



Mix of wild flowers



Original scrub understorey

"It is important to remember that good golf is easier to play off finer turf. Consequently there is a natural conflict between trees casting shade and the development of quality playing surfaces."

Having read the above and given further knowledge that the author trained in forestry, is a mediocre golfer at best and is frequently frustrated by an awkward lie beneath or behind an offending branch or trunk, it would be easy to assume it is written by someone (if you'll forgive the pun) with an axe to grind. In order to redress the balance I should point out some of the benefits that trees may bring to the golf course.

Trees can be used to define and orientate a golf hole. They can be used to frame a fairway which cannot be seen due to the topography. They can emphasise a dogleg by exaggerating the orientation of the fairway, or strategically to add interest as a heroic carry. Trees can be used to screen unsightly views or neighbouring roads or properties in the interests of safety. They may also contribute significantly to the character of a course, either by creating a feeling of seclusion, stability or simply by forming an attractive backcloth to the game of golf. Aside from the shelter they afford us in the winter winds and rain, only woodland will provide unique habitats for native wildlife such as badgers, deer and bluebells.

Put simply; trees have incredible potential to make either a positive or negative impact on the golf course. What is undeniable is that they grow and then they die. They must be viewed as dynamic, living entities with a limited lifespan. They require long term management and planning with an objective or balanced approach. To conclude, while there will always be debate it should be the aim of course managers, greens committees and consultants alike to adopt the maxim 'the right tree in the right place.'

John Nicholson Associates are an environmental consultancy firm who specialise in golf courses. Management proposals are based on sound ecological principles, but trees are an emotive subject and a broad spectrum of opinion should always be anticipated!



For further information please contact:
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 Tivoli, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL50 2UG,
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Poor understorey



Wildflowers and fairway

Swing Low...

A master of the oval ball showed he was equally adept with the small round one by winning the National Championship, supported by Seoul Nassau.

Chris Lomas, Course Manager at The Berkshire, has become the BIGGA National Golf Champion at his first attempt. Chris, playing off a handicap of 5, shot net rounds of 72 round each of Coxmoor and Hollinwell to be the only man to break par in the 87 man strong field.



BIGGA's National Golf Champion for 2003, Chris Lomas

Multi-talented Chris, is a former English Under 21 rugby internationalist and he will no doubt be glued to the television hoping that his colleagues down under can replicate his own success. He raised his game to match the superb tests of golf laid before him. In conditions not conducive to low scoring - Coxmoor was dull and windy with some rain while Hollinwell was bright and windy - Chris was able to beat his handicap by a shot.

"I'm still in shock," said Chris, a couple of days after he lifted the magnificent trophy.

"I'm delighted that the decision to give up rugby to concentrate on golf, and work of course, has paid off," he explained.

Chris had been lured north by the quality of the two venues and the chance to play competitive golf on two of the best courses in the country.

"I've always been impressed with the standard of courses BIGGA have staged the Championship on and these two have been no exception. The greens were as true as they were quick and they were almost too quick when the wind blew. I had heard a lot about Hollinwell from various people and it still exceeded all expectations."

He was also full of praise for the two Course Managers, Kevin Atherton at Coxmoor and Philip Stain, at Hollinwell, and their teams.

"The Course Managers and their teams at both courses excelled themselves. I feel a little lucky to win the tournament at my first attempt.

"I played well and that shows by the fact my handicap has come down by about .7 to 55 but Alan Strachan, John Watts, Elliott Small and Kenny Mackay will all tell you I escaped very well. Almost Seve like! I wish!"

"It was not until afterwards that I found out that the trophy used to be News of The World Trophy held at Walton Heath."

The best gross score was 150 came from two 75s from scratch player and St Andrews Links Trust man, David Leith, who arrived in Nottinghamshire as the recently crowned Scottish Champion. Totally phlegmatic, David's demeanour when he came off the course was such that there was no way of knowing whether he had shot 65, 75 or 85.

The Regional Trophy saw the Midlands break the South East stranglehold on the competition thanks, in no small part, to some fine rounds around Coxmoor by Graeme MacDonald, of Newark GC and Past Chairman, Richard Barker.

A welcome visitor to the two courses was Walter Woods, who spent a happy time as Course Manager at Hollinwell and as a member of Coxmoor before heading to Fife and St Andrews.

As always there were some sob stories to report.

Defending Champion Ian Semple put up a stout defence of his title but, two days before he and the family headed to the Dominican Republic on holiday was somewhat distracted by a lost passport drama back home.

Paul Conway got lost on the way to the Hollinwell on the second day and missed his tee time by 15 minutes. Disqualified he was slotted in later so was able to enjoy the course.

Elliott Small had to withdraw from his Coxmoor round after nine holes through hip problems but doped up he too was able to complete his round at Hollinwell.

