone nos: home 01698 661313 work 01968 66172 mobile 07719580449 or e-mail chriscjy263@aol.com.

Come on I would like to hear from you all about anything you want so come on I'm waiting. Well as this is the last Section news of the year it leaves me to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year to you all from myself and the committee and we hope you and your families have a great time and all your dreams come true in the next year. All the best. I look forward to writing for you all in 2003.

PS. If your attending BTME 2003, I'll see you there from January 20-24, 2003. Thanks once again.

Chris Yeaman

West

Welcome to this month's newsletter. First an apology for printing the wrong date with regards our Annual Dinner. The date should have read October 22 not 29. It has always been well attended and has always proven to be an entertaining event. A letter will be printed in next month's magazine if my powers of recall are not to badly affected by the evening's alcohol consumption.

Our AGM was held at Nairn Brown's unit in Busby on October 24. Before the AGM was held Dr Neil Baldwin, of Omega Sciences, and Sandra Stuart, from the Scottish Agricultural College, made two short presentations on Soil Microbes and Wild Flower Establishment. Both presentations were of the highest quality. I would like to thank Neil and Sandra for taking the time to speak to us on the day.

At the AGM several changes within the committee were made. Cecil George stood down as our Education Officer after three years of sterling service. His position has now been taken over by John Robertson, of Hilton Park GC. Gavin Jarvis, Lenzie GC, is now the new West Section Secretary, having taken over the reins from Sandy Bulloch, who has carried out the duties of this office for the past ten years and now feels he would like a rest. I would like to thank Sandy for all the hard work he has put in over the past ten years and hope he doesn't miss making all those phone calls and doing all that paper work too much. Sandy has agreed to stay on committee for at least another year. Our Past Chairman, Brian Hillen, has also decided to take a rest after having spent six years on committee, I would like to thank Brian for all the time and effort he has put in on behalf of our Section. Two new members to be welcomed on to committee are Douglas McIntosh, Cathkin Braes GC and Fraser Ross, of Renfrew GC. Your new West

Section Chairman is myself, Brian Bolland, East Kilbride GC.

On behalf of the Section I would like to thank Nairn Brown for making us feel most welcome on the day and for giving us the use of their facilities and for making sure our every need was catered for. A special thanks to Robert McEwen and his team for a guided tour of the premises. Thanks should also be conveyed to our sponsors of the day Rigby Taylor, Nairn Brown, David Bell Ltd. and Scottish Amenity Marketing. At the AGM the final draw of the 100 Club was made and that silver fox, Kenny Hunter, won the spoils.

On an educational note I would like to hear from members who would be interested in having regional training courses staged within our Section. These training days appear to be very popular within other Sections and a relatively cheap source of further education. A copy of the brochure was sent with your September addition of Greenkeeper International. Topics covered include chainsaw maintenance and cross-cutting, the new supervisor, further management skills, basic and further computer skills, abrasive wheels, project management, coaching skills, management skills for Head Greenkeepers and Course Managers, presenting a professional image and budgets & finance. Surely there must be some areas we can brush up on! If you would be interested please do not hesitate to call me on 01355266862.

Well, that's it for this month I hope you all have a cool Yule, yes I am afraid it's that time of year again. If you want anything added to the column I can be contacted at the number above.

Brian Bolland

Ayrshire

No, your eyes do not deceive; this is news from the Ayrshire Section courtesy of Lazarus.

On October 10, Moffat Golf Club played host to the Autumn Outing and AGM. Favourable weather combined with a well presented and challenging course provided the ideal setting for the concluding second leg of the inaugural Harry Diamond Memorial Jug. The field included some formidable names such as Duncan Gray, Iain Barr, Wallace Mercer and Big Brian Aitken. After the smoke had cleared however, it left two North Ayrshire sharpshooters from the middle of the pack deadlocked at 67 points.

George Morrison, Largs, emerged victorious over the unlucky Paul Tulloch, W. Kilbride, after the back nine count back was concluded. Duncan blamed his poor play on a bad cold, while Big Brian had uncharacteristic problems with the putter and as for Iain Barr, and I quote Mr Morrison, "He always crumbles after three pints". Well done George! Other results are as follows: Autumn Trophy (Scratch Winner) M. Wilson, Moffat.

