

This means, for example, that it will not be possible to relate root infections to a specific grass type in a mixed sward and an accurate diagnosis of the turf symptoms cannot be made. In addition, large samples sent with a depth of rootzone will allow additional analysis of the rootzone quality and comments to be made on how this may relate to the symptoms on the sward (Figure 3). This is again not possible with hollow small core samples.

#### PACK THE SAMPLES CORRECTLY TO AVOID SPOILAGE

Samples should be wrapped tightly in newspaper or paper towel and packed into a padded bag or cardboard box for postage and not sent in plastic bags. It is important to try and keep the sward clean of rootzone and packing the sample tightly will prevent the sward from being contaminated during postage.

The rootzone contains many organisms that will 'spoil' the surface and potentially mask the symptoms of disease (Figure 4). Packing the samples in plastic bags will encourage them to sweat and to speed up saprophytic growth and plant decay (Figure 5).

Samples should then be sent by next day delivery to ensure minimal deterioration of the sward and rapid delivery of the result so that the problem can be dealt with quickly and effectively.

Remember to include your contact details with the turf samples – you would be surprised how many turf cores arrive in the laboratory with no indication of who sent them and from where.

#### WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR TURF IN THE LAB

Initially, the intact turf sample is looked at under a dissecting microscope at a magnification of up to 50x. This allows the infected grasses to be identified, the symptoms on the affected plants to be recorded and problems with the roots to be observed.

Small pieces of the affected plant material are then placed on to glass slides and viewed under higher magnification using a compound microscope that can magnify the material up to 1000x. On occasion, the fungus can also be isolated from the disease plant tissues by encouraging it to grow on to artificial nutrient media.

This isolation of the pathogen can allow characteristics of its growth habit to be observed away from the plant material and it can also be encouraged to produce spores that will confirm its identity.

The results of the analysis are issued in a report that states what has been found on the sample. It is only when the findings of the analysis are used in conjunction with the detailed history of the problem that diagnosis of the disease can be confirmed.

#### FROM FUNGUS IDENTIFICATION TO DISEASE IDENTIFICATION

Some turf disease problems are relatively easy to identify, if you know what you are looking for, but for the majority, information on the history of the problem is essential for an accurate and complete diagnosis.

The important facts that need to be given are (i) when did the symptoms first appear, (ii) what did they look like and how have they developed from then until the present day, (iii) how old is the sward (is it seedling turf or established), (iv) what grasses are present and which are affected, (v) what products were applied during a 10-14 day period prior to the symptoms showing, (vi) what products have been applied to the turf since the problem developed.

#### ANALYSIS CAN TELL YOU MORE THAN WHAT DISEASE IS PRESENT

Quite often, analysis uncovers evidence of product applications that have not knowingly been made. Suspicions as to the cause of any damage can often be confirmed or discounted, but often the best evidence of problems being related to applications is the presence of 'lines' across the damaged area – invertebrates and fungi don't do lines!



◀ Figure 4



Figure 5 ▶

Certain products 'distort' the growth habit of the plants in the sward and this is clearly visible under the microscope. Granular products can be seen at the base of the sward and descriptions of these can help you to confirm what has and what should have been applied.

I have had cases where I have been told that nothing has been applied to the sward, but analysis shows definite residues on the leaf (possibly fungicide) and intact granular products on the surface.

Accurate identification of the problem does depend largely on receiving all the facts and a pathologist is interested only in being able to help you to identify the cause of any damage.

Analysis of the rootzone can also highlight developing problems of water repellence and reduced water movement through the profile. If these are picked up early, severe problems can be avoided in later months.

Sending turf samples for disease analysis can be seen as another tool available to you in managing a healthy sward. Analysis can confirm the nature of current the problem and allow you to choose the best management option for your course. It can prevent unnecessary product applications and ensure effective use of resources.

A complete analysis can also inform you of potential problems in the rootzone and, where certain diseases are developing as a result of them, allow you to consider alternative cultural approaches to reduce disease incidence or severity.

Turf problems can develop rapidly on any well-managed sward but knowledge, experience, communication and openness can work together to relieve at least some of the stresses inherent in our profession.

*Dr Kate Entwistle, The Turf Disease Centre, Waverley Cottage, Sherfield Road, Bramley, Hampshire RG26 5AG. Tel: 01256 880246*



# NEW PRODUCTS

## ULTRA SPECIAL DEMOUNTABLE SPRAYER

The ultra-light, ultra-compact, ultra-low-profile demountable sprayer from Spraytech breaks new ground in sprayer design.

The ultra low profile tank offers not only unparalleled all round vision but near perfect weight distribution for greater stability on inclines, whilst the ultra light design provides both less stress on fine turf and less stress on back axles!

Because of an entirely new approach designed to improve both ease of build and down-time maintenance, the bewildering complexity of hoses and fittings common on other sprayers have been discarded in favour of a degree of simplicity not previously thought possible.

All services are now totally enclosed within the tank envelope. A new compact plumbing module, together with the triple diaphragm pump and a clean, direct coupled, hydraulic drive are located on removable trays, while hoses have been reduced to a minimum, one only 12cm long!



▲ RJ series 600 ltr sprayer and 4.5m Hurricane on a Cushman at Pedham Place, Kent

Spraytech's is the only sprayer worldwide fitted as standard with a BS6356 Part 9 sealed filling system demonstrating our unique concern for the sprayer operator and the environment – and as such it requires no special protective clothing to be worn.