RESULTS

BIGGA National Champion for the BIGGA Challenge Trophy

- Chris Lomas, The Berkshire, 144 (nett)
- David Hood, Wexham Park, 147 (On last 18)
- Graeme MacDonald, Newark GC, 147

BIGGA Scratch Champion for the BIGGA National Cup

- David Leith, St Andrews Links, 150
- Mark Nelson, Renishaw Park, 153
- Ian Semple, Old Fold Manor, 155

Coxmoor

- Scratch - 7
Richard Barker, Longcliffe GC, 72
8-15
Derek Cunliffe, Old Thorns GC, 74 (BIH)
16-28
Frank Stewart, Leeds Golf Centre, 77

Notts GC

- Scratch - 7
Richard Andrews, Highgate GC, 74
8-15
Matt Folka, Hawkestone Park, 73
16-28
Nick Bird, Kings Norton GC, 74

Nearest the Pin - Coxmoor

Ross Wilson, Parasampia

Longest Drive - Coxmoor

Andy Peel, Bull Bay GC

Regional Trophy

Midland - 595
Graeme MacDonald, Richard Barker, David Hood, Steve Wood, James Dair, Chris Brown, David Salisbury and Fred Cobb

Runner-up

South East - 601
Chris Lomas, Ian Semple, Derek Cunliffe, Stefan Antolik, Stuart Abbott, Steve Holmes, Ian Willett and Steven Helmsley.



Kevin Atherton with his Coxmoor team



Phillip Stain with his Hollinwell team



Richard Barker accepts the Regional Team Trophy from Coxmoor Captain, Adrian Hill, on behalf of the victorious Midland Team



David Leith, the BIGGA Scratch Champion



The prize winners with George Brown, left, and Hollinwell Captain, Michael Sout, centre



Sandy McDivot

Girl Power!

I do adore those old examples of a golf clubs ladies section, don't you? You know the ones, that old Ladies' Captain whose life belongs not so much in a different age but on a different celestial body.

I once was walking my dog (Duff McDivot) in a local village where the populace appeared to be made up almost exclusively of golf obsessed retired military hierarchy and their wives, when I was accosted by an old Seniors' Section President whose wife had recently vacated her seat as the Ladies' Captain.

"Come in Sandy" he said, "you must have a look at my lawn". And so we toured his estate before venturing into their palatial residence for a recently exhumed can of double diamond stamped "best before 1978". It was at this point that his wife walked in and asked, "Have you seen my husband's erection"? A disturbing question to which there appeared not to be an answer until I managed to quickly deduce that this was "Old Lady Captain's" speak for the recently constructed garden shed, which he had indeed shown me. "I am very excited by it," she went on to say, in even more embarrassing detail.

But the merriment of the Ladies' Section does not end with their eccentric use of the English language. I once worked at a club that regularly experienced the visual horror of a masked flasher who principally peddled his meagre wares on ladies day. It was during one of these exhibitions that the recipient of his proffering asked of the flasher "Are you a member?" A question that draws the further enquiry as to what the reaction would have been if he had replied, "Well yes madam, I am in fact the Chairman of the Green committee." Would the response have then been, "Well that's alright then. So long as you have paid your subscription on time."! When recounting the episode to the other members back in the clubhouse, she apparently stated that despite there being no answer to her question, she did not feel that this reprobate was a member. This then warrants another enquiry as to how she came to such a conclusion given that the traditional means of identification was hidden from view. Perhaps there is more to the Ladies' Section than we at first thought.

Another source of endless amusement to us greenkeeping folk is the quality of ladies' golf. Of course I am not one for condemnation and so must point out that not all lady golfers are atrocious at the game in fact many would give us a sound thrashing, but years of study have constantly resulted in the ritual asking oneself of the question, "Why on earth do they bother?" I am sure you can all recall your own examples of bewildering golfing standards but just recently I observed one of our regular lady exponents of the game reach the very edge of our 10th green (a short par four) in a mere five shots, but then without any intervening hazard betwixt ball and hole she somehow managed to end up seven shots later in a lost ball situation some 20 yards in an adjacent forest. Don't ask me how it happened, it just did. I managed to remain a distant observer on that one

but more recently I lived the horror that is, when you stand aside with the mower on tick over while they confront you with a display of golf at its most hideous. The episode in question was perpetrated by the one of the dignitaries of the Ladies' Section when faced with a shot of some ten yards over a bunker to a generous green. Where does one look when they then produce three consecutive complete duffs without the ball ever actually moving before shanking into the sand? She then went on to systematically circumnavigate the bunker with some ten further hacks each bringing with it another level of buttock clenching embarrassment to herself, her partner and me. Her partner meanwhile had seemingly made matters worse by saying to her "Bad luck" on the first couple of failed attempts

before realising that luck had nothing to do with it, at which point she ceased further comment and joined me in the painful pretence of not having noticed.

Then there is club selection as deployed by the lady golfer. I have never quite been able to fathom it out. I recall an episode recently where one of our regulars had a shot of about 70 yards to our 17th green. So what club would one take? A wedge, a sand wedge, or perhaps a subtle push with a nine iron. No the choice of the day was, you've guessed it, a three wood. In fact the 3-wood is generally deployed for all shots over 50 yards and the putter taken on all occasions when 30 yards or less of ground needs to be covered, which rather begs the question as to why they keep a full set of irons onboard the electric trolley. An old professional golfer once told me of how in a mixed foursomes, his partner was left to tee off on a hole requiring 90 yards of carry over a gorse filled rocky chasm. She turned to the Pro and came out with the classic confidence boosting line "I have never made this carry before in my life"! So the Pro not willing to engage in abseiling at this point in the round replied, "No problem. Just miss the ball all together and I'll take it from there." And her response to this brilliant stratagem? "But what club shall I use?"

