

The Driza-Bone suit from Course Care is available for a limited period with a £35 discount! Tel: 0845 600 3572 [www.course-care.co.uk](http://www.course-care.co.uk)

### PREMIUM GREENKEEPER MERCHANDISE FROM CWD

BIGGA recently announced a new deal with Corporate Workwear Direct (CWD) to supply a new comprehensive range of Workwear garments and Personal Protective Equipment.

The range will now include Polo Shirts, Fleeces, Safety Footwear, Gloves and High-Visibility garments as well as an improved range of top quality waterproof suits, perfect for keeping you safe and warm.



These Thermal Gloves (HVLCSGS) have a heavyweight knitted liner, latex coating and are high visibility fleece lined. Ideal for Winter Conditions. £3.00 a pair



These Safety Goggles (BBGPG) feature a polycarbonate lens and PVC frame. Direct vented and lightweight at only £1.75 there's no excuse for not being safe!



This Safety Helmet (BBESH) features plastic 6 point harness, slip ratchet adjustment and is supplied complete with a sweatband. £2.95



Budget Wet-Suit (NBDS) Lightweight nylon with PVC waterproof coating, the jacket features full zip opening with attached folding hood and two front pockets concealed behind wide flaps. The trousers have an elasticated waist, through access pockets and adjustable stud fastening at the ankle. £5.75 for the set



These Hard Wearing Boots feature a 4 'D' ring boot with midsole and a dual density PU anti-static sole. Other features include: 200 joule steel toe cap, shock absorber heel, anti-slip, leather upper, acid and alkali resistant, oil resistant sole and heat resistant to 200 degrees Celsius. £25.50 a pair.

Save time and money by ordering direct from BIGGA. We can now offer quicker delivery times and a better range of products direct from stock at more competitive prices.

BIGGA members and golf clubs with members will receive a 10% discount. Check out the BIGGA website for a full list of available products – [www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk)

# Get smooth, fast acting relief – all season long



The SR54 is just one member from the Soil Reliever family of great value, deep tine aerators. Like the rest of the range the unique angled frame delivers more punching power right where you need it, over the tines. It also gives you instant, variable depth control right from the tractor seat, so you can use this aerator all season long, for deep renovation or just to let your turf breathe easier - without disrupting play. With a factory backed 2-year warranty, local dealer network and wide choice of tines, check out the best pound for pound aerator in the business. You'll be relieved you did.



Lo-Call 0845 026 0064  
[www.jsmd.co.uk](http://www.jsmd.co.uk)



# WHOLE AERATION

The SISIS AER-AID SYSTEM injects air directly into the root zone, speeding up the aeration process and delivering the benefits of reduced compaction and healthier growth faster than conventional aerators, with minimal surface disturbance

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# not HOLE AERATION

The SISIS AER-AID moves air uniformly throughout the root zone for complete aeration of the entire area - not just where the tines have penetrated

[www.sisis.com](http://www.sisis.com)



SISIS EQUIPMENT (Macclesfield) LTD., HURDSFIELD, MACCLESFIELD, CHESHIRE, SK10 2LZ Phone: 01625 503030 Fax: 427426 Email: [info@sisis.com](mailto:info@sisis.com)



Artificial tees, as pictured, are now being more frequently used by golf clubs up and down the country.

# ARTIFICIAL INFLUENCE

## How important are artificial surfaces in golf and are they likely to play a bigger part?

Unlike sports such as football, rugby, hockey and use within Local Authority MUGA's (Multi Use Games Areas); golf has been rather slow off the mark to embrace fully artificial turf. However, all-weather golf tees, golf paths, putting greens, coverings to steps, ramps and bridges are slowly but surely being used up and down the country at various courses. All weather or high – wear lawn and landscape areas are also becoming increasingly used to enhance the clubs landscape from an aesthetic point of view.

"Golf has been slower than most sports to embrace the advantages of artificial grass due to it's liking of traditional methods and partly due to it's committee lead decision making processes," said Andrew Baylis, Managing Director of Kent based contractors, Active Leisure Contracts.

"Cheaper pay and play or pitch n putt courses where it is necessary to have facilities open all year round have been far quicker to embrace the practical and cost saving benefits of using artificial grass than the more established, traditional clubs," added Andrew.

All weather tees such as "Tee Turf" which is distributed exclusively in the UK by ALC has seen a significant increase in sales and installations within the last two to three years. "The product offers a solution to clubs/courses that suffer with heavy and/or wet courses that would normally mean closure during the wetter months; while also reducing maintenance costs and still providing a tee which is popular with the clubs members and players.