The modular mix and match design permits a wide range of detachable zero-emission boom options, including ultra-

light Hurricane trailed and Tornado suspended booms, which offer manual or electric wing fold options, plus manual or power tilt boom stow options (standard open booms are also available). With shielded booms, any nozzle can be used with confidence, tank mixes spray up to three times the area, tripling productivity and on-target accuracy brings reductions in pesticide application of up to 20%, making these latest State of the Art sprayers perhaps the only machinery in the



▲ JD series 600 ltr sprayer and 4.5m Hurricane on a ProGator at Roehampton



▲ JD600 with 4.5m Hurricane neatly stowed around the tank for transit

workshop that actually make a contribution to overheads!

Products are available either from Spraytech direct or from carefully selected and appointed dealers.

For further information Tel: 0845 4080 675.

## NEW BRUSHCUTTERS

Tracmaster, manufacturer of the Camon range of garden and landscape machinery, have launched a new range of Camon 4-stroke Brushcutters.

With a combination of strength and superb Honda reliability, the Camon C25 Brushcutter features a D-loop handle and is powered by the GX25 4-stroke 25cc engine offering efficiency, reliability and reduced noise emissions.



The more Camon C35 features the 35cc Honda GX35 4-stroke engine, which combines strength with a lightweight design. The C35 is fitted with cow-horn type handles giving extra balance and control.

Designed for continuous use under the heaviest conditions, these superb Brushcutters use the innovative BesserTrim System, a cutting head that features a unique, patented nylon cutter, designed to eliminate the tangling and clogging commonly associated with the nylon line found on most conventional brushcutters.

Designed and built to Tracmaster's own specifications, the Camon C25 and C35 Brushcutters are the perfect addition to their comprehensive range of landscape, groundcare and garden machinery which already includes Cultivators, Turf Cutter, Mowers, Stump Grinder, Trencher, Hole Borers, Chippers and Shredders to name just a selection!

For further information Tel: 01444 247689.

## GRIP AND GRAB

New to the STV International innovative range of handy home products is the Grip 'n' Grab Picker. This tool is a must with its patented 'Sure Grip' jaws enabling precision picking of all manner of objects from 1g to 1kg.

The Picker is great for fruit picking, the 'soft feel' lining to the jaws protecting the fruit, or as a pruning aid moving brambles out of harms way allowing the operator to prune in comfort.

A reach of up to 1.5 metres can be made with the picker, ideal for high shelves, picking off the floor without bending or retrieving those items that annoyingly drop behind furniture or heavy machinery, plus dozens of other uses.

The STV International Picker is lightweight and is operated with a simple trigger action and retails for just £9.95.





## NEW FROM BSG

BSG Supplies Ltd has launched two new additions to their range of utility vehicles; the Goldoni Transcar 28 air-cooled 26hp and Transcar 33 water-cooled 34hp version. 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 outperforms others in its class. The new synchronised gearbox provides eight forward and four reverse gears are easily operated with re-positioned gearlevers, ensuring smooth transmission when working on slopes and in difficult terrain. Road speed has been increased to achieve up to 30kph, with larger adjustment free brakes for safety and control. Rigid and articulated steering options are available. 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. The new digital display dashboard gives easy to read information on speed and (once engaged) PTO rpm.

For further information Tel: 01206 212092.

## TOP PRIZE FOR SHELTON'S

A major technological advance in sportsturf drainage by Shelton Sportsturf Drainage Solutions has been recognised by the Royal Agricultural Society of England (RASE). The Society has awarded its prestigious Silver Medal to the Shelton System 25™ a machine designed to install intensive drainage systems on sportsfields and other areas of fine turf.

The Shelton Company designed the machine with the aim of digging trenches 25mm, 50mm, or 75mm wide with minimum disturbance to the playing surface. To this end they have a conveyor carrying the excavated soil to a trailer running alongside. Simultaneously, a vibrating hopper on the rear of the machine places a permeable fill in the trench in a one-pass operation.

Such is the neatness of the completed operation use of the facility may be resumed almost immediately.

The RASE judges praised the high build quality of the equipment noting the fact that stainless steel has been used extensively in its manufacture. Stainless steel enhances soil flow through the trencher and gravel placement in the narrow trenches, as well as saving weight and having non-rusting properties.

Shelton System 25™ has also been specifically designed to install 25mm diameter land drainage pipe; additionally it is capable of handling 60mm and 80mm land drainage piping.



This advanced equipment is mounted on the 3-point linkage of a tractor and will be of interest to those managing golf courses, football stadia, racecourses, caravan sites and the like.

## RANGE OF SEEDERS

Rustons Engineering is now offering a choice of seeders and over-seeding units as part of the Rotadairon range of soil renovation equipment that the company distributes in the UK.

The seeding machines are available either to fit behind a soil renovator, so ground can be prepared and seeded in a single pass, or as separate tractor-mounted units for use on already prepared ground. The former are available with working widths from 0.75 metres to two metres and hopper capacities from 55 litres to 200 litres, and they require from 12 to 90hp, depending on the model and soil conditions. They cost from £835 to £2735.

Two tractor-mounted models are available - one with a 1.5 metre working width and 150 litre hopper requiring 30 to 60hp, the other working at two metres with a 200 litre hopper that requires 50 to 95 hp. The 1.5 metre model costs £4650, and the two-metre version £5325.

The over-seeders are used in tandem with scarifier units that aerate and remove thatch on mature turf and can be supplied either 1.4 or two metres wide with 150 litre or 200 litre hoppers. The machines, which can place seed in rows or across - the full working width, cost £7995 or £10,995, complete with scarifier units.

All the Rotadairon seeders have stainless steel hoppers and seed tubes, wind-guards and adjustment mechanisms that allow precise seed rate control.

For further information Tel: 0114 266 4668.







