

currently waiting to hear whether or not I have been successful in obtaining some funding from the IOG 2000 fund towards my second year fees. Also, any companies wishing to help fund my course further – would be greatly appreciated. Details available from Ken Richardson.

Without the help of funding, it would have been impossible to take up my place at Cranfield - so many thanks for the financial help so far. I would like to think that other companies might look into the possibility of sponsorship schemes in the way Ransomes Jacobsen have.

Funding has in the past been directed at the under 18's, so this is a great step forward for any mature student. The industry needs to be recognised as having highly qualified and educated managers just like any other industry, and not just referred to as (grass cutters).

Once I had received confirmation of the part funding for my first year it was time to sit down with my Greens Chairman and explain my intention to undertake my MSc. I told him that I had obtained a place at Cranfield University to undertake an MSc in Sports Surface Technology along with part funding. However, I now needed the time required to attend University. The Chairman's response was very positive and he agreed to put it before the general committee at their next meeting. The morning after the meeting I received a phone call from the Captain, who then informed me that the committee was unanimous in their decision to allow me the 20 weeks over three years, with pay to undertake my MSc. I was so pleased that I could now accept my place and the proposed funding offers.

The course consists of two-week modules that run concurrently starting in October through to March each year. I was able to choose the modules that fitted in with my winter work programme at Heaton Moor Golf Club. The modules cover everything from irrigation and drainage to soil/plant/water relationships.

The course is very interesting, but intense, and at times mind boggling. It is the first time since leaving school that I have used π^2 (pi squared). I found that the course was beneficial due to the fact that the students are of all ages and many different backgrounds within the sports industry from Course managers/Grounds managers through to top dressing manufacturers, all of whom are able to give their own first hand experiences of different situations within their specialist areas. This also gives the class an insight into how others deal with similar problems, thus broadening their knowledge, not just from the lectures but the other students as well.

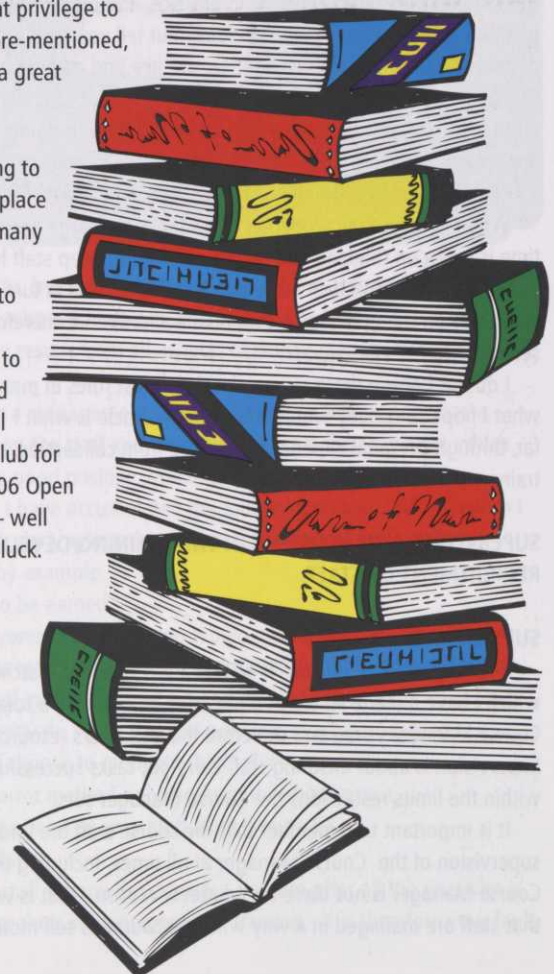
I hope that anyone reading this will look closely at the possibility of applying to do their MSc at Cranfield. The more students that enrol on the courses will enable it to go from strength to strength, and the more professional the respect for the sports industry will become as more and more students qualify at MSc level.

My first year is now over and the results of this year's case studies are awaited with baited breath. I have learnt a lot over this first term, not only from the course but also about being a student on campus living on pot noodles and cuppa soups and the odd beer. It only remains for me to thank Alex Vickers, Cranfield University, for his support and enthusiasm; Ken Richardson, BIGGA, for the help in obtaining funding; David Withers, Ransomes Jacobsen for the sponsorship provided; To Heaton Moor Golf Club for the full support, backing, forward thinking and the time to attend the University along with my staff for keeping up with the work on the golf course in my absence.

I would just like to take this opportunity to thank: Derek Green, Links Manager, Royal Liverpool Golf Club. Bob Goodwin, Course Manager, Ashridge Golf Club - retired. Bill Lawson, Course Manager, Heswall Golf Club - retired.

It was a great privilege to work for the afore-mentioned, where I gained a great deal from their knowledge and expertise, leading to me obtaining a place at University – many thanks.

I would like to add my congratulations to Derek Green and his staff at Royal Liverpool Golf Club for securing the 2006 Open Championship – well done and good luck.



Managing a Golf Course

The **fourth** of a series of five articles by Duncan McGilvray detailing duties of the modern day Course Manager

Managing Staff

Managing staff - easily said - easily written about - extremely difficult to carry out successfully and effectively.

