

Polybed can be used in a wide variety of applications including soakaways and land drainage, sports pitch and golf course repairs, bio-treatment plants, septic tanks and retaining walls.

The system offers an enhanced void ratio of 35% and substitutes the need to use gravel and stone. Weighing very little, it is extremely easy to handle and can be installed up to 4 times quicker than traditional methods, delivering savings in both labour and overall costs.

KUBOTA (UK) LTD B12, B22, B36



Maintain the perfect golfing environment with the impressive Course Maintenance Range from renowned Japanese global manufacturer Kubota.

Meticulously engineered to exceed your demanding daily needs, the Kubota Course Maintenance Range delivers an exceptional line up of diesel out front and mid-mounted mowers, compact and utility tractors and the ultimate all terrain utility vehicle - the RTV900.

From demanding daily mowing operations to long-term landscaping and course development requirements, the Kubota Course Maintenance Range combines revolutionary engine design, innovative transmission technology and responsive user controls to deliver exceptional fuel efficiency, superior productivity and year round cost effective working.

LASTEC UK LTD C25, C40



Lastec UK's 721XF Articulator, an out-front version of the internationally acclaimed grass mower, has taken European golf courses by storm since its introduction last year. The 721XF, with its 11ft cutting width, is the most productive machine of its type available. Also on display this week is a selection of ride-on, zero-turn Articulators, the machines that have set a global standard for semi-rough mowers.

RANSOMES JACOBSEN LTD M14, M17



Back again with new products and additional services. Ransomes Jacobsen is delighted to be back at BTME after a year's absence. We return with a selection of products new to the show and we're introducing a new range of operator and technical training programmes offering industry recognised certification for end-users.

Showcasing on our stand will be the all-new golf car from E-Z-GO, the RVX., powered by a unique AC electric drivetrain. Also on display are the new Jacobsen Eclipse walk-behind mowers which feature either a petrol genset or a drop in battery pack providing alternate power sources.

As you would expect from one of the market leaders in turf maintenance, you'll find virtually everything for the grounds care professional on our stand.

Ransomes Jacobsen. The One-Stop Shop.

TORO M13



Toro is featuring its new machinery protection plan, Toro Protection Plus, which it says is the turf industry's most comprehensive protection against unexpected and unwanted repair bills, enabling tight control of budgets while ensuring equipment stays in peak condition.

Also on show are two new tractor-mounted aerators - the ProCore 864

and 1298 - which are highly advanced, productive, and exceptionally quiet and smooth in operation.

Toro Reelmaster 6000 series fairway mowers will also be on the Toro stand, now fitted as standard with the company's innovative DPA cutting units. Visitors can also find out about a new Operating Lease, from Lely UK, for customers who prefer the machinery hire route to outright purchase and ownership.

TORO IRRIGATION M5



Toro is launching what it says is the most advanced, durable and flexible golf sprinkler in its category - the DT Series. Many of the proven features of Toro's best-selling 800 Series sprinklers have been incorporated into the new range. These include a Dual Trajectory feature, which enables simple adjustment of the main nozzle to either 15 or 25 degrees, helping it to better withstand wind or avoid obstacles.

DT Series sprinklers come in two models - full-circle only, and full and part-circle. They have a closed case design, an indestructible stainless steel valve and removable rock screen. With fewer and more economical service parts, the new DT Series is a cost-effective and low-maintenance choice for today's greenkeeper.

TRILO (UK) LTD A28



TRILO will be showing the new SG300 high tip, vacuum sweeper. Built to the same high quality and with many of the features of the SG400, including a brush inside the suction hood and six metre wanderhose and it only needs 35hp to power the SG300, it fits perfectly into the range. As the new Progressive mower importer for the UK, TRILO UK will have at the show for the first time, the Pro-flex 120 mower. Capable of mowing the worst in undulations without scalping, while leaving a perfect cut, it must be seen to be believed. The new TDR 15 roller mower has also proved popular, with independent wing operation and excellent contour following.

Following the success of the TRILO range of blowers, which includes the BL400 with 180 degree spout, available as a front mount unit and needing only 25hp, the BL740 for 35hp, but we will be showing the biggest blower in the market, the BL960, used and known by many. It moves a huge amount of air and can have a hydraulic reverse spout for ease of use. Come and see how we can make your job easier! Quality Always Pays!

WASTE2WATER EUROPE LTD B32



If you are considering upgrading your wash-off area to comply with the new Groundwater Regulations, make sure you call by to discuss your requirements and view one of our systems, which will be on show.

We know you've got a choice of systems, but think we've got it about right, as our systems have evolved from years of positive customer feedback. With thousands of installations worldwide our experience in wastewater treatment is second to none.

Our innovative design means you don't need to install our systems in a building or a container and, as they are above ground, you don't have to worry about possible future changes in underground storage legislation either! We look forward to seeing you!

