

### LATEST ADDITIONS

Campey Turf Care Systems will show the latest additions to its range at this year's show.

Highlighted innovations will include the ingenious Raycam Aera-Seeder, which combines the seed box and spiked roller, designed for optimum flow and accurate placement in the ground.

Campeys also offer the Vredo super-compact overseeder in 0.8m, 1.2m and 1.6m widths, their narrow dimensions give great manoeuvrability and a lightweight footprint, at a seeding width of 35mm.

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



### SPEED SEED

Charterhouse Machinery will promote the latest developments in its professional grounds care equipment line-up at Harrogate Week, together with the tried and tested products that have established its strong reputation in the industry.

Among the new machines on show will be a compact 1.2m wide version of the popular SpeedSeed overseeder, a lightweight unit designed for unrivalled manoeuvrability as well as high work-rate performance and ruggedness.

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



### DIAL-IN SYSTEM CUSTOMISES WATER MANAGEMENT

Vitax launch their new Dial-In System of Customised Water Management at this year's show.



Designed to be used with their comprehensive Aqua-Aid range (Aqua-Aid soil penetrant, Aquifer surfactant, Oars Curative organic acid removal system and Percol 8, biodegradable soil penetrants) the Dial-In Water Management system uses information collected direct from the golf course to produce individual programmes, tailor-made for turf managers.

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

### GROUND CARE HAND TOOLS RANGE EXPANDS

Spaldings has recently introduced a Spaldings Truecraft range of hand tools, ideal for amenity and turf care specialists, and also expanded its Bulldog product offering.

The Truecraft range incorporates carbon steel and fibreglass to create hand tools that are not only strong, durable and light but also robust enough to meet the demands of contractors and groundcare professionals.

 01522 507500  
or visit: [www.spaldings.co.uk](http://www.spaldings.co.uk)

### STRENGTH IN DEPTH

New Holland's will show the impressive comprehensiveness of the company's ground care and amenity tractor line-up at this year's show.

Among highlights will be the TN family of tractors ranging from 60-95hp, designed for an exceptional power to weight ratio. Some models can be fitted with New Holland's unique SuperSteer front axle for outstanding manoeuvrability. As the front wheels turn, the front axle articulates to provide an increased turn angle. This reduces the risk of scrubbing the turf.

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

### PEDESTRIAN MACHINES

Dennis will have a full display of its precision mowing machinery at Harrogate Week, and will give an insight into exciting developments planned for the year ahead.



The FT range will feature prominently on the stand. Available in widths from 430mm-610mm (17in-24in), the innovative pedestrian machines accept 11 quick-change cassette attachments for mowing, scarifying, verti-cutting, rolling, slitting, brushing and other essential tasks.

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

# New Products



NEW PRODUCTS

## WAGING WAR ON NEMATODES

Floratine launch their new Turf Action Plan (TAP), specifically designed to help the grass plant win against attack by nematodes at this year's show.

A foliar feed package consisting of Astron to promote rooting and generate energy, Floradox Pro, which improves the plant's immune system and also helps rooting, and ProteSyn, which aids photosynthesis.

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



## NEW SUPER MODEL

The new Soil Reliever Super 54 & Super 70 models from JSM Distribution will make their UK debut at Harrogate Week 2008.

Featuring a new design concept in deep tine aeration, both models utilise their tri-roller design to follow even the most demanding of golf green contours. Ensuring a consistent, even depth without the risk of the tine heads contacting the putting surface.

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



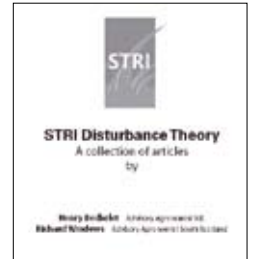
## IDEAL FOR LEAF COLLECTION

It is that time of year when Mother Nature donates to us her generous gift of leaf fall! Without the correct machine for the job, tidying up open spaces can present a problem.



