

# HEADS

## 2

2. Conversely what do you consider to be poor golf course trees and why?

2. Hawthorn, in particular, as you can get badly scratched and it hasn't got a good appearance in any case. Leylandii is an unnatural tree on a golf course and has no aesthetic appeal.

2. Leylandii, poplar, sycamore, which don't support any life, willow and anything which looks out of place.

2. Leylandii and any tree which bears fruit or has large leaves which need a lot of manpower to remove them.

2. Following the above rule I would be dismayed to see the likes of Leylandii, cypress, lombardy, poplar being planted on any golf course.

2. Anything ornamental such as leylandii, cherry, Japanese pine and which look as though they should be in someone's garden rather than on a golf course.

2. While I don't think any tree is a bad tree, broad leafed trees are no good for our course and any tree not native to the area such as leylandii would look out of place.

## 3

3. What is your management policy with regard to trees?

3. We have our own woodland management five year plan which is ongoing with three acres of planted woodland. There is some housing development round the course so we sometimes move trees to provide a shelter or barrier.

3. We began a woodland management scheme 18 months ago, felling trees in a big square in the middle of woodland, replanting and thus creating new woodland in the middle of an old one.

3. We have to make sure they fit into the landscape and are easy to maintain. We have a problem with herds of fallow deer so we have mesh guards round the base of the trees and put total weedkiller round the base as well.

3. A management policy would work towards having healthy trees varying in age and species. This could entail a programme of thinning and dead wooding.

3. Annual clearance and pruning where necessary. We have only had a course here for 12 years so there is not too many really well established trees.

3. We have an annual tree budget for replacements and we have planted a lot in recent years in a bid to establish some after the initial disappointment outlined earlier.

## 4

4. What do you know of the grant aid which is or was available for tree planting?

4. I am aware of several schemes which are excellent. However, we prefer to fund a plan ourselves as we then have more control and can be more flexible, rather than working under certain conditions.

4. I arranged a grant and we were the first in the Lancashire area to be awarded one I believe. The scheme has gone well since then on our course.

4. Personally, not a great deal. We employed a company to do all our planting and we let them deal with all the details.

4. This is a strange question to ask me as anyone who knows me would know. I have much more experience in obtaining felling licences to clear unwanted trees. That said I am aware of grants for tree planting.

4. The Heritage Trust provided 4,000 trees at no expense to use and these were planted by volunteer labour. We have also had a package from the Tree Foundation at no cost, putting a plaque up to mark the generous gesture. So we have had no need for grant aid as you can imagine.

4. We had a grant from the Forestry Commission 11 years ago and since then they have come back to inspect. We lost a lot of them and so the decision was taken after talks with the FC to plant Corsican pines, Monterey pines, sitka spruce and lodge pole pines.

## 5

5. What methods do you employ for leaf removal?

5. We use an Amazone Groundkeeper and blow as many leaves as possible back into the woodland. Greens are cleared of leaves on a daily basis and the rest of the course on a weekly basis. We also make good use of a Sisis Litamisa.

5. We are in a very windy area on an estuary near the River Lune, so most leaves blow away naturally. We also have an Amazone Groundkeeper which sucks the leaves up into a hopper.

5. A Tornado Leaf Blower for the fairways which we use on the back of a tractor. We have a steel knapsack leaf blower to push leaves to the edge of greens were they are raked up by hand or collected with an Amazone machine.

5. We use all methods, from mulching, hand removal, backpack blowers and various tractor mounted blowing and collection equipment.

5. Trees are not big enough to give any problems with leaves. Those that do fall are taken care of by Mother Nature as we are on a windy site.

5. We have no problem whatsoever with leaf removal as the very strong winds of Mother Nature take care of them. We have a Litamisa should any problems arise.



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

## Storage made eezzy



A versatile, polyethylene container store, designed to provide safe, secure storage for small quantities of pesticides, chemicals, oils and other hazardous liquids, has been introduced by Empteezy Limited, the UK's leading manufacturer of drum storage, spill control and waste handling products. The lockable PAS1 container store is made from tough, durable polyethylene and can be used in any type of agricultural or horticultural environment. In the event of a leak or spill, the cabinet's 30ltr sump reduces the risk of workplace and environmental contamination while the easy to remove shelves ensure a flexible range of storage options.

Empteezy's range of polyethylene and steel drum storage and spill control products are designed to help companies comply with the Oil Storage Regulations, meet Health and Safety and Environmental regulations and audit standards such as ISO14001.

**For further information**  
 Tel: 01506 430309

## Rapturous Racocon launched by Claymore

The Stella Racocon is a 20hp ride-on flail mower launched for the 2002 season by Claymore Grass Machinery.

Having undertaken a programme of demonstrations to users and dealers throughout the winter with impressive results in terms of both interest and orders, the Racocons are now being supplied in time for the main grass cutting season.

Contractors in particular are impressed by the high work rate and performance of the Racocon especially on banks.

Now add to this the features of big agricultural tread tyres, 48 unbreakable swinging Y blades giving a wide 38in (95cm) width of cut with rear discharge, the power of a 20hp Briggs & Stratton Vanguard OHV engine and high manoeuvrability. Height of cut is adjustable by central adjustment from 30-80mm.

All in all a tough no nonsense mower for the professional user at a RRP £7,995 plus VAT.

**For further information**  
 Tel: 01865 820731



## Multi-Brush mops up dew

GreenTek have launched a new 18 feet wide tractor mounted brush called the Multi-Brush which is made up of three separate 6' sections, allowing it to float over contours and undulations. Hydraulic rams are used to fold it out to its full width for large areas such as golf fairways. When folded in to its 6' width, it has five rows of straight and zig-zag brush sections in line for brushing-in topdressings on greens and tees. Golf Clubs are already finding the benefit of using the Multi-Brush for dispersing dew before they mow their fairways to avoid leaving clumps of grass behind.



**For further information**  
 Tel: 0113 267 6000

## Earthquake offers an affordable answer to compaction

With the addition of the RotoKnife slit aerator to its product range, EarthQuake Turfcare Ltd now offers a complete system capable of dealing with turf compaction, soil aeration requirements and drainage problems from the surface down to a depth of 380mm.

Offering a fast and cost-effective solution to rootzone management, the standard 1.52m EarthQuake RotoKnife has six 4mm thick discs mounted 305mm apart. The discs can be set to slit the turf to a depth of approximately 175mm, adjustable in 25mm increments. A consistent working depth is maintained by a pair of 250mm diameter rollers which also smooth the turf, leaving the surface level and ready for play.

Used on its own, the RotoKnife is

a high-speed slit aerator which encourages the movement of air, water and nutrients to prevent and eliminate thatch, soil pans, hard spots, waterlogging and poor grass growth. Designed to be mounted on or trailed behind a 35hp to 40hp tractor or suitable turf utility vehicle equipped with hydraulic drawbar, the RotoKnife is available with a choice of three interchangeable roll and disc combinations.

Offered with an optional full-width rear brush, the RotoKnife can be equipped also with additional weights to aid surface penetration in tough conditions. Price of the machine with standard discs and flat rolls is £4,700.

**For further information**  
 Tel: 01952 641949





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Simply send an email to:

**updates@bigga.co.uk**

quoting your name and Membership number, and we'll do the rest - it's that easy!

## Komatsu launch world's lightest brushcutter



2001 saw the introduction by Komatsu Zenoah of several new and innovative hand held power equipment products. The new Strato Charged 26cc engine now fitted to many of their products provides benefits of 30% fuel saving and 30% less pollution. This new engine has CARB approval and was a major breakthrough in small engine technology.