# News from the Chief Executive

Three months into my new role as Chief Executive and I wonder where the time has gone. The management structure at Headquarters has been revised and now centres around myself, Ken Richardson, Scott MacCallum and Rosie Hancher thus creating a positive team which is committed to working with the Board of Management and to moving the Association forward. In line with my determination to improve the transparency of the day to day running of the office we have already visited many Section and Regional events and meetings, with more planned for the coming months. We have also welcomed many visitors to BIGGA HOUSE, some for the first time who realise that the staff are approachable and work hard on their behalf. This exercise has been well received by members who all too often feel that the headquarters staff are remote from them and the realities and pressures of greenkeeping today. I have also been concentrating on building relationships with the other bodies with whom we are associated as well as strengthening the ties with our trade partners. While we are a significant body ourselves we must not lose sight of the fact that we are only one part of the industry and if we are to influence thinking in the future on such topics as the environment or education then we need to present a unified approach to others.

Through my column each month I will attempt to keep you up to date with BIGGA's current policy, its implementation progress and I'm sure a few thought provoking and perhaps at time contentious observations and comments.

Plans are well under way for BTME & ClubHouse 2005 and the halls are already approximately 80% sold. Twice a year we hold a Steering Committee meeting at Aldwark comprising of exhibitor representatives and members of BIGGA staff. There is however still a strong undercurrent in the trade which would like to restrict the number of shows serving the industry to one each year in order to reduce their costs.

The more popular suggestions are: 1) Alternate shows annually with the IOG ie SALTEX one year and BTME & ClubHouse the next; 2) Combine forces with the IOG to produce one show at the NEC and 3) Reduce BTME & ClubHouse to a two day show. The Association is committed to an annual exhibition in Harrogate and will do its utmost to ensure that it is a successful three day event. In this connection Rosie and I recently travelled to Peterborough to meet with members of the Outdoor Power and Equipment Industries division of the Agricultural Engineers Association whose members include some of the major machinery manufacturers. Their concern over the future of exhibitions was re-iterated and I can only stress how crucial the profit from the show is to the funding of BIGGA's activities. We continue to talk to try to find a mutually acceptable solution however the support of members is paramount. If you need any more information or would like to know how you can help then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Finally I would like to thank Derek Farrington for his eight years of loyal service to the members of BIGGA, especially in the South East Region where he was the Regional Administrator also latterly helping out in the South West and South Wales Region. Derek retired at the end of May however I am sure that he will continue his ties with the Association through other channels.

**John Pemberton**



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

## SCOTTISH REGION

### North

My apologies to the Section for there being no reports for the last two months, so I will try to bring you up to date.

New members are Dale Steven, Forres GC; Marc Miller, Elgin GC; Christopher Bruce, Duff House Royal; Stephen Grant, Kintore GC; David Leys, Kintore GC; Steven Arnott, Kintore GC; Fraser Munro, Kingussie GC; Welcome to the Section lads. I hope you can make it to some of the outings.

The Spring outing at Moray GC in May was well attended and the course was very well presented by Martin Cameron and his staff with the greens in particular being in 1st class condition.

The Captain and catering staff are also to be thanked for a very enjoyable day. The prizewinners were as follows;

Longest drives: Class 3 G. Asher, Kemnay GC; Class 2 P. Wood, Newmachar GC; Class 1 M. Miller, Moray GC. Nearest the Pin: A Stewart, Royal Aberdeen GC. Sweep: 4. R. Donald, Oldmeldrum GC; 3. S. Robertson, Craigiehill GC; 2. H. Mclatchie, Peterhead GC; 1. M. Main Moray GC.

Guest Winner: Ross Warrender 89-13-76. Trade Winner: Mike Dennis, Rigby Taylor, 84-11-73. Committee Trophy: H. Mclatchie, Peterhead GC, 93-22-71. Veterans: 2. G. Asher, Kemnay GC, 106-18-88; 1. A. Grant, Fraserburgh GC, 88-13-75. Apprentice Trophy: 2. M. Anderson, Elgin GC, 89-6-83; 1. M. Rae, Newmachar GC, 77-4-73. Class 3: 3. D. Adams, Newmachar GC, 107-28-81; 2. M. Wood, Moray GC, 97-17-80; 1. H. Mclatchie, Peterhead GC, 93-22-71. Class 2: 3. B. Brooks, Newmachar GC, 86-12-74; 2. B. Cocker, Alyth GC, 88-14-74. Class 1: 1. M. Main, Moray GC, 87-16-71. Class 1: 3. A. Stewart, Royal Aberdeen GC, 82-6-76; 2. Bradley Wood 78-3-75; 1. R. Donald, Oldmeldrum GC, 79-6-73. Scratch: 2. B. Cruickshanks, Garmouth/Kingston GC, 76; 1. M. Ross, Elgin, 72

200 Club Winners: Jan. Stewart McBain; Feb. S. McIntosh; Mar. H. Mclatchie; Apr. J. Robertson.

Some other news, Celtic diehard, Robert Hardie, Head Greenkeeper at Craibstone GC, has become a father again and this time its a baby boy. Congratulations Rab. Also congratulations to Keith Wood, of Aberdeen Links, whose wife has had a daughter.

A major thanks to Jim McCormack, of Kirriemuir GC, who raised around £5,000 for the Anthony Nolan Trust when he scaled the heights of Kilimajaro. A tremendous achievement Jim and a lot of people are very thankful to you for your efforts.

Congratulations also go to Gary Gruber, Head Greenkeeper of Skibo Castle GC, who presided over the Northern Open in May. The course was a great credit to Gary and his staff.

On the golfing side congratulations again to Steven MacIntosh, Course Manager at Torvean GC, who retained his Ross-shire County Championship title at Tain GC with scores of 70, 71 in very difficult conditions; and to Derek Chisholm Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Kingussie GC who won the Inverness County Championship at Kingussie GC with scores of 66 and 68, also in very difficult conditions. A season ticket to Celtic Park was also a prize for these guys.

