



Ensure all hydraulic couplings are secure and be on the lookout for signs of chaffing on hoses



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#### LINKAGES & JOINTS

They tell us to take cod liver oil to lubricate our joints. Where grease nipples are fitted it is an indication that something requires attention, be sparing how much you apply. Modern grease guns can pump a lot of lubricant and there is a possibility it will push out a seal or come out the joints, to hang in dollops that attract dirt and sand to form an ideal abrasive paste which will wear away components. It is a good idea to spray all joints, cables and connectors with WD40, AS it will help to keep them mobile and rust at bay.

Finally, check all nuts, bolts and fasteners are up tight or engaged.

Having a tight servicing schedule pays dividends all round, as can be seen from the following list: I make no apology for repeating some points already mentioned because, to quote the medical profession, 'prevention is better than cure'.

- Machinery is less likely to break down.
- It is more efficient in work output.
- On fine turf the possibility of stressing the turf is virtually eliminated making for a stronger sward.
- From a Health & Safety angle, you are looking after operator's interests and keeping the equipment in a safe condition.
- There can be significant reduction in the noise and emissions a machine emits.
- Well-kept machinery is likely to fetch a better price when it comes to trading in.

Next time you are feeling under the weather and lethargic you will have some inkling of the effects poor maintenance can have on your equipment.

*Thank you to Saffron Walden Golf Club for their assistance.*

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# TALKING HEADS

## HEALTH AND SAFETY

Compiled by Malcolm Huntington MBE

# 1

**Does your club have a Health and Safety Policy?**



Name: Ian Bell  
Course: Glencorse Golf Club, Penicuik  
Region: Scotland  
Course type: Parkland, 18 holes  
Staff: Head Greenkeeper, plus five

Yes. We have had one for about five years.



Name: Andrew Boyd  
Course: Bridlington Golf Club, East Yorkshire  
Region: Northern  
Course type: Parkland  
Staff: Head Greenkeeper, plus three

We have had a Health and Safety policy for four years.



Name: Robert Rees  
Course: Aldwickbury Park, Harpenden, Herts  
Region: Midland  
Course type: Parkland, 27 holes  
Staff: Course Manager, plus four

We do. One has been in operation since the course was opened nine years ago.



Name: Gareth Roberts  
Course: Hankley Common, near Farnham, Surrey  
Region: South East  
Course type: Heathland, nine holes  
Staff: Course Manager, plus five, plus part-timer

We do now. A company came in last year to advise us on H&S matters and we did some ourselves before that.



Name: Paul Knight  
Course: Shanklin and Sandown Golf Club, Isle of Wight  
Region: South West and South Wales  
Course type: Heathland and parkland, 18 holes  
Staff: Course Manager, plus six

Yes, we have had a policy for about five years.



Name: Jim Eager  
Course: Royal Belfast Golf Club  
Region: Northern Ireland  
Course type: Parkland, 18 holes, plus four grass tennis courts  
Staff: Course Manager, plus seven

Yes, we have had one for six years.

# 2

**Are you in favour of the more stringent H&S legislation which is now in place?**

To a certain extent, yes. I think we go a bit overboard on risk assessment at times and we should rely more on common sense. At the same time there can't be too much care when it comes to applying pesticides.

It very much depends on what the legislation is aimed at. Some of it is over the top in my view, but I am a big believer in H&S.

Yes. So far as H&S are concerned I don't think you can be too safe. Maybe one or two things are over the top and it is getting more difficult to carry out certain activities.

Yes to a large extent, but common sense must prevail in some areas.

Most certainly. We have to keep up to date on machinery and all the bits and pieces in the greenkeeper's shed.

Yes, as long as it is sensible. Some of the H&S goes a bit too far in my opinion, an example being a restriction of cutting tee banks over a certain number of degrees.

# 3

**How often are you visited by the Health and Safety Executive?**

I have been in this post for eight years and in that time we have had only two visits.

I have had a visit in recent months and I receive a visit twice a year from a Health and Safety advisor. I am the H&S co-ordinator for our club and try to meet with the committee on a monthly basis.

We had a visit late last year and we would normally receive someone on an annual basis.

Nobody has visited us for the last seven years or so.

Only once a year.

We have a visit once per year and sit down to discuss anything we are not happy with to try to sort out any problems.

# 4

**How much time do you devote to carrying out Risk Assessments and form filling compared to 10 years ago?**

Ten years ago it was virtually nil. Now I would think that I spend two to three days a month filling in forms and talking about risk assessments with the latest machinery etc.

I would say 200 per cent more now compared with ten years ago. There is a fair amount of form filling and I update risk assessment once a year.

Ten years ago it was practically nil, though I wasn't a Head Greenkeeper then. I now spend a day a week on a combination of staff appraisal, form filling etc. I am keen on training as it brings more professionalism into the job eventually.

Hardly any time was devoted to this ten years ago, but now I would say I do three times as much including perhaps a couple of days each month.

