



inherent problems of turfing, rather than seeding, greens.

Asked if he was now bored having returned to pure greenkeeping rather than the exciting life of greenkeeper/constructor Andy is refreshingly honest.

"I was glad to get my golf course back. The old course wasn't the best in the world but I looked after it and it was my little baby. Then Mike came along and ripped it up. I was 19 and wondered what on earth he was doing. Then I realised what we were trying to achieve and it has turned out better than I'd hoped," said Andy.

I've learned so much during the last four years it's unbelievable."

Mike has now taken on the role of Director of Golf and is involved in all aspects of the golf related business but he is immensely proud of what he and his team of seven greenkeepers have achieved.

"It is a tough little lay-out - 6,354 yards off the back tees - with a tight back nine and the toughest closing four holes in the county," said Mike.

Donnington Valley is also unusual in that it has some magnificent sculpture displayed around the course.

"Sir Peter loves sculptures and pieces are often shipped from California

for display here. It adds a nice unique touch to the course," said Mike.

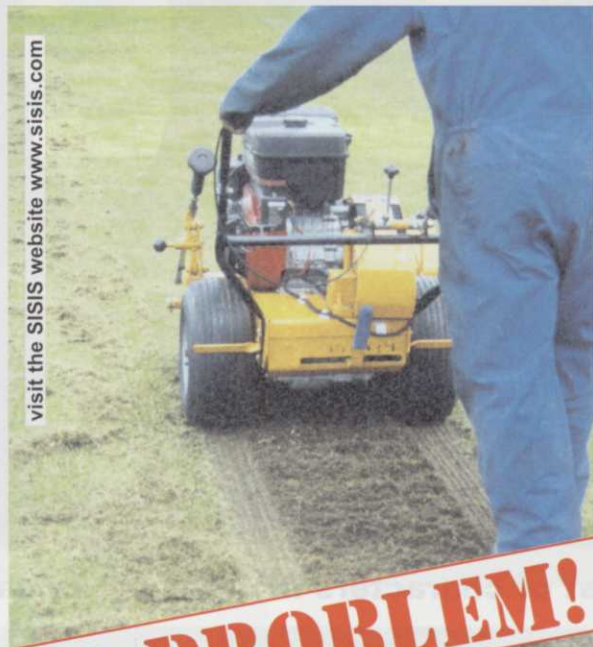
It has come a long way since he first set eyes on a site with genuine potential "It was a field with a bit of formal garden and I got such a buzz from doing it. Once I'd drawn the layout we painted out the course on the land and then went to the hill across the road to see how it looked. We still go there occasionally and we get a real buzz seeing what it has become.

"From a distance it looks quite good," he added, with a self deprecating laugh.



THATCH PROBLEM?

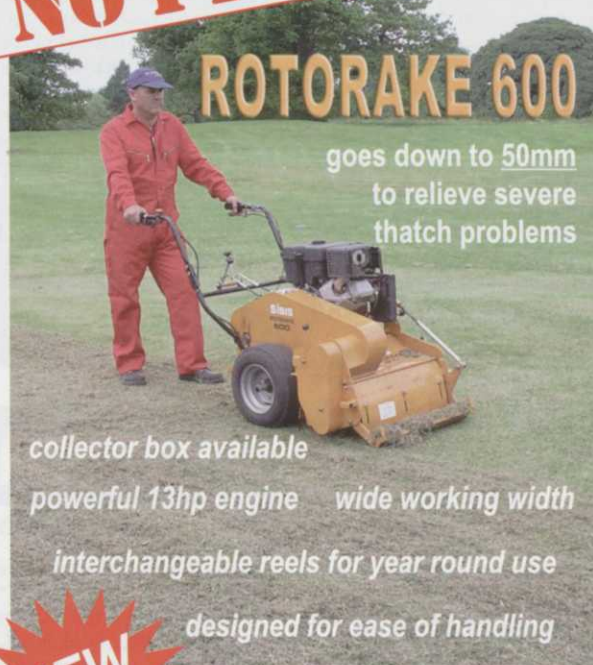
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BIGGA
ESSAY
COMPETITION

Stefan Antolik, Course Manager of Cooden Beach Golf Club was the winner of the Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper and Deputies Category in this year's BIGGA Essay Competition. Read on as he re-enacts his winning entry ...

POA: FRIEND OR

List of characters in order of appearance : Poa, Rich, Bent, Young Poa

For generations I have lived around here. My great-grandfather lived down there in that low spot where the water always runs off. Of course, they did not live very long in those days, but now we have adapted to the conditions here we can live for years. And that's all thanks to those kind greenkeepers who are forced to over-feed and water us even when we don't need it. But who can blame them - they just want an easy life.

As for the people who walk all over us in those studded shoes, the other day I heard one of them say he was wearing soft spikes. Well I will tell you, they are not very soft when they are on your tender nodes and ligules. Still, they do make it easy for us whenever they complain that we are getting too dry and they cannot stop their balls on us. We know that we can get a good drink then without even having to wilt for it.

Hey Rich, you're new around here. So let me tell you about this place, I think they call it a golf course, and this is a green.

What! We're the green? Well that will be something to tell our offspring.

Hold on! You mustn't spread your wild seeds too quickly or the greenkeeper will come down hard on us with all sorts of equipment, I have heard stories that some greenkeepers even try to poison us if they see too much of our seed.

Well that can't be fair.

I know, but that is the way it is. Yeah, the greenkeeper here uses machines which come across the surface taking some of us away in metal tubes.

What, like the Underground?

If you are lucky and it misses, you just about have time to say goodbye to your old friends before they are taken away forever. I have no idea what happens to them. Someone once said they thought it was heaven, but I think that is a lot of old compost!

What happens next?

It's horrible! They come at us again this time with spinning metal blades which rip your sheath and seed-heads off.

Why?

I'm not sure but there is more to come. They bring in foreigners - lots of them?

What are they?

I don't know.

A few weeks later ...

Hey Rich, can you hear something? Yeah! It's beginning! Keep your head down.

Well, I survived that. Are you alright?