The walking greens mower which adapts to your environment



ECLIPSE™

Jacobsen's new Eclipse series of walking greens mowers are made to adapt to any conditions, wet or dry and to any undulations on your course. An advanced control system takes variability out of the operator equation for a more consistent standard of cut every time. The adjustable cylinder speed means clip rates can be increased which gives a better quality of cut and ultimately helps in the quest to achieve faster green speeds.

The Eclipse is available with two inter-changeable power options, either a 4.6 hp Honda petrol engine or an environmentally friendly drop-in battery pack.

If speed is of the essence, call us immediately for a demonstration on 01473 270000.



Ransomes Jacobsen Ltd. Marketing GK/11/07/Ecl
West Road, Ransomes Europark, Ipswich IP3 9TT UK
Tel: +44 (0)1473 270000 Fax: +44 (0)1473 276300
www.ransomesjacobsen.com

JACOBSEN®
A Textron Company

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

BMW PGA CHAMPIONSHIP

The Wentworth Club, May 22-25 2008

BIGGA are to provide a Greenkeeping Support Team for the BMW PGA Championship at The Wentworth Club, May 22-25.

As a team member you will be involved in walking with a match and raking any bunkers found by the players, as well as aiding Chris Kennedy and his staff, should adverse weather occur.

You will be responsible for your own transport arrangements to the course, while there is no overnight accommodation provided. Being a member of this team will not be detrimental to your chances of making The Open Championship team.

Applications should be sent to: Clive Osgood, South East Regional Administrator, 34 Howard Close, Walton-on-the-Hill, Tadworth, Surrey, KT20 7QF.

The Open Championship, Royal Birkdale, July 17-20

This is your opportunity to work at Royal Birkdale GC to assist Course Manager Chris Whittle, and his team with the preparation of course and be a part of the on-course team which accompanies each match ensuring bunkers are raked in a correct and professional manner.

It will be your responsibility to make your way to the team's base for the week – The Lancashire Manor Hotel, Upholland nr Wigan - but after that transport to and from the golf course, shared accommodation and meals will be provided for the duration of the Championship.

You will be expected to report for duty by 5pm on Wednesday, July 16, and be available until the close of play on Sunday – a meal and bed and breakfast will be supplied for the Sunday evening and Monday morning if required.

This opportunity is open to full BIGGA members only. Younger members, relatively new to the Association, will also be actively considered. To apply complete this application form and send to: Scott MacCallum, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Aine, York, YO61 1UF. For further information contact Scott on 01347 833800 or email scott@bigga.co.uk

Closing Date for applications for The Open Team February 1, 2008, and you will be notified later in the month.

Name _____ Golf Club _____

Position _____ Age _____

I have applied for/appeared on the team at:	Applied	Successful		
Carnoustie, 2007				
Hoylake, 2006				
St Andrews, 2005				
Royal Troon, 2004				
Royal St George's, 2003				

	Yes	No
I have been a BIGGA member for more than three years		
I serve, or have served in the last three years, on a Section/Region Committee		
I am enrolled on BIGGA's CPD Scheme		
I have attended three of the last five Harrogate Weeks.		
I am/have been a member of the PGA Championship Support Team		
I am willing to be a mini bus driver (You must have held a full driving license for three years and be over 25 years of age.)		
I am an overseas Member		

Note: A place on the team is open to all full BIGGA members but priority will be given to the more active members. Also, subject to sufficient experienced applicants, no BIGGA member will be eligible to appear on more than three consecutive teams. A limited number of places will be made available to overseas members. Please ensure that you have spoken to your golf club or Course Manager prior to applying and have arranged the time off. From this year should you be chosen you must send a passport picture of yourself to BIGGA HQ.

New Products



NEW PRODUCTS

FAIRWAY MOWER

The Shibaura SR525 Fairway Mower is a compact, lightweight, five-unit mower, which delivers stability via a low centre of gravity. The width of cut at 2.5mtrs gives a uniform finish from 30mm down to 7mm. In addition the centre of the cutting unit can be moved sideways and also reversed. Options such as grass box, roof and protection net are also available.