## DISTURBANCE THEORY - THE BOOK

STRI Disturbance Theory, the Book, is now available from STRI's bookshop at [www.stri.co.uk](http://www.stri.co.uk)



STRI's latest title is made up from a collection of 15 articles, written by STRI's turf agronomists, Henry Bechelet and Richard Windows plus a contribution from Alistair Beggs, Northern Area Manager.

The 15 articles explore all aspects of the Disturbance Theory and how it relates to practical modern day greenkeeping. The authors' objective in producing the book is to provide greenkeepers with an understanding of the philosophy and approach required to achieve sword species progression in golf greens, without compromising playing quality.

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

## STUMP GRINDER

Echo Bear Cat have launched a new Stumper Grinder.

The new Stump Grinder is powered by a 11hp Honda OHV engine, with recoil start and a safety engine kill switch, designed to shut the engine off when the grinder is disengaged.

It's fast and effecting cutting head means that a 10" diameter stump, 8" tall (4" above, 4" below) will take only 5 minutes to clear.

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



Etesia have launched their solution - the Hydro range of ride-on mowers. With their unique direct rear ejection system that cuts and collects, even in wet or long grass, these rotaries offer more than just superb mowing - at this time of year their anti-clog capabilities mean they can also double as superb machines for picking up leaves, litter and other debris.

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



**NEW**

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within 1 hour**

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***New DACONIL WEATHER STIK gives complete protection from major turf diseases, even in the most difficult weather conditions.***

The formulation of new DACONIL WEATHER STIK ensures strong bonding of the powerful fungicide to the leaf surface - ensuring it will not be washed off by rain and giving longer lasting protection from disease infection - and it is rainfast within an hour.

Used on its own or combined in a programme with other Syngenta fungicides, like HERITAGE and BANNER MAXX, as part of an integrated management plan, DACONIL WEATHER STIK delivers excellent disease control whatever the weather.

Syngenta Crop Protection UK Ltd., Whittlesford, Cambridge. CB22 4QT.

Website: [www.greencast.co.uk](http://www.greencast.co.uk) [www.greencast.ie](http://www.greencast.ie)

Distributed in the UK and Ireland by Scotts Professional

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HERITAGE® contains azoxystrobin (MAPP 13536, PCS 02092). DACONIL WEATHER STIK®, BANNER MAXX® and HERITAGE® are registered

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[www.greencast.co.uk](http://www.greencast.co.uk)  
[www.greencast.ie](http://www.greencast.ie)

## NEW HOLIDAY ENTITLEMENT REGULATIONS

Under Working Time Regulations all workers had the right to four weeks paid leave. This entitlement, however, could include any right to paid public holidays. The new rules state full time employees are now entitled to a minimum of 24 days paid holiday per annum and as from 1 April 2009, the minimum entitlement will increase to 28 days per year.

### New rules - the key points

- The extension to holidays will be implemented in two stages, with the annual statutory entitlement increased to 24 days (4.8 weeks) from 1 Oct 07 and 28 days (5.6 weeks) from 1 April 2009
- From 1 April 2009, a full time worker will be entitled to 28 days' statutory annual leave. This equates to the current entitlement of 20 days plus eight public holidays. The new rules do not give the right to take time off on the public holidays themselves where these are normally worked
- Employers who give their workers a minimum of four weeks holiday plus public holidays' need not provide the workers with additional leave – assuming they give at least four days public holidays now and at least eight public holidays from April 2009.
- Until April 2009, employers may make payments in lieu of the additional four days (0.8 weeks) entitlement. Thereafter, the additional leave may not be replaced by a payment in lieu except where a worker's employment is terminated.

• In contrast, the additional entitlement of eight days (1.6 weeks) may be carried over into the following leave year. Employers may, during the period 1 October 2007 until 1 April 2009, make payment in lieu to their employee in respect of the additional four days holiday. Thereafter they will not be able to do this.

