

fuel/air ratio entering the combustion chamber and as already explained this has an effect on the amount of pollutants the engine emits. It will also increase fuel consumption as well as affect the performance. Starting may also become a problem. In extreme case dirt can enter the engine and cause a great deal of damage.

Regularly clean the air filter, more often in dry dusty conditions. If a filter is badly contaminated or damaged it will require replacing.

Cooling systems

These are designed to ensure the engine constantly runs at the right temperature.

Where the airflow becomes blocked or restricted, heat builds up very fast, and in some cases the unit catches fire. It is time to start running because a bomb in the form of an exploding fuel tank can make a nasty mess.

Clean dried grass and dirt out of the fins of air-cooled areas such as around the engine cylinder blocks and hydrostatic drives also from radiator grills on water-cooled systems.

Ignition

In the case of the petrol engines, make sure the spark plug is the correct one with the right size gap, if it is badly contaminated fit a new one. Fuel injectors will require specialist attention.

There are other parts of the machinery that will affect emissions and performance

- Blunt blade or poorly adjusted cutting cylinder requires more power so an engine has to work harder with all the already mentioned results.
- Badly adjusted drives such as belts and chains have the same effect.
- The unit should also be operated at the correct speed and to meet the prevailing conditions.

Not only will all these benefit the environment they also increase the life of equipment and reduce the risk of a breakdown.

It is also necessary to have a fuel management programme in place that ensures the minimum of evaporation.

Petrol or diesel should be stored in a cool place in an approved contain-

er. If a spillage occurs it will need to be cleaned up immediately.

Gas power

Over recent months there has been a lot of media coverage regard using liquid propane gas (LPG) or natural gas (NG). Some engines are now being manufactured specifically designed to operate on these alternative fuels, but as far as is known no one at present is fitting these in the UK. There are companies' here, now offering conversion kits. Apart from reducing emissions these units also show considerable savings in fuel costs, as the example below illustrates.

A 16hp Briggs & Stratton Vanguard engine was used for the purposes of this study.
 Fuel consumption: 3.5litres per hour
 Fuel costs: Petrol 75p per litre
 LPG 25p per litre
 Operating period: 6 hours per day
 5 days a week
 30 weeks per year
 Fuel costs for this cutting period
 Petrol: 3150 litres at .75p litre = £2362.50

3780 litres at 25p litre = £945.00
 Other items: One-off cost of conversion approximately £650.00
 Bulk fuel storage tank £150
 Rental of tank and pump approximately £96 per year
 The total costs in first year including fuel is £1841.00
 This is a saving of £521.50

In the second and subsequent years the savings are higher, in the region of £1300 per annum based on these fuel costs.

This example is more in line with contract grass cutting, the savings on a golf course could be pro rata.

Regarding diesel, because there is doubt that red fuel will continue to be available to the turf machinery sector, a comparison is not given.

Pollution of our planet is not going to go away and the damage already inflicted cannot be redressed. The only course of action left is to ensure wherever possible we minimise some of the effects we have on the atmosphere, by maintaining the equipment in a tip-top condition and good running order.

Maureen Keepin reports on the dramatic developments in engineering have resulted in the production of highly durable rotary mowers with an improved cutting finish. Taking over rough and semi rough areas how can clubs strive to sharpen up their rotary act?

MAKING THE MOST OF ROTARY

Rotary mowers are proving their worth as part of today's greenkeepers' armoury. You will not find them on the tees or greens - as they cannot cut the sward tightly enough, but rotaries are certainly delving ever deeper into the rough of the golf industry.

Easy to adjust and less expensive to maintain than cylinder mowers, regular sharpening of rotary blades is still critical and should form a vital part of any maintenance programme.

First developed in 1934, early rotary mowers had power driven, horizontally spinning blades. They were introduced on to the golf course because of their capability of dealing with longer grass than the cylinder cutter.

A rotary is not as competitive as a cylinder mower in terms of cutting cost per hectare - as the grass grows faster when cut with a rotary - but it can be cut more easily at higher cut rates.

Neither do they produce as good a cut as a cylinder mower, as the blade hits and destroys the grass leaf tissue which can lead to yellowing at the tips - this is why it is crucial to sharpen the blades at least twice a week for optimum performance. This leads to slower grass growth and less yellowing.

Generally a rotary can stand grass up, even when wet, enabling it to cover

wheel marks left in the turf. Increasing steadily over the last five years, rotary sales have grown from 600 to 850 (figures from OPE).

"This is a very good increase," said Pieter Nel, John Deere's Division Sales Manager for Commercial and Consumer Equipment.

"In the past people used cylinder

mowers, but rotary mowers have advanced to such an extent they can produce an almost similar quality of cut at a height of between one to six inches.

"They are cheaper to maintain, as sharpening their blades is easier," he added. They are safer than cylinders, as you are running rotaries below the deck. "The mulching issue is also important," he said.

"Disposal of clippings can be very expensive but with a mulching deck on a rotary this problem is removed."

What to look for in a rotary mower

"Operator comfort is certainly a key area and quality of cut is vitally important," said Peter. "Vibration is always an issue and our 1445 and 1565 machines have been redesigned for greater operator comfort."

Durability and reliability of the machine are also important - and customers expect a good back up package from manufacturers and dealers. These issues can be crucial in the purchasing decision.

Mowing in semi rough and rough

"A dramatic shift has taken place over the last five to six years with a tremendous increase in flexible rotaries with multiple decks," said Alan Prickett, UK Branch Manager of Textron Golf, Turf and Specialty Products.

"These are more accurate at a lower cutting height. Ten years ago, the bulk of semi rough mowing was carried out using trailed gang mowers or self-propelled hydraulic gang mowers."

Starting off initially with the use of rotaries with fixed 60 inch and 72 inch machines, giving a reasonable cut to a height of 2 inches, the golf market started asking for greater productivity.

While this could be achieved with

a wider cut, there was a considerable downside. By increasing the cutting width there was far more unsightly scalping on undulations.

This was not acceptable. The only way of squaring the circle - combining increased productivity with a decent finish - was by using multiple cutting decks. Textron developed an 11ft cutting width bat-wing machine, with triple deck rotaries - one at the front and two at the sides.

Productivity increase was sorted, and a finer finish was developed at a lower cutting height, which greenkeepers wanted on semi rough areas.

On the Jacobsen AR250 there are five standard blades, and a secondary blade above those which has a mulching effect. This chops the grass a multiple number of times before discharging.

"This gives a really clean finish behind the machine," and avoids clumping and removes long strands of grass often just flattened by cylinder mowers," said Alan.

Rough areas are increasingly cut with rotaries, generally bat-wing or wide single unit machines fitted with three blades. Here again, the desire for higher productivity and lower maintenance costs rule the day. Certainly rotaries lift longer grass during mowing and cut these tougher blades and this is a distinct advantage over the cylinder.

"We have seen an increase in the sale of our 16 feet bat-wing with nine blades and 90hp," said Alan.

