

NEW PRODUCTS



NEW BOBCAT MINI LOADER

The new MT52 mini track loader is now the smallest machine in the Bobcat range of skid-steers, compact tracked loaders and all-wheel steer loaders.

With an overall width, with bucket, of just 914 mm, length of 3031 mm - with standing platform - and height of 1235mm, the MT52 is ideal for digging, loading and clean-up applications - both indoor and outdoor - especially in confined areas where larger machines cannot go.

With a 15 kW liquid-cooled Kubota diesel engine and 45.4 l/min of auxiliary hydraulic flow, the MT52 has the power needed for optimum performance with more than 15 different types of attachment, most of which can also be used on the Bobcat 463 skid-steer loader.

Thanks to the wide variety of attachments available, the MT52 is an ideal machine for landscape contractors, eliminating much of the hand labour normally found in earthmoving and fencing applications.

The attachments for the MT52 allow contractors to move dirt, landscape, install fences, plant trees, drill post holes, install sprinkler systems and much more.

Changing attachments is fast and easy via the Bob-Tach attachment mounting system, which the MT52 shares with the rest of the Bobcat range of compact tracked and wheeled loaders.

In addition, the rubber-track undercarriage of the MT52 distributes the loader's operating weight of 1137 kg over a large area, which reduces ground pressure and minimises disturbance to landscapes and other established surfaces.

The tracks also provide superior traction and flotation. The MT52 has a maximum forward travel speed of 5.6 km/h and 2.3 km/h in reverse.

The MT52 has a rated operating capacity of 252 kg, a tipping load of 720 kg and a pushing force of 1130 kg. It has a height to hinge pin with the arms in the fully raised position of 1810 mm and a dump height of 1265 mm.

For further information Tel: 020 87230161

REVOLUTION IN TURF MANAGEMENT

Supaturf Products launched their newest innovation in Turf Management, the Revolution marked the culmination of five years of the latest research and development undertaken by the Aquatrols Corporation of America.

This outstanding new product has patent pending and has been rigorously tested.

This new class of block copolymer chemistry has been carefully engineered to provide a solid foundation for successful turf management, and is an essential tool for protecting turf against damage caused by environmental and

CUT-OFF SAW ADDED TO BRAND

JCB Branded Products, have launched a powerful new addition to their range of tools for professional use, the JCB-680 Cut-off Saw.

Considered as essential kit for landscaping and construction, the JCB-680 Cut-off Saw combines fast, high performance cutting with simplicity of use and operator comfort. It slices through concrete, brick, block, steel, asphalt and similar tough materials with minimum effort.

The JCB-680 Cut-off Saw is ergonomically designed and is built for durability and the utmost reliability and is designed to meet the exacting standards required by the construction, civil engineering, landscaping and gardening industries, and the emergency services. Power comes from the 66.7 cc two-stroke engine, producing up to 3.0KW of power and the saw weights only 11.5kg.

There is a large multi-stage filtration system for preventing dust entering the engine, even under the harshest conditions.

The saw has shock mountings designed to reduce the intensity of vibration received through the saw handle, and a mounting trolley allows the use of an optional water kit for lubrication and damping the dust produced when cutting.

The JCB-680 is designed for use with a JCB 355x4x20mm 14" abrasive wheel, or recommended diamond blade.

For further information Tel: 01889 590312



cultural stresses. Revolution is a safe, reliable way to comprehensively maintain quality turf conditions throughout the season. Revolution can be tank mixed with a broad spectrum of commonly applied chemicals for even greater convenience.

This year marks the 25th Anniversary of Supaturf's association with the World leaders in turf surfactant technology.

Revolution provides control of rootzone conditions so that turf can perform to its greatest potential. It will withstand daily abuse better, use water more efficiently, and look spectacular even at the height of summer.

For further information Tel: 01440 715800

LYNX FRONT LINKAGE AND PTO EXPERTISE

Recognised as one of the leading suppliers of front three-point linkage and PTO systems for agricultural tractors, Northamptonshire based Lynx Engineering is now able to offer kits that will fit small and compact tractor models.

Purposely developed to match specific tractors, each linkage system benefits from a robust cast frame and top link carrier for maximum durability.

The linkages are currently offered with lift capacities of 600 and 800kg and can be supplied with a choice of Cat 0 and Cat 1 arm widths to match the tractor and its applications.

All versions have advanced features that include linkage arms that fold up and out of the way for transport or when the linkage is not in use and double acting lift rams.

The linkage kits draw their hydraulic power from a spool valve, and are operated via a Lynx multi-valve system. This enables the operator to easily set the linkage to operate in float or locked modes, with the additional feature of also allowing the link arms to be powered down.

This can be of value when operating certain items of front mounted equipment, such as a dozer blade or front cultivator.

Developed to be easy to fit, each front linkage kit is purpose designed to fit specific tractor models. A key feature of all kits is the robust main frame, which



ensures the load on the front linkage is transferred correctly through the tractor. This is of critical importance as it prevents damage when heavy loads are carried on the front end.

Each linkage kit comprises of a main frame, lift rams, lift arms, cast base frame and cast top link carrier. All relevant bolts and hydraulic hoses are also included. A top link is provided as standard, with the option of quick coupling 'A' Frame.

Able to transmit full engine horse power, the front PTO systems developed by Lynx can be specified to operate with the majority of its

compact and small tractor front linkage kits. A key feature of the front PTO system is the Pro Link control system.

This automatically engages drive to the PTO, modulating the power to provide a 'Soft Start' to the implement. This can help prevent damage to drive shafts, and can also help ensure high inertia kit, such as heavy flail mowers, do not 'stall' the engine as power is taken up.

Lynx PTO systems are fully integrated with the tractor, and take drive directly from the engine crankshaft. As standard, the kits have 1000rpm output at rated engine speeds, have clockwise rotation and industry standard 1 3/8 inch six-spline output shaft. For tractors of under 20hp, a 540 rpm output can be specified, with counter clockwise rotation as an option for all models.