Now Komatsu Zenoah introduce the lightest brushcutter in the world the BC2000. Weighing just 3.7kg this 21.7cc ergonomically designed well balanced unit has the e-START easy starting system featuring decompression port, timing-advance Magneto and recoil handle fitted with spring. This system combined with the exceptional lightness makes the brushcutter a great attraction for women or the older user. Introduced as the entry level unit for their range of brushcutters Alien foresee a great demand for this new brushcutter in 2002. RRP £272.30

**For further information  
Tel: 01865 820731**

## Chip off the block for Vermeer



Powered by a 122 HP Caterpillar engine, the new Vermeer BC1400 comes standard with the patent-pending SmartFeed system. Similar to the Vermeer patented Autofeed U control system, the distinct difference with SmartFeed system is the predictability capabilities.

Predictability is the act by which the controller actually monitors how quickly the engine loses RPM rather than reacting based on a predetermined setting. The SmartFeed computer controller automatically stops or reverses the feed rollers if the

engine loses RPM. An all-new feed roller control bar and integrated bottom feed stop bar are also standard on the BC1400. The feed roller control bar features two "stop" positions, and forward and reverse, to aid the operator in actively controlling the feed rollers. Also standard on the BC1400 is a manually operated hand crank for 270° rotation of the chip chute. An optional electric motor-driven rotating chute is also available on the BC1400.

**For further information  
Tel: 01933 274400**

## Flymo chooses Inturf for advert

Flymo makes a return to TV this spring with an innovative new advert thanks to help from Inturf.

Inturf, based in York, was asked by the producers of Flymo's new TV advert to provide 90 square metres of grass to feature in the campaign that launches Flymo's new Turbo Compact Vision mower. To meet the unusual brief, Inturf chose its innovative Integrated Turf Module system - the most durable natural grass and sports turf product available - to highlight the bright orange mower.

Inturf is experienced in providing turf for use in high profile areas, with a portfolio of clients that includes Newcastle United, Bolton Wanderers, Middlesbrough football clubs and the Cardiff Millennium stadium, which uses the ITM system. The commercial, shot indoors in Manchester in February, promotes Flymo's revolutionary new Turbo Compact Vision, which squashes grass clippings down into a "built in" central grassbox, and allows the user to see inside the mower to know exactly when to empty it.



**For more information on Flymo  
Tel: 01325 300303**

**For more information on Inturf  
Tel: 01759 321000**

## Biostimulant gets activated by RT



RT has launched Activate F, for use on amenity turf, is a microbial biostimulant that boosts microbial populations. It contains simple plant sugars providing carbohydrates, enzymatically extracted plant growth hormones and betaines, as well as a soil penetrant to ensure the ingredients are moved into the rootzone. The product helps improve rooting, seed germination and establishment and the general health of the turf plant. Available in a 5 litre pack, coverage 5,000 square metres. Activate R improves plant health, containing plant growth regulating hormones, chelated trace elements and a soil penetrant, as well as humic acid sourced from Leonardite (potassium humate) which assists in nutrient retention. Available in a 5 litre pack, coverage 5,000 square metres.

**For further information  
Tel: Freephone 0800 424919**

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

## Tonick's new product gets set to make (radio) waves

The new Vi-Aqua water treatment system from Tonick Watering continuously injects medium frequency radio power directly into irrigation water flow. This modifies the molecular structure of the water by imparting electronegative charge enhancement which greatly benefits the growth characteristics of turfgrass. The Vi-Aqua system consists of a wall-mounting control box and an antenna which is submerged in the water inlet flow or sump. The system does not require chemicals, is quick and simple to install, cheap to run and operates without supervision. It is totally safe for plants and man and has full CE compliance. The treatment process is entirely natural and therefore environmentally safe. The electromagnetic field is harmless and the treatment does not cause chemical reactions or DNA modification. Basically, the process reduces the surface tension of hard and soft water which increases the solubility of nutrients and enhances their uptake. Fertilisers and Nitrogen are absorbed more effectively so the amounts needed are reduced. The applied water percolates more quickly through the soil which reduces water run-off. Root depth is stimulated and silica absorption is increased; Silica is converted to Silicene at the plant surface, the natural defence mechanism of plants against insects and disease. Additionally, the treatment produces Hydrogen Peroxide which strengthens roots and also stimulates root growth, thus helping to eliminate thatch and black layer.

**For further information  
Tel: 01269 832325**



**Jim Arthur hands out some advice to those who feel living with poa is the only answer**

# CONTROLLING POA

I can hear at once a chorus of "Oh! No it can't"... "Oh! Yes it can"... "Who says so?" The answer to the last question is easy - literally hundreds of experienced Course Managers of all ages and with a wide range of courses to prove it, varying from the best of our links courses to large and small members' clubs, ranging from around a century old to a few years. They are backed by a small band of truly qualified and widely experienced agronomists who have seen the results of years of treating courses by time honoured and proven austere methods of greenkeeping. It will be noted that I limited my approbation to a few because far too many of our so called advisers are really thinly disguised salesmen or merely tell their clients what they think the client wants to hear.

In 55 years of golf course advisory work I have seen it all before and the remarkable thing is that despite all the commercial hype against our traditional standards and the ceaseless media support for the nice and green feed-and-water school, so many of our good courses still show excellent fine firm turf derived from our native bents and fescues.

Few of even our very best Course Managers would claim to have absolutely Poa-free greens but they control it, hit any invasion hard and avoid encouraging it so that even in flush growth periods their greens never suffer from the disfigurement of seeding Poa and in winter they play to full greens when Poa dominated turf is virtually unplayable or disease ridden. Who has not seen good

bent/fescue greens invaded by soup plate sized patches of pure Poa contrasting so horribly with the residue of the fine turf.

Recently reported surveys imply that greenkeepers must learn to live with Poa: that it is impossible to control; and that without it we would have nothing but bare ground. This is totally untrue. Nature in any case abhors a vacuum and if you kill off the Poa by management not herbicides, by encouraging finer grasses, then they will fill in behind the penalised Poa. Admittedly in severe cases which are always the results of misguided management, though perhaps several decades earlier, there can be a very uncomfortable time unless you are lucky with the weather and skilled in fine tuning when the sickly Poa is going faster than the *Agrostis* is coming in. A term for this was coined 30 odd years ago - *Arthiritis*, but once over, one never looks back. It does demand conviction and support from all levels (management and members alike) as well as a thick skin and deaf ears.

The first thing is to look dispassionately at the main causes of Poa annua invasion and dominance. It is beyond debate that the first and foremost cause of Poa invasion is the application of even very low levels of phosphatic fertilisers. Many fertiliser manufacturers admit this and sell nil phosphate mixes (of which more anon) but they do not understand that above very low levels potassic fertilisers are just as encouraging, as a moments contemplation of the graph showing the effect of rising lev-

els of P & K on turf composition (1981 research).

Yet articles are published all the time by fertiliser firms advocating really high levels of potash e.g 15-0-12 applied as frequently as every two to three weeks and then they wonder why Poa takes over.

This link between P & K and Poa has been researched and proven for over 90 years, on both sides of the Atlantic but has been studiously ignored by fertiliser salesmen and their bosses. It was before the First World War that Dr Murray working in South Africa postulated that (in his own words)... "his research proved that a system of management designed to provide an adequate supply of nitrogen in an acid medium, with a very limited amount of phosphate and potash - the only source of the latter being such as is contained in the usual compost (top-dressing) will best produce fine turf."

This research was repeated with the same results time and time again, both in the States and in the United Kingdom. In the 1920's, the Acid Theory was based on this research and was highly successful initially in converting lush wormy alkaline seedy turf into fine *Agrostis* (bent) swards. However, without adequate irrigation (or none at all), a series of droughts in the mid thirties coupled with the reduced drought resistance of the acid turf caused problems.

Some pundits, including the then Director of the Board of Greenkeeping research, R. B. Dawson, stupidly went back to NPK - perhaps unsurprising in view of his





background, at the Rothamsted Agricultural Research Station, while others modified the system and increased aeration, with excellent results.