I think so, but I can't feel part of my roots. CORE! Look at all those poor swards. Goodbye and good luck!

It's not over yet. Here come the spinning blades. Keep your head down! Well I only lost a few seeds that time. Here come the foreigners now. There seems to be thousands of them this time and some have landed next to me. Well, it's not very big is it? This is new! Close your eyes, they are covering us up.

Help! I can't see the sun! Aah... there it is. That feels good - nice and cosy and water as well. What could be better?

Two weeks later ...

Good morning sir.

Who said that?

It's me, down here.

Who are you?

I am Bent.

Bent? we don't want any of your sort around here. Hey Rich, there is a newcomer here and he is Bent.

Yeah. I have some more over here. I can't remember anything like this happening before. We will just have to wait and see. Hey, keep your stolons to yourself. You're getting a bit fresh for someone so immature.

I can't help it. It's the way I am. We grow up fast you know. My friends and I have been put here to sort you out. Nothing personal old pal.

Well, I think we might have something to say about that you young upstart! Rich! Did you hear any of that?

Yes I did. What are we going to do about it?

Poa puts his thinking cap on and tries to remember an old wartime story his dad once told him, about survival and the battle they had against something called fescue.

There seem to be differences in strategy. This time the greenkeeper has given us all a good watering and a much needed feed. Dad told me that in his battle he had to survive without food and water for weeks on end and the starvation only stopped when golfers complained that they could not play any more and gave the greenkeeper and his mate, Jim, the big E. Well, I don't think this is going to be as easy as

that this time because the greenkeeper and the golfers have come out to inspect us all. Ouch!

What does he think he is doing, pulling my leaves off and saying that this is what he wants to get rid of? Thank you Chairman - I agree the golfers do still have to play upon us and how dare he call me a weed to be eradicated! What have I done to upset so many people? Naturally I am only trying to do my best - and spread a few wild seeds. Well I don't know, it's all a bit over my head really ...

Time goes by ...

Bent is getting a bit big for his boots hey Rich!

Yeah, and so are his mates! They are trying to squeeze me to death over here.

Then along comes some help ...

Listen! I can hear the spinning blades - wow! Did you see that? Bent got it right between the nodes and cut off some of his stolons. That must have been painful.

That will slow him down for a while and it's getting warmer so he'll feel a bit sick for a while.

Well we got that wrong didn't we Rich? He must be some sort of masochist! He loves all this rough stuff and he said that it is good for him as he can multiply without having to seed.

Not a lot of fun. This could be the beginning of the end for our kind.

Don't give up that easily Rich - we still have a few tricks we can use. We mustn't let them see that they

Scotts launch new range of organic based fertilisers

Scotts has launched a new range of organic based turf fertilisers - formulated to give turf managers the benefits of both organic and inorganic fertiliser. New Greenmaster Organic fertilisers combine inorganic and organic nutrient sources with natural bio-stimulants, ensuring accurate, reliable provision of essential nutrients whilst also enhancing the soil micro-flora.

The organic fraction of Greenmaster Organics is derived from chicken manure and, in addition to providing a proportion of the nutrient charge in slow release form, will help improve soil structure, stimulate soil organisms, encourage thatch breakdown and enhance micro flora responsible for fighting turf diseases.

By combining this material with a mineral based fertiliser, reliable provision of NPK and trace elements is assured and the product formulation can be tailored more appropriately for today's needs.

"Greenmaster Organic is designed for the environmentally aware turf manager looking for good performance and value for money. It is efficient to use, effective, based on solid science and it works. Essentially, Greenmaster Organic combines the reliability of mineral feeds with the benefits of organics - and none of the drawbacks," said Scotts Technical Manager, Simon Barnaby.

There are two formulations available so far. Greenmaster Organic Spring and Summer (12-5-11 + TE) is designed as a high nitrogen seasonal treatment with 19% of the N derived from organic sources. Greenmaster Organic Pre-Winter (7-3-17 + TE) is an autumn treatment with 37% of the N derived from organic sources.

For further information
 Tel: 01473 830492

Latest addition from SCH will sweep you away

The new SCH (SUPPLIES) LTD. PR0120 Brush Sweeper is designed for use on large level surfaces. The addition to the range has twin land wheel drive and a 390 litres capacity polypropylene hopper. When full, the hopper can be discharged from your compact tractor seat by means of the draw cord. This feature reduces the time needed to empty the unit, as well as an aid to those customers who have difficulty lifting. The brush adjusting handle has five positions. Other features include a free wheel transport mode, three speed brush settings and a stop parking position. The PR0120 has a 1200 mm working width and weighs 85 kg.

For further information
 Tel: 01473 328272

Spray boom safety from Charterhouse

Charterhouse Turf Machinery has introduced to the UK the Rogers Windfoil Lite Spray Boom, whose unique features allow spraying to be done with maximum safety, efficiency and effectiveness.

Spraying needs to be done with the strictest accuracy to avoid accidentally treating non-target areas and to prevent over-application, which can lead to problems such as grass scorching or run-off into waterways.

Perhaps the most impressive of all the Windfoil Lite's attributes is the clever design of the shrouded boom, which ensures that the chemical is always applied in an enclosed environment, so that droplets cannot be picked up and distributed by strong winds. Unlike other shrouded systems, the Rogers unit has specially designed aerofoils on top of the booms, which avoid the creation of eddies of turbulence behind the enclosure. Research has shown that sprayer enclosures without an aerofoil actually push air upwards, creating an eddy that throws the applied.

The Windfoil Lite's aerofoils, developed after extensive wind tunnel trials, redirect the air downwards so that the spray is targeted towards the ground. A drift-stop curtain at the rear also helps to seal the enclosure and eliminate drift. Tests have shown that the



Windfall's enclosed booms give less drift in a 24 mph wind than a conventional open boom in a 6 mph wind, allowing grounds professionals to maintain work schedules in less than ideal conditions. The aerofoils have front and back mounts to secure them even during high speed transport.

The Windfoil Lite is available in two versions, the WL5000 and WL6000, with working widths of 5m and 6m respectively. Electric folding of the booms is available as an option.