Much more time. I spend several hours over the course of a month sitting down and talking to staff. We discuss the risks involved and talk it through together.

Ten years ago virtually nothing. We now have an annual risk assessment and keep everything up to date. I spend at least a day a month filling in forms. We also have thorough training sessions from manufacturers' representatives when we buy new machinery.

# 5

**How do you ensure that your staff comply with H&S regulations?**

We keep a very close watch on this. I have two deputies and we always impress on the younger members of staff in particular the need to be wary. We constantly keep an eye on personal protective equipment.

We write everything down and all staff have a copy. Updates are also done on any new machinery which comes out.

My staff go through appraisals about H&S and other aspects with regard to their abilities and this is done on a three-monthly basis to see how they progress. I am very training minded.

We have documents which are given to each member of staff and they sign to say that they understand them. I also watch what is happening.

I keep a close watch on them. We all know about the risks and I make sure, for example, that they have their hard hats, which are combined with ear defenders, on for certain jobs on the course.

By training them. Everything is written down and each member of staff has a copy of the H&S regulations.



# NEW PRODUCTS

## KUBOTA

The first-ever zero-turn ride-on mower to be introduced by Kubota in the UK and Ireland will be available for demonstrations from mid-March onwards.

Known as the GZD 15, the heavy-duty 1.07m (42in) cut mower is powered by a 15hp water-cooled Kubota diesel engine with both travel speed and direction controlled by a pair of paddle-type hand levers positioned immediately in front of the driver.

The combination of zero-turn radius and extremely compact dimensions makes the GZD 15 ideal for mowing in areas with limited access or turning space and for cutting close to trees, shrubs, buildings, borders, fences and walls.

To enhance the ability of the GZD 15 to pass through narrow openings and work in tight spaces, the mower is equipped with a twin-bladed through-cut deck which discharges all grass rearwards straight into an integrated 400 litre rear grass catcher, available in hydraulically-tipped low-dump or high dump (1.8m tip height) versions. This means that the cutter deck is the widest part of the machine, so if the mower is able to cut grass, it is also able to collect grass as there are no sideways protruding flaps, tubes or pipes between the deck and the grass collector.

The use by Kubota of a fully-sealed hydrostatic unit and final drive keeps transmission servicing requirements to a minimum and access to the engine is fast and simple thanks to the quick-tipping bonnet and seat.

For further information Tel: 01844 268163 or visit Kubota's website at [www.kubota.co.uk](http://www.kubota.co.uk)



## ALLEN POWER

The Allen Groundsman has been the flagship of the Walkover range of sprayers since the original purchase of the Cambridge company by Allen Power Equipment back in 1990.

Redesigned in 1993 to accommodate a larger tank and reduce manufacturing costs, the Groundsman has now again been updated with an improved spray boom that protects the nozzles behind a bumper bar and a simplified design that facilitates easier assembly.

The Groundsman still sprays a 24in width as before, and spraying rates are not altered as the jets remain the same.

The 25 litre tank allows spraying of up to 525 square metres (675 sq yds) in twelve minutes on one filling and marker wheels ensure 100% coverage.

For further information Tel: 01865 820731



## HEADLAND

Headland's new Liquid Turf Hardener, introduced at BTME, is a sulphur free

formulation, high on Calcium with added Magnesium. Nitrates, used as a carrier, produce a rapid uptake of these two elements, which reduces stress on grass plants, increases strength and enhances disease resistance. Low application rates of up to 40 litres per hectare mean cost effective treatment, applied as and when required, regardless of season.

Should circumstances dictate, the product can be tank mixed with Headland's Multi-K soluble potassium nitrate and Seamac Proturf, which will add potash, further harden turf and produce excellent colour. When

additional nitrogen sources are added, application rates shrink to 20 litres per hectare in 300 to 600 gallons of water.

Trials throughout the winter indicate that Headland's new Liquid Turf Hardener is excellent at maintaining a strong, hard grass plant and aiding disease resistance.

For further information Tel: 01223 597834

Email: [info@headlandamenity.com](mailto:info@headlandamenity.com)



## TILLERS TURF

A novel approach has been created to increase the wear tolerance of grass, and to reduce surface hardness - with the use of rubber crumb incorporated into the rootzone, by Tillers Turf.

When grass surfaces are subject to heavy wear in wet weather, the top 25mm of the rootzone becomes compacted, leading to poor grass growth. By pre-mixing rubber crumb into a sand dominated rootzone, and then growing turf on it, Tillers Turf have produced a solution to the problem. By virtue of the rubber crumb's cushioning properties, the wear of the grass is greatly enhanced.

As the top 25mm of the rootzone is less compacted, the grass is able to grow in a far more favourable environment.

