

Seed or turf? If time allows, you'll reap what you sow

Ellie Tait looks at when seeding is the right option

With temperatures in parts of the UK reaching in excess of 16°C by late March, greenkeepers looking to renovate will be hoping it marks the start of a long, warm summer that's perfect for growing grass.

The commercial pressure on golf courses to open all year round means that there's often no option other than to turf tees, greens and bunkers to keep them in play, helping clubs to limit revenue loss and ensuring courses remain constantly pleasing to the eye.

Both turf and seed establishment techniques have their place in the turfgrass industry, offering the greenkeeper a choice of methods when establishing, renovating and developing a new grass sward.

If you choose to seed, the advances in seed development during the last decade have not only made the end result more predictable, but they've undoubtedly given greenkeepers the ability to create better playing surfaces.

SEED CHOICE

There's no doubt that the seed you choose is pivotal to the future establishment, stability and longevity of your playing surface.

The 'one size fits all' approach to selecting seed has long gone. In recent years we've seen notable advances in plant breeding, producing grass varieties that can perform and adapt under different conditions.

There are seed mixes to suit all greens maintenance regimes, and as cultivars have become more specialised, it's now possible to request a mix tailored to your courses requirements. By knowing the precise cultivars used, you can design a mixture that suits its individual climatic conditions and other variables that stress the plant including shade, drought, excessive moisture, combinations of soil types, different pH levels, poor soil fertility, windy and exposed sites, close mowing and heavy usage.

When selecting turf, you're restricted to the cultivars and species used by the grower. The grower should be happy to visit your course with samples of their turf or alternatively, visit their premises to discuss your requirements.

PURITY

Through careful preparation of the course prior to sowing and the intensive treatment and cleaning that seed is subjected to during the production process, weed and pest infestation are virtually eliminated. Seed houses have to follow stringent checks and processes governed by DEFRA, reducing the contamination of seed mixes with black grasses, Poa, and weed seeds. The cleaning process also tends to remove weaker seeds that are unlikely to germinate when sown, ensuring that you receive a pure mix of strong, healthy cultivars.

Many mixes are now coated with a preparation that helps prevent disease and stimulates germination and establishment.

As seed is sown directly into the existing rootzone, it develops stronger and quicker rooting than turf and has increased resilience to drought and wear. If you've chosen to turf but not specified the rootzone on which it's grown, there's a risk that what's imported might not be compatible with the existing soil, resulting in the roots staying in the surface area rather than penetrating deeply.



▲ Bent Grass called 'AberRoyal, *Agrostis Capillaris*, bred in the UK for UK golf Courses'

SUCCESSFUL ESTABLISHMENT

Time is probably the most important factor in deciding whether to turf or seed. Turf provides an instant playing surface, while typically, seed takes 12 months before it is established enough to be played on.

The window of opportunity to seed is now wider than ever before. Modern cultivars can germinate and continue to grow in lower temperatures, extending the growing season as late on as November in the southern counties.

The advent of dwarf perennial rye varieties used on tees and fairways means that surfaces can be established quickly, and they do perform on par with more traditional varieties.

Budget restraints may also influence the decision. Although seeding is a cheaper method of renovating than turfing, a 20-25kg bag of grass seed costs between £55 and £200 depending on the mixture, so it's vital that the optimum benefits are achieved.

Brian Robinson, Rigby Taylor's Director of Grass Seed Research, highlighted some common reasons for seed failing to flourish:

"It's absolutely vital that the top dressing touches the seedling so that it can absorb moisture. If it's not kept moist, it will wither after the initial

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germination. For brown top bent, 50% of the topdressing must be put down before sowing, and 50% afterwards, otherwise the seed will be left dry on top.

During renovation work, it's possible to over-sow seed into the existing sward without affecting its performance, but the thatch level must be reduced to a practical minimum to allow space for the roots to go down."

