



## The groundwork is crucial when you're claiming the earth

In 1989 Maxicrop International took a major initiative to build a genuine understanding of its seaweed extract product constituents. A programme of fundamental research began, and continues to this day. It is the most comprehensive and co-ordinated work in this particular field by any company in the world.

It has provided Maxicrop, and *only* Maxicrop, with an unparalleled knowledge of its own specific products – how they achieve improvements in turf health, appearance and quality, and how they are used to best advantage within integrated management programmes.

# Maxicrop®

*The first name in seaweed science*

### **Maxicrop No.1 Triple Seaweed (3.05-1.43-2.92 + TE)**

Concentrated seaweed extract which helps to produce high quality sports turf with excellent wear and recovery characteristics. Enhances early season growth and establishment, and encourages tillering without excessive shoot growth.

### **Maxicrop No.2 Mosskiller/Conditioner (2-0-0 + 16.4% Fe)**

With added seaweed extract to stimulate growth and tillering once moss is removed as well as improving turf colour.

### **Maxicrop No.3 Pro-K-Plus (2-0-18 + TE)**

For early or late season use to supply high levels of potash where required. Provides good root growth and helps drought tolerance.

### **Maxicrop No.4 Fine Turf Fertilizer (12-0-6 + TE)**

A zero phosphate product with seaweed extract. Ideal as an in-season turf stimulant with nitrogen and potash to provide a rapid fertilizer response.

### **Maxicrop No.5 Plus 17% Nitrogen (17-0-0 + TE)**

High nitrogen quickly improves turf colour and vigour, whilst the seaweed base stimulates root growth, improving turf wear and recovery.

### **Maxicrop No.6 Pro Green (2-0-0 + 6% Fe + TE)**

Designed for use prior to major events to give a rapid green-up or when long-term in-season greening is needed.

### **Maxicrop No.6 Pro Green Spi (2-0-0 + 6% Fe + TE)**

Ideal for use prior to tournaments or for long-term greening. Contains a blue marker dye for easier application.

### **Maxicrop No.7 Organic Concentrate (0.3-0-3.6)**

A totally organic seaweed extract containing no N,P or K. Ideal early stimulant prior to fertilizer applications.

### **Maxicrop Eco-charge**

A granular organic soil bio-activator for use on turf and landscaping areas.

### **Maxicrop Seaweed Meal**

A natural soil conditioner, rich in trace elements.

*Now sold exclusively in  
mainland UK by*

**RT**  
rigby taylor

Rigby Taylor Limited,  
Bolton, Lancs BL1 4AE.  
Tel: (01204) 377777.  
[www.rigbytaylor.com](http://www.rigbytaylor.com)

Maxicrop No2 Mosskiller contains ferrous sulphate.  
ALWAYS READ THE LABEL. USE PESTICIDES SAFELY.

# Managing a Golf Course

**Duncan McGilvray is Course Manager at Potters Bar Golf Club, a private members parkland golf course, in South Hertfordshire. His remit is not only to take responsibility for the management of the golf course but also to assist the club as a whole, in ensuring a high standard of customer service at reasonable cost, which he believes can only be achieved with an extremely professional approach in every area of management.**



**A greenkeeper now for 34 years in both Scotland and England on Links and Parkland golf courses.**

**He is a qualified NVQ D32/D33 and D36 Industry assessor/advisor and believes strongly in the NVQ system and the sterling work of the GTC under the guidance of their Education Director.**

**He is a strong supporter of BIGGA and demonstrates this by sitting on the new "Futures" Sub Committee formed in 2002 to assist the Association in ensuring a bright and prosperous future.**

**He is a strong believer in taking personal responsibility and control and therefore achieving high standards.**

To those of my colleagues who remember my series of articles of seven years ago on just this subject I make no apologies for believing that there is a need to repeat the process.

The conversations, and correspondence in this magazine, I have had over the past 12 months or so have frustrated me sufficiently to feel the need to do it all again and I have therefore taken the opportunity to update my previous series of articles.

The message is, however, exactly the same - competent Course Managers of today and those of the future must be in control of their own destiny, and therefore that of their golf courses - or someone else will come along and do it for them - probably less successfully but they will do it all the same!

Much of my time which I allocate to the furtherance of our profession as a whole is taken up in trying to convince the powers within our golf clubs to allow their Course Managers to manage (within an agreed policy) and they will not regret it.

You can therefore imagine how upset I become when I am approached by such powers to inform me that they want their Course Manager to manage but they have chosen not to, in the mistaken/misguided belief that they will have an easier life!

This situation upsets me even more than the club that will not allow their Course Manager to manage - the reason being that the employee in place has made the choice of being controlled by someone who does not know the job and therefore the course will undoubtedly suffer.

These people are avoiding all responsibility and this cannot be right - they do no service to our profession in choosing this route.

I upset some of my colleagues in my last series of articles by stating categorically that the name of the person responsible for managing a golf course should be named a "Course Manager".

I hope sufficient time has now elapsed and my colleagues understand that I meant no snobbery or inflated ego in that person's character but merely that it best describes the job that the person does!