The time and cost savings allow more effort to be directed towards the greens, fairways and the general landscape aesthetics of the course. The development of more natural looking, more durable, low shine, polyethylene monofilament yarns over the past 10 years has made the use of artificial grass a real alternative to real grass on lawns and high wear areas such as tees, putting greens and walkways.

The development of rubber filled artificial turf in particular; has solved many of the problems of wet tees for both greenkeeper and golfer alike.

A fully synthetic golf course is now a real practical possibility, although the demand and need for such a facility in the UK is questionable. Due to cost, this still remains an unlikely event; but without question courses and clubs up and down the country could benefit from some sort of artificial influence – whether it be used for tees during the wetter months or all – year – round, putting greens, walk ways or to enhance the appearance of the landscape.

Chris Pickles, of Play-Rite, is another to feel that golf has been slow to pick up on artificial turf but is aware of the reasons.

"The high costs involved are an obvious reason and no perfect replacement for natural grass greens has been found so it is difficult to switch," explained Chris, addinh that an old fashioned thought process has also prevented artificial turf from making inroads in other than general pathways and routine high maintenance areas.

The chicken and egg concept also appears to prevent much major development in the golf industry as Chris concedes that the game isn't at the front of their minds.

"There is very little development going on in the golf side as it is a very small market and the only work has really been on winter tees and practice/teaching mats."

So it would appear that for the time being at least artificial turf has obvious benefits to golf in a limited area but any thought of wall to wall artificial is a long long way off.

Websites of interest:

- [www.activeleisurecontracts.co.uk](http://www.activeleisurecontracts.co.uk)
- [www.technicalsurfaces.co.uk](http://www.technicalsurfaces.co.uk)
- [www.tigerturf.co.uk](http://www.tigerturf.co.uk)
- [www.huxleygolf.com](http://www.huxleygolf.com)
- [www.thegreenapproach.com](http://www.thegreenapproach.com)
- [www.verdesports.com](http://www.verdesports.com)
- [www.play-rite.co.uk](http://www.play-rite.co.uk)

Andrew Baylis is MD of Kent based contractors Active Leisure Contracts who are exclusive UK distributors of "Tee Turf".

ALC have installed artificial solutions at various golf clubs, football, rugby and hockey clubs as well as Local Authorities.

ALC are also UK distributors for Poligras which will be used at all hockey pitches at the 2007 Olympics in Beijing.

Issued on behalf of Active Leisure Contracts by Fusion Media (Europe) Limited

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[www.fusionmediaeurope.com](http://www.fusionmediaeurope.com)

Reference: ALC2007/09



# SUN SHINES ON JOHN DEERE QUARTET

**For the first time in its 10 year history the BIGGA Golf Day, now known as the Neil Thomas Memorial Golf day, in tribute to the Association's first Executive Director, was postponed because Aldwark Manor Hotel's golf course was flooded on the day in June for which it had been scheduled.**

It was therefore a great relief when curtains were drawn back on Monday September 10 to see sunshine, a little breeze and no sign of rain!

The day that followed would have done June proud and left some disappointed that they were coming into form with Christmas on the horizon rather than a golf packed summer!

In a competitively fought contest John Deere, Captained by David Hart, and with David Norton Course Manager at Aldwark Manor's sister course of Forest Pines, within their number, sneaked home by a single point from two teams Colourstream and Hayter who were divided only by Coloursteam's better inward half.



The prizes were presented, as always, by Neil Thomas' widow, Elaine.

