



THANK YOU

Just a quick note to thank all involved in the course preparations for the European Open 2008. A lot of work went into getting the course ready for the event and would not have been possible without the tremendous efforts made by all the volunteers. Your hard work and dedication was a credit to you and we can't thank you enough for giving up your own time and coming to join us. We really enjoyed your company and I hope you got as much out of the experience as we did. We look forward to meeting up with you all again soon.

Peter, Glenn and all at The London Golf Club

THANK YOU

Many thanks to James B Beard PhD, DA President and Chief Scientist of the International Sports Turf Institute, for donating a recently published water issue book to the BIGGA library.

Many thanks
BIGGA HQ

THANK YOU

Dear BIGGA

I would like to thank everyone for their kind words and tributes to Bert. I am still finding it hard to believe he has really gone. Peter and Anthony have been wonderful and have helped me so much. Billy and Chris have also been very supportive.

I am going to the orphanage that Bert and I visited on a regular basis soon. I will be taking just over £1,400 with me from donations. Sr Mariola will be able to do so much with this money, mainly to buy medication from the States for the babies with HIV/AIDS.

I am quite sure Sr Mariola will write to thank everyone for their kindness and generosity. I will send you some photographs of the children.

A big 'Thank You' to everyone at BIGGA.

Sincerely
Marie Cross

MATURE STUDENT FOUNDATION DEGREE

Dear BIGGA

My name is Matthew Tilley, a greenkeeper at Reigate Hill Golf Club, Ransomes Jacobsen very kindly sponsored for the 'Foundation Degree in Sportsturf On Line'.

You indicated, back in March 2005, that you would like to be kept informed of my progress. I am pleased to report that I have passed my final year and have successfully passed the degree with 'distinction'. My course tutor, Dr. Andy Owen, has informed me that I finished top of my year.

The Ill description of the degree is 'Foundation Degree in Science in Sports Turf', and I have been informed, again, by Dr. Andy Owen, that I am entitled to direct entry into the final year of the BSc 'Turfgrass Science' (Hons) degree.

I formally graduated on July 10 and took up a new position at Sunningdale Golf Club on July 21.

This would not have been possible without Ransomes Jacobsen's very kind generosity and I would like to thank you once again.

Yours sincerely
Matthew They

BIGGA HQ TELEPHONE EXTENSIONS

As you should already be aware, BIGGA HQ recently had a new telephone system fitted and went open plan. When you phone the usual number: 01347 833800, it will ask if you know the extension of the person you would like to speak to. For reference, the extensions of BIGGA staff are printed below (you can also find these on our website - www.bigga.org.uk):

Scott MacCallum, <i>Communications Manager/Editor</i>	510
Melissa Jones, <i>Assistant Editor</i>	516
Tom Campbell, <i>Design & Production Editor</i>	513
Rosie Hancher, <i>Sales Manager</i>	518
Kirstin Smith, <i>Advertising Executive</i>	517
Sharon Price, <i>Sales Executive</i>	519
Sue McDonough, <i>Exhibition Sales</i>	504
Tracey Madison, <i>Membership Manager</i>	507
Brad Anderson, <i>Membership Services Assistant</i>	512
Justine De Taure, <i>Membership Services Officer</i>	511
Pauline Thompson, <i>Exhibition Officer</i>	514
Sami Collins, <i>Head of Learning and Development</i>	506
Rachael Duffy, <i>Learning & Development Administrator</i>	522
Sandra Raper, <i>Secretary/Administrative Assistant</i>	509
Stephen Coates, <i>Accountant</i>	508
Tracey Tyerman, <i>Assistant Accountant</i>	503

Please email your letters to Scott MacCallum, scott@bigga.co.uk
or Melissa Jones, melissa@bigga.co.uk
or post to: BIGGA House, Aldwark Manor, Alne, York YO61 1UF

New Products



NEW PRODUCTS



MOWER

Kyoeshia UK, the newest name on UK golf courses, has launched the Baroness LM319, a flexible four-wheel drive mid-weight triplex cylinder mower with ample power, from a Kubota D1105 26hp Diesel 3-cylinder engine, to cut large swathes of longer grass and the finesse to produce an approach quality finish.