Souter Trophy (1st Class Winner) 1. R.

McMillan, Moffat; 2. G. Morrison, Largs; 3. B. Crawford, Old Prestwick; 4. B. Aitken, Turnberry; 5. D. Gray, The Pines. BIGGA Shield (2nd Class Winner) D. Norquoy, Irvine Bogside; 2. P. Tulloch; 3. G. Haughie, Southernness; 4. S. Mercer, Skelmorlie; 5. I. Barr, Largs. Visitor/Trade Prize – P. Boyd – Past Club Champion.

Our thanks to Robert and his staff for giving us excellent playing conditions also to the club for allowing us the day. Catering provided by Toby and Yvonne Downer and staff was of the highest order and much appreciated on the day.

A special mention must be given to Alex Cruikshanks who sponsored and presented, on behalf of Duval Industrial Products, the magnificent Harry Diamond Jug. Thanks for your support.

AGM business included the induction of Martin Lothian, as Chairman, with Vice Chairman still to be suchered into it, I mean named. Happy Hunting Dipper! Derek Wilson, to remain as Secretary and the rest of the committee pretty much unchanged.

Venues selected for next year's outings are Portpatrick – Dunsy in the Spring and, by kind offer of Alistair Connell, Southern Gailes in the Autumn.

Peter Boyd announced Monday March 3 to be the date for next year's Scottish Conference in Dunfermline so you can pencil that in your diaries.

Congratulations to Iain Barr and Brian Aitken on receiving the Patron's Awards for this year.

2003 promises to be an eventful year for the Section with George Brown taking the reins as National Chairman, I just hope he can cope with all that golf and socialising? Iain Barr also steps up from Chairman of the Section to Vice-Chairman for Scotland. Well done and all the best Iain!

Finally, next Summer we have the Scottish National Greenkeepers Championship being contested over Jimmy Johnstone's Kintyre Course at Turnberry.

A quick 'get well soon' to Marshall Schloss who recently underwent major knee surgery and will be laid up for a while. I didn't even know he was on Ranger's books!

I think that's everything so have a great festive season and don't expect all this every month – Oh! You can give me a ring with any news or even if you just want to chat constructively about Middlesbrough's chances in Europe next year.

Dennis Tweddell

Central

Well, there must be plenty satisfied members in the Section, going by the numbers who attended the AGM, either that or there are an awful lot of you who just can't be bothered! Although the numbers were small there was quality in abundance and a very successful,

constructive meeting was held. Your committee for the next 12 months are Chairman, A. O'Hara, Vice Chairman. S. Cruickshank, Past Chairman, A. Dunn, committee, G. Mitchell, P. Murphy, D. Scott and I. MacMillan, Sec/Treas 3. Crawford, K. Brunron was invited to represent the Patrons on committee with P. Langdon and B. Finlayson representing Associate Trade members.

As always, if there are any events you would like organised in the Section, please get in touch with any committee member and we will do our utmost to organise them, even if you have any complaints let us know!

At the ten pin bowling, which followed the AGM, Phil Langdon ran out a worthy winner, some of the others simply just ran out of steam! Seriously though, we were playing in a lane next to a number of rather "mature ladies who had to use ramps, barriers or whatever you call the aids required to keep the bowl in the lane and they even came over and gave us some advice on how to play. I'm sure GM has arranged to return for further lessons in the not too distant future, he certainly needs them! Thanks to everyone at Deer Park for the use of their superb facilities and excellent catering.

Winners of "Club 2000" for October were D. Cartmill (ticket No.292 £30) and P. Murphy (ticket No. 76 £20), November winners were K. Crawford (ticket No. 450 £30) and N. Gibb (ticket No. 173 £20) and December winners were D. Scott (ticket No. 209 £50) and S. Lawrie (ticket No. 66 £50). Tickets for next year's draw must be sold and the money returned to me by 21st of this month, so please make every effort to buy/sell your allocation.

Best wishes for a speedy return to good health from everyone in the Section go to retired member David Sword, Bishopshire GC. David usually drops the money for his Club 2000 tickets in at the house but due to not keeping to well he had to post them this time. I hope it won't be too long before you are out and about again David.

