

up by plants in a ratio that constitutes their perfect "diet". The plants thrive, are healthy and disease-resistant. The presence and activity of beneficial soil microbes enable this transfer of nutrients from soil to plant

Of course there are many variations on the theme and soils vary enormously from poor to rich, from light to heavy and so on. Climatic variations also have a dominant effect. Even so, soils are the natural growing medium, containing the spectrum of nutrients/elements essential to life and in this case, grass.

NON-MINERAL NUTRIENTS

The non-mineral nutrients are Hydrogen, Oxygen and Carbon. These are found in the air, in water and, if you aerate properly, in the soil. Plants use Carbon dioxide (CO₂) and Water (H₂O) + energy from the sun to make the starches and sugars that are their food. (The word Photosynthesis actually means "made with light"). To grow and thrive, plants also need mineral nutrients. These are divided into two groups, macro-and micro-nutrients and are naturally absorbed through the roots.

MACRO OR MAJOR NUTRIENTS

The primary nutrients are Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium. They are often the first to be lacking, because plants use up significant soil reserves during growth. The second nutrients are Calcium, Magnesium and Sulphur. On golf courses sulphur is rarely deficient, but the others can need attention. Interestingly, the more you balance the micronutrients/trace elements, the less conventional fertiliser you need.

TRACE ELEMENTS /MICRONUTRIENTS

These are only needed in small amounts for plant growth and survival, but are absolutely vital. Of those that directly affect plant growth, the most commonly known are Boron, Copper, Chloride, Iron, Manganese, Molybdenum and Zinc. Others, such as Selenium and Iodine have no direct role in plant growth, but their principle function is to feed the soil microflora, the living organisms without which it is impossible to create an efficient growing medium. (They are also fundamental to animal and human health.)

Sand, like soil, is also made up of rock particles, but unlike natural soil, the particles are larger and coarser and therefore have a much smaller surface area relative to their size. This greatly reduces weathering rates and the release of nutrients, making sand essentially a sterile, highly porous medium, low in organic matter and unable to produce or retain the required, fine balance of nutrients. Because of this, on high sand content areas, plant nutrition has to be supplied by the greenkeeper.

Sadly, the problem is much more complicated than it first appears. There are literally hundreds of NPK fertilisers on the market of varying strengths, ratios and release rates. Most are based on agricultural practice and are designed to replace the predicted loss of only three macronutrients; Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P) and Potassium (K). If we try to grow grass on high sand content areas using only NPK nutrition, we will not succeed. As an analogy, it is not unlike trying to raise a child on bread and water alone. There is nothing wrong with bread and water, but the child will sicken and die without a full and balanced diet. This is precisely what happens nowadays to farm animals being raised on poor grass from exhausted fields; they sicken and die without a cocktail of the missing, essential minerals being added to their diet. A further complication arises because to be effective, these mineral nutrients are each needed in widely varying, but very specific concentrations in the soil to mimic Nature. Failure to observe this golden rule results in at best a waste of money and at worst, disaster. This is as true in South East Asia, the Middle East and Europe as it is in the UK

Over-use of NPK is probably the commonest mistake made. Even the best soils can be wrecked, the balance of nutrients destroyed by the injudicious use of chemicals and fertilisers. Here there are more lessons to be learned from agriculture. In order to bolster sagging returns, some

farms are being run more and more intensively to increase yields. This involves increased use of fertiliser as more crops and animals are reared on the land.

After some years of this treatment, yields begin to fall despite the fertiliser and disease afflicts both crops and animals. On investigation, we find that the reserves of crucial Trace Elements or Micronutrients have been stripped out of the soil. This has happened for two reasons; firstly because the excessive fertiliser and chemical use has removed elements such as Selenium and killed off most of the beneficial soil microbes; secondly because intensive cropping has reduced the remaining soil micronutrient reserves below critical levels, hastening the collapse in fertility. We now operate on a knife-edge in the UK, because intensive cultivation, industrial pollution and the excess use of fertiliser and chemicals have reduced the soil mineral reserves by 75% in the last 100 years - no wonder we have problems!

Without all the components of nutrition, grass will never thrive and will always be weak and disease-prone. This is the main reason why new playing surfaces are so prone to diseases such as take-all patch and fusarium in the early years; the plants have no immunity because they are starved of the correct trace elements and the soil balance is all wrong. On problem courses we see fertiliser used to create 'green-up', followed by growth inhibitor to reduce mowing! This is both expensive and unnecessary. When the balance is right the grass is greener, disease-resistant and less in need of fertiliser and pesticide. The healthier the plant, the denser the growth, the longer the growing season and the faster the divots will repair. With minimum use of synthetic Nitrogen, there will also be less watery, weak-celled, vertical growth, needing less cuffing and possibly, less ingress from poa annua.

