

❑ **Dealing with environmental influences over which you have some control that cause deterioration in sward quality.**

The most obvious is shade resulting in a lack of sunlight or air movement to greens.

We have spent decades researching turf grasses best suited to the production of a putting surface. Yet, how many greens throughout the world retain the grasses they were established with?

Poa annua ingress may be difficult to contend with, ever more so if golfer expectation and maintenance encourage this species at the expense of more desirable grasses. However, *Poa annua* domination of a green is never a forgone conclusion.

There are plenty of good sources of advice and examples of how to grow in and maintain quality greens that remain dominated by the grasses they were established with. There are, however, far more of those that have seen the battle against *Poa annua* lost.

Some accept this as the way it must be, others try to reverse the trend which always takes far longer to achieve than the initial deterioration. Few should be surprised that the good soil husbandry and sound turf management required to restore desirable species also produces healthier *Poa annua*, unless taken to extremes, and a reduction in economic and environmental cost.

We can all list circumstances which can encourage *Poa annua*, such as shade, excess fertiliser, over watering, overly close mowing, too much traffic and too little aeration – but all of these can be addressed if all those individuals involved in management decisions are committed to promoting the desirable grasses.

Unfortunately, few imparting pressure for “green” greens or fast surfaces appreciate the consequences of the relentless chase of their ambition. Traditional, or common-sense, greenkeeping must come back into favour as the demands of the environment and commercial interest bite.

It is unfortunate that golf has to react to environmental legislation and a downturn in the golf economy, rather than embracing sound land management techniques which have been with us for over 100 years.

However, any historian of course management in the UK will tell you



◀ **Problems with species composition and resultant stress, be it drought or shade related, can be resolved if the cause is identified and dealt with.**

that greenkeeping is a story of trends, moving from one extreme to another, i.e. the farmer-led yield lobby to the starvation diet. Circumstance now dictates we base course management to the leaner end of this spectrum.

The term sustainable suggests a temporal dimension, i.e. it is time limited. We would suggest that any new green which retains a sward dominated by the grasses it was sown with 5 years after establishment has achieved a sustainable level.

This does not, necessarily mean a sward comprising 100% sown grasses, but one that retains at least 60% sown species could be considered a benchmark.

Although we accept there will be fluctuations in sward composition over the years, deterioration to a sward with higher maintenance demands goes against the principle of sustainability, both in terms of environmental and economic thresholds.

Best practice is any management programme which attains a sustainable sward and then continues to retain it over the long term.

Education is the key to future success in achieving economically and environmentally sustainable golf courses through best practice.

Those doubters in the greenkeeping profession have to be shown examples of where it works, and not just on links or dry heathland courses which are the natural homes to bent and fescue grasses, but on inland courses where it can be more of a power struggle.

Those educating the course managers of tomorrow have to realise that “traditional” values in greenkeeping are not a retrograde step, ignoring advances in technology, but complete compatibility with that technology is essential to the long term future of the game.

Most importantly, golfers have to be educated to appreciate the beauty and subtlety of shades of green and brown, the skill required to play firm greens and the benefit of promoting sustainable courses.

This will give them more value for their subscription, greater spending power for their club, enable golf to coexist better with the wider environment and produce more good quality courses.

Over the coming years, you will regularly hear from The R&A. We will update you on progress with the website, with examples of best practice in action – seeing is believing – and of the results of research that have practical application.

We are committed to best practice and management of courses that is environmentally and economically sustainable. We are also committed to the production of golf courses which have playing surfaces of a high standard for as much of the year as the climate will allow. We are convinced these are attainable and not mutually exclusive. Join us in achieving these goals.

Register your club to www.bestcourseforgolf.org today. Further details on The R&A's Course Management Best Practice Guidelines website and other aspects of the Golf Course Committee's work can be obtained from:

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NEW PRODUCTS

THREE SEATER GOLDONI TRANSCAR

BSG Supplies Ltd has launched its own 3-seater version of the new Goldoni Transcar utility vehicle. Built on the original chassis, a 3-seater body replaces the original 2 seat version, transforming the Goldoni Transcar into a fully functional utility vehicle providing proper seating with roll bar, arm rests and seat belts for three people. It will carry over 1 ton payload, has pto as standard and a 3pt linkage option.

The Goldoni Transcar range consists of the Transcar 28 air-cooled 26hp and Transcar 33 water-cooled 34hp version. Both can be adapted to a three-seater.

The new Transcars boast a number of additional design features to further increase the flexibility and suitability of these machines in areas requiring maximum traction and minimum soil compaction.

The new low emission Lombardini air or water cooled engines are cleaner, more efficient and effective in reducing noise levels. This and other adjustments to the design have been introduced to improve not only performance, but to create an ergonomic, environmentally friendly vehicle which out performs others in its class.

The new synchronised gearbox provides 8 forward and 4 reverse gears which are easily operated with re-positioned gearlevers, ensuring smooth transmission when working on slopes and in difficult terrain.

The three-way tipping body has a capacity up to 1900kg. The tipping



cylinder has been re-positioned to give an even greater incline to discharge its load.