This being the last report of this year I would like to thank everyone who has supported us over the past 12 months, especially the golf clubs who granted us courtesy to hold our tournaments; the Scottish Patrons for their continued support especially Daval Industrial Products for their sponsorship of Club 2000 tickets and the AGM; special thanks to those members who supported our events, and to Peter Boyd for another great year of Scottish events and the support he gives to all the Sections.

Here's wishing everyone "All The Best" for the coming year, I hope you all have a prosperous and drier one (on the golf course) than this year has been.

John Crawford

North

One new member to report this month, and he is Allan Bange from Ballumbie Castle G.C.

The AGM took place at Stonehaven GC on October 24. The golf was cancelled due to the weather and a snooker match took place instead, whereby the Chairman's team emerged victorious.

Two new committee members were voted on, and they were Dale Robertson, from Newmacher GC, and Andy Wilson, from Brechin GC. The two departing committee members were Robert Hardie, from Craibston GC, and Dave Marnoch, Ocmis Irrigation. The new committee is as follows: Chairman, Stuart McBain Hazelhead GC; Secretary, Dougal Duguid, Westhill GC; Treasurer, Steve Sullivan, Craigie Hill GC; 200 Club, Andy Wilson, Brechin GC; Outings and trophies Hugh Mclatchie, Peterhead GC; Raffles, John Geddes, Ellon GC; Match and Handicap, Dale Robertson, Newmacher GC; Magazine Reports, Iain Gunn, Strathpeffer GC. For any information on any matter or to put any problems or ideas you want discussed, phone Dougal Duguid on 01224 740329, or Iain Gunn on 01997 420155

The Patrons' points was also decided on, with the spring and autumn outings each carrying one point, and the Scottish conference carrying two, along with the Scottish Golf Championship also carrying two, which this year happens to be at Turnberry. Any seminars carry one point also.

Also at the AGM Abbie Walker was presented with crystal glasses as a retirement present. Abbie has been Head Greenkeeper for many years at Stonehaven GC and has been a great servant to the golf club. Many happy returns from the North Section for your retirement, Abbie.

Everyone should have received their application forms for Harrogate 2003. The cost for three nights accommodation is £160, and this also includes breakfast and the bus trip to and from Glasgow, and entry to all the seminars. The places on the bus are filling up fast, so if you would like to go and have not yet applied then do so quickly. It is a good week, and well worth visiting at least once.

Scotsturf has been and gone again, and it was busy as usual. Fortunately the weather was better this time round and made the travelling a lot easier.

The weather has been decidedly wet and windy since the last report, but has not been cold, with only a couple of days heavy frost. No doubt the cold snap is just round the corner.

Well that is all to report this month so I would just like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a hassle free New Year.

Iain Gunn.



North East

On October 16, at Alnmouth Golf Club, we played our annual match against the old enemy, the East of Scotland Section. Both Sections would once again like to thank Stewarts of Edinburgh for sponsoring the day. This time we came out the winners by four matches to two.

My thanks to the committee for giving us the courtesy of the course and to the Secretary for coming up with the new date at short notice.

Tyneside GC recently had a vandal or vandals on their course, during the night or early morning and partially cut through 11 Scots Pine for the oncoming strong winds to attack. Bearing in mind these were 30 year old ones and could have caused serious damage to any golfers in that area. They then decided to do the same on seven silver birches on another part of the course.

Two new members have joined the Section both from Tyneside GC. They are Jeff Cullen and Alex Wishart. Movement in the Section is provided by Steven Richardson, from Birtley GC, who has moved to Tyneside GC as greenkeeper/mechanic we wish them all the best for the future.

I would like to remind all of you who win trophies to try and get them back the following year, either by giving me a ring or getting someone to drop them off if they are unable to play in the competition.

Jimmy Richardson

North Wales

The end of October and start of November saw high winds and storm damage across many courses in the North Wales area along with most other parts of the country.

Fallen trees were the main problem and debris was blown around, the clean up operations included lots of sawing and chopping and many bags of logs were put into store for the winter months, but this made a welcome change from the routine grass cutting.