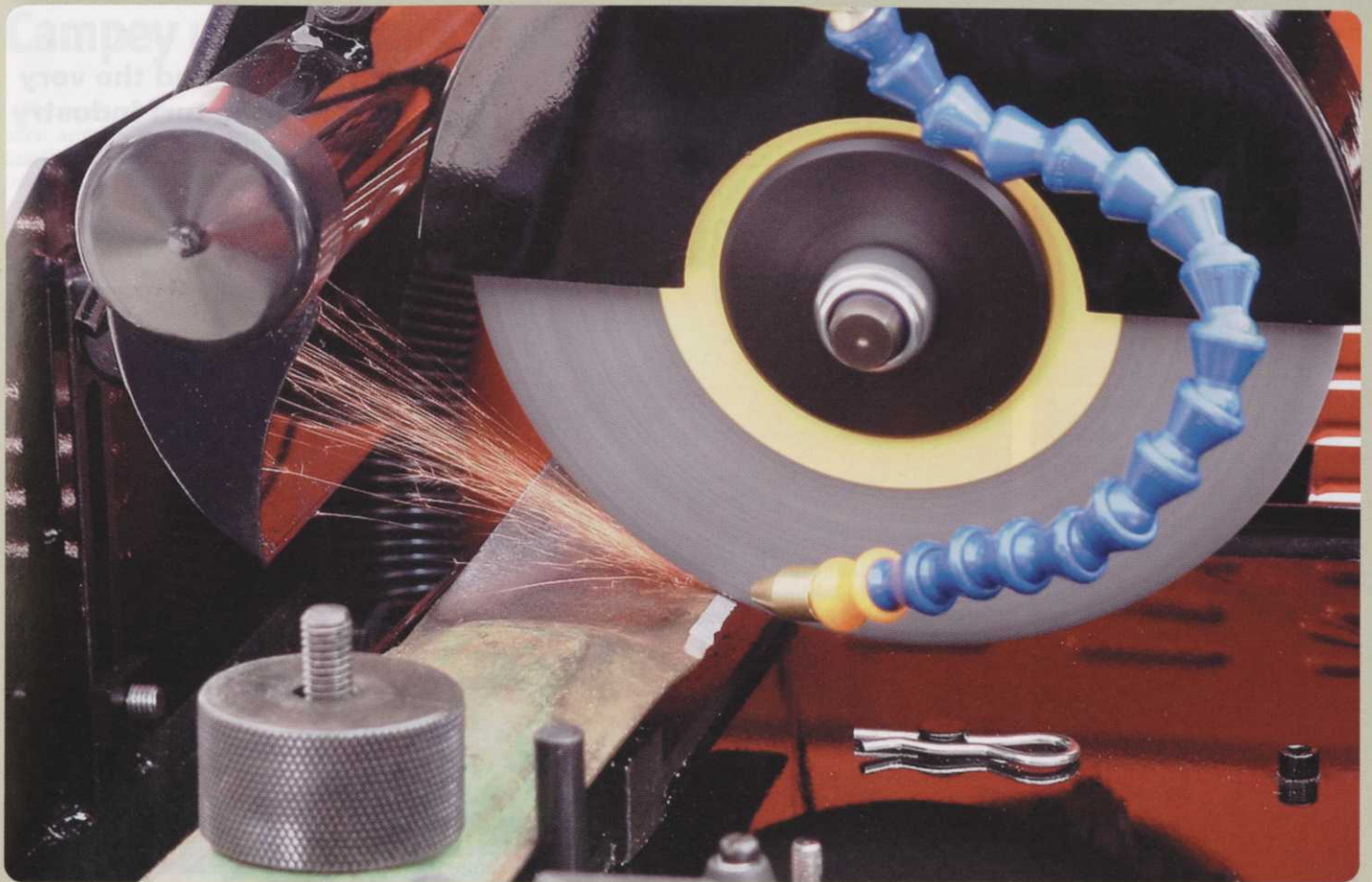
"These can cut 16 acres an hour and machines have just been delivered to Worthing Golf Club and Woodbury Park."

Increased productivity, with a respectable finish, has secured the rotary's future in the rough.

Sharpening up the act

Normally sharpened with a hand-held angle grinder, there are serious problems arising from sharpening





rotary blades using this method.

You need professional balancing equipment, as it is almost impossible to balance blades ground by hand. If a rotary machine is run with unbalanced blades you massively increase bearing wear and shaft wear - which can substantially add to the running costs. This is due to the fact the average rotary blade is travelling in excess of 100mph.

"Textron are using Bernhard's rotary grinder Rota Master at their dealerships and have been very pleased with results," said Alan Prickett.

"Quick, efficient and accurate it gives a very fine finish on the ground edge. We ensure perfect balance before the blades are refitted to the machines," said Alan.

"That in turn ensures excellent bearing life and a smooth ride for the operator."

Generating a huge amount of vibration if blades are not balanced, this comes back through the machine. One of the biggest problems arises when chunks are missing from the blade.

Low vibration and noise levels are achieved with rotaries by using larger engines at lower revs, together with improved insulation. Reductions in noise and vibrations were driven downwards by CE legislation. These are major health and safety issues - reinforcing the need for golf clubs to make sure rotaries are well balanced.

New power technology is difficult to harness with rotaries, as they are generally power hungry and have therefore to be run on petrol or diesel - electric does not measure up.

As the mower is delving into

extremely rough areas of grass, stones and wood can cause considerable damage to the blade.

"Often it is not a matter of just fine tuning the blade on a rotary mower, but eliminating damage by taking chips out of it," said Stephen Bernhard, Managing Director of Bernhard and Company.

Rota Master has been developed by Bernhard to avoid the need to completely discard a rotary blade. The machine grinds efficiently and with greater precision, reducing the amount of time needed to sharpen blades.

"Greenkeepers used to find it a real chore, either when sharpening blades themselves using angle grinders or bench grinders, or out sourcing their sharpening," he added Stephen.

"Our purpose-built machine can efficiently and cost-effectively grind them while agronomy factors should not be overlooked. Rotary mowers may have enough engine power to keep cutting when they are blunt, but damage is inflicted on the sward."

Around the courses

At Wildernesse Golf Club, in Kent, Course Manager, Huw Morgan, said: "We are starting to use rotaries on the rough and semi rough, where we previously used cylinder mowers."

Huw has managing Wildernesse for more than eight years and is the 2002 Toro Excellence in Greenkeeping Award winner

"When it is dry, cylinder mowers provide a better cut, but taking it over a 12 month period rotaries are best. They are more flexible and can mow when damp, which is pretty essential at the moment.



Machines have improved significantly and they now give a good quality of cut."

With a large rotary machine and a few hand held rotary mowers the club also hire in other pieces of equipment, as required. Rotary blades are currently sent out to a local dealer, as the club does not have the facilities for grinding them, although cylinder grinding is carried out in-house.

Royal Lytham and St Annes has been using rotaries on the rough and semi rough since 2001 - when they bought a set of mowers with five cutting decks.

"This gives a more clinical cut in

the spring time," said Paul Smith, Head Greenkeeper.

"We found with grass like rye it is extremely difficult to cut when it is coming into flower. Cylinders often just push the stalk over but rotaries can tackle this," he said

"Cylinder mowers are still used, so we get the best of both worlds."

Paul has a special jig to fit to his Hunter grinder for cylinder mowers, which specifically grinds rotary blades.

"The downside is we have to put an edge on the blade quite frequently but this is not a big undertaking," said Paul.

Greenkeeper International takes a look at the news and the very latest products and services available from the fine turf industry

New spray nozzle from Lurmark



Spray nozzle manufacturer, Lurmark, has developed a range of nozzles which can be used in place of traditional spray booms, enabling chemicals to be applied to targets which cannot be reached by a conventional boom sprayer due to natural or man-made obstacles. Known as MaXThro, Lurmark's new long-throw nozzle is available in seven sizes capable of applying chemicals at swath widths from 5.18m to 9.45m and at flow rates ranging from 7.9 litres/min at 3 bar pressure to 150.4 litres/min at 4 bar. An even spray pattern of at least 125 deg is produced by MaXThro, depending on the selected nozzle size, with consistently large droplets across the range reducing the potential for drift. Typical situations where MaXThro is expected to improve the effectiveness and ease of chemical treatments include golf courses and stadia, sportsgrounds, amenity areas and field boundaries, orchards and specialist crops, the spraying of de-icing agents onto roads, pavements and runways, the application of suspension fertilisers and the distribution of waste products to encourage rapid biological breakdown.