Talking of which, have you ever experienced mixed foursomes golf? I did once, but never again. The problem is, one is suddenly thrown into a situation where etiquette moves from being simply desirable to totally critical. Now I don't know about you but when playing with fellow greenkeepers or ones mates, things such as breaking wind on the top of the opposition's backswing are not so much seen as appalling manners but more, a treasured skill to be envied by all. But I decided early in the round that applying this element of the game to our Lady Captain would not be a good career move. In fact one is forced to eliminate many facets of the game considered normal practice among the male species, such as swearing profusely, voluminous belching, scratching ones nether regions or

detailing ones drinking/puking achievements of the night before. The mixed foursomes situation I found myself in arose many years ago when I was an assistant at a posh London club and along with the first assistant, I was asked to join in the annual staff and ladies get-together. We rather naively agreed on the basis that we may be drawn to play with the one or two girl members of the club who happened to be quite attractive. Our totally pathetic reasoning behind our decision being, that at the end of the round one would get to kiss ones partner and that given our natural irresistible greenkeepers allure, this would inevitably progress to that ultimate erotic experience; the snog. But it transpired that our confidence was misplaced. I was partnered with the conventional battleaxe, but our first assistant got a member of the Ladies' Section that we referred to as 'The Major', a fairly elderly six footer whose real name was Judy. Not that terrible you may think but the reason we referred to Judy as 'The Major' was that she walked with a slight limp caused by an injury sustained in the last great conflict while serving on the front line. "But women did not serve on the front line" I hear you say. Exactly, at that point in her career, Judy was a 'man'. Of course from a competitive point of view, getting Judy as his partner was no bad thing as despite her advancing years she could still pump out those 250 yadders off the tee and unlike most women, the irons in her bag were given a full workout. However the first assistant, due to his rapid calculation that victory would result in not only the end of round kiss having to be administered, but also the compulsory one in full view of all of his peers during the prize giving ceremony, held competitive instinct distinctly in check. His performance levels were further lowered when early on in the round he slotted a 15 footer only for Judy to run across the green and plant a smacker on his right cheek. Needless to say that following this incident, all putts over two foot were steered well away from the target area. But to end my little sojourn through the Ladies' Section may I end on a positive note.

Yes the ladies have got so much more to offer than just entertainment. How about all those delightful little planting schemes they come up with. For example, I once remember being advised by a contingent of the women at an environmentally sensitive heathland course, to plant a nice collection of tulips in front of some selected teeing areas. Also, as their game is played principally along the ground, they are a great means of preventing the insertion of those stupid water hazards in front of greens that the alpha males of the club would like to put in so as to prove their virility.

But by far the biggest advantage the ladies have over their male counterparts is the complete lack of wear they impart on any golf course. After all, when have you ever seen a worn out ladies tee?

Sandy McDivot

Head Greenkeeper
Sludgecombe Pay & Play



NEW PRODUCTS

NEW LAUNCH FROM TORO

With a big, near-lift cutting width and a powerful 60hp engine, the new Toro Groundsmaster 4100-D offers top productivity and quality of cut.

Its all-out-front cutting deck - it's the only all-out-front machine in the lift rotary segment - greatly increases visibility for enhanced manoeuvrability and operator control.

Toro says the three-section deck represents the latest evolution of its contour-mowing technology and lifts standards for productivity and quality of cut.

As such, the GM4100-D gives a beautiful aftercut appearance at high work rates on a wide variety of turf, from sports grounds to golf course roughs and semi-roughs.

It also has outstanding ground-following capabilities for a consistent height of cut (adjustable between one and five inches) on all terrain.

Operators enjoy a comfortable, high seating position that gives an unobstructed view of the front deck, the turf being cut and obstacles, for safer working. The machine can mow a swathe nearly 11 feet wide. But it is only six feet wide with its side wings flipped up for transport.

Its 60hp engine is a Kubota two-litre turbo diesel unit; and there is full-time, hydrostatic four-wheel drive so it can mow thick, wet grass and on slippery slopes. A mowing speed of up to 8mph can be achieved, and a transport speed of up to 15mph.

The machine has a tight turning radius and, at full turn, it will leave no turf uncut. So it can be used for efficient back-and-forth mowing. It can also mow around and close to obstacles, thereby minimising the need to follow up with trim mowers.

For further information Tel: 01480 226800.



CHIPCO RECOMMENDED

With traditional Autumn weather finally with us and winter on its way, Bayer Environmental Science is advising groundsmen and greenkeepers to prepare to move to fungicides more suited to the wetter conditions as part of their year-round turf management.

The company recommends that Chipco Green, with its multi-site contact fungicidal properties and extreme rainfastness, for use in the winter months, with systemic fungicides Mildothane Turf Liquid or Capricorn applied in the growing seasons (rotating fungicides with different modes of action will significantly reduce the risk of developing resistance). The rainfastness of Chipco Green means there is no need for dew switching on turf for 2 weeks after application.

These combinations are ideal for year-round disease control in all sports turf, and particularly in the fine turf on golf course greens.