A sound-proofed, heated cab with safety frame can be fitted to the rigid steer model, mounted on an integral platform fitted with new mufflers to absorb noise and vibration ensures maximum comfort for the operator.

For further information Tel: 01206 212092.

NEW TRACTOR MOUNTED SPRAYERS

Allman & Company has launched its Spray-King Tri-Tank range of tractor mounted sprayers, which comprises of the 200, 300, 400, 600 and 1000 models, all equipped with the most modern safety features as standard.

Allman's highly efficient and practical 'Tri-Tank' system means each machine has three separate tanks – the main spray tank; a clean water operator hand wash tank; and a clean water wash down tank to flush through and clean the sprayer circuit.

The polypropylene main spray tank is supported on a galvanised main tank chassis for increased resistance to corrosion. Tanks are offered in 220, 300 and 440 litre capacity sizes with large filling necks to eliminate spill and contamination and deep sumps to ensure use of the entire tank contents.

A chemical induction bowl is fitted as standard to the 400, 600, 800 and 1000 litre models. And the large suction filter can be isolated and cleaned even while chemical remains in the spray tank.

Hydraulic power for spray formation and delivery is provided by a Comet BP60/20 or BP 105/20 at 60 litres/min and 100litres/min, respectively. Control is via the well established Allman K-type manual control featuring three boom selection valves and pressure control regulator.

Boom width is 6m or 10 and 12 metre for the 600, 800 and 1000 litre models. All booms are equipped with quick-fit, self-aligning nozzles and diaphragm anti-drip valves.

Category 1 or 2 three-point linkage and hydraulic tank agitation for good chemical mixing and a uniformly concentrated spray mixture are provided.

Full consideration is given to reduced and minimal spray drift with readily available options on low drift nozzles. 'Shrouding' equipment for the 6 metre hydraulic boom or 12 volt electric folding boom, for sprayer conversion into the well-known Allman 'Driftmaster' tractor mounted sprayer.

For further information Tel: 01243 51251.



NEW LOOK TO COURSE CARE

Highspeed Course Care has recently launched its new website at www.highspeed.co.uk or www.course-care.co.uk.

The new website is easy to navigate and is clean and uncluttered. Information is easy to obtain and the built-in search engine works well. There are handy links to leaflets, pieces of legislation, relevant press articles and government agencies. There is a page of special offers too.

Covering a wide range of products and services including oils, greases, fuel treatments, fuel tanks, waste services, workwear, tools and equipment and now the new ClearWater Wash Pad Water Recycling Systems, the site is sure to be of interest to many in the industry.

Commenting on the launch, Highspeed MD David Mears said; "Our product range has grown considerably over the last three years and the old site needed updating. We took the decision to re-design the whole site and, already, the response now we have gone live is excellent."

For more information Tel: 0845 600 3572.



THE AQUA SERIES

Otterbine is launching its new series of floating aerators for ponds, lakes and other water features. Called the Aqua Series, the aerators are designed to provide the answer to commercial and residential owners who require only a small unit or have limited resources.

Capable of operating in just 14 inches of water, the units feature a choice of two attractive spray patterns - AquaGem, which is a 'trumpet' spray, and the AquaBlast, a bubbling spring effect that gives more aggressive aeration. On each unit the spray patterns are interchangeable and can be swapped over in just 15 to 20 minutes.

The aerators also feature the industry's first sealed, air-cooled motor, which offers significant performance advantages through limiting the hydraulic loss often associated with oil - water-cooled power units.

At a rate of 260gpm (59.1m³ / hr) and an oxygen transfer of 3.2lb/hp/hr (1.45kg/hp/hr), the Aqua Series statistics are among the highest in today's market. For that extra special effect night-time illumination lights can be added to the Series via a 'snap in' light setting consisting of two low-voltage (12V) halogen fixtures.

For further information Tel: 01480 226800.

MOWERS OF STEEL

Living up to their reputation for providing strong and rugged professional products, Charterhouse Turf Machinery have launched the Marina range of heavy-duty rotary mowers. The line-up includes a comprehensive selection of walk-behind units, together with a ride-on lawn tractor.

Topping the range of walk-behind units are the 'MX' series. These feature eye-catching stainless steel decks that resist rust and provide great strength. This makes them ideal for grounds professionals, landscapers and contractors.

All MX units are self-propelled. Two models, the MX 46SH and MX52 SH, have 4.5 and 5.5hp Honda petrol engines, while the flagship MX 52 SBTM has a Briggs & Stratton power unit with a 'Touch & Mow' feature, designed for effortless first-time starting. The cutting height of the MX units can be adjusted between 20-65mm.



The Marina 'AX' series have painted steel decks and feature Honda petrol engines throughout. They include the push-type AK 47H together with self-propelled models, namely the AK 47SH and AK 53SH, which both have 4.5hp engines, and the 5.5hp AK 57SH.

The model number denotes width of cut, measured in centimetres. Height of cut is 20-65mm on all but the AK 57SH, which has a maximum cutting height of 80mm.

All Marina mowers have a safety blade stop mechanism and each comes complete with a large capacity grass bag.

For further information Tel: 01428 661222.

NEW ZERO TURN MOWER

Toro has unveiled the Z500-D, the company's new zero turn rotary mower. The Z500-D offers superb controlled precision cutting under all conditions.