In every advertisement for the position of Course Manager you will read the words "must be capable of managing/motivating/leading staff". Without doubt your employer views this aspect of a Course Manager's work to be by far the most important - so we have to get it right. It has often been relayed to a yet-to-be-appointed Course Manager that the staff which he/she is about to inherit are lazy/untrainable/stupid or even worse!

In my experience I have found little fault with the staff but lots of faults within their management.

Managing staff is about understanding people and there are no two people the same, although strangely some (probably most) believe that they should be treated equally - in practice, and under closer analysis, people prefer to be treated individually but tell you they want to be treated equally! Strange, but that is what we are like and as soon as we accept that as Managers then we realise that a great deal of understanding and effort has to be put into managing staff-recruiting, training, assessing, appraising, listening, and simply keeping them happy, which will ensure you get the best from them.

When I analyse my workload as a Manager a large proportion of my time is taken up thinking and acting on ways to keep staff happy because I know that I will get much more effort in return. This in turn ensures standards on the golf course continually improve - it therefore makes good sense.

I do not believe there are any hard and fast rules in managing staff but what I hope to convey within this month's article is what I have learned, so far, through personal experiences, advice from colleagues, management trainers and even psychologists.

SUPERVISING AND ASSISTING IN THE TRAINING/DEVELOPMENT AND RECRUITMENT OF STAFF

SUPERVISING

The "supervision" of staff is so often mistaken for watching over staff which I have already stated in a previous article to be a total waste of the Course Manager's time and therefore the golf club's resources.

Supervision is about ensuring staff carry out tasks successfully, safely, and within the limits/restrictions the Course Manager sets.

It is important to remember that the course staff are under the supervision of the Course Manager at all times, including times when the Course Manager is not there for whatever reason - that is why it is vital that staff are managed in a way which encourages self motivation.

TRAINING

The training and development of the course staff is the responsibility of the Course Manager.

It is his/her duty to ensure that there exists sufficient funding and provision for on course practical training as well as arranging for external training providers to supply any area of training which may not be possible on the golf course so that each member of staff can advance to his/her maximum potential and capabilities.

It is not fair to the staff or to the golf club not to do so.

The favourite excuse not to train staff is "why train them - they will only leave for a better position?"

This is an extremely narrow minded view which at last is being said much less often than in the past.

The advantages of good training and support are numerous in terms of staff commitment, self motivation, enthusiasm, good working atmosphere and work output, which all combine to give us a better maintained golf course - it is therefore very cost effective!

The support now given to Course Managers from both the GTC and BIGGA is exceptional - if you are in any doubt whatsoever regarding the training that is available for both yourself and your staff, contact them - it could not be easier.

RECRUITMENT

I have now had considerable experience from both sides in an interview situation and I am not surprised when I hear that mistakes are made when hiring staff.

The experiences range from unbelievable intimidation of candidates to inappropriate questioning linked to failure to check on previous references.

The costs of failure in employing the right people are high - I therefore spend considerable time in preparation for interviews to minimise the chance of taking on the wrong people.

When recruiting course staff from Deputy Course Manager down to Apprentice the Course Manager is the most important interviewer - the Course Manager will after all be the successful candidate's future Head of Department.

My experience tells me however that the Course Manager needs assistance in making decisions, particularly when selecting prospective candidates for employment.

Following the short list selection process, which would include a personal profile as well as a task based assessment of possible candidates, three interviewers should be involved (fewer than three is thought to be too few for accurate assessment and more than three is thought to be too intimidating).

The interviewers would ideally be:

- Course Manager (Department Head) - technical detail/education and candidate capabilities.
- Club Manager (Head of all staff) - employer conditions, club structure and relevant information.
- A.N. Other (Course Liaison Officer/Chairman of Course Committee/Committee Member) - general questions of a more personal nature to put the candidate at ease.

In this way the right person for the position offered is more likely to be selected and when the successful candidate takes up the position they will have a clear understanding of how the club is managed and who they will be responsible to.

If there is any difference of opinion on selection, the final decision must rest with the Course Manager - if the course suffers because of a bad decision it is the Course Manager who takes full responsibility.

ENDEAVOURING AT ALL TIMES TO IMPROVE SUPERVISOR AND STAFF RELATIONS

For some reason small groups of staff (2/3 to 7/8) which is common on golf courses seem to give more problems than large groups.

The Course Manager must not only be aware of this but endeavour to set systems in place to lessen the chance of staff friction/tension becoming a serious threat to the efficiency of the course staff as a whole.

Appraisal systems work extremely well in situations such as these and should be an important part of the staff structure within the club.

In short and simple terms an appraisal is time set aside for staff and managers to communicate in a positive way in an atmosphere such that both parties can air their respective views in a calm and non intimidatory way.

Following appraisals I have always found staff to be more focussed and enthusiastic which ultimately improves golf course conditions - I have also learned a lot about myself which is difficult, but necessary!

Appraisals should not however be used to delay any discussion on poor staff performance on the course.

More and more over the years I have made time available for staff to be more involved in the decision making process and have certainly not regretted it.

Open staff discussion forums on standards, work schedules/programmes, major projects, health and safety matters, better ways of working etc. should be allowed for at appropriate times of the year.