There are other sound financial and ecological reasons for the carefully metered use of macro- and micronutrients. Financially it makes sense not to waste money on excessive use of any products, but more importantly, it is becoming unacceptable to leach carcinogenic nitrates, phosphates, pesticides and fungicides into the local water supply. Before long it may become a condition of planning consents that leaching be reduced to much lower levels. Prohibitively expensive, fully lined greens with captive drainage systems are becoming compulsory in parts of Europe and the signs are that controls will become much tighter in the UK. It is the strongly held view of the author that tailored, monthly dressings of the precise nutritional requirement of greens, tees and fairways will prevent leaching and thus remove the need for more draconian legislation. The native flora and fauna also gain enormously from this system. As the course returns to a balanced ecosystem, back come the insects, including the pollinating bees; the wild flowers and the birds. The golf course can again be seen as a haven of wildlife, much more acceptable to the community and the local planning authority!

In future, much more thought must be given to the planning stage of course construction and alteration. For example, substantial benefits will accrue from bringing in specialists before the construction of new projects. Then the correct nutrient balance can be accurately calculated and incorporated into the bases of new tees, greens and fairways during construction, whatever medium is being used. This will significantly speed up growth and shorten the lag time between construction and playability, providing more robust playing surfaces quicker. It will also please the accountants, because if it results in an extra six months of revenue at the outset, it will greatly improve the Club's cash flow and bottom line.

Martin Lane is Technical Director of Field Science

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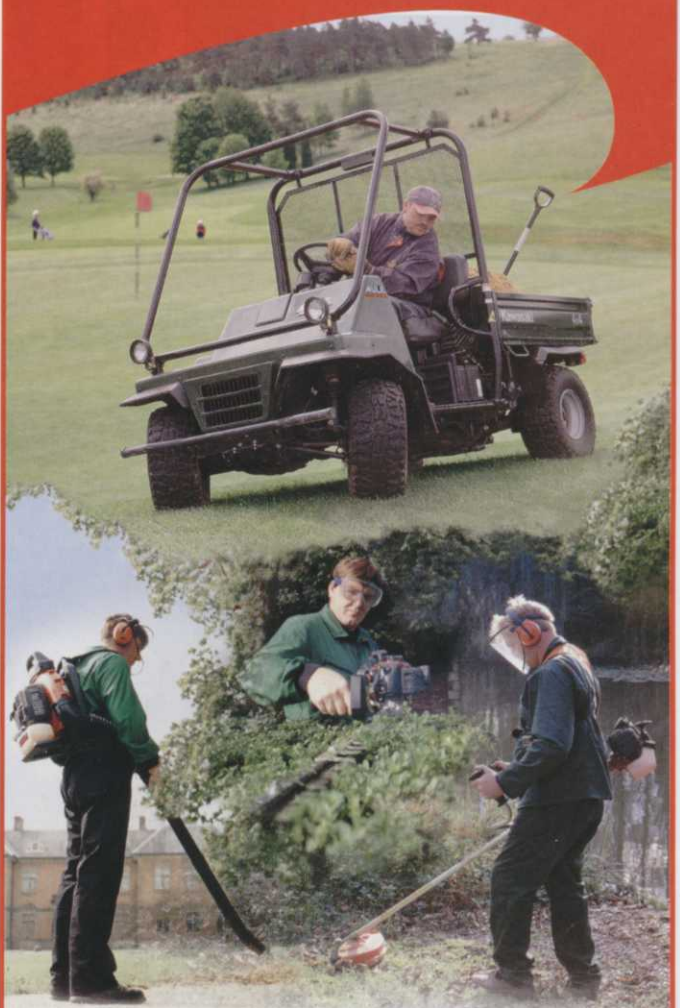
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Chris Ball is presented with the trophy last year

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

30 September - Hillside Golf Club

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Exciting Times Ahead at the Two Hs

This year's National Championship will be played at Hillside and Hesketh Golf Clubs, two courses guaranteed to serve up some wonderful golf.

Last year's National Championship was a superb occasion. Two superb golf courses in Royal Birkdale and Southport & Ainsdale and an exciting competition, ending with a local man holding his nerve over the second round to clinch the major silverware.

Going by the old adage "If you've got a winning formula, stick with it" the 2002 National Championship will be played over two superb golf courses, Hillside and Hesketh virtually guaranteeing an exciting competition and the local man who won last year will be even more local!

Chris Ball, who lifted the superb trophy last year, is an assistant at Hillside and was the only man who could go home and get changed before the presentation last year. He may be in a position to do so again this year because, as well as having the knowledge that he has what it takes to win, he might also be able to persuade his boss, Course Manager, Martin Twist, to give him a few of his favourite pin placements!



It is generally regarded as one of the best link golf courses never to have hosted The Open.

Greg Norman wrote to Hillside saying its back nine holes were the best in Britain.

Peter Alliss has said that "Hillside's first few holes with the railway on the left are frightening, particularly when the (prevailing South Westerly) wind blows from right to left. But, even if you safely negotiate the start, there are plenty of testing and scenic holes to come."

Hesketh Golf Club, is Southport's oldest golf club, founded in 1885. Standing alone on the crest of a tall sandhill, the clubhouse dominates the golf course and the surrounding district. The course is at the northern end of south-west Lancashire's sand dune system, which is the home of so many great golf courses. Professional championship golf has been played on these famous old links from the club's earliest days, and the course is regularly used as a final qualifying course when The Open is played at Royal Birkdale.