On the move is Stuart Hogg, of Fortrose GC, who has now taken the position of Course Manager of St Annes Old Links. Stuart was at Fortrose GC for many years and had been in charge for the last 10.

He has recently been awarded his Master Greenkeeper Certificate, which is a testimony to his ambition and the hard work he has put in over the years. Fortrose GC have also been awarded many environmental awards under Stuart's supervision.

Kevin Fowler, Stuart's Deputy for the last few years has been appointed as the new Course Manager and we wish him all the best.

I hope everyone has a trouble free summer, and the weather is good to you.  
Iain Gunn





Peter Larter  
**NORTHERN & MIDLAND**  
 Tel: 01476 550115



**NORTHERN REGION**

**North Wales**

The Open Championship at Royal Troon GC will be with us in a couple of week's time and for all of you involved with the BIGGA Support team, you will shortly be boarding that plane from Liverpool to Glasgow or Manchester to Prestwick and then across by bus or taxi to the links.

The biggest event of the year, with the rest of the world watching your help is a vital part for the smooth running of the tournament and it looks like we will yet again be treated to some brilliant expertise with all the top players battling for the prestigious Claret Jug.

Closer to home the Welsh Ladies and the Welsh Men's Team Championship will be held at The Vale of Llangollen GC, from August 11-15.

Our Spring Tournament this year took place at Porthmadog GC and our thanks go to Gareth Williams and the team for the presentation of the course. With the fairways running very fast at 15 on the stimpmeter it was great to reach the receptive greens as we needed something to stop the ball on!

Our thanks also to the caterers for a fine carvery meal and to the club for giving us such a warm and friendly welcome.

A gift in the form of a book on Greenkeeping from a Canadian author Gordon Wittenveen (who also played in the event) was presented to Gareth, after the meal.

I believe he has read some of it and finds it extremely interesting.

The results are as follows; Greenkeepers: 1. Les Parry, Arrowe Park, 35pts; 2. Aled Hughes, Porthmadog, 33pts; 3. John Humphreys, Oswestry, 31pts. Guests: 1. Carl Ashly, 34pts; 2. Fred Crouch, 29pts. The Trade Shield went to Jim Openshaw. We had two Nearest the Pin prizes on the 9th and 13th and these were won by Stuart Hayley, Vale Royal Abbey, and Huw Brown, Golf Son Saura, respectively.

Just across the estuary at Royal St David's the Kerry bros and team, have just hosted another successful European Tour Seniors Event this now being an annual fixture on the calendar the final day being played on July 4. (Just a note to Roger Kerry – I hope you are looking after my pound, as I will be winning it back in our autumn competition at Bromborough GC).

Until next time, keep it on the short grass!

Mesen Cymru  
 Andrew Acorn

**Sheffield**

Nothing much to report this month so just a reminder that our Chairman, Gordon Brammah, is progressing nicely with the new Section library, but still needs as many contributions as you can spare.

I'm sure that if you dig around at home, work or in the back of your locker you may find something that you no longer need but might be of use to another Section member.

Best wishes go to David Ingleton who has left Gainsborough Golf Club after 19 years as greenkeeper and mechanic. Dave worked for the club firstly as a greenkeeper then progressed to take on the role of mechanic, looking after the clubs large inventory of machinery.

Very well known by the trade members Dave didn't take an active role in the Association due to his various interests outside work including shooting, fishing, tractor restoration and generally being a Shedhead. The club were sorry to see him go but he left with the club's very best wishes for success in his new employment.

On a lighter note I came across this tale from a website that might interest a few of you who enjoy a laugh.

Bill arrived home from golfing well after dark. His wife, Sally, asked him where had he been all day. He told her that after his 8am round of golf, he stopped to help a gorgeous blonde with a flat tyre. He then went back to her house where they spent the whole afternoon in her bedroom making mad passionate love.

Sally replied, "You lying S.O.B! you played 36 holes, didn't you?"

This and thousands more that are too rude to print are waiting for you at [www.golfjokes.co.uk](http://www.golfjokes.co.uk).

Don't forget you can call me with any news or comments on 01427 614175 or 07904 121690 or e-mail me at [www.geoff@wellsy1.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:www.geoff@wellsy1.freeserve.co.uk).

Geoff Wells

**Northern**

The date has been set for the Northern Section v Sheffield Section match. It will be played at Huddersfield Golf Club on September 15. Start times and other information will be available at a later date.

As some of you may already be aware, at the last committee meeting, Tito Arana stepped down as Chairman and off the committee with immediate effect.

This was due to Tito leaving his post at Riddlesden Golf Club and becoming a car salesman. So, if you fancy a new Nissan, Tito's your man!

I and the rest of the Northern Section Committee would like to thank Tito for all his hard work over the years, and I know he'll be very much missed at all Section events, especially by our new Chairman, Andy Slingsby, who'll now have to make all the speeches!

Welcome to Paul Dankin, who has joined the Section this month.

In next month's report I shall bring you the results of this years President's Day.

Any news regarding Northern Sections can be relayed to me at the usual address: 16a Hodgson Fold, Myers Lane, Bradford BD2 4EB

Telephone 01274 638366; mobile 07739 319060 or email [adam@speight1156.fsife.co.uk](mailto:adam@speight1156.fsife.co.uk)

Adam Speight

**MIDLAND REGION**

**BB&O**

Having read many issues of various different golfing stories over the years, I recently had the pleasure of listening to one which I am sure, given time, will be published in many a golfer's book and magazine.

It all happened at Wycombe Heights GC during March this year. As part of their winter maintenance programme it was decided that a new championship tee would be built on the signature par-3 16th hole. Rob Surgy and one of his senior assistants carried out the work.

