

New mini-loader is the Bobcat
look at the news and the very
the first industry

annua would drop considerably keeping it at a more desirable working rate and also leaving it easier to control. To me if you reduce your poa annua to around 20% of your green sward and remove most of its seedheads then there should no problem with it matching the quality of some bent grass putting surfaces.

While at Harrogate this year I had some interesting conversations with greenkeepers from Scotland, England and Ireland all of whom had very different views from myself about this supposed problem grass species.

One greenkeeper's view was to cut all of his greens at 2.5mm throughout the cutting season. This was an attempt to burn all of his poa annua out. Fairly straight forward, I thought. But I think that any greenkeepers attempting that idea would be handed their P45s and told where to go.

Another view was to stop artificially watering the putting surfaces. This also pretty straight forward, as you are letting mother nature take its own course.

But what would the paying members say? I personally don't think that they would be very happy, as not only would you have brown putting surfaces scorched by the sun, you would have an extremely expensive irrigation system doing nothing all year round.

One of the greenkeepers believed that he had never come across poa annua on his putting surfaces before, but admitted that he hadn't inspected them closely through a magnifying glass. I informed him that when I was at college I was taught that on some occasions the poa annua grass species can be mistaken for species of bent grass and that it could only be detected close up by the use of a magnifying glass.

I distinctly remembered the drawings that I was shown in college comparing the two grasses and was able to jot them down as best I could and give them to my greenkeeper friend hopefully enabling him to detect any poa annua that he might or might not have on his surfaces.

The drawings on the far left show the differences close up between the two types of grasses and referring to these hopefully will help anyone to determine whether or not poa annua exists on their golf putting surfaces.

The diagrams that I have drawn also show that when not at its flowering stage poa annua can only be identified close up through a magnifying glass, by looking for the forked tips and folded leaf. Poa annua also has a very prominent ligule and a tram lining effect on its leaf. All in all, when studied close enough this grass is actually very different from the agrostis castellana that it can sometimes be compared to.

Other greenkeepers I spoke to at Harrogate, said that poa annua is much too deep rooted and that it can have stoloning effects which can lead to a larger thatch layer.

This may be true but having an article with me explaining the real causes of thatch I was able to rubbish their claims with great backup. Coleman Ward, a professor and turf grass specialist, explained that horizontal stolon root growth will only create a greater sized thatch layer if not managed properly, ie. if you regularly groom, comb, scarify and aerate in a balanced programme this cannot cause thatch in any way. A bad management programme and also improper fertilising and watering on the poa annua grass will most definitely lead to the creating of a thatch layer. This happens due to the poa annua's thick root layer and stem which will trap cellulose and lignin between the grass blades and soil, not allowing the soil microbes any chance of breaking down the thatch layer. So once again everyone is deciding to jump on the bandwagon without having any real knowledge of the effects poa annua has to putting surfaces.

Most greenkeepers will know that poa annua is very susceptible to the turf grass disease anthracnose (*colletotrichum graminicola*), which can also be know basal rot of poa annua. This is often found on poorly managed surfaces in late summer and autumn, especially if the management is tilted towards starving out this grass species. Other influencing factors can be poor growing conditions and severe compaction which will restrict the air supply to the roots of the grass. Poor fertility is also likely to cause this disease that can easily be noticed due to the yellowing of the poa grass leaves. On the younger leaves a red tinge can be seen and if you look closely enough you will notice the black base of the plant, this means the disease is at an advanced stage. This black staining is known as acervulus and appears when the base has rotted and the grass can easily be pulled out of the surface, the acervuli involved in the reproduction of this grass plant.

All of these listed symptoms which lead to this disease can be controlled a variety of cultural control methods and also chemical control methods, so the poa annua will always fight on and on and on.

So should we all forget this aggressive attitude towards this, always under pressure, grass species and start treating it as a regular grass we are going to have to come to terms dealing with. If we manage it in a sensible and controllable manner maybe, just maybe, the stress will be reduced on all us greenkeepers and the poa annua grass might even become our future friend.

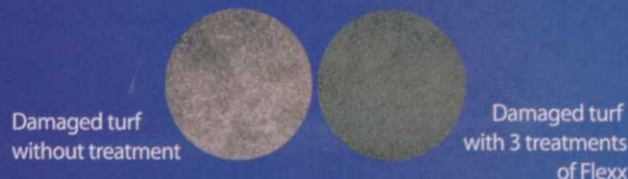
I will leave its fate for you to decide!