It gives any member of staff the opportunity to discuss any problem area and solutions are found collectively.

I am continually and pleasantly surprised at just how much staff are prepared to contribute to the running of the golf course.

At this stage I cannot over emphasise the importance of appropriate training in handling both staff appraisals and group discussions - I will cover this under the sub heading of "personal presentation" in my last article entitled "Communication".

DELEGATING EFFECTIVELY

How successful you are as a Course Manager will be dependant on many factors and the art of delegation is a key area.

Delegation releases you to manage - which is what you are employed for.

When I speak to young Course Managers they have a tendency to do extremely important tasks themselves eg. changing pin positions, application of fertilisers/weedkillers etc.

This ties the Course Manager down at those times and does not allow reaction to anything which may crop up - as it invariably does at the most inconvenient time!

It also has the effect of staff feeling that they cannot be trusted to do important tasks and therefore demotivates - which is the opposite of what you want.

Delegating is not passing on a duty which the course manager cannot



From left to right: Dean Seare, Tony Hawes, James Morriss, Adam Smale, Colin Adamson and John Dennis

be bothered to do, but is about entrusting a duty or responsibility to a member of staff who is suitably qualified - it is not easy to get right but when you do the results from all aspects of course management are exceptional.

Delegation is a management tool, which if handled properly has a profound effect on the staff and the way they view their position, which helps to create a good positive working environment.

To conclude I have accumulated the following various truisms which I believe are particularly relevant to the management of golf courses.

- Always lead by example.
- Respect has to be earned.
- Never ask anyone to do what you would not do yourself.
- People are not machines - they should therefore not be treated as such.
- Involve all staff in decision making and problem solving.
- You cannot motivate staff - you can only create an atmosphere in which staff choose to motivate themselves.
- The stick or carrot method only works in the short term.
- You are only as good as your staff allow you to be.
- Take time to listen.
- Never blame staff for any deficiencies - you are after all the one who is responsible for their management and training - it is therefore your fault, not theirs!

NEW PRODUCTS

SURF WITH CHARTERHOUSE

The latest website initiative from Charterhouse Turf Machinery makes looking for grounds care and landscaping equipment as easy as visiting a local department store. It also enables browsers to purchase certain items from the company's wide range at discounted prices, including machines aimed at landscape contractors and hire shop managers.

A key element of the new website, which can be found at www.charterhouseturfmachinery.co.uk, is the Trade Direct initiative. This lists equipment from the company's Professional Pedestrian Machinery range and the Charterhouse Richmond divisions, the former offering items for landscape contractors, estate managers, hire shops and homeowners with large gardens, and the latter fulfilling the needs of foresters and grounds care professionals.

Trade Direct allows visitors to order on-line and enjoy savings of up to 35% on machines such as wheeled brushcutters and trimmers, pedestrian rotary mowers, chipper/shredders, and dagger soil compaction relievers, as well as lawn scarifiers, turf cutters and post hole borers. Savings up to 60% can similarly be made on consumables like trimmer lines and lapping paste. Most products are delivered from stock within three days and are backed by a 14-day, no-quibble refund guarantee.

The website also gives quick links to information on other Charterhouse Divisions, such as the Professional Division that handles turf care equipment like the Verti-Drain deep aerator, and the Antonio Carraro Division that distributes its range of high work-rate tractors.



CHAFER GRUB CONTROL

Chafers can create devastating damage to turf. Direct damage is caused by the larvae (grubs) feeding on roots and indirectly by predators feeding on the grubs. Grubs feeding on roots create characteristic yellowing and browning of the turf, furthermore, the damaged turf can easily be rolled off since much of the root system has been severed. Even slight damage can make the turf vulnerable to desiccation. High infestations of grubs in the soil provide a very attractive diet for predators. Badgers, foxes and crows will focus on infested areas, tearing away the turf to expose the grubs.

There have been no products available to deal with this pest. Until now...

New Nemasys G became available in July specifically to combat this pest. Nemasys G contains nematodes (*Heterorhabditis* sp.) which are natural predators of these grubs. These aggressive organisms actively seek out grubs in the soil and enter them through natural body openings. Once inside they quickly kill the grubs (see picture) and the nematodes reproduce to release a new generation of infective juveniles which disperse in search of further prey.

Nemasys G, supplied by Avoncrop Amenity and Aitken's Sportsturf, is in a water dispersible formulation which can be applied through standard spray equipment. Applications should be made in August to September – at the time when the grubs are active and are close to the soil surface.

Nemasys G is a biological product that is safe to applicators, course users and the environment. There are no restrictions in use and no re-entry interval required.

LIGHTWEIGHT TRIMMERS FROM CLAYMORE

Claymore Grass Machinery have introduced four new lightweight trimmers to their range of Solo Outdoor Power Equipment. All the new introductions feature easy-start primer systems, assuring quick and safe starting even after the engine has been switched off for long periods.