Weather in all its extremes will affect seed and turf establishment and different species require sowing at different times of the year. For example, for golf courses that require bent and fescue grasses, sowing in March and April would be unlikely to yield the best results as the soil temperatures are too low for germination. It's necessary to leave sowing of these varieties until later in the summer, when better weather and higher soil temperatures are guaranteed.

Establishment can be further enhanced by using fleece or germination sheets, which will raise ambient temperatures above the soil surface and provide additional protection to newly seeded areas.

An application of a specified pre-seed fertiliser containing Phosphorous and Potash will also enable the emerging plant to gain a good foothold quickly.



▲ British Seed Houses Grade 'A' Amenity seed mixtures contain the latest cultivars bred by the Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research (IGER)

On tees and fairways and with reasonable soil and weather conditions from late spring onwards, it's reasonable to expect germination within 7-14 days, possibly quicker with the use of fleece/germination sheets.

The growth rate will differ between species with the more vigorous dominating the sward, sometimes resulting in the finer grasses being lost.

MAINTENANCE

To establish a mature sward from newly sown seed requires higher maintenance than for turf, where the initial establishment has already been achieved by the grower.

Once it has germinated it's important to allow the sward to grow to a predetermined height, dependant upon the grass varieties.

Light rolling two to three weeks in will encourage the plants to thicken and tiller from the base. The first cut should take place within another week or so. Just 'topping' the young seedlings will strengthen and thicken the sward.

From then on, optimal results will be achieved by;

- Maintaining a consistent height of cut
- Keeping the sward watered
- Maintaining soil nutrient status
- Keeping the soil aerated
- Removing any thatch and debris from the surface
- Keeping the sward weed free
- Using the appropriate mowing machines to obtain the desired finish

Within 12 months or so you can expect to have a surface that's fit for play. It's possible to shorten this time slightly if sowing takes place in the autumn and weather conditions remain favourable.

Photographs kindly supplied by British Seed Houses

The Neil Thomas Memorial Golf Day

Monday 14th June 2004 at Aldwark Manor

The Annual BIGGA Golf Day has been dedicated to the memory of the late Neil Thomas, BIGGA's first Executive Director, who passed away in February of this year. The event will be held at Aldwark Manor Golf Club, York, on Monday 14 June and the Association welcomes the entry of teams of four, with all profits from the day being donated to St Michael's Hospice, Harrogate, who cared superbly for Neil during his final weeks.



The programme for the day is as follows:

- Bacon sandwich, tea or coffee on arrival
- Tee times from 10.00 am to 1.30 pm
- Teams of 4 entered in competition over 18 holes, under Texas Scramble rules
- Ploughman's lunch available throughout the day
- Halfway House refreshments
- Team prizes plus Longest Drive, Nearest The Pin & Putting Competition individual prizes
- B-B-Q meal in the evening



The entry fee per team is £200 + VAT, with the offer being made on a first come first served basis

If you would like to enter a team in this golf day in memory of Neil, please contact Sarah Norris at BIGGA HOUSE on 01347 833800 or e-mail Sarah@bigga.co.uk

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Your Letters...

Bunker Follow-Up

Will Bowden's tips on perimeter bunker drains in the March edition of Greenkeeper International are an intriguing answer to the perennial greenkeeping headache of sand wash-out.

As a greenkeeper, I find it impossible to envy the poor souls whose job it is to return the sand from whence it came. As a golfer, I find it tricky to predict the reaction of a ball played from wet/compacted/contaminated/inconsistent sand. The article could have gone further to suggest that bunker design is the sole cause of sand wash-out.

One of the most important considerations in building a bunker, or indeed any feature on the golf course, is water movement and there are two aspects of water movement that must always be catered for within the design.

Firstly, surface run-off should never be directed into bunkers and secondly, bunker faces should have a gradient that is neither so steep nor so long that it is predisposed to repeated sand wash-out.

It is especially disappointing to see modern courses where the architect has had no thought for the effects of wash-out: I have seen one recently opened course where a green is contoured to direct water into a greenside bunker.