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Scotts take on Premiere distribution

Scotts has taken on the distribution of the DowAgroSciences product 'Premiere', a ready-to-use, pre-emergence herbicide for use around amenity tree and shrub plantings. The active ingredients, isoxaben and trifluralin, combine to provide long-term control of a wide range of germinating broad-leaved and grass weed seedlings including annual meadow-grass, fat-hen, groundsel and shepherd's-purse.

"Premiere is formulated as a free-flowing granular product," explains Dave Steward, Marketing Manager at Scotts.

"The yellow granules are easily visible when applied to the soil surface, which is a

useful benefit for operators during application. Once on the soil, the granules are disintegrated by rain/irrigation to form a herbicidal layer in the top 5 - 10 cm of soil which then acts on the germinating weed seeds, providing weed control for up to six months. With low solubility in water, Premiere does not leach and therefore offers a low risk to the environment and is safe to groundwater."

With very good plant safety, low risk of residual build-up and no hazard classification, new Premiere from Scotts is the safe herbicide option for operators, as well as the public, their pets and the environment.

**For further information
 Tel: 01473 830492**

Flymo unveil new hover mower

Flymo has launched the new XL550 hover mower. Essentially targeted towards the contractor, professional and groundcare markets, the new XL550 will sit alongside the smaller Flymo models and features a 50.5cm (20") metal blade, 3 cutting heights (10 - 26mm) and is supplied with transport wheels for added convenience and manoeuvrability.

Furthermore, Flymo's new XL550 also features a Honda-powered GCV160 4-stroke engine to easily cope with the demands of continuous inclined use on slopes of up to 45 degrees. Pumped fuel ensures optimum fuel delivery on tough inclined slopes and starting is made easy by an automatic cylinder decompression starting mechanism.

The new Flymo XL550 is available from Nottingham-based Henton and Chattell, who were recently appointed national distributors for the full range of Flymo petrol hover mowers.

**For further information
 Tel: 0115 986 6646**



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

Honda engine for Masport Olympic mowers

Masport Olympic cylinder mowers from Claymore Grass Machinery, are now available with Honda engines.

The Masport model 400H 40cm/16in., 500H 50cm/20in. and 660H 65cm/26in. models are all fitted with the 4hp Honda GC135 four stroke engine. All these units have six bladed cylinders.

The Masport 500 GolfH is a specialist fine turf 50cm/20in. mower with a 4hp Honda GX120 engine and features a ten blade cylinder, shaver blade c/w turf rake and steel front roller.

Claymore Managing Director, Keith Christian, said, "The Honda engines are being supplied due to customer demand and fitting these high specification units will enhance the Masport name for quality."

"The easy starting and reliability of the Honda engine is becoming more and more in demand in particular from the hire companies."

**For further information
 Tel/Fax 01865 820731**



Sump pallets introduced by Course Care

The Control of Pollution (Oil Storage) (England) Regulations became law on March 1 this year and affect everyone storing oil (including diesel fuel).

Course Care has been aware of the introduction of this legislation and have solutions. To meet the requirements of the act, they have produced Sump Pallets on which to store drums and barrels, fast acting Spill Kits and a range of maintenance-free Balmoral Bunded Fuel Tanks.

"Many in the turf maintenance sector have not realised that the new regulations are, in fact, law and failure to comply can result in fines of up to a £5000 maximum. The days of the old rusty single skin diesel tanks mounted on top of pillars with a gravity feed are dead. They are an accident waiting to happen. This is one reason the new legislation has been introduced. People just haven't been taking notice of recommenda-

tions, so now it's law. Sump Pallets make the storage of oil in barrels and drums safe and tidy," said Course Care's David Mears.

Course Care will be pleased to discuss the regulations and advise on the best and most cost effective ways to comply. A free information pack is available.

**For further information
 Tel: 01535 611103**

Air conditioned cabs for Kioti tractors

Kioti compact tractors with 45hp and 50hp engines are now available with high specification factory-fitted cabs with air-conditioning.

The cabs are fully sealed and have sound and vibration damping cab mounts. They also have tinted windows, an opening roof hatch, radio-cassette player, heater and four work lights - two front and two rear.

The tractors, which are distributed in the UK by Rustons Engineering, are also now available with three alternative types of tyre to suit agricultural, general amenity or fine turf usage.

**For further information
 Tel 01480 455151**



New mini-loader is the Bobcat's whiskers

Bobcat Company, the inventor of the skid-steer loader, has announced the availability of the new A220 multi-steer loader. The Bobcat A220 is the first loader of its kind to offer the operator the possibility to select, via a rocker switch in the loader cab, the type of steering best suited for the operating conditions: all-wheel steering or skid-steering.