For further information Tel: 01327 843215

GOODBYE TO OLD RAKES

The good old faithful rake may serve you well, but occasionally they can be a real pain.

Fed up of wasting time by having to move rakes when mowing or grooming, or removing fiberglass slivers and broken handles, are they a hazard on the course or do they simply just interfere in play?

Whatever the reason for falling out with your conventional rake, the new Rake Caddie is here to help.

This revolutionary system actually stores the rake in an underground shaft next to the bunker.

Thus the rake is hidden away out of sight and harms way and makes sure only the sand is responsible for stopping a golfer's ball.

To retrieve the rake you simply open the lid with the club handle. To return the rake the golfer pushes the rake back down with his club handle, and the rake automatically locks into the unit.

With the rake stored in an underground unit it also ensures that rakes are always clean and dry, and you always know exactly where the rake is.



DEEPER AERATION

Wiedenmann is one of the world leaders in deep aeration and turf decompaction technology with over 40 years experience in the turf maintenance sector.

Now they have taken this in-depth knowledge and combined it with three years of research and development to produce a new tractor mounted deep aerator, the Terra Spike XF, which is claimed to be three times faster than competitor machines.

The Terra Spike XF features a new, unique TwinDrive concept with a continuous crankshaft driven from both sides of the machine by maintenance-free pulleys and a ribbed Kevlar V-belt in a dust and dirt free housing. These TwinDrives are connected by two drive shafts from a centrally located gearbox driven by the tractor's pto.

The continuous crankshaft is another innovation, which for the first time, allows a machine to be constructed with an uneven number of crankshaft legs, which in turn results in a machine with a unique working width. This is the XF20/7 with seven crankshaft legs and a working width of 1.85m, which complements the XF20/6 with a working width of 1.6m and the largest machine in the range, the XF20/8 with a working width of 2.1m. The crankshaft is also computer balanced and uses large and robust bearings together with precision counterweights that results in an extremely smooth running machine.

Utilising a centrally positioned crank located within the anti-vibration PowerPack system, the angle of entry of the tines can be adjusted by 25°, from 90° to 65°.

For further information Tel: 0141 8143366



CLAAS INTRODUCE NEW TRACTOR RANGE

The new CLAAS tractor range for the UK amenity market will consist of a total of 22 models ranging in power output from 75hp up to 335hp.

CLAAS will be marketing four distinct ranges of tractor. Topping the CLAAS range is the new 335hp XERION, launched in Europe at Agritechnica last November and available in the UK for this autumn. In the 200hp to 250hp power sector, CLAAS has the two-model ATLES range, followed by the nine model ARES in the 90hp to 200hp sector, and finally the sub-100hp eight model CELTIS range.

A total of eight Celtis models will be available in the UK with maximum power outputs of 75hp, 84hp, 92hp and 102hp and in two specification levels - RC or RX.

Power for all Celtis models comes from a TIER II compliant, high torque DPS engine driving through a 20 forward/20 reverse speed transmission, with 11 gears in the 4kph to 12 kph working range.

As standard, all RC models are fitted with a mechanical doubler and mechanical reverser, giving a total of 20 forward and 20 reverse speeds, with the option of a mechanical reverser and the TWINSHIFT clutchless electro-hydraulic doubler. The higher specification RX models come as standard with both TWINSHIFT and the REVERSHIFT electro-hydraulic reverser. In addition, a creep speed is also available on all models, giving a total of 30 forward and 30 reverse speeds.

One of the greatest strengths of the Celtis range is its cab, which, with a forward vision range of 1220mm, is the widest cab in this power sector.



The cab also features forward-opening doors and a ventilation system housed behind the dashboard to keep overall height to a minimum.

Standard specification on RC models includes through bonnet exhaust and mechanically operated PTO, whilst the higher specification RX features a side mounted exhaust, adjustable steering column, hydraulically assisted PTO engagement, telescopic mirrors and an opening roof.

For further information Tel: 01284 763100



Stephen Fell (left) and Jo Saunders of Lindum celebrate the launch of Grassfelt.

LOOKING AT GROWTH

Lindum officially launched Grassfelt in the Instant Stadium at Saltex, where 230 sq metres of their revolutionary new turf covered half the playing surface.

Stephen Fell, Lindum's MD, explained the concept behind the product - a living grass sward grown into a soil-less, biodegradable felt rootzone - and the applications to which it can be put.

"We had felt the need for a strong, instant grass product, especially to combat erosion on civil engineering projects, for some time," he explained, "And were already experimenting with different materials."

Grassfelt can provide a living grass "carpet" over almost any surface including tarmac and concrete. Outdoor events such as weddings and trade shows, are alternative markets for Grassfelt which is currently subject to a patent application.

When used in a permanent landscaping, greenkeeping or civil engineering situation, Grassfelt is laid on the soil, and the roots grow through the felt and into the medium below within days.

For further information Tel: 01904 448675



HOVERMOWER FLIES IN

Saltex was the first showing of the worldwide selling Hover Mower, generally considered to be one of the best in its class. Lloyds and Company now provide a major alternative to the limited number of existing options within this product sector.

The Hover Mower is designed and built to be the toughest and best performing commercial duty hover mower in the market.

Some of the features make them the best in their class. It has become known as the best selling hover mower within the USA and used as the preferred choice at many prestigious golf courses. Its users demand a reasonably priced, high quality product.

Hover Mowers weigh less and therefore hover more efficiently. They are equipped with larger impellers, which generate more CFA (cubic feet air) per minute. This allows the mowers to float with ease over difficult terrain, with minimal scalping and requiring appreciably less effort to operate.

With regard to cutting, Hover Mowers have a 12mm (1/2") - 76mm (3") adjustable cutting height. The mowers can be equipped with an aluminium cutter disc and reversible stainless steel cutting blades. The steel cutting blades offer a clean, sharp cut, last significantly longer and are more economical. An optional lift kit is available to increase the cut height to 100mm (4").