I served under Dawson for six years, when I joined Bingley in 1940. I was extremely fortunate to have been trained by Richard Libbey, the senior adviser and a botanist of international repute. He taught me to take a botanical not a chemical approach to fine turf management. He pointed out that the basic principle on which all fine turf management depended was that if one created or copied those conditions in which the fine grasses grew naturally, they would dominate all other species, as they did in nature.

He emphasised that fine turf grew best on the poorest soils — land too infertile to farm, which is why it was still fine turf and not ploughed for cropping.

His advice which I have followed for 55 years and taught to literally thousands of greenkeepers and not just beginners either was to apply nitrogen only sparingly, using a balanced mix of organic and inorganic, (ammonia, blood hoof and horn and iron in equal-parts) in late spring, repeated once or if twice, at reduced rates, with nothing after the end of July. This mix has been available from Supaturf as SS/D for nearly 40 years and is still their best selling brand though not the biggest tonnage. Cheaper copies using urea based nitrogen are not as long lasting. Always ask for a written declaration of the sources of nitrogen from the supplier - the empirical percentage is not enough.

A short word about the critics of sulphate of iron - which has been the greenkeepers friend for a century! It imparts colour without encouraging lush grass. It is an effective fungicide, a good moss filler, hardens the turf and acidifies the soil to discourage worms and weeds. Yet some - chemists to a man - condemn its use, and you can be sure that to a man they are Poa annua fans!

An interesting point arises regarding statutory declarations of analyses. If a firm declares nil phosphate and in fact the mix contains say 3% - because this allows them to use cheaper phosphate-contaminated ingredients, it cannot be prosecuted as the law defines only that the

declared levels are supplied but does not complain if the levels are exceeded. Only where we can persuade Inspectors that phosphates in these circumstances are harmful could action be taken. I suggest informing suppliers that their mix will be analysed independently to see if it really is phosphate free!

Fertiliser manufacturers on the whole seem to accept that greenkeeping really wants nil phosphate mixes, but have no understanding that potash over very low levels is just as harmful. Advice to apply potash at high levels every four to six weeks is definitely wrong unless you really want Poa annua green. So also is advice to apply potash in the autumn - it goes straight to the drains.

with phosphates we can find excellent greens whose root zones show as low as 3 ppm - and need no phosphate additions. Do not believe that P & K will induce disease resistance! I know very many courses where neither have been applied for years and which never suffer from disease because their traditional austere management does not encourage "Fus".

I would bet a pound to a brass farthing that all greenkeepers who say that Poa annua is inevitable so lie back and enjoy it have two things in common. First they are not supported by their management or have made no effort to inform their members - or lack the conviction and strength to go against the current.

speeded up then roll them - a tip as old as greenkeeping! If you deep aerate afterwards there are no ill effects. Do not chase colour and rely on frequent grooming to pick up seed heads

A word on over-seeding! A case can be made with dominantly bent-fescue greens to thicken up fine turf by over-seeding in early autumn, though establishment is at best 10%, often nil. Over-seeding in spring or into dominantly Poa annua greens is a predictable waste of time and money. I well remember the Superintendent of a famous Californian course denying that his greens were 100% Poa annua because they spent so much money every year in overseeding them through the whole season with Pennecross that they had to be Pennecross. Management will swing the grass type not over-seeding which benefits only the seeds firms.

Austere traditional greenkeeping is guaranteed to reduce though not totally eradicate Poa annua but where the cause has been persisted in for many years it takes longer and in the process unless steps are taken to keep them informed members may revolt. Success depends on bringing them with you but from an early stage they will get better winter playing conditions with less disease. This is something that the feed and water brigade should take on board, especially as the coming recession starts to bite, especially as such methods cost less both directly in reduced "input" and indirectly in minimising disease and thus expensive controls.

Until we can educate golfers, especially the new entry into understanding that the correct colour for a golf course is not lush television green but the natural browner shades of our natural courses it is going to be an uphill battle and those in the front line deserve the support of all the golfing authorities and the golfing media in the fight to retain our traditional standards and all weather golf. I am more than willing to enter into debate with any informed people or bodies. We can always disagree without being disagreeable. Over some 55 years of advisory work I have seen hundreds of over-fed Poa courses come back to fine grass dominance and gratifyingly erstwhile culprits advising or selling excessive NPK fertilisers, reverse their views. I wish more would follow their example.

**Few of even our very best Course Managers would claim to have absolutely Poa-free greens but they control it, hit any invasion hard and avoid encouraging it so that even in flush growth periods their greens never suffer from the disfigurement of seeding Poa**

In fact if you do not want Poa then never apply any autumn fertiliser. If any course is not at its best in autumn then it never will be and applying fertiliser is counter-productive. The same applies to "micro-nutrients" or trace elements for which on normal greens there is no evidence of need whatever. We are told that sand based greens need this help. If the advisers mean pure sand greens then they may have a case but they clearly do not!

In any case how many pure sand greens still survive? Do not confuse them with standard perched water table sandy green.

My advice regarding potash is to apply a light dressing in spring perhaps every two to three years, or subject to analysis showing levels below 10 - 15 ppm. Remember that

Secondly, all use complete NPK fertilisers or heavily use potash as well as nitrogen even if they do not use phosphatic fertilisers, while they will often apply fertilisers in autumn. I cannot see any justification for applying fertilisers (sulphate of iron is not a fertiliser) in autumn, because if any course is not looking at its best then it never will and all that fertilisers do then is to encourage disease and Poa annua.

Of course the battle against Poa annua is not confined to banning P & K, though that is the first essential. Aeration must be intensive and above all avoid that common error of hollow tining in spring, allowing seeds of Poa easy entrance into the tightest of swards, excessively close mowing at any time of the year will bring in Poa and if greens need to be





**Scottish Region**  
Peter Boyd  
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### North

Three new members to report this month, and they are: Keith Law, from Letham Grange Golf Club; John Hamill, from Nairn Golf Club, and Derek Chisholm, from Kingussie Golf Club. Welcome to the Section lads.

A young greenkeeper on the move is Muir Ross, from Dingwall. Muir served his apprenticeship at Castle Heather Golf Course in Inverness and is now on his way to the Isle of Man to work as an assistant greenkeeper. Good luck in your new position, Muir.

Also good to see Donnie Dingwall back playing golf again at Strathpeffer. Donnie, who retired in 1990 from being the Head Greenkeeper at Strathpeffer, is keeping much better and is enjoying life. Long may it continue, Donnie.

As I write this report the Elgin outing has not yet taken place so I will report on it in the next magazine.

The Scottish Championship is at West Linton Golf Club this month and I am sure it will be well worth the visit if anyone can make it down.

If anyone has any ideas on short courses for education then you can contact me on 01997 420155 as there are courses available this autumn/winter run by BIGGA.

Well, not much else to really report this month, so I hope the weather remains decent and your greens run true.

Iain Gunn

### East

Welcome to this month's column. Well spring is well and truly here I am glad to say and it's the first decent start to a season we've had for a number of years, so hopefully this is going to be a good season right through 'til the autumn with the right growing conditions for everyone. I hope everyone completed their winter programmes and their courses are coming on nicely with this good weather we're having.

The Section's season is well under way with the first tournament of the year having been played in late April, and what a good day was had by everyone who was there. We were limited to 56 people at Gullane which was strange as we usually have a big turnout for the spring tournament.

If there was a reason for this let us know as we are willing to hear from anyone as to why the small turnout. It was good to see some new faces along for the day and we hope you enjoyed yourself and look forward to seeing you at future Section events. Thanks must go to the Captain and Council of Gullane Golf Club for the courtesy of the course and the use of their facilities. As normal the course (No 3) was in superb condition so a big thanks to Course Manager, Paul Seago, Head Greenkeeper, Paul, and

all the other greenstaff for a fine course. The clubhouse staff, Club Steward, waitresses etc, for looking after us superbly. The food was excellent! Also not forgetting the trade members thanks for bringing along raffle prizes etc; the handicap committee for keeping things running smoothly.