The A220 combines the features and benefits of two different types of steering in one machine: minimal ground disturbance of a wheel loader combined with the exceptional manoeuvrability of a skid-steer loader.

All-wheel steering is designed for minimising disturbance to soft surfaces such as grass turf as well as manoeuvring easily on dry paved surfaces such as asphalt or concrete. Skid-steering, on the other hand, allows the loader to manoeuvre efficiently in tight spaces with extra fast cycle times.

For further information
Tel: 020 8741 9828



If you've got an email account, and want to keep up to date with the latest news and events from the turfcare industry, drop us an email, and we'll add you to our ever increasing list of online subscribers. We'll then inform you of any forth-coming features and events via email.

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!

Netpave builds on solid foundation

Netpave 25, the latest addition to Notion's portfolio of turf protection products, is a solution to the common problem of turf erosion and surface damage to grassed areas used as pathways, access routes and overspill car parks.

Golf course and ground management representatives were introduced to the many benefits of the unique Netpave 25 system - an easy-to-lay plastic paving system which requires no substructure preparation or surface evacuation. The flexibility of the spring joints of the pavers is another major benefit allowing for installation on undulating, sloping or curving ground. Netpave 25 is designed to withstand wear caused by light vehicles, so golf buggies or light grounds maintenance vehicles can access all areas without causing damage.



Stihl's ergonomically designed brushcutter

The new FR450 Backpack brushcutters from STIHL boasts a 44cc engine generating an impressive 2.1kW (2.9HP) of power, driving it straight to the top of Stihl's backpack range.

Brushcutters are one of the most useful tools invented for landscape and grounds maintenance, with their shaft-mounted cutting heads reaching around obstacles and under bushes, and tackling a range of materials where mowers can't mow or won't go. Joining the range of specialist power tools from STIHL, the FR450 brushcutter is ever more versatile, with its backpack mounting demonstrating true strength where others may struggle: on steep slopes, up overgrown

embankments and in narrow ditches.

A flexible drive shaft transmits the FR450's impressive power from its engine to the cutting head and a range of cutting tools is available, making the machine suitable for clearing anything from small weeds and grass to nettles and brambles, reeds and scrub. The specially developed, ergonomically designed carrying frame sits comfortably on the user's back, spreading the weight of the power unit across back and shoulders, with the additional support of a hip belt - just like a good rucksack.

For further information
Tel: Freephone 0800 137574



New Chipper/Shredder launched by Bearcat

Bearcat's two new 5" chipper, shredder demonstrated that they are capable of tackling the toughest chipping and shredding tasks with ease and with new technology combining high work rate with low power requirements the quiet operating machines proved very popular.

Available in pto and petrol engine versions the class-leading Bearcats are gravity fed and have the benefit of an integral blower so the whole unit is complete and versatile, providing excellent value for money.

For further information
Tel 01488 689400



Available as 500mm x 500mm plastic pavers, Netpave 25's rapid lay design can handle permanent use but can also be applied in temporary situations. At only 25mm deep, the clipped together paving systems is laid directly on top of the existing turfed area and virtually disappears into the grass within a two or three month period achieving aesthetic durability.

Ronnie Doctor, Business Manager of Netlon's Polymer Solutions Division said, "Netpave 25 was developed to be used on top of existing grassed surfaces to provide a lasting level of protection. Alongside our already comprehensive product range Netpave 25 completes our unique approach to providing a total solution in turf protection systems."

For further information
Tel: 01254 262431
Web: www.netlon.net

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



Scottish Region
Peter Boyd
Tel/Fax 0141 616 3440

Scotland

The Scottish National Tournament will be held on Thursday 27 June 2002 at West Linton Golf Club, West Linton by kind permission of the Captain and committee. The cost of the event will be £20 which includes coffee/tea, filled roll and evening meal, plus prizes.

Entry will be restricted depending on the number of entries received.

Entry forms will be available at all Section Spring outings and from the Regional Administrator.

All entries with remittance, must be sent to the Regional Administrator.

Peter J.Boyd, 10 Meadowburn Avenue, Newton Mearns, Glasgow G77 6TA by Tuesday, June 18. Cheques made payable to BIGGA Scottish Region.

Peter J.Boyd

East

Welcome to a busy column this month, which is what we want to see, so let's get started. The Section had a trip to Kingsbarns Golf Club, Fife, on March 7, in association with local Toro dealer, Henderson Grass Machinery.