• Employers whose employees' leave is increased owing to the new rules will be obliged by S.4 of the Employment Rights Act 1996 to provide those employees with a written statement containing details of this change to their employment particulars.

Public holidays - There will be no new right to take time off on any specific public holiday. It follows workers not contractually entitled to take leave on such days must, make holiday requests in the normal way for these days.

Long Term Sick Leave - The impact of long term sick leave on annual leave entitlement is in a state of uncertainty and is the subject of court proceedings at present. The House of Lords has referred a number of questions to the European Court of Justice (ECJ). Until a judgment has been made by the ECJ no firm advice can be given regarding paid holidays and those unfortunately on long term sick.

*This article has been supplied by Xact who advise BIGGA on health and safety issues. The Company has recently expanded its services giving expert advice on employment law and human resources to its clients.*

## IF YOU SOW IT THEY WILL COME



Level Par is a unique blend of velvet bent grasses from BSH. With unrivalled shoot density and a very fine leaf, the combination of Avalon and new Vesper produces an enviable putting surface. But the benefits don't stop there. Once established, the dense sward has a lower nutrient requirement than any other commercial bent grasses, so your greens won't cost the Earth.

Visit [www.bshamenity.com](http://www.bshamenity.com) to download our 2008 seed catalogue, or call 01522 868714 to contact your regional advisor.





# 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.

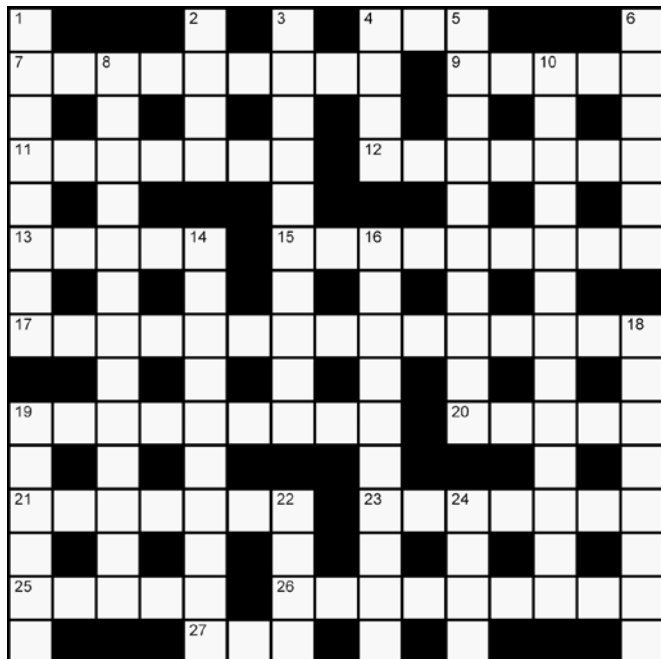
## CROSSWORD

### ACROSS

- 4 Britain's dominion over India 1757-1947 (3)
- 7 Sung without musical accompaniment (1,8)
- 9 Metalworker's block (5)
- 11 Implement, apply (7)
- 12 Of a car, of unpredictable or unsure handling (7)
- 13 Immature organism which must metamorphose to develop (5)
- 15 Appearing less than healthy (3-6)
- 17 Item of visual trickery (7,8)
- 19 Pastry shell filled with savoury meat and (usually) a sauce (3-2-4)
- 20 Make oneself subject to (5)
- 21 Continually (3-4)
- 23 Dessert named after Russian ballerina (7)
- 25 Flock of geese in flight (5)
- 26 Imagined as perfect (9)
- 27 Small boat used to pull larger vessels (3)