For further information
 Tel: 01428 661222



C-Dax Europe has introduced a new three-point linkage mounted sprayer suitable for use with any compact tractor with sufficient lift capacity. The 400 litre unit is supplied with a 4.0m boom, and is designed to offer ease of operation and high accuracy combined with rugged build. Standard features include a clean water tank plus remote hose reel for spot spraying. As with all C-Dax equipment, the sprayer is purpose made for professional use and can be specified to suit a range of applications. Prices are from £1300.

For further information Tel: 01953 609999

New and improved Allman

The new HD16 16 litre backpack sprayer is set to replace the Allman mid range A16 sprayer which has proved popular for many years. The HD16 offers many improvements to its predecessor.

1. High output piston pump offers a greater pump displacement of liquid on each hand stroke of the pump, thus making it more efficient and needing less pumping strokes to maintain pump pressure.
2. A large screw filling lid incorporating a deep strainer to aid easy filling.
3. Ability to switch the pump handle from left to right hand pump operation.
4. Shoulder straps with quick release strap adjustment to enable easy adjustment of the straps when the knapsack is on the operators back.

The HD16 shares many components that have been used in the high specification Allman XI 5, which has a long track record of being a robust and reliable workhorse used by many knapsack fleet users.

At the same time many of the accessories/attachments such as spray shields, lance extensions, 2/3 nozzle cross booms, together with the Allman UPC constant pressure valve for operations at 1 or 2 bar, are easily attached to both the new HD16 and the XI5 knapsacks, making them very versatile and user friendly backpack sprayers.

Recommended retail price - £59.00 plus VAT.

**For further information
Tel: 01243-512511**



Latest product innovations to be jointly marketed

Richard Aitken Seedsmen Ltd, Aitken's Sports Turf and Avoncrop Amenity Products have developed a new national brand of amenity products under the name AWARD and will be jointly marketing this range throughout Scotland England and Wales. Launched at BTME 2002 were AWARD Green Lite and Sport Lite Fertilisers, a unique range of high performance fertilisers. Green Lite combining organic and vermiculite technology for fine turf and Sport Lite with organic and conventional nutrients for outfield turf. Award fertilisers are designed to give extended performance to the grass sward. The nutrients are retained in the root zone longer than conventional fertilisers, reducing the number of applications needed over the season and also making them more environmentally friendly, due to reduced leaching.

Green Lite's fine turf unique vermiculite organic technology results in lightweight compound granules to ensure perfect distribution at low rates, the particle size is up to 1.2 mm. With low scorch risk for greater peace of mind, giving an even release to reduce excessive early growth after application over an extended period compared, with traditional formulations. There are four analyses to meet fine turf requirements

Sport Lite outfield fertilisers come in two formulations, autumn/winter and spring/summer, designed to give extended release on outfield turf. This true compound granule gives accurate low rate application and is suitable for all sports pitches, fairways, aprons and surrounds. The organic content stimulates healthy grass and encourages beneficial root zone microbes.

The Soil Improver fermented seaweed rich in trace elements, carbohydrates and plant growth stimulants, providing sustained nutrition for plants and beneficial microbes. Soil Improver also releases alginate gel once moist, which helps tilth and crumb structure in all soil types, aiding aeration, moisture and nutrient retention. The added potassium helps to produce tougher harder wearing turf. Ideal for use on turf, seeding, turf laying or shrub bed enriching.

**For further information
Tel: 01934 820868**

Maxi-interest in Micro-granulars

Gem's new range of granular fertilisers attracted interest from new and existing customers alike at BTME earlier this year.

The micro-granular range allows for accuracy of application that is perfect for fine turf surfaces. Visitors to the show were especially delighted to see Gem's original Organic Golf Green 8-0-0 in a micro-granular form.

To promote the new products Gem had a competition to guess the number of 8-0-0 granules in a jar. The lucky winner of a colour television was Stuart Bertram, of Moor Park Golf, Hertfordshire was closest to the massive 342,000 actually in there.

**For further information
Tel: 01254 356611**

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

Increased versatility and range from Oleo Mac

Oleo Mac has increased the versatility of its brushcutters with the addition of hedgetrimmer and pruner attachments which will fit most brushcutters in the range.

The EP 100 pruner is designed for most plant pruning and trimming jobs and is quick and easy to fit, without the need for tools. The 30 degree angle of the bevel gear allow precise control on the ground, cutting undergrowth or clearing ditches and affords protection in an overhead cutting position where

branches fall away from the operator.

The bar and chain is constantly lubricated by an oil pump and a hook on the accessory grips the branch being cut making cutting easy and reducing vibration.

The Oleo Mac hedgetrimmer transforms the brushcutter into an efficient 48 cm bladed trimmer with a number of fixed position throughout the 270 degree blade rotation making overhead, ground or side-wall operation effortless. A 23 cm blade is also available for tidy-

ing flower beds and a runner fitted to the attachment allows the machine to glide easily over the ground.

**For further information
Tel: 01488 689400**



Indoor putting green from Huxley

An indoor putting green from Huxley Golf has been installed within the impressive new Golf Science laboratory located at the PGA National Training Academy, The Belfry.

Measuring 15ft x 15ft the putting green is being used to help train budding professional golfers as part of a three year sandwich course leading to the PGA Diploma in Golf. The majority of graduates will go on to become professionals at golf clubs throughout the United Kingdom and Ireland, as well as overseas.

The Huxley Golf putting green will be used also for practice by and coaching of elite national player squads and for continuing development programmes undertaken by experienced touring and club professionals. "There is a growing awareness and understanding of the close relationship between science and sport," explained Dr Kyle Phillpots, head of training and education at the PGA National Training Academy. "Our new laboratory is designed to demonstrate how golf science can be applied to golf performance and contains a range of equipment which will help recreate the physical and mental stresses encountered on a golf course. The aim is to help golfers maintain control over the mind and the body, for example, when faced with a three foot putt to win a tournament having walked 120 yards up hill to the green."



