

"As superintendents attempt to establish an ideal green speed for their course they will try lower heights of cut, rolling, low fertility and low irrigation, but I am sure many would be amazed at the instant impact of a well adjusted, sharp mower," he says.

MOWER SET-UP

The significance of set-up of the mower is often overlooked, as people are confused by different claims and opinions that are rife in the industry.

Extensive research has shown that when mowers are operated with no-contact setting between the cylinder and bottom blade the machine will operate in the best way - as a scything unit. This is in accordance with the original lawn mower design of Edwin Budding back in the 1800s.

Grass suffers if greenkeepers adopt lapping procedures, where the cylinder and bottom blade act as a scissoring action, as this demands that the blade of grass is torn or pulled apart.

Under the microscope it is very evident that this causes significantly more tissue damage than a scything-type of cut.

Grass cleanly cut is greener and there is better definition, which is vital for championship courses under the critical gaze of the TV camera.

And it does not stop there - mechanical implications are associated with this whole process as well.

Clearly a very sophisticated tractor with five cutting units is going to operate at much lower levels of stress and strain if the five units do not have brakes applied to them, holding back the tractor.

With this there would be a huge use of fuel and significant stress upon the tractor.

The same applies to a mower with blades, which come into contact.

There is increased fuel consumption, more wear on the bearings, seals and hydraulics and all engine components.

As a result, the set up of the mower features strongly in the environmental equation - with no-contact offering reductions in the use of fuel, water, chemicals and pesticides.

WATER LESS

For greenkeepers facing drought conditions, the fact that typically a bent grass will show a surface area of exposed tissue damage that will be five to six times greater when mown with a scissoring cut - rather than the same grass mown by a sharper scything cut - has tremendous implications.

Water lost through transpiration will be significantly higher in the blade of grass showing greater tissue damage.

Ragged edges of cut grass also demonstrate more surface area on which spores may find a home and therefore an increased risk of disease.

In the UK, Course Manager at the Lancaster GC, Warren Bevan, says his top priority is to make the club most water efficient.

An 18-hole, par 71, gently undulating parkland course, the site covers 120 acres. Laid out by James Braid in 1932 it is set on the Lune Estuary and the course is predominantly boulder clay.

"Nine are sand greens and nine the original push-up greens," says Warren.

"So this requires two styles of management."

Currently the greenkeeping team is on a tees re-building programme and these are being grassed using dwarf ryegrass and fescue bent, with bent grasses used on the greens.

Significant developments in irrigation equipment led the club to invest in a new system this year, to replace their old one.

Other management tools used to increase water efficiency include keeping mower blades surgically sharp and the use of retentive wetting agents.

"A cleaner more surgical cut is vital, rather than tearing your grass plants," he says.

"As they are not stressed the evapotranspiration rate is a lot lower, so you save considerably on water and fertilisers."

Purchasing a set of grinders Warren says:

"At first I was concerned that although the Board had invested in the machinery they would not see the impact.

"Unlike a mower you do not see the grinding machine out on the course."

During the first season when their agronomist visited the course, he immediately noticed a significant improvement on the greens and commented on how much fresher they looked.

"Keeping the blades sharp I have also had positive comments from players who say the course is quicker," he says.

Warren is also grooming, verticutting and top dressing the course.

"Having grinders means we can top dress more confidently, knowing we can re-grind our blades and in a couple of hours have them all turned around," he says.

"We alternate between hand mowing and triple cutting and use Toro machines with 3250 for the tees and 6500 on the fairways."



Grass - bad



Grass - good

BACK TO BASICS

Cost-saving benefits of maintaining surgically sharp blades are huge and this means the price of buying the right equipment is insignificant in comparison.

An essential means of saving money and improving reputation, investing in grinders is probably one of the most inexpensive ways of dramatically raising the profile of the golf course and the team that maintains it.

Everyone benefits - the golf club, course manager, staff, members...and the grass plants.

ADVANTAGES OF NO-CONTACT CUT:

- Healthier, more attractive grass
- Significantly less tissue damage to grass blades
- Plants suffer less evapotranspiration
- Grass winters better with improved root zone
- Increased drought and heat tolerance
- Less risk of diseases
- Greater recovery from the impact or shock of cutting
- Dramatically stronger, more rigid grass blade tissue
- Stronger tissue gives rise usually to a consistent putting surface at higher heights of cut
- A higher quality cut
- Newly seeded grass establishes more quickly with good root growth and less damage to top growth

For a free demonstration of the latest grinders or further information call Kim at Bernhard and Company on: 01788 811600, email: info@bernhard.co.uk or visit: www.bernhard.co.uk.

NEW PRODUCTS

TAKE THE EFFORT OUT OF SPRAYING

Hardi Ltd has introduced two New Electronic Knapsacks.

The BPE 12 volt unit for the professional user comes complete with pressure adjustment and pressure gauge for precise applications.

The BPE 6 volt unit for general purpose use alleviating the tiresome need to continually pump to keep the unit charged.

For more information contact Paul Davies on: 01788 861144.



TOTAL SOLUTION FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

Barenbrug UK has launched a new mixture to help groundsmen and greenkeepers successfully respond to the challenges of climatic and environmental change. BAR 10 with RTF has been designed to provide users with a mixture that is capable of withstanding both drought and waterlogging together with unrivalled recovery and superior wear tolerance.