07912 390310
www.baronessuk.com



NEW TRENCHER

The latest addition to the wide range of trenchers available from AFT Trenchers is the WizzWheel 75 MK 2. A powerful and rugged wheel trencher for tractors from 90 to 160hp (60-105kW) designed for installation of intensive sports turf drainage systems and also widely used for installation of fibre optic cables all over the world.

01787 311 811
www.trenchers.co.uk



NEW ARTICULATING HEDGETRIMMER

The new Echo HCA-265ES Articulating Hedgetrimmer has double sided, double reciprocating trimmer blades that are adjustable to eight different cutting angles. Powered by a 25.4cc two stroke ECHO engine, and equipped with the Easy Start system for effortless starting, the HCA-265ES 450mm double-sided cutting blades provide the operator with smooth and efficient hedge cutting. With an overall length of 2120mm even high hedges can be cut and shaped without the need of a ladder.

01844 278800
www.echo-tools.com

CADDY MOTION

Caddy Motion – the in-car golf caddy battery charger that had the Dragons' Den hard-men baying for a share of the action – has made a key product enhancement.

Due to the fact that the Caddy Motion inventors are tidy-minded and conscientious auto electricians, the original product was intended to be effective at keeping caddy batteries charged up, but also to be design-efficient. The battery dock originally was intended to be screwed to the floor of the car boot and hard-wired into the vehicle's electrics. This is still easily achievable, but the Caddy Motion now has a new trick...

A 12v 'cigar lighter' adaptor is now included in the pack, giving the unit plug & play capacity too. Users who bought the first models without the 12v adaptor can get their adaptor via www.caddy-motion.ie

www.caddy-motion.com



EXPRESS BLOWER SYSTEM

The latest in landscaping technology was launched recently by Scotbark's – the Express Blower System.

The unique system has the ability to reach inaccessible areas such as steep embankments, roof gardens, court yards and play areas. The blowing system allows areas to be covered with organic materials efficiently and effectively.

www.scotbarkuk.com



NEW PUTTER

Yes! Golf this month sees the UK launch of the new Sandy C-Groove Putter.

Sandy will come under great scrutiny as it follows on the heels of Donna, the hybrid putter that so entranced Tour players after its spring launch with its extraordinary feel.

A compact mallet design with streamlined double delta back for a quick alignment reference and high moment of Inertia (MOI), Sandy's features include: Face-balance, head weight 355g, loft: 2.5 degrees; lie: 72 degrees standard (2 degrees flat or 2 degrees upright also available).

www.yesgolf.co.uk

NEW SERIES TRACTOR

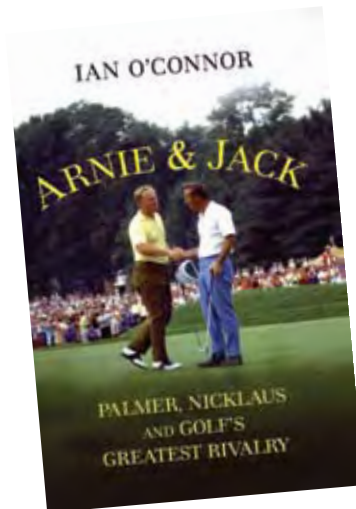
New Holland has launched its T5000 Series tractors which builds on the foundations of its TL-A Series. The T5000 Series comprises four models with the power band expanded to a maximum 106hp.

T5000 models feature a modern design with a sloping bonnet to improve the driver's view of loaders and front-mounted attachments, increasingly important applications for this type of tractor. An updated cab with a new colour scheme adds to the tractor's modern look and feel.

Power is supplied by New Holland's turbocharged 4.5 litre NEF engine with intercooler which is compliant with Tier III emission legislation and is capable of running on 100% biodiesel. The four models also offer more horsepower than their predecessors: the T5030 has 76hp, the T5040 86hp and T5050 97hp, while the range is completed by the 106hp T5060 model.

Fuel economy has become a major issue and lower rated engine speeds of 2,300 rpm on T5000 models give an optimum fuel consumption of just 216 g/kWh.

Maximum torque of 425 Nm is reached at a lower engine speed of 1,300 rpm, reducing noise and fuel consumption, while service intervals of



ARNIE & JACK

In this recently launched book, Ian O'Connor brings to life the story of two men, their rivalry and a whole sport, in a gripping, no-holds-barred account of one of sport's most fascinating pairings.

www.rbooks.co.uk



YOUR DRAINAGE ON YOUR GOLF COURSE

A new brief but comprehensive outline of the causes of, and cures for, golf course drainage problems, has been launched by Sportsturf Drainage Pioneer, Geoffrey Davison.