Ecosolve return to St Andrews with Deep Drill

St. Andrews Links Trust saw the return of Ecosolve's Deep Drill 60/18 for further aeration work on the historic greens of The Old Course. Initially work had been carried out on the 1st Green in November 2000, and twelve months later the second stage of the aeration programme was conducted and also broadened to include an area on the 2nd Green.

After a demonstration of the Drill and Fill aerator shortly before the 2000 Open, The Links Trust booked the sister machine, the Deep Drill 60/18 for later in the year.

"We needed aeration and extraction of rootzone, and the drilling concept met that requirement. However, it had to be deeper than twelve inches," commented Gordon Moir, Links Superintendent. "Ecosolve were able to meet the criteria of exceptional operating depth and extraction with the Deep Drill 60/18 aerator."

Ecosolve's operation in 2000 had been a great success. "The work done in stage one gave exactly the results we had hoped for - significant levels of rootzone extraction coupled with compaction relief. The consequent improvement in the green's performance gave us the confidence to proceed with stage two," said Gordon.

Eddie Adams, Head Greenkeeper on The Old Course, added.

"The increase in root extension was incredible. Whenever we changed the pin position during 2000, we could clearly see that the roots were going deeper, and this has increased the plant's health and natural resilience to wear and tear."

A significant factor in determining the level of success of the operation was just how easy it might be to reinstate play on those Old Course green that thousands of golfing pilgrims from around the world flock to. Much to everyone's satisfaction, the greens were open for play again within hours. Eddie explained "Such deep work might ordinarily cause disruption to the trueness of the putting surface, but we have found that not to be the case. After luting in a light top-dressing and a mow/roll, the green was reopened, and we experienced no adverse impact on play."

Bretton King, Ecosolve Limited's Technical Director, was delighted to receive the St. Andrews enquiry.

"When St. Andrews Links first contact is and explained what the requirements were, we naturally hoped we could provide what was needed. The factory became involved and a specially designed head was produced. We were delighted to have been able to satisfy The Links Trust's special needs and hope that we can continue to be of service to St. Andrews with machine sales or contract work."

Ecosolve Limited is the exclusive importer and distributor of the revolutionary Deep Drill 60/18 and Drill and Fill aerators.

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



HSS is delivering cost-effective and pioneering solutions to extend daylight working hours and enable grounds maintenance and landscaping to continue long after the sun sets, thanks to its space age lighting tower - the Luminator. Capable of lighting an area the size of half a football pitch, the five-metre powered mast and self-locking stabiliser legs fold into a compact tube measuring 1600mm x 400mm diameter, which fits into the back of an estate car or small van. The Luminator is ideal for sites where maximum light is

needed for the minimum amount of power. The powerful 100,000 lumens light head emits white light for perfect colour rendition using four 250W metal halide bulbs, which are five times more efficient than traditional halogen. The adjustable lens can be directed at 360°, 180° or as an uplighter. With a power rating of 1,000 Watts the Luminator self-selects 230V or 110V and runs from the smallest of generators.

For further information
Tel: 0845 766 7777

Howardson launch Mowersafe

BTME saw the launch of a totally new and innovative device designed to combat the theft of mowers from sports clubs.

British manufacturer, Howardson Ltd, following research carried out by an insurance company has introduced Mowersafe, which highlighted the alarming increase in theft of valuable equipment from clubs' storage sheds. Their recommendations were for some form of protection for this type of vulnerable machinery, which is often stored in an isolated wooden building with inadequate security or alarm systems.

Mowersafe will securely store any make of cylinder mower with up to a 24" cut - it is designed to be simple to use and effective. The 10mm heavy-duty steel structure takes up little more space than the mower itself. The unit can be secured to the concrete, earth or steel floor of the shed for added protection.

High specification hardened steels are used for the main lock pin making grinding, sawing and cutting extremely difficult. The heavy-duty locking system incorporates a barrel lock, which cannot be hammered off or bolt cropped. Weighing in at 160 kg, Mowersafe represents a formidable challenge to any intruder.

"While many mowers are now fitted with Datatags, this is only a trace method and does not prevent a theft happening in the first place. Mowersafe offers clubs a cost effective security device designed to protect their equipment and fight crime," said Howardson's Managing Director, Ian Howard.

The unit is priced at £395 plus VAT and installation can be arranged.

For further information
Tel: 01332 824777

Verti-core line-up introduced by Charterhouse

Charterhouse Turf Machinery has introduced a range of tractor-powered turf corers. The verti-core line-up comprises three machines. The 1300, 1700 and 2100 have working widths of 1.3m, 1.7m and 2.1m and require tractors of 22 hp, 28 hp and 35 hp. All three have more moving elements within a given width than comparable machines, giving more thorough treatment of the turf. Each can penetrate to a maximum depth of 125 mm.

The machines feature positive drive, being powered via a gearbox and crankshaft, rather than relying on belt drive, which is prone to slippage and loss of performance. This also ensures a constant hole pattern is maintained across the work area. The corers can be fitted with multi-tine heads, giving hole spacings across their widths of 17 mm, 32.5mm and 52 mm, and a comprehensive range of tine options are available.

For further information
Tel: 01428 661222





Scottish Region
Peter Boyd
Tel/Fax 0141 616 3440

East

Sorry there was no column last month but as there was no news or views going around there was no point writing one. But we do have some news this month so here goes. I attended BTME at Harrogate last month and yet again the show, seminars and everything else to do with the week just seem to get better and better.

Well done to everyone at HQ for another enjoyable week. Roll on next year. (PS the company was superb as well because when greenkeepers get together it just shows we're all equals). If you haven't been before try and get along next year. It was good to see an even bigger attendance of Scots this year so let's hope this continues in the year's to come. The Patrons' Award winners enjoyed their week at the premier turfgrass show in Europe and articles about their experiences will be in this magazine shortly. Won't it lads?

The spring outing is coming up next month - April - the date is Tuesday 23rd at Gullane No 3 with a limit of 48 people, so when you receive your entry form get it back as soon as possible as it is first come first served. Don't be late, act now. As there is a limit there will be no guests allowed on the day.