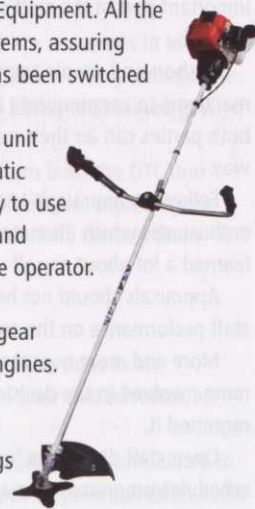
Model 105-L is a Solo 25cc 0.95hp powered unit with a curved shaft complete with semi-automatic nylon cutting head. A loop handle makes it easy to use for domestic trimming jobs around the garden and weighing only 4.1 kgs means less fatigue on the operator. Safety goggles supplied as standard.

The 106-L and 106-B are both straight shaft gear drive trimmers powered by Solo 25cc 0.95hp engines. The 106-L is equipped with a loop handle and weighs 4.3 kgs with a semi-automatic head.

The 106-B has bicycle handles, weighs 4.7 kgs and has a 4-tooth grass blade. Both models are supplied with nylon head, harness and safety goggles.

The fourth unit is the 106-R powered by a Robin 4 stroke 25cc engine rated at 1.1hp. Supplied with a loop handle, the new trimmer is gear driven and weighs 5.5 kgs. Standard equipment is a semi-automatic nylon head, shoulder harness and goggles.

RRP including Vat 105-L - £189; 106-L - £199; 106.B - £219 and 106-R - £249



NEW ATP LAUNCHED BY POLARIS

Polaris Britain launched its new All Terrain Pickup at The Royal Highland Show. The ATP breaks the mould of traditional ATV design and takes it to a new level of innovation and practicality.

"The new turf & amenity specialist" is how Jack Ford, General Manager of Polaris Britain, the new UK subsidiary formed last year by US based Polaris, sums up the qualities of this new machine.

"It embodies many of the design principles and proven components of the latest generation Polaris ATVs but then builds on these to create a unique new machine that will have particular appeal to users in turf & amenity markets."

The ATP has been designed to carry more and, with a unique new rear tipping box, to do this more easily. For convenience, the box has a tipping lever on both sides of the vehicle and a gas assisted shock for easier tipping.

The ATP is available powered either by the 500cc HO engine from the company's Sportsman ATV, which is liquid cooled and comes with Polaris EBS (engine braking system) as standard, or by its new 330cc engine.

Power is handled by the latest drum shift version of the proven Polaris Variable Transmission (PVT), which has a splice-less belt that carries a



limited lifetime guarantee from Polaris.

Polaris has also introduced its Versatrac electronic rear locking differential. This gives the ATP a 20% tighter turning radius when loaded, reduces steering effort and reduces scuffing on fine turf. The

Versatrac system is electronically controlled from a convenient switch on the handlebars that enables the operator to shift on the move from a turf setting to a locked setting providing solid rear axle 2WD or on to AWD whenever required, giving the ATP genuine all-terrain capability.

Carrying capacity and storage is exceptional in the ATP. A sealed storage box takes the place of the front rack, which takes loads inside and on top, where additional D-rings can be used to secure the load. A further 18 kg of sealed storage is available in compartments in the rear wings with hinged doors to protect the contents. Overall, the ATP can carry up to 231kg and pull a further 556kg taking it to a new level of all round performance.

The ATP became available at all Polaris utility ATV dealers in July.



TWO NEW HEDGE CUTTERS

Allen Power Equipment have introduced two petrol hedgecutters from Komatsu Zenoah.

The first is the eHT601D, a double sided, double reciprocating professional quality unit powered by a 21.7cc Komatsu Zenoah engine with the e-start easy starting system. New ergonomic design incorporates a rear handle adjustable through 180 degrees, and at 4.35kg is the lightest petrol hedgecutter in the world.

The second introduction is the eHT751S, a professional single sided double reciprocating blade unit, again powered by the 21.7cc Komatsu Zenoah engine.

The 750mm (30in) blades have a resin receive plate for a cleaner debris-free finish. Latest Komatsu Zenoah technology uses maximum power to weight ratio and at 4.45kg is the lightest in its class.

RRP including Vat eHT601 £429.95 and the eHT751S £459.95.

SUCCESSFUL ASSESSMENT

Nutrovate, developed by Blakedown Sport & Play for drainage and rootzone improvements, has been assessed by at the STRI laboratory at Bingley.

STRI's initial laboratory studies were designed to evaluate the performance of Nutrovate, and to assess optimum application rates of Nutrovate in sand and sand/soil mixes for use in sports turf areas.

In summary the tests confirmed:

- An amendment of 20% Nutrovate to two grades of sand and a sand/soil mix increased the cation exchange capacity in a medium course sand by up to 27 times.
- Total porosity, capillary porosity and air-filled porosity all significantly increased with the addition of Nutrovate to a rootzone. Tests suggest that Nutrovate amended rootzones show greater water retention and improve growing conditions in situations of water stress.
- Hardness and bulk density are significantly reduced by the addition of Nutrovate to rootzone. This has important implications for the playing quality of Nutrovate amended sports turf areas.
- It was established that sand/soil mixes incorporating Nutrovate can satisfy the criteria for physical performance outlined by the United States Golf Association (USGA).

IS IT SUNNY?

Dynamax has introduced a new sensor to measure solar radiation components. The Sunshine Sensor, model BF3, is a device that contains an array of photodiodes under a shaded dome, and calculates whether the sun is shining.