www.shibaura.com



SUPA COMPACT OVERSEEDERS

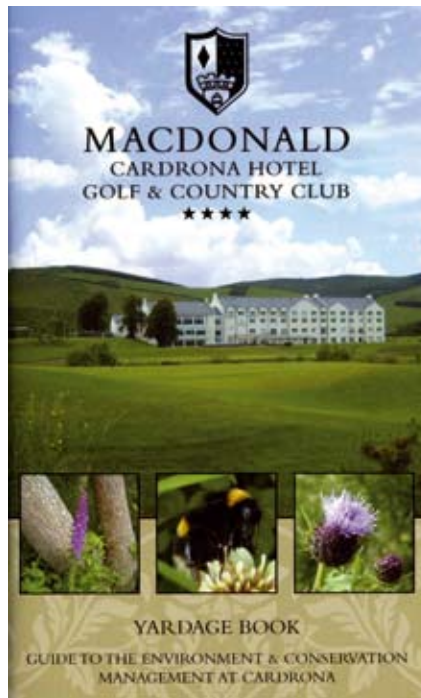
New from Campey Turfcare is a range of overseeders. These Supa Compact Vredo machines enable fine turf surfaces to be renovated quickly and effectively by providing great manoeuvrability for maximum performance. They exert very low ground pressure, minimising the risk of compacting the surface – a problem associated with larger, heavier equipment. Available with operating widths of 0.8m, 1.2m and 1.6m, they can either be mounted via the 3-point linkage of a compact tractor, or used as a trailed machine.

www.campeyturfcare.co.uk



YARDAGE BOOKLET

STRI, in conjunction with Parsaver Golf, is giving golf facilities the opportunity to record and display the environmental credentials of their course via a site-specific booklet or on-course Wildlife Interpretation Sign.



The content of the booklets or on-course signs are specific to each club and will contain the most relevant information to the site. Booklets and signs will generally include a record of the wildlife and habitats found on each hole, together with a breakdown of the positive environmental best practices undertaken.

For more information contact Lee Penrose at the STRI.

01274 565131
or Email: lee.penrose@stri.co.uk

ANOTHER CLEAN SWEEP

Trilo has launched the new SG300 high tip, vacuum sweeper. With many of the features of the larger SG400, it fits perfectly into the expanding Trilo range. It comes with a 1.4 metre brush head, a new brush and hood design and a 5 metre wander hose as standard. It needs just 35hp to power it and with high tip it is the perfect compact solution too many situations.



PLANT & SOIL TREATMENT

Quick-Sol is a unique plant and soil treatment pioneered in the United States, distributed by Beyond International Inc, that has proven to yield extraordinary results as well as aid in the protection of the environment.



Quick-Sol is environmentally friendly, biodegradable and non-toxic and has been certified in its existing markets for organic use. Evaluations are well advanced for certification to the European equivalent standard. It can also dramatically reduce water requirements, one of our most precious resources, without affecting quality or productivity.

www.quick-sol.com

SOLUTION TO LEATHERJACKETS

Nemasys J, from Scotts, is an innovative new biological control which is proven to be highly effective at combating leatherjackets, and can be used as part of an Integrated Pest Control Programme.



Developed by Becker Underwood, Nemasys J contains the beneficial insect parasitic nematode *Steinernema feltiae* – a microscopic worm which does not feed on plant material. Nematodes are proven to be very successful in controlling a wide range of pest species in horticultural situations. Once the nematodes have been applied to the infected area they actively seek out and enter leatherjackets in the soil, killing the pest. The nematodes then reproduce inside the dead pest and release a new generation of hungry nematodes which disperse and seek out more grubs.

www.scottspprofessional.co.uk

CHIPPER/SHREDDER

Pinnacle Power Equipment has launched its 2008 model Eliet Primo Chipper/Shredder.

The Primo is a highly portable and innovative product that can fold without the use of tools and can be transported in something as small as the boot of a family car.



A 4hp Honda GC135 engine powers the 2008 production Primo. The unit can deal with material up to 1.5 in (3.8cm) in diameter, features a 60-litre collection bag and weighs just 35 kgs.

01932 788799
or visit: www.pinnaclepower.co.uk

CAPABILITIES EXTENDED

Two important new options have been introduced for Tycrop's ProPass 180 low impact broadcast top dresser, distributed in the United Kingdom and Ireland by Staffordshire firm, Turfmech Machinery Ltd.

The first is a self-contained hydraulic power pack for the towed version of the machine, enabling the ProPass 180 to be used successfully behind work vehicles or tractors with no auxiliary hydraulic system or with an external oil flow of less than 23 litres/min (5gpm).

The second new option now available from Turfmech enables the towed version of the ProPass 180 to be used successfully and safely behind Ransomes Jacobsen's Cushman Turf-Truckster work vehicle.

www.turfmech.co.uk



GOLF RANGEFINDER

SkyCaddie has launched a brand new top-of-the-range model, the stunning SG5 Pro Series.



The unveiling of the colour-screen SG5 Pro Series in time for Christmas gives golfers access to the most sought-after rangefinder in golf.

Golfers will experience a 220 x 176 resolution colour screen, automatic backlighting, 14-hours of rechargeable battery life, a mini-USB port, four-way scroll pad and a water-resistant body.

0870 112 0513
or visit: www.skycaddiegps.co.uk

OUTDOOR EXERCISE EQUIPMENT

Fresh-Air Fitness has launched a 'Golfers Pack'. Ideal for golf clubs and golf facilities, the equipment in this pack helps golfers to stretch and warm up the relevant muscle groups and joints before play and therefore helps to prevent injury.