Manufactured in durable Polyacetal with a stainless steel body, each MaXThro nozzle comes with standard male pipe fittings, quick-fit couplers and a mounting bracket enabling fast, simple attachment to any suitable point on the sprayer frame or folded boom. Suitable for use as a single unit or mounted back-to-back in pairs, it has been designed to achieve the required swath width with the spray delivery orifice positioned horizontally. To better target the spray, the nozzle can be rotated towards the vertical or angled up or down, although this will affect swath width and the spray pattern. Comprehensive information on MaXThro is available from Lurmark together with charts of typical application rates and the even spray distribution patterns achieved in replicated patterning trials by the company.

For further information
 Tel: 01954 260097

Shifting Sands

Cherrington "sandsifting" technology is now available in a line of compact sandsifting equipment which provides a solution to small sand areas which are dirty, polluted, or compacted. Offered in both walk-along and pull-type models, they screen out encroaching grass, garbage, rocks, cigarette butts, glass, and rotting seaweed, while putting the cleaned, sifted sand back on the beach or sand area.

For further information e-mail:
sales@glenmac.com or visit the
 web sites at www.chemngton.net

Medium weight flail mower from Rytec

Rytec has announced the introduction of a medium weight flail mower suitable for front and rear mounting on tractors from 20 to 75hp. The new Professional SS models are based on a well proven and robust design but incorporate a new SIDE SHIFT linkage, allowing on the move, lateral travel of the mower around obstacles.

Available in 3 cutting widths 1.2, 1.6 and 1.8 metres, the new Professional SS machines are ideal for front mounting on a range of bank/reverse drive tractors with limited lift capacity and allow excellent manoeuvrability around trees, sign posts and other obstructions as the operator can side shift the mower hydraulically. As a rear mounted unit the machine is ideal for working under trees and hedges where it is important to cut grass but often difficult to reach because of access with the tractor and conventional in line rear mounted units.

The SS Professionals allow offsetting to both left and right hand side of the tractor and can therefore reach in under overhanging branches and hedgerows.



A range of flails allows the Professional SS machines to be used for a variety of

work from rough cutting with heavy cast grass flails, to fine mowing with paddle type flails, the machines can also be fitted with scarifying blades to further increase adaptability. With

the front castor wheels and full width rear roller the cutting height control and ground following characteristics of the machines are a major feature.

For further information
 Tel: 01944 768232
 E-mail: info@rytec.co.uk

Vermeer launch new brush chipper

The Vermeer BC625AI brush chipper continues the Vermeer tradition of rugged reliability, safety, and helpful features to enhance productivity. Like its predecessor – the BC625I – the BC625AI is a disc-style chipper, geared to meet the needs of all who use it.

The Vermeer exclusive patented AutoFeed system means fewer jams and reduced engine stress because it automatically monitors and controls feed roller rotation by sensing engine load. Feeding is easy and convenient with the feed control bar located in front of the operator position and a wide chute opening to cut down on trimming and chain saw work. Safety is optimised by a discharge chute which rotates 240 degrees to direct chips away from the operator.

The BC 625AI is built for maximum cutting performance to handle brush and debris up to 15 cm in diameter. It features a four-sided bed knife and a thick cutter disc for more cutting inertia, and an improved variable speed hydraulic system that delivers 20 percent more torque to the feed roller. Two engine options are available, including a 25 HP (19 kW) air cooled Kohler Command, and a 23.5 HP (17.5 kW) water-cooled Perkins diesel.

In addition to safety, reliability and performance, the BC 625AI's has been redesigned for easier transport-



ing and better stability. A wide axle with wheels mounted outside the chassis, enables the infeed table to be mounted 10 cm lower than its predecessor. This new stable, low design, not only makes it easy to get the

machine where it's needed, it's also easier to feed.

For further information
 Tel: 01933 274400

Campey unveil latest Hi Lift trailer

The application of top-dressing after aeration work to rejuvenate heavily used sports turf is an essential grounds maintenance operation, but it can also be one of the most time-consuming. Normally, if substantial areas are treated, work has to be interrupted frequently to refill by hand, with the substantial quantities of sand required. However, with a Raycam Hi-Lift Trailer from Campey Turf Care Systems, the task is made quicker, simpler and much more efficient.

The Hi-Lift, which can carry over 3 tonnes, is powered by a tractor of 30hp or more, and is driven by the motive unit's auxiliary hydraulic services. The articulated rear axle is raised quickly to discharge material from a maximum height of 1.4m (4ft 7in) into the user's top-dressing unit, allowing work to continue immediately.

Hydraulic controls are conveniently situated at the rear nearside of the Hi-Lift, allowing the operator an unrestricted view of the entire discharge operation. The unit features



low ground pressure tyres to eliminate the risk of turf damage, even when fully loaded.

For operational flexibility, the tailgate and controls detach quickly and, by fitting the standard tailgate assembly supplied with the Hi-Lift, the machine can be used as a standard

tipping trailer for general maintenance duties. A road-going lighting kit can be added as an option.

**For further information
Tel 01260 224568**

Email press releases
about new products to:
scott@bigga.co.uk

Toro deal renewed

One of Surrey's most exclusive leisure establishments, the RAC Country Club, has renewed its long relationship with Toro through a five-year preferred supplier agreement for golf turf maintenance equipment.



As part of the new £380,000 deal, the RAC Club's two 18-hole championship courses are being maintained by Toro greens, tees and fairway mowers, utility vehicles and aerators.

The deal has been put together with close collaboration between Lely and its Toro dealer, John Shaw Machinery. "We have always been very happy with the service they give us," said Course manager Bob Wiles. "They are extremely reliable and give us all the back-up we need."

New lightweight from Kawasaki



The KLF250-A has entered the market as Kawasaki's new working market entry model and has been brought in to do a job at the lighter end of an ever increasing and impressive application range including farms, equestrian, parks, sports and recreational establishments.

In an exciting model re-shuffle, Kawasaki has retained the turning capability that make the KLF220-A popular for its agility within confined areas, while providing a noticeable increase in power from the new 250's 16.8 hp, air-cooled, single cylinder four-stroke engine.

The end result for the working mar-

ket is a similarly compact and lightweight 2x4 machine with all the same features, but with a greater appetite for hard work and all the inherent characteristics of performance, durability and reliability that have become associated with Kawasaki over the years.

One of the big advantages for the customer is the availability of a machine with a track record when it comes to the working environment at Kawasaki's model entry level with a competitive price tag at £2,900.

**For further information
Tel: 01285 654777**

New improved range from Symbio

Following a four year research and product development programme Symbio has launched a new improved range of products and substantially reduced the price for biological turf management programmes.

It will be selling these new products directly to its customers in the South of England and Wales and has appointed two new regional managers. Neil Carter who is based in Portishead will look after customers from Wiltshire to West Wales and provide technical support to Don Hunt of Roffey Ltd who looks after Symbio's customers in Devon and Cornwall. Neil ran his own landscaping company for many years before taking his HND in turf grass management at Cannington. This was followed by spells at The Paris International Golf Club and The London Club where Neil got lots of experience in presenting courses for tournament play.

Richard Stringer used Symbio's products for four years as a Head Greenkeeper and liked the results so much he joined the company. Richard has 30 years experience of landscaping and turf management and is based in Tilbury from where he will cover the area from Kent to Northamptonshire. Richard said "I'm delighted to be able to help greenkeepers and landscapers use the latest technology to help improve their greens and course presentation"

New storage system



New rotationally moulded polyethylene storage units, designed to ensure the safe and secure storage of drums containing pesticides, chemicals, oils and other corrosive or hazardous liquids, have been added to it's range by drum storage, spill control and waste handling specialist Empteezy Limited.

Tough and durable, the polyethylene gives broad band compatibility and makes the units ideal for use in most agricultural and horticultural environments.

Model CP1 allows storage and dispensing from drums up to 205ltr in size, CP1S has shelves which provide storage for up to eight 25ltr drums [both have a 250ltr sump] The CP3 is a smaller unit with a 100ltr sump. All models have lockable doors and are available in either Green or Blue.