The special pattern of clear and opaque areas on the acrylic dome enables at least one photodiode to see an unobstructed solar disc, and at least one is always in full shadow.

The onboard processor calculates the direct, diffuse and total solar radiation values. The sensor provides two analog outputs corresponding to the diffuse and total components, and a digital output of sunshine presence.

In addition to meteorology, good applications include plant, crop, and forest canopy analysis.

The sunshine sensor is a major improvement because there are no electromechanical assemblies, burning paper to record sun tracks, nor need it be oriented towards north. Data from the sensor is easily recorded by Dynamax dataloggers and hand held computers.





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SCOTTISH REGION
Peter Boyd
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East

Welcome to this month's column. I can't quite believe it's August already but it is and the season has been good to us so far compared to previous years, so long may it continue. There hasn't been much Section news over the last few months so that's why these pages have been blank. Also I have not had a lot of time due to my son, Christopher, being in Hospital in Birmingham having his second liver transplant at the beginning of June.

I am glad to say so far everything is going very well and we all hope that's how it carries on. The good thing about his transplant this time was before it he was reasonably fit and well which was good for him and is aiding his recovery. He had his transplant on the 2nd of June and was back home on the 11th, which is one of their quickest ever for Birmingham. We would like to thank all our friends in the Section for their best wishes etc as it's good to know that so many people are thinking about you in those tough times, so a big thank you to all.

Well down to Section business. The Section held its Spring tournament at Kingsknowe Golf Club on May 14. A great day was had by all with a number of new faces along on the day which is good for the Section and hopefully they all enjoyed themselves and we will see them at future events. I would like to thank The Captain and his Board of Directors for the use of their course and the courtesy on the day; all the Clubhouse staff for the way they looked after us (ps the fish was marvellous), Course Manager, Steve Dixon, and his crew for the superb condition of the course which was a credit to them all. We would like to thank the trade for bringing along raffle prizes etc once again

The weather was great with warm sunshine until the last four or so groups had a severe downpour which started just as I was walking into the clubhouse! What a shame! (Chairman sniggers). It is a number of years since we were at Kingsknowe and hopefully it won't be as long 'til we are back again. The last time we were there was for the Scottish National Tournament. If anyone knows when that was please write it on the back of a £10 note and send it to yours truly.

There was some very good golf played on the day which is reflected in the scores. They are as follows: Scratch Boyd Trophy. I. Elliot, 75 (bih), First class. Souters Cup. R. McCulloch, 80-9-71; 2, D. Murray, 75-3-72, 3. A. Holmes, 78-4-74, 2nd Class. Lothian Tractors Trophy. A. Campbell, 76-12-64; 2, C Yeaman, 78-12-66; 3, R. Prowse 84-11-73 3rd Class Turfcare Cup. J. Nesbit, 92-18-74; 2, J. Neilson 100-21-79 bih; 3, S. Gray, 104-28-79. Best Nett. Ocmis Cup. C. Yeaman 78-12-66. Veterans' Prize. J Robertson, 94-20-74. Trade Prize. Patrons Cup. M. Dennis 82-12-70, New Members' Prize. G. Burnett, 79-6-73, Highest Score. R. McDonald 133, Longest Drive. D. Murray, Nearest the Pin at 9th G. Burnett. Nearest the Pin at the 18th, S. Poole.

Well that's it all for the Spring Tournament, so a big thanks to the Match Committee for making the day run smoothly and Craig (Pennyquick) for his starting duties on the 1st tee. Cheers to you all for making the day run even more smoothly. Don't forget the Match Committee will be altering handicaps from the spring tournament in readiness for the summer outing.

Next tournament on the agenda is the Summer Tournament at the Glen at the end of July so let's see a big turnout for this one. As the tournament will have passed by the time you read this, a full report will be in next month's column.

A notable new member last month is Willie Blair who has just rejoined the Section after a few years away. Willie is the Head Greenkeeper at Lundin Ladies Golf Club in Fife. As most of you will know Willie was the Section Secretary for a number of years, so it's good to see him back and hopefully he will be at the summer tournament at the Glen GC, as that is where he attended his last outing a few years back. Welcome Willie and also a warm welcome to all our new members and we hope to see you at future Section events.

The membership of the Section is increasing all the time which is good for us and the Association. As you are reading this the summer tournament is passed. You will have received your summer entry form and also your fixture card for this year and

the start of next. Sorry they are slightly late but we had a few technical problems but you have now all got one so let's see you all at the future events throughout this year.

At the Spring Tournament the Section invited Jackie Dalrymple along as guest of the Section to celebrate his retirement after 44 years at Baberton Golf Club on December 13. In recognition of all those years at the one club and his support of the Section the committee made him guest for the day and during the prize giving presented him with a golf bag, an umbrella and a nice pair of golf shoes. Jackie, we know you enjoyed your day and all your gifts so all the best in your retirement from everyone here in the East Section and we hope to see you at the up coming events. Ps with all this free time for golf I can see Jackie's handicap heading downwards.