The pack includes: Elliptical Cross-Trainer; Tai Chi Spinners; Back Massager; Hip Twister; Air Skier; Big Shoulder Wheel.

01483 608860
www.fresh-airfitness.co.uk

HYPNOSIS CURES

Missing short putts drives golfers mad with frustration! Now players who are struggling on the greens can solve their problems 'while they sleep' - through a unique new range of specialist golf hypnosis programmes.



The MP3 downloads and CDs at www.golfhypnotherapy.com are specifically targeted to manage times in a round when pressure and anxiety can wreak havoc for a golfer, and feature techniques used by young British golf sensation Ollie Fisher.

www.golfhypnotherapy.com

TURNTABLE CHIPPER

New from ECHO BearCat is the 20cm (8") Turntable Chipper.



This powerful new model is equipped with 4 reversible heat treated steel chipper blades and a 76cm (30") diameter disc, driven by a 24hp Honda, which turns the disc at a remarkable 1500rpm via triple banded belt drive.

www.countax.com



News from the Chief Executive

As the days get shorter it is hard to believe that we are only a few weeks away from the end of another year with my diary already having quite a lot of entries for 2008!

I have spent a considerable amount of time out of the office in November at various meetings and BIGGA events where it was interesting and rewarding to meet members. Two of these were interview sessions for the BIGGA delegation to the Golf Industry Show in America which is sponsored by Bernhard and Co. Once again this was heavily oversubscribed and the high overall standard of entry made it difficult to select the final ten that will benefit from this experience. Bernhards have also been working with the GCSAA to select ten American Superintendents who will visit Harrogate Week in January following the very successful launch of this part of the initiative in January 2007.

The main thrust of activity at Headquarters at the moment is towards Harrogate with a steady influx of bookings for both the education and the exhibition. Communication remains a big issue and arrangements are being made for members to hold an open session with the Board during Harrogate Week. This will probably take place on Thursday 24th January however final confirmation of the time and venue will be published in the January issue of Greenkeeper International and on the website.

While putting dates in diaries members are reminded that the AGM will take place on Wednesday 23rd January at 5.15pm in the Queen's Suite, Harrogate International Centre. Copies of the accounts for the year ended 30th September 2007 will be sent to Regional Administrators and Section Secretaries once the current audit is complete and will also be available on the day.

This being my last column for 2007 then I wish everyone a Happy Christmas and I hope that 2008 proves to be a successful year. I know that it's getting tougher in golf and those who do not rise to the challenge will find it even harder. Your Association through its Board, Staff and Region and Section Committees are here to try to help, this we hope to achieve by providing support, education and through developing a closer working relationship with the other major bodies in the industry. I encourage any member that has a concern or suggestion regarding the running of Association to contact either myself or a member of the Board. Remember communication is a two way process!

The Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held at 5.15pm on Wednesday, January 23 in the Queen's Suite, Harrogate International Centre.



John Pemberton



SCOTTISH – CENTRAL

Well done to all the guys who made it to the Dukes for the Autumn Tournament. Many thanks to Andy Campbell and his team for the excellent hospitality. The food was fantastic and the clubhouse staff made us all very welcome. Derek Robson, the Course Manager, and his team did an excellent job presenting the course, and the improvements to ground conditions and surface quality as a result of their work are tremendous.

Derek had set the course up for a fairly stiff challenge. Not to be outdone the weather made its own contribution. Fast greens combined with fierce winds, required a skilled touch with the putter, and nerves of steel. Results were as follows: Best Scratch, David Simpson, 76 (+1) 77; Best Nett, Paul Murphy, 85 (5) 80; 1.1 Archie Dunn, 87 (7) 81; 1.2 Kenny Mitchell, 87 (5) 82; 1.3 Charlie Macdonald, 87 (4) 83; 2.1 Alexander Walker, 96 (15) 81; 2.2 Willie Caswell, 102 (12) 90; 3.3 Andy Mellon, 110 (15) 95; Trade Prize, Pat Allan, 91 (6) 85; Guest, Ray Bisset, 114 (21) 93; Longest Drive, Charlie Macdonald; Nearest the Pin, Dougie Barr; Best Nett Spring & Autumn, David Simpson.

These scores might seem high, but those who were there on the day, assured me that only they could understand how difficult the conditions were – I, was tucked up in bed recovering from my flight home from Canada. David Simpson proved to be a worthy champion, and combined with his performance at the equally challenging Panmure in the spring. was enough to win him the 2007 Combined Trophy. Well done David. David's form was to continue, going on to win the National Championship which this year was held in Scotland at Dundonald Golf course and Kilmarnock Barassie. On behalf of the Section, I would like to thank the Course Managers and staff for providing a great test of golf, and the Captains and Committees for their hospitality, also I would like to thank Kubota for their sponsorship on both days. The starter packs and refreshments at the turn were much appreciated. Thanks also go to Peter Boyd and the BIGGA staff for making sure both days ran smoothly.