The summer Texas Scramble is now in a new time slot so as to get more people to attend. It is Tuesday, July 30, at Uphall Golf Club. Let's see a big turnout for this one. The autumn tournament date and venue to be confirmed very soon while the entry forms for all these tournaments will come together this year to cut down on postage. Look after them as these will be the only entry forms you get and no entry form = no place in the tournaments.

Also, don't forget your handicap certificates or you will have to play off the handicap that the Section gives you. Get these to me as soon as possible for changes to be made.

The Scottish National Tournament will be held at West Linton Golf Club on Thursday, June 27. Let's have a good turnout on the day.

By the time you read this the Scottish Conference will have been and gone so I hope to see you there and its as good as last year.

Well that's it for this month. Speak to you all next time.

Chris Yeaman

Ayrshire

News in brief as our committee meeting is going to be after the magazine deadline for March. Date for the Diary as the spring outing has been scheduled for Thursday, April 25 at Prestwick St Cuthberts Golf Club, full details in next month's magazine.

Jim Paton's been busy recently he has just been elected Vice Chairman of the Scottish Region and also been selected as a Scottish delegate on the

Bernhard's trip to GCSAA show in Orlando. Well done Jim, we'll hear how you got on stateside.

Also moving into officialdom in Ayrshire is George Brown who is the new National Vice Chairman. Congratulations George.

Any news or views please call me on 01 505-683278, see you next month

Iain Barr

West

Welcome to this month's newsletter. First off a few dates for your diary. On March 5 the Scottish Educational Conference will be held at Lauder College in Dunfermline. This has always proved an excellent venue as it has easy road access as well as an excellent conference facility. The speakers who attend these programmes are also of the highest calibre and I am sure anyone who attends on the day will find something of interest which can be utilised to improve their course.

On April 4 the Aitkens — SGM Greensomes competition will be held at Lenzie CC this competition was originally set up to give greenkeepers and their convenors an opportunity to get to know one another in a relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere away from their work environment. The days are always popular and very enjoyable, although the golf is not all that brilliant so early in the season, so do try and come along. The West would again like to thank Aitkens — SCM for their continued support in staging this event. The committee would also like to thank the committee and membership of Lenzie GC for the use of their facilities. I am sure Gavin is also relishing the prospect of preparing the course for his fellow greenkeepers so early in the year but that's the price you pay for being last year's winners.

On April 25 the Spring outing will be held at Millport GC again our thanks go to the membership and the committee for giving us courtesy of the course and the use of their facilities. I personally look forward to this trip across the water as I have never played the course or visited the island. I am sure Joe and his team will have the course in great condition for an event that comes so early in the season. Please try and return your entry forms on time as catering has to be arranged at the venue.

Congratulations have to be passed on somewhat belatedly to Mark Healy who was awarded a trip to BTME 2002 for his educational achievements during 2001. Mark currently works at Cameron House and I am sure will have enjoyed the show, conferences and social side to BTME. The opportunity to talk to other greenkeepers at the show always proves enlightening and is probably the best source of education around. Thanks must also be passed on to Mike Dooner, of Thortree Amenity, for putting up the award. Mike was keen to give the award to a young person or trainee who might not ordinarily get the opportunity to visit the show and wanted the prize to be based on educational achievement. I am sure Mark will be very grateful for the opportunity offered to him by Mike and again

the section committee would also like to thank him for making the award possible.

Next month a report on the visit to Stewarts Turf Nursery held on February 26.

Well that's it for this month again if you have anything you would like added to the column please do not hesitate to call me on 01355266862.

Brian Bolland

Central

We begin this month by welcoming Gilbert Hepburn, from Muckhart GC, to the Section. Gilbert is Assistant Head Greenkeeper to Alistair Touch at Muckhart, hopefully we will meet him at some of our forthcoming events and he might even encourage Alistair to come along to them again!

Belated congratulations go to a number of Section members this month, namely Derek (Deek) Scott and his staff from Scoone Golf Course in Fife, who were presented with personal achievement awards for their tireless efforts in maintaining their course and Albert Arnott, from Lochore Meadows Golf Course, who was also presented with a personal achievement award for all his work in training fellow greenkeepers, all are employed by Fife Council.

A man who must have more honours! awards/presentations etc. than Caroline has time to dust is Walter Woods, Walter was in America recently to pick up yet another one, The Old Tom Morris Award, which was presented to him by the GCSAA for his services to greenkeeping. Our sincere congratulations go to everyone of them on their achievements. The Central Section must be full of talent! It's full of something but I'm not quite sure what, no doubt someone won't be long in letting me know!

Entry forms for this year's Inter Club Tournament will be with you shortly and you will notice that we have altered the format yet again, this is to try and allow everyone to play their matches within the allotted time, then perhaps we can complete the tournament in the same year as we start it. The last attempt went from one century to the next! Please don't take so long the next time!

With BTME over for another year it must be getting near to the start of another golfing season. Let's hope the next few weeks are a wee touch drier than January and February have been. While at Harrogate it was great to see so many Central Section members there and it was pleasing to meet up with a number of former Section members who are now working away from home, David Murdoch, Ross Wilson, Cohn Hutt, Ian Ross and Ian Ritchie send their regards to all their friends in the Section.

The name of the winners for the January, February and March draws in "Club 2000" will all be in next month's magazine. It's not that we forgot to make the draws it was to give all of you who had "forgotten" to send the money, time to rectify your mistake and be included in the draw.

John Crawford

North

No new members to report this month, hopefully maybe have a few new recruits before the season starts properly.

I would like to wish get well soon to three of our members on behalf of our Section - to Stuart Hogg, Dougal Duguid and, last but not least, Hugh Mclatchie. We hope to see you all at the outing at Elgin on May 16 this year.

Robert Hardie, from Craibstone GC, and Kenny Kinnaird, from Grantown GC, were at the Patrons' Award Dinner in Stirling and had a very enjoyable trip. They would like to convey there thanks to Peter Boyd for all his hard efforts in the organising of the event.