The course sets a unique challenge with half of the holes threaded through tall sand dunes; while the other holes border the Ribble estuary. Here the course's neighbour is a nationally renowned bird reserve, where winter visitors are rewarded by seeing great flocks of migrant geese, swans and waders.

The drive up to the clubhouse is alongside a short hole that Henry Cotton described as the best short hole in Lancashire. What is beyond doubt is that emerging from Southport's urban landscape and driving alongside this picturesque hole to approach the clubhouse will fill a visitor with anticipation at the prospect of playing on these fine links. The Club is renowned for its friendly welcome of visitors.

Information on the two golf clubs was obtained from www.ukgolfer.org

There are still a few places available in what is already a very strong field so if you want to reserve one do so quickly by contacting Sarah Sowerby at BIGGA HOUSE Tel: 01347 833800



In fairness to Chris, who declared his intention to defend his title almost as soon as he was crowned last year, he did admit that there would be more pressure on him on his own course and that he never played well round Hillside.

The two "Hs" are among the finest golf courses to be found anywhere in the North West of England.

Hillside, is a near neighbour of Royal Birkdale, but suffers little, if at all, in comparison. As such, it has hosted many tournaments including the 1982 PGA Championship, before it found a permanent home at Wentworth, which was notable as being Tony Jacklin's last big win - defeating Bernhard Langer in a play-off.





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Open Thanks 1

The Open is over for another year, but this one is worth remembering for a special reason. I'm an Australian greenkeeper working in Hertfordshire and have viewed The Open for many years on TV during the small hours of the morning. Little did I know that I would be given the privileged opportunity to view an Open Championship from inside the ropes. Being part of the Support staff, on the best links course in the world, has been the highlight of my career. The emotion I felt walking up 18 will remain with me forever. I wish to thank John Pemberton and BIGGA for looking after, not only myself, but also the other members. Looking after 50 greenkeepers cannot be easy!

Many friendships were made and I look forward to renewing them next year at Royal St George's.

Graham Blum
Redbourn Golf Club.

Open Thanks 1

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone from the BIGGA support team involved in the Open Championship. The assistance you gave with the bunkers and divoting was outstanding and gratefully appreciated. It was a great reassurance to know there were so many willing volunteers who were prepared to help in any way and in all weather conditions, to ensure the Championship ran smoothly.

Once again, thank you.
Colin Irvine
Course Manager HCEG
Muirfield.

A Great Trip

I would like to congratulate Toro on their well organised Turf Professionals trip to the USA. I was impressed with the positive and relaxed attitude of all the Toro staff from the production line workers up to the top management. There were too many highlights to mention but I would like to give my thanks to all at Toro and also to the other greenkeepers/Superintendents who were on the trip who added an extra dimension to what was an excellent week.

Colin Mackay
Head Greenkeeper
Vejele GC, Denmark

Thanks for Coming

This is just a big thank you to all of the competitors who played at West Linton GC in the Scottish National Tournament in June which was a superb day.

I must say leading up to the tournament was very nerve racking when you think that 70+ of your colleagues are coming to play your course you want everything to be just right, but I shouldn't have worried as my team had the course in great condition and it was a credit to them.

A big thanks to the Captain and Council of WLGC for courtesy of the course, all the competitors for their praise and comments about the course which was much appreciated by myself and my staff. Peter Boyd, for all his hard work to set up this tournament, Robert Hogarth for his help on the day (hope the ankle gets better soon) and everyone else who made the day go smoothly.

It was also nice to spend a couple of days with our National Chairman, Richard Barker. So Richard it was nice to have you up here at West Linton we hope you enjoyed your stay with us and I hope to catch up with you over the next few months. Also a big well done to all the trophy winners and our new Scottish Champion.

We hope to have you all back in the future as the club thoroughly enjoyed having you all here and have offered the course for the National Tournament in the next few years. I will speak to Peter and see what we can organise. Once again a big thank you to you all. It was a pleasure.

Chris Yeaman
Course Manager
West Linton Golf Club

B&B Recommendation

In late June two pals and I spent a week golfing in the Moray and Aberdeenshire area of Scotland.

We played six courses in six days (36 holes a day). They were: Hopeman, Turriff, Duff House Royal, Forbes, Kemnay and the Boat of Garten. If you are looking to play golf off the beaten track I would thoroughly recommend this area. The people are friendly, the courses are in excellent condition and the green fees extremely reasonable.

Our accommodation was in Keith, run by Paul and Eileen Fleming (Chapel Hill Croft, Crossroads, Keith, Banffshire). Eileen worked at Chivas Brothers whisky distillers, and Paul was the Fat Controller at Huntley Station. The accommodation and breakfasts was excellent, and I make that recommendation as someone who enjoys both food and whisky.