Don't forget tournaments are now 11am soup & rolls, 12 noon first tee off. This is just a reminder from the committee as there were people turning up after 12 noon. With the draw being made the day before tee times were set for each group and with people not being on time names had to be juggled around to fit everyone in. So it is just a reminder for Uphall on July 30. Here is a list of the final leaderboard for the Gullane tournament on April 23. Best scratch (Boyd Trophy) K. Mail, 66 bih. 1st Class 1. (Souters' Cup) S. Nicol, 66-0-66; 2. I. Elliot, 76-8-68; 3. K. Mail, 66-+3-69. 2nd Class 1. (Lothian Tractors Trophy) A. Russell, 75 -10 -65 ; 2. C. Yeaman 79 -11-68 bih; 3. I. Watson, 80-12-68. 3rd Class 1. (Turf Care Cup) R. Thomson, 92-17-75; 2. S. Muir, 102-26-76; 3. F. Forrest 106-25-81. Best nett of the day (Ocmis Cup) A. Russell 75-10-65. Veteran prize (New Holland Trophy) J. Manuel 78-3-75. Trade prize (Patrons' Cup) Ian Henderson 76-10-66. New Members' prize R. Campbell 80-10-70. Highest score of the day, J. Dalrymple, 121.

Well done to all the prize winners who took home one of the fabulous trophies which were on offer. I must say the match committee excelled themselves on the choice of the trophies as I would say they have to be the best trophies we've given out to date. The old claret jugs that were for each of the classes look superb on my dining room unit. We are able to buy these trophies with the help of a donation from the executive in conjunction with the Scottish Region Patron Members so a big thank you to you all because, if it wasn't for your help, we wouldn't be able to do it.

Next on the fixture list is the trip in association with Stewart & Co to look around their premises, turf farm then a visit to see the final preparations for The Open Championship at Muirfield Golf Club on May 29. Then the next golf event is the Scottish National Tournament at West Linton Golf Club on June 27. We hope to see a big turnout of East Section members at this one. Coming up next month is a report and picture from the visit to Muirfield, news about the Section team and how they got on in this year's Dispatch Trophy from May 24 'til June 1. Can they go one better this year than last when they were narrowly beaten in the final. Here's hoping! Well that's it all 'til next month with more news and views. If you have anything of interest to the Section drop me a line, e mail, a fax, a text message or just give me a call and we'll get it into print in a future edition of greenkeeper international, all the usual numbers apply so come on let's hear from you.

Chris Yeaman.

### Central

At last! We are up and running again in welcoming new members to the Section and this month we extend a warm welcome to Thomas Aitchison, who is a greenkeeper at Kinghorn Golf Club in Fife. As usual it is hoped that we will get the opportunity to meet him at some of our events in the very near future.

The first golf tournament of the new season was held on May 1 at Kingsbarns Golf Links in Fife, when, on a beautiful sunny day, over 80 members enjoyed a day to remember, as everyone was treated like a King (there were even a couple of Queens in attendance and I mean that in the proper context!) by the staff at Kingsbarns and with the course in superb condition everyone could forget the long haul through the wettest winter and savour the courtesy and pampering extended to every visitor to this beautiful links course. Our sincere thanks go to General Manager Stuart McEwan, Course Manager, Stuart McComb and his staff; the catering staff and the starter who set everyone on their way at the 1st tee with a smile, (that was before they hit the ball).

Prize winners on the day were; Best Scratch. K. Stirling, Kingsbarns, 70. Best Nett. P. Conway, Drumoig, 68. 1st Class 1. K. Mitchell, St Andrews, 70; 2. D. Simpson, Crieff, 71 (bih). 2nd Class 1. D. Scott, Scoonie, 74 (bih); 2. S. Lawrie, Elie, 74. 3rd Class 1. M. White, Elmwood, 75 2. G. McRae, Ratho Park, 82. Stewart's Quaich, K. Mitchell, St Andrews, 144. Patrons' Prize, S. Darling, Aitkens, 77; Guests. S. McEwan, Kingsbarns, 74. Longest Drive. C. McKay, Craik. Nearest The Pin I. Hunter, Tulliallan.

Thanks to everyone who helped on the day and especially our Patrons for their continued support - it is very much appreciated.

The 1999 (yes 1999!) Inter Club Tournament final was eventually won by Batman and Robin, from Leven, who beat Grangemouth in the longest running tournament in the Section's history. This year's tournament has an entry of ten teams and will be run on a two league basis with the home games being played this year and the away games and the final taking place next year. That's the plan at the moment anyway.

Thanks to everyone who took the time to complete the suggested Educational Courses forms at the Spring Tournament. Hopefully we will be able to organise a number of course for your benefit later in the year.

The date for this year's Autumn Tournament is Thursday, September 26 at Dullatur Golf Club, Cumbernauld.

John Crawford

### West

Welcome to this month's newsletter. On April 4 the Aitken/SGM, greenkeeper/convenors' match was hosted at Lenzie GC. Gavin and his team had the course well presented for a competition so early in the sea-

son. Mr Miles, from Helensburgh GC, must thrive on the challenge as Ronnie's team won the competition for the second time in three years presenting him with the opportunity to host the event there next year. Runners-up on the day were Millport GC and the wooden spoon went to the club up the hill from Kirkhill GC. The committee would like to thank Aitkens and SCM for their continued support in hosting this event and the members and council of Lenzie GC for the use of their facilities and course.

On April 8 the greenkeepers v secretaries match was held at Haddington GC with the greenkeepers winning by a narrow margin 5.5 to 4.5. An enjoyable day was had by all and my personal thanks should be passed on to my playing partner Cecil and our opponents David Montgomery and John Taylor for a most enjoyable and competitive round of golf. If Cecil can give me ten years to practise I reckon we could beat them next time.

On April 25 the Section's Spring outing was held at Millport GC. Joe and his team are to be congratulated on the condition of the course. The members and council of the club are to be thanked for the courtesy of the course and for making us feel so welcome on the day. It was the first time I had played the course but I hope it won't be the last. All who made the effort to play had a most enjoyable day. The winners on the day were Scratch S. Taylor, Killermont GC, 70. Category 1. I. G. Jarvis, Lenzie GC, 78-10-68; 2. B. Hillen, Drumpellier GC, 81-10-71; 3. E. Wood, Killermont GC, 73-1-72. Category 2. 1. J. Kinder, Fereneze GC, 81-15-66; 2. S. Brawley, East Kilbride GC, 82-14-68, 3. T. Hindmarch, Cathcart GC, 83-14-69. Category 3. 1. K. Collins, East Kilbride GC, 87-22-65; 2. J. Bell, Millport GC, 90-20-70; 3. S. Frame, Drumpellier GC, 94-20-74. Trade prize went to A. Taylor, of Rigby Taylor, with a 67-3-64. Visitors prize went to Peter Boyd, our Regional Administrator, and nearest the pin went to Sandy Bulloch. Well done to you all.

The 100 Club draw which was supposed to have been drawn at this event has been postponed until the autumn meeting when a double draw will be made. If anyone has still got club money to pay could they please forward it to Sandy Bulloch ASAP.

One date for the calendar June 27 sees the Scottish greenkeepers' tournament being held at West Linton this year, application forms are available from P. Boyd and the cost of the day is £20.

One new member to be welcomed to the Section this month and he is Stephen Brogan who joins the staff at Hayston GC. We look forward to meeting you at up and coming Section events.

Well, that's all for this month folks. If you have anything you would like added to the column don't hesitate call me on 01355266862.

Brian Bolland



## Ayrshire

The Section spring outing was played at Prestwick St Cuthbert's on Thursday April 25. The weather was good so breaking our recent trend of bad weather. Unfortunately it couldn't tempt many skeletons out the cupboard and we had our usual turnout of the same faces. The course was in a good spring condition, prepared by Stephen Fraser and his staff, the beer was in good condition too and the catering staff didn't let the side down either.