The name "Head Greenkeeper" describes at best a Foreman of greenkeepers and not a Manager - that may upset some of my colleagues but it is, and will remain, a fact!

Now that I have got that off my chest - down to the content of these proposed articles. I believe they will clearly indicate the skills required to manage a golf course competently and therefore successfully which will keep everyone happy - honestly!

Over the next four articles I will cover the basic responsibilities as I see it that modern day competent Course Managers must accept to be successful.

## 1. MANAGING AND TAKING CONTROL

- Taking a major role in the formulation of agreed policy.
- Overseeing the short, medium and long term maintenance of the course which is dictated by the agreed policy.
- Presenting and implementing work schedules.
- Presenting and implementing machinery maintenance programmes.
- Keeping accurate records.
- Keeping up to date with modern methods, materials and equipment.

This second article will cover the basic structure within which we work - setting agreed policy and working within it - showing your employer that you are in control, and therefore gaining their trust in making day to day, as well as more important medium to long term decisions.

## 2. CONTROLLING FINANCES

- Formulating, presenting and maintaining agreed budgets.
- Observing tight cost control and ensuring cost effectiveness.
- Reaching a reasoned final decision regarding the buying of materials and equipment.

## The first of a series of five articles detailing duties of the modern day Course Manager

This is the one area which many of my colleagues continue to shy away from, believing that a sub-committee or treasurer will do this work for them thus making their workload easier.

I believe however that there is no-one better than the course manager for calculating how much it costs to maintain a golf course and this will be covered in simple terms.

A few days spent setting budgets at the right time of the year, in line with the club's financial year, makes the remainder of that year so much less problematic.

### 3. MANAGING STAFF

- Supervising and assisting in the training/development and recruitment of staff.
- Endeavouring at all times to improve supervisor/manager and staff relations.
- Delegating effectively.

"You are only as good as your staff' someone once said - and how true that proves to be."

This fourth article subject area is an enormous one but I will try to cover obvious areas of supervision, and give some ideas on how to overcome staff "friction", which can be so harmful in restricting efficient working practices and is common in small staff set ups which is often the case on golf courses.

### 4. COMMUNICATION

- Endeavouring at all times to continually improve staff and golf club member/employer communication.
- Ensuring the safety of the staff and the golf course environment.

Although this fifth article will be the final subject area it is by all accounts the most important - the more the golfer knows about the job of the greenkeeper and Course Manager the easier and more satisfying our jobs will become.

I will cover many different areas of communication under this heading - the importance of which cannot be overstated.

One particular area within this heading, which has become more and more important over the years, is personal presentation - I have believed for some time now that without the skills of being able to present ourselves appropriately and properly when the occasion arises, then we fail in what we are trying to achieve - I will therefore cover this more fully in this final article.

In closing this introductory article it is important to point out that it is my wish to convey a common-sense approach to managing a private members' golf course.

I therefore do not propose to go into any subject area in any great detail (I am no expert anyway!).

The general aim will be - again in the immortal words of my esteemed colleague Billy McMillan - to "keep it simple".

## With Express Dual and Anglemaster the difference is always clear-cut!



Top golf courses choose Express Dual and Anglemaster grinders to give their mowers the sharpest cutting cylinder... for healthier, stronger and more attractive grass.

The benefits are clear

**...reduced maintenance costs**

**...fewer cylinder and bottom blades**

**...lower use of chemicals**

**...happier golfers**

Test drive a Dual and see the difference...

call **01788 811600** today!



SHARPER SOLUTIONS... with **BERNHARD**



**BERNHARD & COMPANY LTD**

Rugby England CV22 7DT email: info@bernhard.co.uk

**www.bernhard.co.uk**

# TALKING HEADS

## BUDGETING

Compiled by Malcolm Huntington MBE

# 1

**Do you have control of your own budget and if not what input do you have into the setting of it?**



Name: Scott Ballantyne  
Course: Cowglen Golf Club  
Region: Scotland  
Course type: Parkland, 18 holes  
Staff: Course Manager, plus five

I pretty much have control over the budget on wages, ordering new equipment etc. I make an initial recommendation to the committee and it goes from there.



Name: Andy Peel  
Course: Bull Bay Golf Club  
Region: Northern  
Course type: Cliff top heathland, 18 holes  
Staff: Head Greenkeeper, plus two

Yes. I issue a planned budget every 12 months and itemise every aspect. I also put in an amount for unexpected items.



Name: Phil Chiverton  
Course: The Grove  
Region: Midland  
Course type: Parkland. 18 holes  
Staff: Course Manager, plus 19

Yes, I have full control. I agree the budget after talks with the Managing Director and Finance Director.



Name: Nick Sears  
Course: Basildon Golf Club  
Region: South East  
Course type: Parkland, 18 holes  
Staff: Four greenkeepers

We have control in part. It is a municipal course and we need to balance the books so we set the fees at the start of each year and can't exceed the bottom line.



Name: Tony Ramsden  
Course: Budock Vean Country House and Golf Hotel  
Region: South West and South Wales  
Course type: Parkland, nine holes  
Staff: Course Manager, plus one, plus summer part-timer

I don't have a budget as such. I explain to hotel directors what I need and they usually ok them.