I sit writing this letter with a glass of Strathisla in my hand and toasting Paul and Eileen and all the clubs who were so helpful to us, for an exceptional week. To you all... Slange (assuming I have spelled it correctly)

Alan T Kelsall
Portal Golf and Country Club
Tarpoley
Cheshire

Thanks for the Help

Through the pages of the magazine I would like to pass on my thanks to Adie Holt and his team from Birchwood GC for the tremendous assistance they gave us during the recent De Vere PGA Seniors Championship. Their efforts together with those of my own staff, in atrocious weather conditions, meant that we were able to resume play after a six hour rain delay and subsequently complete the full 72 holes on time.

It is reassuring in these competitive times that such helpful attitudes exist and it says much for the professionalism and camaraderie that is at the core of Greenkeeping and Golf Course Management in this country, and surely must lift the spirits of anybody currently doubting the commitment of Greenkeepers and the respect that they have for each other.

Adie, once again, many thanks.
Andy Campbell M.G, C.G.C.S.
Golf Courses and Estates Manager
De Vere Carden Park

All the Best

After almost 20 years service, Martin Smith, Head Greenkeeper at Burhill Golf Club, in Surrey, has taken up a new challenge as Head Greenkeeper at the Happy Valley Golf Club. Martin first worked with Burhill as an Assistant, he then went on to Hoebridge GC as Deputy Head. From there he went to Ramsdale Park GC as Head Greenkeeper to grow in the new golf course until he was invited back to Burhill to oversee the development of a further 18 holes to their flagship course. All this time, remaining within the Burhill company. The staff from Burhill wish Him and His family all the very best for the future.

Richard Hucklesby
1st Assistant Greenkeeper
Burhill GC
Surrey

Well Done Sandy!

The two Sandy McDivot articles in July's magazine were creative, entertaining and in their own way thought provoking. Enough so that I shared them with the Grounds Committee Chairman, Superintendent and Golf Professional. I do not agree with the objection raised in the last issue.

Hopefully Sandy will return to Sludgecombe from vacation and write another article next month. He does not lack for subject matter.

David Chag, General Manager, The Country Club Brookline
Massachusetts
Via email



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SCOTTISH REGION
Peter Boyd

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East

Well another month and another article. As I write this the sun is beating down, the temperature must be in the 70s, not a cloud in the sky, which is very unusual because this is August and it's Scotland, not the south of Spain.

It makes a change for all we seem to have had this summer is constant rain every day so hopefully this is the start of summer, hopefully!

Events that have taken place in the last month were the Scottish National Tournament at West Linton GC in June, a great time was had by all competitors who, with their feedback, had some very nice comments to make about the course which was much appreciated by myself and my team. Well done to the East Section members who were on the prize list and well done to all the competitors, 70+ of them, who enjoyed a great day.

We had only 13 East Section members which was very low considering it was in our Section this year. If anyone knows the reason the Section committee would like to hear from you.

A big well done to Colin Irvine and his team at Muirfield GC for the condition of the course during The Open Championship. It was a credit to each and every one of them.

The Summer Tournament at Uphall GC on July 30 had to be cancelled due to lack of numbers. Well, eight people to be exact, so if anyone can tell us why the lack of interest we would like to know. Is it just that the Summer Tournament is no longer wanted by our members? Let us know. Do the members want more education events and course visits as these seem to be well supported? If that's the case drop me a line and the committee can do something about it. It's better letting us know than not saying anything at all. So come on it's your Section, let's hear from you. Apologies to Uphall GC for the cancellation of the tournament.

The East Section Tour heads to West Linton GC for the Annual Willie Woods Invitational Tournament on September 5. Entry forms will be with you soon. We hope to see you, your Club Captain, Secretary, Greens Chairman or committee member along for a great day out. The entry form for the Autumn Tournament at Liberton GC on October 10 will be with you soon so get them back as soon as possible as no entries after the closing date also no form no entry.

News Flash:

The annual dance is on at the Kilsplindie House Hotel on Saturday, November 30. Details will be with you shortly. If you're going to the National Championship at Southport in October, I'll see you there. Well that's it for this month so get those entry forms back as soon as possible and we'll see you there, if anyone has any news drop me a line and we will get it in the column in a future edition of Greenkeeper International.

Chris Yeaman

North

Five new members to report this month. They are John O Connor, from Dornoch GC; Michael Rae, Glenisla Golf Centre; Darren Ross, Boat of

Garten GC; Graham Grant, Inverurie GC; Donald Mackinnon, Isle of Barra GC. It is good to see so many new members, and I hope you enjoy your time as BIGGA members.

Some good news to report in the birth of a third child for Robert Hardie, currently of Craibstone GC. I think the days of going to the football to watch Aberdeen are over now for Robert and, after Saturday's performance against the mighty Celtic, it might be a blessing in disguise. Eh Rab? Anyway good to hear everyone is well.

Not such good news has been the weather since the last report. It has been raining drastically for most of us this summer, but in particular the east coast all the way down, and the west have been badly affected. The growth has been phenomenal, and has put a lot of extra work on staff, who already are stretched to the limit anyway. Many clubs have lost valuable income to the weather and on top of the lack of visitors, there could be some harder times ahead.