Copies are free of charge for BIGGA members, please contact Geoffrey on: 01568 797024 for more information.



600 hours cut downtime and workshop bills, offering further savings.

Hydraulic performance has also been improved by a new dual pump layout for the hydraulic system. Surplus hydraulic power from the 40 litres/min steering pump can be used to increase the main pump flow rate from 60 litres/min to 80 litres/min, considerably enhancing front loader performance.

Front mounted mowers, sweepers and snow clearing equipment offer improved productivity and all new T5000 models can be fitted with an optional front linkage and PTO assembly, increasing versatility.

www.newholland.com

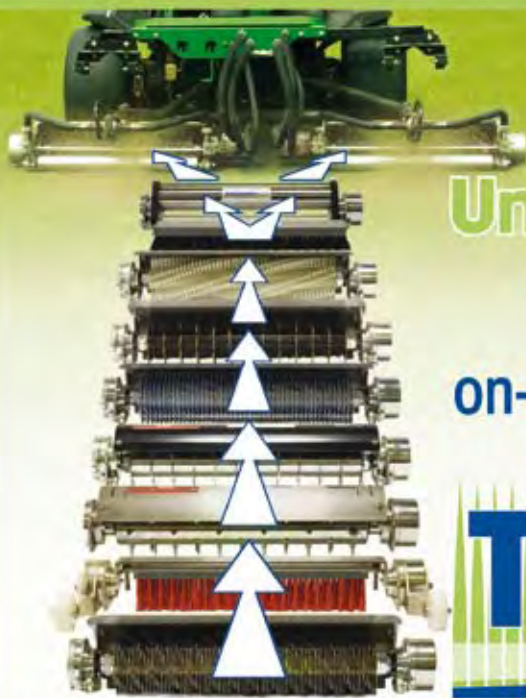


ULTRA LOW-USE RATE HERBICIDE

Precision Laboratories, Inc., a leading provider of specialized chemistries for green industries, announced the release of Transport Ultra™ for the turf industry. This unique, ultra low-use rate ammonium sulfate (AMS) replacement product combines nonionic surfactant, water conditioning agents and ammonium ions in a convenient premix formulation.

Transport Ultra enhances the performance of weak acid herbicides, such as dicamba, phenoxies and glyphosate, by sequestering hard water ions and protonating the herbicide for faster uptake and translocation. It improves early weed control, reduces product handling and won't plug nozzles like AMS.

www.precisionlab.com/transportultra



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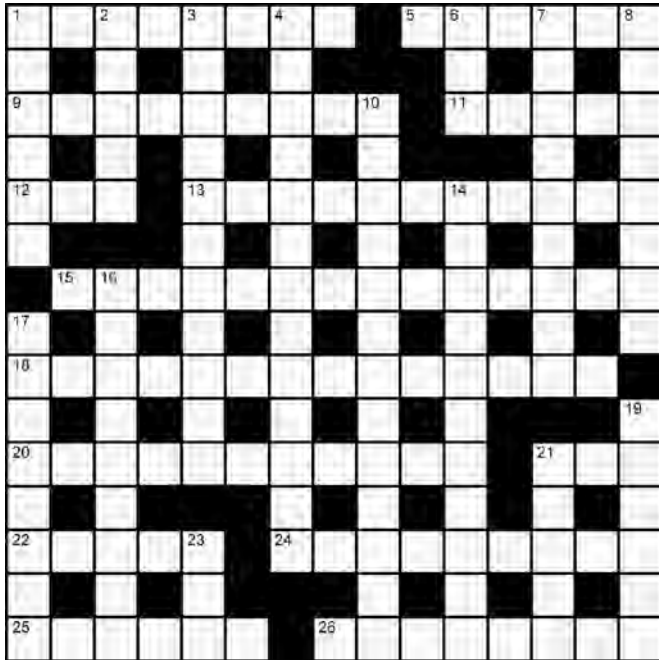
01788 811600 • www.bernhard.co.uk