The tee was completed shortly before Christmas and left to mature ready for the new season in the spring. Three months would pass and in late March it was decided that while playing golf that afternoon, Rob and his team would be the very first people to play the newly-constructed tee. The weather was perfect and the receptive pin tucked away in behind one of the greenside bunkers, which protects the green.

Colin, the senior assistant, who helped build the tee three months earlier, was the very first player to tee off after a slippery birdie on the 15th. With an 8-iron in his hand Colin (the best ball striker in Wycome as he now likes to be known!) stepped up, teed it high and let it fly straight down the throat of the pin pitching 18 inches from the hole directly in line and with a bounce and a touch of check it released slowly into the hole.

As you can imagine there was a big eruption on the tee and all preceded to congratulate Colin on his first hole-in-one. We believe that this must be a first in golf as Colin had constructed and built the tee and was the first person to strike a ball at the green and to get a hole in one, this must be some kind of record. Guinness Book of Records take note!

On a negative note the Rigby Taylor Knockout has been cancelled due to lack of support from the members but on a positive note your feedback and comments about this competition will always be welcomed and it is hoped that with constructive feedback this once popular competition will thrive again bringing



## Get to the bottom of Dry Patch problems

### COMPLETE IMMERSION TECHNOLOGY

**RT**  
rigby taylor

When standard wetting agents are applied to turf they infiltrate the ground through the force of gravity. Inevitably dry spots are left within the rootzone that will continue to be water repellent.

But that's now all in the past.

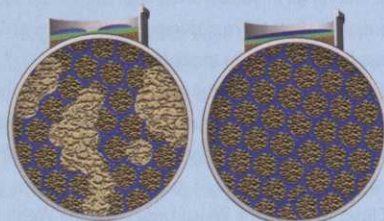
#### Complete Immersion Technology

Breaker Triple is the latest advance in wetting agents, incorporating Complete Immersion Technology. It contains three advanced components to prevent and cure Dry Patch:

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This powerful combination ensures a strong attraction between the applied product and the water-repellent particles.

The unique spreading action moves the wetting agent both downwards and sideways, effectively treating the whole of the soil profile.



Partial immersion from a standard wetter – many soil particles remain untreated

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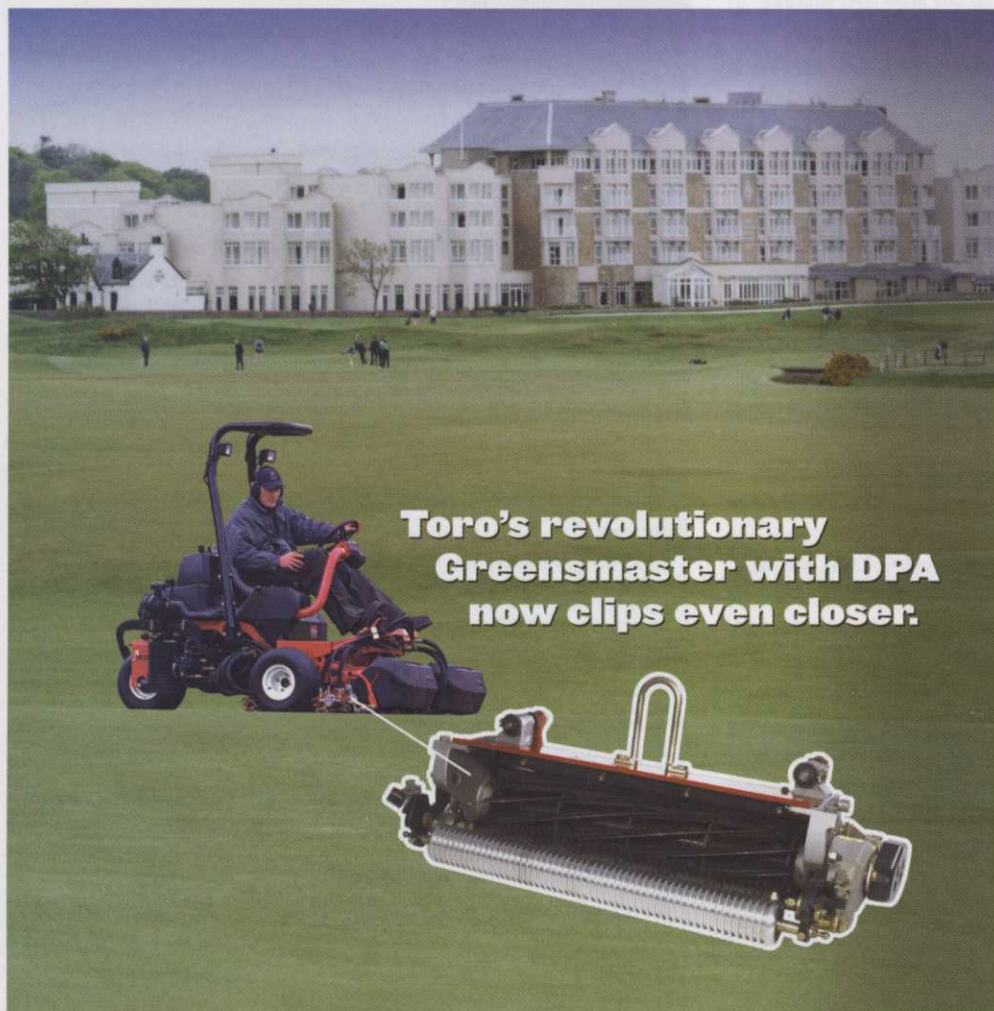
What starts as a totally water-repellent soil is converted to a water-receptive soil. The results are consistent and long-lasting.