Dave Parry, at Prestatyn GC, has had a new roof on his maintenance dept.

Steve Jones, at Pwllheli, wants to wish Andrew Yates good luck in his new business venture. Terry Adamson has now been given a clean bill of health, thanks to many of you who enquired about his well being, the problem is believed to be stress related, probably caused by reaching down for his wallet at the bar (Just kidding, Terry).

Nobody from the Section has won the Lotto this month or if they have they haven't let us

know yet!

The Kerry bros, at Royal St Davids, are delighted to have been accepted to host the European Seniors event (now for its third year) which will take place at the course the first week of July next year. This gives credit to them for their presentation and management of a championship course, if only they could play darts to the same standard, they would be dangerous!

Our Christmas tournament will take place at Caldy GC on the 5th of this month. Caldy have had six new greens reconstructed and extensive draining work carried out this year under the watchful supervision of Head Greenkeeper, Ian Farrell, we have heard great reports of the course and look forward to playing there.

The results will be in the January edition, which brings me nicely onto the coach for the BTME at Harrogate. Please get in touch if you haven't already we need to finalise the numbers.

The courses for training at Aldwalk Manor still have one or two places available on certain aspects of education and as the greenkeeping role is going to require more knowledge and certification for the future, you really cannot afford to miss out! These courses run well into the new year so contact HQ for details.

This just leaves me to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and best wishes for a prosperous New Year and don't leave the shopping until too late

Mesen Cymru

Nadolig Llawen i bawb

Andrew Acorn

Northern

The Autumn tournament, at Thirsk and Northallerton, was another top day out on our golfing calendar. The course played very well and was in good nick for mid October. A big thanks to Bill Rank and his greens team for producing a fine course. Thanks to Gordon in the clubhouse for his hospitality and good food and to our sponsors on the day Glen Farrow Irrigation. Once again the prizes were excellent. Last but not least thanks to the golf club for looking after us so well and giving us courtesy of the course.

The results of the day are as follows. Div 1-1st A Baxter, 2nd R Barker, 3rd B Hudson. Div 2-1st F Stewart, 2nd R Smith, 3rd A Speight. Div 3- 1st J Watts, 2nd J K Brown, 3rd I Pullan. D Clewes won longest drive and R Barker won the nearest to the pin. P Armatage and D Clewes won the trade prizes. We also presented the prizes for best over 50s player this year this was won by B Hudson and the best under 40s player this year this was won by A Slingsby.

Following the presentations the section had its AGM. I can report that the same committee

as last year was voted back in with the addition of Adam Speight. There is nothing else to report from the meeting.

I must apologise to everyone over the mix up with dates and days on the seminar in November I hope this did not inconvenience anybody too much. I am sure it will have been a great success and thanks to Cleckheaton Golf Club for letting us use their facilities and to the speakers for their time and food for thought they shared with us.

Last but not least may I take this opportunity to wish all the members of the Northern section, Sponsors and readers of these few lines a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Contact me at 16 Westwood Ave. Eccleshill, Bradford, West York's, BD2 2NJ

Tel No: 01274 640739

Mob No: 07976876264

E mail: Dthackray@aol.com

David Thackray

North West

I find it difficult this month, as usual, to find anything to write about as we have not had any golf during October, and nobody has contacted me with any news. On my travels I have called in at several golf courses, and I see many of you are taking advantage of the mild weather and carrying out plenty of aeration work, and in some cases, big drainage jobs. I am sure you will reap the benefits of this work next year. By the time you read these notes we will have had the AGM and played for the President's Cup at Wilmslow Golf Club, on December 5, so I hope the weather will hold for a little longer and we have a good day. I am afraid that's it for now but I will take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas, and a Prosperous New Year.

Bert Cross



MIDLAND REGION
Peter Larter
Tel: 01476 550115

East of England

The annual match against the Secretaries Association took place at Lincoln GC (Torksey). A win to the greenkeepers was the result for the second year running. The score was 5-3 and thanks to Derek and his staff for producing a testing course which was in excellent condition. The Longest Drive went to Rob Welford and Nearest the Pin to Phil Wilkinson. The event was sponsored by Toro and we thank Nigel Lovatt for donating the prizes on the day.