As for the tournament itself, the weather on the Monday was typical Scottish weather, heavy drizzle. This didn't dampen the spirits of all who played and a great time was had by most. I say most as a friend of mine found the going tough over the two days he had 200 blows, unlucky Dougie Barr, it made my score look good. The good news is that the Scottish Region won the team prize so well done to the eight scores that counted. (I wasn't one of them) Overall the two day event was great. I'm looking forward to next year's tournament down on the south coast of England.

The AGM this year was well attended and the new committee is as follows: Chairman – Derek Scott, Vice Chairman – Alan Sharp, Secretary/Treasurer – Andrew Mellon, Past Chairman – Andy O'Hara, Board – Archie Dunn, Patron – Kevin Brunton, Trade – Jim Finlayson, Student – George Pendrich, General Committee – Gordon McKie, Brian Heggie, Gordon Moir, Derek Robson & Graham Taylor.

Over the last year we have run two successful Golf tournaments, and nine educational events. In total 255 members attended these and feedback has been very positive. We hope to continue this success into 2008, and we would like to thank all the members for supporting

Around the Green

the committee, and each other within the Section.

On behalf of the committee we would like to extend seasons greetings to all and wish them the very best for 2008.

All the best,

*Chairman: Derek Scott
Secretary: Andy Mellon*

www.biggacentralsection.org.uk 01334 658914

NORTH



The AGM was held at Peterhead Golf Club on November 1. We had 26 people turn up for the golf and the AGM, which is about normal from previous years. The Section would like to thank Peterhead GC for the hospitality and the use of the golf course. The course was in excellent condition and is a credit to Hugh and his staff.

The golf was a Stableford with the names drawn out of a hat for partners. I was lucky enough to gain a pound from the Gers fan at Kirrie because having led for most of the back nine, he took the gas at the 17th after driving to the front of the green and taking 4 more to get down.

Results: 1. Neil Kidd; 2. Stuart Gardiner; 3. Robert Patterson; 4. Steve Sullivan; 5. Ross Macrae; 6. Billy Craig; Booby prize: 1. John Geddes (BIH); 2. Douglas Lambie. 200 Club: £100 - Ben Brookes; £30 - Joyce Hardie; £30 - John Geddes; £30 - J C Mackintosh.

The weather continues to be mild through November and will ensure there is plenty of work being done around the golf courses in the Section.

The next outing for greenkeepers will be Harrogate in January. I'm sure there will be plenty of Scots at it and a few pints sunk during the week. I think I'm right in saying that Toro, Ransomes Jacobsen, John Deere and Kubota are back at it this year, which will swell the numbers.

The R&A seminar looks good again this year and should be well attended. The sustainable golf issue is an interesting topic and one which can get healthy debates going about how people go about it and how they perceive what sustainable golf course management actually involves. Deeside Golf Club has appointed Neil McLoughlin as Course Manager. He comes from the Chase Golf Club in England and started at the end of September. We wish him well in his new post and welcome him to the north Section of BIGGA.

Not much more from me this month except have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*Robert Patterson
Royal Aberdeen*



EAST

I am writing this report in early November with clear blue skies outside. For anyone undertaking renovation or construction works, the weather this autumn has been absolutely perfect.

The Section AGM, with 18 in attendance, was held on October 30, at Turnhouse Golf Club. After a welcoming address by acting Chairman, Stuart Ferguson, the minutes of last year's AGM were read by Secretary, Stevie Dixon. The new committee is as follows: Chairman - Stuart Ferguson; Vice Chairman - Peter Ormiston; Secretary - Stevie Dixon; Committee - Chris Yeaman, Tom Murray, Stuart Crawford, Jimmy Neilson; Co-opted - Ronnie Frame (Trade).

The AGM main discussion point was Education with a further meeting to be held at Oatridge College on Friday, November 16 – More on this next month. A Section newsletter will be mailed to all members shortly with an additional form seeking everybody's views on how to improve the Section. A stamped addressed envelope will also be enclosed so hopefully Stevie will get a 100% return! Many thanks to Turnhouse Golf Club for the food provided and the courtesy round of golf. Congratulations to Gavin and his team for the excellent condition of the course.

The recipients of this year's Patrons Award are Gary White, from Baberton and Shaun Cunningham, from Mortonhall. They each receive a free trip to BTME which I am sure they will find both beneficial and enjoyable.

On the move this month is Matt Thomson (Oatridge Golf Course) who has been appointed Head Greenkeeper at Falkirk Golf Club. His former deputy, John Smith, is currently Acting Head Greenkeeper at Oatridge.