The recent (much needed) wetter weather has caused an increase in the occurrence of various fungi, much to the distress of groundsmen and greenkeepers alike. However, not all turf fungi are a nuisance.

Mycorrhizal fungi develop a mutually beneficial relationship with turf roots, for effective nutrient exchange and increased resistance to drought, insect pests and disease. As a result, turf associated with Mycorrhiza tends to be healthier and these fungi are unaffected by Chipco Green.

For further information Tel: 01992 784270.

SUCK AND BLOW

The 2003 Autumn range of Billy Goat outdoor vacuum sweepers and blowers now have optional 'on board' hose kits with no tools fixings so no more rushing back to the workshop for hoses and/or spanners.

The line starts with the Little Billy. A 20in (50cm) sweeping width and powered by a 4hp Briggs & Stratton Quattro engine makes this machine ideal for the domestic or occasional hire user with an area of perhaps half an acre to clear of debris such as leaves or pine cones and needles.

An optional wander hose is available.

The larger commercial KD models all feature 12in wheels and the 'on board' hose kit option.

The KD410 has a 27in (68cm) sweeping width and a 4hp Briggs & Stratton Quattro engine and a large 10 cu ft (282 litre) collection bag.

A self propelled model is available in the shape of the KD512SP.

This sturdy professional quality vacuum uses a 5hp Briggs & Stratton IC commercial grade engine. A simple but proven front wheel drive system really helps on slopes and uneven terrain. Again all the features of the previous machine are incorporated in this machine.

With the TKD512SP Billy Goat a 2in (5cm) chipper is built in for sticks and small tree limbs.

Billy Goat also offer a range of commercial blowers using new 'Quiet Blow' technology. This features a patented exhaust design that condenses and controls exhaust air into a tight pattern, providing the best air control and velocity at the industry's lowest noise levels.

Robotically welded 12-gauge steel housing and engine base also means these blowers are designed to take heavy use, but horsepower for horsepower they are the lightest wheel blowers on the market.

A 14 blade nylon fan reduces overall vibration and gyroscopic forces common with metal fans.

Briggs & Stratton and Honda engine options ranging from 5hp to 13hp, Quiet Blow blowers provide hurricane-force air speeds up to 180mph.

For further information Tel: 01932 788799.



NEW ELEMENTAL SUPPLEMENT REDUCES PH LEVELS

High pH levels can now be reduced by a new elemental supplement from Vitax.

Sulphur 95 is a micronised prill, which is ultimately converted to sulphuric acid by microorganisms within the soil. Applied to sand based golf greens (or any other turf areas with a high pH substrate) the product ensures a steady supply of plant proteins throughout the season in a form that can be readily absorbed by the sward.

"As sulphur deficiency reduces the plant's ability to utilise applied nitrogen. Sulphur 95, could almost be likened to an indigestion tablet," says Clive Williams, Sales and Amenities Manager for Vitax.

The plant functions more efficiently and fewer nutrients are wasted."

"Bringing down pH levels discourages Poa Annua, unlocks nutrients such as Copper, Iron, Manganese and Zinc promoting the health of the finer grasses, and makes the soil less attractive to worms," he continues.

"By combating Sulphur deficiency and reducing pH levels at the same time, this new product has twin benefits."

For further information Tel: 01530 510060.

HELP TO COMPLY

With Pollution Control and water recycling high on the agenda, Course Care chose Saltex for two product launches; ClearWater, a below ground water recycling system for washdown areas and a bunded Mini Fuel Station for under £1000.

"It was very clear that we have products to answer current needs and help our customers comply with the latest legislation. Many know they must install bunded fuel tanks and are looking for quality and value. Our new tanks range offers just that. Demand for washdown area water recycling is growing too and our competitively priced below ground system is proving very popular," said David Mears, Course Care's Managing Director.

The water cycling system has four distinct plus points.

- It is below ground
- It has a silent operation appealing to hotels and clubs in residential areas.
- It uses proved interceptor technology developed over 15 years
- It is "bespoke", designed specifically to the needs and demands of the customer.

The bunded tanks on show attracted much attention. They are packed with features such as bund alarms, overflow protection, remote controlled contents monitoring operated by ultrasonics and easy to use dispensing. It simply plugs into an ordinary plug socket and provides an instant read-out of contents.

For further information Tel: 01535 611103.

OF WHEEL BENEFIT

A unique device for standard pull golf trolleys has been designed and manufactured by Golf Innovations (UK) Ltd.

The special parabolic shaped studs fit over the trolley wheel and when used in winter conditions leaves little or no impression on the fairway. A quote from a greenkeeper college states, "the principle involved in using this wheel attachment is innovative and should help the greenkeeper avoid excessive compaction and smearing on turf surfaces during the wetter months of the year when golfers are wanting to use trolleys."

The Hedgehog fairway protector is available from Golf Innovations (UK) Ltd via professional golf shops.

For further information telephone 01737 649911.



KAWASAKI RECALL

Kawasaki is currently recalling all units of their KVF300 and KVF400 ATV models manufactured between 1997 and 2000. The tightening torque of the steering pinch bolt on some units may not be sufficient to prevent the ball joint moving in the steering knuckle. In extreme cases this could lead to steering malfunction.