One of the important features of the hover mower is the deck. Hover Mowers have the deepest deck design in the industry to allow for a higher cut. The design also eliminates torquing which results from the air circulating under the deck.

In a conventional design, the mower has a tendency to move constantly to the left. This would require extra effort by the operator to move the mower from side to side or to keep it on a steady track. The tripod deck design eliminates torquing giving the mower a more neutral stance.

With regard to the handles, Hover Mower have extra long 1.32 Metre (52") handles. These handles are connected to the deck using metal connecting plates. This eliminates premature fracture and failure of the deck, which can be an expensive and chronic problem.

For further information Tel: 01462 683031



Pipe Dreams

Jim Crabbe looks at the world of drainage through the eyes of a Contracts Manager and offers some advice to clubs seeking to improve their courses.

I was asked the other day how I could glamorise drainage contracting. Needless to say this was during a period prior to a dry lull in the weather. Much thought was given to the idea (I kid you not) and various ideas surfaced only to fade almost immediately. The truth is we are the necessity underpinning of the turf industry.



To most clubs we are the last resort. Once the "Course Closed" sign has been up for a sufficient period of time to allow the Club Secretary to lose his ability to be polite to the telephone enquires as to, "Are you open today?" or the club pro has decided that he has seen enough profits being pushed in to the mud of his driving range, the call goes out to the drainage contractors.

The discussions then go along the lines of, "We have this problem, what can you do about it? We have little money. Do you really have to take the machinery over the fairway? We won't see the marks for long will we? Can you start on Monday the 16th of October at 10:30 am after the Lady Captain has played off? Oh and you can't work here on Tuesdays due to the medal."

An exaggeration perhaps, but not far off in some cases. Drainage or, more precisely, the retrospective installation of drainage, is in most cases left as the last resort, where as it should be given a higher profile in the development plan of most courses.

The lucky few situated on good free draining soils can afford to play down the requirement to drain but even here there are trouble areas. How many clay based greens have been built on free draining golf courses and have been showing their inability to cope with the increased traffic that we now have during the winter period?

Retrospective drainage of these greens has increased year on year from the installation of gravel band to full herring bone pipe drainage systems.

In some cases the well planned installation of retrospective drainage has prevented the full reconstruction of the green and minimised time out of play.

It is much more common place now to find that the Course

Managers are formulating long and medium term development plans for their courses, encompassing all aspects of the land under their stewardship.

Where the professionals have been allowed to do this the results have been impressive. From the drainage contractors point of view this can lead to the establishing of a relationship with the club over the life, or part of the life, of the development plan.

Issues of programming, working method, specification, after care, etc can be fully discussed and form part of the development plan. The contractors can advise of their preferred time to undertake work, their availability, and their limits (drainage machinery does not have the ability to float over water).

Time is then in hand to inform the club members, rearrange fixtures and, hopefully, inconvenience as few people as possible for as short a period of time as possible.

White Horse Contractors have carried out work on a number of courses over three and five year periods and, in general, found that the mutual understanding formed allows for a better end result.

The usual request is, "Can we have the foreman and crew we had last year again? We know them and they know the course." This relationship allows the course management to realise and argue the case for work to be undertaken at a time that will ensure minimum impact on the course.

Ideally drainage installation should be undertaken between April and

'It is much more common place now to find that the Course Managers are formulating long and medium term development plans for their courses, encompassing all aspects of the land under their stewardship'...



September, a time of high demand for the use of the course, but a time that allows the contractor to progress at a good pace and inflict little damage to the fine turf areas.

Drainage installation machinery is now very light of foot, trenchers are fitted with wide pads and tractors/dumpers have LGP tyres fitted.

It is, of course, the supply of back fill materials to the pipe layer that causes the wear to the course. It is most usual to have only one materials storage site and this at the furthest point away from the work area.

In the early part of the year, and late in the season, when soil moisture content is high this constant traffic to the same spot is where the damage is done.

Haul roads soon become impassable and in some cases, if the course is heavily contoured, dangerous. Output drops, progress becomes painful and an unsightly mess is made, leaving the

greenkeeping staff with a problem that they may not be able to deal with till the spring.

Long term planning can work round this problem, an informed membership will hopefully respond more positively once the case is made and a period allowed to consider the benefits of timely work.

Of concern to the Course Manager is the reinstatement of drains, in particular across fairway areas. Drain lines will take time to grow over and will be seen for some years after installation, particularly during periods of low rain fall in the summer.

The application of ceramics on top of drains or mixed in to the topping layer to improve the moisture retention of the "root zone", with out adversely affecting its drainage characteristics, has been tried. This has an improving effect, but can increase costs markedly.

Time is the only healer and some courses will recover quicker than others. The positive removal of water from the play area by a properly designed and installed pipe drainage system is the best long term solution to problem areas of the course that will cause closure during the wet winter period.

Verti draining, sand slitting and gravel banding will enhance the pipe system but not replace it. Soil character will determine the intensity of the drainage and so in turn the amount of scarring inflicted.

After care, in the form of overseeding, and keeping the drains topped

to the surface is critical in keeping the level of scarring to a minimum. Should the trench back fill settle, which it will to varying degrees, without further topping up being undertaken scarring will take much longer to heal.

Care must also be taken to ensure that worm action does not lead to capping over of the trench fill, as this will rapidly reduce the effectiveness of the system. Deep spiking is a must.

I mentioned that the course development plans look at all aspects of the management of the land.

Trees will figure significantly in the drawing up of the document. From the land drainage point of view one species stands out, the Poplar. Nothing can render a pipe drainage system ineffective faster than the roots of the Poplar tree and I have seen systems, six months after installation, jammed solid with roots.

Course Managers are keen to re-establish native habitat and removal of the poplar will help all concerned.