**For further information
Tel: 01494 442703**

Please send your latest product release notes or press releases to: The Editor, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF
The right is reserved to edit submissions before publication. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Association. No responsibility is accepted for such content, advertising or product information which may appear



Scottish Region
Peter Boyd
Tel/Fax 0141 616 3440

North

As I write this report the heavens are opening again, and this is turning out to be the wettest spell of weather since the winter. Although, talking to some greenkeepers from the east coast, it has been a very dry spell and in some cases it's making life awkward, I hope you get some rain soon.

Two new members to report this month, these are Ben Brookes, from Newmachar Golf Club, and Marc Gray, from Strathpeffer Golf Club. Ben has been a member for a while now, so my apologies for omitting you from past reports. Anyway, welcome to the Section, lads.

The outing at Elgin Golf Club went very well and, with a really good turnout of 80 plus playing, combined with pleasant weather and a superb golf course, it turned out to be a really successful day. Alistair Angus and his staff deserve high praise indeed for the condition of the course. It was first class. Thanks also go to the catering and bar staff of Elgin Golf Club who kept us all fed and watered, and also a big thanks to all the patrons who supplied the raffle prizes and supported the event.

The prize winners for the day were as follows:

Scratch 1. and Bowen trophy Mark Ross, Elgin GC, 65; 2. Neil Sadler, Inchmarlo GC. 70. Class 1 and Frews Cup 1. Richard Roy, Garmouth GC, 71-3-68; 2. Robert Paterson, Royal Aberdeen GC, 73-3-70 BIH; 3. Brian Cruickshank, Garmouth GC, 75-5-70. Class 2. Trophy 1. Maxi Grant, Garmouth GC, 76-6-70 BIH; 2. Iain Gunn, Royal Strathpeffer GC, 76-6-70; 3. P. Wood, Newmachar GC, 82-10-72. Maxi Grant is now suspended from the next outing, unless he apologises, for holing that lucky putt on the last green.

Class 3 Trophy 1. A. Leslie, Forres GC, 81-13-68; 2. Brian Hunter, McDonald GC, 89-20-69; 3. M. Wood, Moray GC, 87-17-70.

Veterans and Trophy 1. John Geddes, McDonald GC, 82-13-69; 2. R. Donald, Oldmeldrum GC. Apprentice Trophy 1. E. Cameron, Elgin GC; 2. N. Whyte, Elgin GC. Committee Trophy, John Geddes, McDonald GC. Trade. Pat Allan (just for once) 75-5-70. Guest M. Anderson, Elgin GC, 73-8-65. Longest Drive Class 1 Robert Paterson, Royal Aberdeen GC; Class 2 B. Macdonald, Forres GC;

Class 3 M. Reid, Peterculter GC. Nearest the Pin K. Thomson, Moray GC.

Sweep Winners 1. Mark Ross, Elgin GC; 2. Richard Roy, Garmouth GC; 3. A. Leslie, Forres GC; 4. John Geddes BIH, McDonald GC.

The first section of 200 Club Hundred Club draws also took place and the winners were as follows; Jan. A. Wood, Auchmill GC. £30; Feb. I. Macleod, Tain GC £30; C. Pearson, Craibstone GC. £30; April, J. Whyte

£100.

Congratulations to all the winners and I hope to see you all at the Autumn outing at McDonald GC Ellon in September.

Congratulations are also due to Fortrose Golf Club, who received the Committed to Green Award for there substantial efforts on the the environmental front. They received this award at Gleneagles Golf Club, among several other clubs, from other areas of the country. The green staff, led by Stuart Hogg, and the committee of the club deserve a lot of credit for this.

And also to be congratulated, as I was reminded by Hamish Stephen, Cruden Bay GC, are Michael Clark, Kingussie GC; James Hutchison, Boat-of-Garten GC, and Craig Dawson, Newtonmore GC, for their part in Kingussie winning the Cammanached Cup, shinty's showpiece trophy, for the 20th time. To have three greenkeepers from the North Section playing in the team is tremendous, and well done lads.

Finally, the suggested golf match between the Aberdeen area of our Section and the north area was discussed and several very chirpy Aberdonians were offering challenges, convinced they just have to turn up. The proposed date for this has still to be set, but around the second weekend in October is being touted. We have four or five interested from our area but we need more, so anyone interested by all means phone me on 01997 420155. The course suggested was Strathpeffer GC.

Iain Gunn

Central

I must begin this month's news by making an apology to Jeff Ryce and Mark Roberts, both from West Lothian Golf Club, for omitting to welcome them to the Section in last month's report Sony Lads, but somehow your application forms got mislaid in my filing system, at this time of the years it's that pile of papers lying in the corner waiting to be attended to. Another new member joining us this month is Grant Davidson from Stirling Golf Club. I can hear you all saying "Aye, he didna' forget that one", but seriously a warm welcome to you all from everyone in the Section.

In last month's news I gave you the date of this years Autumn Tournament, have you all got it in your diary? Well hears another date, this year's Grand Football Tournament will be held on Sunday October 13, again at Forthbank Stadium in Stirling. Hopefully the weather will be a bit drier than last year! You've all had plenty of warning so you had better get in training now as some of the teams take this event very seriously. Forms for both events will be with you in the near future so, as before, please return them in plenty of time.

Winners of Club 2000 in April were A. O'Hara with ticket number 183 and S. Connah with number 251, May winners were K. Brunton with ticket number 131 and K. Mitchell

with number 036. Guess what's going to be dropping through your letter-box shortly. Yes! you've guessed it, your allocation of club 2000 tickets for next years draw. It may seem a bit early but it's just to give you time to buy/sell/return or as most of you do "mislay" them.

The draw for this years Inter Club Tournament has been made and circulated, with ten teams competing two league of five have been formed, with the winners of each league meeting in the final, hopefully ALL ties will be played on time in order that the event doesn't over run again.

I've had a suggestion that there should be a Reunion Dinner of the founding committee of the Section, first meeting November 20th 1980 at Stirling Golf Club. The committee elected on that night were: J. Oliver, J. Lees, R. Fleming, J. McAtamny, M. Batchelor, C. Stewart, S. Brown, B. Finlayson. W. Steele, A. Robertson, K. Vertigan, J. Armstrong, E. Small and auditors J. Souter and F. McNeill. I know that Jimmy Lees and Jock Armstrong are now in the big golf course in the sky and that Sandy Brown and Craig Stewart are working abroad but if anyone is interested in attending this event (even if they are no longer members) please get in touch and we will get it organised.

John Crawford.



Northern Region
Douglas Bell
Tel: 0151 431 0433

Northern

Let me start this month's report by welcoming our new members to the Northern Section. They are Frank Stewart, from Leeds Golf Centre; Stuart Earnshaw, from Clayton Golf Club; Ben Grayson, from Huddersfield Golf Club; Daniel Grainger and Robin Cornforth, from Easingwold Golf Club.

Allan Lofthouse called me a few days ago to tell me he was taking early retirement from Fixby Golf Club. No doubt most of you saw the advertisement for his job in last month's magazine. Allan has supported the Section for many years and was also Secretary of the old BGGGA. So from all your friends in the Northern Section may we wish you a long and happy retirement.

A little bird tells me that Telford (Scarcroft Golf Club) and his better half are expecting their first child. Congratulations to you both.

I am also sorry to report that Simon Heppenstall has left greenkeeping and gone into the landscaping industry. As you will all know Simon was Secretary and served on the committee for a number of years. May we wish him every success in his new venture.

I am writing these notes a couple of weeks prior to President's Day so results and report will be in the next around the green.

A couple of dates for your diaries, Thursday, August 15, Stand Golf Club. This is a yearly match against

our friends who were unfortunately born on the wrong side of the Pennines. A team will be picked by the committee based not on golfing ability alone, but on regular attendance at Section golf days over the last year. Invitation day at Bingley St Ives takes place on Tuesday 10th September. Bring a club representative and let them enjoy Joe Baxter's beautiful course, and share in the camaraderie of a section event. This event will be the usual format and cost £15 per person by cheque payable to BIGGA NORTHERN SECTION. Any committee member will accept your cheque.