This has enormous potential for benefits to parks with a high volume of visitors, and indeed, successful trials using rubber crumb as a top dressing have been done at two National Trust properties already - Trellissick in Cornwall and Killerton in

Devon. Here, more than 100,000 people a year walk across the grassed areas. While in previous years grass areas had been reduced to muddy trails, this time they stayed fresh, green and unworn. Barry Champion, Head Gardener at Trellissick, says, "The rubber crumb works to relieve compaction, reinforce the grass and enhance the colour."

And recent tests by the STRI showed that measured values of hardness, recorded using a Clegg Impact Soil tester, were 20% lower on turf grown by Tillers with rubber crumb incorporated into the rootzone than on turf without rubber crumb.

"The implications are many, for all sorts of heavily used public parks and for sports such as football and golf. In fact, Sunningdale Golf Course have already taken delivery of a consignment to use on the high traffic areas between green and tee," said Tim Fell, of Tillers Turf.

**For more information Tel: 01652 678000.**



## SISIS

New Health and Safety regulations mean that the need to fit ROP to greens and tees mowers could, in certain circumstances, become essential.

SISIS have developed a ROP bar for their Greenstar and Teestar ride-on triple mowers which has been tested and certificated. The ROP bar together with retractable safety belt and seat restrainer is now available as an option on new machines and is also available as a retrofit kit for existing Greenstars and Teestars.

## CHARTERHOUSE

Given increasingly unpredictable weather patterns, contractors, landscapers and other grounds professionals are now typically faced with cutting grass in less than ideal conditions. Tough, heavy-duty mowing equipment is needed, such as the new Bunton walk-behind rotary mower, now available from Charterhouse.

Made in the USA by the Bunton organisation, which claims to be one of the world's largest manufacturers of commercial rotary mowers, this 36in (91cm) wide, rear discharge unit offered by Charterhouse features a rugged design to cope with the intensive and rough handling typical of use in local authority departments, contracting organisations and hire companies.

Powered by a 15hp Kawasaki V-twin engine, the mid-size machine is available with either geared transmission or hydrostatic drive, while finger-tip controls for the drive and the steering make them ideal for use on uneven terrain and slopes. The units offer a forward speed of 5mph and a zero-turn radius. A reverse gear is also provided.

Charterhouse Turf Machinery believe that the Bunton mowers are the perfect complement to their existing 'DR' trimmer range of walk-behind, wheeled brushcutters that can tackle heavy scrub and undergrowth.

**For further information Tel: 01428 611222.**



## HUNTER GOLF

Hunter Golf has introduced the G870, the first electric valve-in head rotor with easy, through-the-top access to all serviceable components.

This design eliminates the need to dig or disturb the turf during routine service or other irrigation system maintenance.

All sprinkler components - including the internal gear-drive and valve, the pilot valve, pressure regulator, solenoid, valve seat and rock screen - can be pulled out for cleaning and maintenance while the Hunter rotor body remains in the ground.

This new through-the-top access is intended to save ground crews hours of time, while preserving the health and playability of the green, tees and fairways.

The G870 also features an "industry first" unitised valve. This all-in-one valve unit includes a snap ring, valve seal, valve seat and rock screen. During system maintenance, the crew can now pull out the unitised valve with a pair of needle-nosed pliers, flush the valve piping and repair leaks caused by soil or water contamination.

The procedure only takes minutes, rather than hours of disassembly and turf repair.

The G870 is available as a full circle or adjustable arc model (40° to 360°) and as an electric, check-o-matic or n.o. hydraulic sprinkler.

The G870 has a 8.75 cm pop-up riser and a discharge rate from 50 to 120 liters per minute in a 14m to 23m radius. Color-coded, interchangeable nozzles are included.

The G870 also features adjustable pressure regulation and exclusive Pressure Port nozzle system, which delivers close-in coverage and uniform water distribution.

**For further information email: [Hardwick@adwicks.com](mailto:Hardwick@adwicks.com)**





## The Best Yet!

As a Club Manager of some 25 years standing, I have, over the years attended several Harrogate Conferences together with the Head Greenkeeper from the particular club with which I was attached. Without question, the way in which BIGGA go about presenting this annual "Golf Experience" is an example to the rest of the Industry Associations as to how to best to promote their members.

Without wishing to sound too patronising, the 2003 was the best yet and in my humble opinion provided everyone who attended with an up to date appraisal of the way in which Golf Courses are to be maintained in the 21st Century.

Having spoken to some of the speakers I would however make a request that greater emphasis is placed on attracting representatives of Club Committees in an endeavour to educate them into the finer aspects of agronomy. In so doing this will give them a greater understanding of the problems that greenkeepers encounter when going about their routine duties. This year there appeared to be an emphasis on educating the greenkeepers on how to handle their committees. If this is required then surely the committees need to hear what is being said and perhaps as a result modify their thinking and thereby create a better rapport with their greens staff.

In general I believe that most Secretary/Managers work well with their head Greenkeeper or Course Manager and as such I was disappointed at the negative way in which some speakers referred to us. I for one have always supported my staff and I would hate to think the wrong message was being sent to your members.

Well done for an excellent conference and I for one look forward to next year.