Some might argue that an establishment with large labour resources can afford the luxury of sand wash-out because they have the manpower to redistribute washed out sand after every heavy downpour.

However, the quality of the sand is of prime importance to the golfer and sand that is washed out frequently becomes contaminated with soil particles and hence acquires unsavoury properties. It becomes compacted and thus difficult to "fluff up" for the golfer; and the contaminants will impede and eventually totally inhibit drainage.

How many greenkeepers have heard the golfer's cry: "Why is the sand in this bunker different to everywhere else?" And how many greenkeepers can genuinely convince the golfer that the sand in this bunker is exactly the same, but for the contamination caused by water?

Those who design bunkers that are susceptible to frequent sand wash-out are not only placing an extra, unwanted burden on greenkeepers, but they are failing the golfers whom they are paid to serve.

Richard Andrews, Highgate Golf Club

Call for Ladies' Forum

Calling all lady greenkeepers - I am hoping to arrange a 'lady greenkeepers' forum' at BTME Harrogate next year. The forum would discuss various issues directly affecting women in the golf course industry and ways of improving the accessibility and development opportunities for us, as well as looking towards raising the profile of lady greenkeepers to encourage more people to enter the profession.

I was recently asked why so many women start in greenkeeping only to leave after a few years? Although there are many different factors, I feel it can be a very lonely and intimidating career always feeling you have to go a little bit further to be able to get ahead, this in turn got me thinking, the GCSAA have a forum for women at their annual conference and show.

It is a great opportunity to meet other lady greenkeepers and discuss the future as it directly relates to us. It is very important that I get as much support and generate as much interest as possible, so please contact me with your thoughts and ideas: e-mail to: wendypob@hotmail.com

Golf Course Dept, De Vere Carden Park, Chester, Cheshire. CH3 9DQ
Wendy O'Brien, De Vere Carden Park, Chester

Letters continued
on page 38...

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

NEW PRODUCTS

NEW E-BOOK FROM PHILIP

Philip Sharples, the Senior Lecturer in Sports Turf at Reaseheath College has published a new lawn/turf care book, 'The Lawn e-Book'. Presented on CD-ROM. This is the first book (known as an 'e-Book') of its kind in the country and allows the reader a flexible approach to reading and absorbing the information contained within. The e-Book can be browsed easily on a computer, printed as individual pages and even printed as a complete hard copy.

The Lawn e-Book offers valuable advice and guidance for lawn and turf care, covering all technical aspects of the subject area. The Author has provided an in depth knowledge of procedures, materials, machinery, maintenance and after care management for turf and lawns. There are many high quality photographs and tables included within the text.

The e-Book can be purchased from www.pitchcare.com (click on shop, then books) or alternatively call 07887 853129

He is currently seeking help and/or sponsorship to allow the book to be produced purely in hardback form. Any interested parties should contact him on 07887 853129 or email phils@reaseheath.ac.uk

NEED A BUGGY?

People looking to buy or sell a golf buggy need look no further with the launch of www.buggymart.com, the worlds first online buggy auction.

Buggymart.com operates on a true auction basis – where interested buyers bid against each other for the winning price.

The site is 100% secure and matches potential buyers with sellers. The auction mechanic ensures that both the seller and the buyer get the best price for both parties on the marketplace.

There are buggies online to match all tastes, from a basic second hand model to a more 'souped' up version. Due to the global capacity of the site, the range of buggies will constantly be changing to ensure that there is something to suit all price ranges.

Buggymart.com aims to sell over 10,000 buggies within the first year of trading.

Buggies currently online start at auction from £295. In addition to buggies, technical parts will also be sold on the site.

NO MORE CRICKED NECKS

McConnel has launched a new Power Arm for Hedge and Verge maintenance which eliminates the need for the operator to look over his or her shoulder to view the cutting head at work.