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**Toro's revolutionary Greensmaster with DPA now clips even closer.**

**Outstanding, that's the new cutting system from Toro. It shaves golf greens closer than ever – down to one-sixteenth of an inch!**

Toro's new Greensmaster 3250-D has pushed ride-on mower cutting technology to its lowest limits. Three 53cm wide DPA (Dual Point Adjust) cylinders clip 0.8mm closer than previous units – ideal for hard-cutting new plant cultivars for faster greens.

The lightweight, die-cast aluminium cylinder frame is durable and precision-engineered for micrometre bedknife-to-reel adjustments of just 0.01778mm.

With DPA cutting heads as standard on 8- and 11-blade units, and precise contour following from the narrower track between front and rear rollers, Toro's Greensmaster 3250-D gets up close.

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enjoyment to all who participate. Your comments, suggestions and ideas to John Scoones 07880 550 380.

Alistair Holehouse from Blue Mountain GC is leaving the American Golf Group after seven happy years and has accepted a new challenging position as Course Manager with Royal Ascot GC in Berkshire. We wish Alistair well in his new venture.

Meanwhile rock and roller, Justin Robinson from Henly GC, is jetting off to Las Vegas to tie the knot with the lovely Liz, his bride to be. Congratulations. Will it be an Elvis Wedding? Wait and see.

Mark Day

## Midland

As I sit here reflecting on a recent visit from my Uncle in Canada, my thoughts are concerned with a planned trip to Iceland to visit a good friend I met in Austria of all places.

My only worry is the outlandish cost of liquor within Iceland. What is a half Irish/Scottish, Englishman to do in such a situation? Rob a bank comes to mind. Perhaps sobriety would be better. What a refreshing change that would make!

So down to business. I am currently in the midst of organising both the snooker and angling events for this Autumn. I hope you will support these sponsored events as well as you did last year. I will let you know the dates next month my friends. Please support them as they take a lot of organising and are done on your behalf as none golfing fixtures.

For some 25 years plus, Hughie McIlwaine has served within our profession with what can only be described as immense character. Hughie has recently been though the mill heath-wise, but with his poultice of Juniper Berry's and Wild Salmon he is doing well. We all wish you the best mate.

On the note of long serving people in our profession, the Section would like to wish John Rawlings every happiness in his well earned retirement.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome five new members to our fine Section. They are Trevor White, Joao Faisca, Gary Carr, Kevin Baker and Sean Wilson. We all look forward to welcoming you to our many and varied events.

On a somewhat personal note, I would like to wish John Wilkes all the very best in his new venture in Scotland. You had better change that accent Wilkston B'hoy's. By God, I've done nothing but talk about members, what's the world coming to!

Don't forget entries to our Autumn Tournament at Hawstone Park have to be in by August 23. As you will see from your fixture card, this is to include our AGM after the golf, with a 5pm start. This year's AGM is earlier than usual due to our Christmas Tournament being held at Hoylake.

Until next month, enjoy the wonderful weather.

Sean McDade

## East Midlands

This year's Spring Tournament was held at Kirby Muxloe Golf Club on Wednesday May 12. The weather was dry and cloudy which was a big improvement on all the rain over the past two weeks.

The course must have been in good condition, or the golfers played good golf, as some excellent scores were posted. We were also honoured to have the company of the Club Captain and Club Manager of Kirby Muxloe, who joined us for the golf and the evening meal.

The scores for the day were as follows: Best Gross: Chris Brown, Horsley Lodge, 77. Best Nett: Des Foster, Casby, 90-28-62. Category 1: 1. Russell Allen, Horsley Lodge, 80-8-72; 2. Dave Leatherland, Kedleston Park, 80-9-73.

Category 2: 1. Greg Skinner, Lingdale, 79-12-67; 2. Jamie Bedford, Birstall, 84-16-18. Category 3: 1. Frank Kempster, Cosby, 90-22-68; 2. Craig Watt, Glen Gorse, 93-23-70 Trade and Associate: 1. Russell Latham, Mansfield Sand, 85-18-67; 2. Dave Ritchie, Captain Kirby Muxloe, 77-9-69.

Also as part of the evening presentation a long service award was presented to Mark Bindley by the Captain of Kirby Muxloe for completing 25 years of service.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody at Kirby Muxloe Golf Club for the courtesy of the course and their hospitality.

A special thank you should be extended to Dave Ritchie and Brian Woodcock, Captain and Club Manager, for their participation on the day. Also to the caterers, Rival Catering. Finally I would like to, on behalf of the East Midlands section, thank Mansfield Sand for sponsoring the prize day, and Tacit for Nearest the Pin and Longest Drive awards.

Next years Spring Tournament will be held at Melton Mowbray Golf Club.

Antony Bindley

## Mid Anglia

Hello chaps, it's me again, sorry there have not been any reports for a while but there hasn't been a lot of news to write about.

I would like to welcome Bob Butfoy and John Gubb to the committee and hope their input will be of benefit to us all.

Back in May we had our first competition of the season which was held at John O' Gaunt. Thanks to Colin Robinson and his team for the great effort and hard work they put in to provide us with two superb courses.

This was over 36 holes and also a qualifier for the National Championship in October.

The results were as follows: 1. Dan Hodkin, Knebworth; 2. Geoff James, John O' Gaunt; 3. Chris Slimm, John O' Gaunt. Dan and Geoff have made it to the National and will given a donation from the Section to cover the cost of accomodation.

Other results were: Nearest the Pin: am, Steve Mason; pm, Clive Parnell, and Longest Drive: am, Dave Thompson; pm, Gerald Bruce.

Our main sponsor for the day was Rigby Taylor and thanks to Gareth Knight for providing a great prize table and also to all the Trade members for supplying a well stocked raffle.