**D T Howe M Inst GCM**

## Robert "Bob" MacDougall

It is with a sad heart that I put pen to paper to write of another old, greenkeeper and friend who has passed on.

Robert MacDougall (Bob as we all knew him) died on Sunday, February 9th, aged 77. He had been struggling to recover from a heart attack for over two months.

Those of us who served with Bob on the West Section Committee of SIGGA will remember his dedication first as a Committee member and later as Chairman of the Section. He also supported and served on the Scottish Executive Committee.

He enlisted with the Palestine Police during the long drawn out troubles in Palestine 1945-1950. He then returned to greenkeeping at Clydebank & District, and after a few years took up the Head Greenkeeper's position at Douglas Park Golf Club where I know they were sorry to lose him to the more prestigious 36-hole Hilton Park Golf Club where he worked faithfully for the next 15 years, until his retirement at 65 years of age.

Bob was a man who never lost the urge to better himself or his course. I was speaking to his son, Allan, at Harrogate where he informed a small group of friends about his father's illness. I also had a word with Allan's son, Robert. He was telling me that only last summer, after being retired for over 10 years, Bob had not lost any of his enthusiasm for greenkeeping. He had Robert up to Hilton Park and was pointing out to him work he had completed and giving him instructions on what a golf course should be and what the golfers expected from a greenkeeper.

The MacDougalls are a greenkeeping family. Bob's son, Allan, is Head Greenkeeper at Royal Mid Surrey, where his grandson, Robert, also works as an Assistant.

The family can take pleasure and pride in the heritage of greenkeeping that Bob has left them. It is to our detriment as greenkeepers that the older members of our profession pass on and take their knowledge and skills, acquired over a lifetime, with them. Not so Bob MacDougall's family... his knowledge and skills are in the safe hands of his son and grandson. I do not believe that when we die everything goes out the window. I do believe there is a Heaven. That being the case there is bound to be a good golf course where there will be many old friends to meet Bob and scud a ball or two. I am also sure that the Head man up there will let Bob cut the odd green. It is the least a man can ask for who has dedicated his life to greenkeeping.

The funeral and service was held at Dalnottar Crematorium on Friday, February 14th. It shows the mark of esteem and respect that Bob MacDougall was still held in, even after 11 years of retirement, by the numbers of greenkeepers, golfers, bowlers and friends who were present. At this sad time of bereavement our thoughts are with Bob's wife, Jean, his sons Allan and Donald, and his grandchildren.

**Cecil George**

## Don't Give Up the Fight

I would like to thank those who write in support of sound traditional greenkeeping and to debate with those who seem to have given up the fight. Let me be clear - I have never impugned Neil Ballingall's skills at greenkeeping - my criticism was as much of the motivation behind St Andrews Bay as the creation of so alien a concept. Why do developers opt for architects and their advisers with little or no experience of temperate European conditions? As one example, contour drainage relying on run-off as at St Andrews Bay has never worked here - as opposed to the rock hard soils of hotter climes and the need to cope with sudden but short "cloud bursts" where run-off on impermeable soils is the only solution. Our soils are permanently wet over many winter months and surface flow is minimal, so the turf simply water logs.

The main problem arising from the contention that "new golfer" is the life blood of golf and management must become consumer focussed is that golfers, especially the less able, ought to enjoy their game and not force their views on presentation. The vast majority take no interest in course management. As is admitted, they are driven by the spectacle of Tournament golf - in other words everything must be green. They and many authorities fail to make the connection between colour, Poa annua dominance and poor playing conditions for many months on end.

I would be very interested to learn from Ian Butcher what are the "benefits" which have been imported from the US. I am not talking about triplex mowers and pop-up irrigation but even their grasses, including new bents, do not stand up to our relatively mild wet winters. (Proof, STRI trials).

As I pen this letter, two very relevant telephone calls report matters which concern the very standing and indeed employment of any greenkeeper who stands up for the standards that he has been taught and believes in. One very respected heathland Course Manager has just been made redundant but told he can apply for his old job as Head Greenkeeper, but working directly under the new Club Manager, who will be advised by a fertiliser company! The aforesaid Club Manager has been in the job perhaps a year, coming straight from being a club professional! At another well known club, long renowned for having a superb course in excellent (traditional) order, a delegation of members demanded that the course management be altered to make it greener - they "did not like the colour of fescue fairways".

Finally may I invite debate on the subject of "why chemically analyse soils?", bearing in mind that we feed the grass and not the soil. It certainly is not to formulate a fertiliser programme. Note the generally accepted (traditional) criteria that all fine grasses (bents and fescues) require is a little nitrogen never phosphates and only very occasional potash - a programme implemented as the recent R&A survey shows by over 65% of those responding. The ideal pH is the one you have got; there is no (economic) test for nitrogen; we never need phosphates; analysis will not guide you as to how much, if any, potash is needed and there is absolutely no need for so called trace elements, magnesium etc on any but pure sand greens, and I mean 100% sand. The only use for soil analysis is to check now we are succeeding in lowering soil 'fertility' levels - remembering those excellent greens which show phosphate levels at 3 p.p.m! Of course if you want Poa annua, lash on the NPK. I will be happy to debate with anyone, but the proof is there and has been for over a century!