The mixture is a blend of RTF Rhizomatous Tall Fescue (*Festuca arundinacea*), tufted tall fescue and heat tolerant perennial ryegrass. To coincide with the launch Barenbrug has produced a brochure on RTF, which is available free from the company.

For further information on BAR 10 with RTF or a copy of the free RTF brochure call: 01359 272000.



The residents of this development in Colchester are absolutely delighted with their new RTF turf

NEW GRASS AND GROUNDS CARE PRODUCTS

An extensive range of new diesel and petrol powered grass and grounds care machines will enter the Massey Ferguson product portfolio in January 2007, following a partnership agreement between Massey Ferguson parent, AGCO, and outdoor power product specialist, MTD.

Manufactured by MTD to Massey Ferguson design criteria and specifications, the new products have been developed specifically for the professional, estate and high-end residential market and will be sold through and supported by selected Massey Ferguson dealers in the United Kingdom, Ireland and mainland Europe.

Customers for whom diesel is either the fuel of choice or necessity, have four specific machines from which to select which include two sub compact tractors, both available with optional side-discharge mid rotary decks; a commercial ride-on zero-turn mower with side-discharge deck that can be converted to mulching mode; and a four-wheel drive two-seater utility vehicle with 408kg load capacity rear cargo box.

Other specialist machines within Massey Ferguson's extended grounds care line-up for 2007, include a walk-behind rotary mower, a walk-behind tiller, a residential ride-on zero-turn mower and 10 lawn and garden tractors available in a variety of cutting widths with the choice of side discharge, rear discharge or mulching decks.

For more information visit: www.masseyferguson.com

TWO NEW MACHINES FROM STM/HUMUS

Simon Tullett Machinery introduces two new mowers and area clearance machines originally designed for the fruit growing industry, but finding great success in general groundcare.

The GFM is a three-machine tractor, front-mounted line up consisting of two rotor units side by side giving cuts up to 6m width, and capable of mowing and heavy scrub clearance.

The KM is primarily designed for clearing forestry debris, and has a powerful shredding and pulverising action that copes with heavy twigs and branches.

Contact STM on: 01789 488450.



ELECTRONIC HYDRAULICS

Tycrop is making top dressing and material handling easier, with the option of electronic hydraulics.

Available on both the ProPass PP-180 and Material Handler MH-400, the optional electronic hydraulics make for easier operation. Owners will enjoy a simplified control system with fewer components and a handheld controller that can be mounted in the cab or on the side of the equipment.

For more information visit: www.tycropturf.com



SUPERSPREAD DEBUT

Following the 2005 UK launch of the Pequea GT100 Top Dresser, Lloyds and Co Letchworth Ltd introduce their sister model, the SuperSpread.

Superspread is capable of handling almost any material that can be spread. The conveyor main roller turns on fully adjustable heavy duty bearings and infinitely adjustable hydraulic controls vary speed of conveyor and delivery device.

For more information tel: 01462 683031 or email: sales@lloydsandco.com

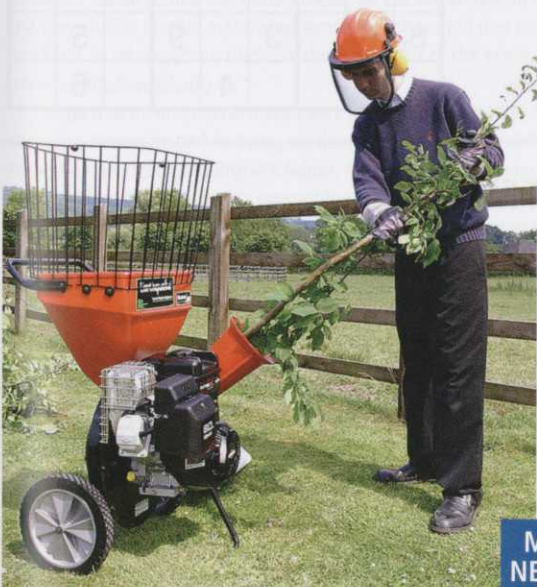


CHIPPER/SHREDDER ADDS TO ROCHFORD SUCCESS

Having recently been appointed UK distributor for the US manufactured Ardisam range of outdoor power equipment, Somerset based Rochford Garden Machinery, have announced the latest of the Ardisam machines to be introduced into the UK, the CS8 Chipper / Shredder.

The CS8 is a total garden waste management system, chipping and shredding garden waste as well as vacuuming and even bagging in one-step.

For further details call: 01963 828000 or visit: www.rochfordgm.co.uk



The new Ardisam CS8 Chipper/Shredder from Rochford GM

**MORE SALTEX
NEW PRODUCTS
NEXT MONTH...**

MCCORMICK UNVEILS NEW COMPACT TRACTORS

Replacing the single McCormick G30R compact tractor are two new versions - the G31 with forward-facing driving position and the G31R with reversible seat, instruments and controls. A new Perkins engine gives the tractor more power and the new front-end implement drive and lift system options add to the little tractor's versatility.

Visit: www.mccormick-intl.com for more information.



PEST REPELLER

New from STV, the poison-free pest control specialist, comes the STV789 Advanced Pest Repeller.

The product is particularly useful in the control of mice, rats, squirrels and all rodent pests, with the signal penetrating walls, ceilings and floors where these destructive creatures harbour.