There were 20+ members present on the visit, which was a very interesting and informative day. Everyone had a good look around the course, facilities etc. We would like to thank Course Manager, Stuart McColm for giving us his time throughout the day. We would also wish to thank Dougie Jeffrey, Area Sales Manager, and everyone else at Henderson Grass Machinery for all the organisation of the day and for providing the bus to transport everyone up to Fife and everything behind the scenes to provide a trouble free trip. So a big thanks to everyone involved.

We have another visit planned for May 29 to Muirfield to see the preparations for this summer's Open Championship, so we expect a big turnout for this one. This visit is in association with Stewarts & Company. The format of the day is as follows: Visit to Stewarts (Dalkieth) or the turf farm, then lunch and on to Muirfield to see what goes into preparing for an Open Championship. This is one not to miss!

I had a phone call a couple of weeks ago from Jimmy McLaughlin, Head Greenkeeper at the Merchants of Edinburgh Golf Club informing me that Alisdair Duff, Assistant Greenkeeper celebrated 25 years at the Merchants GC at the end of March.

The club were commemorating this with a lunch in his honour and presented him with a watch for his outstanding service to the club. The Section would like to congratulate Alisdair, who is also a long time member of the Association as well as SIGGA. Well done for the last 25 years and we hope to see you at some Section events in the near future.

Jimmy also informs me that Alisdair's nickname at the Merchants is the pest. Why? Well we don't know. That's it for this month. Coming up in next month's edition is, news and views from Spring Tournament at Gullane; results from the annual tournament Scottish Greenkeepers v Club Secretaries Association, and any news I pick up on my travels this month. Well that's it, I'm looking forward to next month already!

PS. We hope that the spring weather is good and we are getting some good growth for the long season ahead. Hope you all received your entry forms for all competitions this year (Don't lose them because no form no entry) Also you all received your fixture cards to keep you all updated on all events over the next 12 months.

Chris Yeaman.

North

One new member to mention this month, and he is Allan Black from Inchmarlo Golf Centre. Welcome to the North Section. Allan.

Well, after probably one of the wettest winters for the past few years the recent dry spell has been very welcome and I am sure anyone who is behind with their winter work will be catching up rapidly. The weather for Easter was glorious and the golfers were out in droves, but with the usual comments that the course is a little bit behind last year in growth and quality of putting surfaces. But with Easter being earlier this year everyone seems to have short memories. But we cannot have it every way of course.

The entry forms for Elgin should all have been received and sent back by the time you will receive this report but just in case you receive the magazine early then you should get the entry form sent back quickly as I think the spaces will be at a premium.

Also a reminder for your 200 Club tickets which need to be back as soon possible for the first outing, as the first draws take place at this outing.

Our Section is hoping to run management courses this coming Autumn and also next Spring. The courses can cover any part of our profession from computers and the role they play in our jobs, to COSSH Assessments, Risk Assessments etc. For any further information or if you have any other ideas which you feel would be beneficial to run courses on then you can get in touch with Dougal Duguid on 01224 740329 or myself on 01997 420 155. If we can get about six to 12 people on the course then the Section can get them at a reduced rate and affordable.

An idea was put to me the other day about trying to set up a challenge match between the Greenkeepers in the Aberdeen area and Greenkeepers from the North. It could be set up as a once a year challenge match or a home and away match. It would be a purely social occasion of course, but the potential I feel is great, if only we could get it up and running. If anyone likes the sound of the idea then phone me or any other committee

member, or it could be discussed further at the outing at Elgin Golf Club on May 16.

Have a good Spring
Iain Gunn

Ayrshire

As I type these notes Easter has just passed and the weather is good with the course drying up, by the time you read them our spring outing will have passed and who knows what the weather will be doing.

I have pleasure in introducing my new Vice Chairman, Martin Lothian. Martin as many of you know is Head Greenkeeper on the Ailsa course at Turnberry. Like a good Vice Chairman, Martin was on the phone recently with some news to fill up this column. Did you know Martin found a Second World War Bomb in a bunker! Only joking, Martin called to say that two Turnberry members are on the move, Gareth Williams, assistant, to Wentworth and staying in the section William McMeikan, assistant, to Prestwick St. Cuthberts who will now be well prepared for the Spring outing. Congratulations and best wishes lads with your new positions.

News of the Spring outing next month, any other information call me on 01505 683278.

Iain Barr



Northern Region
Douglas Bell
Tel: 0151 431 0433

Cleveland

The annual quiz organised by Section Secretary, Barry Walker, took place at Darlington Golf Club last month with 30 greenkeepers turning out. The quiz was won quite convincingly by the Wear Greenies again (and me) a cracking night was had by everyone. Well done Barry, I'm looking forward to defending our title next year. Thanks to Darlington Golf Club for their facilities and the pie and pea supper.