Name: Paul Mathieson  
Course: Hollywood Golf Club, Belfast, Co Down  
Region: Northern Ireland  
Course type: Parkland, 18 holes  
Staff: Course Manager, plus four

I present the budget to the Green Committee and try to treat the money as if I was spending my own so we don't go overboard.

# 2

**Do you involve your staff with the budgets?**

No, not generally. I talk to the Chairman of Green and then we move to the full committee.

One of my staff was trained as a fitter so I discuss proposed mechanical expenditure with him.

I have regular discussions about machinery and training, for example, with specialists on our staff in their particular fields before finalising budget figures.

No. I talk to my area assistant and the club professional before suggesting the budget amount.

No, I only have one full-time member of staff and the budget items are done between me and the hotel directors.

My assistant will be involved. I seek his opinion on certain matters before I present the final figures.

# 3

**Give a brief description of how your budget works.**

I have a budget sheet and write everything down that I can think of that we need from switches to hole cups and fairway mowers. We also have a contingency fund in case I have forgotten anything.

The budget is broken down into four areas - day to day; machinery; annual, and capital and this goes forward to the finance committee each November after I have had a chat with the Chairman of Green. It then goes on to the full committee.

Our financial year runs from May to the end of April and a spread sheet is produced with all items under their various headings and budget codes.

I have money to set against each type of service in the council and can't go over that figure

I anticipate what bigger items we need on an annual basis and the smaller things every three months.

I break down the budget into the various areas for fungicide, materials, new machinery etc. A lot of it is historical of course. For example, if we needed 50 bags of fertiliser last year and the year before, the odds are that it becomes a repeat order.

# 4

**How do you monitor your budget?**

Every invoice comes through myself. I sign them off and they then go to the Secretary for totalling in the different sections. I get a monthly breakdown on every aspect of the budget to see where we are.

I have a monthly appraisal to see how the figures are holding up, but I like to think that I treat the expenditure as if it was coming out of my own pocket.

I give a monthly report and have talks with our financial controller. The system works very well.

I keep very tight records. Each item on the budget has a budget figure against it and every time I buy something it is recorded on a day to day basis.

I am not given a budget. I just requisition items and they are usually forthcoming.

I have a monthly meeting with my greens chairman and discover what we have spent and what needs spending the following month.

# 5

**Are you finding that finances are tighter now than they used to be?**

No. In fact the opposite is the case. As long as I can make a good case out for an item then I never have a problem getting it.

Very definitely. Finances are a lot tighter now, despite the fact that green fee income has gone up by 20 per cent in the last two years.

We have a new Championship golf course here, designed by Kyle Phillips, which is not due to open until the summer of 2003. We have agreed a budget which is appropriate to the venture.

Yes they are. We can't spend more than we earn and the golf course has to pay its own way. We run it like a business.

Our finances depend on how well the hotel is doing. It has been doing well so the directors are also keen to look after the golf course. All in all things work out well.

Very much so. To give you an example, we suffered a big falling off in revenue from visitor green fees late last year because we had a huge amount of rain which caused the course to be closed for many days. In these circumstances we have to keep a close check on spending.

# NEW PRODUCTS

## NEW AIRONE SLITTER-AERATORS

Airone slitter-aerators offer five different aerating options and are available in 0.9 metre and 1.6 metre working widths. Adjustable rotor spacing further increases the versatility of the equipment, which is distributed in the UK by Reco.

Hollow tines, with or without springs, remove soil cores and maximise penetration of light, water and nutrients. Springs fitted round each tine minimise surface disturbance by holding down the turf during coring.

Slitting blades in two lengths - 100mm and 150mm - provide root-cutting and encourage growth by allowing light, water and nutrients to penetrate the surface. Open C-section tines are available for deeper penetration without soil removal.

The 0.9 metre machines have eight rotors, and the 1.6 metre models have 14 rotors. An integral frame allows extra weight to be added to increase penetration on hard ground. The equipment is three point mounted and suitable for 20hp to 40hp tractors.



## SPRAY IN SAFETY

Due to the increased demand for low cost compression sprayers outside the agricultural/garden market sectors to spray more concentrated industrial chemical formulae, Allman has released the new Saturn Compression Sprayers to replace its Jupiter range.

The new Saturn range offers improved design features over that of the Jupiter fore runner.

- Viton rubber seals and Desomopan pump plunger seal for greater resistance from chemical attack
- Improved attachment of pump seal to plunger shaft
- Viton seals and shut off valve to lance trigger
- Bottom of tank completely sealed with hose outlets positioned in top of tank making them less vulnerable to accidental damage

In the past some products have proved too aggressive and have attacked or softened the Jupiter seals, O rings and valves. However, the new Saturn models with Viton and Desomopan plunger seal offer greater resistance to chemical attack are better suited for a wider range of applications.



## NUTRITION FOR YOUR PLANTS

Angus Horticulture Ltd has brought out a new range of plant nutrition products for the Amenity Turf Industry.