**Jim Arthur**  
Honorary Member





**SCOTTISH REGION**  
Peter Boyd  
Tel/Fax: 0141 616 3440

## North

As I write this report the winter is hitting with a vengeance, and there have been several falls of heavy snow which have closed many a course. It can give the course a well needed rest, but hopefully not for too long.

There are 6 new members to report this month. Craig Dawson, Newtonmore GC; Michael Anderson, Elgin GC; Chris Black, Royal Aberdeen GC; Stuart McKenzie, Royal Aberdeen GC; Murray Peat, Royal Dornoch GC; Robert Coutts, Kemnay GC.

Harrogate went well again this year with a good representation from the North Section. The show was bigger this year with the ClubHouse exhibition added on, so anyone working for the golf club would be catered for. The show itself takes at least a full day if not more to go round, but is well worth the effort. The workshops and education conference, and seminars make the whole week busy and pass very quickly. The nightlife as usual is very active, and making contact with people from other clubs makes the whole week seem even more worth while. No scandal apart from a couple of wanderers going to Bolton, of all places, for a night out, for a spot of integrating.

The Scottish conference at Dunfermline will possibly have come and gone by the time this magazine comes out, I will report on it next month.

200 club tickets have been sent out and hopefully we will get a full sell. If you do not think that you will keep your tickets send them back to Andy Wilson at Brechin GC, so as he can resell them.

Finally, a date of May 3 has been provisionally set for the match that was discussed last year between the North and the East parts of the Section. It will take place at Royal Strathpeffer GC and there be will good accommodation available in the village, or in Dingwall for anyone wishing to stay over. Please contact myself on: 01997 420155, or Rab Hardie on: 01224 783201. The East side are already asking for strokes, so they are running scared already. But I have to say no mercy will be shown.

Iain Gunn

## Ayrshire

Time to dust off your clubs and start lubricating that rusty swing to prepare for the Spring Outing. Portpatrick & Dunskey will play host on Thursday, April 17. Remember the event also doubles as the first leg of the Harry Diamond Memorial Jug. Let's hope we attract as good a

turnout as the last outing in October.

Tuesday, June 17 is the date set for this year's Scottish Greenkeepers' National Championship. The Kintyre Course at Turnberry will, I'm sure, prove a popular venue with all the competitors and I know the Kintyre team are looking forward to presenting a well groomed and challenging layout.

Harrogate week surpassed itself yet again and I expect all attending would have found something to take away from the event.

Happenings during the week included Marshall Sloss finally succumbing to the inevitable and agreeing to become Martin Lothian's Vice-Chairman. Apparently negotiations were not pretty and alcohol played its part.

The AGM held on Wednesday night saw the approval of the 'New Members Proposal' whereby new members will need to achieve Level 2 or equivalent to receive full benefits of the Association. However, this shouldn't effect our Section, for the obvious reasons.

Last on the agenda was the induction of George Brown as National Chairman best wishes from the Ayrshire Section and enjoy your year, George.

Dennis Tweddell

## Central

Sadly we begin this months report with the sad news that retired member David Sword, formerly Head Greenkeeper at Bishopshire Golf Club, Kinross, has passed away. David died in hospital after a very long illness. Our sincere condolences go to Mrs. Sword and her family.

Two new members joining us this month are Neil Henderson and Euan Ferguson, both from St. Andrews Links Trust. As usual we extend a warm welcome to them from everyone in the Section, the first event of the season, the Spring Tournament, is being held just along the road from them, so perhaps we will get an early opportunity to meet them there.

The dates for this years golf tournaments are Tuesday, April 29 at St. Andrews Bay Golf Resort and Spa, with the Autumn Tournament being held at Alloa Golf Club on Thursday, September 25. Entry forms will be with you shortly, so please return them ASAP!

As usual the BTME at Harrogate proved to be another great success and it was great to see so many current and former members of the section in attendance, former members, David Murdoch, Ian Ross, Ross Wilson, Alan Ferguson and Ian Ritchie send their regards to all their friends in the Section.

Trophies! Will all holders of Section trophies please arrange to have them returned to me before the Spring Tournament in order that I can have them valued and the engraving brought up to date. If need be I can call at your home to

collect them.

I thought I would just give a reminder to all those teams participating in the Inter Club Tournament that all outstanding ties must be played before the Autumn Tournament at Alloa Golf Club in September, you may think that this is a bit early, but I have only had the results from two ties which were played last year returned to me!

Do any members want the Five-a-Side Football Tournament organised this year? If you do, please get in touch with me or any other committee member.

John Crawford

## West

Hello and welcome to this month's newsletter. Firstly, can I wish everyone a belated Happy New Year and wish you all a prosperous and successful forthcoming season.