At the heart of the Z500-D is Toro's unique 60in Turbo Force high-performance cutting deck, adjustable to suit varying seasonal conditions. To withstand the toughest working environments, it is fitted with three blades that are made from quarter-inch-thick, high strength, heat-treated alloy steel.

The fully-welded deck shell is constructed from 7-gauge steel. Strength and durability are combined with high manoeuvrability via zero-turn technology that enables the mower to turn on its own axis through 260 degrees.

A 27hp Briggs & Stratton Daihatsu diesel engine powers the machine to operating speeds of up to 10mph. Cutting width is 60in and the height of cut can be adjusted between 1 1/2 and 5ins in quarter-inch increments.

For further information Tel: 01780 226800.



THE SWEETWATER SOLUTION

With increasing pressures being placed on the availability of water, it is becoming more important than ever for Greenkeepers to be aware of the quality of water being applied through their irrigation systems, particularly in regard to pH, Carbonate, Bi-carbonate and Salt levels and the effects this has on the production of healthy turf or plants. Unless treated to reduce pH levels and neutralise the effects of salts, use of water can be detrimental to good growing practice.

Over the past decade, there has been an ever-increasing interest and usage of a process using sulphur dioxide for the effective adjustment of pH levels in irrigation water and soil, rather than the previous use of often hazardous and expensive acid injection systems.

Until now, the benefits of sulphur dioxide technology have been mostly restricted to the larger irrigation user. However, the introduction of Sweetwater's 'Mini' sulphur dioxide generator



system now makes the system available to those irrigating golf course greens and tees, sports fields, bowling greens and landscape areas.

The development of The Sweetwater 'Mini' provides both low initial investment and running costs, with a safer environment and more precise controls over pH levels than previously possible.

Designed as an 'add-on' to existing irrigation systems the 'Mini' Sweetwater Solution Generator (SSG) simply links into the water extraction source, albeit a borehole, reservoir, or mains water storage tank. Capable of operating at low pressures of between 4-15 psi (0.275-1.02 bar) the 'Mini' will modify the pH and neutralise both carbonates and bi-carbonates in up to 30,000 gals (136.5 Cubic Metres) of water per day.

Hydroscape, who can provide a free scientific analysis of water and soil for prospective customers, to assess the suitability of the system, distributes the 'Mini' Sweetwater Solution Generator exclusively in the UK and Ireland

For further information Tel: 01425 476261



News from the Chief Executive

Having spent a week at the 2004 Open Championship at Royal Troon I was reminded when talking to the members of the BIGGA Support Team, and the many visitors, of the great camaraderie that exists in greenkeeping.

Living up to its name, the Association also played host to international members from Sweden, Spain, USA and Canada. The opportunity to participate in this prestigious event is only one of the many benefits of membership, however places in the team each year are regrettably limited. It was heartening to learn how members value the Association and how they either take advantage of or are involved with a wide range of its activities.

All too often in my travels I hear of members, or past members, who are disillusioned but when asked what more they would like they have nothing to say. Talk with those members who are involved at Section, Region or National level and you soon realise that the Association has come a long way since its formation in 1987. Perhaps too quickly for some! All too often though the work falls on the same shoulders and in many instances those who complain the loudest are the ones who are least willing to give up some of their time.

BIGGA has established itself as a leading body within the golf industry and as such is being involved more and more in the shaping of the future of golf and in both developing and delivering education. It enjoys a good working relationship with most other organisations and its trade partners and I have recently spent a great deal of time developing these links for the benefit of the Association and ultimately its members.

Like it or not times are changing and BIGGA needs to be proactive rather than reactive. I have again been warned of mounting pressure on company's budgets, especially with regard to exhibitions and marketing and I urge you to support BTME and ClubHouse, which is not only our flagship event but also our greatest financial resource.

We are doing our best to improve communication from Headquarters down to members however please remember that communication is a two way process!

My colleagues and I welcome any constructive comments and I would hope that you feel confident enough to contact the staff at any time.

Finally a 'plug' for the National Championship sponsored by Ransomes Jacobson which is to be held at Alwoodley Golf Club, Leeds, on October 4th and 5th.

There are only a few places left and further details can be found on page 38 of the July edition of Greenkeeper International or by contacting Sarah Norris at Headquarters.

John Pemberton



Peter Boyd
SCOTLAND & NORTHERN IRELAND
Tel/Fax: 0141 616 3440

SCOTTISH REGION

Central

This month's news begins on a sad note with the untimely passing of Fraser Waterson, Head Greenkeeper at Canmore Golf Club in Dunfermline at the age of 33 on June 30.



Fraser began his career in greenkeeping as a YTS trainee at Dunfermline Golf Club at 16, serving his apprenticeship there before moving to Canmore as assistant at the age of 20. After a year in this post he was promoted to Head Greenkeeper some 12 years ago. Fraser will be sadly missed by everyone who knew him, and our thoughts are with his family at this very trying time.

New Members joining us this month are Jon Methven, from the Dukes Course at St. Andrews, and David Gray, from Wellsgreen Golf Centre, at Windygates, both in Fife. As usual we extend a warm welcome to them both and hope to meet them at some of our future events.