A course which has had adverse weather to put up with is Culcabock GC in Inverness. I played in a 36 hole Open there on August 9 and the course was playing to its full length and was indeed a really good test. The course was in first class condition and Brian Fraser and his staff deserved all the praise they got for the course. It was also good to see many scratch and plus handicap players making the effort to play and these included greenkeepers George Paterson, now at Scotsraig GC, and Steve Mackintosh, now at Blairgowrie GC, as well as Brian and Martin Fraser from Inverness GC.

By the time you read this report the outing at Ellon GC may have already taken place, but just in case it has not, then I hope to see you at the outing and surely the weather will have taken a turn for the better.

Finally, the Section were represented by Iain Macleod, Stuart Hogg and myself as part of the BIGGA Support Team. The last time I raked bunkers was a way back in SIGGA's last days in 1987, and there have been big changes since then. It was a great experience and I would thoroughly recommend it to any greenkeeper willing to try it. The days are long, from 6am to very often 8pm and later if you are part of the divotting squad for that night. It can leave you tired at the end of the event but it is worth it. The work put in behind the scenes by Peter Boyd and the BIGGA staff is very often unseen and unheralded, but they stick with it and do their level best to promote the standing of the greenkeeper. The course itself was in fantastic shape and praised by the pros highly and rounded off a very good week.

I hope the weather turns in our favour and I hope to see you at the outing at Ellon G.C.

Iain Gunn

Central

We welcome another three new members to the Section this month and they are Neil Stevenson, from Bishopbriggs Golf Club; Christopher Brown, from Gleneagles Hotel and David Cheape, from Linlithgow Golf Club. I keep saying that I hope we will get the opportunity to meet our new members at some of our events but unfortunately very few of them ever appear. Still we can live and hope.

Everyone should have their entry forms for this month's Autumn Tournament at Dullatur Golf Club and for the football tournament at Stirling on

October 13. If not, get in touch ASAP.

I had hoped to have finalised details of this year's AGM in time for this month's news but due to unforeseen circumstances we have had to change our original plans, never mind I will get details out to the 15/20 who attended shortly.

June winners in "Club 2000" were - J. Oliver with ticket number 121 and R. McGregor with ticket number 449. July winners were - A. Crawford, with ticket number 54 and R. Fleming, with ticket number 21.

In the July edition of Greenkeeper International I asked if any of the original committee of the Section were interested in a reunion dinner. Well obviously not, as outwith the one member who approached me regarding this event, not one has made any contact. Is he the only one who still has an interest in the Section? Surely you would have plenty to discuss with the way the Section has developed over the years. Whether it is for the better or not, it has come a long way since 28 greenkeepers from the Central area met on November 20, 1980 at Stirling Golf Club and decided to set up a fourth Section in SIGGA. Still if you're not interested there's nothing more we can do. (We now have nearly 280 members)

Have any of the teams competing in this year's Inter Club Tournament played any matches? At the time of writing no one has returned any results which makes me wonder if this year's event is going to take even longer than the last one!

HELP! Does anyone know where I can purchase timber roof shingles? I require them to repair a shelter on the golf course but, despite numerous enquiries, I am finding it impossible to obtain any. If anyone knows a supplier could they please get in touch with me on 01577 865607 or 07979 988518.

John Crawford

NORTHERN REGION

North Wales

September is show time with IOG. Saltex on 3rd 4th 5th at the Windsor Showground in Berkshire and for those of us not local to this venue, we have IOG Groundex' on September 18 and 19, now for the second year at Aintree Racecourse. It's everything that Saltex is, but it's just down the road and well worth a visit.

Congratulations go to Darren Anderson, of Abergele GC, in his new role from July as Head Greenkeeper. Darren will oversee the re-construction, by contractors John Greasley, of the next nine holes up to USGA spec starting this month and on a fully computerised irrigation system from TIS. Darren has also attained 100 points in Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for his HNC in Golf Course Management and we wish Darren the best of luck for his future.

This month's tale is of two golfers who set out one chilly morning for the links of Prestatyn GC. Adamson a keen golfer who plays regularly and who is a fine challenge to anyone on his day. The other, Dauber Cornes, plays very seldom but quite useful on the links. Adamson teed up first and feeling very confident waged a modest bet of £10 £10 & £20 on the match. Cornes agreed and off they went. After a few holes it was obvious how

things were going to turn out for the day, Adamson playing very well but simply outclassed by the superior shoemaking and the enormous experience around the links by Cornes. The first nine an easy victory followed by a 4&2 on the back nine and so a convincing win on the match. After a substantial lunch and a couple of pints of smooth, Adamson once again felt a surge of confidence and suggested nine holes on the way home at Northop GC. Feeling sorry for his friend, Cornes once again accepted. Nine holes strokeplay and Adamson holes out for a very modest 38. Unfortunately for him Cornes posts a staggering 32 thus winning another cool £25. Still not satisfied with who the real No 1 is Adamson lays down a challenge on the ocke of the Old Boot pub. Yes you guessed it a predictable 10 – 3 victory for the champ. Adamson then agrees who is the No 1 player. This satisfies Cornes and they agree on Fish'n'Chips at the Adamson household and phone Maureen to put the kettle on. A good day had by all. The End.