Secondly as you know on October 24, 2002 the West Section AGM again was held at Nairn Brown Limited. On that day new appointments were made within the committee and read as follows:- Chairman, Brian Bolland, East Kilbride Golf Club; Vice Chairman, Fraser Ross – Renfrew Golf Club; Secretary, Gavin Jarvis, Lenzie Golf Club (past Chairman); Committee, Education, John Robertson, Hilton Park Golf Club; Football Organiser, Gerry Bruen, Williamwood Golf Club; Derek Duthie, Aitkens Sportsturf; Kenny Hunter, SGM; Magazine reporter, Douglas McIntosh, Cathkin Braes Golf Club.

Can I introduce myself as one of the newly appointed committee members. I'm Douglas McIntosh, of Cathkin Braes Golf Club. Brian Bolland (Chairman) has kindly delegated this honorable position as magazine reporter to me. Those of you who already know who I am are asking yourself 'a reporter' my a\*\*\*! Hardly a greenkeeper! Maybe, but I'm quietly confident of reporting our monthly news as professionally and informative as our previous reporters!

I would like to begin by expressing our thanks on behalf of the committee and members to Cecil George for his time and effort spent over the years to promote and highlight the importance of education within this industry, once again thank you and wish him well in his retirement. Thank you also to our past Secretary Sandy Bulloch, who has decided to retire from the position of Secretary, leaving it to younger blood to take control of financial matters. Thanks Sandy for all your efforts and wish him well in the forthcoming and future seasons.

January, been and gone, BTME Exhibition, Harrogate, how quickly it comes around, sooner the better they say! Informative, very educational, gossip, socially overdosing, what more ingredients for an exceptional show. Colin Fulton from Celtic Manor, whose company I had



the pleasure of on most nights, says a big hello to Drew McKechnie and crew at Douglas Park Golf Club. I don't normally do requests but hey! That secures my round at Celtic Manor, ok Colin? Great nights and patter exchanged, I never knew greenkeepers were secret disco movers! Maybe that was the drink? If members could see them now eh!

A big thank you to Peter Boyd for his organisation and running of this trip and thoroughly looking forward to next year, and Mr Sandy Brawley, get your own style of fashion, don't steal mine! I hear the Biaria's are doing an excellent line in shirts, Joke!

On Monday 27/1/03 a football match was organised by our very own football manager Gerry Bruen. Venue – Glasgow Green Football Complex and from there a team was selected, 14 players from seven different clubs attended and are as follows: Barry McCulloch and Steve Dunn, both of Mearns Castle Golf Club; Brian Bolland, East Kilbride Golf Club; Eddie Wood, Colin Scott and Adrian Steren, all from Glasgow Golf Club; Gary Burns and Darrel, both from Lenzie Golf Club. Gareth Thompson and Scott Frame both from Dumpellier Golf Club; Chris Kerr, Cowglen Golf Club; Steven Brown and Willy Lewis, both from Williamwood Golf Club.

Weather conditions on the night were relatively poor with strong winds which did not hamper much of the game but did not hamper spirits among the team. Greenkeepers started off well but conceded a goal against the run of play. Shortly after Scott, from Drumpy, equalised with a quality strike. Halftime score 2-1 to Shawlands B. Greenkeepers came out fighting after the inspirational half-time talk from manager Gerry, Scott equalised again with a fine strike. The last 15 minutes fitness began to take its toll especially with some of the senior players, not mentioning any names (Brian Bolland & Gary Burns). Greenkeepers were stretched at this point and conceded two late goals. Final score – 4-2 to Showlands B

Gerry would like to thank all players for attending and contributing to what was a very successful night. Anyone wishing to play in future matches contact Gerry on 07813 331532.

Finally important events for the forthcoming year. March 4, Scottish educational conference at Lauder College, Dunfermline. Peter Boyd has done exceptionally well in organising this event in previous years and this year will be no exception. Organised speakers are of exceptional standard and I'm sure everyone who attends will take something of interest when returning to their own course, well worth the visit!

The Spring outing this year will be held at Hilton Park Golf Club on May 1. A big thank you

to Hilton Park Golf Club, committee and members for the courtesy of the course and I'm sure John and crew will have it in fine condition regardless of weather conditions (no pressure John!)

Last, but not least, Autumn Outing is to be held at, wait for it, yes my own course, Cathkin Braes Golf Club, date TBA, Yes I hear you say, can't wait for that day, I know, great course. Those of you that have had the pleasure of playing there know to bring a couple of dozen balls and that's just to get past the first 3 holes. Seriously, the committee and members of Cathkin Braes hope you will enjoy your day and hopefully play in some sunshine.

If you have any information you would like to report in the magazine and I mean anything, please contact me on Tel/Fax: 01416 445783 or mobile: 07774 420427. Look forward to hearing from you.