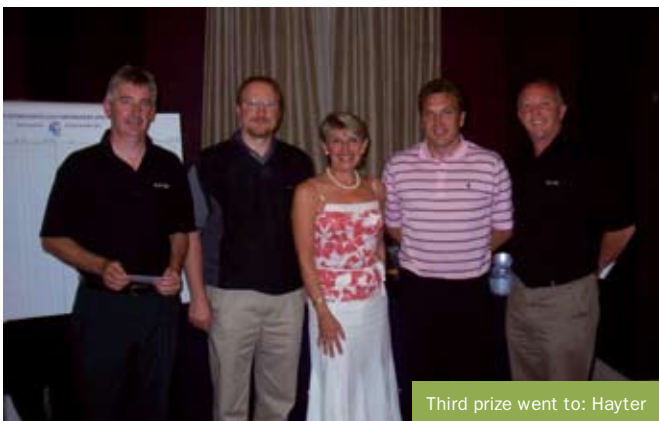
**RESULTS.**

1st	John Deere	88 pts
2nd	Colourstream	87 pts (bih)
3rd	Hayter	87pts

**Longest Drive. Neil Morrison, Toro II**

**Nearest the Pin. Keith Taylor. Heath Lambert.**

Many thanks to our Golf Day sponsors: Rigby Taylor, Hunters Grinders, Premier Plan, Heath Lambert, Kubota, John Deere, Ransomes Jacobsen, Golf Finance, Toro, Hayter, Destination Harrogate, Scotts, Q Hotels, Colourstream, Alpha Amenity, Tower Chemicals, Bernhards, New Holland, Lincsgreen, Warners, 3M, Pitchcare, Ing Lease, Yorkshire Aggregates, Rolawn and Floratine.



# Saltex – New Products

## NEW PROFESSIONAL TRIPLE MOWER

Improved operator comfort and serviceability plus a new traction system are features of John Deere's new 2653B professional utility mower, which builds on the durability, performance and quality of cut of its predecessor, the 2653A. This three-wheel drive triplex machine is particularly suitable for the more difficult areas of grass on golf courses and other amenity turf areas, including slopes and rough terrain.

**i** [www.johndeere.co.uk](http://www.johndeere.co.uk)



## NEW ATTILA

Etesia has launching their latest Attila – the AV98. Like its mighty warlord namesake, the Attila ride-on brushcutter cuts its way through virtually everything in its path reducing tough, overgrown vegetation to mulch. Designed for clearing the thickest of brambles, bracken, saplings and dense undergrowth, this new ride-on benefits from Etesia's eleven years' experience in the field.

**i** [www.etesia.co.uk](http://www.etesia.co.uk)

## BRUTAL BRUSHWOOD KILLER

Vitax have brought their highly effective SBK Brushwood Killer into the amenity market for the first time.

Brutal with tree stumps, brambles, thistles, nettles and stubborn woody weeds SBK does not kill grass and can be applied by staff without spraying certificates. Available in the retail sector for many years and used by professional and domestic gardeners alike, SBK is ideal for use around playing field perimeters, rough areas on the golf course, grass car parks and patches of rough ground. Once the application has dried children and pets can be allowed onto treated areas.

**i** 01530 510060  
or visit: [www.vitax.co.uk](http://www.vitax.co.uk)

## MARVELLOUS MOWERS

Rochford GM introduced the DR range of wheeled trimmers and heavy-duty mowers in recent months, and has now added to this comprehensive stable of garden and estate machinery, the DR Power Grader 48, a really useful tool for the smoothing of rough roads and driveways.

The DR Power Grader can be towed by a utility tractor with a minimum engine size of 16hp, or an ATV.

**i** 01963 828000  
or visit: [www.drproducts.co.uk](http://www.drproducts.co.uk)

## COMPACT TRACTORS

Rustons Engineering featured a range of mid-sized Kiota compact tractors for the amenity sector at this year's Saltex Show.

The new Kiota EX tractors are available in mechanical transmission or hydrostatic versions with engine sizes from 35hp to 45hp, so they fill the gap between the smaller CK models and the DK range with engines from 45hp to 90hp.

**i** [www.rustons.co.uk](http://www.rustons.co.uk)

## GOLF RESPONDS TO SMOKING BAN

With the July 1 smoking ban turning the fairways into the only place where golfers can enjoy their cigarettes, a new product has been launched to keep golf courses free from discarded butts – the Stubbi Golf 'pocket ashtray'.

Golfers simply place their cigarette butts inside the Stubbi and close the flap. Within 20 seconds the lack of oxygen extinguishes the cigarette. The pouch holds up to five cigarettes and can be emptied in the nearest bin – leaving the course a litter-free zone.

**i** [www.stubbi.net](http://www.stubbi.net)



**POWERFUL SOLUTIONS**

Latest introductions to the Stihl range include: chainsaws, three new 4-Mix brushcutters, hedge trimmers, blowers, pressure cleaners and Stihl's first 4-Mix clearing saw.

[www.stihl.com](http://www.stihl.com)



**CLEAN SWEEP**

Trilo has launched the new SG300 high tip, vacuum sweeper. Built to the same high quality and with many of the features of the larger SG400, it fits perfectly into the expanding Trilo range.