A young man who is not letting the grass grow under his feet is Sean McLean a former apprentice at Craigmiller Park. Having just completed 18 months on the Ohio State University scheme, he is now heading off to Australia where he will be working at Royal Melbourne Golf Club.

Until next month

Mike Dooner



NORTHERN – NORTH EAST

Well what news do we have from the Section this month? Firstly Slaley Hall are spending over £300,000 on renewing their irrigation systems on both the Hunting and Priestman's courses, work is expected to last until early March.

Having written in a recent article about Tyneside Golf Club's intention of providing new staff accommodation, I see that the foundations are now in place so I expect by the time you read this they will be sitting in a nice clean new building - Just think of it lads no old fashioned stove to huddle round, yeah there's been a few ex-Tyneside greenkeepers warming their hands over the years on that stove, me included.

Around the Green



CLEVELAND

Talking about accommodation, Northumberland GC has given the staff a temporary canteen in view of replacing the existing sheds in the near future.

Prudhoe GC has recently been busy working on their 16th hole ending up by replacing the soil, drainage and having all the work done in two weeks.

I expect that Terry Charlton no doubt will be providing transport to Harrogate once again, so I hope I will see you all there in January.

One other thing I would like to mention, is that myself and the committee would like to thank the companies who have sponsored us so well this year in both the spring and autumn competitions, although we had poor turn-outs for them both we appreciate your commitment to the Section. We are thinking of changing the day of play next year to a Wednesday and if that fails maybe an afternoon tee-off time maybe more suitable rather than having to take the full day off.

Jimmy Richardson

The Autumn Tournament was held at City of Newcastle Golf Club on Tuesday, October 2. A very good turnout saw 18 greenkeepers playing a course that was in excellent condition. Barry Walker and his staff should be justifiably proud – Thanks lads. The Stableford Competition was won by Ian Stewart, Seaton Carew GC, with 39 points. John Talbot, Middlesbrough GC, was second with 33 points, just pipping Adrian Partridge, Sunderland AFC, who finished with 32. Dave Bell, a Newcastle supporter, was again the winner of the Wooden Spoon. To save Dave winning the spoon outright I promise to play in the next tournament to prevent a Bell hat-trick! Simon Holmes, of Lloyd Limited won the Trade prize with 36 points. If I was his boss I would be wondering if he was spending too much time golfing and not enough selling! The Longest Drive was belted by Adrian Partridge and Alistair Whitby (suspiciously another Lloyd's Sales Manager) won the Nearest the Pin. Every player won a prize. Well done to you all.

Many thanks go to City of Newcastle Golf Club for their courtesy, wonderful food and a great course. Finally, the section would like to thank Rickerbys and Textron for sponsoring the day. Alistair McRoberts and David Common attended on the day and we were very grateful for their support. Other trade members who provided prizes were Aitkens, Alpha Amenity, Border Sports, Rigby Taylor and Turfcare Specialists. Thank you all.

The Section AGM was held at Teesside Golf Club on Tuesday, November 6. There was such a high attendance that we had to share agendas. Nice to see! Tony Mears, of Dinsdale Spa, was elected as our new Chairman taking over from Tony Smith. We must thank 'Smiffy' for all his hard work in the past and wish 'Big Tone' good luck in his new post. Kevin Scarce, Bedale GC, was elected as our new Vice Chairman. Tony Burge, of Richmond GC, was appointed as Golf Day Assistant to help Pembo at outings. Ali Whitby 'volunteered' to become Social Assistant, drumming up support for social, educational and golfing events. Thanks to Pembo for his work as Secretary over the past year.

Tony Burge will stand down from his position of Head Greenkeeper at Richmond Golf Club, at the end of this year. His semi retirement is due to health problems, he's unable to keep warm during the winter months. His plans are to winter in Southern Europe and cut the rolling Richmond fairways during the English summer. Tony described his fairway cutting role as being 'a nogger'. This is a new one on me Tony but we all wish you well with your new lifestyle. Anthony (Titch) McGeough will take over as Head Greenkeeper on January 1, 2008 with Ian Leversutch moving up to Deputy Head Greenkeeper. It's great to see that some clubs have enough confidence in their own staff to appoint from within.

It was good to see Terry Harrison, Head Greenkeeper of Blackwell Grange Golf Club, at the AGM. He took over as head man in May after Neil Bursey emigrated to Canada. All of Terry's staff have been made members of BIGGA by the club. Welcome to the Section lads.

Future events are a) the TSL Quiz at Mount Oswald Golf Club at 7.30pm on Wednesday, December 5 and b) Bring A Bottle Golf Day at Cleveland Golf Club on Tuesday, December 11 teeing off at 10.30am. Every member playing will receive a prize again but remember a bottle of decent stuff

Model 521EH

LASTEC

Front mounted mower with 2.5 metre cutting width
Cost effective, versatile and rugged
Five fully articulating decks
Fits to most out-front traction units

The Articulator

Tel: 01622 812 103 Fax: 01622 815 534

"Quality Rotary Mowers for a World that isn't Flat."

www.lastec.co.uk



– No Lambrini you tight beggars. Thanks go to Pete Marshall, of Tacit, for sponsoring the day!