Should felling not be an option, then existing pipes must be protected, either with sheeting installed between the tree and the pipe or annual root pruning. New installation should use sealed pipe next to trees.

Drainage is not glamorous but it will allow the course to be brought to presentation standards earlier in the year and help maintain these standards for longer, going in to winter. In some cases it will help save the business if closures can be minimised over winter and increasingly, we are told, during wetter summers.

Planning is the key and informed decision making critical to overall success. Ask questions of your contractor but ensure that you heed the answers, get the pipe in the ground at the right time and in the right way and you may have sweeter dreams.

Jim Crabbe is Contracts Manager for White Horse Contractors Northern Ltd Tel: 01845 587800

'Long term planning can work round this problem, an informed membership will hopefully respond more positively once the case is made and a period allowed to consider the benefits of timely work'

Your Letters...

Mower Cabs as Standard

While reading the article 'Cutting It' in the July edition of Greenkeeper International I got to wondering why so few cabs are fitted to dedicated fairway and rough mowers. The machinery representatives that I speak to all say that they sell the odd cab now and then. From a Health and Safety aspect, where a machinery manufacturer can offer a cab should they be fitted?

There are times of the year when the grass grows faster than we can cut it, especially in the spring, and if you happen to be blessed with meadow type species of grass, and it is pouring with rain, there is a need to keep cutting for as long as possible, a cab will provide the protection required.

I can remember when the last cut on the fairway would be November/December and then you would get them back out in March.

It is now however more common to have to give the fairways a trim at anytime of the year and therefore to sit on a mower out in the elements should be a thing of the past. With cancer being a major killer today a cab would also keep the sun off the user, which would help protect against skin cancer.

Many times I have heard old farm workers complaining about the aches and pains, commonly know as the "screws", because of working in such weather conditions in a time before tractor cabs were fitted as standard.

I do wonder about the legal implications, for if a machinery manufacturer can supply a safety cab from new and we choose not to fit it, have we done enough to satisfy the Health and Safety inspectorate or indeed the court; should litigation take place in respect of serious injury.

When I worked at Hainault Forest, one of my colleagues was cutting rough with the old grey T.30 Massey Ferguson that had no cab and was towing a set of gang mowers. He was hit by a golf ball that came from an unexpected direction, he was momentarily knocked unconscious and on coming to he found himself slumped over the wheel, with the tractor still moving forward cutting grass, can you imagine the consequences if he had fallen off.

To me it makes sense to fit safety cabs to these larger course maintenance machines, inspite of the cost, in order to provide greater protection from the elements, improve efficiency and safety.

Richard Heaslip

Woolston Hall Golf Limited

YOUR LETTERS ARE REQUESTED!

Send to: **Scott MacCallum,**
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Aldwark, Alne,
York YO61 1UF,
or email them to:
scott@bigga.co.uk

Contribution to Help

Dear Friends

Thank you, on behalf of all at Saint Michael's Hospice, for your wonderful gift of £1918.06, which you raised by holding a golf day in memory of Neil Thomas. Your contribution will help our patients to benefit from the love, care and skilled medical attention provided to people suffering from life-threatening illnesses, at no cost to them. Every year we must raise over one million pounds to meet our running costs, and every donation makes a difference to our future. You can be assured that your contribution is appreciated and will be put to good use.

Thank you so much for thinking of Saint Michael's and supporting us in this way. If you would like further information on the Hospice, or if we can help you in any way, you have only to ask.

Yours sincerely

Lucy Gill
Fundraising Secretary
Saint Michael's Hospice,
Crimple House,
Hornbeam Park Avenue,
Harrogate,
HG2 8QL

Training

Tutorial Six

Manual Handling

Manual handling is an activity that can lead to very serious if not life changing injuries. The legislation in UK and EU law is the "The Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992 (MHO)."

The Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992 require employers to avoid hazardous manual handling operations where it is reasonable to do so. These operations will include supporting or moving a load by lifting, lowering, carrying, pushing or pulling.

Green staff do get involved in many day to day manual handling operations which may include, for example, lifting fertiliser bags, lifting chemicals, moving tee markers - stone, lifting winter tees, moving sleepers, lifting machinery for maintenance, hooking up trailers etc.

When you're lifting, or stacking, or moving things about, you're not just using your hands. You're using all the tools at your disposal, all the muscles, joints and ligaments in your body. People with manual handling tasks use these tools every day. But like anything used frequently, these tools - these muscles, joints and ligaments - get taken for granted. That's when accidents happen.

Many of these accidents can be prevented. They should be prevented, in fact, because employers have the legal duty to; "So far as is reasonably practical, avoid the need for their employees to undertake any manual handling operation at work which involve a risk to them being injured".

To minimise the risks from manual handling the employer should carry out a "Manual Handling Task assessment" per lift or activity. The manual handling task assessment should be systemised, recorded and the following should be sensibly considered:

- The weight of the load.

- The size of the load.
- The shape of the load.
- The centre of the gravity of the load.
- The nature of the task.
- The individual capability of those undertaking it.
- Conditions in the lifting environment.

When the full extent of the risk has been identified, action should be taken to reduce it to the lowest reasonable level. This will include giving employees an indication of the weight of each load, providing precise information where it is reasonable to do so, and indicating the heaviest side of an irregular load. In many cases the risk can be lowered by;

- Eliminating the activity.
- Improving the lift method by using two persons instead of one.
- Using mechanical aids.
- Improving the design of facilities.
- Checking weights before lifting.

Further detailed guidance, including an example of an assessment checklist, is included in the HSE's guidance Manual Handling, Handling Operations 1992 - Guidance on Regulations (code no. L23). The booklet is available from HSE Books. Haztek International will advise on manual handling on 0208 905 7552 or email: info@safegolf.co.uk



Close, but not quite the part!

Barnsley-based lookalike Craig.

Only genuine Toro parts will give the performance you've come to expect.