For further information call the customer service line on: 01953 881580.



HOVER MOWER POWERS UP WITH HONDA

Allen Power Equipment has launched the XR44, a 40cm (16in) cut machine, powered by a brand new 57cc four-stroke engine developed by Honda especially for hover mowers and exclusive to the Allen XR44.

For more information call: 01235 515400 or visit their website: www.allenpower.com.

MOLE CONTROL

New and improved from STV, the poison-free pest control specialist, comes the Big Cheese Sonic Mole Repeller.

This simple yet effective product for deterring moles, the most destructive of garden pests, issues a vibrant sonic pulse every 25 seconds protecting lawns, seedbeds and seedling plants from damage over an area of 1,000 square metres.

For further information call the customer service line on: 01953 881580.



In the Shed

Greenkeeper International brings you 'In the Shed', a puzzle page to keep you entertained when the weather forces you in or for when times are slow.

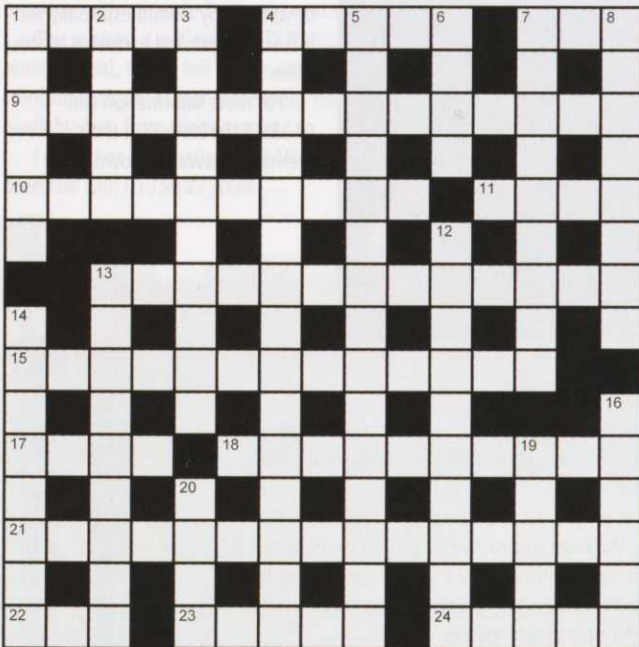
CROSSWORD - Compiled by Anax

ACROSS

- 1 Public discussion (5)
- 4 Having two feet (5)
- 7 Meadow, pastureland (3)
- 9 Source of earthquakes in California (3,7,5)
- 10 Fertilize (10)
- 11 Blemish causing by healing injury (4)
- 13 It signifies winning position in motor racing (9,4)
- 15 2005 hit for the Kaiser Chiefs (1,7,1,4)
- 17 1964 film based on the Battle of Rorke's Drift (4)
- 18 1985 film starring Jeff Bridges and Glenn Close (6,4)
- 21 Of dreams, marked by haphazard imagery (15)
- 22 English hawthorn (3)
- 23 Ecclesiastical council (5)
- 24 Clinic offering treatment for substance abuse (5)

DOWN

- 1 Dashboard (6)
- 2 The approach of a particular event (3-2)
- 3 Composer of the first recognised opera "Orfeo" (10)
- 4 German raconteur noted for exaggerated adventure stories (5,10)
- 5 In ancient Rome, the Emperor's military escort (10,5)
- 6 To challenge (4)
- 7 Lover of Guinevere (alternative spelling) (9)
- 8 Very close friend (5,3)
- 12 Dickens' unfinished last novel, "The Mystery of ----" (5,5)
- 13 Natural consequence (9)
- 14 Tranquillizer, also called Valium (8)
- 16 Instinctive reaction (6)
- 19 Wander aimlessly (5)
- 20 US elevator inventor (4)



ANAGRAM

Allegations were made against him by BBC's Panorama programme.

HARDEN PARK PRY

QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ

1. Why was there no winner of the World Series in 1994?
2. Who was the French Woman who reached the Wimbledon singles final for the first time in 1998 at her 14th attempt?
3. Which group or artist recorded the album - 'The In Sound From Way Out!'?
4. Tony Jacklin won the Open in 1969. Who was the next Briton to win the title?
5. Which sport forbids any competitor to play left-handed?
6. What do you call a person who watches a sport?
7. Which group of artist recorded the album - 'Soul's Core'?
8. Who is England's most capped scrum half?
9. Magnolia, Flowering Peach and Carolina Cherry are holes at which famous course?

SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 to 9.

	1		2					
	8		5	6		1	4	
					6	9		
7		2		9				
	3						8	
				3	4		7	
	2	3						
8	6		3		9		5	
				1			6	

Supplied by www.dailysudoku.com

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Look closely at the pictures below and try and spot the difference between them. You should be able to spot four!



ANSWERS TO ALL THE PUZZLES ARE SHOWN ON PAGE 52



News from the Chief Executive

I am sure many of you anxiously followed the progress of the European Ryder Cup team on Sunday, either listening on the radio like me, or perhaps watching it on Sky. What a contest and what a result! Congratulations to the team and to their Captain Ian Woosnam. The strong bond between the European players and their overwhelming camaraderie was self evident and while the American team consisted of a group of very talented players, to my mind they lacked that little something extra that makes a team. I suppose a smile comes easier when you're winning! In a different type of contest were eight finalists of the Toro Student of the Year Award, held recently at BIGGA HOUSE. The standard of competitors' rises year on year and my congratulations go to the winner Mike Emptage, who was nominated by Hadlow College. A full report on the final will appear in next month's magazine.