Please send your 'non-refundable' £5 deposit for the meal to Ian Pemberton, 6 Rosewood Court, Marton, Middlesbrough, TS7 8QR. Numbers are limited so please book early to save disappointment.

All the best for the festive season to all Section members and their families.

Terry 'El Prez' Charlton



SHEFFIELD

Last news of the year and unfortunately we don't have a lot again! Congratulations go to Lewis Birch (23), from Abbeydale Golf Club, who recently came runner up in the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year competition - Well done Lewis, glad to see the Sheffield Section doing well again. Lewis won an expenses paid trip to Harrogate Week 2008. Carry on the good work Lewis!

Finally may I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

John Lax



MIDLAND – EAST MIDLANDS

The Annual Rigby Taylor, East Midlands Vs Midlands Section, took place at Edgbaston GC on October 16. The morning foursomes competition was evenly matched but the East Midland Section came into their own during the Singles in the afternoon, with the East Midlands Section eventually winning 9 1/2 5 1/2 to retain the trophy again. Our thanks go to Mark Robinson, from Rigby Taylor, for organising the day and helping to pick the winning team.

East Midlands Section AGM Tournament took place at Birstall GC on Thursday, November 1 and was a Texas Scramble Format with 32 entries on the day. The winners of the day were A. Bindley, C Chamberlain and C. Webb with a net score of 58.4; 2. N. Miles, S. Banks and T. Allard (first time he has won anything since hook a duck) with a net score of 61.2; 3. A. Porter, D. Smith and M. Marvell with a net score of 62.3. Our thanks go to Nigel Colley, Course Manager, and his staff for a fantastic day and an exceptionally presented course. The AGM took place after the golf and Andy De Wet and Nigel Colley were elected onto the Committee to replace the retiring Nigel White and Stuart Raybould. Our thanks from the committee to both of you for your service over the past year. The Christmas Tournament is taking place at Longcliffe GC on Thursday, December 13 - Teeing off between 10am and 12 midday. If anyone has not received an entry form please call Secretary, Dan Rodgers on: 07745 227224. Another 5-a-side football evening is planned at Loughborough College the week before Harrogate, if anyone is interested in playing please contact Dan on the above number.

Dan Rodgers



MIDLAND

It is with great sadness I report that our old friend Mr E.Thomas, has passed away. Eric was born 5/2/1932. He spent two years greenkeeping at Boldmere before moving to Sutton Coldfield GC on 13/9/1971 until 25/5/1984. He then spent 11 years at The Belfry before taking early retirement aged 63.

Upon retirement he returned to Sutton as a part time gardener/handyman and also occasionally helped the greenstaff on the course when necessary. This was from 9/1/1995 until his death on 1/11/2007. Eric was a big supporter of BIGGA during his working life, mainly under the old name of BGGA. Eric was Section Treasurer for approximately 16 years and a committee member for many years before that. Most of the modern greenkeepers will remember Eric for bringing together the greenkeepers team that played an annual match vs a Presidents team at Handsworth GC every May. Eric was always there, supporting his team - Despite the fact we usually lost!

Many older members might also remember Eric for helping organise the annual dinner dance that took place for many years in Sutton, where up to 170 people would attend. Our most sincere sympathies to Eric's family and friends, you shall be sorely missed Sir.

Inaugural Midland Region Trophy - November 1 saw the first ever Regional Trophy, held between the five Sections in the Region. Teams of three, all scores to count, medal play!

Needless to say the Midland Section won with a score of 223; 2. East of England, 233; 3. East Midlands, 240; 4. Mid Anglia, 261. The BB&O Section could not field a side. The event was held at Burton GC. The course was in magnificent condition, the quickest greens I have ever played in November by quite a distance! Well done Gavin, etc. Thanks to Whitemoss and Andy Law for sponsoring the event. Nearest the Pin was won by M. Hughes - 40 inches!

The Midland Section Team for next year will comprise of one committee member, and the nett and gross aggregate winners during the year's Section tournaments.

Our annual Midland v East Midland match was held at Edgbaston GC. Unfortunately we came second again; however, as usual the match was conducted in the best of spirits. Our thanks to Edgbaston GC for their kind hospitality and to Rigby Taylor/T.Cheese for organising and sponsoring the event. I'm looking forward to next year's match.

My thanks to our Chairman for the above, wishing you all a great Christmas.