Based on their Turf Rise range and using their knowledge in plant nutrition and manufacturing, the new range incorporates Zeolite (Clinoptilolite), a naturally occurring mineral. Marketed under the banner EcophaZe they are products suitable for Spring, Summer and Autumn applications.

## ROUGH GRASS CUTTING

The ME and ZME series of mowers from Ferri are highly effective for cutting rough grass and light scrub and are designed for mounting on the type of compact tractors commonly used by golf clubs and amenity contractors.

Both models incorporate several high-specification features such as large diameter adjustable rear rollers, dynamically balanced rotors, bolted balance weights, double-skin flail housings and pto shafts with over-run clutches

The ME series offers 1.05, 1.25 and 1.55 metre cutting widths and is suitable for 14hp to 35hp tractors. The machines are three point mounted directly behind the tractor, and cutting is performed at 2600rpm with hardened steel articulated Y-shaped blades. Versions for front mounting or reverse drive tractors are also available.

The ZME models are particularly versatile, as they can work in-line with the tractor or off-set to left or right while the cutting head can be rotated to any angle between 90° vertical and 50° downwards for cutting hedges, level ground or ditches. The ZME models have a choice of 1.25 metre or 1.55 metre cutting widths and use a similar flail design to the ME machines. The smaller models require 18 to 30hp and the larger models 25 to 40hp.

Maximum side reach is 2.1 metres from the tractor centre line.

The Ferri ME and ZME mowers are distributed in the UK by Reco.



## NEW TRAILER SIEVE

The new SCH Supplies Ltd trailer sieve attachment (G TSA) is designed for use with the dump trailers, this mild steel sieve improves the grading of soil and compost heaps. The adjustable corner legs allow the levelling of the attachment when the trailer is not attached to a tractor unit or is on a steep bank. By transporting larger quantities of sieved product in one go, the backache is removed out of an important job.



## STIHL TO THE RESCUE

Grass, weeds and scrub thrive best wherever they are out of reach of the lawn mower: in inaccessible areas, under trees and bushes, on steps, along walls and around fences. The new Stihl FS100 and FS100R brushcutters, and the innovative technology, mean that wild growth can be kept in check, conveniently and without harming the environment. Employing the new mixture-lubricated Stihl 4-MIX engine, the new brushcutters combine the benefits of two-stroke and four-stroke engines in one, driving high torque and powerful performance through these versatile machines with optimum eco-properties.

On steep slopes and uneven ground, the new STIHL FS100 and FS100R brushcutters cut through long grass, strong weeds and tough scrub.

Unlike a conventional four-stroke engine, the STIHL 4-MIX is fuelled with a mixture of petrol and oil. No need for a separate oil tank, oil pump and oil filter; no need to check oil levels, change or dispose of the oil. Using a completely new lubrication principle, the STIHL 4-MIX engine is lubricated in every working position (crucial for hand tool applications), and the reduced number of components makes the engine surprisingly compact with the new brushcutters weighing distinctly less than conventional four-stroke machines with separate lubrication.



## MAKE IT SNAPPY

The Snapper range of mowers from Saxon Industries has been extended by the addition of the latest zero-turning-radius Snapper EYZ15334BE riding mower.

It is fun to use, thanks to the joystick control which pilots the mower easily round obstacles such as trees, garden ornaments and flowerbeds with accuracy enhanced by the front positioned deck which lets the operator see exactly where he or she is cutting.

The genuine, zero turning capability is the result of dual path transmission which allows the wheels to counter rotate.

An electric-start Briggs & Stratton 15 hp overhead valve engine supplies plenty of power for the largest grassed area and the 33" Hi Vac articulated cutting deck hugs the ground, coping with any undulations.

There is a choice of grass disposal methods: mulching, side discharge and collection.



## IMPROVED WEBSITE

STRI have recently launched a Turfgrass Pests, Weeds and Diseases Guide as part of a major overhaul on its website [www.stri.co.uk](http://www.stri.co.uk).

"We believe this is the most comprehensive on-line guide available in the UK for greenkeepers, grounds staff and turf growers. Users can also supplement the on-line guide with telephone advice and sample analysis to identify or confirm their turfgrass problems," said Dr Ruth Mann, STRI's Turfgrass Pathologist.

The re-designed site has led to a direct rise in monthly hits. In less than a month of the site being live the number of hits has more than doubled. An independent report, based on a key word search of 51 main search engines, highlighted that STRI appeared among the top ten positions 40 times and was number one in each of the top twenty positions.

Other new developments on the site include: A News section; staff profiles; guidelines for sending in samples for analysis; lists of current research; a golf research database funded by the R&A; bookshop news for new titles; content details for our magazine the International Turfgrass Bulletin magazine and the annual Journal of Turfgrass Science, including electronic access to back issues for STRI subscribers.





SCOTTISH REGION  
Peter Boyd  
Tel/Fax: 0141 616 3440

The Scottish National Tournament will be held on Tuesday 17 June 2003 over the Kintyre Course, Turnberry Hotel, Ayrshire by kind permission of the Management of Turnberry Hotel. The cost of the event will be £30, which includes coffee/tea, filled roll and evening meal, plus prizes. Entry will be restricted to 80 entries. Thereafter a waiting list will be in operation.