My colleague, Ken Richardson, continues to beaver away on the Health and Safety Management System project with the help of various members of the task group together with significant input from Health and Safety consultants, Exact. The result of this project is scheduled to be released at Harrogate Week. I am currently awaiting confirmation of sponsorship of the project and hope to be able to give full details of the scheme in the November issue of Greenkeeper International.

In October, UK members should receive their copy of the Member's Handbook, a benefit that I hope they find of significant interest and value. Additional funding has been secured to be able to provide Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers with a pocket diary that they will receive before Christmas, regrettably the costs of providing one for every member are prohibitive, there may however, be a few spare diaries available on the BIGGA stand at Harrogate on a first come first served basis. October also sees the launch of the Harrogate Week 2007 'Continue to Learn' education programme that has grown in size and stature compared to previous years.

I hope that you will take time to study the brochure that contains details of workshops and seminars organised not only by BIGGA but also by many of the leading bodies in the industry. Exhibitors have also been allocated education time and many have taken the opportunity to give presentations to visitors on technical and product matters.

Harrogate Week is not just an important event for BIGGA it is also a key event in the turf and club management industry as a whole. Despite the absence of some major machinery manufacturers in January 2007, there will never the less be an impressive event that you really cannot afford to miss. All visitors in January 2006 will automatically be pre-registered for the exhibition and they should receive acknowledgement in the post in due course. Harrogate Week has its own website that contains full details of the event, the address is: www.harrogateweek.org.uk

I hope that members will make every effort to support their Association by attending Harrogate and in doing so, demonstrating to the exhibitors that you value their investment in BIGGA's future. Please do not be under any illusion that BIGGA can continue in its present form if funding issues are not resolved. The profit from Harrogate Week is vital to the future well being of the Association and a roller coaster of lean year, fat year is not sustainable.

I am saddened by the relatively poor number of entries for the National Tournament; at the time of writing we have received only 60 applications. If you have any thoughts on how this decline can be turned around, please let me know. Finally, I am pleased to report that we have appointed a new company to re-design the Association's website with a targeted launch at Harrogate Week 2007. The new site will incorporate many of the suggestions that members have made in recent months and will also give the staff at HQ far greater ease of information input. We recognise the growing value of the site to members and have taken the opportunity of a grant from the R&A to make the changes possible.

John Pemberton

**Around
the Green**

SCOTTISH REGION

East

As I write this report, September has arrived with a definite autumnal feel to the air. After the prolonged dry spell, which brought its own problems, the borders were hit with 70mls of rainfall during Friday, August 18. Due in part to the dry spell, there have been wide spread complaints of "Anthracnose" resulting in a boom in sales of potash based products.

The following report is courtesy of Graeme Bryce, Greenkeeping lecturer at Oatridge College: Scottish Open - Loch Lomond GC 2006 - "Team Oatridge" comprised of Barrie Lewis, Ratho Park; Murray White, Longniddry; Iain Ramsay, Edinburgh Leisure, The Braids; and Daniel McGarrell, Holland Bush, and their lecturer, Graeme Bryce. They set off to Loch Lomond GC to participate in the maintenance of the course for the 2006 Scottish Open. Three of the four students are currently undertaking an SVQ Level II in Greenkeeping/Sportsturf and are just about to enter their second year. The other student, Barrie Lewis has achieved his SVQ Level II and will be entering SVQ Level III this academic year. Both Iain Ramsay and Barrie Lewis won their respective year prizes through hard work and effort and were awarded their accolades at the Oatridge College prize giving in June this year. Barrie also won through to the final Toro Student of the Year 2006.

Under the direction of Course Superintendent, David Cole, the Oatridge team were divided into various groups of greenkeepers who had specific tasks to complete. The tasks included, bunker maintenance, divotting, switching fairways, maintaining paths and other means of golf course maintenance.

The Oatridge team were extremely well looked after for the entire duration of the tournament week and mixed in well with the resident greenkeeping crew. The maintenance of a golf course of this magnitude aids in inspiring these up and coming student greenkeepers and helps them to realise exactly what they could achieve with determination and hard work.

Plenty of photographs were taken as a souvenir of the tournament week and will be looked upon fondly, especially the photograph taken with the Scottish Open winner Johan Edfors. Hopefully Oatridge will be able to provide the necessary support for years to come.

"Team Oatridge" would like to thank all of the Loch Lomond greenstaff who were absolutely fantastic in helping the guys feel at home and for making sure they made the most of their experience. They would also like to thank their respective employers for allowing them the time off.

The Willie Woods Tournament was held at Haddington GC on Wednesday, August 23, with sunny conditions being the order of the day. The results on the day were as follows: 1. S Lamb and R Kelly, 36pts; 2. R Burgon and R McCulloch, 36.5pts. Longest Drive - P Ormiston and M Pagan, Nearest the Pin - I Kinlay and R McCulloch.

A big thank you is due to Haddington GC for courtesy of the course and to Norman Wood and his greenstaff for their efforts on the day.