As I said in my last report, the winners of the First, Second and Third classes would join the Chairman to make up the Section team for this year's Norrie Whytock Memorial Tournament at Auchterarder Golf Club later in the season. They are as follows: C. Yeaman, R. McCulloch, A. Campbell and J. Nesbit, so I look forward to playing with you lads to try and win back the trophy that the Section team won a few years ago.



Well, that's it once again for another month and I will speak to you all again in September (where does the time go?). If you have any news for the Section please let me know so that I can get it into print next time in Greenkeeper International.

Normal phone nos, Addresses, Fax and e-mails for any relevant info. So come on let's hear from you. 'Till next time.
Chris Yeaman.

Ayrshire

A warm welcome to a new member Mark Hodgson, Turnberry.

Ayrshire committee man, Barry Crawford, recently won the Ayrshire Matchplay at St. Nicholas Golf Club. Congratulations!

Michael Byrne returns to Ayrshire from Wentworth Golf Club after three years. He joins the team at Turnberry.

The Scottish Championship held at Turnberry's Kintyre Course fielded close to 80 players from courses all over Scotland and Northern England. A special mention to David Leith, St Andrews, who shot a level par 71. Duncan Gray, The Pines, won the Veteran's Section.

If you want your news included you have to call me on 01292 478606

Dennis Tweddell.



NORTHERN REGION

North West

Good news, we now have a Regional Administrator. Since Doug Bell died 12 months ago, the Northern Region have been without a Regional Administrator, making it difficult to hold a regional seminar, mainly due to finances being frozen. But now we are back on course. Peter Larter, the Midlands Administrator, has taken the Northern Region under his wing, and I for one welcome this move.

This weekend, July 5, we have a Regional Board meeting and Peter will be there where we can discuss what is required to keep the region running smoothly, and hopefully improve the Region's education programmes.

On Thursday, June 12 we played the Summer Tournament at Deanwood Golf Club and this time we were lucky with the weather, unlike the Spring Tournament. The day started not looking too promising but as the morning drew on the sun came out and we had a glorious day to follow. Arrangements for the tournament had been made when Chris Watson was Head Greenkeeper, but about a month before we played Chris had moved to the South of England as Head Greenkeeper. The club honoured the arrangements and the course was in excellent condition due to Steve

Owen and his staff. Steve was Deputy to Chris and he had done a great job in preparing the course. The newly appointed Head Greenkeeper also played with us on the day and met the guys from his new Section. He is Duncan Smith, and I believe he has moved up from the Gloucester area, welcome to the N/W Duncan.

I would like to thank Deanwood Golf Club for allowing us courtesy of playing their fine course and the caterers for the excellent meals.

The result of the Tournament was:

Winner of the Reg Vickers Trophy: Peter Hogan; Guest Prize: Andrew Acorn and Phil Dewhurst. Nearest The Pin: Mark Kofoed. Longest Drive: Peter Hogan.

The Longest Drive and Nearest the Pin were sponsored by Rufford Technology. The prizes stretched to 10th nett thanks to support from our sponsors: Oliver Brothers, Cheshire Turf Machinery, North Staffs Irrigation, SISIS, Joseph Metcalf, Andrew Acorn, John Greasley, plus Amenity Technology, Bathgate, Aitkens and Vitax.

The qualifiers for the regional final are: D. Wheeler, W. Merritt, P. Hogan, C.

Sheehan, M. Kofoed, T. Wilkinson

The final to be played at Middlesbrough on August 13.

I also require a team of 12 for the "Roses" match also to be played on the August 13 at Cleckheaton Golf Club so if you are available please contact me as soon as possible.

That seems to be it for now, any news ring me on 0151 724 5412 or 07761 583387

Bert Cross



Northern

Hope you're all keeping ok. The Section managed to have another sunny day to play golf on for President's Day at Pike Hills. The day was sponsored again by our friends at Scotts, which was appreciated by all who played. Dave Truby was on hand to present the prizes. The course was in pristine condition and congratulations must go to Robin and his greens team for that. After the golf we all enjoyed a great meal and shared a few beers. Many thanks again to all at Pike Hills who helped us make the day go so well. The winners are as follow Div 1. 1. T. Arana, 37 pts; 2. A. Baxter, 34pts; 3. D. Collins, 33pts. 2nd Div. 1. T. Jarvis, 34 pts and winner of the Bill Mountain Claret Jug; 2. J. Walsh 34 pts; 3. A. Speight; 3rd Div. D. Cockburn (President) 34 pts; 2. D. Thackray, 34 pts; 3. J. Baxter, 33pts. E. Carter 37 pts won the trade prize with N. Schofield with 36pts in second. S. Heaton (off a tree and a rake stand) won the Nearest the Pin while the Longest Drive was a monster from J. Watts.

You will probably be reading this a week or so before the Roses match at Cleckheaton on August 13. At the time of writing there are 18 names down and only 12 places so I am afraid some of you will be disappointed. This has been done on the number of tournaments attended throughout the season basis only and not on the strongest team. Good luck to all involved.

Our next golfing event is Invitation day at Wetherby golf club. Tee off from 1.30 pm on September 10. This is on a first come first served basis, as there are only 60 places, with the criteria of your guest being one of your club's officials. The sponsors of this event are Rigby Taylors.