Any gossip or tittle-tattle you want me to share with the section can be forwarded to me by any of the mediums at the end of the notes.

Enjoy the rest of the summer,
Dave Thackray 16 Westwood Ave. Eccleshill, Bradford, West York's, BD2 2NJ

Tel: 01274 640739
Mobile: 07976876264
E-mail: Dthackray@aol.com
Dave Thackray

North West

The beginning of June and no real signs of summer yet, but at least the finer grasses are beginning to take off. On Wednesday, May 15 we played our spring tournament at Hurlston Hall Golf Club, and we could not have picked a nicer course or better weather for the first of our golf tournaments. The course was in beautiful condition thanks to Tony Smith and his staff considering the fact that this course was only opened in October 1994. The greens and fairways looked as though they had been long established, and the vast amount of trees planted had taken off nicely, probably because they are planted on the finest arable land in the country. The caterers did us proud with ample amounts of sandwiches and soup prior to the afternoon golf and an excellent meal in the evening. I would like to thank Hurlston Hall for allowing us the courtesy of the course, and their warm welcome, the caterers for a lovely meal, and Tony Smith and his staff for presenting a great course. There was one sad note on the otherwise perfect day, and that was the poor attendance. We have in the N/W section almost 600 members including trade members, and although the spring meeting was almost in the middle of the section, we had only 24 greenkeepers, and five trade members present. The golf is arranged to commence at 1.30pm on each occasion, which gives you the chance to go into work early, and conic along in the afternoon and enjoy a good day. If there is a problem other than work please let me know either by phone or letter, and if necessary we will try to make other arrangements.

Now I have that off my chest I will announce the winners;

Best Gross. Steve Johnson; Best Nett. Paul Smith; Vets. Bert Cross Guests Prize Peter Jefford (President NIW Section) Longest Drive Andrew Sommerset Nearest the Pin. Andrew

Somerset.

The prices down to seventh nett were sponsored by Tacit, Bathgate, and the N/W Patrons.

The qualifiers for the Northern Region Final to be played at Whitefield GC, on Friday, August 9 are: 0-9. Steve Johnson and Mike Davie; 10-18. Paul Walker and Paul Smith; 19-28. Mike Hogg and Mark Hillarby.

On Thursday August 15 we have the "Roses Match" at Stand GC and I will require a team of 12 to try to win the Pattersons Cup back to where it belongs. If you are available give me a ring on 0151 724 5412 or Mobile 07761583387. Any news or views especially over golf tournaments give me a ring.

Bert Cross.

North Wales

North Wales lost their match against North West, the final score was 3.5 - 2.5 but an enjoyable day was had by all. Thanks go to Simon, Head Greenkeeper at Pryor's Hayes GC for the preparation of the course and the catering staff for the food. Also thanks once again for their kind sponsorship of the day. Next year the match will be in the North West Section area and then back to North Wales in 2004. We would like to hold this somewhere on the west coast.

Apart from this team event the Section holds just three tournaments over the year, Spring, Autumn and Christmas, these has been talk about holding a further event in the summer which could take place either in June or July and we would like to hear from you if it would be something of interest and also if there is anyone willing to put their course forward for such an event. Please get in touch with any of the committee to register your "yes" or "no" and we will assess the numbers at our next committee meeting.

As Guy Cannings, of Heswall GC, and Richard Littler, of Bromborough GC, take a pat on the back for successfully hosting the 'English Seniors Championships' at their respective courses, it wasn't all plain sailing in the lead up to the event explains Richard.

The Bromborough GC famous for the Cheshire stroke and match play tournaments was, in recent years, becoming unable to deal with the even moderate levels of rainfall, in particular there were five holes that were almost out of play through the winter months and became soft in the summer. At a general meeting in September of 1998 the Greens committee backed by council persuaded the members that money needed to be spent on reconstructing these greens to USGA specification and a representative from the STRI spoke on the matter that this work was to be essential if they wished any winter play.

Work took place in the construction the USGA spec greens, (Phase 1) with the significant feature of putting back original turf. The five greens were completed by May 1999 and back in play.

They liked the results so much that

a decision was then made to do the other 13 greens and the putting green (Phase 2) This was done during September - December 2000 in the worst period of weather in history but these were back in play in May 2001 and in August hosted the Cheshire county matches, Richard and his team had to treat the new greens gently by hand mowing and also purchasing extra fertiliser and feed along with further investment in fairway and bunker drainage. Twelve months on and the course has seen a new lease of life for all year round play anyone wishing to hear and see the results first hand should give Richard a call.

On a lighter note Life begins next month for David Lewis of Conwy (Caernarfonshire GC) he doesn't want anyone to know but he's the big 'four - oh' I said that I wouldn't tell anyone.

The three Day PGA Pro-Am at Nefyn, Measdu & Bull Bay was again a classic event now in it's 20th year so I am told.

Congratulations go to Hugh Roberts, of Vale of Llangollen, and his wife, Janet, on the birth of their baby daughter, Emily Jane. Hugh is former assistant professional at Llan and is now into his 16th month in the realms of greenkeeping. Thanks to Tracy for the info.

Any news, views or information you have, please contact me on:

Home 01925 263394 - Fax 01925 269622 - Mob 07778 162162 e-mail acorn@golf@supanet.com
Mesen Cymru
Andrew Acorn



Midland Region
Peter Larter
Tel: 01476 550115

B,B & O

The summer tournament will be held at Temple Golf Club on Thursday, August 1. Please note there will not be invitations sent out for this event as all the information required will be covered in this article. You are required to bring along the Secretary, Manager or Greens Chairman as your partner for this Invitational event. The format will be Fourball Better ball played over 18 holes. The first tee is booked from 2.15pm so please arrive in good time to assist with the smooth running of the event. As normal pairings will be decided on the day as and when people arrive. The cost of the day is £50 per team this will include an evening meal.

If you wish to play please contact David Winterton on 07778 765021. The closing date for entries will be 26th July.

The Rigby Taylor Knockout is in full swing with several matches already completed to date. Peter & Gordon Critchley disposed of Dean Thatcher & Wayne Nott, home advantage proved decisive in this match. Ross Wilson and Colin Hutt beat Richard Rosser and Brian Payne. Jason Brooks and Lee Bishop ran out

winners against Charles Taylor and Matt Newton. The local derby between Lindsay Anderson and Simon Austin, Badgemore, and Mitch Stewart and Michael Johnston, Henley, proved to be a thriller with Birdies flying all over the place. Despite the fact that Michael played off 18 he still managed to hit our par-5 2nd in two (nett one). Eventually they ran out of steam and we polished them off on the 17th. The Quarterfinal draw looks lively with some big guns going head to head, a full report will be included next month.

I would like to welcome several new members to the Section; Ian Upton, Peter Carter, Robert Siggers & Michael Johnston. I hope to see all of you at the forthcoming events this season.

Finally happy retirement to Raymond Tapper who has completed his life sentence at Studley Wood and has been released for good behaviour. Happy golfing!

Lindsay T Anderson

East of England

The second of our golf days out was held at Blankney Golf Club. It was nice to see Head Greenkeeper, Steve Peters, back at work and at the evening meal after his recent illness.

The course played really well and everybody enjoyed it. Thanks to Steve and the club management for allowing us courtesy of the course.

Graham Greenwood from Amenity technology, the main sponsor, brought along some great prizes as usual. The Amtec Salver was won by G. A. Macdonald, 35 pts; 2. T Jones, 33 pts; 3. (On countback) L. Hunt, 33 pts. The trade prize went to Dave Smith with 38 pts, from Mansfield Sand. Nearest the pin was won by L. Purdy and the Longest Drive for the Purdy's Cup went to Luke Hunt.