A date for your diary is Saturday, December 9, when the annual dinner dance is being held at The Kilspindie House Hotel in Aberlady. A function not to be missed, tickets are available from your Secretary Kevin Hodges or any committee member.

On September 3, our trade hit the headlines for all the wrong reasons, with a full page article in Scotland on Sunday on the demise of GCNI. A much respected trade journal, which reported information at the cutting

edge of our industry, it has regressed with a change of ownership into the equivalent of a 'lads magazine'.

Hopefully by the time you read these notes, I will be enjoying a cold beer and Greek salad in sunny Crete.

Until next month

Mike Dooner

Central

An excellent display by the Central Section team, competing in the Norrie Whytock Memorial Tournament on August 21, at Auchterarder GC, saw them taking away the Trophy as overall winners. The best three scores from Derek Scott, Kenny Mitchell, Paul Armour and Brian Heggie (Capt.), counted towards the total tally and respectfully defeated all other four Sections in Scotland. The course was in terrific order. Congratulations to Archie Dunn and his team for the presentation of the course. Many thanks to Bayer for sponsorship and Peter Boyd, for the administration and organisation of the event. Belated congratulations to Brian Heggie who was crowned the Scottish National Champion over Leven Links late last month. This is the third year in a row that Brian has taken the title. Leven was in great links condition and was stiff competition for a vast array of golfing greenkeepers around Scotland. Congratulations to Andy O'Hara and his team for turning out a great test of golf. Leven recently lost all use of the irrigation system for nearly a week, and guess what? Andy O'Hara, Course Manager, confirmed that the course hadn't played as well in many years. As well as the Central Section taking the Champion Golfer title, over home ground we also swept the team prize for best four scores on the day. Well done to all that participated.

Andy O'Hara has also been in the spotlight recently as he won the coveted title of LANTRA Modern Apprentice of the Year. The nomination came via Gordon Nimmo at Elmwood College, not only for pushing himself through SVQ level III, but also for the support he gave to many colleagues, on his own staff and elsewhere, in completing their NVQ qualifications.

On the employment merry-go-round, Andy O'Hara has recently appointed Gordon McRae as Deputy Head Greenkeeper. Gordon moved to the position from the same role at Ratho Park GC. Also moving into a Deputy Head role is John Wood who has moved from Portmarnock Hotel and Golf Links, Dublin to the Old Course, St Andrews. Peter Pattenden, Head Greenkeeper Gleneagles PGA Centenary, has left to take the position of Golf Courses and Estates Manager at De Vere Carden Park. He has been replaced by Donald Robb - previously Head Greenkeeper at Blairgowrie GC. We wish all of them the best of luck in their respective new positions.

On a sincere note, it is with regret that we inform you of the resignation from the committee of John Crawford, Course Manager at Stirling GC, Secretary/Treasurer of the Section for well over 20 years. We would like to thank him for his service to the association, and wish him all the best.

For the Section's first education evening at Elmwood Golf Course (1st Wednesday of every month at 7.30pm) we were entertained by Allan Patterson and Paul Kember, Head Greenkeeper and Associate Architect respectively, of the St Andrews Links Trust seventh course. The talk ran through the various processes from feasibility studies, appointment of architect, the various planning stages and right through to the finishing works and seed specifications that will hopefully make the whole project a must play success. Our thanks go to Allan and Paul for giving freely of their time and wish them continued success with the construction.

On Wednesday, August 8, William Nisbet and Steve Nixon, of Bernhard & Co. gave an excellent presentation on cutting unit technology, and its impact on turf-grass health. There was also a demonstration of their grinding technique. Many thanks go to Willie and Steve for an informative

presentation. Both these sessions were well attended, and we hope to see more new faces at future presentations.

In association with CMAE (Club Managers Association of Europe) we are running a seminar on Wednesday 18th October at Murrayshall House Hotel, Perth. The aim of the day is to blend presentations, discussion and debate on all aspects relating to golf courses. The presentations will deal with the different perspectives of those involved i.e. managers/secretaries, players, greenkeepers, advisers. Succinct presentations will be followed by short Q & A Sessions. Thereafter, delegates will form Topic Discussion Groups with each group providing feedback for a Final Plenary Session. Letters will be posted to members shortly.

If anyone has any educational ideas that they wish to see being run within the section then please give us the heads-up. This can be at any level of the industry and in any subject. I have heard it said more than once that nothing is ever run up here, north of the border, so let's prove this to be untrue. We will attempt to provide sessions to suit your requirements. Your education and your personal development is in your hands. Please visit the Section website for more information on future events and to keep up with other news. www.biggacentralsection.org.uk

Euan Grant

North

Hello everybody. It seems I may have upset a few people with my off the cuff comments about certain teams in the SPL in August's report, so to avoid any more ill feeling my apologies to those I upset. There was no malice intended. In any case I'm sure the best team will win the league in the end!

The autumn outing will have been played at Fraserburgh GC by now so the results will be in the next issue.

The season is drawing to a close now and I'm sure the autumn renovation programmes are in full swing, with coring and overseeding the norm for the next few weeks.