Tee off times will be from 10.06am to 12.57pm. Entry forms will be available at all Section Spring Outings and from the Regional Administrator.

The Kintyre course will host this year's Seniors' Championship and will be used as a qualifying course for the 2004 Open at Royal Troon.

All entries with remittance must be sent to the Regional Administrator. Peter J. Boyd, 10 Meadowburn Avenue, Newton Mearns, Glasgow G77 6TA by Sunday 8 June 2003 Cheques made payable to BIGGA Scottish Region.

Peter J. Boyd

## East

Well what can we say? A great start to the year and the season and we all hope that it continues and we can get some good grass growing weather. Well as you sit and read this the first tournament of the season is only a few days away on Wednesday, May 14, at Kingsknowe GC.

We hope you have got your entries in by the closing date as there will be NO late entries and we mean exactly that. Also if you send no money or form there will be no entries and no paying on the day and that means everybody. This year we will except no excuses so remember get entries in as soon as possible. On the entry form it will tell you that a draw will take place on a certain date and you will have to phone one of the numbers after that date to find your tee time in advance of the tournament. So don't turn up on the day hoping to find out your tee time because if you miss your time you will not be able to fit in at the end of the field. Clubs only give us the tee for a certain length of time as they have other golfers playing. Therefore, get calling to find out your time. The committee will be strict on these rules this year.

The winners of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Classes will qualify to join the Chairman in the East Section Team to play in the Norrie Whytock team tournament later in the year. Play your best and I look forward to your company in that tournament.

The Section wishes Willie Ness (formerly Thomas Sheriffs) all the best in his new venture and all the best for the future. Willie, we hope

you still pop in if you're passing at anytime. Willie has written a thank you letter elsewhere in this magazine. Well that's it for this month if you have any news you know the numbers, let me know. Come on lets hear from you. Coming up next month news from the spring outing at Kingsknowe GC and any other news I hear on the grapevine.

PS. The annual dinner dance is at the Kilsplindie House Hotel on Saturday 6 December. More details next month. See you all at KGC on the 14th. Cheers.

Chris Yeaman

## Central

Apologies for the lack of section news so far this year, I did send in a report for the February magazine but "Ed" must have got fed up with me trying to stretch the deadline to its limit and decided to "teach me a lesson" by not printing it! I thought I would give you a rest in March and decided to take a holiday at the time I should have been concocting more "information" from the Section.

Anyway we are back on track now and since our last report there have been a few new members joining us. We extend a warm welcome to Thomas Adamson, from Dullatur GC; Jamie Downie and Neil Cross, from Ladybank GC; Wayne Meikle, West Lothian GC; Douglas McFarlane, Aberfoyle GC and Hector Forgen-Moreno, from Gleneagles.

The first three draws for "Club 2000" have been made and the winners are as follows; January, M. Baxter, No. 47 (£30), M. Graham, No. 212 (£20), February, T. Adamson, No. 146 (£30), P. Boyd, No. 590 (£20) and March, D. Leith No. 287 (£30) and J. Meikiem No. 625 (£20), cheques are in the post to all the winners. To the 204 members who didn't purchase their ticket/s Hard lines, it could have been you winning the money!

The date for this year's Autumn Tournament has now been confirmed and is Thursday, September 25 at Alloa Golf Club. I have had virtually no response to my reminder that All matches in the Inter - Club tournament have to be completed by the date of the Autumn Tournament, so if you have still got matches to play and scores to return please get your fingers - sorry that should have been clubs out and get playing!

Results of the Spring Tournament held at St. Andrews Bay Golf and Spa Resort last month will be in next month's issue, but it might be a bit difficult presenting the trophies as only one winner from last year's event has contacted me following my request in the March magazine for all trophies to be returned for engraving and valuation. I hope I don't have to send the Section Chairman round to get them as I've heard he is a "Mean Man" when he gets his "dander" up.

John Crawford.

## NORTHERN REGION

### North Wales

Borra dar, yaki dar, sids my hedgehog and wallop a donkey. A warm welcome to May in the greenkeeping calendar.

Firstly congratulations to Tracy Schofield, of Llangollen Golf Club, on the birth of Osian Ellis a baby boy weighing in at just over 8lb. Mother and baby are doing fine the question now being, is changing nappies better than changing holes?

Congratulations also to Dylan Hughes, of Pwllheli, on passing his NVQ Level 3 - education being the forefront for success and achievement.

We wish Peter Sproston, of Sutton Hall GC, a speedy recovery after a short spell in hospital and look forward to seeing him once again in action along with many others of our section at the spring tournament held at Mile End GC Oswestry on April 14.

We would like to enlist the help of a non golfing member or guest that could help out as a 'starter' for this event and indeed the autumn and Christmas tournaments. It helps the smooth running of the day and your efforts will be truly rewarded, and you could also have a good laugh at your fellow members tee shots!