All known owners are being contacted by letter and asked to contact their local authorised Kawasaki ATV dealer in order to organise a free check and repair of the affected parts. Owners of affected models who do not receive a letter should contact their dealer or Kawasaki's customer care hotline (01628-856750) to check eligibility and arrange the recall work if it is required.



KIOTI LOADERS

Reco unveiled the latest addition to its range of quick-fit front-end loaders at Saltex.

The Kioti loaders include a three-step quick-fit system that makes fitting and removal extremely quick and easy. Three models are now available in total, with lift capacities from 350kg to 1103kg.

The latest model has been designed for use with the 21 hp CK20 Kioti tractor, the smallest in the range. It has a bucket capacity of 0.137m³, a maximum lift height of 2236mm, a maximum dump height of 1756mm, and it can lift 350kg to full height. Control is precise, comfortable and simple, with twin double acting rams included for both lift and crowd functions.

Kioti tractors, now available with power ratings from 21 hp to 50hp, are also being shown by RECO at Saltex, as well as a selection from Reco's range of mowers, scarifiers, aerators, sweeper-collectors, hedge-cutters, verge mowers, rotary cultivators, power harrows and fertiliser spreaders.

For further information Tel: 01480 455151.

SHORT CHASSIS USE

Spraytech's new DM range is especially effective on short chassis trucks such as the Jacobsen Cushman, where transverse mounting keeps the weight forward of the back axle and keeps booms tight to the back end, ensuring perfect weight distribution and a kinder treatment of fine turf.

Spraytech has stripped out all the disjointed plumbing and miles of tangled hoses that you often find on other demounts. The brand new compact plumbing module and clean water tank are mounted beside the 107 lpm triple diaphragm pump and hydraulic drive on two uniquely removable trays in a specially created cavity within the envelope of the tank that leaves only millimetres to spare, conserving space, but which makes servicing a dream.

Power and output control options for the DM range include a pto pump with hydraulic drive or petrol drive (for flat bed trucks like the Hilux) with manual / electric controls and electric pumps (for trucks with belt drive) with computerised output in-cab control options for perfect accuracy of application.

But to put the DM range in a class of its own, its modular design as a component of the Spraytech range offers unparalleled flexibility for the end user. Boom options include any of Spraytech's three zero-emission covered booms; the Hurricane, Tornado & Typhoon, or the standard open boom. And the Chemlok sealed filling system, built to the highest world standard for handling chemical concentrates, BS6356 Part 9, that ensures there is no operator exposure and no need to wear any protective clothing, cuts the foil seals, measures in 25ml increments and power washes containers completely clean.

For longitudinally mounting on trucks with a longer chassis, the sub frame is simply rotated through 90 degrees and the mast mounting assembly is relocated. The DM can be fitted on most trucks and load/unload options include jack legs, floor crane or hoist.

With mast and boom tight to the back end and all the weight forward of the back axle, our DM sprayer is very kind to turf.

Chemlok Pro-mix can be sprayer, wall or stand mounted. The pipe work & clean water tank, pump & hydraulic drive are mounted side by side on removable trays for ease of maintenance, enclosed behind a wrap around guard.

Tank sizes 400, 600, 800 lts.

For further information Tel: 01932 26 94 95.

FLYING THE FLAG

Acorn Golf UK in conjunction with British Manufacturing Solutions have developed a revolutionary new accessory to add to your existing hole cups 'The Cosgrove Cup Spike' It can self thread to your hole cups and has a standard screwdriver size hole near to the base (similar to a large scale 'dart stem') so you can tighten it directly on to your polymer hole cup base.

This spike has been designed to prevent taller flag poles in high winds leaning the cup to one side and prevent the pole blowing out. It will also prevent the ingress of sub soil coming up through the centre of the cup and especially for newly laid sand greens where the sub layers take longer to 'firm up'. Available in 2 sizes UK & USA in boxes of ten. Come and see the launch of this miniature rocket shaped spike at the 2004 BTME and ClubHouse show in Harrogate.

For further information Tel: 01925 757005.





SCOTTISH REGION
Peter Boyd
Tel/Fax: 0141 616 3440

Central

The final golf tournament of the season was held at Alloa Golf Club (not Alloa) on September 25 when over 40 members enjoyed a relaxing day away from work and meeting friends old (some older than others) and new. It must be the first time for a number of years that we have had good weather conditions for both the Spring and Autumn Tournaments.

With the course in excellent condition there were a number of good scores resulting in keen competition for the prizes, the winners being as follows: Best combined nett. Spring & Autumn. T. Harris, Cupar GC, 148; Best Scratch. K. Mitchell, St. Andrews, 68; Best Nett. M. Graham, Green Hotel GC, 69; 1st Class 1. W. Woods Retired life member, 69; 1st Class 2. E. Small, Tulliallan, 72; 2nd Class 1. T. Harris, Cupar GC, 69; 2. D. Scott, Scoonie GC, 72; 3rd Class 1. B. Needs, Tower of Lethandy GC, 82; 3rd Class 2. M. Lindsay, Scoonie GC, 83; Patrons. K. Brunton, Greentech, 73; Guests. C. Payne, Alloa GC, 71.