Any news views or information give us a call 01925 263394 Fax 269622

E-mail acorn@golf@supanet.com

Mesen Cymru
Andrew Acorn

Cleveland

The Section summer knockout is in full flow, I played my first match against Liam McGeough at Eaglescliffe Golf Club and I narrowly beat him. The front nine was in excellent condition, I can only presume the back nine was in the same condition, we never got that far! When we returned to the clubhouse George Salabank's horse was tethered outside while he was getting in some last minute practice for his match at the magnificent Ramside Golf Club against Gary Shaw. George beat Gary on the last hole and will play MG next at Ramside. Other matches to be played include, Jim Thompson vs. Stan Shutton; Tony Cheeseborough vs. Martin Woods and Barry Walker vs. Tony Smith.

The Northern Region team final is at Whitefield Golf Club in Manchester on August 9 and the Cleveland team is: Steven Agar, Crook; Jim Thompson, Darlington; Tony Burgg, Richmond; Gary Shaw, Ramside; Liam McGeough, Eaglescliffe, and Steven Jaques, Ramside.

The Section has won the final for the last two years and hope to complete the Hatrick this year. Good Luck Lads. Any news call 07719 193381.

Steven Jaques

North West

Firstly, I have some sad news to report. Doug Bell, the Northern Region Administrator died on Friday, August 2. Doug had been in hospital for five weeks and I had visited him regularly, but his progress had been very slow. It came as quite a shock to hear that he had passed away, and he will be sadly missed by the Association.

The Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year award has reached its final stages, and I am pleased to report that the Northern Region winner is Peter Cross, from Woolton Golf Club. We wish him good luck in the final on September 23.

I have not been long back from The Open and what a great week it was. The course was in perfect condition with the greens cut at 3.2 mm and running at 13. The fairways were reasonably wide, but the carry to the fairways off the Tiger

Tees I suspect would be too far for most of us. The weather was probably too good for most days, but Saturday certainly showed just what links courses can be like and certainly sorted the wheat out from the chaff. Rain and wind was the order of the day from morning till night, and although conditions were tough, the greens stayed perfect, and the eventual winner, Ernie Els, shot a 72.

Talking about winning at The Open, I have just heard that Steve Oultram was closest in his guess of the correct number of bunkers raked during the week and won a Hayter Mower and a bottle of whisky.

We shortly have the regional final at Whitefield Golf Club and the Roses Match at Stand Golf Club, which I will report on in next month's Section notes.

The next events in the section are: Whitelaw Bowl, Penrith Golf Club, Wednesday, September 4; Stewards vs. Greenkeepers, Ashton & Makerfield Golf Club, September 9; Autumn Tournament, Didsbury Golf Club, Thursday September 12

For the Autumn Tournament contact Bill Merritt 225 Utting Avenue, Clubmore, Liverpool L4 9RB Tel: 01512 844416.

For the Whitelaw Bowl, and the Stewards v Greenkeepers, contact me, Bert Cross Tel: 0151 724 5412 or mobile: 07761 583 387, Any news or contact me any time.

Bert Cross

Northern

Hi guys. Well that's the summer over and done with for another year. It's been another frustratingly wet one. As I write these notes the rain is pouring down and it's only early August - I do hope it's improved by the time these notes appear.

As you know the Northern Section has a quiet July on the golfing and events front so I have nothing to report other than to remind you all of the up and coming fixtures and events.

Invitation day will almost be among us by now. This is at Bingley St Ives on Tuesday, September 10 at the usual price of £15. Places are strictly limited so book early.

Rigby Taylor has challenged us to a football match. It will take place on Monday, September 23 at SYNGENTA Sports Club, Leeds Road, Huddersfield. Kick off at 3pm. Any budding Beckhams or Seamans who would like to show off their silky skills and ball control please get in touch with me.

Last date for your diary is Thursday, October 17. This is the Autumn tournament and AGM. It all takes place at Thirsk and Northallerton Golf club, tee off at 11am.

Suggestions for subjects and topics to be covered at the winter lecture are being sought, so any ideas and speakers you would like to hear, please get in touch with any of the Committee Members.

Well that's all from me. I will hopefully be able to report to you in my next notes on the demolition of the North West Section in the Roses match.

Any news and gossip will be much appreciated: 16 Westwood Ave, Eccleshill, Bradford, West Yorks, BD2 2NJ. Tel: 01274 640739 Mobile: 07976876264

E mail: Dthackray@aol.com

Happy mowing, David Thackray



MIDLAND REGION
Peter Larter
Tel: 01476 550115

East Midlands

The Section have organised a Management Training course at Beedles Lake on Wednesday 6 and Thursday 7 November. Cost for the day will be £60 including meals. If you require further information, or if you would like to book a place, please contact your Chairman, Adi Porter, or me.