The most recent winners in the Club 2000 draw are A. Dunn, S. McKnight, P. Boyd, D. McNeil, S. Cruickshank and J. Wilson; hopefully they have all received their cheques by now.

Everyone should have received their entry form by now for the Autumn Tournament at Downfield next month, **Please return them in plenty of time!** I have it on good authority that the BIGGA Communication Manager / Editor (that's Scott from the magazine to you and me!) will be in attendance, so if you play your cards right you might even get your photo in Greenkeeper International.

It was pleasing to see so many Central Section members in attendance at the Scottish Tournament, held at Kilmacollm Golf Club in June, and it was even more pleasing to see so many of them in the prize list.

Well done to everyone who attended, especially Brian Heggie from Auchterarder Golf Club, who qualified to play in the BIGGA National Championship.

I wouldn't name all the prize winners, it would take up too much space or it might make the other Sections jealous (before anyone gets upset I am only kidding!).

John Crawford

West

Well I hope everyone is enjoying the summer, I've got a bit of a backlog from my last report.

The greenkeepers / convenors match was held over at Glasgow Golf Club on April 15, the weather was terrible with heavy rain the whole day, but the course was in first class condition which is testament to the hard work of Stuart and his staff.

Once again Aitkens and Scottish Grass Machinery sponsored the event, many thanks for your ongoing support and to the captain and committee for allowing us courtesy of the course. Millport were the eventual winners so it's a trip over the water next spring, book early to avoid disappointment.

My own club Renfrew hosted this year's spring outing and after a heavy night of rain, and a few prayers, the sun was out for the whole day.

The results are Scratch. Chris Kerr, Cowglen, 72. First Class. Dougie McIntosh, Cathkin Braes, 75—2—73. Second Class. Neil McLehnan, Cawder, 80—12—68. Third Class. Robert Philips, Mulgavie, 104—28—76. Trade prize. Derek Duthie, Aitkens, 75—6—69. Apprentice Prize. Graham Ferguson, East Kilbride, 123—28—95. Visitors Prize. Joe Rae, Renfrew, 88—18—70.

Thanks to Captain Ian Murchison and the committee for the use of the course and to my staff who had the course in first class condition for the time of year.

History was in the making as there were four greenkeepers in attendance



Peter Larter
NORTHERN & MIDLAND
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who have previously worked at Renfrew. These being Sandy Bulloch, Gordon Kerr, John Barr and Jim Mckenzie who travelled up from Celtic Manor, maybe at the next outing George Barr will turn up and we'll have a full complement.

Kilmacolm hosted this year's Scottish Tournament and Ronnie Bunting and his team had the course in excellent condition. It was good to see so many greenkeepers who had travelled from all over Scotland to arrive to sunny conditions.

Once again Joe Bell was on the winners podium so I'm looking forward to going to Millport to collect my beers. Peter Boyd and his assistants were on hand all day for the smooth running of the tournament. Many thanks Peter and to everyone else involved.

The autumn outing will be held at Ralston Golf Club, applications will be sent out nearer the time. Regional training courses will be held over the autumn period for further information contact Gavin Jarvis, Mobile 07050-173080.

The section will be holding their annual night out during November, the venue has still to be arranged anyone with ideas please get in touch. This year's AGM will hopefully be at Hampden Park with a presentation of machinery and a tour of the museum.

As I said in my March report David Reed of Lenzie Golf Club was off to the gulf, he has now been there a couple of months and I'm sure everyone in the Section wishes him all the best.

Well that is all for now, anyone with stories or any information to be brought forward please get in touch. On a last note many congratulations to Robert the Bruce on his recent birthday he looks not bad for forty!!

Fraser Ross
Mobile 07970-366-355



North Wales

August is here and time for one and all to have that well deserved holiday and spend some quality time with the family, any jobs that didn't quite come to fruition for this season will now be too late, so the summer R & R is required before we start to look at the autumn / winter programmes starting late September / October.

Cearnarfon GC held the John Deere World Team Championships in July, and the course was in prestige condition, "not a blade of grass out of place" said one of the competitors, this must be due to the course manager I thought as he rarely has a single hair out of place on his head. Well done, Martin!

The results were as follows: 1. Worfield GC; 2. Clays Farm Golf Centre; 3. Ludlow GC.

The sponsor for the day was John Osman Turf Machinery and a big thanks to all involved in the organisation.

Further good news, Jeff Jago, from Sutton Hall GC, is expecting a baby (which is unusual for a man) I just wonder who the father is? Future congratulations.

The Senior European Tour is being held at Carden Park August 4 - 8. If you fancy going to watch, I hope this magazine reaches you before then.

See you next month

Mesen Cymru

Andrew Acorn - acorn@golf@supanet.com



Northern

Firstly welcome to Richard Hartley, Glyn Hewitt and John Johnson who have all joined the section this month.