Many lookalike parts fail to meet Toro standards for form, fit and function. Get one that doesn't measure up and you'll be replacing it early and often. It could even damage your Toro equipment and affect machine performance. We've revised our prices across the board and offer a 24-hour service on just about any part you'll ever require. Now there's no need for imitations. To maintain the quality and consistency of cut - keep it Toro.

Genuine Toro parts at competitive prices. Ask for our new Performance Parts Catalogue. Just call 01480 226845 today.

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TORO Count on it.



News from the Chief Executive

Early in October we interviewed for the Regional Administrator post for the South West and South Wales Region following which I am pleased to confirm the appointment of Mrs Jane Jones.

Jane officially starts on November 1st and lives in Bristol, making her ideally placed for travel around the Region. Her first tasks will be the marketing of the Regional conference at Cannington on 25 November and also the travel arrangements for members wishing to go to Harrogate as a party.

Plans for BTME and Clubhouse are now well advanced and bookings for the workshops and seminars are already starting to come in to Headquarters.

If you are contemplating attending one of the workshops then I would suggest that you secure your place as quickly as possible, numbers are limited and demand is likely to be high.

It is proposed to have a section on the members' bulletin board of the BIGGA web site for those who can either offer someone a lift to Harrogate or for those seeking a lift.

The recommended pay scales for greenkeepers, that have been set by an independent committee since 1997, still seem to be misunderstood by some people.

All too often I still hear them referred to as the BIGGA rates, which they are not. Prior to 1997 BIGGA did publish a set of guideline rates that were used by many employers as the basis for setting pay scales.

Quite rightly many clubs considered it to be wrong for greenkeepers to set their own salaries and so the Standing Committee on Greenkeepers Salaries and Conditions of Employment was born.

The committee is made up of eight representatives from most aspects of the golf world, including the R&A, the ACGS, Secretaries, Owners, Managers and Greenkeepers.

The eight page booklet for 2005 defines legislation and tables recommendations based on age, experience, qualification and location, together with a flow chart on a typical career structure.

These annual recommendations are being used more and more by golf clubs as the basis of their payroll and a copy of the publication can be obtained through BIGGA or the Association of Golf Club Secretaries.

The format of the committee has been so successful that in future not only will it publish scales for greenkeepers but also scales for golf club secretaries.

At the Board of Management meeting in October it was agreed that the library at Headquarters be expanded by utilising a \$2,500 donation from the GCSAA in memory of the late Neil Thomas.

We have a shortage of shelf space and the funds will be used to buy another oak book-case. The library is well used by members and we are always grateful for the donation of books, catalogues etc.

Finally a reminder of how to save money and help BIGGA at the same time! I was pleased to be handed a cheque by Arco for just over £6,000 last week in respect of commission from sales to BIGGA members and their clubs over the last two years.

Until recently all sales were conducted by mail order through their Humberside depot, however they have now completed the installation of a new national computer system and members can enjoy the same significant discount when shopping at their local Arco branch.

For further details on this scheme either contact Rachael or Gemma in the membership department at Headquarters or see the membership page in this month's Greenkeeper International.

John Pemberton



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

SCOTTISH REGION

Ayrshire

ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT! I know the last paragraph I wrote for the last edition was a bit facetious, but I did get some feedback, unfortunately none of it would pass the Editor's censor for print!

The Norrie Whittock Trophy was contested at Auchterarder Golf Club on August 23. Brian Aitken, Martin Lothian, Derek Wilson and Stephen Higgins made up the Ayrshire Team, finishing a commendable second to the North Section.

Loch Lomond's Dundonald Links was the venue for our autumn outing, played on October 7. The sun shone and close to 50 players enjoyed an outstanding course, first class service and superb meals. Thanks go to Ken Siems and Loch Lomond Golf Club for their generosity in allowing us to have such a memorable day. The results were as follows:

Harry Diamond Jug. S. Higgins, Ardeer, 70 pts.

Scratch Prize - S. McBlain, Prestwick St. Nicholas, 36 pts.

1st Class. 1. S. Higgins, Ardeer, 35 pts; 2. B. Aitken, Turnberry, 33 pts; 3. G. Brown, Turnberry, 32 pts; 4. R. Fulton, St. Nicholas, 30 pts; 5. S. Kelly, Lockerbie, 29.

2nd Class. 1. S. Mercer, Skelmorlie, 33 pts; 2. D. Norquoy, Bogside, 33 pts; 3. J. Paton, W. Kilbride, 30 pts. 4. C. Murray, C. Douglas, 29 pts; 5. D. Gray, Pines, 29 pts. Best Visitor. G. Clarke, North Ayrshire Council, 40 pts. New Member. I. McDonald, Largs, 24 pts.

Any news or suggestions then please call me on 07939 104701.

Dennis Tweddell

Central

The final golf tournament of the year was held in late September by courtesy of the committee and members of Downfield Golf Club, in Dundee, when 52 members competed for the trophies in the Autumn Tournament. With entries of nearly 70 a good number had to be balloted out, so beware for future tournaments, get your entry in early!

The course was in excellent condition, despite the weeks of rain before the tournament, and credit goes to Paul Murphy and his staff for this, thanks for all your hard work Paul!

Prize winners on the day were as follows:

Best Scratch. David Leith, Downfield GC, 71pts.

Best Nett. Kenny Stirling, Kingsbarns, 76-2-74 bih.

1st Class H/cap. 1. Stuart Pearson, Aberdour GC, 81-7-74 bih; 2. Brian Heggie, Auchterarder GC, 74-Scr-74 bih.

2nd Class H/cap. 1. Mark Graham, Green Hotel, 88-14-74; 2. Derek Scott, Scoonie GC, 89-13-76.

3rd Class H/cap. 1. Stuart Cruickshank, Deer Park G&CC, 101-18-83; 2. Tom Comerford, Grangemouth GC, 107-20-87.