On the subject of thanking Peter, I would like to thank him on behalf of the members of the Scottish Region who went down to Harrogate on the bus, and for setting everything up with the accommodation etc. It was an enjoyable trip.

This was my first visit to Harrogate, and contrary to stories I heard beforehand was very quiet! Seriously it was great to see so many members of our Section make the effort to go, and it was definitely worth the visit. There is something there for everyone. The exhibition halls are massive and takes a good while to go round while the seminars, workshops, and National Education Conference are there for Greenkeepers, secretaries etc. There were a vast array of speakers at the seminars and the conference and they were all well attended and very informative. Anyone with an interest in golf would have enjoyed the week.

Aforementioned Robert and Kenny were down as patrons of our Section and thoroughly enjoyed themselves despite losing unmentionable amounts of money on the pool table. It was great to meet old friends and also get the chance to meet greenkeepers from all over the country, and indeed from other countries. There were a few characters to come out of the week, none more so than the three amigos, who shall remain nameless, but are instantly recognisable even minus their sombreros. Also the rep who lost his voice, just when it was his shout as well. He shall remain nameless also.

The Scottish Conference is on this month very early on, March 5 to be exact. The speakers cover a wide variety of topics and it should be a good day for anyone who can make it.

The 200 Club will be up and running again soon and I will say more in the next magazine report.

Well as I write this report the winter is shaping up to be the wettest I have known for many a year, it is the opposite of last winter, at least at my club it is, and is holding up the finishing of any construction work undertaken. I hope it dries up soon. Anyway I hope the weather is kinder to the rest of the Section members and you have a successful start to your season

Iain Gunn



Northern Region
Douglas Bell
Tel: 0151 431 0433

North East

Well another successful BTME this year. Over 8500 people passed through the

doors which just goes to show you how popular it has become. It was good to see many of my colleagues from the Section down there, all thanks once again to Terry Charlton for providing transport for both NE and Cleveland Sections.

Another plus for the Section was to see James Storey and Steve Quince, both from Alnmouth Golf Club, attending the workshops. Well done to their golf club.

Bumped into two former members of the Section, Ed McCabe and Paul McDowall, who were at Seaham GC a few years back. Both were there for the week also attending all the courses. Confirmation for the Autumn Competition is September 19 at Longhirst Hall, the Spring Comp is TBA.

Jimmy Richardson

North West

I have just returned from the BTME and once again it was a brilliant show, with tractors and mowers sparkling like new cars, and so many companies with everything needed for the golf course, from fertilisers, grass seed, and every gadget imaginable. One thing I did not see was a wheelbarrow, but then all the equipment on golf courses seems to be ride on, how things have changed.

One section of the show was set out with machinery from bygone times, and there was the mowing machine that gave me my first taste of grass cutting. It was designed to be drawn by a pony, but on my first day of work I was the pony. Two straps on my shoulders and a hook to the machine with the gardener guiding the machine while we mowed the grass verges in the park, thank goodness for change.

I must emphasise the Show is well worth a visit, so if you could not manage this year. Make a note in your diary for 2003.

By now you will all have received your fixture lists for the year, plus your application forms for the Mere Seminar, I must thank Rufford Soil Technology, and our President, Peter Jefford, for sponsoring the fixture lists and making such a professional job of them. There is one small mistake (my fault) summer tournament at Ulverston Golf Club should read Thursday, June 20. The Stewards' match is at Ashton in Makerfield on Monday, September 9. I hope as many as possible will support the Mere Seminar, and bring along your Secretary and or Green Chairman, I am sure they will find it interesting.

That appears to be all for now but I will welcome any news or views and you can contact me on 0151 724 5412 or mobile 07761583387

Bert Cross

Northern

I start off with an apology about the spring tournament. The date is April 16, at Bedale GC. Sorry about the mix up. Remember the closing date is for the Spring tournament is April 9 with full payment of £15 to any committee member.

By the time you read this we will have had hopefully another successful seminar at Howley Hall GC. Many thanks to the speakers and sponsors on the day. More info. next month.

Congratulations and good luck to Graham Greenwood on getting married recently. We have one new member this month:- Barry Mars, Hornsea GC.

That's all for now, if anybody as any news or ideas then let me know. My address is 67 Asquith Avenue, Morley, Leeds, LS27 9QS; Tel: 0113 2383188; mobile 07790 678572, Email: andy@northernsection.co.uk

Andy Smith

North Wales

Congratulations goes to James Cope of Carden Park GC for successfully attaining his BTCIA Irrigation Diploma. This comes just weeks after MG Andy Campbell passed his GCSAA exam (being the only one in the country to hold this stateside recognition) placing Carden at the forefront of education.

Moving on to this month's tales of

a day in the life of a greenkeeper, Allen Lewis, of Llanynymech GC, came in to work on Sept 18 to be met by the Green Chairman who had been out early walking his dog, alerting Allen of his observations of a powdered substance that had been scattered on the greens? Upon inspection Allen found that five greens had the same residual on them 3,4,5,8 and 15. Taking samples off for early analysis by taking a hole cut sod, this was detected as powdered weed killer, a rush then was on to douse with water to rid the greens of any scorch etc unfortunately all came too late as the damage had been done and within 5 days the greens turned into yellow/brown mud, Allen got total support from the committee who were very disappointed that this act of vandalism had been thrust upon them.

New turf was placed on to patch the damaged area's but also became contaminated and had to be removed along with 8 - 9" of sub soil. finally after 220 tonnes of rootzone and 550sq metres of new turf was laid Allen and the team look forward to presenting Llanynymech too its former glory for the start of the season.

On a lighter note, did you spot Allen on lan Woosnam's, 'This is your Life'. Well parts of his body anyway! Well done, Al.

Terry Adamson. recently visited Bangkok and assures us it's all it's cracked up to be and is thinking of making it an annual trip! Any Section members wishing to go should see Terry.

We wish Adrian Kinsey, Deputy Head of Mile End GC, well after a spell in hospital for a leg operation.