At the last committee meeting it was decided to run a trip to the dogs at Pontefract. The date of this event is Friday October 24. The price of this event is £18 which includes coach travel, first drink free, chicken and chips, and a race programme. The first pick up on the coach will be in Keighley at 5.30pm. If you are interested in going please get in touch with any of the committee. This event is also open to any of your friends if you want to bring them along.

Last but by no means least, a warm welcome to Shaun Drum from Bridlington golf club who has joined our Section this month.

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Dave Thackray



North Wales

Well what about these colour photos of your Section columnists then, " what a handsome bunch we all are", I did ask BIGGA HQ if they could do a little bit of digital enhancement, so as the readers did not think it was Mel Gibson in the picture, I can say they have done a fair job. Good on you. It is a pity you couldn't help the others out!

Congratulations this month go to Richard Walker, from Royal Liverpool GC, and his wife, Rebecca, who has given birth to twin girls, Hannah and Charlotte. Ever so thoughtful of you, Richard, to get the baby business out of the way before the real business begins.

Simon Ashley from Carden Park has completed his HND in Golf Course Management and Douglas Neilson has returned from Royal Dornoch.

The Section team to represent North Wales in Middlesbrough has now been cancelled. The next date for your diaries will be October 1 for autumn at Wallasey GC and December 3 for Christmas at Abergele GC.

Vale of Llangollen have a new assistant starting this month called Dillian Dullan.

At a recent Regional Board meeting at BIGGA HOUSE it was passed that the new Administrator for the Northern Region would be Peter Larter, a man with a fine rugby background and a vast knowledge of the greenkeeping industry. He will be available for an informal meeting at Carden Park in August, (date to be confirmed). If you can make it along, Peter would like you to tell him just how good are the Welsh at this national sport. 'Rugby' that is.

We currently have no dates in our diary for the 2004 season so we would like anyone with proposals to host a BIGGA golf day at their respective clubs to please give the committee a ring.

Richard Littler has raised a point, that while he backs education 100% he would like to see these courses and seminars on during the autumn and winter months and not have to let assistants go on day release during the busy competition season especially during major events. Richard will be glad to know North Wales are doing just that and our education classes start in the autumn.

I would just like to give praise to Royal St David's and Carden Park for hosting the European Tour Seniors' events last month and a credit to both courses for their presentations.

Just one final note across the borders as I would like to congratulate all the greenkeeping teams at the Regional Open qualifying courses. I personally went across on the day to Stockport GC which was a credit to Course Manager, Warren Bevan and the lads who, incidentally, slept over a couple of nights within the maintenance dept so they were all on hand at first light to prepare fully the course for the day's play. Well done guys.

Any news or views give us a call

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Mesen Cymru

Andrew "The Squirrel" Acorn





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MIDLAND REGION
Peter Larter
Tel: 01476 550115

East of England

The Section's second golf day took place at Kenwick Park in Louth. The event was sponsored by Burdens and Norman Burden was on hand to oversee the prize giving. Thanks to Burdens and Kenwick Park for staging a well attended day.

Geoff Henderson and staff prepared the course in excellent condition and all who attended played a testing and attractive course.

The Burden's Trophy went to Graeme Macdonald, of Newark GC, 75-5-70. Second on countback Simon Bossett, of Burghley Park GC, 98-28-70 and third went to Derek Beba, of Tydd St Giles GC, 87-16 71. Nearest the Pin. Russ Moody Lincoln GC and Longest Drive went to Daniel Wells, of Burghley Park GC.

The medal scores of Kenwick added to the medal scores at Burghley gave us the members who will represent the East of England Section and Midland Region at the National Championships to be held at Hollinwell and Coxmoor. They were split into handicap categories. Div 1 winner G. A. Macdonald 74+70=144. Reserve Div 1 R. Welford 76+73=149. Div 2 winner D. Salisbury 79=80=159. Reserve Div 2 G. Poole 82+87=169.

Div 3 winner F. Cobb 74+74=148. Reserve Div 3 B. Hicks 75+78=153.

The golf day at Market Rasen GC was sponsored by Toro and we would like to thank Nigel Lovatt for putting up a new trophy which will be played for annually. The winner was Alan Buckley, of Newark GC, 38 pts, second on countback Graeme Macdonald 38 pts and third Tim Robert, of Boston GC, 36 pts. John Hewson and staff had the course looking great and the four new holes blended in superbly.

The Amenity Technology Plate was played for by the East of England Section of BIGGA at Norwood Park golf club in Southwell where a good turnout enjoyed a challenging new course in excellent condition.

The weather was sunny and the food was great, so all in all everybody had a superb day.

Thanks to Henry Starkey, Course Manager of Norwood, for their friendly welcome and courtesy of the course.

1. Russ Moody, Lincoln GC, 37 pts; 2. Bruce Hicks, Boston GC, 36 pts; 3. Graeme Macdonald, Newark GC, 34 pts 4. Daniel Wells, Burghley Park GC, 33 pts; 5. Alan Buckley, Newark GC, 32 pts; 6. Adrian Kitchinson, Lincoln GC, 31pts. Longest Drive was won by Stuart Clayton. Nearest the Pin was won by David Smith. Trade prize went to Peter Larter 35 points.