The New Power Arm 55 is fitted with an additional 1.5m forward extension arm known as a Midcut Pack that is positioned between the reach arm and the dipper arm of the hedge and verge mower. This in turn moves the flailhead visibility from the tractor's seat eliminating previous neck cranking.

From the tractor's seat the operator will now be looking forward through his door of the tractor cab to contro land oversee the cutting rather than over his shoulder.

The Midcut Pack is also protected with its own breakaway ram that will break back under pressure to prevent any damage to the flailhead if any obstruction is encountered. The breakaway ram will then automatically return back into the work position once the obstruction has been passed. The breakaway ram can also be powered in, to position the flailhead behind the tractor for a compact transport position.

The PA55 Midcut base model is available with either a Semi Independent Hydraulic system (Single Pump) or a Totally Independent Hydraulic system (Twin Pumps) complete with a rotor rotation control



from the tractor cab. This machine is fitted with 65HP Cast Iron High Power pumps and motors for improved efficiency and greater power for working in the toughest of conditions, especially grass mowing.

For further information Tel: 01584 873131.

COST EFFECTIVE OPTION

Phytofibre can be used in a variety of applications including: embankments, golf courses, football pitches and land reclamation sites. Phytofibre provides contractors and developers with a high performance, cost effective solution to grassing large areas.

It provides grass seed with a constant water supply before, and during, germination, helping to promote its growth. By enveloping the seed completely in a protective mesh, Phytofibre's fibres also provide protection from bird attack and safeguard against the seed being washed away by rain, or blown away by wind.

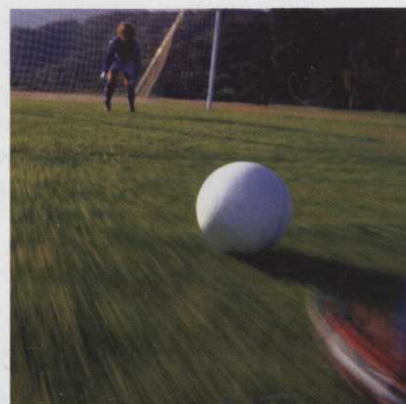
When mixed with seed, fertiliser, water and optional tackifier, Phytofibre forms a homogenous slurry that is easily

sprayed in a single application to create a smooth even covering, on any soil type.

Manufactured from 100% recycled newspaper, Phytofibre is non-toxic and non-irritant and is completely safe to handle without special protective clothing. Phytofibre biodegrades naturally, without the need for catalytic

additives and, as it decomposes, returns precious nutrients to the soil.

For further information Tel: 0161 877 5579.



KAWASAKI MULE GOES UNDERCOVER

Kawasaki's Mule utility vehicle range is widening its appeal yet again with the announcement of the availability of a cab option. Top quality, German made, Mauser cabs are now available and are being supplied ex-stock from

Kawasaki Motors' European distribution centre in Holland. Two versions, a fully enclosed glazed cab and a standard cab, will be offered as part of a major drive to extend the accessories available to the leading utility vehicle range in the UK market.

"There is a strong demand for cabs and accessories for the Mule and we are pleased to be able to supply our franchised dealers direct. As applications for the Mule utility vehicle increase so do the enquiries for both full and partial protection cabs," explained Kawasaki District Manager Richard Harris.

"Our ability to supply direct from the spares warehouse means a better service for our customers and it increases dealers competitiveness, so everybody should benefit," he added.



"Mauser cabs will be offered as a genuine accessory option and the dealer will be able to assemble and fit the unit prior to delivery of the chosen vehicle should the customer wish."

Along with cabs, the Japanese manufacturer is increasing the versatility of its Mule accessory range with the introduction of winches, bed lift kits, durable bed-liners and mesh sides in the coming months.

Kawasaki has also introduced two new hedgetrimmers for the UK market.

According to the Japanese manufacturer, they're on to a winner with the upgraded models within their power products range for the professional groundscape and landscape market and serious domestic users.

The new models, the KHD600-B double-sided and KHS750-B single-sided trimmer, replace the existing tools in the manufacturer's range and offer users reduced noise and vibration along with improved durability.