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



Across

- 1 Questionable credit document often used as part of a company buyout (4,4)
- 5 Colloquial name for any cheap tabloid newspaper (6)
- 9 Country situated between Nicaragua and Panama (5,4)
- 11 Distinctive atmosphere or feeling (5)
- 12 In whatever degree (3)
- 13 England's royal house from 1154-1485 (11)
- 15 1989 Herbert Ross film which did much to publicise diabetes (5,9)
- 18 Sanctimonious (6-4-4)
- 20 Plummer, played the role of Captain von Trapp in The Sound of Music (11)
- 21 One of two Greek letters (the other being Chi) used to represent a cross (3)
- 22 Had, possessed (5)
- 24 Successful 1979 song by Chic (4,5)
- 25 Fashionable (6)
- 26 Brief fight, often as a prelude to a full assault (8)

Down

- 1 Nocturnal canine, usually hunting singly or as one of a pair (6)
- 2 Janet Jackson hit which shares its name with a Hertfordshire village (5)
- 3 People who speak disrespectfully of sacred things (11)
- 4 US astronaut, the first to set foot on the moon (4,9)
- 6 Large European deer (called moose in North America) (3)
- 7 Surname of the director of Reservoir Dogs (9)
- 8 Image formed by the mind, often perceived as real (8)
- 10 Arab got hook-up (anagram) (9,4)
- 14 Author who credits their work to someone else (5-6)
- 16 Permissible difference (9)
- 17 Supermarket counter where purchases are made (8)
- 19 Sudden change of regime, by force or illegally (6)
- 21 Paces of pieces? (5)
- 23 Explosive device which fails to detonate (3)

QUICK NINE-HOLE QUIZ

1. Which British golfer won more major championships in the 1990s than any other player?
2. Who played the title role in 'The Manageress'?
3. Why is John Emburey's score of 46 for an England XI v Hobart in 1986 a record in first-class cricket?
4. In sport, which country did swimmer Ian Thorpe represent in the Sydney Olympics 2000?
5. Which jockey has had most career wins?
6. In Golf, who won the US Open in 1994?
7. Which chess pieces change places during castling?
8. Who plays home games at Gigg Lane?
9. Which Formula One team went into liquidation in January 2002?

MONSTER SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x4 box contains the numbers 1 to 9 and the letters A,B and C.

	7		8		B			4	3	
4			2		8	1		5		
		C			3	4	2		6	
1		9		3				C	8	5
				1		2	6			
	4			8					2	
	A					8			1	
			1	C		A				
C	8		B			6		9	2	
	B		C	6	2			7		
			4		7	8	A		9	
	9	1				A	4		B	

SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 12 box shape contains the numbers 1 to 9.

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

FINE WEATHER AND FINE SCORES

BIGGA's Annual Neil Thomas Golf Day got back on track in June with a fine dose of weather and some stunning golf



FEATURE

BIGGA's annual Neil Thomas Memorial Golf Day went ahead as planned on the final day of June. That shouldn't be too remarkable a statement but given that at the same time last year Aldwark Manor Hotel and Golf Course was under several feet of water and the event, a regular event on the calendar for the last 10 years, was postponed until late September, it is well worth recording.

But not only did the sun shine of the players – at least on some of them at any rate – the day will be remembered for some fine golf and some outstanding scoring.

Ironically, despite the sunnier weather being towards the end of the day the winners emerged

from the early starters with Colourstream, printers who supply much of BIGGA's printed material, scoring a cracking 97 points from the two score counting from four, full handicap Stableford format, which was introduced a couple of years ago.

That score had a few people gasping in admiration but, indeed, it was only just good enough to clinch the silverware as Vocalink, the second team out, matched the score only to lose by virtue of an inferior back nine.

Ironically it was another early starter, Scotts, who played directly behind Vocalink and who must have felt they were going to finish among the also rans, who finished third with 89 points.

Nearest the Pin was won by David Smith, representing Mansfield Sands, who frightened the flag at the picturesque 18th.

As ever Aldwark Manor Hotel proved superb hosts with bacon rolls prior to play to set the teams up before the daunting 1st tee experience while the food to accompany the chat of “heroic near misses” “tragic missed putts” and “might have beens” was excellent. In between times the BIGGA staff manned the halfway house in case anyway was struggling from lack of sustenance and in need of some chocolate.

The day was wonderfully supported by companies and BIGGA Sections who fielded teams and sponsored tees and it meant a sizable cheque being sent to the charity of BIGGA Chairman, Kenny Mackay's, charity of choice – the Leeds-based Child Heart Surgery Fund.