Please give me more information for this column, as I require everybody's input to write an article each month.

Antony Bindley

East of England

The small turnout at Waltham Windmill GC were treated to very pleasurable days golf on this comparatively young course. The main sponsors were Burdens Groundcare and it was good to see Norman Burden attending the event.

The Burdens trophy went to Les Howkins, Cleethorpes, with 36 points; second on count back Russ Moody, Torksey, 35 points and third Graeme Macdonald, Newark, 35 points. The trade prize went to Peter Fell, of Aitkens. The longest drive went to Russ Moody as usual and the Nearest the Pin went to Rob Welford.

Other sponsors on the day were Alpha Amenity, Sheriffs, Mansfield Sands, Midlube, Lincsgreen, Aitkens and Rigby Taylors.

The evening meal was one of the finest yet - local fish and chips from down the road at Grimsby. Thanks to Waltham for courtesy and the warm welcome from all the staff.

Phil Wilkinson, of Lincsgreen, entered a team of greenkeepers from the East of England section to play in the BIGGA National team competition. The team which comprised of Les Howkins, 6 handicap, Mike Love, 6 handicap, Graeme Macdonald, 5 handicap, and Phil, off 17 handicap. The team had a score of 53.6 and walked the competition by four shots. It was just one of those days when everything went right. Phil has already booked the same team for next year and looks forward to defending the Trophy.

The July Golf Day was almost cancelled at Thorney Lakes GC due to the atrocious weather. Thanks to Sid and staff who managed to keep open the course. It did stay dry for those who braved the weather and all enjoyed a well-presented course. The Peterborough Garden Machinery trophy went to Bruce Hicks, Boston, with 38 points, second John Mitchell, Thorney, 35 points and third Ian Batty, Sleaford, 33 points.

The Blazer Order of Merit is now to be sponsored by Toro and we would like to thank Nigel Lovatt Area Manager for Toro for stepping in at short notice.

Photographs enclosed show this year's presentation of the BIGGA blazer to Richard Owen of Boston West GC for winning the last Order of Merit Title also attending are Graeme Macdonald EOE section secretary and sponsor Nigel Lovatt.

Graeme Macdonald

BB & O

Our golf day at Temple Golf Club was a great success. The weather gave very pleasant conditions for playing golf on a hilly course. Martin Gunn and his crew were busy getting the course ready for the Oppenheimer Classic so the course was in pristine condition. Putting greens were quite a pace but that did not deter the guests from pulling out the punches and scoring well. As for the infamous Temple rough, I am pleased to report it has receded in all the right places and plays very fair to all handicaps. The food was excellent to round off an enjoyable day and my thanks go to Temple Golf Club for all their help in ensuring we had a good day. I must thank Peter Larter for helping organise the players on the day; it was a great help indeed. The winning players were as follows: 1. Simon Robinson & John Cox, Calcot Park; 2. Tim Webb & Mark Day, Tacit; 3. Jim Socket from Huntercombe GC & Carl Small, Ellesborough GC. Longest Drive. Tony Hunter, Cherwell Edge GC and Nearest Pin. Terry Jackson, Maidenhead GC

Our sponsor for this event was Gem Professional and I would like to thank Clive Parnell for making sure all went smoothly on the day. Of course, without members coming forward to play in these matches, they will not be the great success they could be. I hope to see more names put forward for the next event held at Ellesborough GC on Thursday, October 3. This will be a 3-ball Stableford with individual handicap and is limited to 40 players. The first tee off time is 12pm. Please ring me on 07778 765021 for any further information. The cost is £20 and includes coffee on arrival with a meal after the match.

Please send your cheques to my home address as follows: Holly Lodge, Pond Lane, Hermitage, Thatcham, Berks, RG18, 9RN. Before the meal we will hold an AGM for this Section so even if you are not in for the golf but have any issues you wish to raise, please come along or speak to me beforehand so I can bring them to the committee's attention. We have two places available on this committee so if you feel an urge to contribute to the important work of this committee then please reveal yourself at the AGM; we would really appreciate your help.

I would like to welcome the following new members into the BB&O Section and wish you all well in the year to come: William Bachelor, Chipping Norton GC; Lee Dancer, Gerrards Cross GC; Colin Wilson, Wycombe Heights GC; Gay Norcott, Farnham Park GC, and Harry Hepple, Wrag Barn G&CC.

The competition being held by Rigby Taylor is entering its final stages with the semi-final and final being held at Stoke Park GC on August 29. This is a 36-hole competition and on behalf of the Section, we wish them all the best in their games. The teams for the semi-finals are as follows: Simon Austin & Lindsay Anderson, Badgemore Park GC; Jason Brooks & Lee Bishop, Burnham Beeches GC; Peter Critchley & Gordon Critchley, Three Locks GC, and Steve Putt & Martin Birdbank, Witney Golf Centre.

Let's hope they have had great golfing conditions on the day and not the sort endured during our golf Section day in April!