Thanks to the caterers for looking after us throughout the day and finally the Golf Club for the courtesy of their courses.

The next meeting is at Mount Pleasant on Wednesday July 28 with tee times booked from 1pm. Coffee and bacon roll on arrival and a two course evening meal, which will be casual dress instead of collar and tie. Entry will be limited to 30 so get your forms in early to avoid disappointment.

If anybody has something they want to say please get in touch with any member of the committee and we will try to air your views through this column.

Steve Mason

## East of England

The third golf day of the year was held on June 3 at Belton Park. Congratulations go to Gary Poole and his staff on the condition of the course, it was just a shame he couldn't do something about the weather as half the round was played in very heavy rain.

The weather didn't affect the scoring and the Burdens Cup was won by Steven Beverley with a very good 42 points (we will be reviewing his handicap) 2, Ben Corby, 38 pts; 3, Graeme Macdonald 35 pts. Nearest the Pin: Peter Larter; Longest Drive: Rob Welford. Stewart Clayton won the trade prize with 38 pts.

Many thanks go to Burdens Groundcare for their continued support and sponsorship of this event.

The next event will be held at The Lincoln Golf Club on July 22.

Good luck to Rob Welford, from Immingham Golf Club, who is getting married next month to his long term partner, Natasha. If any other members have any news for Around The Green, please let me know and I will put it in the next issue.

Les Howkins





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2004 will see the BIGGA National Championship contested over both days at The Alwoodley Golf Club, Leeds, which is officially recognised as one of Britain's finest inland courses. The Golf Club, which was the first course to be designed by the famous golf architect Dr Alister MacKenzie, regularly hosts county and national events and ranks as one of the top 50 Championship courses in the UK & Ireland. The course layout forms part of Wigton Moor and is of a natural moorland character. In addition to its scenic beauty, the course offers a challenge to all golfers, with only the 10th and 11th greens altered from their original designs. The Championship Dinner will be hosted in the impressive Alwoodley clubhouse on the Monday evening.



The Championship over 36 holes of stroke play will produce the BIGGA National Champion, based on the low handicap score, who will win the prestigious BIGGA Challenge Trophy. The low gross winner will be presented with the BIGGA Challenge Cup. The BIGGA Regional Team Cup and prize will be calculated from the 8 best nett scores on the first 18 holes of the competition. There will be prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd over 36 holes in both the nett and gross categories. Each day, over 18 holes, prizes for the winners will be awarded in three handicap categories.

#### ENTRY

Members may enter the competition on a first come, first served basis as per the package below:-

Cost £85 (inclusive of VAT). Includes entry into the Championship, lunch at the golf club on each day and dinner on Monday 4 October. Entrants must make their own accommodation arrangements.

Entries will be limited to 100 and entrants must be full greenkeeper members of the Association.

#### ACCOMMODATION

For accommodation queries please contact the Leeds Accommodation Booking Hotline on 0800 80 80 50.

#### SUGGESTED LOCAL HOTELS INCLUDE:

Weetwood Hall Hotel	<a href="http://www.weetwood.co.uk">www.weetwood.co.uk</a>	0113 230 6000
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**SOUTH WEST  
& SOUTH WALES**

**South Wales**

Hello all. Firstly I would like to thank you all for the phone calls, e-mails, letters that I did not receive.

The Welsh Open has come and gone, I was lucky enough to attend on the Friday and witness the superb round of golf by the eventual winner, Simon Khan, played on a superbly presented golf course. A huge well done goes to the Celtic Manor Resort - Jim and his staff in particular.

Adrian Panks (strimmer boy from Dudley) is officially nuts. That's the conclusion I came to when I spoke to him at the open and he informed me that he will be doing a little bike ride.

As some of us know he has just recovered from a serious health scare, so the sensible thing would be to ride a bike to keep healthy – sounds good. However he has signed up to do the Taff trail which is 110 miles in one day! I told you he was nuts. He is doing it for charity so any donations will be gratefully accepted. Contact him at Llanwern Golf Club.

I have been accused in the past of favouritism to one Peter Lacey and some are calling this Section Lacey's Chronicles. I feel that I have to inform you of his recent jog around London. Yes he's done the London Marathon and he had a strategy.

His strategy was to run behind the model, Nell McAndrew, who is known as a fit athlete and the sight of her behind would inspire him to his hopeful time of 4 hours 21 minutes.

However, the problems started when she began stopping for TV interviews and Lacey was stopping with her and he was jogging in the background staring at her bum. Anyway after the 10th interview Nell was getting concerned and the police where informed and Lacey spent the night in jail!

A great seminar was held at Royal Porthcawl, sponsored by Countrywide, covering issues on fertiliser, seed and fuel storage. Feedback was excellent so thank you for all your efforts on the day.

Humble Crumble is the shortest poem in history can you name the poet?

Answer: HOAMMED ILA.

Peter Lacey did completed the Marathon in 4 hours, 8 minutes and 3 seconds – well done.

Kerry Jones

**South Coast**

Summer is among us and as I sit and write this on a sun drenched day, sipping my Pimms, irrigation systems around the south are proving their worth.

The England cricket team have just wrapped up the Test Series, England are just about to win the football European championships, Henmania is about to hit us after his good run in the French Open and how can we forget The Open?

We have several representatives from the Section on the BIGGA Support team again this year and they will no doubt have a great week at Royal Troon. We wish them well and also Billy McLachlan and his team at Troon for what I'm sure will be a highly successful Open Championship. With the Olympics and the Ryder cup to come it's a great year for sport. Unfortunately my wife doesn't quite feel so enthusiastic about it all!