Douglas McIntosh

### NORTHERN REGION

#### North East

On January 9 we had a talk with Richard Minton of Complete Weed Control at Tyneside Golf Club. This was the first one for a while and although there were only about 12 people there I'm sure the talk went well.

Richard chatted on various topics including legislation, products available and those likely to remain etc and I would like to thank the people who turned up for their support.

Thanks go to Tyneside again for the use of their premises and we look forward to perhaps holding another one this spring.

Again, on behalf of the Section, the committee would like also to thank Terry Charlton for putting on a coach to BTME it was good to see so many greenkeepers from our Section there.

I see that Alnmouth GC are still sending their staff to the workshops. Believe me they are worth attending perhaps there may be a few more from the Section in the near future.

Congratulations to Roy White from Stocksfield GC and his wife on the birth of their first baby boy. Good luck to you both.

The spring golf competition will be played at Tyneside GC on April 30. Members will be sent a letter nearer the date.

The Section welcomes the following new members:- R. Dickinson and S Fraser of Sillioth GC; A. Doig, of Tynemouth GC, and S. Wilson, of Longhirst GC.

On the move are John Devlin, formerly of Consett GC, to Boldon GC, and also to Andrew

Wright, from City of Newcastle GC, to Bedlingtonshire. We wish them all the best in their new positions.

Anyone got any news, please let me know.  
Jimmy Richardson

#### North Wales

March showers and April showers bring forth May showers but we are going to get a couple of days sunshine in September, I believe, so get prepared.

A couple of sad notes to report this month is the loss of two people from the industry.

Firstly someone who many of you will have met at some stage or read about in the magazine is Jimmy MacDonald, formerly of Royal Lytham GC. A great character and this coming very early into his retirement, I have many fond memories, sitting in Jimmy's office and listening to stories not only of greenkeeping but of life in general a man with lots of knowledge. He will be sadly missed by all.

Also the untimely passing of Robert Konieczka, Course Manager of Shrewsbury GC, shortly after the BTME show. Robert was just 46 years old.

Our Spring Seminar will be held on March 31 at Carden Park GC. Your forms will be in the post very shortly if you have not yet received them. The closing date for form returns will be 14th March – please phone Andy Campbell if you require any information on 01829 731601 Or 731000.

The programme of events will be as follows; 9.00am Registration, 9.30am Welcome with, Frank Newberry and Ken Richardson, 9.45am the infamous (lead or be led) Duncan McGillvary, 10.30am Coffee, 10.45am Duncan McGillvary, 11.30am Wendy O'Brien tells all about her 12 month sabbatical experience working at the Augusta National GC, 12.00noon Lunch, 1.00pm Kerran Daly MG of Gog Magog GC, then, an experience not to be missed, at 1.45pm Jeremy Hughes, Vale of Llangollen GC, will re-live his Bernhards, BIGGA trip to Atlanta this will be aided by a power point presentation. 2.15pm we have Ken Siems of Loch Lomond GC, 3pm Martyn Jones, from the National Turfgrass Association, and Ken Richardson of BIGGA, 3.45pm Close.

The cost of this event is £20 for Members £25 for non members.

The announcement confirmed in January that Royal Liverpool will host the 2006 Open championship this is great for our Region and for Derek Green and the lads, It's also a boost for David Lewis, at Conwy GC, as he will be hosting one of the final qualifying rounds (Go on Dave 'Ave it') along with the newly computerised Chris Peddie, at Wallasey GC,



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which is also our autumn tournament venue.

Just a final note from Andy Peel, Bull Bay GC. Can anyone who has won the Aggregate Shield in 1999, 2000, & 2001 please contact him as he wishes to engrave it.

Any views, news or information, please contact me on:

Home: 01925 263394 Fax: 01925 269622

Mobile: 07778 162162

e-mail: acorn@golf@supanet.com

Mesen Cymru

Andrew Acorn

## Cleveland

Well another successful Harrogate show has come and gone. After a chat with some of our section members and the lads on the Trade stands, I feel the show is going from strength to strength, which augurs well for our future.

One nice tale I heard on the 'Grapevine' was about a member of the greenkeeping fraternity who was staying at the Majestic Hotel. Having had a good session at the show on the Thursday afternoon (around the stands, not in the pub), he decided to have a catnap in his room at 4.30pm. He was expecting a long night on the dance floor at the banquet.

Unfortunately he dropped into a deep sleep. He woke with a start on hearing the Counterfeit Stones blasting out Honky Tonk Woman. He had overslept, so he washed and dressed very quickly and rushed down to the Ballroom. He burst through the doors only to find the 'Stones' rehearsing at half past five! What a plonker! I hope the greenkeeper concerned was not a member of the Cleveland Section!

On the education front I am happy to report further educational success for members of the Section. Ian Holoran, Middlesbrough Municipal; Tony Mears, Dinsdale Spa, and Tony Smith, Teesside, have all passed their L12 examinations. This is a new training and coaching unit run and financed by the GTC and our three lads are the first to pass. Well done. Further places will be available for anyone who is interested. Contact the GTC. for more info.