The last golf day of the year was held at Sleaford GC and was sponsored by Lawnmower

Services. We would like to thank Chris Overton and Dave Hampshire for donating the main prize. Thanks also to Ian Batty and his staff for a course in great condition. It must have been local knowledge because Ian was also in the winning team that took first prize with a score of 57 nett. In the team was Gary Poole, Simon Cardwell and Richard Dexter. Longest Drive went to Luke Hunt, of Sleaford, while Nearest the Pin went to Alan Buckley, of Newark.

The AGM followed the prize presentation and there was one new committee member, Rob Welford, of Cleethorpes.

The Order of Merit winner for a BIGGA Blazer for 2002 was Ian Batty of Sleaford. The Jacket was again sponsored by Nigel Lovatt of Toro UK.

Graeme MacDonald

Midland

The Summer Tournament was held at Bloxwich Golf Club, the course was in great shape thanks to Howard Middlebrook and his team. 1. Dave Gibbons; 2. Mike Hughes; 3. Vince Lee.

Steve Mucklow was Nearest the Pin and Mark Cutler took the longest drive, Peter Merainor won the trade prize. Many thanks to Bathgates for sponsoring the wine and John Hammond for starting us off in excellent fashion.

The Autumn Competition was held at the Forest of Arden. Many thanks go to Kenny McKay for not only presenting an excellent course but all the hard work in arranging the day. 1. Graham Wallace net 73; 2. Nick Bird. 3. Michael Bryan. Trade. Nigel Taylor.

Many thanks to sponsors on the day being Avoncrop Amenity, Chris Briggs and Mark Raynor. Wine was sponsored by Bathgates and long drive and nearest the pin Ruffords.

Our best wishes go to Howard Middlebrook in his new appointment as Course Manager at Stratford-on-Avon Golf Club.

This year's match against the East Midlands Section took place at Longcliffe Golf Club, where we were made extremely welcome. It was a gloriously sunny autumn day. The Midland Section came out winners at the end of the day so well done lads. For Peter Richmond it was also the chance to renew old friendships, and to play his bi-annual game against Mark Bindley. This year Mark came out on top, which just about puts them even. Thanks to Rigby Taylor for their continued sponsorship of this event.

Finally I would like to wish all members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and a big thank you to all the Trade members who have sponsored, and supported us throughout the year.

Phil Gates

East Midlands

This year's East Midlands v Midlands Section golf match was again kindly sponsored by Rigby Taylor and hosted by Longcliffe GC on October 3. The weather was a glorious, sunny Autumn day with 10 golfers from each side ready for a keenly contested match. The morning Greensomes resulted in a one point advantage to the Midland Section, with Martin Hopkins and Stephen Mackie coming from three down to win their match, and Mark Bindley and Gavin Robson comprehensively winning their's 7&5. After the lunch refreshments it was onto the singles matchplay, which resulted in five wins apiece, with Adie Porter, Russell Allen, Jeff Dickinson, Mark Bindley and Gavin Robson all winning their matches. Unfortunately the Section lost by the narrowest of margins 8 points to 7.

I would like to thank Rigby Taylor, and Longcliffe GC and to everybody from both Sections who took part. Our Section team was as follows. Jan Marshall, Russell Allen, Chris Brown Steve Goode, Jeff Dickinson, Adie Porter, Martin Hopkins, Stephen Mackie, Mark Bindley and Gavin Robson.

Results and news will appear in next months edition for the AGM golf tournament, but please could I remind all members that if they wish to attend Section events, please return your forms before the closing date.

Anthony Bindley

BB&O

This month has been a busy one for all in this industry as the weather finally breaks from reliable sunshine. To see our golf course turn green again so late in October was a more unusual experience but gave firm putting greens and dusty bunkers. I know many of our Section have been busy clearing the debris and felling many trees after the recent gales but at least we got shot of lots of leaves. I am now convinced that someone has been around our course and applied superglue to all the Quercus leaves so that they fall late in the season and only at weekends. As you can tell by my inane banter I have little to report this month. Our next fixture at Southfield Golf Club is but hours away and I will bring a full report next month. I hope to see many of you at our regional seminar which Peter Larter has been busy putting together. Next week I attend my first Bi-annual secretaries meeting at Aldwark Manor which promises to be one looking for substantial change within the current set-up so I will report more on this next month.