The Boy's Home International's went very well at Moray GC with Scotland coming out on top to claim the title. The course was in great shape and along with the weather presented a tough challenge to the players over the few days. Well done to George Paterson and his staff for all their efforts that week. The following week the Boys Amateur Championship was played at Royal Aberdeen GC and was won by Andrew Nixon, from England, who beat Bjorn Akesson from Sweden at the 38th hole in the final. It was one of the best matches I've seen for years with high quality golf throughout the final. I would like to take this opportunity again to thank my own staff for their hard work and efforts that week, in ensuring that the course was presented at its best.

Bob Mackay, in Aviemore, is no nearer finding the culprit for his vandalism but he was saying that it is slowly healing and the seed he has put down is now filling the gaps.

When the forms went out for the autumn outing, Dale asked if anybody fancied a dinner dance for the Section sometime in the winter. How do members feel about this and is there a chance that it may work? Perhaps if we get a few at the AGM then it can be discussed in more detail.

The dreaded crane fly is busy making more work for us in the winter by injecting their eggs into the turf. It looks like it will be another bad year for leather jackets on the fairways etc as there are millions of the buggers about here at the moment, mind you I'm sure the reps will be only to glad to supply the products to get rid of them.

Eoin Riddell and his staff will be busy this year as there is a new irrigation system going in at Dornoch, which will cover the whole course. The old system was giving major problems in all areas, so I'm sure an up

NORTHERN REGION

to date system will be a big help over the next few years. The only downside to these modern systems is the capacity of water you need to keep them going during a dry spell. Our reservoir holds three million gallons when full but even this was well down by the middle of August after daily watering although the course still looked like it hadn't seen water for months. Bring on the rain!

Has anyone else there got some major projects on the go that they want people to hear about, if so let me know on: grassman351@aol.com.

Not much else for you folks.

Robert Patterson

Royal Aberdeen GC

West

Here are the results from our spring outing that I forgot to put in my last report.

Scratch prize- Chris Kerr, 1. 1. Scott McKittrick, 2. Andy Peace, 3. Stuart Taylor; 2. 1. John Barr, 2. Drew McKechnie, 3. Tom Hindmarsh; 3. 1. Chris Locke, 2. Keith Goldie, 3. Alan Martin.

The visitors' prize was won by Davy McBride, the Ian Mackay Trade Trophy by Alistair Taylor, Longest Drive was Stuart Taylor and Nearest the Pin, Scott Ballantyne. Well done to all the winners.

Also at the Scottish National Gordon Howat, of Souters, won the Trade Cup, Gordon is now a member of the West Section committee.

At the recent Harry Diamond Quaich, Eddie McGhee, Douglas MacIntosh and Cecil George represented the Section. Eddie's team finished second and he also won a Nearest the Pin - well done, Cecil was a great friend of Harry over the years and always attends this very popular event.

I travelled up to Auchterarder GC for this year's Norrie Whytoch Trophy and once again it was disappointment on the day. Many thanks to my team for their effort better luck next year. Thanks to Archie Dunn and his staff for the good condition of the course, also to Peter Boyd for arranging the day and to Bayer for their continuation of this event.

David Drummond is retiring at the end of the year after many years' service with Bayer I would wish him many happy years' retirement from all in the Section.

Congratulations to the winners, the Central Section.

Our AGM will be held at Drumpellier GC on October 26, arrival between 9am and 9.30 for coffee, then 10am for AGM, Thereafter a game of golf is arranged - format to be decided on the day.

The match against the Club Masters will be at East Kilbride GC on Monday, November 6 - we haven't lost the quaich since I took over as Chairman. Long may it continue. There are still a few places left in the team if you are interested in playing please get in contact.

Once again we are returning to the studio for our annual night out it has proved a popular venue over the last couple of years with a good attendance, we had thought of changing the venue but could not get the same value for money elsewhere. The date is Saturday, November 25 starting time approximately 7.30pm. Tickets are now on sale from Fraser Ross: 07970366355 or Gavin Jarvis: 07921060402, please come along for an enjoyable night.

Well that's all for now hopefully more news next month.

Gavin Jarvis

North West

A little bit of news has come to me from my roving reporter, an old friend of the north west Section, namely Mike Bottomley, has returned to Holdsworth GC from Rossendale after an absence of some 20 years. Good luck Mike. We hope Alan Jones, from Swinton Park GC, is feeling better as we are hearing he has not been very well.

As I write this we are having some serious rain here in Liverpool, the first for some months. I guess where I am going in two days - Corfu, I would call good planning as it is currently 39 degrees there. The autumn tournament will take place on October 4 at St Annes old links, please contact Billy Merritt for details and to register to play. If anyone has any news, views or opinions or needs advice, please contact the secretary, Bert Cross on: 0151-724-5412 or myself on: 0151 289 4625 my e-mail is jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk

Chris Sheehan

Sheffield

Barry Lax, Head Greenkeeper at Worksop GC in Nottinghamshire is to retire on the 31st of this month after 35 years in charge of this highly regarded course.

When I joined the BGGGA (later to become BIGGA) in January 1977, Barry was the Secretary/Treasurer of the Sheffield Section. As a young greenkeeper I was immediately impressed with the calm assured way that he dealt with Section affairs. He is without doubt one of the most respected greenkeepers that our Section has had and one whose advice we would readily seek.

Barry came to Worksop GC in March 1971 having gained experience at a market garden centre, Lindrick Golf Club, Worksop Cricket and Social Club and as Head Groundsman at British Wire Ropes in Retford.