Our sincere thanks go to everyone at Alloa GC for the courtesy extended to us, especially Duncan Peddie and his staff for the excellent presentation of the course, Margaret and Ron in the clubhouse for their first class catering and service, greens convenor, Tom White, who joined us on the day along with Club Captain, Colin Payne, who did us the honour of presenting the prizes to the winners. I would also like to thank our patrons for their continued support of our events and everyone else who assisted on the day.

Congratulations and every success for the future go to Trevor Harris, from Cupar Golf Club, on his appointment as Head Greenkeeper at Arbroath Golf Club. (Have we found another venue for future golf events?)

The proposed Educational Workshop has been arranged for Tuesday November 11, at Elmwood College, Cupar, and everyone should have received notice of it. If you haven't and wish to attend please just give me a ring on 01577 865 607. This event is organised for your benefit so please make an effort to support it.

Details of the AGM and your Section committee for the coming year will be in next month's report. At the time of writing I have 18 members who have indicated that they will attend, this is nearly double the number who attended last year so perhaps we will have some new faces on the committee. We can always live in hope!

Hopefully I will have confirmation of the venues for next year's golf tournaments in time for next month's report. On the subject of golf tournaments we are always seeking out new venues, so if you would like to host a future event just get in touch with any committee member.

John Crawford

North

No new members to report this month, but overall we have done alright for members this year so hopefully that trend will continue

The section AGM took place at Peterhead GC, on October 16. There were one or two changes in the committee in that John Geddes, of Ellon GC, is now the Chairman of our Section and Steve Sullivan is now Vice-Chairman. Dale Robertson of Newmachar GC is now the Secretary taking over from Dougal Duguid, of Westhill GC. Dougal has put many years of service into the running of the North Section and is going to remain on the North committee for another year to help out. I would like to thank Dougal on behalf of the members of our Section for all his efforts over the years and wish him all the best when he begins his new role as the Scottish Vice Chairman. Donald Patience of Tarbet GC has joined the committee and is a welcome new face. Donald and Hugh McLatchie are this year's patron winners and will attend a luncheon in Stirling and also Harrogate in the spring. Their support to the Section is much appreciated.

There were 34 at Peterhead and they all had a good days golf and were well fed. Our thanks go to Hugh McLatchie and his staff for the condition of the course and for the hospitality of the club for the day. The day took the form of an outing and this produced more people turning up for the AGM than in previous years. A first for Peterhead is the installation of electricity to their

worksheds, this came as a major shock to Hughie and his staff.

Scotsturf is again coming around this month and it does not seem any time since last year. Hopefully there will be a good turnout for the show as usual from the north as it is an important part of the greenkeeping calendar.

I would like to thank Campmuir for their open day at Nairn GC. The day was very well attended and we were all well fed and watered, very important for the under nourished of our profession. It gives the greenkeepers a chance to catch up on what's new in the product range, plus it gives a great opportunity to speak to other greenkeepers about the trade in general.

On behalf of Dale Robertson, of Newmachar GC, I would like to thank Alpha Plus who invited Dale on a trip to the States with their company. An enjoyable time was had by all.

I hope all your renovation work goes well and the weather stays decent.
Iain Gunn

Ayrshire

If at first you don't succeed..., after losing out on countback in last year's Harry Diamond Memorial Quaich Paul Tulloch tried again, this time securing victory in another close finish. Congratulations Paul!

Twenty golfers attended the Autumn meeting played at Beith Golf Club on a pleasant summer's day, Marshall Sloss and his team had the course in great shape with reports confirming a good day was had by all.

Our thanks to the captain and club at Beith for allowing use of the course and facilities, also to the catering staff for looking after us.

Results on the day were as follows: Harry Diamond Memorial Quaich, P. Tulloch, W. Kilbride GC. Scratch Winner – J. Mair, Beith GC; 1st class. 1. M. Wilson, Moffat GC; 2. D. Wilson, Irvine Bogside GC; 3. W. Mercer, Skelmorlie GC; 4. B. Aitken, Turnberry GC; 2nd Class. 1. P. Tulloch, W. Kilbride GC; 2. I. Barr, Largs GC; 3. S. Mercer, Skelmorlie GC; 4. M. Sloss – Beith GC

For the few unable to make the AGM this year there will be a brief report in next month's issue.

Finally a warm welcome to two new members, Stephen McBlain, at Prestwick St. Nicholas GC, and Barry Crate who after several years on the courses at Belleisle and a season in Ireland, now plies his trade at Turnberry.
Dennis Tweddell

NORTHERN REGION

North Wales

I always have a smile on my face when it comes to the Section notes. Here I am, brain in second gear, and a host of mental notes from around the region and two days past the deadline for the November issue! If only I had jotted them down they may read in some kind of context. Anyway here we go regardless.

Our Autumn Tournament was held in October at the De Vere Carden Park, a strong field of just under 70 took part on the challenging Nicklaus course. Playing a little 'short' at just over 6,700 yards, from the tee, the greens looked about two drivers and a 3-wood away and for most of us they were. A big thank you to Andy Campbell and his team for presenting the course to PGA European Tour standard, recently hosting the Pre- Qualifying for the European Tour. Carden Park came to the rescue after a last minute change of venue and we thank all involved for the courtesy and the fine catering that gave us a choice of five different dishes to sample for the meal.