All in all an excellent day was enjoyed and our sincere thanks go to Captain, Tom McAllindon, Secretary, John Rutherford, and the committee of Prestwick St Cuthberts for granting us courtesy of the course and the associated assistance in organising our day.

The prize winners on the day were as follows. Scratch - Brian Aitken, Turnberry. Category 1. 1. Duncan Gray, The Pines, 36pts; 2. Wallace Mercer, Skelmorlie, 35pts; 3. Alastair Stone, Largs Kelburn, 34pts; 4. Greg Paterson, Girvan, 33pts; 5. George Morrison, Largs Kelburn, 32pts

Category 2 1. Iain Barr, Largs Kelburn, 35pts; 2. Syd Mercer, Skelmorlie, 32pts (bih); 3. Paul Tulloch, West Kilbride, 32pts; 4. Gordon Laughin, Southernness, 31pts; 5. Paul Dick, West Kilbride, 30pts; Trade. Derek Duthie, Aitkens.

Daval Industrial Products have kindly donated a trophy to be named in memory of Harry Diamond. This will be competed for over our both Section outings to determine our champion for the year on a Stableford points system. The committee would like to thank Alex, Sam, Brenda and all at Daval for this trophy and their continued support of our Section.

Finally, this will be my last section notes as, after five years, I am handing it back to Jim Paton who needs no introduction. Best wishes to you Jim and I'll look forward to your notes next month.

Any news call me on 01505-683278 and I'll pass it on.

Iain Barr



**Northern Region**  
Douglas Bell  
Tel: 0151 431 0433

## North East

On April 18 we had our Spring Comp. at Dunstanburgh Castle GC. It's been a long time since we played there and what a delight it was playing a true links course. On behalf of the players we would like to thank the Head Greenkeeper and his staff for the fine condition it was in and also to the committee for giving us courtesy.

Although the weather was not too good at first it turned out a beautiful day later. However the scores were not that good any ways who cares it was good to be playing a tough links course.

We would also like to thank the companies who kindly donated prizes. These are as follows: Rite

Feed, Turf Care, Shorts, Aitkens, Greenlay, Border Turf Services, Rigby Taylor and Swarland Hall GC.

It was good to see Rigby Taylor represented by John Holt. We hope you enjoyed the day and thanks for the binoculars which were given as a prize.

Best Gross J. Storey, 75, Alnmouth GC; Nett B. Hughes, 71, Whickham GC. Ass Cup. J. Hood, 72, Linden Hall GC; J. Richardson, 72 nett, Hexham GC. R. Reid, 74, Prudhoe GC; A. Bowes, 74, Prudhoe GC; A. Harrison, 75, Garesfield GC; B. Wilson, 76, Stocksfield GC.

Qualifiers for the Northern Regional Final.

9@ under. J. Storey, J. Hood. Reserves. J. Richardson, R. Reid, B. Wilson

10 to 18. A. Bowes, A. Harrison. Reserves. G. Wright, S. Pope, G. Batson

19 to 28. B. Hughes, M. Lowdon. Reserves. A. Parkin, R. White

All the above will be notified in due course and the final will be played at Whitefield GC, Whitefield, Manchester, on Friday, August 9.

More movement in the Section, Steve Quince has been appointed Head Greenkeeper at Parklands; M. Lowdon moved from City of Newcastle to Bedlington; A. Morrison has gone back to Stocksfield, C. Elmsie went from Stocksfield to Slaley Hall as a casual for the summer period, and David Thompson moved back to Matfen Hall.

Jimmy Richardson

## North Wales

Best wishes goes to Elfyfyn Owen, of Royal St David's GC, on his retirement this month. Elfyfyn, formerly Head greenkeeper at Dolgellau GC, is one of the profession's great characters, a keen golfer and a passionate songster with the Welsh Male Voice Choir, a pursuit that has taken him all over the world representing and promoting Wales. Elfyfyn will return in July to assist in the European Seniors Event at Harlech.

Anyone wishing to go and watch the Seniors the admission is free and the event boasts over a million pounds prize money.

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

Job's a good'n.

Andrew Acorn

## Sheffield

On April 22 the Sheffield Section held their first golf competition (Regional Qualifier) at Worksop Golf Club. The course was in fantastic condition, well done Barry and your team for your hard work in presenting such a top class course.

I would like to thank our main sponsor for the day, Gem Professional for donating some excellent prizes. I would also like to thank all other trade members (Rigby Taylor, Aitkens, Mid Lube, Mansfield Sand and Farmura) for their support.

The results are as follows :- I. D.

Chappell, 34pts; 2. T. White, 32pts; 3. A. Lomas, 30pts; 4. M. Lake, 27pts; 5. R. Tyson, 27pts; 6. B. Cooke, 26pts; 7. P. Neve, 26pts; 8. M. Knowles, 26pts; 9. S. Pickering, 26pts; 10. M. Crawshaw 25pts. Guest prize S Clayton, 36pts.

The following people who qualified for the regional competition at Whitefield GC (Manchester) on Friday, August 9 are:- Handicap 1-9

D. Chappell & A. Lomas. Reserve M. Knowles. Handicap 10-18. T. White & M. Lake. Reserve R. Tyson. Handicap 19-28 B. Cooke & P. Neve. Reserve M. Crawshaw.

Could all of the above please contact me to make arrangements if they can make it or not as details need to be sent to the organiser.

If anyone has any news please don't hesitate to contact me on 01709 548759 or by e-mail on chris.astle1@btopenworld.com

P.S entries for the next golf competition for Hickleton G/C will be sent out 3-4 weeks prior to the competition.

Chris Astle

## North West

The annual match N/W v N/Wales was played at Pryors Hayes GC, on April 30 and although I could not be present, I am informed that the competitors had a great day. I am delighted to say the N/W won the match 3.5 to 2.5. Thanks must go to Pryors Hayes for allowing us the courtesy of their course, the N/Wales Section for organising the venue and, of course, Gem Professional for once again sponsoring the match as they have done for many years.

The next golf is the summer tournament at Ulverston Golf Club, on Thursday June 20. I know this is quite a distance for the majority of the N/W members, but the N/W covers all of Cumbria also, and this will give the members in the upper reaches of the Section the opportunity to play without travelling too far. I understand this is a magnificent course and well worth a visit. All applications to Bill Merritt, 225 Utting Avenue, Clubmore, Liverpool, 14 9R8. Tel. 0151 284 4416, including a cheque for £20 made payable to BIGGA N/W. Lunch will be 12:30pm and tee time 1-45pm.

That seems to be it for now, but any enquiries you can contact me on 0151 724 5412.

Bert Cross.

## Northern

What an absolutely fantastic time all the competitors had at our spring golf meeting sponsored by Scotts at Bedale Golf Club. The weather was shirtsleeves and the course in great shape for mid April and a real credit to Ian Pemberton and his greens team. We were all helped off the 1st tee by the cheerful Wilf, the club's resident starter. After some rusty golf we all got back to the clubhouse and sat down to some great tucker. The prize table was overflowing and many thanks for that to Scotts UK and to Dave Truby and Richard Walton who represented Scotts on the day. We all thank the staff and officials at Bedale

golf club for making us all so welcome.

We did manage to have one loser, with Alvin Fawcett going to Bedale the day after the tournament. Better luck next time. Here is the list of winners, Scratch cup Andy Clark. 1st Div. Robin Smith, Alan Baxter and Peter Thompson. 2nd Div. Andy Slingsby, Adam Speight and Nigel Wild. 3rd Div. Alan Gamble, Joe Baxter and Steve Heaton. The two trade prizes were won by Mel Guy and Alan Dyson with nearest the pin and longest drive won by Peter Thompson and Alan Baxter respectively.