Whoever succeeds Barry as Head Greenkeeper at Worksop will do well to maintain his high standards. Having known Barry for 35 years, I know he is a man of great principles, a fair man, a moderniser as well as a respecter of traditions.

Barry, and his wife Sylvia, are keen dancers and are hoping to have more time in their retirement to pursue their hobby. They have two children, Joanne and John and two grandchildren, Daniel and Mitchell who they hope to spend more time with over the coming months and years.

Over the years Barry will have made many friends and acquaintances in the golf industry and I am sure they will join me and other members of the Sheffield Section in wishing him and Sylvia a long and happy retirement.

Gordon Brammah

Chairman, BIGGA

Sheffield continued...

On September 5 we held our autumn competition at Sitwell Park GC who we would like to thank for giving us the courtesy of their course. It was quite a few years since we have visited Sitwell - it was enjoyed by all who played. We would also like to say well done to Chris Colton and his staff for the condition and presentation of Sitwell - well done Chris. I would also like to congratulate Chris in his forthcoming wedding when he will be marrying Judith. All the best to you both! Thanks also go to Glen Sawyer Golf and Turf Machinery for being the main sponsor of the competition, which was very much appreciated thanks Glen! Thanks also



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Peter Larter
NORTHERN & MIDLAND
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to Peter Fell, from Aitkens, for providing the raffle prize thanks Pete! Thanks also to the catering staff for providing an excellent meal.

Finally to the golf. Their was some good golf played on a lovely day for golf - which we were very lucky to of had what with the recent weather. The competition was close, John Goldthorpe emerging as the eventual winner - well done John! The prizes were presented by Dave Holyhead, the Captain of Sitwell Park. Thanks Dave.

The results were as follows: 1. John Goldthorpe, 35pts, bb9; 2. Chris Colton, 35pts, bb9; 3. Antony Whittington, 35pts; 4. Rob Marsden, 33pts; 5. Dave Chappell, 32pts. The guest prize went to Geoff Hardy, Secretary of Sitwell. Well done Geoff.

Any news feel free to contact me On 07793111845 or jv.lax@tesco.net
 John Lax

MIDLAND REGION

East Midlands

Congratulations are in order this month for two of our members. Firstly to Antony Bindley who has got married, this seemingly happened quite quickly but Antony assured me he had known her for sometime, but they always say the quiet ones are the worst! I just hope you've got an agreement where you can still play golf and cricket. Seriously though we

all hope you have a very happy life together. Secondly congratulations to David James, Deputy Course Manager at Luffenham Heath GC, on achieving his NVQ Level 4, I am sure it will stand you in good stead for the future. Well done.

On a much sadder note, I wish to inform you that John Carter, a former member and now working in the trade has undergone a serious operation for cancer treatment and at this moment in time is seriously ill. I am sure those of you that know him will wish him a successful recovery and look forward to seeing him again and enjoying his wicked sense of humour. Get well soon John.

Richard Barker

East of England

The annual match against the trade was held at Blankney GC, with a resounding win for the greenkeepers, 4/2 - the trade did squeeze a couple of wins but it wasn't enough was it Stuart, better luck next year. Our thanks go to John and Blankney for granting us courtesy and for looking after us so well.

By the time this comes to print, we will have played our second match, which is against the Secretaries at Norwood Park, results will follow next month.

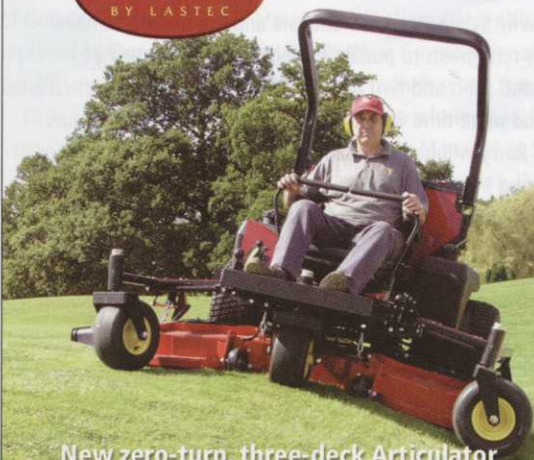
Finally, we have our AGM at Spalding GC on November 2. Please try to attend - we should have the seminar programme for the winter finalised by then,

Allan Walker

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Mid Anglia

Sorry the article has been a bit quiet lately but we are back and ready to go. Back in Spring our first competition was held at Bedford and County GC, around 30 people attended and the weather was fantastic. Our thanks go to the golf club for their hospitality and also to Geoff Fenn and his team for the great condition of the course.

The prize winners on the day were, 1. Frank (straight down the middle) Whittle, from Stocks; 2. Tim McCreddie, from Royston; 3. Gary Boulton, from Dunstable Downs. Longest Drive. Kevin Armstrong, John O` Gaunt; and Nearest the Pin. Frank Whittle. Congratulations to Frank and Tim who both qualify for the National

Championship, at Burton on Trent, in October - good luck lads. I would like to thank Darren Mugford, from Rigby Taylor, for the sponsorship of the prize table and to the other members of the trade who donate prizes for the raffle. Thanks guys.