The Section committee met last month, they discussed future events that would interest greenkeepers, many ideas were thrown forward and Ian Pemberton was put in charge of looking into organising events and trips. Anyone with any ideas should contact Ian Pemberton. Some events appeared in last month's newsletter the first of which has been, 14 greenkeepers took a mini bus trip to Rolawn and had a very interesting and informative day looking around their turf fields, turf cutting machinery and turf washing facilities. Well done Pembo on your first successful event and thanks to Rolawn for looking after us.

The spring tournament is at Darlington Golf Club on April 24 and a few places are still left, cost £10 so contact Barry Walker quickly if your interested.

Richmond Golf Club are back to full strength again after appointing Mark Wittary as Greenkeeper Mechanic and Roy Applegarth as Assistant Greenkeeper. Mark is a first

time greenkeeper, and Roy is a Darlington lad returning north from Headingley Golf Club having served his time at Stressholme Golf Club. Roy is the brother of Rigby Taylor sales rep Jamie Applegarth.

Stephen Taggart has left the Wynyard Club to start work at Groundcare Landscapes, a company started by Lewis Meek after he was made redundant as Head Greenkeeper at the Wynyard Club. Lewis is doing really well hence he's had to take on extra staff. Well done Lewis, I hope you have continued success, good luck to all the lads in your roles.

And finally a serious health and safety issue by the time this goes to print Middlesbrough will be out of the FA Cup so please tread carefully around the following people. Ian Pemberton, Bedale; Allan Reid, Saltburn, and Stephen Taggart, Groundcare. You've been warned. In the unlikely event of Middlesbrough making the final my apologies to the above people.

Any news contact me on 07719193381

Steven Jaques

North West

Beginning of April and the weather has been great this last few days with dry conditions and plenty of sunshine, but the ground temperature is still cold, with the finer grasses holding back for warmer weather. Most golfers of course do not realise this, and in the next couple of weeks will be watching the masters at Augusta, and wondering why their course is not the same. Now if they had attended the Mere seminar and listened to Alistair Beggs, from the STRI, who spoke of his visit to America. Including Augusta, they may understand a little better. The normal numbers of staff at Augusta are 35 but during the run up to the Masters this is increased to about 80. The budget for the course is approximately \$2.5 million, the workshops house vast amounts of machinery, which is maintained by their own highly trained mechanics. The beautiful display of magnolias, rhododendrons, and azaleas, are grown under glass to flower at the right time, and planted out to give this magnificent display in April.

Tony Mears, the greenkeepers representative on the GTC, followed Alistair, shedding some light on how the GTC work with BIGGA on the education side.

Stephen Bernhard gave an interesting talk on "Should the mower really murder grass" Stephen is the founder of Bernhard and company who manufacture and sell Anglemaster grinding machines throughout the world. He showed how important it is to get a good cut, the blades should be kept sharp, but the blades of the cutting cylinder and the bottom blade should not touch as this causes stress on your machine. It is interesting to note that at the 1997 Masters, the mowers used daily were sharpened with Anglemaster grinders to produce perfect playing surfaces.

The afternoon was taken up by four greenkeepers. Firstly Tony Smith Course Manager at Hurlston Hall GC who was one of the two winners from the Northern Region to win a trip to Orlando, sponsored by Bernhard & Company, told us about the trip, and showed slides of the various courses he visited.

Andy Campbell followed with a talk entitled "Changing times/Changing jobs."

Andy is a Master Greenkeeper, and he also became the first UK based Greenkeeper to achieve GCSAA certification. Obviously to gain both of these prestigious awards has meant many hours of study, but the knowledge gained must be so rewarding. He talked of his early days in green-keeping, and how health and safety has changed with proper washing facilities, keeping records, improved machinery, and working conditions. His job now entails looking after the De Vere Carden Park estate, which includes two 18 hole courses, a par 3 course, and if my memory serves me right, a herd of deer, all this run from a proper office.

The final speakers were Anthony Davies and Colin Denny. Anthony is Course Manager at Prestbury GC and is also a Master Greenkeeper. His talk was "Course Reconstruction & Renovation" One of the important things in winter work of course is renovation of bunkers and tees. Anthony has carried out a lot of this work and showed slides of before and after, amazing what a difference a reshaped bunker can make. Colin Denny followed talking about the reconstruction of the 17th hole at Prestbury. You may have seen in one of the magazines how the banks of the 17th green and the green itself had completely collapsed through the amount of rain we had during the year 2000. This meant bringing in heavy machinery to re-build the banks and green surrounds, plus 2000 tonnes of top soil, and having the job finished in time for the first competition the slides shown were impressive and showed the scale of the job, which was completed on time. I would like to thank all the speakers for giving us their time and Mere Golf & Country Club for the use of their wonderful facilities, and the delegates who attended the seminar.