I would also on behalf of the Section like to thank 'Field Irrigation' for their seminar talk at the college and to Danny Tomkins, Amenity Technology, for organising and paying for the coach to take members and guests up to the BTME show. A full coach of 56 people went up and after Am-Tech's hospitality night in the Old Swan Hotel the number was a lot less coming back (allegedly).

Our Spring Tournament at Carden Park (Cheshire Course) is on April 10, your forms will be in the post shortly and entries close on April 1.

We have had to become more strict on entry rules, so no payment before closing date, no golf, no excuses. The Section is also advised Carden is a "soft spike" course and players will be charged £5 on the day if they need these spikes changing

Any news, views or information you have, please contact me on: Home 01925 263394 Fax 01925 269622 - Mobile 07778 162162 or e-mail acorn@golf@supanet..corn

Job's a good'en
Andrew Acorn



Midland Region
Peter Larter
Tel: 01476 550115

East Midlands

Once again the BTME week at Harrogate was a great success. The new formula of combining the National Education Conference, the Workshops and the first day of the show seemed to be a great success. On behalf of the Section, I would like to congratulate Richard Barker, of Beedles Lake GC, on his appointment as BIGGA National Chairman, and also to Philip Helmn, of Overstone Park GC, on receiving his Master Greenkeepers award.

It was also encouraging to see more Section members there than usual, but we would still like to see a bigger turnout from the Section. On behalf of the Section I would like to thank the following members who attended the show for two or more days, Scott Purdy, Ashbourne GC; Donald Donaldson, Farthingstone GC; Dave Leatherland, Kedleston Park GC; Gavin Robson, Lingdale GC; Adi Porter, Greetham Valley GC, and Mark and Antony Bindley, Kirby Muxloe GC. If I have missed anybody's name out of this list I can only apologise, and we all wish to see you at the same venue next year.

All members should now have received their entry form for the Spring Tournament at The Leicestershire GC on May 2. If you have not received your form please ring or Email me and I will gladly forward you a form.

Antony Bindley

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South East
Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260956

Kent

Not a lot to report on this month due to problems with my e-mail account picking up a virus. So I am unable to pick up all your e-mails of news and

views this month... and I'm sure there were loads.

So I have no stories of wild nights in Harrogate at BTME or any of the Christmas parties some of you promised me. I did get a text message from an old friend by the name of Jo Silcock, from Royal St Georges, on seeing my picture in January's edition of Greenkeeper International, hard at work, as usual, loading up our top dresser on page 16. I've lost loads of weight since then though. Jo pointed out how nice it was to see I still have the enthusiasm for hard work after all these years, just like when we worked together at North Foreland Golf Club.

No news yet of any golf days or events but if there are any golf courses who would like to entertain us then feel free to contact Duncan Kelso on 01732 875020 with news I'm sure he will greet with open arms.

I would like to apologise to the Head Greenkeeper I mentioned in the January issue with my comments being ill advised. He has since found employment and wish him well in his new position.

So once again if you have any information or news please e-mail me on my new address: jrbatkhgolf@aol.com or call on 01732 875020.

A small bit of advice: Don't open e-mails if you don't know who they're from or you may end up with a virus on your computer.

Jason Bean

Mid Anglia

By now, members should have received a fixture card, listing golf events for the year, as well as entry forms for the relevant competitions. Please photocopy the main entry form, should you wish to play in more than one competition this year. If you haven't received the relevant forms,

please contact Gerald Bruce, Secretary.

Our first golf event of the season takes place at Ashridge GC, on April 19, over 36 holes. If you wish to play, please make sure that your entries are sent to Richard in good time.

The other golf events are as follows: Summer. St Neots GC, August 28; Autumn. Stocks GC, October 10; Christmas Scramble. South Beds GC, December 5

The Lodgeway Four Ball has been changed to a singles event this year; entries to Steve Mason, should you wish to take part. To ensure the smooth running of the competition, please be sure that you can commit to playing the matches. We don't want to see last year's problems recurring, with people not completing their matches on time.

New silverware purchased by the Section will be awarded to the winners of the Spring, Summer and Autumn tournaments.

BTME at Harrogate in January this year was once again a great success. It was disappointing, however, to see members at the AGM veto the Board of Management's proposals for restructuring full greenkeeper membership.

Paul Lockett

London

Can I start by wishing all our members a very happy new year. Let's hope the weather's a bit kinder to us all. I should say as I write this we're being battered by gale force winds and driving rain. Oh well, some things never change! Some confirmed dates for your diaries: Spring Meeting at Wyke Green GC, on Tues, April 30; Autumn Meeting at Porter's Park GC, on Wed, August 21; Turkey Trot at Denham GC, on Wednesday, November 20

I'm still awaiting confirmation on a June date for the Summer Meeting but hope to have that soon.

More details on that and the other dates in my next report.

Short and sweet this month I'm afraid but without any juicy gossip from you guys I haven't got much choice. Please phone me with any news from around the Section on 01923 835549.

Robert Phillips

Surrey

Surrey Section Committee had a meeting on the January 29. It was decided that any main committee decisions would be placed in the following edition of Around the Green. Lee Strutt has decided to stand down from the committee and we all thank him for his hard work over the past years. Tony Bremer from Dorking Golf Club is taking his place and Dan Lightfoot from Gattin Manor has been co-opted onto the committee to help organise the Regional Seminar, which this year is hosted by Surrey Section. Details of this to follow.

It was decided that our Secretary Ian Sellars needs a computer to fulfil his tasks without taking up so much of his personal and business time. We have been fortunate to purchase a second-hand machine from Anthony Freeman. His list of other general merchandise including low mileage, good quality cars can be obtained from the telephone booth in Roehampton High Street.

Tony Bremer will be the golf handicap secretary and will in future notify all changes by post. Geoff Woodward, from Wimbledon Common GC, takes over Lee's job as Regional Representative and will be assisted by Dave Murdoch from Liphook GC. All other Committee posts remain as before.