Among the new developments is a CDI magneto system with engine RPM limiter which controls the high idle at 10,000 rpm reducing noise and vibration.

A high efficiency felt element has also been introduced to the air filter in another new development to prevent dust ingress to the carburettor to improve efficiency. The starting mechanism has also been improved with Kawasaki's own advanced recoil system.

For further information Visit www.kawasaki.co.uk



NEW BRUSHLESS SYSTEM

Briggs & Stratton Commercial Power has announced the launch of its Etek Brushless Motor System. These fully integrated electric motor systems feature the industry's first pancake-style axial gap design with a programmable electronic motor system. This offers increased flexibility for a broad range of application requirements, and is capable of producing an output of up to 20 HP (8 HP continuous).

The brushless system minimises maintenance and increases overall reliability and productivity, greatly reducing operating costs. It is available in eight inch and 10 inch versions.

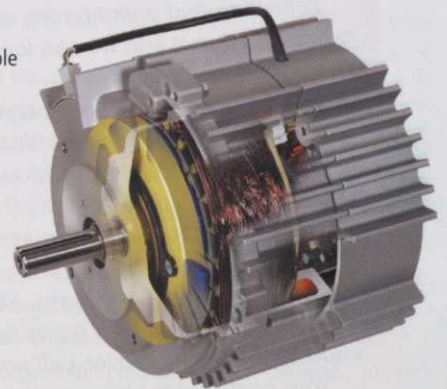
The motor utilises high-strength Neodymium Iron Boron magnets in a disc rotor arrangement to give higher torque at lower speeds in one, smaller and compact package. The programmable electronic motor controller performs the function of brushes in traditional brush motors for high performance and maximum productivity.

To accommodate differing application requirements, the Etek Brushless is also available without the programmable electronic controller, which reinforces the versatility of the motor.

Briggs & Stratton Commercial Power is a leading provider of commercial power solutions.

All Briggs & Stratton Commercial Power engines are backed by the industry's largest dealer support network, with appointed distributors in all key European territories.

For further information Tel: 00 41 26 460 79 32 or visit the website on www.commercialpower.com



NEW CONTACTOR FRONT & REAR MOUNTING

Rytec has introduced an extension to the Contractor 'S' model heavy duty rear mounted flail mower which is the 'SR' or 'Reversible'.

This machine features the same double skin construction and 200mm (8") diameter rotor in common with the rest of the Contactor 'S' range but is fitted with a double linkage and Gearbox with PTO shafts both front and rear. This allows the machine to be used front mounted for ease of use and lack of wheelings on cut ground, but also allows the machine to be used conventionally as a rear mounted machine if a tractor with front linkage and PTO is not available. This allows for maximum flexibility, and to add to the SR's flexibility it can be matched to front PTO's with either clockwise or anticlockwise rotation and still operate with a conventional rear PTO rotation thanks to a gearbox option which allows for opposite input directions from the front and rear shafts but the same flail direction.

For more information Tel: 01944 768232.



Your Letters...continued

"It is no-ones fault but ours"

I am compelled to reply to your contributor's letter entitled "It's not only the weather we greenkeepers are up against" published in the April edition.

This was an excellent letter and brings up the very real problems associated with the job we are trying to do.

Every Course Manager can relate to many of the points raised and I would like to offer some of my experiences which may help everyone when they find perceived insurmountable problems of this nature.

Unfortunately the problems we have are very much of our own making (conscious or otherwise) and I believe if we do not accept that, we might as well give up now!

Training is the answer (which is easily accessed through BIGGA and the GTC) - it furnishes us with the necessary skills so we may portray ourselves as professional, well organised, competent individuals where officials within golf clubs, whether proprietary or private members, will accept what we tell them.

I take this opportunity to relay a recent personal professional problem to illustrate the point.....

We have just started an unsuitable tree/scrub removal and restocking programme as part of our recently completed tree/ecology policy, in line with our overall golf course policy.