This month we focus on Bromborough GC as with many clubs formed at the turn of the 19th century this year is their centenary year and, as previously reported, Richard Littler and his team have transformed the course to accept all year round playing conditions. At the start of its life a local farmer Ernest Hassell knocked a ball around the land, then owned by the Earl of Shrewsbury, before it became part of the Leverhulme estate he and his friends built a nine hole course. It was then extended to 18 in the 1920s. It has been through two World Wars and the interruption of the M53 motorway, being right alongside in the 1970s new land was acquired and three new holes were added. A wealth of golfing champions have passed through this championship layout, now with its new greens and new clubhouse Bromborough is looking forward to the next 100 years, after which Richard plans to retire?

Moving on Gary Martin is staying in the US for another six months now working at Pinehurst No5. Life is tough, Gary.

We have two new members from Pwllheli GC. They are Chris Moore and Tomos Tait and also a belated welcome to the Section to Carl Croucher who recently took up the Course Manager position at Caldly GC.

And that's it folks see you next month. Any views, news or information, please contact me on: Home: 01925 263394 Fax: 01925 269622 Mobile: 07778 162162

e-mail: acorgolf@supanet.com

Mesen Cymru  
Andrew Acorn



## North West

Firstly, let me apologise for there being no section news in the February issue of our magazine. The Section notes were sent in on time but there was a problem at HQ.

I did mention in those notes that I would like to thank Rufford Technology for once again sponsoring the Fixture List, and continuing to sponsor the Longest Drive, and Nearest the Pin during 2003. I also reported that Jim McDonald had past away on Monday, January 20, after a short stay in hospital. Jim was a credit to his profession and had been at Royal Lytham since 1964. Our thoughts are with his wife, Carol, and his children, Andrew, Claire, and Allison.

This month we also have news of another death in the Section. Patrick Sheehan, brother of Chris and Mike Sheehan was killed in a car accident on his way home from work. Patrick was a greenkeeper at Ashton in Makerfield and will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

The Mere seminar held on March 18 was attended by 55 delegates, and was an excellent day. I am sure you are all aware of the programme of the day, as you all received an application form with your Fixture List for the year, so I will not make a full report, other than to say that all the speakers were excellent. I must, though, congratulate Steve Oultram on his talk about Conservation and Presentation at Wilmslow GC. Steve had never given a talk before, and I know that as the day grew closer he started to panic, but on the day he was as cool as the professional speakers who followed him, and his presentation was first class. Well done. As I mentioned earlier we had 55 delegates, but this is only 10% of the Section members, so next year let's make it 20%.

The next golf is the Spring Tournament to be played at Wigan Golf Club on Thursday, May 22. The tee is available from 1:30pm with Lunch at 12:30pm and an evening meal and presentation after the golf. All applications to Bill Merritt, The Lodge, Beacon Park Golf Club, Beacon Lane, Dalton. WN8 7RU. Including a cheque for £20 made out to BIGGA. N/W Section.

Finally, people moving about - Paul Pearce is now Head Greenkeeper at Warrington GC and Chris Watson, from Dean Wood GC, is moving down south. That's it, so any news or views contact me on: 0151 724 5412 mobile: 077615 83387.

Bert Cross

## Northern

I am sitting writing these notes a week before our first tournament of the year at Kirkbymoorside Golf Club. I feel the response has been very good and everyone by a miracle has paid a week prior to the event. Well done and keep it up. I will report on the fun and good time we'll all have had in my next notes in June.

The weather at the moment has been remarkably dry for a number of weeks, we have definitely had the driest late February and March I have known. I do hope by now we have had some rain and we no doubt will all be struggling to keep on top of our mowing regimes.

I understand Bob Gee's golf club at Crow Nest Park have recently installed some power tees in their driving range facilities. If anyone is interested in looking at this, he would be willing to show you around the ins and outs of this equipment.

I am sad to report the sudden death of Life member, Donald Roberts, at the age of 83. Donald started his career in greenkeeping at Woodhall Hills GC. Later moving to work under Lawrence Sharp before becoming Head Greenkeeper at West Bowling GC, where he remained until his early retirement in 1982. Donald was a staunch member of the Northern Section of the BGGGA committee, serving a short stint as Chairman. He and his wife Freda regularly attended the National Tournament where he made lots of friends and was a regular winner on a single figure handicap. Family and friends will sadly miss him.

Our next golf tournament will be President's Day at Pike Hills Golf Club on the Thursday 12th June. A £16 cheque will reserve your place. So why not come and support the sponsors, Bob Wild, and your President, Den Cockburn, on what will be a great day out.

Last but not least may I welcome John Taylor, of Woodhall Hills GC; James Senior, of Lightcliffe GC, and James Bentley, of Otley GC, who have all joined our Association this Month.

Wishing you all a trouble free May,  
16 Westwood Ave, Eccleshill, Bradford, West  
Yorks, BD2 2NJ. Tel: 01274 640739 Mobile:  
07976876264 Email: Dthackray@aol.com  
Dave Thackray



MIDLAND REGION  
Peter Larter  
Tel: 01476 550115

## BB&O

At long last it's time to dust the cobwebs off the clubs and head down the driving range for some much needed practice as the first Golf event of the year is fast approaching. Magnolia Park plays host to the Spring Tournament which is to be held on Wednesday, May 28. This event will be sponsored by Tacit.