Sean McDade

Education and training has been very busy over the past few weeks with the staging of the Noise and Vibration Management Seminar at Gay Hill GC, the Irrigation Workshop at The Belfry and the 360° Excavator Training course again back at Gay Hill. We have been sounded out about a pesticides training update course and a practical machinery maintenance and reel technology course. Please let me know if you are interested

Around the Green

in attending either event. You can contact me on: 07880 734197 or email me at paul@ghgc.org.uk. You may well have some valuable input into the design of the content. As if you need any reminders Harrogate Week is just around the corner and Sami and her team are once again providing a fantastic range of education subjects. Please support BIGGA and make a difference to our profession!

*Paul Woodham
Course Manager, Gay Hill GC*



EAST OF ENGLAND

Well, lads and lasses, this is my last Around the Green Notes. Three years of reading my drivel is enough for anyone! The new bard will take over in January, but I will keep you guessing as to who it is.

Now onto the news. Both the AGM and the Texas Scramble were held at Ashby Decoy with a great turnout. Results were as follows: 1. R. Portess, I. Collett, J. Hewson, C. Wilkinson; 2. G. MacDonald, P. Fell, P. Larter, B. Robinson; 3. R. Moody, S. Hopkins, S. Clayton, M. Smith; Longest Drive – R. Bemment; Nearest the Pin – I. Collett.

The AGM followed the golf, which passed with no major issues. A couple of changes to the committee – L. Howkins, is our new Vice Chairman, G. Salisbury, is our Website Editor, and G. Cooper replaces S. Clayton as Trade Rep. The main concerns raised were a lack of communication, which will be addressed next year. Our thanks go to Ashby Decoy for the course and the catering. Both of which were excellent.

I would also like to thank all the sponsors this year, you have done us proud. Rigby Taylor, Toro, Colliers, Mansfield Sands, Wurths, Banks Amenitt, John Deere, LMS – I'd like to invite you all for a drink at the George Hotel in Harrogate at 2pm on Tuesday, January 22.

Finally all that remains for me to say is have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Allan Walker



BERKS/BUCKS & OXON

I recently had the pleasure of attending the IOG Scotsturf Exhibition in the wonderful city of Edinburgh, and enjoyed meeting a few old faces and joining in with a liberal lashing of wine as is often customary in these parts as is to douse the Haggis with a "wee splash of whisky sauce", which, with true Scottish understatement, is whisky neat.

After the meal, it was time to pretend you were a true connoisseur and compare notes on the wonderful selection of malts that adorn the top shelf of the bar. Believe me; I adorned nothing but a true hangover.

Joe Newman has retired from The Downshire GC in Berkshire after many

happy years serving the club as Head Greenkeeper. Joe started his career at New Forrest GC in Hampshire, he then moved to Maidenhead GC to take a position as Assistant Golf Professional followed by Ferndown GC in Hampshire and in 1972 Joe started at Downshire GC.

Joe has played scratch golf for many years around the Section and still regularly carves up the links at Maidenhead GC with his old playing buddy Gordon Payne. Joe, from everyone, we wish you a great retirement and look forward to your presence at the section golf days in the future. Joe can be contacted through John Batt on: 01344 421 954. Congratulations to John Batt on his promotion to Head Greenkeeper of The Downshire GC.

On October 31, the Section hosted an educational seminar at Newbury & Crookham GC in Berkshire. Over 80 people attended the event to share in greenkeeping knowledge and take in the trials, tribulations and experiences of Gerry Byrne from the K Club, David MacIndoe from Killarney Golf & Fishing Club, Ian McMillan from Walton Heath GC and Mark Hunt from Headland Amenity. A big thank you to Alec MacIndoe for organising a fantastic line up of speakers and Newbury & Crookham GC for the venue and excellent hospitality.

Finally, a big thank you to all the speakers who gave up their free time, travelled long and hard over the Irish Sea and M25 to ensure a fantastic and memorable day was had by all. Alec, can't wait to get the next event underway, so if you happen to get a call asking for your services from a mild mannered Irishman with a West of Scotland accent mixed with a Newbury dialect, don't mistake it for one of those sales calls from afar. Keep listening.

If you have any news or views the Section website to remember is: bbo-greenkeepers.co.uk.

This year has flown by with great support from the Section for all the events planned throughout 2007 and we hope to plan more superb venues and days out for 2008.

On that note the section committee thank you for all your support and wish you a fantastic Christmas and New Year.

*Mark Day
mark.day@tacticgolf.com*



MID ANGLIA

The autumn meeting was sponsored by Seoul Nassau and our thanks go to Rob Catlin and Dave Murphy for providing the prizes. Berkhamsted GC were equally generous for hosting us and our sincere thanks go to them and the catering staff for making us welcome and looking after us so well. Thanks also to the guys from the trade for the raffle prizes.

Despite heavy rain the previous night, the golfers enjoyed a fantastic sunny October day in which to play a golf course, produced by Gerald Bruce and his team, which was more than a match for the weather, superb!