### DOWN

- 1 Battle of 1815, later applied to mean any crushing defeat (8)
- 2 Branch line or connecting road (4)
- 3 Reminiscent of a bygone era (4-6)
- 4 A large number (of) (4)
- 5 British group whose "Deeper Underground" went to no 1 in 1998 (10)
- 6 Important participant, typically in business (6)
- 8 ANCESTRAL GIFT (anagram) (2,5,6)
- 10 British decoration awarded for military gallantry (8,5)
- 14 Profession also called "comptroller" (10)
- 16 Writing implement, "Magic Marker" (4-3,3)
- 18 Former province of north west France (8)
- 19 Disappear (6)
- 22 Self-righteous, narrow-minded person (4)
- 24 Nauseating, loathsome (4)

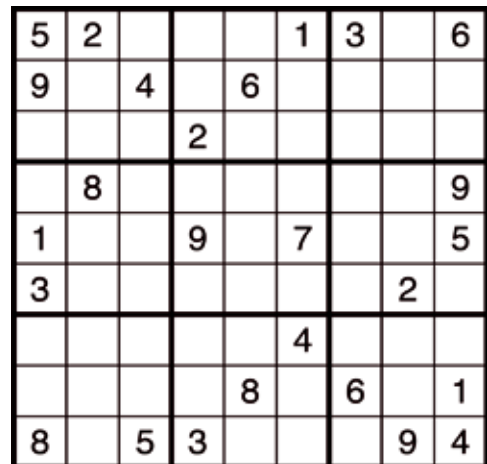


## QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ

- 1 Alfred Nobel, the man after whom the Nobel Prizes are named, was originally well known for inventing what?
- 2 On a standard dartboard, what is the lowest number that cannot be scored with a single dart?
- 3 Which politician was once replaced by a tub of lard on the TV show Have I Got News For You?
- 4 What is the most common colour that appears in the flags of the world?
- 5 Which American state is known as the Sunshine State?
- 6 What was the name of Elvis Presley's manager?
- 7 By which nickname was Edward Teach better known?
- 8 Who wrote The Canterbury Tales?
- 9 In what year was the Bank of England founded?

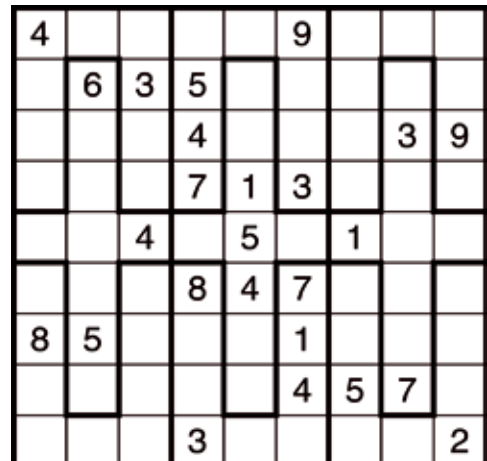
## MONSTER SUDOKU

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



## SQUIGGLY SUDOKU

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



IN THE SHED ANSWERS ON PAGE 66



IN THE SHED





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## SOIL SCREENER AT ROYAL ABERDEEN GOLF CLUB

We all know how expensive it is to haul anything by road these days with mounting fuel costs making the purchase and delivery of materials very expensive. Over the past year or so Kevin Strachan of "Strachans Plant" has been using at various golf clubs around the North East his screening plant which can recycle old composted material into a very usable construction product for making tees etc. We all have areas on our courses where we dump grass cuttings, turf, cores and other organic material to compost but never really use it again. This machine can produce high quality material for use on all areas of the course. It will also screen sand and hardcore materials for use on roads and paths.



The cost of hauling these types of materials up to the north east of Scotland is becoming very expensive so to find a machine that will recycle old material is very welcome. Because we are using material that has come off the golf course we know that it is compatible with existing soil conditions. With the environmental issue now a major part of how we manage our courses this machine and type of recycling is a way forward to reducing haulage costs and the amount of lorries on the road. The machine will screen down to 5mm, which is ideal for divot work and 8-12 mm for construction material. The output of the machine is between 100-150 ton per day depending on the type of material screened.

This type of machine and process has a place in the management of resources on golf courses today and will become more and more common in years to come. Worth thinking about if you have tons of compost lying around on your golf course doing nothing.