[www.trilo.co.uk](http://www.trilo.co.uk)

**ON-LINE ORDERING SYSTEM**

A-Plant has launched an on-line ordering system for hire equipment. The new on-line ordering system forms part of an expanding suite of fully integrated on-line services available to customers through the company's Extranet system accessed via the A-Plant website at:

[www.aplant.com](http://www.aplant.com)



**NEW LONGER LASTING DEWCURE**

Headland has launched DewCure, a new liquid surfactant specifically designed to suppress dew formation over an extended period.

During extensive, three-year trials in both the U.K. and America DewCure's dew inhibiting formulation was found to be impressively effective and long lasting.

01223 597834  
or email: [info@headlandamenity.com](mailto:info@headlandamenity.com)



**KEEP CHAFER GRUBS AT BAY**

Scotts has launched Nemasys G, an innovative biological control product which is a proven solution to the problem of chafer grubs and can be used as part of an Integrated Pest Control Programme.

Chafer grubs are larvae of the garden chafer (*Phyllopertha horticola*), the most abundant chafer species in the UK. They grow to around 18mm in length and cause extensive damage to amenity turf such as golf courses, sports pitches and landscaped areas as they feed on grass roots. Secondary turf damage often occurs as birds and small mammals such as moles and badgers turn over the weakened turf to feed off the grubs.

[www.scotts.com](http://www.scotts.com)

**TELEHANDLER**

The new T2250 Compact Telehandler from Bobcat combines the features and benefits of three different machine types – the telehandler (lifting height and reach), with the advantages of an articulated loader (loading ability) and those of a skid-steer (compactness and attachment capability).

[www.bobcat.com](http://www.bobcat.com)



# Saltex – New Products

## NIPPY NEW AERATOR

Wiedenmann UK's new fast, deep aerator for greens and tees has arrived. The Terra Spike GXi 6 provides major time and cost savings because now only one machine is needed where two were used before.

Capable of aerifying a golf green of 500 square metres in 15 minutes, or 18 greens in one day, the 1.4 metre wide 550kg GXi means greenkeeping won't stop play.

**i** [www.wiedenmann.co.uk](http://www.wiedenmann.co.uk)



## DRAIN IT

Econoplas Ltd has launched Aguadyne – drainage panels that are simple solution to a wide variety of surface and sub-surface drainage problems.

**i** 01723 586611  
or visit: [www.econoplas.co.uk](http://www.econoplas.co.uk)



## GREENS ROLLER

The Double A Trading Company Ltd and Tru-Turf have launched the Tru-Turf RS48-11C Greens Roller which incorporates a unique patented triple off set roller system designed to smooth the turf by design and not by weight.

**i** [www.doublea.co.uk](http://www.doublea.co.uk)

## NEW COMPACTS ADD TO LINE-UP

A new range of compact tractors for large domestic and commercial grounds were launched by McCormick Tractors International Ltd at Saltex this year. Complementing the established McCormick machines for this sector – the larger 35hp to 54hp GM Series, heavy duty 58hp to 98hp F Series and full-size 58hp to 98hp C-Max models, the McCormick CT Series range will comprise four models from 28hp to 47hp.

**i** [www.mccormick-intl.com](http://www.mccormick-intl.com)



## WATER MANAGEMENT PRODUCTS

Vitax have launched the highly successful Aqua-Aid range of Water Management Products onto the UK market.

The result of 25years experience and widely used on many of the top golf courses in the USA, (including Oakmont, host to this year's American Open) the range consists of AQUA-AID, a soil penetrant, AQUIFER a surfactant available in both liquid and granule form, OARS CURATIVE, an organic acid removal system and PERCOL 8 a biodegradable formulation of soil penetrants designed to be injected into irrigation systems and/or incorporated into nutrient mixes.

**i** 01530 510060  
or Email: [info@vitax.co.uk](mailto:info@vitax.co.uk)

## PAVING THE WAY TO A GREENER FUTURE

Tenax UK has just launched a new range of injection-moulded pavers, Tenax Connect, which has been introduced to compliment the successful GridLock reinforcement system.

Suitable for ground reinforcement and erosion control in a wide range of applications, Tenax Connect offers a practical and cost effective soft landscaping solution for areas of ground which otherwise would require major construction work.