Best Nett Aggregate for Spring and Autumn Tournaments. Stuart Pearson, Aberdour GC, 77 & 74 - 151.

Patrons. Patrick Benneryd, McNabs, 83-8-75.

Guests. Richard Brown, St Andrews Bay, 78-5-73.

Our sincere thanks go to everyone at Downfield Golf Club for the courtesy extended to us on the day, especially Paul and his staff. Secretary, Margaret Stewart, all the catering and bar staff for keeping us fed and "watered" throughout the day and to Vice Captain, Ian McMurray, who joined us for the day and also presented the prizes in the evening.

Thanks also to all our Patrons for their continued support, everyone who donated to the raffle table, to Peter Boyd for his usual excellent work on the cards, Phil Langdon and Pat (I only buy one drink and that's for myself) Alien for selling the raffle tickets.

There was a slight hiccup with the prizes, but if anyone was omitted from the group photo (taken by our visiting Communications Manager, Scott) I'm sure he will only be too delighted to come back up and take another one!

We welcome two new members to the Section this month and they are Shaun Anderson, from the Dukes Course in St. Andrews, and Hayden Chambers, from St. Andrews Links, I'll let you know next month if they attended the AGM, on second thoughts I won't have to, you would all see them when you were there! Dreamin', I'm always Dreamin'!

Anyway next month's news should contain all the details of this year's AGM, with the names of all the new committee members, or perhaps it will just be a repeat of the previous 10 years.

Two members on the move recently were Craig Pollock, who has left St Andrews



Peter Larter
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Clive Osgood
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and taken over at Cleveland Golf Club in Redcar as Head Greenkeeper, and Andrew Crawford, who has left The Green Hotel Golf Courses in Kinross and is now Assistant at Bruntfield Links in Edinburgh, best wishes for the future go to them both from everyone in the Section.

John Crawford

North

Two new members to report this month, and they are Ross and Craig Watson, both from Tain Golf Club. They are both apprentices, and make a full compliment of members from Tain.

The autumn outing at Westhill GC took place on Thursday September 9 and it was well attended and the weather held up really well.

I would like to thank Dougal and his staff for a really well presented golf course, which deservedly received a lot of praise. The food was first class and the buffet style went down a treat, especially for the very hungry amongst you, no names mentioned.

There was also a presentation for Dougal at the end of the prize giving as thanks to all the years as secretary and committee member of the North Section. On behalf of the Section Dougal, all the best.

The prize winners were as follows;

Longest Drives; Class 3. George Asher, Kemnay GC. Class 2. Stuart Mackenzie, Royal Aberdeen GC. Class 1. Gary Tough, Letham Grange GC.

Nearest the Pin. Brian Hunter, Macdonald GC.

Sweep. 1. Iain Gunn, Strathpeffer GC (good golfer); 2. Ben Brooks, Newmachar GC; 3. Bradley Wood, Westhill GC; 4. Neil Kidd, Keith GC.

Guest Winner. Philip Watson, Westhill GC, 79-7-72.

Trade Winner. Patrick (proper name), Allan Stewarts 76-4-72.

Committee Trophy. Iain Gunn, 71-5-66.

Veterans. 1. Hugh Mclatchie, Peterhead GC, 96-21-75; 2. Donald Patience, Tarbet GC, 89-12-77.

Best Veteran, 36 Holes. Hugh Mclatchie, Peterhead GC, 96-21-75.

Apprentice Trophy. 1. Marc Miller, Moray GC, 75-5-70; 2. Craig Watson Tain GC, 95-14-81.

Best Nett Trophy, 36 Holes. Mark Main, Moray, 142.

Class 3. 1. Mark Main, Moray, 87-16-71; 2. David Duggan, Fortrose GC98-23-75; 3. Neil Bruce, Montrose GC, 94-17-77.

Class 2. 1. Ben Brooks, Newmachar GC, 80-11-69; 2. Craig Ogilvie, Ballindalloch GC, 79-9-72; 3. Andrew Shade, Spey Bay, 80-8-72.

Class 1. 1. Iain Gunn, Royal Strathpeffer GC, 71-5-66; 2. Bradley Wood, Westhill GC, 72-2-70, 2. Bradley Wood, Westhill GC, 72-2-70; 3. Neil Kidd, Keith GC, 75-5-70.

Scratch and Hampton Trophy. 1. Gary Tough, Letham Grange GC; 2. Graham Lornie, 71. Thanks again to Westhill GC for their hospitality.

The AGM was on October 14, at the Caley GC at Kings Links in Aberdeen. It took the form of an outing just like last year, and details will follow shortly.

The North Section seminar is at Macdonald GC in Ellon, and is on November 19, it is usually well attended and a good social night.

The Norrie Whytock Trophy was won by the North Section again and if it is won again next year the North get to keep the trophy, as they will have won three times in a row. Well done to the boys playing for the North Section.

That is all to report just now, have a good month and hopefully the weather will hold up.

Iain Gunn

West

Our autumn outing was held over Ralston Golf Club and it turned out to be a fantastic day with the sun splitting the sky.

This year is Ralston's Centenary year and I would like to thank the captain and committee for allowing us courtesy of the course. The weather on the build up to the tournament was horrendous and many thanks go out to Derek McMillan and his team for the condition of the course.

The results on the day were; Scratch. Stuart Taylor, 71. First Class. 1. Douglas McIntosh, 75-2-73; 2. Andrew Clark, 83-7-76; 3. Chris Kerr, 79-2-77. Second Class. 1. Jack Stedward, 85-12-73; 2. Craig Wylie, 83-10-73; 3. Sandy Brawley, 87-14-73. Third Class. 1. Colin Scott, 95-20-75; 2. David Mowatt, 107-21-86; 3. Gerry Broadley, 112-26-86. Well done to all the winners. Thanks to Joe Pearson for presenting the prizes.