Finally on the social front, our Section football team, led by Bedales answer to Robson, 'Flora' Pemberton, should have played in an 8-a-side indoor football tournament. This was against the Rigby Taylor side, the Boro groundstaff and the Sunderland groundstaff. The big comp was due to take place at the 'state of the art' Middlesbrough training ground at Hurworth in mid-February. I hope we shifted some skin and gave the Bolton boys, the Smoggies and the Mackems a severe thrashing. Thanks to Jamie Applegarth and R.T. for their support! Flora has thrown down the gauntlet to any other Sections that fancy a social footie match later in the year. Contact Pembo on 07989 508878 If you dare!

Don't forget to let me have any snippets for next month's notes 07831 214879.

Terry "L. Prez" Charlton

## Northern

You should all now have received your fixture list for the golf events this year. If you have not received one then here is a list of dates and events. Spring tournament April 16 at Kirbymoorside Golf Club sponsored by Alpha and Headland. President's Day, June 12 at Pike Hills Golf Club, sponsored by Bob Wild. Invitation Day, 10 September, at Wetherby Golf Club, sponsored Rigby Taylor. Autumn Tournament, October 16, at West Bowling Golf Club, sponsored by Scotts UK. Christmas Golf, 10 December, at Elland Golf Club, sponsored by The Greenkeeping Supply Company.

Many thanks to all the companies who have pledged their support to our Section once again this year. I hope you guys can support these companies at the golf days and other events we have planned for you this year. The price is £16 per event by cheque payable to BIGGA Northern Section, no later than a week before the event.

These notes are being written a couple of days after the Section's first committee meeting of 2003. It was suggested again that we try some other events as well as the usual ones. Crown Green bowling and Cricket matches have both been suggested. Other events such as an autumn seminar and some training days are being planned for later in the year. But what do you people out in greenkeeping land want to see or get from your Section. If you have any suggestions or comments please speak to any of the committee members or contact me at the address at the bottom of these notes.

A full report from the Ransome Jacobson trip to Ipswich and the annual dinner dance at Otley GC will be in next month's column.

A big welcome to Mark Davis, from Rawdon Golf Club; Richard Jagger, from Cottingham Park Golf Club; Craig Sanderson, from Hebden Bridge Golf Club; Karl Walker and Ben Hespini, from Knaresborough Golf Club; Chris Barker, from Pannal Golf Club; Adam Newell, from Malton and Norton Golf Club; Matthew Wildman, from Settle Golf Club, and Micheal Whitehead from West Bowling Golf Club who have all joined BIGGA this month.

Last but not least can I remind you all of the Northern Section Web site which can be found at [www.northernsection.co.uk](http://www.northernsection.co.uk) The site contains news and views from your Section giving dates of events and other information you may need through out the year. So get logged on and leave us a message or your views.

Speak to you next month

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Dave Thackray



**MIDLAND REGION**  
Peter Larter  
Tel: 01476 550115

## Midland

Greenkeepers united or what! First time I've stayed over at BTME. What was I thinking before? Never mind the educational, and budget saving opportunities. On the evening, free food and beer on tap! "By God it was like throwing water into a barrel of sawdust" £10 for the first correct answer out the bag, to whoever can tell me the song that line is taken from? A clue? Planxty!

Answers on a postcard to: 21 St. Catharines Close, Walsall, West Midlands, WS1 3TE, or if you have not yet already done so, include such on either of the questionnaires. Please do not forget to respond. Apathy is a word I wish not to be associated with our Section.

Thank you once again to P McCrainor and Midlube Ltd. for sponsoring that postal run.

The committee has had a bit of a brainwave. Wonders will never cease! Such being to introduce a "Thought of the Month" competition. So please send me your best anecdotes, to fit in the above heading. The best of each month will be published in "Around The Green" and a crisp £10 note in the post to the sender. Please keep such clean and printable.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome 12 new members to our Section. G.E. Smith.

J.K. Hughes, C. Warr, J. T. Neale, G. Morgan, A. C. Allcock, M. Deakins, A. Parton, P. J. Rainsford, T. Shinkins, M. A. Cunningham, and finally but certainly not lastly, I. J. Holden. Mine's a Golden! With chargeable glasses we all look forward to meeting you. Please be participants of the organisation, not just merely subscribers to a monthly magazine. BIGGA has a lot to offer, so use such. Remember, it's your organisation.

Now for an apology. This spring's golfing Venue's actual name is The Vale Golf and Country Club, to be held on April 15. Thank you to M. Heath for his courteous advisory. Please don't forget to get your entries in. Looking forward to seeing some new faces at such.

Congratulations to M. Gash, R. Shaw, B. Streton, and M. Reeves, on gaining their Higher National Certificates, via Morton Morrell College. Well done chaps. Bob has since, also made the move from Groundsman to Greenkeeper by joining North Warwickshire GC