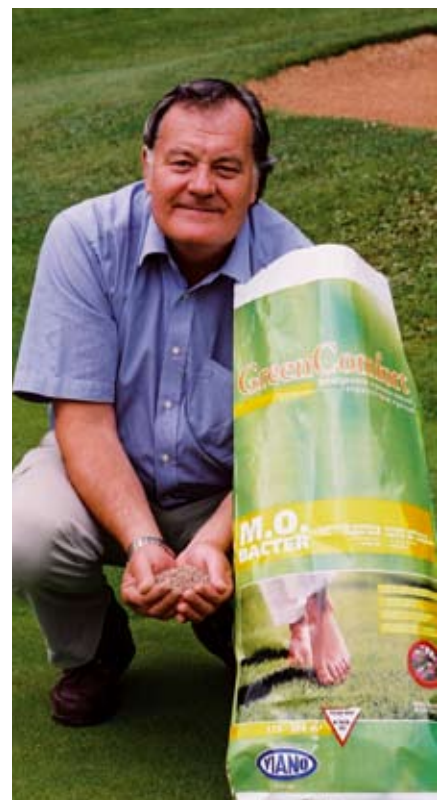
**i** [www.tenax.co.uk](http://www.tenax.co.uk)

## ORGANIC FERTILISER

DJ Turfcare recently launched MO Bacter, an organic fertiliser which also destroys moss without leaving debris.

This unique product, from Viano of Belgium, is a slow-release granular fertiliser which eradicates moss by secondary action, feeds grass and improves the soil. Scarifying after treatment is not necessary.

**i** 01483 200976  
or Email: [sales@djturfcare.co.uk](mailto:sales@djturfcare.co.uk)





### PEDESTRIAN GREENS MOWER

Launched at the GIS Show in Anaheim and making its Saltex debut last month, the new Jacobsen Eclipse 122 F greens mower redefines tournament quality of cut through a new cutting head capable of 50% more float than competitor machines.

The Eclipse 122 F combines the exclusive Jacobsen In-Command™ control system with an independently mounted cutting unit to produce an optimum cut in any conditions. The true floating-head design and a variety of performance options virtually eliminate the possibility of scalping, providing a consistent, low height-of-cut on difficult undulating and contoured greens.

[www.textron.com](http://www.textron.com)



### INNOVATIVE STEM INJECTION SOLUTION

Japanese Knotweed Control, specialists in the treatment and management of non-native invasive plants, formally launched its innovative new stem injection system recently.

The Cheshire-based company which offers specialist advice and management control of a wide range of species including Japanese knotweed, Giant Hogweed and Himalayan Balsam, is set to augment its traditional chemical spraying and 'dig and dump' treatment methods with the new stem injection technique.

0845 643 1168  
[www.japaneseknotweedcontrol.com](http://www.japaneseknotweedcontrol.com)



### MAKE YOUR MARK

One of the newest entrants into the line marking market, Grassline Sports Marking Liquids has launched its new concept, Grassline Titan spray line marker.

Grassline is both a manufacturer and distributor of line marking paint concentrates and Ready to Use marking paints for both grass, artificial grass surfaces and hard playing surfaces supplying direct to local authorities, schools, professional and amateur sports clubs and sports contractors across the UK.

[www.grassline.net](http://www.grassline.net)

### NEW ADDITION

Efco has recently introduced the Tuareg 92 4x4 all-terrain garden and landscape tractor, which offers highly efficient clearing and tidying of areas thick with vegetation on sloping or uneven terrain.

[www.efco.co.uk](http://www.efco.co.uk)



### NEW TURFCARE SYSTEM

Lloyds & Co. Letchworth Ltd, recently launched the Maredo Turfcare System.

One of the most unique products to be launched on to the turf care market, this machine has been developed to give added value to the budgets of today's fine turf managers.

The Maredo Multi-functional Power-unit is a unique patented "mini tractor" that is actively steerable.

01462 683031  
or Email: [sales@lloydsandco.com](mailto:sales@lloydsandco.com)

### MINI-EXCAVATORS

The E9SR mini-excavator is the smallest model in the New Holland range.

Despite the compact size, the E9SR delivers a punch from the 6kW engine, which provides a breakout force at the bucket of 10.8 kN. With a maximum dump height of 2.3 m, forward reach of 3.3 m and digging depth 1.75 m, the E9SR is ideal for trenching and other applications found in many landscaping situations.