The next event is the Spring Tournament at Hurlston Hall GC on Wednesday, May 15. Lunch 12.30 tee from 1.30pm. Applications to Bill Merritt. 225 Utting Avenue, Clubmore, Liverpool. L4 9RB. TEL. 0151 284 4416 Please include a cheque for £20 made payable to BIG-GA n/west

The Summer Tournament is at Ulverston GC on Thursday, June 20. All applications as above. Any news or enquiries contact me on 0151 724 5412 or Mobile: 07761 583 387

Bert Cross

Northern

I must start my first around the greens notes by thanking Andy Smith on his tireless effort and dedication over the last few years in his role as

Section Secretary. As most of you will be aware Andy decided to step down from his role so he could pursue other interests.

So, Andy on behalf of everybody in the Northern Section, thank you and I hope you can now enjoy at your leisure all the Section's golf tournaments.

I was asked by the committee to step in to the role of Section Secretary and am slowly getting to grips with the ins and outs of the job. If I can be of any assistance regarding any Section matters please do not hesitate to get in touch through any of the mediums at the end of this report. I am writing these notes pre-spring tournament at Bedale golf club which is sponsored by Scotts UK. A full report and list of results will appear in the next magazine.

Our next Section event will be President's Day sponsored by Rufford Soil Technology. The event is taking place at Otley Golf Club on Wednesday, June 19. All players wishing to test out Steve Heaton's course must get their £15 to a member of the committee at least a week prior to the event. As this is my first stab at putting together these notes, I must urge anyone with any news, views or gossip from our Section, to relay them on to me so I can print them in the notes. We must all remember that the committee is working for all of the Northern Section members and if you would like to see other events let us know and we will try to arrange them.

Lastly, I hope you're not all under too much pressure and the grass is steadily coming out of the ground. Happy Greenkeeping.

I can be contacted at 16 Westwood Ave, Eccleshill, Bradford, West York's, BD2 2NJ Tel No - 01274 640 739 Mob No - 07976 876 264 E mail - Dthackray@aol.com

Dave Thackray

North Wales

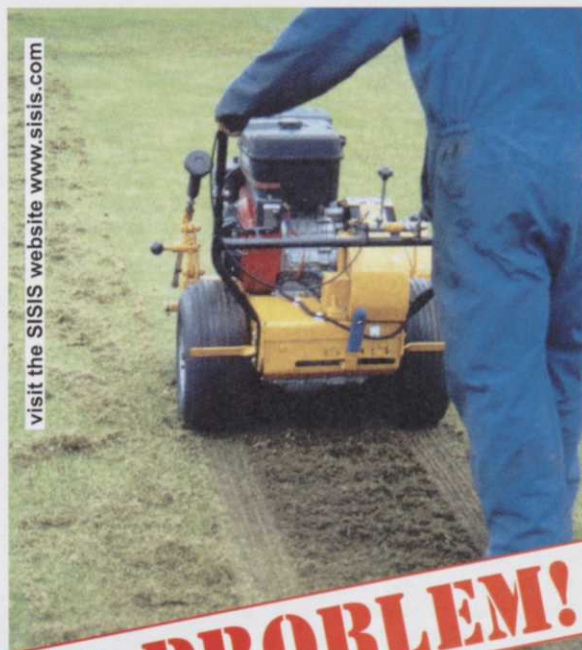
The spring tournament was held on April 10 at De-Vere Carden Park Golf Complex, a strong field of 80 players set out on a sunshine blessed day to try and tame the Cheshire Course, which plays host to the Pre qualifiers for the European Tour. The course was presented in a prestigious manner by the green staff team fronted by Martin Thompson and Jamie Poole and headed by Andy Campbell. A big thank you to Carden Park for the organisation of the course for the food and drink served and their help in the smooth running of the day's event and a special thank you to Mal Edwards for the cards

The results are as follows. 1. John Astles, 24, Sutton Hall GC 36pts; 2. Phil Bowler, 12, Carden Park GC 35pts; 3. Darryl Davis 4 Northop GC 34pts. Trade. Terry Adamson (again) 36pts. Nearest the pin went to Danny O'Neil, of Northop CC.

Our thanks also to the Sponsors ALS, John Osman, Bathgate, Carden Park, Sportsworld and Acorn Golf and Walker Eng.