The order of merit for the BIGGA Blazer stands after two competitions 1. Ian Batty, 15 pts; 2. J Hewson, 11 pts; 3. G. A. Macdonald and A. Kitchinson, 10 pts; 5. T. Jones, 9 pts.

G A Macdonald



South East
Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260956

Essex

The Essex Golf & Country Club was this year's venue for our Spring Tournament. Martin Forrester and his team did a great job preparing a course in difficult conditions for the well-attended event, which was sponsored by Banks Amenity Products, a big thank you to Simon Banks for that.

The Essex as always proved to be a good test of golf, requiring straight drives to shoot a good score, or as Mark Stopps found, a dodgy handicap. Mark managed to shoot a great score of 42 stableford points, winning him the overall prize, which he picked up without the slightest hint of embarrassment. Well done Mark.

There were two categories, 0 - 15

and 16 - 28.

Category 1. 1. J. Selwood, Abridge GC, 35pts; 2. R. Hare, Crowlands Heath GC, 33pts; 3. A. Kirwin, Colchester GC, 33pts.

Category 2. 1. M. Dillaway, Three Rivers GC, 42pts; 2. M. Guy, Trent Park GC, 35pts; 3. M. Smith, Channels GC, 30pts.

Nearest the pin and Longest Drive were once a gain sponsored by Greenkeeping Supply Company, thanks for that. The winners were; C. Gurton and R. Hare respectively.

Winner of the guest prize was R. Whitlock with 40 pts and A. Turbin, of E. Doe fame, won the trade prize with 37pts.

Well done to all who took away prizes and also to everybody else for supporting our section so well especially, Sherrifs, Rigby Taylor, Tuckwells, Ernest Doe & Son, Tacit, Driving Force Leisure and Gem Professional who donated raffle prizes. We must also not forget Headland Amenity who sponsored the mail out for this event.

A huge thank you must go out to The Essex Golf & Country Club for allowing us to visit their fine establishment and for looking after us so well during our stay.

New members this month are both from Crowlands Heath Golf Club; they are James Winner and Patrick Laws, welcome to our section fellas hope to see you at all the golf days.

Our next event will be the National Qualifier; it is to be held at Frinton GC on June 5. The qualifier is usually very well attended so make sure you get your slips in quickly.

Steve Crosdale

Sussex

So with the winter behind us, and a glorious summer to look forward to we should all start reap the benefits of our hard work carried out over the last few months, and get the dust of those golf clubs.

Saying that, they're certain members among us whom have the ability, keenness, or just need to get out of the house that they even play the game in the bleakest months.

Well for the rest of us fair weather golfers the Sussex Section golf days our upon us. Starting off with Seaford Head.

If you have never played Seaford Head, you are missing out because for a course which is placed on top of the Downs right on the cliffs it is presented in exceptional condition, due to the hard work of Dustin Houghton and his team, it also has to be said that there cannot be many courses around with views which Seaford Head can lay claim to!

The morning 11 holes which were Texas scramble was won by Mike Gould, Steve Vogels, and Brian Wilmot.

The afternoon round results in the 0-16 handicap were Ray Day in first and in 2nd Steve Blake. Both these winners qualified for the National Tournament.

The 17-28 handicaps were 1. Darren Mitchell and 2. Lee Amos.

We also had two nearest the pin and a longest drive, which were

snapped up by Rose Gould, Steve Blake, and the longest drive went to Lee Amos.

A special thanks to John Shaw Machinery for sponsoring the day.

As you can see another great day had by all.

So back to the regular bunch of us who always seem to be there at all events supporting the section. The committee put a lot of effort into organizing these days, which are for the benefit of every member of BIGGA in the Sussex section.

Believe it or not there are 220 members in Sussex, and yet at the AGM, which is held at Hayward's Heath, each year, which all the members are, informed about by post, we are still only seeing about 10% turning up.

I do appreciate that not everyone plays golf, and that not everyone is all that interested in BIGGA, other than a magazine (and then only for the job page), but if we continue with the lack of support we will not be able to function successfully, and it will be the members who will suffer.

As your Chairman I feel that it is every member's responsibility to put at least some in put into their Section whether it be attending a golf day or the AGM, or even a two day seminar, or may be dropping me a line on any interesting event which is happening to you or your club.

If you feel strongly about something concerned with Greenkeeping you can put pen to paper (or e-mail) the Editor or me and there is a fair chance it will be printed in the magazine.

I am sorry to have a moan but it is in all are interest to be more involved in the section it is only with your support that we can keep going.

So if you can make any of the golf days which only cost on average £25 a day, and more importantly are a lot of fun, or are interested in a workshop day please get in touch with me on 07876233253 or e-mail jonboy69@ukoline.co.uk.

Hope to hear from you soon and wishing you all a great season.

Jon Budd

Kent

The wettest May for sometime and now everything is growing like mad. Added to the long bank holiday and every one of us are up against it. Well, that's how I like it anyway. Because of the long hours you are all putting in, I assume that you have been too busy to drop me a line with any news from your clubs or indeed anything that might help fill a few more lines. It is nice to hear that so many of you look forward to reading this column every month, straight after you scan the job pages that is.

News and results from the spring meeting at Kings Hill will be in next months issue.

At last I received my certificate for passing my D32/33 which I took back

in November. So now I can sign off my staffs work - if it is good enough that is. If anyone else has passed exams or has achieved anything of note give me a call and I will give you or your colleagues a mention.

Once again I am left with nothing much to say, which is quite unusual for me, so get e-mailing and calling with your news and views of anything you want to get off your chest to JRBATKHGOLF@AOL.COM or 01732 875020.

Jason Bean

Surrey

Monday, June 27 was the date and Foxhills Golf Club the venue. Surrey Section's Spring meeting had arrived and 69 hopeful members were attempting to qualify for the National Tournament. The weather conditions were kind it was a dry, warm day with sunny spells and the course was presented in truly excellent condition by David Wybourn and David Langheim. The greens were very fast and very true and the consensus of opinion amongst the players was that the course was an absolute credit to all the greenkeeping team at Foxhills.

The result: - 1st (best net score) Adrian Locke, 70 - Qualifier National; 2. Mack McLaren, 71; 3. Gareth Roberts - Qualifier National Best gross score 72. Nearest Pin: Harry Wright. Longest Drive: Dave Murdoch.

The congratulation paragraph this month belongs to Simon and Yvett Osbourne who on May 8 this year became the proud parents of Luke Allen, a bouncing baby boy who weighed in at 10lbs, 7oz. Simon is the Course Manager at Wildwood Golf Club and is at this very moment still trying to convince his staff that, as he is awake at 3 am, maybe they should all make an early start together. The replies, I understand, are not encouraging.

Brian Willmott.



South West
and South Wales
Paula Humphries
Tel: 01288 352194

Devon & Cornwall

The Section's first match play competition sponsored by Vitax has reached the last sixteen, after over forty members entered the club qualifying round. The section would like to thank Adrian Masters and Vitax for their support. We are delighted to announce that Phoenix Irrigation will be sponsoring the fixture cards for the second year, hopefully the new fixture cards will be with you during late August. Dates and venues will be announced next month.

Richard Whyman

South Coast

After a dry start to the year, the inevitable rain has come in the last month. Coupled with the warm weather many greenkeepers are struggling to keep on top of the growth spurt. We have certainly had some stormy weather, which seems to be the pattern at the moment; still it makes life as a greenkeeper interesting (I think).