On June 23 Presidents Day was held at Bradford Golf Club. The event was kindly sponsored by Palmer Landscapes. Many thanks must go to the Dave Thackray and his team for producing a fantastic course. The results are as follows;

Division One. 1. Andy Clarke, 42pts; 2. Tony Gerrard, 37pts; 3. Alan Court, 36pts. Division Two. 1. Adam Speight, 33pts; 2. Telford Jarvis, 32pts; 3. Richard Smith, 28pts. Division Three. 1. Jo Baxter, 37pts; 2. John Watts, 34pts; 3. Dennis Cockburn, 29pts. Trade. 1. Mike Brear, 38pts; 2. Phil Palmer, 36pts. Bill Mountain Trophy - Dave Thackray, 40pts. Nearest the Pin. Alan Court. Longest Drive. Phil Palmer.

The next event will be the Invitation Day at York Golf Club. It will be held on August 19, and tee off time is 1pm. As usual, please let me know at least a week before the event if you would like to take part.

Adam Speight, 16a Hodgson Fold, Myers Lane, Bradford BD2 4EB

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Email: adam@speight1156.fslife.co.uk

Adam Speight



North West

I recently reported in the section news that the Northern Section committee had decided not to continue playing the "Roses" match, however I have just been informed that the decision was reached by a show of hands at the AGM last October.

I still feel saddened that we will not have our annual get together, but I am sure we will all meet old friends at the BTME, each year.

On Thursday June 29 we played the Summer Tournament at Wigan GC, and although you might think your safe arranging golf dates for June how wrong can you be.

The wind came at us in 70 mph gusts bringing with it rain, which came at us like stair rods. After lunch we decided to give it a go, hoping it would clear up, it never did.

After about six holes our three ball decided it was time to give up and return to the clubhouse, but looking back we saw the game behind was on the tee ready to tee off. We decided to continue and not be ones to give in.

After finishing the game the matches behind us said that they had only continued to play because we had. You can't win can you. Apart from the weather conditions we had an excellent day, and the course was in magnificent condition thanks to Paul Walker and his staff, who not only prepared the course but also had to deal with fallen branches and debris from the overnight gales.

Many thanks to Wigan GC for allowing us the courtesy of the course, and the stewardess Marica McVinnie for a great meal, and of course her husband who kept the bar open till late while we watched the England game. The winner of the "Reg Vickers" trophy was Jim Grainger from Ringway GC, 34pts.

The match against N/Wales was played at Vale Royal Abbey GC on June 29. This is a new course (10 years old) but is in lovely condition and very tricky. Two teams of 10 players jostled for the coveted GEM trophy, with the winners being the N/Wales section 4 games to 1.

Our only winners were Steve Johnson and Mark Hillier from Wilmslow GC, but the remaining games were all close, mostly 2 and 1.

Many thanks to all the players for making the effort to attend and making it such an enjoyable day. Thanks also to Don Pemberton for arranging the



opportunity to play this lovely course, also many thanks to G.E.M for sponsoring the day.

Penrith GC is the venue for 'Whitelaw Bowl' which is sponsored by Rigby Taylor. It will be played on Wednesday September 8, and if you want to enter please contact me on 0151 724 5412 no later than September 1.

The Autumn Tournament is at Hurlston Hall GC on Tuesday September 14, all entries to Bert Cross, Harthill Lodge, Harthill Road, Liverpool, L18 3IU. Please include a cheque for £20 made payable to BIGGA N/West.

News of people on the move; Mike Goodhind has moved from Tytherington GC to Stockport GC, Stuart Hogg has moved from the North of Scotland to take over at St Annes Old Links, welcome to the North West Stuart, and congratulations in gaining your Master Greenkeeper Award. I am also informed that Alec Davies is about to return to the North West from New Zealand, welcome home.

That's it for now but you can contact me on 0151 724 5412 or 07761583387 with any news or views.

Bert Cross

MIDLAND REGION

East Midlands

Not a great deal to report this month, hopefully everybody is enjoying a successful season on their golf course with just the right amount of rain.

By now everyone should be in possession of their autumn entry form, if you do not have yours please let me know so I can forward you a copy. The date is September 21, the venue Farthingstone GC. Also on August 25 we travel to Stoke Rochford GC to play the East of England Section, if you are interested in playing on this day please let me know.

The following fixtures are as follows, AGM Rushcliffe GC November 11. Christmas Tournament, Beedles Lake GC December 8. Spring Tournament 2005, Melton Mowbray GC May 18. Autumn Tournament September 7, Cosby GC.

Antony Bindley



BB&O

Calcott Park GC provided all the ingredients for the perfect Summer Tournament, which was held on June 23. Clive Parnell and Gary Taite from GEM Professional were the main sponsors for the day.

Apart from wind, rain and dark clouds, which withered around for most of the afternoon, and undeterred by the prospect of getting soaked, a full field of keen hopefuls took to the tees with no shortage of spirituous assistance to help forget the bad round and celebrate the good.

The atmosphere of the club was wonderfully friendly and informal with all the staff ensuring that we all had a great day, with Lawrence, the chef, providing an excellent carvery meal which was enjoyed by all.

Thanks to Calcott Park GC for allowing us the use of their facilities for the day and credit goes to Simon Robinson and his team of staff for preparing the course and making this a challenging event, and not forgetting Simon's right hand man, well actually she is a woman.

Bridget is one of the few lady Deputy Head Greenkeepers to have made the grade. All Simon's staff will agree she would give any Sergeant Major a run for his money.