Carden Park also host the European Seniors Event this year July 31 to August 4 if there are any members

THATCH PROBLEM?

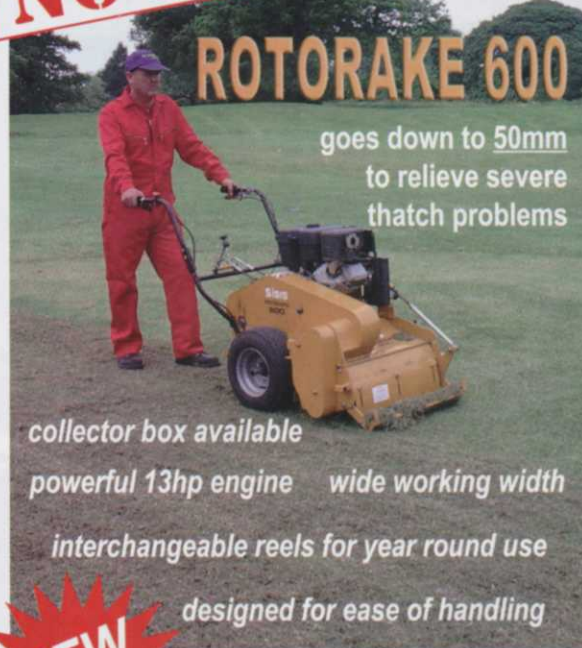


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wishing to volunteer their services for green keeping duties, raking bunkers and general help over these days please contact Andy Campbell on 01829 73100.

We are also on the lookout for anyone willing to offer up their course for tournaments in 2003 - please get in touch.

Our best wishes go to members going stateside this year on 12 month sabbaticals, Gary Martin of Alsager is going to University of Ohio State and based at West Chester GC New York, Russell Lewis of Eastham Lodge is based at Kiowa Island GC, Wendy O'Brien is working at the Masters in Augusta and Ray O'Neil returns to full time work back from New Jersey.

Dates for your diaries the Autumn tournament date is now fixed for September 4 at Pwllheli GC and the Sportsworld Triangular event is on August 16 at South Staffs GC please contact Terry Adamson if you can play.

On the darts front John Kerry, of Royal St Davids GC, has gone down 3-2 along with Dave Proctor, of Stowrs-wen GC, 3-0. Martin from Caernarfon GC talks a better game than he can play, and if he puts anymore gel in his hair he is in danger of looking like Gareth Gates of Pop Idol.

They all need more practice to beat the BIGGA Golden Key Tour player. Since I started writing the Section notes, Fred Grundey, of Measdu GC, goes a bit quiet now when I call round? I just thought I'd say there's nothing to be worried about Fred (unless you're hiding something? That is!).

A further thank you goes to John Osman for taking Section members on a John Deere Golf Day and night's stay in Nottingham. The day was a huge success but there was some confusion over room keys in the hotel. But Jeremy Hughes sorted it all out.

On a regional level we would like correspondence back from you, (our members) on what thoughts you may have of what you want from your section and indeed what you want from BIGGA as a body in general. Please contact any of the committee.

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



Midland Region
Peter Larter
Tel: 01476 550115

East Midlands

Congratulations should be extended to Kristian Hibberd, Kirby Muxloe; Mark Huthwaite, Ramsdale Park; Andy Megreal and Danny Brown both Lingdale on successfully completing their Chainsaw Maintenance and cross-felling course, which was held at Beedles Lake Golf Centre on March 12 and 13. I would also, on behalf of the

Section, like to thank Beedles Lake GC for allowing us to use their clubhouse and Golf Course for training course. Special thanks should be extended to Ian Needham, Head Greenkeeper, and Les Emery, Manager, for their help over the two days and also to Ken Richardson and BIGGA for setting-up the course.

On March 26 also at Beedles Lake Golf Centre we held our Winter Lecture, this year we welcomed Richard Minton, of Complete Weed Control, who spoke to us on the benefits of a contractor and also Jody Hibbotson, of John Deere, who spoke to us about the history of John Deere. Unfortunately the turnout of 21 members was disappointing, but your committee will not be deterred, and we will try harder next time to increase the numbers.

Thanks once again should be extended to Les Emery, Richard Minton and Jody Hibbotson. Also thanks to Beedles Lake Golf Centre for hosting this evening and all you members who supported the lecture. Finally I would like to thank Complete Weed Control and John Deere for supplying the buffet meal.

This years East Midlands v East of England golf match will be hosted by Newark GC on August 22nd. Tee-Off 3.45pm.