News from the Chief Executive

Another Open Championship comes and goes and what a surprising, but very worthy, winner we have! Congratulations to the R&A on the success of the event but the real champions were Chris Whittle and his team for preparing a magnificent course. The BIGGA Support Team put in a lot of hard work in helping Chris and also surpassed the expectations of the R&A and the players when it came to the condition of the bunkers.

They represented the Association with true professionalism and I was proud to receive plaudits on their behalf on several occasions. It was pleasing to sit down with the members present and in doing so you soon realise the value of networking. New friendships were forged and old friendships renewed.

Try as we may we do not seem to be able to arouse the interest of the media though. We put out daily press releases in the Media Centre, Scott and I had interviews with press and we were in regular contact with the BBC. The odd mention came over but it really is not big enough news for journalists and commentators to get too excited about. Nevertheless we will continue to develop a working relationship with the media and I congratulate BIGGA's communication team, Scott and Melissa, for all their efforts.

The BIGGA Golf Day - the Neil Thomas Memorial Day - in June was a great success and we will be sending a cheque for just over £2,000 to the Children's Heart Specialist Ward at Leeds Hospital which is our chosen charity this year. Thank you once again to all those companies and individuals who made the day possible by giving their financial support.

This week I have had the privilege of attending the official presentation to Bernhard & Co of the Queen's Award for Excellence by the Lord-Lieutenant of Warwickshire. Stephen Bernhard is quite rightly proud of his team who have all contributed in some way or other to the company's success. In a climate of change within golf it is important that we all take heart from such an achievement.

During August we will be reviewing our own Business Plan and preparing budgets for the coming year as well as putting the membership categories and the Constitution under scrutiny. We must never lose sight of the need for the commercial arm of the Association, after all it is this part of the business that funds the majority of what we do.

Finally, I hope that members will take an interest in the National Championship, sponsored by Kubota, details of which are elsewhere in this issue of Greenkeeper International. It's your tournament and so please support it. New for this year will be an optional Stableford competition on Day 2 for those whose performance on Day 1 did not meet expectations!

John Pemberton
Chief Executive



SCOTTISH REGION - AYRSHIRE

Hi everyone, hope you're all well. It seems we're gonna get robbed of another summer if things don't change sharpish! As Jim Royle would say "Global warming my a**e!"

First, a quick mention of the Scottish National Greenkeeper's Tournament played at Irvine Bogside in June. Derek and his team had the course in truly superb condition and I'm sure all 70 entrants had a great day. Maybe more so for the local competitors as home soil advantage was quite evident at the Prize's table! Go on Ayrshire!

June also saw the British Amateur, contested over the Ailsa and Kintyre courses at Turnberry, where the dry Spring weather leading up to the Championship saw both courses running firm and fast.

Due to blustery conditions during the two strokeplay qualifying rounds the cut was made at 8 over. Although the weather played its part, the recent strengthening of the Ailsa was also a significant factor. Heavy showers overnight helped take some of the fire out of the course for the remainder of the week and it was Dutchman Reinier Saxton who triumphed over 17 year old Englishman, Tommy Fleetwood.

By the time you read this the Senior's British Open will have been played at Royal Troon, I just hope there's some warm sunshine that week as I'm looking forward to going along to watch as much as possible!

Our match against the County Down Greenkeepers' will be played on Friday, September 19 at The Pines in Dumfries. They are hoping to bring over 16 players to defend the Shield so anyone wanting to get in on the glory of being in the first Ayrshire team to get their hands on the magnificent Shield, please let me know. As we'll probably be celebrating well into the night - let me know if accommodation is required as Duncan has kindly offered to help with these arrangements.

The Pines is a popular venue in September with our Autumn Outing being contested there on Thursday, 25th. It will be interesting to see if Iain Barr can hold his nerve and preserve his well earned lead from the Spring Outing to lift the Harry Diamond Jug. Methinks it would be wise if the front-runners played the course on the previous Friday? You know it makes sense!

Sadly, Gordon Haughie, who worked on the course at Southerness for 18 years before his retirement and was a stalwart at Section events, passed away in May. Our thoughts are with Gordon's friends and family at this difficult time.

Denis Tweddell 07939 104 701
denis.t@hotmail.co.uk



Around the Green



CENTRAL

So far it has been a busy old season for most greenkeepers with lots to attend to on the golf course.