After the prize presentation we honoured Alan Gamble with our first presentation on behalf of the Northern Section, in respect of services to the Section. Basically the committee have decided we will sporadically present a memento to people who serve the section or continually support it. Well done and thank you to Alan.

We have had six new members to the Northern Section. They are Jason and John Edmond, Robert Wiles, Michael Gumenuik, Mick Doxy and Jacob Kay. It will be great to see you guys at some of the Section events in the future.

Our next Section event is at Steve Heaton's Golf course at Otley. This will be President's Day with sponsorship by Rufford Soil Science. The date is June 19 with bacon sandwiches and coffee from 12.30pm. You can pay any member of the committee £15 up to a week before. Cheques only please. So why not come along, all golfing abilities welcome.

One bit of sad news. I received a letter from Ruth Bailes informing me of her husband Sam's death. Sam worked on golf courses since 1946. He was assistant at Northcliffe and later worked at Halifax (Ogden) as Head Greenkeeper, then Keighley GC for 22 years until retirement in 1982. For the past eight years he has battled with Motor Neurone Disease. Sam died peacefully on April 11.

I hear Dave Hannam has now returned to God's own county to take up the helm at Wetherby Golf Club. It's great to have him back and hope to see him real soon.

If anyone has any news and information they want to share with the section please forward it onto me at the address at the bottom of these notes. See you at Otley!

Happy Greenkeeping.

Please contact me on 16 Westwood Ave, Eccleshill, Bradford, West Yorks BD2 2NJ Tel No : 01274 640739 Mob No; 07976876264 E mail; Dthackray@aol.com

Dave Thackray

## Cleveland

The spring tournament took place last month at Darlington Golf Club. The weather was superb red hot with just a slight breeze and a full field of 30 took part and everyone enjoyed the day. The golf course was in fantastic condition on that everyone agreed. A huge thank you and well done to Paul Moore, Head Greenkeeper and his staff for their



hard work preparing the course and presenting it so well, and also a big thanks to Darlington Golf Club for allowing us courtesy of the course and for the meals afterwards, they were excellent.

The results:- 1-9. 1. Steven Agar, Crook Golf Club, 72pts; 2. Jim Thompson, Darlington Golf Club, 73pts; 3. Ian Rowe, Seaton Carew Golf Club, 75pts.

10-18. 1. Tony Burgg, Richmond Golf Club, 66pts; 2. Gary Shaw, Ramside Golf Club, 68pts; 3. Allen Reid, Saltburn Golf Club, 71pts. 19-28. 1. Steven Jacques, Ramside Golf Club, 67pts; 2. Liam McGough, Eaglescliffe Golf Club, 73pts; 3. Eddie Coulthard, Crook Golf Club, 78pts.

Trade. Allen Cordingley, Rite Feed; 2. Neil Thompson, Border Sports; 3. Liam Galaway, Greenkeeping Supplies.

The spring tournament was organised by Barry Walker and Martin Woods, well done lads on another great success. Thanks for your hard work and thanks to the trade for their support also. The Autumn Tournament will be at Bedale Golf Club. Look out for details.

Any News contact me on 07719 193381

Steven Jacques



Midland Region  
Peter Larter  
Tel: 01476 550115

### Midland Region

The first John Deere Championship Regional Qualifier in the UK was held at the Chipping Norton Golf Club on April 25, when Turner Grounds care hosted the day for 15 golf clubs. The day was a great success blessed with superb weather, and the scoring reflected the conditions. The home club won the day with an excellent net score of 51, 20 shots under par and 3 shots clear of the next best scores. Chipping Norton Golf Club now progress to The De Vere Belfry for the National Final on August 9.

The Midland Region Golf Management Competitions, which were a great success last year, are being held this year at the

Hartsbourne Country Club, Bushey Heath on August 7 and Beeston Fields Golf Club, Nottingham on August 14.

Invitations have been sent to many golf clubs in the Midland Region. If you are interested in entering a team and have not yet received an invitation please contact Peter Larter, the Regional Administrator, and he will send you one.

Peter Larter

### BB&O

Please Section readers - don't faint when you see we have an entry this month! May I introduce myself, David Winterton MG, as the new Secretary for this Section. I hope to be able to do justice to the position, compared to my predecessor, Lindsay Anderson, who has been excellent in this role over the past 10 years. Lindsay has now become Chairman of our committee. Lindsay and I will be bringing you monthly news items to ensure this column comes alive.

The committee also have on board Adrian Cooper who has served wise council for 10 years, John Scoones and Robert Woodward. We finally have a printed fixture card which arrived too late to be included in the letter you received recently, giving details of this year's fixtures. This will be sent to all at the end of May. Many thanks go to Alan Wright, at T.H. White, for organising this card and thanks to T.H. White for sponsoring this handy reminder. May I give condolences on behalf of the section to Alan for the loss recently of his father and wish he and his family great strength to recover.

May I welcome some new members to the fold who are about to receive benefits one can only dream of outside our Association. Tony Bates, Three Locks GC; Nathan Bond, Chiltern Forest GC; Michael Farmer, Reading GC; Graham Gardner, Tadmerton GC; Peter Goodwin, Billingbear Park GC; Danny Jones, Birds Hill GC; Roger Tustain, Chipping Norton GC; Matthew Weatherstone, Lambourne GC.

We had our first fixture for this year - The Spring Tournament - held at Stoke Park Golf Club. On site is the erection of a new health & fitness centre. What I did not realise was the extension of the Roman baths & spa

pool around the Colt/Alison 18 holes we played on Tuesday, April 30. Most of the 36 field kinda swam the course and to say that a hot shower at the end in its correct enclosure was heaven itself is an understatement. The course in these conditions is hard to judge but I know I'm correct in saying that Alex Millar and his crew had done us proud and turned out an excellent course for play for which we owe a huge vote of thanks. Alex promises a next time and I for one will make sure I return to play in exquisite surroundings. The day was sponsored by Tacit and Tim was there in person to play and later hand out the prizes. On such a tough day the scores were more than acceptable with first prize going to Alan Wright of Richings Park with 35 points. The rest of the results are as follows: 2. Ian Robbins, Ellesborough GC; 3. Brian Benzie, Harleyford GC; 4. Andy Law - Stoke Park GC

The team prize went to the Larter team. Yes, you've guessed it, Peter graced us with his presence on the day though he might have thought he was sailing! Mark Stigwell, from Rigby Taylor, won the Trade prize, with nearest the pin won by Peter Helps, of Turner Groundcare, and the longest drive won by Ross Wilson, of Parasampia G&CC Hotel. Can I thank all those who participated and were not deterred by the weather? A final note of gratitude to Tacit for their superb prizes and commitment to making it a great day. Let's hope our next fixture in August is a great improvement from the skies above. It leaves me to wish all our Section members a great start to the summer, one that will be remembered for all the right reasons of course!

David Winterton

### Mid Anglia

Our first golf event of the year took place at Ashridge Golf Club in April, over 36 holes. The obvious appeal of the venue generated a good interest, with forty people entering; our best spring tournament turnout for many years. Our thanks to Jim Cassidy and his team at Ashridge for an excellent course, so early in the year. The greens were certainly quick! Our thanks also to Ashridge for their hospitality, bearing in mind the changes afoot with the new clubhouse being

built and temporary changing areas in use. Our thanks also to our main sponsors for the day, Rigby Taylor, represented by Mark Stidwell.

The results were as follows:

AM. 1. D. Thompson, Buckingham, 43pts; 2. S. Mason, Mount Pleasant, 39pts; 3. K. Bunting, Ashridge, 39pts.

PM. 1. M. Whittle, Woburn, 37pts; 2. J. Bygrave, Lammerwood, 37pts; 3. A. Grew, Berkhamsted, 37pts.

Longest Drive: AM, R. Howson, Woburn. PM., D. Thompson, Buckingham.