Antony Bindley



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South West

So, spring has sprung, the grass is growing and all is well in the golf course world. It's the season of mass technical representative attack, Head Greenkeepers, be easy on them, they're only doing their job.

Our next event is the Greenkeeper Amateur, to be held at Yeovil Golf Club on May 15. There will be great prizes, don't forget to come along, invite a club member and enjoy a day away from your own course. MW Associates has done a report for the National Board, on the direction of BIGGA in General, and on specific areas of BIGGA activities. Some of this has been reported in the magazine, Paul Jenkins, our National Board member is keen to hear your thoughts and views. One area highlighted is the structure of BIGGA Sections, Regions and National. Also the geographical areas of the Sections and Regions if you have any thoughts, please contact Paul - he is your link to Aldwark and he needs to know your views. Following on from this, a new sub committee has been formed, called the Futures Sub Committee. James Braithwaite, from Long Ashton, is serving on this new body. Its job, is to look into a way of widening membership participation in all areas of BIGGA work. So again call James with your thoughts.

Remember to qualify for the National Tournament, you have to play in our section summer competition which is on July 3 at Bath Golf Club. Be there or be square!

Robin Greaves

Devon & Cornwall

For the Aveniris and Supaturf March section meeting over 50 members did a raid over the border into Somerset - without any resistant - for its last meeting of the winter programme which was held at Taunton & Pickeridge Golf Club, on Wednesday, March 20.

Our golfing members competed for the Supaturf (Head Greenkeepers & Trade) Trophy and the Aveniris Trophy for assistants over 14 holes because of the weather conditions. As usual our non golfing members course walk left the club house at 10.30am and enjoyed a most enlightening guided tour of the course by Course Manager, Jeff Mills.

After a superb lunch Paul Clifton, Aveniris, and John Palfrey on behalf of Supaturf presented the golf prizes as follows.

Supaturf Trophy for Head Greenkeepers and Trade: 1. G. Ayliffe; 2. M. Samuel; 3. R. Parker Aveniris Trophy for Assistants: 1. Graham Fitzpatrick; 2. Neil Williams; 3. A. Gawman

Following an excellent lunch Kerran Daly, Course Manager, Gog Mag Gog Golf Club presented one of the best educational talks the Section has had for sometime,

Kerran's paper was called "Rough Cuttings" and covered some excellent management skills which both old and young could relate to and improve their own personal development. After Kerran's excellent talk the Section had an open forum covering Cannington College on greenkeeping training and the college's future development of greenkeeping courses.

The Section would like to thank the day's sponsors Supaturf & Aveniris for their continued support and Taunton & Pickeridge Golf Club for allowing the section use of their excellent facilities, also our thanks to all of Taunton & Pickeridge's staff who made our day run so smoothly, with special thanks to Course Manager, Jeff Mills, and his crew.

Finally our thanks to Kerran for his excellent presentation and for travelling over 500 miles to be with us on the day.

Next meeting will be the Rigby Taylor summer event to be held at Trethorne Golf Club on June 18, 2002.

Richard Whyman



Northern Ireland

Our latest event at Lisburn Golf Club on March 14 went ahead as planned. Many thanks to Jo Gladwin, from Nickerson UK Ltd, and Elizabeth Wilson from JA Humphrey Agriculture for making the evening a success. Jo gave a talk on the Top Green Amenity and Grass Seed range and Fortiva applied Seed Technology. Jo concluded her talk by detailing the trials and research that is being carried out by Nickerson at the STRI Secretary, Allison Sloan then brought the evening to a close with a quiz, which was competitively contested among the teams. The team of Frank Ainsworth, Mark Cassidy and Kyle Irwin, narrowly took first place by one point. Thanks to Jo and Elizabeth for providing the quiz prizes. Elizabeth generously kept everyone happy with liquid refreshment throughout the evening which was very much appreciated. Thanks also to Allison Sloan and Andrew Kerr for organising the evening and also Lisburn Golf Club for allowing the Section use of their clubhouse. Praise must also go to the 25 members who came along to support the event.

Finally good luck to Mark Riddle who has moved to Spa Golf Club from Royal Co. Down, and a warm welcome to new members Frank Ainsworth, Course Manager at the Hilton Golf Club, Temple Patrick, and Greg Fearson, Course Manager at Lough Gall Golf Club. That's all for now. If anyone has any news please contact me on 02894 429001, During working hours.

Ken Henderson

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The solution to the March Turftime Teaser was Tom Clark, Mole Control. This was correctly answered by: Mr I George of Hawkstone Golf Club in Shrewsbury. Our congratulations and a superb quilted jacket are on their way to you!

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