The first tee is booked from 11am and as with previous events there will be a rolling tee off as people arrive. The format will be 18 hole Stableford (singles). There is a restriction on numbers so please get your entry in early. David Haskell-Craig is moving house so I have stepped in to handle entries, which should be sent to the following address - East Lodge, Badgemoor Park GC, Rotherfield Grays, Henley on Thames, Oxon, RG9 4NR. If you need to speak with me you can get hold of me on 01491 578147.

This event also doubles as a qualifier for the National Championship to be held at Hollingwell & Coxmoor Golf Clubs on October 6/7. The lowest scores from category 1 & 2 will qualify for the above event. The Section will cover the cost of entry for each of the qualifiers. Good luck!

The Rigby Taylor fourball knockout is just getting underway, reports on this event will be posted throughout the summer. Please ensure that all games are played within the allocated time. All results must be phoned through to Gary Underwood Tel: 07771 804703.

I would like to welcome several new members to our Section: David Grant, Mathew Nutt, Robert Palmer, Simon Graham, Gary Cousins, Gary Bateman, Justin Randall, David Peters, Gerald Pead and Craig Marsh.

Thought for the month: Why is it that when you have one small section of fairway left to cut the one golfer on the tee always manages to land in that small spot delaying your progress?

Lindsay Anderson

## East Midlands

This year's Go-Kart evening was once again held at The Wymeswold Industrial Estate Race Track on March 13. Unfortunately numbers were down once again, and we were only able to muster 20 people and half of these were friends and not Greenkeepers. However, after a very competitive evening of racing our eventual winner was Adrian Summerfield, in second place was Gavin Robson, followed by Adie Porter. Thanks should once again be extended to Toro/Lely U.K and P. S. Marsdens who both generously sponsored the event.

Our trip to John Deere (Langar) was cancelled due to lack of interest, only 12 members put their name forward for this event. So please try to support the Spring Tournament at Ashbourne G.C. on May 15.

This year's AGM will take place at 4.30pm at Kibworth G.C. following our usual Texas Scramble golf Competition.

Anthony Bindley

## Mid Anglia

Well we find ourselves experiencing another spell of strange weather patterns, the dryness has been welcome as it has enabled us to finish off construction tasks we might not have been able to, and to start landscaping around a new clubhouse that we have at Ashridge. If you are lucky enough to play in The Course Management Trophy (Midland Region) this year you will be able to experience a new concept of golf club interior design. The only negative side of the weather I can see at the moment is that soil temperatures are still quite low, on greens we have no growth, the Masters will soon be on the television, so start making things stripey.

I thought I should point out that these notes are written a month before you receive them so they will probably have no relevance to what's happening at that time, I must also apologise for not realising that last month's magazine only came out the day before we had organised a trip to The Grove, therefore not many of you would have known the date this was about to take place. Our thanks go to Philip Chiverton and his team for making us so welcome. The course is superb with Penn A4 greens that are so smooth and total Ryegrass fairways with some lovely undulations. The hotel is under construction at

present with 400 people working on it. This is a serious project and we wish it every success. Fortunately, Philip has agreed to allow us to return some time later in the year and I will give plenty of notice next time.

Just a reminder. I have not joined the BB&O Section although the Bucks border is just across the road, and don't forget our Spring meeting takes place at The Bedfordshire on 16 May hope to see you all there.

Jim Cassidy

## Midland

Well, where was last month's Around the Green then Lanky Bloke? Can you image my surprise, after writing and sending such on the so called "Super Highway"! Apparently, a problem regarding the web address. The Russian translation evades me, but my apologies, comrades.

Anyway, this time of year brings us to the metamorphosis of our courses from the unappealing swamp bog, to the verdurous masterpiece we humbly are proud to put our name to. About time too! Is it me or am I getting old? Has this winter been arduously lengthy? My father in his infinite wisdom answered "As you do, they do". Cheers mate!

Thank you for your responses to the questionnaires, I'm glad that I don't have shares in the Royal Mail!

A snooker and darts evening is to be held on Thursday evening May 29, at the "Perfection Snooker Club" in Stirchley, just south of Birmingham city centre. The format for competition shall be decided on the evening via a general consensus. Also a buffet (and maybe prizes) will be provided, kindly sponsored by Nigel Tyler, of Alpha Amenity. May I make it quite clear that all attendees shall have their own table for the entire evening. If interested please call me on: 07816 410552 or 0121 414 0637.

Andy Smith is organising an extensive Mole Control Course, to be held at the end of May/early June. Such is a half day course at a cost of £75 + VAT per person. Anybody with a mole problem will surely benefit from such a course. There is no examination, but attendees shall receive a recognised certificate of attendance. For further details or to register please contact Andy on: 07977 145091.

Mr Woodham, fancy putting your lovely wife, Diane, through that yet again, have you no consideration. Double trouble now. Paul if he's anything like you chap, let's hope he has his mother's lovely traits. Jestings aside, congratulations to you both on the arrival of little Nathan, born February 2.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome nine new members to our Section: A. Davies, K. Threlceld, J. Yates, B. Bouchier, R. Hindhaugh, K. D. Williams, M. J. Beetlestone, S. J. Watkins, and by God help him, R. Writtle.