Nearest Pin: AM., A. Grew, Berkhamsted. PM., S. Mason, Mount Pleasant.

Clive Parnell was the winner of the trade prize.

Our two representatives at the National Tournament (should they wish to enter) will be Mark Whittle and David Thompson.

There is a change of date and venue for the Summer Meeting; John O'Gaunt is the new venue, on Tuesday August 27. It will be over eighteen holes, with a 2pm start. Further details will follow nearer the time.

Paul Lockett

### East Midlands

Not a lot to report on this month. In The Blankey Open on April 22 Alan Roberts and I finished sixth in a Better-Ball Bogey competition, and Steve Levers and I finished with 35pts in The Ramsdale Park Captain's invitation on April 14. Thanks for the invite, Steve.

Congratulations should go to Jeff Dickinson and Gavin Robson for making The Greenkeeping Support team at this year's Open.

This year's East Midlands v East of England golf match will be hosted by Newark GC on August 22. Tee-Off 3.45pm. Any member who wishes to play in this match should contact me as soon as possible as we only require 10 players, Greenkeeper members only.

This year's Spring Tournament will be reported on next month, but may I once again remind all members that if you wish to attend any Section event, your entry form and payment must be received before the closing dates.

Antony Bindley

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## East Of England

The first golf fixture of the season got under way at Louth Golf Club. The course was in good condition considering the lack of rain for this time of year.

The competition was sponsored by Rigby Taylor and Brian Booth and Stuart Jeffs were on hand to present the superb prizes.

First prize went to the New Chairman of our Section, Adrian Kitchinson, Torksey, with 35pts. Robert Welford, Cleethorpes, was runner-up with 34pts, and Ian Batty, Sleaford, lost out on count-back also with 34pts. The trade prize was won by Stuart Clayton, Mid-Lube, with 32pts. Longest drive went to Russ Moody, Torksey. The Lambs Cup for Nearest the pin went to Russell Latham, Mansfield Sands. Thanks to Mike Covey for allowing us courtesy of the course and we wish him a speedy recovery from his injury.

Other trade sponsors were, Lincsgreen, Boughton Loams, Aitkens, Mansfield Sands, Midlube, Symbio and Alpha Amenities.

People on the move: David Hornsey has left Woodhall Spa to join Cannons Turf; Jim North is to become the new Head Greenkeeper at Tattershall Park; Henry Fletcher joins Woodhall from Bainlands Park and Daniel Barnes has joined Gedney Hill Golf Club.

Graeme Macdonald



South East  
Derek Farrington  
Tel: 01903 260956

## Kent

Did you miss me? Sorry about last month's report but with Easter and everything I totally forgot to write until it was too late to get it in.

What I would have reported on was what a great day out the Gentlemen's Dinner was this year. Yes, I did win a prize, well three in fact. I came second in the 10-18 categories and got nearest the pin on 17 with a glorious 6-iron that nearly went in. Just to make my day I also picked up a bottle of vodka in the raffle. It was great to see some other guys from Kent there too and, of course, Duncan

Kelso won a prize for 3rd in his category 0-6. It is always a pleasure playing Walton Heath and it was nice to see how much work they had been doing throughout the winter with tree removal and heather management. The BBQ at the 11th tee was most appreciated with thanks going to Neil Pullen and his colleagues at Sheriff Crop Care. The bacon roll and beer must have helped me get 18 points on the back 9. The highlight of the day was when the after dinner speaker was late and Derek Farrington stood in for him. I think Derek was much funnier and probably much cheaper too. Once again a well organised day. Derek, thanks.

The golf days for the coming year are now in place with the first being at the fantastic Kings Hill Golf Club on June 18. So I had better pull my finger out and get the place looking good for you lot. Other dates are set after the committee meeting and will be announced next month by which time you should have had your fixture card. I hope all the events are well supported this year and we will see some new faces. There have been some great donations from the trade for prizes, etc. so I expect there will be some great golf to win them. And don't worry Duncan Kelso has been cut to 5 so there might be a chance someone else can win a prize this year.

Jason Bean.

## East Anglia

Tour BIGGA found its way to Thetford GC and what a lovely day it was. Birds singing, sun shining, Oh to be in England. It's rained ever since. There was a good turnout, 63 in all and the course was in excellent condition thanks to Paul Gould and his men.

The golf went as follows: 0-10 Category. 1. Alan Elliott, 71 (nett); 2. Mark Keysell, 74; 3. Peter Howard, 74. 11-16 Cat. 1. Ian Willett, 76; 2. Stevie Millard, 76; 3. David Childs, 81. 17-28 Cat. 1. Stephen Crabb, 78; 2. Derek Farrington, 78; 3. Kevin Hodges, 80. Guest and Trade. 1. Joe Payne, 72; 2. Max Ayres, 73; 3. There wasn't one.

The prizes were presented by Max Ayres, Thetford Captain. The sponsors were Tomlinsons, Ground Care

and Ben Burgess.

There was an interesting speech about two nuns but we won't go into that. There was also a very moving one minute silence for Ernie Hart who is very sadly missed.

Nearly forgot. Alan Elliott got the best gross 76 and Nearest the Pin, while Mark Keysell got Longest Drive and best nett 74.

We must welcome some new members - Kevin Hodges, James Barton, Bob Barnes and Eddie Jacks.

Our very loyal trade members who are Sheriff, Rushbrooks, Sisis, Aventus, Clarkson Consults, Tacit, Driving Force Leisure, Toro, Rigby Taylor, Bartrams, Turf Care and Atterton and Ellis.

There is also the Toro Masters programme which involves 18 months in the States which consists of two weeks at Minnesota University, six months on construction and grasses, four months University Diploma, six to eight months on Florida courses. You must be over 16 and single and you need £1000 for dental treatment (don't ask me). Further info contact Ian.

That's all folks, next meeting June 11 Tournament Greenkeepers and Captains.

PS Steve Millard got the loo seat. Landed in shrubbery at the 18th. Thetford will how change the rules just for him.

Mick Lathrope

## Surrey

Surrey Section's committee had a meeting on April 10 and the agenda was (1) Bioseed Bowl (2) South East Regional Board Meeting 21/02/02 (3) Regional Seminar 2002 (4) Any other Business.

(1) We thank David Smart, of Bioseed, for sponsoring our Pairs Knockout competition, the final of which will be played over 36 holes at a neutral course with lunch and an evening meal followed by the prize giving. Queries concerning handicaps should be addressed to Tony Bremer Tel: 01306 889071 and Tony will contact all members if their handicap changes after an event.

(2) Geoff Woodward our regional representative will be reporting to the South East Regional Board of the committee's preference that the

BTME Exhibition be changed back to the original Wednesday to Friday.

(3) The original venue for the regional seminar was Merrist Wood College but this has now had to be changed and it is hoped that it can take place at Roehampton Golf Club. We have approached a number of speakers and you will be informed as soon as we have confirmation. The provisional date for the seminar is November 27.

Please note that the Golf Day at Liphook and Shirley Park have had to be changed. Liphook Golf Club will now be on June 26 and Shirley Park on July 23.

Congratulation Paragraph in this edition goes to Dan Wheeler from the Roehampton Club for competing in and completing this year's London marathon in three hours 34 minutes. Dan has so far raised £1200 for the Spinal Injuries Association and would be grateful for any further donations.

Unhappily Epsom Golf Club is about to lose one of the best Head Greenkeepers in Surrey and, as Dougie Fernie has told me this on many occasions, it must be true. Royal Epsom's loss is Upminster's gain and so this Surrey downland course says goodbye and an Essex parklands course opens its arms in warm welcome. Fortunately Mark Harvey, Epsom's Deputy Head Greenkeeper, is taking over. So we wish him all the rain and sunshine when and where he wants it.