John Robertson, our West Section educational officer, recently took part in a charity event to raise money for Cancer Care, this was for the Maggie's Centre. John and his team, the Milngavie Marauders, set out on the Great Glen Way which is a 73 mile trek. I understand John had a slight detour but he still made it over the finishing line in time. There were 10 teams taking part and between them they

raised £10,000 pounds. The Bank of Scotland's charity foundation helped raise an all round sum of £124,000. Well done to everyone involved.

The tickets for our annual night out at madness are now sold out.

The Clubmasters/Greenkeepers Match has been suspended to a later date due to the recent bad weather.

On another note Ronnie Bunting, of Kilmacollm Golf Club, is leaving after many years service and is going back to Balloch Mile Golf Club where he originally came from.

On a personal note I have known Ronnie for many years, we have attended many educational and social events. It's been a pleasure for myself and many others to be part of his company (also for helping me with my college work). He has been a great servant to the West Section, being on the committee for many years, mostly on education, and also as Chairman. So from the Section and myself we wish you many happy years at your new post.

Anyone interested in playing football please get in touch as the West Section are always up for a challenge. Email- karen.ross@tesco.net, mobile 07970 366 355
Fraser Ross



BIGGA NORTHERN REGION – ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES SEMINAR 2004

A Northern Region Seminar on Environmental Issues is planned for Thursday November 25 at Penrith Golf Club. For full details check the News section of the BIGGA website or contact Peter Larter on 01476 550115.

North East

On September 30 we played our autumn competition at Morpeth GC, our thanks to the committee for giving us courtesy and to the Head Greenkeeper and his staff for the good condition of the course. Thanks to the following sponsors as well, Shorts of Whitburn, Aitkens, Greenlay, Hunters Grinders, Turf Care Specialists, Stocksfield GC and Alnmouth GC.

Playing off the yellow markers still provided a tough challenge, but there were a few good scores all the same.

Best Gross. S.Quince, 70, Parklands GC. Best Nett. A.Dalby, 74-7-67, Warkworth. Greenlay Cup. J.Storey, 75-6-69, Alnmouth GC.

Fewsters Shield. 1. B.Wilson, 81-10-71, Stocksfield GC; 2. J.Gibson, 72-2-70, Northumberland GC; 3. K.Dinsdale, 91-20-71, Northumberland GC; 4. A.Lund, 84-13-71, Heworth GC. A pity that we only had 20 people playing, considering the turnout for the spring competition was greater, but perhaps it will be better next year.

Jimmy Richardson

North West

How about the Ryder Cup? As we say in Liverpool, we thrashed them on their own midden, and I was delighted to see Monty slot in the winning putt after playing so well. Now we will have the N/W news that is not so exciting. September was a busy month for the Section with three golf events all fairly close together. We started with the annual match against the Golf Club Stewards at Birchwood GC on September 6. We were lucky weather wise but unlucky result wise, being beaten four games to three. The stewards brought along, for the first time, Trevor Foster who changed his greenkeepers blazer for a stewards blazer, and playing off plus 2 was responsible for bringing in their first win. Even in defeat we all had an excellent day, and thanks goes to Aidrien Holt and his staff for a great course, and thanks to Birchwood GC for allowing us courtesy of the course.

On Tuesday September 14 we had the Autumn Tournament at Hurlston Hall GC and what a day. I think we caught the end of Hurricane Ivor. The wind and rain came at us sideways but we did brave the storm. Tee off time saw the rain ease off, but the wind became even stronger and, with there being plenty of lakes on the course, there must be plenty off fish with sore heads caused by drifting golf balls. Even though the weather was dreadful, the course was in great condition, thanks to Tony Smith and his crew. Unfortunately we had a poor turnout of 17, and even less sitting down to dinner, still we all enjoyed extra food.

The results were:

Nett winner. Paul Eddlestone; 2. Philip Ainscough; 3. Peter Simpson. Gross winner. Peter Hogan. Vets winner. Brian Turner. Guests prize. Andrew Acorn. Nearest the Pin. Kevin McGinty. Longest drive. J. Kyle.

We also held the Whitelaw Bowl on Wednesday September 8, at Penrith GC, and a full report on this event can be found in the News section of the magazine.

Bret Cross

Sheffield

Many thanks to Gainsborough Golf Club for the courtesy of their Karsten Lakes course on September 6. The course is named after Karsten Solheim, founder of Ping golf clubs, and is owned by Ping Europe whose factory is only a mile away from the club.

The day wasn't as well attended as hoped but this was probably due to the 12pm start. Nevertheless a very good day was had by all with the winning score an excellent 42pts. The course was turned out in excellent condition and enjoyed by all. Well done to deputy head, Neil Vernon, ably overseen by Headman, John Evison, and their team of mortals Jarbo, Pauly, Harry Potter, the dangerous brothers John and Steve, Spike and last but not means least, Dude.

Gainsborough Captain, Bob Sly, and his Vice-Captain, Keith Collinson, welcomed everyone in the style we have become accustomed and said that they had enjoyed the day and the company of all.

The day's main sponsors were Palmer Groundcare, many thanks to them for their continued support of the Section and to Ping Europe who provided us with some excellent prizes from their range of golf products. Thanks must go to Bob Needham and Steve Curry for their organisation and collating of the scorecards. Our President, Neil Maltby, gave thanks to Wayne Banks and the catering staff for an enjoyable meal and to the bar staff for keeping us refreshed.

The winning scores on the day; 1. Colin 'I'm not playing well' Hopper, who said he struggled early on because his clubs were covered in cobwebs, come on Colin just admit to being a bandit! 42pts; 2. Dave Womack, 39pts; 3. Dave Turner, 37pts; 4. John Shaw, 35pts; 5. Geoff Wells, 35pts; 6. Steve Curry, 34pts. Trade prize. Russ Lathom, 38pts. Nine hole Putting Comp. Russ Lathom, 16. Well done Russ for donating this prize to someone less fortunate on the day. Nearest the Pin. 7th, Ian Stephens. Nearest the Pin. 17th, Les Vardell.