Please remember folks BIGGA exists for you as Greenkeepers and enables many opportunities for future development, such gives opportunity to meet and converse with many fine learned characters to whom you shall

find most welcoming and free with their council. Value indeed.

Finally, it is with greatest of fondness that I recall the first Head I ever served under, as a young Greenhorn who knew it all. (Oh the naivety of youth is delicious!). I was always amazed by his pipe's ability to remain in his mouth while fast asleep during dinner breaks. During such I often found myself unduly concerned with the ignition of his jumper from this somewhat volcanic pipe. Just as my concerns reached panic mode, he would spontaneously awaken with a great flapping of hands and extinguish himself. Fred Bubb, ex Head Greenkeeper of Fulford Heath GC (Retired 1988) passed away in January of this year. A lovely man who will be fondly remembered by many.

I look forward to seeing you at the "Mole Control Course", the "Snooker and Darts Evening", or at Blackwell G.C. for the Summer Tournament on 4 August.

Auf Wiederhoren!

Sean McDade



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

## Devon and Cornwall

Our Spring meeting was held at my home club, Yelverton on 25 March. With the course bathed in glorious sunshine, you could be forgiven if you thought it was the middle of July.

Our joint sponsors for the day were Supaturf and Bayer Environmental Science. Our morning's golf competitions, The Supaturf Trophy for Head Greenkeepers and Trade and The Bayer Trophy for Assistants, were started by John Mullins and John Palfrey. There were 40 competitors in all and the results were: Supaturf Trophy. 1. Mark Evans, Royal North Devon; 2. Gary Foster, Tavistock; 3. Tony James, Killiow. Bayer Cup. 1. John Gawman, St Mellion; 2. Lloyd Overy, Exeter; 3. Graham Fitzpatrick, Dainton Park.

The remaining 27 members were escorted by Yours Truly on the customary course walk - a greenkeeper's nightmare - comments and advice to my assistant Billy Mitchell at [www.myshedisonfire.com](http://www.myshedisonfire.com).

The Section would like to thank John Mullins, of Supaturf, and Paul Clifton, of Bayer Environmental Science, for their continued support of our Section and Yelverton Golf Club for allowing us the use of their excellent facilities. The golf course was in excellent condition and I would like to thank my staff, Stephen Pearn, Michael Zmaczynski, Simon Pratt and Tony Newland for all their hard work.

After an excellent lunch and prize presentation, our afternoon talk was presented by Bill Pile. Bill has had over 40 years experience in greenkeeping and entertained us all with a debate of topical issues in our profession.

Congratulations to Chris Gadsby on his promotion to Head Greenkeeper at Launceston Golf Club. The Section wishes him well.

The Section would like to pass on their best wishes to Alan Dommet, of Devon Garden Machinery, who has just undergone an operation. Alan has supported our Section for as long as I can remember and we hope to see him up and about very soon.

Our summer meeting will be held at Trethorne Golf Club on Tuesday 17 June 2003 and details will be sent out in due course.

Thank you to all 67 members who turned up to Yelverton. I look forward to seeing you all at the next meeting.

If any members have any information for this column, please contact me on 01822 617671.

Steve Evans

## South Wales

You must have all been too busy to send me any news or views this month,

I've got hardly anything to write about. Not much happens between December and April so the notes do tend to be fairly brief, news on our first competition at Langland Bay GC, and our seminar at Royal Porthcawl GC will appear in next month's magazine. If anybody has news for next month please contact me ASAP. There MUST be somebody in Wales who has something they want to see in print in the magazine. Contact me via email at: [ada.panks@ticali.co.uk](mailto:ada.panks@ticali.co.uk). or call me on: 02920 884172, soon please.

Adrian Panks

## South West

I do hope by the time you are reading this we're all complaining "I can't keep on top of this growth". Whose idea was it to put the bloody US Masters on in early April anyway? No golf to report on so I would like to mention some forthcoming attractions.

I am running a seminar day here at Bath Golf Club on Wednesday September 24, starting at 9am, there will be three hands on seminars presented by Toro, PSD Agronomy and John Nicholson Associates. The format will be three groups of ten, each spending an hour with each company on the golf course looking and discussing there relevant subject. Toro will have a full fleet of their latest equipment to put to the test. Jay Dobson will answer any agronomy queries (there will be quite a few on this course?). John Nicholson's brief is arboriculture and golf design (he has as part of his team BBC TV's golf commentator Ken Brown). After lunch there will be a question and answer session. There is no cost for the day. Numbers will be limited so you must contact me to book your place. Don't delay it will be a great day.

Congratulations to Samantha Kennedy on her move from Minchinhampton to Bowood as First Assistant. We wish her well.

Please don't forget that letter to Nobby as to why you should be selected for a free trip to BTME 2004.

Well done to Mark Lewthwalte, Bath GC; John Keenaghan, Kendleshire, and Duncan