[www.newholland.com](http://www.newholland.com)



### MORE SALTEX NEW PRODUCTS NEXT MONTH



## News from the Chief Executive

Merger talks with the IOG continue, albeit slowly. In August representatives of both organisations met to progress the report that will be submitted to members of both BIGGA and IOG for their consideration. To date the Group has not found any major reason why a merger could not work, although there are key issues yet to be resolved. The most significant of these is the question of location of the resultant headquarters and the staff structure. Progress is slow and has been hampered by the inability of the Group to make final decisions for inclusion in the report. While BIGGA representatives have been empowered by their Board to take whatever action is deemed necessary, IOG representatives do not enjoy the same privilege and must consult their Board at every stage. This inevitably causes delays and frustration. The recommendations of the working party, which need to be supported by each Board of Management, can only be adopted following a vote by members in accordance with respective Constitutions. The next meeting is scheduled for October 4, by which time both boards will have had routine meetings and thereby time to consider next steps.

You may know of the European Parliament draft proposal to restrict/ potentially totally ban, the use of pesticides in all areas to which the public has access, this would include golf courses. The next stage is a vote, this is likely to happen in late October. There is an action group, 'The Amenity Forum' made up of representatives from a diverse range of organisations and businesses, including BIGGA with Ken Siems (Loch Lomond GC) and Gavin Robson (Burton GC) taking an active role. I'm also in regular contact with the Forum's Chairman, Jon Allbutt, and Secretary, Bob Joyce. Following consultation with its members the Amenity Forum has submitted to a number of MEP's a report on the consequences of such action, highlighting the effect on the economy, employment and people's lifestyle.

I was pleased to be involved in the judging of Toro Student of the Year last month. The eight finalists who made the trip to BIGGA HQ, were of an exceptionally high standard. Congratulations go to overall winner, Avon Bridges. To get as far as the final is no mean feat, every year the standard seems to get better.

Staff changes: Ken retired at the end of September after 13 years service as BIGGA's Education and Training Manager and also latterly as my Deputy. Ken has been instrumental in transforming the provision of Education and Training to both members and staff of BIGGA, there is no doubt many greenkeepers wouldn't have progressed as they have had it not been for his impact on their careers. Most of his duties have been taken over by Sami Collins who became Head of Learning and Development on October 1. Sami has been with the Association for 14 years and has more recently acted as Ken's understudy. Rachael Duffy will be working along side Sami, I hope you will give both of them your support. Sandra Raper has joined BIGGA HQ as my Secretary but will also give administrative support to the office generally. Her arrival has already had a positive impact on the office.

Congratulations to Stephen Coates and his wife Emma on the safe arrival of their daughter. He thought it would just be his role as BIGGA's Accountant that would keep him awake at night!

**John Pemberton**



## SCOTTISH – CENTRAL

On behalf of all members of the Section, we wish to pass on our condolences and best wishes to the families and friends of Mick Hanlon and Alan Holmes who passed away recently. I did not know them personally, but from the number of calls I've had, and the sentiments expressed, it is clear they were both held in the highest regard by their colleagues in the profession and all trade representatives.

A short set of notes this month due to pressures of work, and our Chairman's golfing calendar being rather full. (More events than the European Tour!) We'll see if all this practise pays off at the Autumn Tournament or The National Championship (8/9th October)

A nice dry spell of weather recently has certainly helped conditions on the course, and also stopped everyone moaning about how wet a year it's been. I even heard some guys starting to complain about how dry it was – Long may it continue.

We have organised a short presentation courtesy of our friends from the States who were kind enough to share their experiences and knowledge with us last year also. Let's have a good turnout for this again. The topics should be of interest to us all, and I'm sure they have a lot of interesting information to pass on.

Presented by Mike Fidanza, John Kaminski & Stan Zontek – USGA Green Section.

Location - Elmwood Golf Course, Maintenance Facility, Training Room. Time: 6.30pm, November 28. Free of charge. If you're not a member come along and see what we have to offer. Hope to see you all there for an informative evenings education. Check the website for further details.

Scotsturf is looming, and I'm sure we will all bump into each other again. This year has flown by. The Section AGM will be held on October 29 at Elmwood Golf Course Training Room, at 1.30pm. Please come along and air your views, and support your fellow greenkeepers.

All the best

*Secretary: Andy Mellon*

*Chairman: Derek Scott*

[www.biggacentralsection.org.uk](http://www.biggacentralsection.org.uk) 01334 658914



## EAST

I start this month's report with the news that John Eadie, Head Greenkeeper at Bathgate, has retired after many years loyal service. He commenced his working life in 1960 on a farm before joining Scottish Landscapers in 1971 where he worked his way up to the position of Contracts Supervisor. In 1992 he joined the greens staff at Bathgate working initially for Head man Stuart Cruickshank and then for a short