The Section has been fairly quiet although I'm sure we have all been extremely busy on our golf courses. Our fixture lists at Parkstone seem to get larger every year challenging us to be more efficient and continue to maintain higher standards, but we're modern managers like you all, so its like water off a ducks back!

We are about to draw swords in our annual match against the secretaries. The match, which is sponsored by Course Care, will be played at Alresford Golf Club and your team will be looking to retain the trophy and maintain our pride. A full report will follow.

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**

**London**

If you are reading this than you are extremely privileged as notes in 'around the green' from the London Section are about as rare as an Emile Heskey goal!

I have (foolishly) agreed to write these notes for the foreseeable future so I will be looking to all our members to help fill the page with any news at all, whether it be about golf courses, jobs, births or even Heskey scoring!

The main news for this month comes from our spring tournament, which was, hosted by Batchworth Park, which, before I mention anything else, was in absolute pristine condition, so congratulations to Andy and his team on presenting such a beautiful course.

Also our thanks go to the club and its entire staff for welcoming us and providing a great meal afterwards.

On a gloomy and wet day there was some very good scores returned, but the clear winner with an excellent score of 40 points (5 handicap) was Richard Highway. Joining him at the National Championship was Dave Badham who had the best nett score of 36 points. Congratulations to both and good luck at the National.

On the day we had a great turnout and a huge number of trade who all helped out with prizes for the event, the raffle and on course refreshments provided very well by Ernest Does and Textron.

The man known as Supergrass, Phil Jones, with other contributions from gem sponsored superb main prizes, and, of course, our ongoing support from Alan and Barry of Turners, and Avoncrop respectively.

Just a quick add on – readers will see that the golfing legend Ian Semple did not win (this is because he didn't actually play) but I hope his shoulder won't be too sore when he has to dig into his deep pockets to enter the nationals!

Finally, I wish to remind readers that entry forms for the summer tournament, at Sandy Lodge, must be received at least two weeks prior to the date, July 22, as we cannot accept names or payment after the cut off point.

I look forward to seeing as many members as possible, new and old.

07789 955 817

Alec MacIndoe

**Essex**

Well it's me again,

Winning Golfer of the Year last year took it out of me so much that I have not had the time to write another article...

As I sit and write this we should be in spring, but having been in my shorts for three weeks (not a pretty sight), I now find myself getting soaked everyday. You just cannot bank on the weather. It's all been a bit challenging; it's amazing how fickle golf club members can be.

Two weeks ago we had the 40th anniversary celebrations at our golf club which consisted of 10 days of events. Every member and guest was commenting on how wonderful the golf club was and the condition of the course especially given the time of year.

Last week we had a trolley ban for two days because of all the rain - and according to our members the course is in terrible condition and it is a crime that they cannot have their trolleys on! Happy days!

A break from writing this article as our grass is growing faster than we can cut it, especially on the banks and amenity areas around the course, two weeks later the



# Your Letters...

## An Inspirational Piece

It was with some pleasure that I read the article HNC Managing Sports Turf: Improving an area, by Nigel White in the June edition of Greenkeeper International.

There are many within our industry who try to decry the need for higher education, insisting that NVQs are the only qualification needed. Nigel is one of my HNC students at the Warwickshire College and the article shows the benefits of studying at this higher level. A.H.E. qualification teaches research skills, how to evaluate the information and then to apply and present the information in a professional manner.

I teach sports turf qualifications at Level 2 & 3 and have seen many greenkeepers greatly benefit from their studies, enabling them to progress with their careers. However, qualifications such as the HNC, HND and the new Foundation Degree provide greenkeepers with the depth of knowledge required of modern, credible and professional turf managers. I hope this article by Nigel inspires others to enquire about studying at this level.

Andrew Turnbull, Sports Turf Tutor,  
Warwickshire College

## Good Issue

I would like to congratulate all concerned with the June magazine. The inclusion of the GTC Notes by David Golding, now working very closely with Ken Richardson makes very interesting reading. The course feature was again outstanding as was all the other feature articles. It was also good to see Martyn Jones in the May issue again and nice to hear that he is fit again.

Bill Lawson,  
BIGGA Founder Member, Retired

## Thank You and Fairwell...

Would you be so kind as to allow me to use your "letters" page to convey my thanks and farewell to the Membership. As you are aware I left the employment of the Association at the end of May having been Regional Administrator for the South East for eight years or so and for

almost a year helping out in the South West and South Wales Region. During these years it has been my privilege to meet some wonderful people. I attended as many Section days as I could this year in an effort to say my farewells but of course not all of the Membership plays golf or attends these days.

I was also kept pretty busy with arrangements for the 'Greenkeeping Support Team for the VOLVO PGA Championship at Wentworth so it has been impossible to say good bye to everyone.

I would just like to say thanks for the welcome I always received when visiting Greenkeepers on their course or meeting them at Harrogate or wherever. You really are the "salt of the earth" and if I had one wish it would be that all of the golf clubs who employ you recognise the effort and dedication that you give to your job.

Apart from the Greenkeeping Membership I would also like to express my thanks to the Trade. They were always ready to support my efforts with sponsorship for Regional events and it would be more than fair to say that they made my job a lot easier with their generosity. I would also like to thank the Trade for me never having to buy a pen!

That just leaves the 'Legal Helpline'. I am proud to say that through the Association I was able to support some Greenkeepers through some very difficult times, especially with regards to employment. Like the Trade the Helpline made my job so much easier know that good sound legal advice was available at the end of a telephone.

I am sure that some of our paths will cross again in the not too distant future but in the meantime thanks to all of you for eight wonderful years.

Derek Farrington

## YOUR LETTERS ARE REQUESTED!

Send to: Scott MacCallum, Editor, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF, or email them to: [scott@bigga.co.uk](mailto:scott@bigga.co.uk)