The results of the golf were as follows: Six players tied at the top with 31 pts each and after a card play off the winner was Kevin Lewis, of Machynlloch GC; 2. Marc Brute, of Abergele GC; 3. Jez Hughes, from Vale of Llangollen GC, who gave up the third prize to accept 'best gross' with a score of 80 – 3. with Andy Peel, of Bull Bay GC, also winning 'best haircut'. Best guest with 31pts Garry Carr; Nearest the Pin member was Trevor Johnson, of Eastham Lodge GC, and Nearest the pin Guest was P. Treacy, Sutton Hall GC; Best trade with 32 pts was Terry Adamson, of Alpha Amenity, (this shows some of us are out selling tee mats) although I did manage an eight dart round the board finish at the Carden Arms later on.

On behalf of the committee I would like to thank all the patrons of North Wales BIGGA for their generous donations and sponsorship.

The AGM followed the meal 26 members were present and one change to the committee was the standing down of Stuart McCall, his place being filled by Darren Anderson, of Abergele GC, (the venue for our Christmas competition on December 3). Welcome Darren.

Entry forms will be posted later this month.

Just a note on future golf days. The organisers of these events give a lot of their free time to make the day run smoothly and enjoyable for everyone, sadly it has been noticed that not all the winners have been present to receive their respective prizes, so a decision was taken to award the prize to the next in line. This will be implemented starting at the December golf day, as you can appreciate it is no fun saying "and the winner is... Oh, he's gone home".

A couple of congratulations, firstly to Dylan Hughes, of Pwllheli GC, for reaching the final of Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year and to Sion Pritchard leaving Llanynymech GC and going to Gob Owen, I hope he will be alright (Owen that is).

Any Views please call. Home: 01925 263394 Fax: 01925 269622
Mobile: 07778 162162 e-mail acorn@golf@supanet.com

Mesen Cymru
Andrew Acorn

North East

On September 25 we had our Autumn competition at Bellingham GC. This was the first time we have had a competition there and what a pleasure it was too.

Bellingham is situated about 17 miles north west of Hexham so for mostly everyone who played they had quite a long and tricky journey but they turned out in greater numbers than we have had for a couple of years.

Our thanks to Head Greenkeeper, Matty Crofton, and his staff for the outstanding condition of the course considering their location and the summer we have had this year and also to the committee for the courtesy of their course.

This year's sponsors were the following, Shorts, Greenlay, Aitkens, Sisis, Thorntree Amenity, Turf Care Supplies, Stocksfield GC, John Moutrie, of Hexham GC. Thanks lads, much appreciated as these days fewer companies are sponsoring us. It must be because of our location as I see in other Sections some companies we all deal with tend to give us a miss.

Thanks also to John Pemberton, from BIGGA HQ, for calling in on his way back from a short holiday break. Keep practicing John for the Spring competition. We look forward to seeing you at Matfen Hall in April.

Best Gross. S. Quince, Parklands GC, 71; Best Nett. Ransomes Cup G. Gainford, Prudhoe, 82-13-69; Best Nett. Greenlay Cup. J. Richardson, Hexham GC, 76-7-69; Best Nett. A. Parkin, Beamish Park Hotel GC, 93-22-71; G. Lauder, Slaley Hall GC, 75-5-70; S. Pope, Tyneside GC, 88-16-72; J. Gibson, Northumberland GC, 74-2-72; R. Reid, Prudhoe GC, 80-7-73; J. Storey, Alnmouth GC, 79-6-73; B. Wilson, Stocksfield GC, 82-9-73. These are just the leading scores as there are too many to print.

The Spring Competition is already booked to play at Matfen Hall on April 22 2004. Thanks to Craig Parkinson, Course Manager, on his swift action. Hopefully we will have the Autumn competition booked soon.

Jimmy Richardson

Cleveland

Firstly, I have to apologise to all members for the lack of Section notes in the last few issues. Some personal family problems and a lack of phone calls to me with news being the main reasons! However, here are some up to date items. The Section's Summer Knockout is reaching a climax as Martin Woods, of Bedlington GC, plays Anthony 'Titch' McGeough of Richmond GC. The other semi matched two of the Section bandits - Mark Brown, the "Manc of Brancepeth", who pitted his skills against George Salabank, of Eaglescliffe but lost. You should have taken a dive like your hero Ruud, Mark! Details of the final outcomes next month!

The Wearside boys are in the process of building a new bridge over a beck. 'Sir Alec' Walker has got the lads some khaki overalls and they are practicing 'Colonel Bogey'.

On a more serious note I've heard about the severe flooding problems suffered by Teesside Golf Club. During the recent thunderstorms the course received 25mm of rainfall in 15 minutes. Several trees were uprooted during the torrential downpour. The mole believed that Mr. Smith was away on holiday at the time. He's always been a lucky beggar!

The dry spell has certainly seen the wetting agents and hose pipe flying off the sheds, dry patch still abounds!