Peter Larter was on hand as usual to give advice, dates to forthcoming events and seminars. It's always nice to see Peter at Section golf days, etc keeping us abreast of all the up to date issues.

President Neil concluded the evening's proceedings by announcing that I would be resigning from the Section committee at November's AGM because I shall be taking on the role of Vice Captain at Gainsborough, this is a great honour for me and my family and I am really looking forward to the next couple of years.

I've enjoyed compiling these monthly newsletters and must give thanks to those who have given me encouragement.

Congratulations to Wortley's Head Greenkeeper, Alan Sampson, and his wife on the recent birth of their baby daughter, Holly.

It was sad to learn of the sudden death of Peter Holmes, 63, recently. He did a lot of work on many golf courses in our Section with his land drainage business and latterly contract verti-draining.

Don't forget that the lecture season is here once again to be held at Rotherham GC, the first Thursday of the month at the usual start time of 2.30pm. And finally, all our congratulations go to Our President, Neil, on reaching the grand old retirement age of 65. We hope he has very many happy years of retirement to enjoy life with his many friends and family.

Geoff Wells

North Wales

Bromborough GC was the venue for our autumn tournament and we had a large entry of 74 players taking part – bacon butties, coffee and biscuits on arrival and a course presented in tip-top condition for October by Richard Littler and his greenkeeping team.

18 holes of Stableford golf awaited, with two Nearest the Pin prizes up for grabs. The weather forecast was not too clever, but we were blessed as the sun shone down all day. The course was a real test for most, Bromborough has hosted many championship tournaments over the years and it kept its reputation, as an 80 gross was recorded as the best card in on the par 72. One noticeable person missing from the day was Les Parry, of Arrowse Park GC. Les unfortunately had broken his leg in two places and unable to play with his usual playing partner Neil Oxtan – we wish Les a speedy recovery and hope to see him at Prestatyn in December.

The overall winners were; 1. James Cope, Henlle Park, 38pts; 2. Ian Murphy, 37pts; 3. Shaun Pritchard, 34pts. The Guests winner was Chris Garrets, 32pts, and the Trade Shield won by Terry Adamson. Nearest the Pin, sponsored by BATgolf, on Hole 10, was Don Rowland, from Chester Curzon Park GC, at 39" and, on Hole 16, by Jeff Evans, 12'4", (this was a tough hole playing up hill into the prevailing wind).

The prize presentation was by the captain of Bromborough, followed a steak and mash meal with a sponge and custard desert. Our thanks go to the caterers and to the club for the courtesy of the course.

We held our AGM after the main events. 18 persons were present and despite

the numbers it was very positive – the committee are all standing again en-bloc for a further year with the exception of our secretary, Andy Campbell, who will stand down.

As you will appreciate, Andy has had one of the busiest years of his career, along with managing three golf courses, being Chairman of BIGGA, clocking up all those air miles, attending conferences worldwide and putting North Wales truly on the map, he will be taking things a little less hectic in 2005 but I am sure he'll be close on hand to help out at most of our events, including the Mere Seminar planned as a joint venture between North West & North Wales for next spring.

Prestatyn GC Christmas tournament has had a change of date, originally scheduled for December 1, it will now take place on December 8.

This is so we do not clash with the National Turfgrass Conference, held in Southport, that week of which many members will be attending. Les Parry will also get an extra week to get match fit! Entry forms will be in the post shortly so please put a note in your diary.

The BIGGA National tournament was held at Alwoodley GC, in Leeds, and saw a turnout of 76 players from around the Regions – North Wales was represented by Andy Peel, from Bull Bay GC, and Phillip Watson, from Wallasey GC.

Looking ahead to next year's venues we are speaking with Upton-by-Chester GC, Sutton Hall GC and Eaton GC, these all being to the East of the Region. It would be nice if any clubs to the far South & West down to Aberdovey way would like to host a BIGGA Golf Day, this way we can get everyone included and not make it look like we favour the East, we are grateful for all clubs that put their course forward, anyone wishing to do so please contact myself or any of the committee, we are looking to fill up the next three years schedule of dates. Well that's about all – so as they say in Russia – Moscow

Any news views or comments give us a call.

Mesen Cymru

Andrew Acorn – acorn@golf@supanet.com, 07778 162162



BIGGA MIDLAND REGION – ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES SEMINAR 2004

A Midland Region Seminar on Environmental Issues is planned for Wednesday November 10 at Moreton Hall - Warwickshire College. For full details go to the News section of the BIGGA website or contact Peter Larter on 01476 550115.

East Midlands

Firstly this month we start with the same old problem, a lack of members to support another Section event. This time the autumn tournament, which only attracted 11 members. So once again this unfortunately had to be cancelled.

On a more positive note at The Market Harborough Open Am-Am on September 17 the two teams, supported by Banks Amenity Products, finished third and fourth, a thank you should go to Tim and Simon Banks for the invitation and hospitality that was given to our six Section members.

Onto the National Tournament where our Section was represented by five members who all fared very badly in the tough conditions of Alwoodly GC. The Region however was good enough to win the team prize with Richard Barker and myself part of the winning team. Finally I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Anthony Bindley

East of England

Double golfing success for the East of England Section. After the disappointment of the late cancellation of the match against the East Midland Section, the team mustered up all their passion and golfing ability to beat the Golf Club Secretaries.

The match was played at Beeston Fields Golf Club, in Nottingham, this was a home fixture for the secretaries which made the victory even sweeter. My thanks go to all the players that turned out to play, some at short notice and the sponsors for the day, Cannons Turf. The score for the match was 5-3.

The second success was Graeme MacDonald winning the BIGGA National Championship at Alwoodly. Well done Graeme, two good rounds of golf on a very tough golf course in very tough conditions. Graeme was that excited he bought the beers (first time for everything).

Planning is underway for an educational seminar some time through the winter,