One fine evening our Chairman for the Section, Frank Scullion, was playing

golf with a member at his course when they noticed a hot air balloon quite low in the sky, after a few more holes the balloon had come to rest on one of Frank's fairways. Running over to the balloon he asked the host if he knew where he was, and to Frank's surprise he said yes, Dunstable Downs GC unbeknown to him that Gavin Simkins, from Mount Pleasant, was on board. So Frank would like to say to Gavin please use the car park like everyone else.

Following a great day at Letchworth GC in August the results were: 1. D. Hodkin, Knebworth, 40pts; 2. R. Groves, Letchworth, 37pts; 3. S. Mason, Stocks, 37pts and 4. J. Smith, South Beds, 37pts. Nearest the Pin - G. James and Longest Drive - N. Phelan. Well done Dan, that's three years on the trot for the Summer competition, we will have to ask Andrew to send you on holiday when next year's venue is arranged.

Congratulations go to James Camfield and his staff for presenting the course in such great condition, with all the dry weather we have had the lads had done a terrific job. Thanks also go to Letchworth GC for their hospitality and to the caterers for the fantastic evening meal.

Our main sponsor for the day was Tacit and we would like to thank Tim Webb for the superb selection of prizes on offer, and also to our other trade members for their continued support at our events. I would like to take this opportunity to wish Colin Robinson from John O` Gaunt all the best for the future. He and his wife will be travelling

round the world with some friends for a year. Good luck and best wishes from the Mid Anglia Section. Also due to an ever increasing workload Bob Butfoy has resigned from the committee, I would like to wish him all the best and hope he has some luck

in getting some staff.

Gerald Bruce

SOUTH EAST

Surrey

Tuesday, September 5. I'm sitting writing this in my garden under a blue sky in a temperature of about 20 degrees. Hopefully all that horrid rain of August has passed and an Indian summer is on its way.

Saltex at Windsor starts today and although we have no stand this year, I will be there strolling around the show taking advantage of any freebies that the exhibitors may be offering. One stand that is always easy to find, because of the large interest shown by the visitors, is Jim's beers and

burgers frequented by most of the Surrey greenkeeping fraternity.

Wednesday, September 6. The weather continues to be warm, dry and sunny and yesterday at Saltex I did bump into a number of familiar faces as I promenaded with my charming companion, the voluptuous Mark Day. We dined on biscuits at the Avoncrop stand, stuffed pasties and pies on the Sheriff stand and were amazed at the various demonstrations that the exhibitors were only too anxious to display to such an important looking pair of undoubtedly executive personnel. Without our badges on they kept referring to us as Mr Laurel and Mr Hardy, was this another fine mess that Mark had got me into?

My next encounter was Brian Turner, who, like me, has just had another important birthday. He was accompanied by his deputy Paul Robinson and Bernard Roe - Brian's left hand man. Brian and Paul have won the Surrey Bowl this year and full details will be found, with photographs in the news Section of this edition.

The details and report of the golf day at Farnham will appear in next months magazine.

Brian Willmott.

East Anglia

"At last" I hear you cry. It's been a while I know but modern technology and assumption being the mother of all, one way or the other past notes have gone astray.

However we did not get where we are today worrying about who shot the pigeon and our intrepid travellers found their way to Richmond Park GC, without satellite navigation I might add.

It was a lovely day for the grass, being that the sun shines on the righteous it is little wonder that it rained. 58 of us got wet at some point but a great day was had by all. The course was in excellent shape thanks to Steve Curtis and his crew, the grub was handsome and the hospitality second to none.

The prizes were presented by David Packard, the Vice Captain and the day was sponsored by Ben Burgess. The recipients of the prizes were as follows:-

0-9 Section - 1. Norman Fenwich, 37 pts; 2. Alan Elliot, 36 pts; 3. James Burton, 36 pts.

10-18 Section - 1. Robert Ransome, 43 pts; 2. Robert King, 42 pts; 3. Paul Gould, 41 pts.

19-28 Section - 1. Andy Baker, 36 pts; 2. John Morley-Smith, 35 pts; 3. Richard Mitchell, 34 pts. G & T Section - 1. Mick Crabtree, 39 pts; 2. T Hammond, 39 pts.

Nearest the Pins on the 3rd and in two on the 18th were sponsored by ETT and won by Matt Gill and Paul Gould. Longest Drive for greenkeepers was also sponsored by ETT and won by Joe Simpson. Nearest the Pin on the 3rd for guests and the Longest Drive for guests was sponsored by Banks Amenity and won by Steve Crossdale and Carl Chamberlain. The loo seat, after a tight contest, was awarded to our evergreen Steve Dickinson who plays of plus 48 and was nearest the pin for two on the 18th for quite some time but did not score a point. (Well if he can do it there is hope for us all).

Other sponsors are as follows:- Aitkins; Amenity Wise; Atherton and Ellis; Bartram Mowers; CMW; Collier Turf Care; Consultant Clarkson; E.T.T; Headland Turf; Lely UK; Prime Irrigation; Ransome Jacobsen; Rigby Taylor; Scotts; Sherriff; Sisis; Symbio; Tacit; Textron; Tomlinson Ground Care; Toro and Vitax.

Robert Ransome was the outright winner on the day. A little bird told me (and it wasn't a stork!) that he is getting married in September. (His handicap will go up now I bet). We all wish him and his wife every



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