I would like to welcome two new members as follows: Anthony Goodland, Bearwood Lakes GC, and Clive Robinson, Wokefield Park GC.

This just leaves me to thank all of those members who have attended our events in

2002 for your time and support. I would like to thank all those in the trade who have contributed generously and made sure these events really are different from your average game of golf. The camaraderie between us all is something I personally cherish and know many of you feel the same. I wish you, your family and friends a great Christmas and hopefully a very peaceful year in 2003.

David Haskell-Craig



SOUTH EAST
Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260 956

Kent

Well, I guess it's a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all. It does not feel like it yet as I'm writing this in November.

No news from you lot out there this month with no calls or e-mails again. I did notice that we have a new member in the form of Steve Hopper who is, in broadest sense of the word, working at Westgate Golf Club. Steve is a bit of a nomad working at several clubs in the Thanet area. I hope to see you, Steve, at a few of next year's golf days. Which leads me onto any club who would like to host a golf day or any other event you wish to see in the coming year. It would be nice to play at a few new venues next year so please help us if you can however small a club you are.

Congratulations to all of you who passed your spraying courses at Kings Hill Golf Club back in September. I guess you have been busy at your course since then.

Any news or views on anything remotely to do with anything please call me on 01732 875020 or e-mail me on JRBATKHGOLF@AOL.COM

Finally drink and eat loads this Christmas as I will be when I'm on holiday in LA for two weeks.
Jason Bean

Surrey

Congratulations paragraph this month starts with the arrival of a bouncing baby girl. Jessie Arnold gave birth to Georgia, 8lbs 15ozs, on September 17 and I am told her main priority in life, that's Georgia not Jessie, is to make sure her daddy is not late for work in the morning. Her daddy, Steve Arnold, from Redhill and Reigate Golf Club, has been advised to invest in extra telling the time lessons for Georgia or move down to the garden shed. Next, a big well done to the Surrey Section to Murray Long, Course Manager at Coombe Hill Golf Club, for winning this year's Toro Student of the Year award and we hope he enjoys his six weeks in America. The final congratulation goes to Chris Gosden, who after being Deputy at St. George's Hill Golf Club

for many years has now been appointed Course Manager.

Our last event was on October 18 at Effingham Golf Club, Peter Broadbent, the Course Manager and several of his staff joined almost 50 members to play this really excellent golf course. Many thanks to Peter, Effingham Golf Club for the courtesy and to the caterers for a delicious carvery. John Davidson won beating Paul Bacon on count back and the trade prize went to Lee West. Adam Watts was nearest the pin and Tim (pancho) Webb hit the ball further than the rest. The day was sponsored by Kestral Golf who supplied the quality prizes. Unfortunately I have to report that one complaint was received concerning the 2s competition. Peter Broadbent who got two 2s and complained that there was no 2s competition and that if he had been aware of this before he started he would not have bothered to play so well.

The AGM and Turkey Trot took place on November 21 and the South East Seminar on the 27th. The report on these two events will appear in the January edition.

May I wish a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all members of the Surrey Section and one last congratulation to Terry Huntley and West Hill Golf Club on returning to the best 100 Golf Clubs in the United Kingdom at number 95.

Brian Willmott

East Anglia

Yet another lovely day this time the venue was Ufford Park. The course was in good nick thanks to Adrian Holins and his team. Grub was lovely and Colin Albs made us all very welcome.

Then came the golf, (Didn't do too well this time). Others did however. I seem to write the same names down everytime, Plummer, Willett, etc. you watch.

0-9 Section. 1. Michael Buck, 39 pts; 2. Bob Barnes, 33 pts; 3. Roger Plummer, 33 pts (Told you). 10-18 Section 1. Ian Willett, 36 pts (Told you again); 2. Mark Broughton, 36 pts; 3. Steve Thompson, 35 pts. 19-28 Section

1. Robert Ransome, 37 pts; 2. John Pymmer, 34 pts; 3. Martin Brightwell, 31 pts. Trade & guests 1. Larry Pearman, 38 pts (fatherhood suits him) 2. Chris David, 38 pts; 3. Gary Turner, 36 pts. Nearest The Pin, Graham Brumpton.