The Autumn Tournament took place at Middlesbrough GC on October 8. Many thanks go to Brendon Brown, of Norlube Waste Disposal, for sponsoring the whole day. The turnout was a little disappointing with only 15 members playing. However, the course was in excellent condition considering the continued dry spell. Congratulations are due to Stewart Vickers and the lads for presenting the course so well while George was away in Germany. Ian Pemberton of Bedale GC won the Stableford competition with 34 points. How he wins things using that 'upside down' swing I'll never know! James Atkinson, also of Bedale, was second with 33 points and Steve Hagar of Brancepeth Castle was third with 32 points. Pembo also won the Par 3 competition, which was kindly sponsored by Border Sports Services. Alan Cordingley, formerly of Ritefeed, won the trade section prize. It was nice to meet Peter Larter, our Northern Region Administrator, whose area has been expanded. Good luck in your new post, Peter.

Thanks must go to Middlesbrough GC for their hospitality. Special mention must be made of the catering staff for the excellent meal - the beef served in the carvery was mouth watering! Pembo wore a kipper tie during his meal - this wasn't to look good, it was to hide the gravy splatters after he finished a monstrous plateful of scan!

George Malcolm's trip to Germany was made to visit his son, David, who is working at a golf club over there. The courses are suffering very badly with drought conditions. However, George told me that, during a storm, many cars were severely damaged by hailstones the size of golf balls.

Two dates for the diary lads - firstly the section AGM takes place at Darlington GC on Thursday, November 20 commencing at 7.45pm. Secondly the Annual Turfcare 'Greenkeepers versus Groundsmen' quiz will take place at Mount Oswald Golf Club, Durham, on Wednesday, December 3, commencing at 7:30 pm. Come along and have a good laugh!

Finally, can I suggest that Section members start getting fit for the annual Rigby Taylor soccer tournament taking place at Hurworth early next year. Pembo has decided to enter two teams next year, a golden oldies side and a young 'uns team. Pembo is hoping to skipper the young 'uns side - ha ha ha!

Please ring me with some stories, tales or downright fibs - anything will do!

Terry "El Prez" Charlton

North West

September has been a busy month in our golfing calendar. Firstly we had the Whitelaw Bowl which was played at Penrith Golf Club on September 3 which I reported on in last month's magazine. On September 8 we had the annual match against the Golf Club Stewards. This was played at Fishwick Hall GC and an excellent day it was, weather wise. After early morning rain the sun shone for the rest of the day but unfortunately the result was a win for the Stewards 3.5 to 2.5.

The course was in fine condition thanks to Paul Eddlestone and his trusty team and I would like to thank Fishwick Hall for allowing us courtesy of the course, the caterers for a cracking meal, and also the Stewards for an excellent day. I would also like to thank Amenity Technology for sponsoring the greenkeepers at such short notice, I can assure you it was much appreciated.

On September 24 the Autumn Tournament was played at Birchwood GC in Warrington. The weather once again was very kind to us and the course was in great condition thanks to Aidy Holt and his staff. We had 26 competitors including the Vice Captain, Dave Nicholson, and the Chairman of Green, Tony Milburn. The long course proved to be quite a test of golf which was reflected in the scores, but it was enjoyed by all. The winners were; Best Nett. Peter Hogan, 72; 2. Chris Sheehan, 73; 3. Mark Hillarby, 75; 4. Dave Macevov, 76; Gross Winner. Bill Merritt, Vet's Prize, Brian Turner, 76. Guest Prize. Dave Nicholson, 75.

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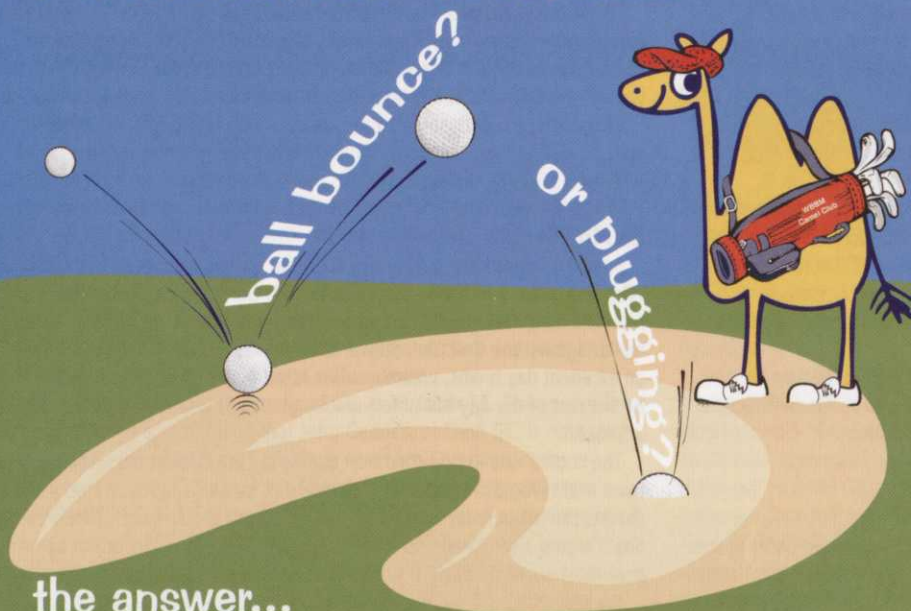
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