I would like to wish all members great success on your golf courses during the twilight days of the great British summer ha ha! This summer has

gone so quickly – why does the winter lag behind so? Ah yes, it's very, very long but with great resolve we will get through another season, giving you plenty of time to invest very carefully in those shares!

David Haskell-Craig

Mid Anglia

Stocks Golf and Country Club is the venue for our Autumn Tournament, on Thursday October 10. Stocks has not been used before for a Section event, so I'm sure we're all looking forward to playing a new course.

The golf is over 18 holes only and will be followed by the Section's AGM at around 4pm. All members are welcome to attend. Entries for the golf via the standard form, please, to Richard Saunders at the usual address.

Paul Lockett



SOUTH EAST
Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260 956

Sussex

July 16 saw the Section's avid golfers make their way to Piltdown Golf Club, set in the heart of East Sussex.

A total of 36 Golfers managed to make their way around 18 holes in the most humid conditions we have experienced this summer. The course was presented in usual high standard thanks to the very hard work of Course Manager, John Shepard and his team. Thanks also to Piltdown Golf Club for letting us demonstrate our golfing prowess on their wonderful course.

The day was very well sponsored thanks to Tacit (you know that big van which turns up, driven by Brian Wilmott) who presented the winners with some very nice prizes.

1. Mike Gould, John Pync, 43 pts; 2. Lee Amos, Harry Ruffles, 42 pts; 3. Jim Russell, Rose Gould, on countback with 40 pts.

We also had nearest the pin, which was picked up by Rose Gould, and longest drive, which with a monstrous drive was won by Harry Ruffles. I would like to thank Copthorne professional demonstration golf team for showing us mere mortals how to play the game!

Well on to our next meeting which will be held at Mannings Heath on the September 25, well worth a visit. Remember if you have any news which may be of interest please contact me on 07876 233253.

Jon Budd

Kent

Once again I have nothing at all to report on this month. There will be a report next month on the golf day at Wilderness Golf Club. But, until then, I have nothing to say but give me a hand and send or call with anything that is remotely funny or news regarding your club or colleagues that might fill a few more lines and make my job a whole lot easier.

Call 01732 875020 or e-mail me at JRBATKHGOLF@AOL.COM please, please, please. Jason Bean.

East Anglia

What a lovely day it was at Gonleston. 50 + Nomads teamed up to play on a well presented course, thanks to Mark Sherwood and his team. The course is quite tough and if you are doing well don't look over the cliff at the 16th. If you see the topless bathers on the beach it will put you off your stroke (figuratively speaking). I know a bloke that did just that. The prizes were as follows and keep your eye on the 20-28 bandit section.

0-9. 1. James Wrigh, 39 pts; 2. Peter Howard, 33 pts; 3. Bob Barnes, 31 pts

13-19. 1. Mark Broughton, 33 pts; 2. Ian Willett, 29 pts; 3. Paul Gould, 28 pts. 20-28. 1. Mick Lathrope (That's me), 37 pts; 2. Pat Swinn, 33 pts; 3. Martin Mison, 28 pts. Guest. 1. Roger Matson, Eaton, 39 pts; 2. David Littlechild, 38 pts; 3. Larry Pearman, 37 pts. Longest Drive. Peter Clements.

Nearest the Pin. Alan Sharp. Loo Seat. Graham Brumpton, 11 pts.

Don't worry son, I won the loo seat three times and it's only taken me 39 years to actually win a prize. Patience my son, patience.

Now for the sponsors. Main ones for the day were Scotts and Prime Irrigation. The just as vital are: Ruchbrooks & Son, SISIS, Aventis, Lely UK, Bartram Mowers, Tomlinson, Ground care, John Deere, Textron Turf Care, Tacit, Atterton & Ellis, Rigby Taylor, Norfolk Turf Machinery.

Our thanks to Peter Longbottom Secretary/Manager of Gorleston Golf Club for his warm welcome and Eric Wamer, Green Chairman, for presenting the prizes.

Did you hear about the Head Greenkeeper who built this beautiful green. He was putting the finishing touches to it on a hot summer's day when a member came up to him and asked him to put his shirt on. A bit like telling Michelangelo off for not wearing a hard hat when he had just finished the Sistine Chapel. You couldn't dream it.

Next meeting. October 9, Ufford Park. Be There Mick Lathrope



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

Devon & Cornwall

September is upon us already. Where has the summer gone? Our wives are thinking about Christmas and we can look forward to our forthcoming Section meetings. Our first meeting sponsored by Roffeys will be held at Portmore GC, Barnstaple. This will also be the final of the 2002 Vitax match play championships.

As in previous years the Section will be holding six meetings during the winter and one summer meeting, which are listed below. Members attending the October, January, February and March meetings will be able to claim CPD points for attending the afternoon educational talks.

October 16, Roffeys Meeting, Portmore; November 13, DGM Meeting, Bude;

December 10, PJ Flegg Meeting, Okehampton; January 16, Barenbrug Meeting, East Devon; February 23, Avoncrop Meeting, Mullion; March 26, Aventis & Supaturf Meeting, Yelverton; June 17, Rigby Taylor Meeting, Trethorne.