First off a reminder about our Autumn outing which is at Dunblane on September 4 where we have the tee from 1pm until 3pm - so spaces are limited. Chris Pearson and his guys have been very supportive of the Section in the short time Chris has been in the area so please let's fill all the tee times on the day for them.

The cost for the day is £25 per person which includes soup and sandwiches on arrival and a two course meal after the golf, plus the prizes for those who play well enough! Remember, the only way to enter is by printing the entry form from the website, www.biggacentralsection.org.uk and returning it to Andy Mellon at Elmwood with the entry fee. Entries without the cheque will not be accepted as the Committee do not want to handle cash on the day.

Before then, David Cole, from Loch Lomond GC, will give a presentation to the Section at Elmwood on August 20 based on preparations for the Scottish Open, again there are more details on our website and sometime in October we are hoping to have Tim Liddy talk to us about the alterations he has made to the Dukes Course. Other educational evenings may be arranged at short notice before then so keep making a regular visit to the site.

July 2 finally saw the opening of the Castle Course by HRH the Duke of York, who at the opening ceremony praised the work of greenkeepers generally, referring to them as the "unsung heroes" which was a great accolade for the profession as there were a lot of very influential people at the ceremony.

The Castle actually opened for public play on June 28, the same day as the 9 hole course at Hill of Tarvit opened. Situated just outside Cupar, this is a course which has been restored from old plans to something akin to what was there in the early part of the 20th century where you go along and hire hickory clubs and dress up in the costumes of the period. Run by the National Trust for Scotland it is well worth a try for something completely different.

Congratulations to George Pendrich who has been appointed Head Greenkeeper at Scotsraig Golf Club following the departure of the Section's Vice Chairman, Alan Sharp. George has come late in to greenkeeping from a career in the army and has experience from working at Gleneagles and under Alan for a short period at Scotsraig as well as having just completed his HND in golf course management.

Finally, on the move is Greg Kilgour who has left Elmwood to work on the new project underway at G West. We wish him all the best for the future.

Gordon Moir



EAST

I start this month's report with the wonderful news that Graeme Wood has returned home after spending the last 16 and a half months in intensive care. He and his wife Helen have moved to a newly adapted home in the village of West Barns, which is near North Berwick. I am sure everyone in the Section will join me in wishing them both best wishes for the future.

On Wednesday, July 2 all roads led to Goswick with the Club hosting a regional qualifier (British Open) for the first time. The preparations for the big day took years of planning and are a testament to the course alterations carried out by George and the staff a few years ago. The team were ably backed up by former Goswick apprentice Mark Pagan and his crew from Eyemouth. With the greens stimping at 9.5 and the wind blowing it presented a fair test to the 90 competitors of whom 11 qualified.

On the same day Old Hands Musselburgh Golf Club hosted their third regional qualifier with the course in excellent condition, but with the wind blowing, scoring was on the high side. In the end after a playoff there were 12 qualifiers.

The Scottish BIGGA Championship was held this year on Monday, June 23 at Irvine Bogside. We have found over the years that any event, run by our administrator Peter Boyd, runs smoothly and this one was no exception with not a glitch from start to finish.

The greenkeeping team led by Derek Wilson is to be commended for the presentation of the course on the day. The East Section winners all came from Eyemouth with Mark Pagan picking up the Head Greenkeepers prize and Douglas Greenshields the assistants prize. The Berwickshire lads hired a minibus for the day with Mark drawing the short straw by carrying out the driving duties, allowing former mentor George Thompson a few drinks in the bar!

The British Ladies Amateur Championship was this year held at North Berwick West in mid June where Scottish Chairman Stuart Greenwood is Course Manager. At present Stuart is also Captain of Kilspindie Golf Club, proving he sets the standard in multi tasking!

Our congratulations this month go to Gail and Kenny Mail (West Linton) with the safe arrival of their daughter Ellie and to Lynne and Donald Campbell (Cardrona) who are celebrating the arrival of their son Ian.

The current first assistant at Dundas Park, Robbie Murdoch, recently flew to Las Vegas where he married long term partner Lynsay. On his return a reception was held at the Cluny Clays Centre near Kirkcaldy.

On the trade front, prices keep increasing with the warning of more on the way!