On the education front Bob Bean of Humberstone has successfully passed his NVQ 3 exams at Myerscough College. Any ideas of talks/ visits you would like for the Autumn, please call me. Ideas always welcome.

Garry Cooper has also moved jobs, from Tower Chemicals to Turfcare. Good luck in the new job.

Graeme Macdonald

BB&O

I am pleased to write that after printing last month I had some interest in the training courses that can be arranged through BIGGA at local Section level. It is quite likely that all the allocation of funds for this coming autumn will be gone. Bookings can now be arranged for the Spring, 2004 so please contact me if you have any training requirements at your golf club and I will help as best I can. With the current weather conditions giving excellent growth I know everyone is now flat out keeping their own backyard in order for great golf. Luckily a few of us managed to find time to attend the Summer competition held at Donnington Valley Golf Club on July 1. This was a resounding success with the miracle of the day being heavy rain passing over before play and not returning until the last players were in the showers. It was our lucky day! Thanks go to Clive Parnell, from Gem Professional, for his time and support on the day. The prizes sponsored by Gem were excellent so well done to the winners. Thanks to Alec MacIndoe and his staff who presently face a huge up-hill battle to bring on this new course but conditions were excellent on the day. The

results of this Stableford were as follows: 1. Ross Wilson, Parasampia GC, 34 pts; 2. Brian Payne, Burnham Beeches GC, 33pts; 3. Carl Small, Ellesborough GC, 31pts; 4. John Bowness, Deanwood Park GC, 29pts; 5. Ray Tapper, Retired, 26pts; 6. Alec MacIndoe, Donnington Valley GC, 26pts. Nearest the Pin. Alec MacIndoe: Longest Drive. Carl Small. Trade Prize, Mark Day, Tacit, 31pts. Many thanks go to the great organisation at this club on the day with great food to end a marvellous day.

Our next golf fixture comes around very quickly and I hope that by the time you read this you are already booked to be a part of this special day held at the Buckinghamshire GC on August 11. This must be pre-booked before the event as I am sure this establishment will not take kindly to any major shift in player numbers on the day of the event. I have no Section news from around the block so I bid you well in the height of summer and hope all is well in each and every camp.

David Haskell-Craig



Midland

As I sit here considering what to include in this month's Section notes, I find myself thankful that I am no longer contemplating the outcome of college exams. I hope that all awaiting results shall be victorious. Please let me know if you or your staff have been so. It would give me no greater pleasure than to praise such achievements within our lines. With such in mind: Congratulations to Robert Writtle (Penn) on passing his NPTC spraying test. Now all you have to do Rob, is learn how to spray!

Well friends, did you spot last month's error in our notes? My personal secretary is obviously far too used to golfing related English. I must however confess that I also made the same embarrassing error many years ago, but the other way around. So if you did spot the mistake, then I hope such gave you the same wry smile as it did me. If not, then please let one enlighten. "Course Fishing" would be somewhat difficult, if not impossible. However, angling for "Coarse Fish" is one of the most enjoyable and rewarding pleasures to be experienced. I've been lucky enough to have done so in five different countries, and am looking forward to our fishing event at Middleton Hall, near the Belfry on 21-9-03. The event is, as you know, being sponsored by Allen Southam, of Hanson Aggregates. After speaking with Allen, he informs that the Fishery has over the last few years undergone an extensive restocking programme. Following the fishing, in the on site Club House, there shall be a buffet with a few beers during the prize giving ceremony. All of which is sponsored. Free private fishing, grub, beer and prizes. What more do you want? Please remember such is open to all greenkeepers, not just BIGGA members. To book your pegs please call me on: 07816-410552, or: 01902-338569 to leave a message.

It gives me great pleasure this month to welcome Graeme Stevenson to our fine Section. We all look forward to meeting you at our many differing events Gream.

Now for a further event for your diaries, on both an educational and socially enjoyable aspect. It's great when the two go hand-in-hand. Alpha Amenity in conjunction with Johnsons Sport and Amenity Grass Seed are holding an informal education afternoon at their plant in Inkberrow, just south of Redditch. The afternoon shall start with a short introduction and tour of Johnsons seed production plant and trial areas. Following such, lunch shall be provided with a clay pigeon shooting event after. I've never tasted clay pigeon, but I am assured by Nigel Tyler that such makes fine eating. All interested please call Nigel on: 07989 548058.

Until next month folks, sharp shooting and tight lines.

Sean McDade



WIN A DIGITAL CAMERA

We're giving away a fantastic digital camera to one lucky member. The camera features a movie facility and a multi mode flash. It has a 1.5" LCD screen and a picture resolution of 2 million pixels. The package also includes a memory card.

To enter the prize draw all you have to do is introduce one or more new greenkeeping members to BIGGA. Make sure your name goes on their application form as the person who referred them and we will enter your name into the draw. Remember the more new members you refer the more chances you have to win!

The draw will take place on 1st October and the winner will be announced in the November edition of Greenkeeper International.



CALL GEMMA TODAY IN MEMBERSHIP SERVICES ON
01347 833800 TO REQUEST A NEW MEMBER APPLICATION FORM