On the Section front it has been a quiet month. The committee are busy preparing next year's section seminar. We will be using a different venue next year and if you wish to hear a particular speaker then please contact one of the committee members as we are now about to approach possible speakers. This month sees the retirement of one of our sections great supporters. Ted West is to retire from Broadstone Golf Club after 40 years of service. I will report on his retirement in full next month but as a Section we wish him a long and happy retirement. Our next section golf day is on Thursday, August 8, at Brockenhurst Manor Golf Club. The day, which is sponsored by Huxley's and Rigby Taylor, is an invitation meeting. Ideally your guest will be a member of your golf club. The cost for the day is £18 per person and please forward all monies to Tournament Organiser Chris Sturgess. Entries are limited so I would suggest you contact him quickly. I am sure Ed McCabe and his team will have the course in its usual superb condition and it will a great day out for us. If anyone has news that they wish to have published in next month's section then please contact me

Until next month,
Alex McCombie

South West

Summer's really here now, after a very slow start everybody has lots and lots of grass! On May 15 we held our Greenkeeper amateur tournament at Yeovil GC. Our thanks go to the club and to Neil Turner, the Course Manager, and his staff. The course was universally praised for it's tremendous condition and presentation.

Thanks also to David Smart of BioSeed who provided such good prizes for the members & their guests. The winners were K Oleremohows & B Davenport with 42 pts, 2. J. Bachelor & M. Chapman 39pts; 3. J. Jarvis & M. Jarvis 39 points, lost on the back nine. 4. W. Dunster & L Townsend with 37 points, longest drive was won by C. Tozer, M Hawker won the scratch for nearest the pin, I understand Matt is saving the scotch for a special occasion! Our next event is at Bath on July 3 you may have just got your magazine in time, please come along. Finally you will all be interested to

know that Kevin Green, a past Section Secretary and long time member and supporter of BIGGA has become a landlord. Kevin is now the publican at the Carpenters Arms in Wick near Bristol. I think we all wish him, all the best in his career pulling pints.

R Greaves



Northern Ireland

Our first golf event of the year took place at Downpatrick GC on May 3rd. Fortunately we were blessed with super weather throughout the afternoon it was very easy to be distracted with the views across the County Down countryside. Course manager Emmet Curran and his staff had the course in outstanding condition with the greens running fast and true.

Congratulations go to new member George Fitzpatrick from Grosscar GC who took first prize with 39 points.

The results were as follows -
1. G. Fitzpatrick, Grosscar GC, 39 pts; 2. N. Crawford, Royal Co. Down GC, 36 pts; 3. M. King, Royal Co. Down GC, 34 pts; 4. P. Lappin, Kirkstown GC, 33 pts; 5. B. Boyle, Royal Co. Down GC, 31 points.

Our thanks to Downpatrick GC for allowing us courtesy of the course, I would like to remind members our next competition will be held at Carnalea GC on July 5 at 3pm. So why not come along and enjoy the craik.

The completed list of speakers has now been confirmed for the Section conference at Masserene GC on November 6. Our thanks go to Emmet Curran for all his hard work as Chairman of the organising committee.

List of Speakers: - Howard Swan, Topic, Being a golf course Architect, Renovation and Restoration, Case study in N.J. Dr Paul Miller - Topic, Sand, is Just Sand.Right? Martyn Jones - Topic, Striking a Balance for Healthy Turf. Dr Kate Entwistle - Topic, Current Disease & Pest Problems. David Ryan - Topic, Communication. Douglas Shearer - Topic, Health & Safety on the Golf Course. Gerald Byrne - Topic, The Construction of the South Course at the K Club.

Details regarding ticket prices and booking will be sent out to members and golf clubs in the coming weeks, well that's about all my news for this month, I hope to see our golfing members again at Carnalea on July 5.

Ken Henderson

TIME TO TALK
www.bigga.org.uk

Visit www.bigga.org.uk and check out the latest chat from the greenkeeping industry

FOR GREENKEEPERS BY GREENKEEPERS CHAT GREENKEEPERS



A PUBLIC disgrace

In a special US Open report, Sandy McDivot reveals a cunning plan to make the Championship more exciting

I write this while watching Mr Wood's engaged in his usual demolition of both course and fellow competitor at the US Open and I am being regaled with a steady stream of dialogue about how the venue is a public course – the Bethpage State Park Black Course.

Yes, hard to believe, but the US Open is being played on a "muni". Now as you know I am not one for cynical expression, but if that's a municipal then Tiger Woods is my illegitimate son. For starters they say it is subjected to 35,000 rounds of

fee, will be subjected to a huge hike. Then there is the huge problem that faces the game in that young Tiger is turning golf into a dull and predictable exhibition. So how can both problems be overcome?

Well, seeing as you ask, I would now like to reveal to you all, how I would promote golf as a game for the masses, while at the same time insure against future domination by the young genius.

Firstly I would select a true municipal course, one that is subjected to the annual onslaught of at least 70,000 rounds of golf, and only by qualified hackers, all of whom would be carefully vetted for complete golfing incompetence and ignorance of all matters pertaining to golfing etiquette.

Now I would like to examine the question of Tiger's prodigious length off the tee. How can we negate that as an advantage? Well, in the past they appear to have come up with the brilliant stratagem of extending the length of the courses in the hope that it will result in even Tiger being unable to reach holes in a couple of smacks. Well far be it from me to point out the bleeding obvious, but is that not being plain stupid?

What we must do is select a course that is no more than 6,000 yards from the back tees. And, as the back tees on a municipal are for ornamental purposes only, it would mean a course of no more than 5,500 yards, which should take away all his length advantage.

Secondly, how can we combat his physical advantage? Well I have thought long and hard about this one and I think I have come up with the answer.

Remember that this tournament, will be played strictly to true municipal tradition, so Tiger must turn up at the club on the Saturday and Sunday morning at about 4am, ready

to put his ball in the chute in anticipation of the twilight kick off.

So what about Tiger's famous preparations? Well, we must insist that only genuine council range balls are used. These have a random built in bias that will turn a hook into a slice and a slice into a hook, thereby insuring total confusion.

The Head Greenkeeper will have a critical role to play. It is essential that Tiger's ability to impart backspin is removed so all the fairways should remain uncut for at least a month before the big event.

The Head Man must also take full responsibility for creating as much of a luck factor as is realistically feasible. He can do this by insuring that the fairways are composed of at least 50% unreplaced divots, that the bunkers are officially classified as a disgrace and that the greens are riddled with pitchmarks. They must never exceed 3 on the stimpmeter and the holes will be changed two months prior to the big event and not again until the day after it finishes.

Now let us study how we may remove Tiger's exceptional powers of concentration. I think we should partner Tiger with Old Sid, who has played off a 24 handicap for the last 30 years, but has not actually played to it since 1975. He has never ever lost a golf ball, not because he is exceptionally accurate, far from it, it is just that he carries on looking for all lost balls until they are found, regardless of the time factor and he will expect Tiger to help him.

Bring all that into force and I reckon Tiger would be reduced to second favourite behind John Daly, who would be quite at home at such a place. And if after all that, he still manages to win, they should not only give him the trophy to keep.

Sandy McDivot, Head Greenkeeper, Sludgecombe Pay & Play

You can just imagine the success rate of a Head Greenkeeper going to the local council and asking for three million so as he can tart things up a bit for a big tournament. Seeing as a request for a new rake normally brings a requisite filling in of a 20 page form in triplicate, I think his chances are somewhat limited

golf annually, which on a true public golf course would be officially defined as empty. Then we are told that they have spent three million on getting the thing up to standard. You can just imagine the success rate of a Head Greenkeeper going to the local council and asking for three million so as he can tart things up a bit for a big tournament. Well seeing as a request for a new rake normally brings with it the requisite filling in of a 20 page form in triplicate, then I think his chances are somewhat limited.

But the more I think of it the more I believe the USGA has missed a golden opportunity. Presumably their rationale for visiting a public course, was to make the statement that the game of golf is open to all. But this was not your normal "muni" as at the end of this year's US Open, the green

BUYERS' GUIDE BUYERS' GUIDE
Buyers' Guide
 BUYERS' GUIDE BUYERS' GUIDE

The most cost effective way of reaching over 9,000 readers of Greenkeeper International every month.