The fixture list for 2002 will be follows: Walton Heath, Gentleman's Dinner, March 8; Foxhills, May 27 - Sponsor Rigby Taylor; Shirley Park, June 27 - Sponsor Barrowfields; Liphook, July 19 - Sponsor Avoncrop; Sunningdale, TBA - Sponsor Grass Roots; Effingham, Oct 18 - Sponsor Kestral Golf; Banstead, Nov 21 - Sponsor Tacit; Wimbledon Common, Surrey Greenkeepers vs Members Wimbledon Common and London Scottish Golf Club, Hankley Common, TBA - England vs Scotland; Regional Seminar, Possibly November 27. Confirmation will follow

The Huxley/Sisis Bowl is now the Bioseed Bowl. Details will be available shortly. £10 per pair and the final will be at a neutral venue.

Finally our congratulations to Gary and Claire Stewan, Banstead GC whose son Thomas, 6lb 8ozs, and from Reigate Heath GC, Grant

Dooley and his wife, Lisa, have a second child, Freya Lilley.

Please remember to let me have all your news for the next and subsequent editions of Around the Green. Brian Willmott

Essex

This, as you may know is the first report since God knows how long. That's not because the author has not written anything but more to do with a mix up with names, the reports I write for this magazine as you know go to a Mr S. MacCallum whereas the reports I write for my local newspapers go to a Mr S. MacEnnis and yes you guessed it that is were our report ended up and by the time I had found out it was too late to even get it in the February magazine.

Therefore this small entry is just a list of dates for upcoming events. Our first golf day of the year is our Spring Trophy, which is to be held at the Essex Golf & Country Club on April 17. (not April 15 as advertised on your fixture list).

On the education front we have an evening lecture on March 26 at Writtle College, contact John Sinclair on 01702 589063. There is also a one day Risk and COSSH Assessment course being held at The Burstead Golf Club on March 20 at the very small cost of £10, contact Martin Forrester on 01245 603131.

That just leaves me to wish you all a successful and enjoyable years golf with our Section and hope to see you all at each of them in turn.

Steve Crosdale

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**South West
and South Wales**
Paula Humphries
Tel: 01288 352194

South Coast

Another month has passed by quickly and as ever we as greenkeepers are being severely challenged by the weather. I quote a much respected agronomist 'nature always pays itself back'. We all anticipated some rain after a very dry November and December, and at the end of January and beginning of February it was no surprise when the heavens opened and the wind blew. Maybe it would be nice if the weather would be kind to us for a whole winter! Maybe next year.

The Section has been fairly quiet this month with the committee concentrating their efforts on the Section seminar, which will have passed when you read this. Let's hope we had a good turn out!

Many of our Section travelled up to Harrogate for the education conference and BTME in January. This year the whole week had a fresh new look as the Association looked to build on previous successes. (As with greenkeeping, the moment you stand still you end up going backwards). I attended an excellent environmental workshop on the Monday run by Senior STRI Ecologist Bob Taylor with Jonathan Smith and Fiona McIntyre, from the Scottish Golf Course Wildlife

Group. Ecological management doesn't mean you have to grow a beard and wear sandals! It probably already is an integral part of your course management programme. We learnt a great deal on maximising the ecological potential of our courses as well as sustaining its diverse habitats. Tuesday I attended the National Education Conference and was treated to some excellent presentations. Donald Steel was excellent as he spoke passionately about his concerns that the modern day golf ball and club were having on our ageing courses. Both professionals and members are now hitting the ball further than ever and he felt that some action was urgently required to protect our ever-shrinking courses. In the afternoon it was a pleasure to see Brockenhurst Manor's Course Manager, Ed McCabe, and ex Green Chairman, Arthur King, take the stand and give excellent presentations. Ed spoke of how he and his team coped with the atrocious weather of last winter and Arthur, as ever, spoke of how members should support greenkeepers and their maintenance programme more. I'm sure that there would be a queue of greenkeepers who would love to have Arthur as their Green Chairman!

Wednesday saw Roger Black MBE give us an excellent insight into the motivational techniques and team building approach, which helped him win two Olympic medals. The presentation was both entertaining and

inspirational. This was the start of the BTME seminar programme, which finished on Thursday and covered a wide variety of subjects. The show as ever seemed to get bigger and better and there were a number of new products and machines to look at. As ever I learnt a great deal as I shared experiences and ideas with other greenkeepers from around the world. We all have the same problems; it's how we deal with them that is sometimes vastly different! The banquet finished the week off where most of us had met old friends and made new ones too.

For those that have never visited BTME then I can strongly recommend it! Remember to include it in your budget next year. It doesn't have to cost the earth, as the Section coach is excellent value. It certainly would be good to see new faces from our Section there next year!

Back to the Section. It has been suggested to the committee that we could possibly introduce course walks at our Section golf days to those members who don't play golf. Looking around different courses is always informative and we are hoping to arrange these if possible. You should have all received your fixture cards along with an entry form for the inaugural Jim Fry Pairs' competition. Jim has long been a respected and valued supporter of our Section so I am sure the Pairs' competition will be well supported. Numbers are strictly limited so please

return your completed forms as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. The first round draw will be held at our spring meeting at Blackmoor Golf Club on May 1. If you have not received your fixture card then please contact Fred Deamen.

Until next month
Alex McCombie

Devon and Cornwall

Fifty-eight members attended the Barenbrug Seeds meeting, which was the Section's first meeting of the year and held at Perranporth Golf Club on Wednesday, January 16. The day started with our golfing members competing over the Club's links course for prizes kindly donated by Barenbrug UK. Head Greenkeeper, Bill Mitchell, treated over 20 non-golfing members to a guided tour of the sheds and course before returning for lunch.

After an excellent lunch David Singleton, of Barenbrug UK, presented the mornings golf prizes as follows: 1. Chris Bland, Dainton, 42pts; 2. John Scott, St Mellion, 39pts; 3. Tony James, Kellow, 38pts.

Dave Brewster on Golf Course Construction presented our afternoon educational forum.

The Section would like to thank our meeting sponsor, Barenbrug and David Singleton, for their continued sponsorship. Also, our thanks must go to Bill Mitchell, John, Fred & Nick for having the course in excellent condi-

Your greens' quality is riding on it.