Results were as follows 1. Jamie Motts, Denham GC; 2. Dave Goodchild, Ellesborough GC; 3. Dan 'the man' Schillachi, Denham GC (hope I spelt it right). It was a big day for Denham GC as Jamie Motts also picked up longest drive with Ian Robbins, Ellesborough GC scraping nearest the pin. After purchasing a

new set of clubs Mark Ely put them to good use picking up the trade prize with 36pts.

Sponsors for the raffle were Vitax, Rigby Taylor, Tacit, Avoncrop, Calcott Park GC, Turner Groundcare, Banks Amenity and J.E. Ely. It was great to see more new faces at our events, long may it continue.

Marathon runner Linda Foker, East Berks GC, yes another lady greenkeeper, has decided to take the plunge and tie the knot to her husband to be Dave Bridger, congratulations to you both.

Gooner Scott Sanders after seven years at Chiltern Forrest GC is delighted to accept his new position as Deputy Head, as is Roy Hudson who leaves Lambourne GC to take a new position as Acting Head Greenkeeper at Mill Ride GC. Its now official Steve Shaw, Henley GC, is a very proud first time dad and father to daughter Kayleigh, we wish Steve and wife Natalie the very best with their new found parcel of joy.

Mark Day

Mid Anglia

To start with this month I must correct an error from last month's article, it was John Chapman and not Geoff James who qualified for the National Championship sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen, sorry about that chaps.

Still on the theme of the National I would like to point out to Dan Hodkin and John Chapman that they must enter the competition and pay themselves, then their entry fee will be reimbursed by the committee together with expenses for accommodation, totalling £150 each.

I know this is a little early but we have had prior warning from Woburn Golf and Country Club that golf shoes with soft spikes are only allowed on the new Marquess course.

Also it was agreed at the last meeting that due to the stature of the course and the carvery the entry fee will be increased to £30 for over 20's and £20 for the younger lads. Having played the course before it is well worth every penny.

On a personal note, I would like to wish Mark Ellis, formerly of Stocks Golf Club, all the best in the future. Mark is well known within the section and I'm sure he will succeed at whatever he decides to do.

As a result of Mark's exit there was a position to be filled, and I have been chosen to take his place.

I look forward to working at Stocks and know it will provide a good challenge for me. On the other side of joining Stocks I want to thank everyone at Mount Pleasant for their help and friendship that has been formed over the last nine and a half years, and wish them every success in the future.

This is going to be my last article for Around the Green, as I'm going to be a bit busy for a while. Bob Butfoy, from Heydon Grange, will be taking over the column and keeping you up to date with all the news and views from around the section.

Steve Mason

SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES

South Coast

Much to write about this month and I'm sure that Scott MacCallum will be cursing my latest attempt at war and peace.

Firstly a few movements within the Section. Ashley Wood Golf Club said a fond farewell to a college buddy of mine as he and his wife packed their bags and headed for a new life in New Zealand. Tony Hyde is an excellent Head Greenkeeper and will be missed both in the Section and our industry and we wish him every success in a new life of adventure and opportunity.



I'm sure Tony will keep in touch with us and let us know how he settles in, I will keep you posted. Mark Sherwood steps up from the position of Ashley Woods Deputy to Head Greenkeeper and Dave Hewitt, from the Dorset Golf and Country Club, has been appointed as Deputy Head Greenkeeper. We wish them both every success in their new challenging positions.

Kevan Glass has moved from his position of Deputy Course Manager at Salisbury & South Wilts Golf Club to take on the challenging role of course manager at New Forest Golf Club.

Kevan has developed into a dynamic, enthusiastic, first rate leader and, returning to the club where his heart lies, has great plans for the coming months and years. Sounds like a recipe for success and exciting times for all! Good luck Kevan!

Onto golfing matters and news of our much anticipated match against the Wessex Secretaries. Alresford Golf Club was the venue and the day was sponsored as usual by Course Care. The weather was good and a fine body of men gathered on the patio overlooking the course. All donned in our new white team t-shirts we watched with amusement at the formation mowing team on the greens.

Steve Privett and his team were ensuring that the greens were running at a good pace, hence the double cutting and rolling! After watching some of the members putting on the 18th, we soon realised a challenging afternoons golf was in store for us all.

The matches were played in very good spirit and the standard of golf was excellent on a very testing afternoon. The secretaries managed to edge the match 3-2 and we will be looking to seek our revenge next year.

Many thanks to Alresford Golf Club for their hospitality and to Steve Privett and his team for all their hard work in preparing the course for us, it was superb!

And last but no means least to Course Care for their continued sponsorship of the match. Dave Mears and Paul Dyter were on hand to support the Section team but we fell short this year, it will not happen next year!

Parkstone Golf Club was the next port of call for our Summer Invitation Tournament sponsored by Tacit. It was great to see Jim Arthur on the day, Jim was a guest of the club and had come to see how the traditional programme introduced in 1992, which he has advocated for 50 years, was progressing and he wasn't disappointed!

Although Jim has some difficulty with his mobility he has not lost any of his passion for the greenkeeping industry. It's a great shame that a new generation of greenkeepers are growing up and missing out on the great man's wisdom!