Around the Green

HOT OFF THE PRESS: The new Head Greenkeeper at The Glen Golf Club is Derek Kerr who is currently working at Gullane. He commences his new position on August 4.

Mike Dooner



NORTH

Hope all is well with everyone and that summer has finally come to you all and we are well in the swing of the cutting season.

John Geddes, Hugh Maclatchie, Jimmy Mac and Billy Craig attended the Scottish National Tournament down in Irvine on June 23 - thanks for that guys I know it's a long way to go and not win anything eh. What do you mean Jim won something in the senior Section, Jim's not a senior is he? Oh yes he is! Well done Jim. It's about time we had someone else in the veterans section instead of the above, not you Bill. Those shoulders of Billy's will be getting so sore what with all the carrying of Jim you'll be doing.

There has been somewhat of a baby boom up here in the North Scotland Section. Martin Fullerton of Murcar Links is a proud dad for the second time. His fiancée Steph gave birth to a baby boy called Jamie in the middle of June. Also becoming a dad is Simon Hoy of Peterculter. His wife Kathleen gave birth to a baby girl but they are yet to decide on a name.

Two new starts to report at Fortrose & Rosemarkie. Kevin Taylor has moved from Spey Valley to become Kevin Fowler's First Assistant. Kevin also informs me he has now managed to find an apprentice, Ian Belshaw.

The Secretary, Dale Robertson has asked me to remind you of the Kirriemuir outing. I know it's a little while away but he is concerned that people may have lost their forms. If you have lost your forms and you think you can't go because of this, fear not! Dale has said to ring him if you intend on going and then you will be able to pay on the day. He won't send you another form as this is defeating the object of sending them both out together to keep the cost down. Phone him on: 07711274525 and he will put your name down for the outing.

Down at Murcar Links this month, from July 6 we have the European U18 Girls Championships. Brian struggles to get us to work at the best of times but this week he has got no hope due to the distraction of the blonde Scandinavian girls. It is a good experience for us all and I think we're all enjoying it.

That's it for this month so if you do have any news then don't hesitate to give me a shout on: 07813889374.

Have a good month

Ben Brookes Murcar Links



NORTHERN REGION - NORTH WEST

The North West Section played the North Wales Section at the vale of Llangollen Golf Club on June 10 and what a scorcher it was, I got sunburnt and the north wales lads were just too hot for us to handle as we lost 5-1. Well done to the north wales team and unlucky to our team (wait till next year), if you have not played vale of Llangollen Golf Club you are missing out, the course was in splendid condition thanks to Jeremy Hughes and his staff but the setting is just fantastic, well worth a visit. A great day was had by all who played in the summer tournament at Chorlton come hardy Golf Club. The course was in fantastic condition and many thanks go out to Dave Berry and his staff not only for the condition of the course but also for the free beer on the 10th tee. Thanks also go to the committee for allowing us courtesy of the course and to the caterer for the lovely food also to Bathgates for sponsoring the longest drive and nearest the pin.

If you fancy a day out at Penrith Golf Club then the Whitelaw bowl is the answer here are the details - Venue: Penrith Golf Club - www.penrithgolfclub.co.uk. Date: Wednesday, September 10. Tee: From 12noon - 2pm. Three course meal and prize giving. Contact: Phil Dewhurst, Area Sales Manager, Rigby Taylor Limited, 07768 180604.

We have courtesy of the course, but I do not yet know cost of meal. If my memory serves me right, it's usually between £10 and £20. Phil Dewhurst is organising the day so Please contact him on the above number.

Our next fixture in the Section is the autumn tournament which takes place at Davenport GC on Thursday, September 4. Don't forget to put your name down as early as possible, please send a cheque payable to BIGGA north west Section for £20 to Bill Merritt, The Lodge, Beacon Park Golf Club, Beacon lane, Dalton, Wigan, WN8 7RU. Billy can be contacted on: 07985175825. I am looking for any ideas or suggestions for venues for 2009. I have a few already but if you are happy for us to play your course please contact me on 0151 2894625 or: jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk

Chris Sheehan



NORTHERN

First there was Ernest Shackleton in the early 1900s, then there was Sir Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tensing Norgay in 1957, and now we have the "BIGGA 4" IN 2008! That's right, the Northern Section has indeed got its own explorers. Tito Arana, Jim Brown, Steve Heaton and Dave Thackray