We had been some two to three years in the planning stages and those who know me know that I leave no stone unturned in the quest to inform everyone about what is going on and what is planned for the future - but I did not do it well enough.

The work (planned 1st phase of three) which commenced during March 2004 caused quite "a stir" (that is an understatement - to some tune!!) as it can appear to be devastating - the average person's perception on trees is that all trees, of whatever species, are good for nature - which we know to be far from the truth.

My immediate reaction was to hide until the heat died down or shrink behind officialdom - but through experience I know that this only delays the inevitable.

My response was therefore to make myself available in the clubhouse during Saturday and Sunday, when members come off the course, to answer any questions and concerns.

To help I surrounded myself with information from experts in the areas concerned and tried to placate the vociferous and simply get the message across - I cannot say it was easy but the response from the vast majority of the membership, and particularly the support I received from the Board of Directors, was exceptional.

Following that enlightening experience, though difficult, was that all the club are fully supportive of what we are trying to achieve and we can look forward to phases two and three of the programme in 2004/5 and 2005/6, resources permitting.

None of this would have been achieved if I did not...

- Take responsibility for the situation - training gave me the confidence.
- Possess the necessary skills, received from training, to handle the situation and use it to gain respect and professional kudos.

The benefits to the golf course and the surrounding area in ecology, landscape, and arboriculture in future will be immense.

So if you do have problems, like those mentioned in the letter, seek out the training required (specifically personal presentation training - it is not for public speaking - just necessary for us to do our job properly) and we, but more importantly our employer, will not regret it.

Your contributor also mentioned continuity within the committee structure - this type of structure is not going to go away, so we have to learn to live and work with it, and training gives us the skills.

The solution to continuity, or lack of it, is policy - policy ensures continuity of management, no matter who the personnel/officialdom is, and it is the course manager who must instigate policy for the benefit of the golf course in the long term.

The Course Manager must also demonstrate professionalism through attitude, commitment and enthusiasm/disposition - no-one, not even the Royal & Ancient, national golf unions etc. can do that for us.

And just to add another positive note - at no time in the past has the communication between the various golfing bodies been greater, and BIGGA can be proud of their increasing importance in the discussions taking place at this time - my thoughts for the future are therefore very exciting and positive.

We have an opportunity to go from strength to strength in the jobs we do, but only through taking responsibility for ourselves and our profession and not blaming everything and/or everyone else for the slightest problem which comes along.

Duncan McGilvray, Course Manager, Potters Bar Golf Club

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

SCOTTISH REGION

The Scottish National Tournament will be held at Kilmacolm Golf Club on Tuesday 15 June, 2004 by kind permission of the Captain and committee. The cost of the event will be £20 which includes coffee/tea, filled roll and evening meal.

Entry forms will be available at all Section Spring Outings and from the Regional Administrator.

All entries with remittance must be sent to the Regional Administrator, Peter J. Boyd, 10 Meadowburn Avenue, Newton Mearns, Glasgow G77 6TA by Sunday 6 June, 2004. Cheques made payable to BIGGA Scottish Region.

Peter Boyd

Central



This month we extend a warm welcome to Craig Reynolds, from Glenbervie Golf Club, and Ian McIntyre, from Montrose Links, from everyone in the Section, with the hope that we will have an opportunity to meet them at some of our future events.

The date for the Autumn Tournament at Downfield Golf Club has been confirmed for the Wednesday, September 29, so please put this date in your diary. All being well and if things go according to plan the golf tournaments in 2005 will be at Elie in the Spring and Kinross in the Autumn.

Sincere thanks from everyone in the Section go to the directors and staff of the following companies:- Greentech Limited, Henderson Grass Machinery, Scottish Grass Machinery and Rigby Taylor for the superb trophies which they have presented to us and will be competed for at future golf tournaments.