Just call Jennifer Whichello or Cheryl Broomhead on 01347 833800 and ask about an alphabetical category listing. The cost starts from as little as £29.50 per month

WIN

A FULL SIZE GOLF CLUB 'TOUR BAG'

WORTH OVER £100

This is your chance to win a fantastic Golf Club 'Tour Bag' in our exciting new Buyers' Guide competition in association with GreenLink International & Green-Release



Entry could not be simpler! Listed below are a series of clues relating to ONE company featured in the ever popular Buyers' Guide. Take care to look through all the products and services shown and write down the name of the company which you think the following clues refer to:

WHO ARE WE?

1. We offer a comprehensive range of our products for pathways, winter tees and putting
2. Our 'phone and fax numbers both end in 66
3. Part of our name is Spanish for green

Write down your answer on a postcard and send your entries to:

Turftime Teaser, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Aine, York YO61 1UF. Entries to reach us no later than Wednesday 24th July 2002. The first correct entry drawn will receive a fantastic Golf Club 'Tour Bag'.

This competition is not open to BIGGA Staff or non-members. The solution to the June Turftime Teaser was Track Work Ltd. This was correctly answered by: Colin Denny of Prestbury Golf Club, Cheshire.

Our congratulations, a superb 'soft feel' Designer golf umbrella and a data bank calculator are on their way to you!

In addition to Colin, the other nine lucky entrants, listed below each receive a fantastic data bank calculator:

JD Fullagar, Craig Pennyquick, L.J.L. Hebden, Jeremy Smith, Mr G Evans, Chris Tozer, Mr G Whalley, Ian Baudains and Tony Moore. Well Done!

Aeration

HYDROJECT AERATION AND CHEMICAL INJECTION SERVICE
 (WITH NO SURFACE DISTURBANCE)
KEITH DRIVER
 (SPORTSTURF CONTRACTOR)
 Tel: 01273 564015 Mobile: 07958 532008
 8 Morecambe Rd, Brighton, Sussex BN1 8TL

Agronomy

B Jamieson Golf Advisors Ltd

Bruce Jamieson Golf Advisors Ltd, is an established company offering expert advice on:

- Golf Course maintenance
- Tournament preparation & presentation
- Machinery selection
- Budgeting
- Staff recruitment
- Soil & turf analysis
- Establishment of new golf courses

Contact: Bruce Jamieson
 Browtop, 17 Haywarden Place, Hartley Wintney, Hants, RG27 8UA Telephone: 01252 844847 www.bigolf.co.uk

RHODES CONSULTING
SPORTS SURFACE MANAGEMENT
 REPUTATION IS EVERYTHING
 Please contact David Rhodes for Professional Agronomic advice and Construction management
 T 01483 236734
 M 07711 846722
 drhodes@smanagement.freesevice.co.uk

TURFVIGOR

Increase root mass, Enhance turf colour, Improve plant density, Reduce disease

Amenity Spraying

If your weeds look bad, and it don't look good, who you gonna call...



WEEDBUSTERS UK LTD
 SPECIALIST WEED CONTROL CONTRACTORS
 TEL/FAX: 01752 336060
 MOBILE: 07970 894616
 WWW.WEEDBUSTERS.CO.UK

ADVICE • APPLICATION

www.weedfree.co.uk
 T: 07000 481011
 F: 07000 481022
 E: spraying@weedfree.co.uk

SUPPLY • TRAINING

Artificial Grass

VERDE SPORTS LIMITED
 Tel: 01254 831666 Fax: 01254 831066

- VERDE TEE FRAME
Steel platform, woven grass top
- VERDE WINTER TEE
Generous size, self-install kit
- VERDE DRIVING MATS
Top Quality - Long Life - Best Prices
- ARTIFICIAL GRASSES
Comprehensive range for pathways, winter tees and putting
- DRIVING BAYS & NETS
For club and home use

Gabbotts Farm Barn, Bury Lane, Withnell, Chorley, Lancashire PR6 8SW
 www.verdesports.com email: niki@verdesports.com
 Please call for samples & information

Bio-Technology

Our 20th year supplying biotech solutions

Thinking about a biological programme?



First ask a biologist

Thatch Reduction
 Disease Prevention
 Fine Grass Growth

Tel: 01372 456101

www.symbio.co.uk

Bunker Rakes

MEMBERS BUNKER RAKES FROM ONLY £2.54 EACH

Strong construction complete with replaceable threaded handle

12 for £2.99 each
 50 for £2.69 each
 100 for £2.54 each

HEAD GREENKEEPER/CHAIRMAN OF GREEN?
 Send for a FREE SAMPLE

Prices are for complete rakes, delivered free. Rake support pegs - 70p each.

Made in the UK by MW Dyason Ltd,

6/10 Hitchmead Road,

Biggleswade, SG18 0NH

Tel: 01767 317011

Fax: 01767 317186

BUNKER RAKES

from £2.50 each

MEMBERS STRONG TRADITIONAL SHAPE

15" WIDE BLACK PLASTIC HEAD
 COMPLETE WITH 48" WOODEN SHAFT
 1 to 39 - £2.95 EACH 40 PLUS - £2.50 EACH

SUPER BUNKER RAKES from £3.70
 DELUXE BUNKER RAKES from £6.90
 Greenkeepers - FREE SAMPLE

FAIRWAY PRODUCTS

Unit 8, Peel Industrial Estate, Bury, Lancs. BL9 0LU
 Tel/Fax: 0161 763 7060

Construction



Construction of new golf developments and upgrading of existing courses
 UK OFFICE: DAVENTRY, NORTHANTS
 Tel: 01327 879464

IRISH OFFICE

Tel: 064 39965

Email: enquiries@contour-golf.com



- Construction ● Remodelling
- Reservoir Works

Tel: 01604 468908

Fax: 01604 474853

www.deltagolf2000.co.uk

180 Ruskin Road, Kingsthorpe, Northampton NN2 7TA

THATCH-LESS

Reduce your thatch layer in just 30 days. Treat all 18 greens for just £600!

J & E ELY

GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTION

Reading, Berks

Tel/Fax: 0118 9722257

E-mail: ely@btinternet.com



40th Anniversary
 1961 - 2001



www.elygolfconstruction.com

John Greasley Specialists in Golf Course Construction

JOHN GREASLEY LIMITED

"Ashfield House" • 1154 Melton Road
 Syston • Leicester • LE7 2HB



Tel: 0116 269 6766
 Mobile: 0836 553899
 Fax: 0116 269 6866

'THE TURFTIME TEASER'

WIN A FANTASTIC GOLF CLUB 'TOUR BAG'

Drainage

COOPER DRAINAGE

Land Drainage to guaranteed standards
 Modern Equipment • Experienced staff
 Established 30 years

For a prompt, reliable service contact Rob Cooper on 01572 717624 or fax 01572 718783

Cooper Drainage, Wilson's Arms Farm, Stockerston Road, Allexton, Oakham, Leicestershire LE15 9AD

COTTON & DOWNES CONTRACTORS

Sportsturf Trenching Machines
 Gravel Banding
 Full Drainage System Design

01986 798888

www.cottonanddownes.co.uk

Duncan Ross Ltd

SPORTSTURF DRAINAGE SPECIALISTS
 Design, installation and maintenance service

- ★ Latest Sportsturf trenching machinery
- ★ Sand Slitting ★ Verti Draining ★ Overseeding
- ★ Gravel Banding ★ Top dressing

Tel: 01257 255321 Fax: 01257 255327

Appley Bridge, Wigan, WN6 9DT Lancashire

MJ ABBOTT LIMITED

QUALITY LAND DRAINAGE SYSTEMS

- DESIGN & INSTALLATION
- PRIMARY SYSTEMS
- SAND SLITTING
- GRAVEL BANDING

Dinton • Salisbury • Wiltshire SP3 5EB
 Tel: 01722 716361 • Fax: 01722 716828
 www.mjabbott.co.uk