Longest Drive, M. Buck. Seat. Keith Titshall, for putting the ball through the pro-shop window! Prizes were presented by Brian Wedsdell, the Club Captain and the sponsors were (take a deep breath and go for it). Textron, Bartram Mowers, Bayer, Sisis, Rushbrook, Toro, Tomlinson Ground, NEM, Driving Force Leisure, Atterton & Ellis, UTCAA (Easy this time)

Thanks again Ufford Park for a great day out.

Brian Richardson is retiring from Bayer, Aventis, Rhône Poulenc and May & Baker all at once we wish him well and look forward to seeing him at

our meetings. I think that is when most of us see him anyway. One rep for all of England no wonder he's worn out. Tight lines my son.

Larry had a nipper. Well done mate, Sleepless in East Anglia!

It's worm time again. How much weaker is this repellent going to get? I reckon if you connected the clubhouse urinal to a big tank and you diluted it 50-1, sprayed the greens, it would do the same thing. Well, it cures Athletes foot.

Mick Lathrope



SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES
Paula Humphries
Tel: 01288 352 194

South West

If I missed Around the Green last month I'm sorry, we had a technical fault. A total lack of flexibility. (Section Notes cannot be accepted in dictated form onto an office voicemail. This was explained to Robin, who was then granted an extension, giving him the opportunity to submit his Notes in a more conventional manner - Editor)

We had our AGM at the Gloucestershire Golf Club. Our thanks to the club and Mat Marion, the Head Grenkeeper, for the use of their fine golf course and clubhouse. The results of the competition are as follows:- 1. A. Knight and M. Phelps, 104 pts. 2. C. Sealey, R. Barker and P. Hampton, 101 pts; 3. R. Lane and R. Lowisson, 99 pts. Well done to everyone who played and turned up.

After the game we held the AGM. Members will be interested to know that Nobby Knight is now Section Secretary. We all wish Nobby the best in this difficult and not very popular job. Thanks Nobby.

There have been some anomalies in this year's accounts for the Section, this is being looked into by Paula, the Regional Administrator. Chris Sealy, the Chairman, has called an extra AGM to be held at the Christmas Meeting at Cirencester. Chris is hoping to be able to present a correct set of figures at this meeting, for the past year.

Our thanks should also go to Richard Barker, the National Chairman, for coming down and attending our AGM also thanks to Paula.

Finally thanks to the days sponsor Rigby Taylor. Also don't drink too much during the holidays.
Robin Greaves

Devon & Cornwall

Season's greetings to you all.

Many of you will already know that I have been appointed Head Greenkeeper at Burnham & Berrow Golf Club and will be standing down as Section Administrator at the end of the year. I would like to thank you all for the support you have shown me as section administrator over the last 13 years. You always hear members saying what is BIGGA doing for me? Well the old saying of you get out what you put in is true as the position of Section Administrator has allowed me to develop my own administration and organisational skills, with the added bonus of talking to members such as Walter Woods, Gordon Child, Kerran Daly the list just goes on. Bude & North Cornwall Golf Club also should receive credit for their positive approach to education over the years; I would like to thank them for 18 very happy years.

The Roffey October meeting was held at Portmore Golf Club. Members found the course in excellent condition with Colin Webber, the Owner, providing our non-golfing members with a very interesting course walk.

After a superb meal Jim McKenzie Course Manager at Celtic Manor presented his brilliant talk on the development of Celtic Manor to the present day. Don Hunt, of Roffeys, presented the golfing prizes for the D.O Hunt Trophy as follows; 1. T. James 37pts; 2. M. Child, 35pts; 3. J. Webber, 34pts. The Section would like to thank Colin Webber and all his staff for such an enjoyable day; to Don Hunt and Roffeys for sponsoring the day, and to Jim for making the long trip down to our Section.