Winners in this year's Club 2000 draw so far are as follows; No. 709 J. Crawford, No. 147 K. Duncan, No. 120 E. Small and No. 200 A. Philip who all win £30 each, and the winners of £20 each are No. 64 D. Scott, No. 137 R. Breingan, No. 307 T. Comerford and No. 197 J. Oliver.

As this is the final year of Club 2000, the Section's only fund-raising event, your committee are in the process of finding other ways of raising funds which are used to the benefit of every member and hopefully every member of the Section will support!

Those of you who read the Section news regularly will probably be saying that the committee always seem to be 'in the process' of doing something every month as this phrase is appearing in a number of reports, well believe it or not we do meet regularly and organise events/seminars/workshops etc on your behalf. As I keep saying, if there is a subject you wish included on our list of events, get in touch with any committee member. It's your Section!

Thanks to everyone who sent cards and good wishes to Ailsa during her recent stay in hospital, with a special thanks to Ian MacMillan and Bobby Fleming for their superb support during this trying time, Ailsa is making steady progress and hopefully it won't be too long before she makes a full recovery. Thanks again!

John Crawford

Ayrshire

Our football match against the West Section took place in Glasgow on Sunday, March 14. Two sides of nine took part in blustery conditions, as the upstart Ayrshire lads took a surprise 0-3 lead after 20 minutes. Sensing an upset the West began to play themselves back in to the match, controlling the last 15 minutes of the half. Ayrshire defended well however restricting the hosts to long range efforts. With the half nearly up the West struck with a crisp strike from the edge of the box, the half ending 1-3.

I won't go into match detail about the second half, as I'm still having recurring nightmares, except to say the West had shaken off any cobwebs, and were soon dominating play, going on to a comprehensive 7-3 victory despite valiant goaltending from Iain Barr. Anyway it was a good day and the match was played in great spirit. Man of the Match went to Barry McCullough (West goalie) for keeping the score down to 3 in the first half.

Now, I worked for two years with Barry and I can honestly say I didn't know he was capable of moving that fast. He was like a cat, okay a big cat but still he was great. Just joking Baz. Well done mate!

Ayrshire team: Iain Barr, Largs; John Mair, Bellshill; Willie McGonigle, Beith; John Russell, Beith; Marshall Sloss, Beith; Denis Tweddell, Turnberry; George Taggart, Ardeer; Stephen Higgins, Ardeer; A. Trialist.

Ayrshire goalscorers; A. Trialist 2, D. Tweddell.

Thanks to Gerry Bruen for arranging the match, to Marshall and Iain for organising and providing strips, and mainly those who turned out. We hope to secure a rematch on home soil later in the year.

Email me on denis.tweddell@virgin.net.

Denis Tweddell



West

The Section Football team was in action during March against the Ayrshire Section. After a bad start and 3 nil down at half time Brian Boland, team captain, made a few changes during the break and the west triumphed 8—3 (According to Ayrshire it was 7-3. Ed). Anybody wishing a challenge give me a phone. Thanks to Gerry Bruen for organising the game.

On March 17 WWB minerals held an open day at their Levenseat quarry. It was a very interesting and enjoyable day. Many thanks to Jim Smith for organising the trip and to Mike Higgins for his first class presentation hopefully more trips can be organised at the back end of the year.

The Association will be holding their regional training courses during Autumn '04 and Spring '05. Contact Gavin Jarvis for further information. These courses are subsidised so give them ago.

The Section's National Tournament will be held over Kilmacolm Golf Club on June 15. Application forms will be available at the spring outing. All the best Ronnie on your preparations.

David Reed, from Lenzie Golf Club, will be going to the gulf with the Territorial Army and I am sure we all wish him a safe trip. All the best, David from the Section. There are three new members this month. Andrew Ramsey, Bishopbriggs Golf Club; Kevin Maher and Mark Healy, from Helensburgh Golf Club. Welcome to the Section.

To get in touch try Mobile 07970-366-355 E Mail karen.ross@tesco.net Fraser Ross

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