Off my soap box now! After the long hot spell of weather I suppose it was inevitable that it would break at some point and sure enough we were treated to some downpours the day before along with storm force winds.

Luckily on the day itself we were fortunate to escape with a couple of showers although the strong winds made the course very testing, particularly the last four holes.

The format was greensomes and my partner was our club chairman, who gave me an interesting look when I managed to thin his perfect drive down the first hole twenty yards into a fairway bunker! I feared the worst and thought a long round was to follow, but I did manage to redeem myself and we were still talking on the 18th so all was not lost!

The course was in excellent condition and scoring reflected this, winners on the day were; 1. Martin Woodrow & Tony Dashwood, 42pts; 2. Alan Magee & Tom Magee, 37pts; 3. Chris Bitten & John Clarkson, 37pts; 4. Andy McDonald & Alan Symonsons, 37pts; Longest Drive. Tim Webb; Nearest the pin. Tony Gadd.

Many thanks to Parkstone Golf Club for their superb hospitality and it was great to see their newly extended clubhouse. To Bill Garner and his hardworking team, many thanks for preparing the course so beautifully. Also thanks to Clubhouse Manager Phillip Toft and all his hardworking team for supplying us with two excellent meals.

A huge thank you for our sponsors Tacit. Without such generosity we could not have such wonderful golf days and we are very grateful even if Tim walked

away with one of the prizes for an excellent longest drive. Tim is getting himself a reputation for long hitting so we're waiting to see his handicap tumbling down!

A couple of final thanks to our tournament organiser Chris Sturgess and our new man responsible for scoring on the day Bill Williams. Bill did an excellent job for us and we hope he is available for our remaining fixtures!

Just one gripe from me. Chris puts so much time and effort into making an excellent job in organising our golf days and the last thing he needs are people complaining to him on the day. It spoils the day for everyone, so put up and shut up!

Phil Wentworth has asked me to request that all the Jim Fry pair's matches are played promptly so that the final can be played earlier this year. I am still trying to organise a Frank Newberry management course so please contact me if you are interested and have not already spoken to me. Anyway I have to close now as I have probably taken up half of the Around the Green section.

Don't forget to contact me if you have any news which you would like include in the Around the Green section. My contact details are Tel: 01202 661106, Mobile 07966 386232 or email me at a.mccombie@ntlworld.com

Until next time

Alex McCombie

SOUTH EAST

East Anglia

Forty fun loving golfers turned up at Bungay Golf Club on the July 10. Contrary to all the rumours about Bungay having no grass on the fairways - "one blade every ten yards" I heard, and I thought it was only fishermen that exaggerated, there seemed to be plenty of green stuff about.

The course was in good nick thanks to Mick Mean and his crew, who had obviously been doing the business to bring it back from the dead. Just tell me something, could you score 45 points on an 8 handicap playing on a load of rubbish, I don't think so. Take a look at the scores.

0-9. 1. Rob Boyce, 46pts; 2. Alan Sharp, 38pts; 3. Mark Henderson, 35pts. 10-18. 1. Kevin Hodges, 36pts; 2. Mark Clements, 33pts; 3. Steve Millard, 33pts. 19-28. 1. Glen Rayfield, 41pts; 2. Martin Brightwell, 36pts; 3. John Morley-Smith, 35pts. Guests / Trade. 1. Stuart Robson, 46pts; Nick Brown, 41pts; 3. Stuart Patterson, 39pts. Greenkeeper / Club Official Shield. 1. Rob Boyce & Basil Warren, 81pts; 2. Ian Willet & Stuart Robson, 75pts.

Nearest the Pin. Stuart Patterson

Longest Drive. Eddy Jack

Ray Forman won the loo seat but I can't remember how - Please inform me.

I know they didn't win any prizes but the three desperados, namely Richardson, Ruchbrook and Chesham scored 37, 36, 31 points respectively or respectfully even. On another day lads, on another day.

The main sponsor for the day was Toro; others were Vitex, Rigby Taylor (nearly forgot an old face back on our patch, Steve Dickinson returns to Rigby Taylor, welcome home mate). Where was I? Bartram Mowers, Ben Burgess, Tomlinsons, Sheriff Amenity, Sisis, Amenity Wise, Atterton & Barnard, Textron, Tacit, Headland, Amenity, K.B. Leach and anyone else who knows me. Our thanks once again to Bungay Golf Club for a really excellent day.

For those of you who didn't go to Bartram's open day you missed a good one. A real grass day, not a playground in sight and it's a lot closer than Windsor. Be there next year, you wouldn't be disappointed.

Mick Lathrope



Surrey

Dear Reader - Thank you once again for having the kindness and patience to read this mixture of fact and fiction. Some say that fact is often stranger than fiction, some say the reverse and most don't have an opinion either way.

For myself, I believe that when the result of the Surrey Section Golf day at Clanden Regis was 1. David Langheim; 2. Mark Harvey; 3. Adam Lunoe; 4. Tony Bremer; 5. Mike Sawaiki, 6. Ian Sellers, then fact is surely stranger than fiction written on the scorecards.