Our P. J Flegg sponsored Christmas meeting will once again be held at Okehampton Golf Club on Tuesday, December 10, as in previous years numbers will be limited to the first 80 members, so to avoid disappointment please return your entry with correct money as soon as possible.

This is your opportunity to meet our magazine Editor Scott MacCallum as he will be present to enjoy the Section's hospitality. As usual the day will start with golfing members playing for the P. J Flegg Trophy with the format being greensome, for those of you not wishing to play golf the Course walk will start from the clubhouse at approximately 10.30am. Following lunch Tank Sherman will once again be the entertainer with the raffles concluding the day.

The Barenbrug Seeds meeting will be our first meeting of the New Year and will be held at East Devon Golf Club on Thursday, January 16. The morning will start with a singles stableford golf, with the course walk for non-golfers leaving the clubhouse at approximately 10.30am.

Have you booked your place on the Regions package to BTME 2003, which includes

transport, accommodation & entry to the BTME show, some seminar sessions are extra.

On closing my report I'd like to inform members that Gordon Child has been unwell recently with a couple of emergency visits to Torbay Hospital, Gordon is currently waiting to have a heart by pass I am sure that I speak for all members in wishing Gordon a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing him soon at our Section events.

Richard Whyman

South Coast

The past month has been a very quiet one on the Section front. Most of us have been battling with the elements as usual as well as coping with the inevitable fusarium outbreaks in the unusually warm spell of weather we have been having.

On the news front, I have been very fortunate to have been chosen to represent BIGGA at next year's GCSAA Conference and trade show in Atlanta, in February. I will be part of a ten-man delegation, which is sponsored by BIGGA and Bernard & Co. This opportunity of a lifetime is an experience I am thoroughly looking forward too and will hope to share with you all. At committee, we are putting the final touches on next year's Section Seminar, which will certainly be a day not to be missed! With a new venue and an excellent line up of speakers and presentations it is a day to pencil in your diary already. February 26 at Canford Magna Golf Club. Let's make it a record turn out! Lastly it is time for me to wish you all a very merry Christmas from myself and all of your committee.

Until next month
Alex McCombie

NORTHERN IRELAND

With the season drawing to a close, the Autumn rains have come with a vengeance causing disruption to many inland courses. Even Links courses have suffered from flooding and erosion, that has caused closure for periods.

Some of our clubs in the province have embarked on major green and tee re-construction and course alteration projects, and the current weather has created problems. Malone, Clondeboye, Massereene, Portstewart, Bangor, Kirkistown and Royal County Down are leading the way. The majority of these projects are being carried out by the resident Course Manager and his Green staff which is a great credit to them. Through Training and Education

greenkeepers can now make a valuable contribution to these projects therefore saving their respective clubs a considerable amount of money.

Currently much of the larger projects are being overseen by golf course Architects like Howard Swan and David Jones, with the assistance of contractors with heavy plant machinery. Many of our golf greens and tees that were constructed over 25 years ago, just can't withstand the demands of today's game. Many of the greens were poorly designed and constructed and this is why experts like Howard Swan have been brought in to carry out the improvements.

Once again a party of greenkeepers from Royal County Down made the news at the National Championship played outside Southport in early October. Noel Crawford won the Gross award playing off +1. Noel has now won the gross prize at the National Championship twice in three years, which is an excellent achievement. Noel's nephew, Gary Crawford, won the best nett prize on the Hesketh Course for his handicap category.

Well done lads. The Irish contingent, led by Course Manager at Royal County Down Alan Strachan, would like to thank all the staff at BIGGA for organising the National Championship and for kindness and hospitality shown towards them by everyone at the championship.

Well our Section Seminar will take place at Massereene Golf Club in the next couple of days so I will give a report in next month's magazine. There is a total of 130 already registered to attend so it should be a resounding success.

Our AGM will take place in December so the new committee for 2003 will be included in my notes next month. Finally, I would like to thank Andrew Kerr for travelling over to BIGGA HOUSE for the Section Secretaries' meeting on November 11 and 12. Andrew stepped in at very short notice to represent the Section as I was unable to attend due to work commitments at my club.

Any news or information please contact me on 64 429001 during working hours.

Ken Henderson

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