Surrey Section's member Gavin Kyle is leaving Hendon Golf Club to take up a new position at Knole Park Golf Club in Sevenoaks. We wish Gavin every success as he takes over this excellent parkland course and ask him to remember that the Surrey Section does not mind playing golf away from home.

Unfortunately Andy Davey has decided to leave greenkeeping and his position as Course Manager at Chipstead Golf Club. This cannot be good for the profession to lose experienced and qualified personnel, but we hope Andy enjoys his new career. Mike Boreham, who has been at Chipstead for many years, takes charge and as with Mark Harvey, may the force be with you both.

Brian Wilmott

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### Devon & Cornwall

The Section's Rigby Taylor Summer Meeting will be held at Trethorne Golf Club on Tuesday, June 18. The meeting will start as usual with golfing members playing a singles Stableford from 1.37pm; the non-golfers course walk will leave the clubhouse at approximately 2.30pm. Entry fee for the day will be £10, which includes bacon roll & coffee on arrival with a two-course meal before the prize presentation.

Richard Whyman

### South Coast

First of all let me apologise for the lack of Section notes last month. There really was nothing to report on so I have made up for it this month. Once again we have been severely tested as greenkeepers these last couple of months. We have had to cope with a long dry cold spell followed by a dry warm spell. As we eagerly watched the weather forecasts in hope of some natural rainfall many of us were in a dilemma regarding switching on our irrigation systems. Our courses were drying out fast in front of our eyes; surely it couldn't go on forever. Well, prayer mats and rain dances were a common sight in Dorset. With the spring meeting fast approaching I'm sure Blackmoor's Head Greenkeeper, Harry Davis, was praying for some rain. Well, prayers were answered the day before we arrived and rain it certainly did! It poured down all day and all of us hoped we wouldn't have to postpone our spring meeting for the second year in a row. As the sun rose on May 1 there was never any doubt it was going to be a great day at our spring meeting, a 27-hole Stableford event which was kindly sponsored by Avoncrop and Vitax. They say the sun shines on the righteous and my how it did that day. The course, which had taken so much rain the day before, had dried out and Harry Davis and his hardworking team had prepared the course beautifully. Vitax's Joe Crawley was on hand to ensure that we all started on time. Never an easy job particularly on a rather chilly morning but many thanks Joe! We played 18 holes in the morning followed by an excellent

lunch. Then it was back to the course for another 9 holes in the afternoon. On such a lovely day it was no surprise that the standard of golf was so high and the scoring reflected this, except on my card! An excellent meal and prize giving rounded off a superb day. Winners on the day were: 1. Matt Blake, 57pts; 2. Chris Sturgess, 49pts; Mark Hancock, 49pts; Darren Miller, 49pts, Repts' Prize- Brian Willmott. Nearest the pin, Carl Horrax. Longest Drive, Mark Gray.

It was very nice to see our Regional Administrator, Paula Humphries, looking so well and in attendance. Paula seems an ever-present figure at our golf events although she seems slightly wary of me when I have a golf club in my hand, can't think why?

Many thanks to Blackmoor Golf Club for their hospitality; to Harry Davis and his team for all their hard work in preparing the course for us and the catering staff for providing us with two excellent meals. A huge vote of thanks to our sponsors Avoncrop and Vitax, the prize table was excellent and was much appreciated by all. Avoncrop's Colin White and myself have managed to persuade Vitax's Joe Crawley to bring his clubs next time. Joe was a little wary that his golf isn't quite up to scratch but after watching me hit a ball he has had a change of heart!

It would also be remiss of me not to pass on a huge vote of thanks to our Tournament organiser, Chris Sturgess. It really is a thankless task organising our golfing days but we do appreciate it Chris! Let's all make Chris' job easier this year by making sure he has his money a week before each event Chris has to give caterers final numbers one week before the event. The draw for the inaugural Jim Fry pairs' tournament was held at Blackmoor. Please play all of your matches by the deadlines set and please phone all of your results through to Phil Wentworth to ensure smooth running of this competition. Good luck to you all!

Our next golf event will be the summer tournament at Brockenhurst Manor Golf Club on August 8. The event is an invitation event and numbers are limited, more details to follow.

The committee has received details of a number of training courses that could be run within our Section from Ken Richardson. One of BIGGA's main roles to its members is to provide training and encouraging professional development within our

profession. We only need eight people to run any training course so in a Section of 300 plus members this should not be a problem. If you are interested please contact me on either 01202 661106, 07813 841714 or email me at alex@mccombie.fsbusi-ness.co.uk. Also contact me if you have any news you wish me to include in the around the greens.

Until next month  
Alex McCombie

### South West

With the new season really kicking off to a good start, things can only get better. We went from North Wilts GC in the hills, sponsored kindly by Avoncrop and Terralift - apologies to you both for not recognising your generous sponsorship earlier. Rex gave a very informative talk, which went really well before the meal. With both companies sponsoring this event we were able to award some fantastic prizes such as a television, microwave and a portable cd/radio and cassette player to the winners. Just goes to show you don't know what to expect at our meetings.

Our spring tournament on April 16 was held at Burnham & Berrow GC on the fantastic links course. There was a course walk before the golf began where our education officer, Guy Woods, and Head Greenkeeper, Paul McDowell, took a dozen or so members out and showed them around the sheds and the excellent course. Being a busier than usual time for the year the numbers for the golf was slightly lower than previous events with only 25 members wishing to participate in the golf or, in my case, taking a good look at all aspects and corners of this wonderful course while looking for my ball. With no wind and a clear blue sky ideal for golf everybody had a great day. The results were 1. G. Cook, 37pts; 2. D. Reeves, 36pts; 3. P. Godwin, 35pts. With nearest the pin going to D. Reeves and the longest drive going to P. Godwin. Sheriff Amenity, with Martin Samuel, donating the prizes kindly sponsored the event. Thanks, Martin. These were presented by the Captain of Burnham & Berrow GC, Trevor Hicks, who attended the meal. A big thank you to him, and also thank you to Burnham & Berrow for the catering and hospitality while we were there. Last but not least a very big thanks to Paul McDowell and his team for having the course in tip top condition. We wish you all the best for the rest of the season.

The next event will be the greenkeeper/amateur held at Yeovil GC on May 15. Details will be sent to those who replied to the newsletter at the beginning of the year. Anyone else wishing to attend please contact me for an application form on 01934 627 143 or 07799 388 572. This is an event where you can bring a friend or member of your club, so please support your Section and come along. If you require any information on educational courses or future course walks please contact Guy Woods on 01225 333 928.

So will we or won't we see you at Yeovil GC? Go on be a devil, have some fun, come and see what you have been missing out on.

Kevin James

### South Wales

The final winter lecture took place in April at Pencoed with a talk on turf science by Noel McKenzie. Noel showed us a selection of slides gathered over many years of work in his advisory roll with STRI and Grass Science. It was then off to Royal Porthcawl GC for our Section seminar, this was sponsored by the Scotts company. Talks were given by Simon Barnaby, Martin Townsend and Professor Bill Adams. The Section would like to thank Scotts, Avoncrop, Pencoed, Royal Porthcawl and everybody who helped in making the education evenings a success. By the way, if you are CPD registered all our education events carry credits towards your certificate.

With the golfing season just around the corner, a few dates for your diary; May 15, Pennard GC; June 5 match v Secs at Fairwood Park; June 29, Pencoed College Open Day.

Talking of Pencoed. They may be running a HNC in golf course management this year so if you're interested contact Paul Disscombe at the college for further info. Neil Baker, formerly of Royal Porthcawl GC, has been appointed Dept Links Superintendent at Pyle & Kenfig GC and we all wish him well in the future. At sunny Llanwern we are about to have our irrigation system updated so if anybody needs some second hand parts, give me a ring and I'll let you know what we have.

If anybody has any news that they would like to share with the Section please ring me on 07765 080152 and I'll see if we can get it in the next issue of the magazine.

Adrian Panks

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