Many thanks to Steve Swanson and his greenkeepers for the effort in preparing his course to such a high standard, thanks for the excellent buffet and thanks to Clanden Regis GC for making us truly welcome.

The Neil Thomas Memorial Golf Day was held at Aldwark Manor Hotel GC on June 14 and our committee was asked to send a team to represent Surrey Section. After a 6-hour car journey, our chauffeur, Ian Sellers, cruised into a convenient parking spot only a few hundred yards from the hotel.

We all sat quietly contemplating the long journey and Tony Bremer again apologised for having had a curry the night before. Our tee time was just before 1pm and after a ploughman's lunch (TB was not allowed the pickled onions) we prepared ourselves for the battle ahead.

I know you would all have liked a shot by shot analysis of our Texas scramble but space is limited and my pen is running out, so suffice to say that your team, which included the above mentioned duo plus myself and Anthony Freeman, won first prize. Please see the photographs in another section of this magazine, copies are available and the team is willing to sign as required.

Brian Willmott



Essex

Well it is time to catch up on our Summer Tournament, held on June 23, and the National Qualifier held at Ballard's Gore, on a blustery day to say the least. The day was kindly sponsored by Seoul Nassau and with a special thanks to Richard Lewis.

We would like to thank Ballard's Gore GC and the Captain Tom Kennedy for the friendly hospitality shown by all the staff and on providing an excellent meal.

Finally to Paul Brown and his greenkeeping team for having the course in excellent condition.

Also congratulations to Orsett's dynamic duo Clark & Beale, not quite Batman and Robin but some say there is some likeness for turning in some top scores under very difficult weather conditions to qualify for the Nationals.

Overall Winner Best Net - Don Clark.

Best Gross. 1. Dave Beale; 2. Paul Brown, 3. Dominic Rodgers. Best Net. 1. Roland Hughes; 2. Dougie Fernie; 3. Craig Serafin. Guest. Roy Spong. Trade. Neil Peachy. Nearest The Pin. Roy Spong. Longest Drive. Richard Dunmow.

We would like to thank the following for the raffle prizes:- Collier Turf Care, Rigby Taylor, Tacit, Scotts, Sheriffs, Banks, Ernest Does, Tuckwells and Chelmsford Grass Machinery.

Adrian Cornell has organised our first autumn training day titled "Working With Pressure" with Frank Newbury as the lecturer, to be held on the November 17 at the Burstead Golf Club, the price is £49 + V.A.T. For further details please contact Adrian on 01376 562835.

Geoff Smith

Reigning Golfer of the year.



NORTHERN IRELAND

The first Friday in August is fast approaching again and that means Terry Crawford's Charity Golf Day will once again be played on Clandeboye Golf Club's Dufferin course. Terry is the course manager at Clandeboye GC and has raised over £10,000 in the last five years for the Children's Ward in the Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast.

Well over 120 players will compete again this year and the full results will appear in next month's magazine. Terry appreciates the continued support from greenkeepers, trade members, club members and Clandeboye GC at this annual event.

I would like to thank all the guys who have offered to help out at the British Seniors' Open at Royal Portrush from July 22 - 25. BIGGA members will be providing a support team at this year's event, so I will give a more detailed reported in September's Around The Green.

Our summer golf competition was played at Galgorm Castle GC on July 6. The afternoon fortunately stayed dry but very warm. Many thanks to owner Christopher Brooke for giving us courtesy of the course and also course manager David Snoddy and his greenkeeping staff for having the course in super condition. Thanks also to all the clubhouse staff, the food served was of the highest quality.

The competition sponsor was Coburns of Banbridge. William Cartmill and David Eager from Coburns receive a big thank you for their generous support.

The results on the day were; 1. Warren Burnside, Malone GC, 39pts - he wins a TV with DVD & video; 2. Michael Norman, Malone GC, 39pts - he wins a camera; 3. Aaron Fulton, Lisburn GC, 37pts; 4. Terry Crawford, Clandeboye GC, 36pts; Nearest the Pin. Terry Crawford.

Thanks also to Graham Prosser, from Tacit, who donated a prize for the nearest the pin.

Last month in my notes I prayed for just a little heavenly juice from above to, dare I say it, green up the course and raise our reservoir and lake levels. Yes as soon as I faxed my notes to Scott the thunder and lightening showers developed and over the last couple of weeks the irrigation systems have stood down for the moment.

Finally I would like to wish Neil Park, a greenkeeper at Allen Park, a speedy recovery from a broken arm.

Until next month

Ken Henderson

New computer, new contact

A new computer operating system was installed at BIGGA HOUSE last month.

Certain emails containing Around the Green notes which were sent in the week beginning July 12 may have been wiped out during the change around to the new system.

The official deadline for Around the Green notes is the 5th but I would like to apologise to any Section which sent notes slightly after that date but which have not appeared.

In future it would assist the production of the magazine if the Section notes could be sent to Assistant Editor, Gareth Jones, at gareth@bigga.co.uk or addressed to Gareth by post or on fax.

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The solution to the August Turftime Teaser was 'Mobile Mower Services Ltd'. The lucky winner of the Red Letter Day was David Moss from Teeside Golf Club - WELL DONE!!

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