*Robert Patterson  
Royal Aberdeen*

**MEET THE BOARD**  
**EDUCATION 20-24 JANUARY 2008**  
**EXHIBITION 22-24 JANUARY 2008**



There will be the opportunity at Harrogate for members to meet with a Board member on a one-to-one basis in private. This will be by appointment on Tuesday afternoon and all day Wednesday and Thursday.

If you would like to book an appointment before the event then contact Sandra Raper at HQ (telephone 01347 833800 email sandra@bigga.co.uk) or during the event a time can be booked at the BIGGA stand in Hall Q.

## SUSSEX FOOTBALLERS

The Sussex Section football team recently played against Surrey at Three Bridges Football Club.



I would like to thank John Wart, from Albourne Irrigation, for sponsoring the pitch and also a big thanks to Mike Ring and Rigby Taylor for sponsoring the kit. The game was not for the faint hearted and was full of commitment. Surrey scored early doors and we equalised through Dan Beard. Unfortunately Surrey were too strong for us and it ended 4-1 to Surrey.

The score was a bit flattering but congratulations to them and a big thank you to Dave Langham for sorting out things his end. The pictures are of the Sussex team and of the hand over of the new kit between Vice Chairman, Matt Crosslegs and the sponsors Rigby Taylor, represented by Mike Ring.

*Rob Hudson  
Sussex Section*

## JIM FRY



We are sorry to have to report the recent death of BIGGA Honorary Life Member, Jim Fry.

We were honoured to have Jim Fry as the President of the South Coast Section of BIGGA and served tirelessly on the committee for many years offering sound business advice and support. He rarely missed any of our events such as was his enthusiasm for greenkeeping.

Jim would often turn up at a golf event and be found deep in conversation with Club or Section members, offering his wealth of knowledge in all aspects of life. One of his highlights was to go to Harrogate where he would meet old friends. Many will remember the lengthy discussions he had with his old friend the late Jim Arthur, if you joined in you were in for a long night.

In his memory the Section have named the annual knockout golf competition the 'Jim Fry Pairs'. This is played for throughout the summer, with a mounted bronze putter as the trophy.

Jim will be sadly missed not only for his generosity to the Section but also as a friend and advisor.

RIP Jim.

*Tony Gadd  
Section Chairman*



## News from the Chief Executive

As another year draws to an end let us look back at 2007, at what has been achieved.

There seems to be a number of members dissatisfied with the performance of the Association voicing opinions on not only the BIGGA website but on other parties' websites. I am disappointed these people do not feel able to contact HQ and air their views, sometimes there is a simple and logical answer. I do not have any excuses and the buck stops with me for the efficiency of the office. My only wish is it had not been necessary to make the staff cut backs we did - we are now missing those extra pairs of hands. However, like all commercial operations we need to balance the books - we reduced a budgeted loss of £133k down to an actual loss of £1,800 in 2007. I'm accused of being out of touch with the grass roots membership but no one knows better than I how tough it is in golf today, and HQ staff and myself try to attend as many Region and Section events as time allows. Please also remember the RAs are members of HQ staff and I speak with them on a regular basis.

I get accused of not communicating with the members however I find it equally frustrating that members do not communicate with me! Let's look at what we have achieved this year: tens of thousands of pounds spent on subsidising Regional, Section and National training and education, over £15k spent on education grants to individual members, RA support to members at disciplinary meetings, financial support for families following the accidental death of several members, a better than expected financial result thereby helping medium term stability, in my view a much better acceptance by the other bodies in golf of the professional standing of the Association and its members, a new website - the list goes on. I'm sure many of your golfers expectations could be realised if you had a large enough budget, well I'm in the same position as Chief Executive. I have 6,500 members many of whom have differing views on life, views that sometimes are unachievable.

2008? There is no doubt in my mind golf as an industry is starting to feel the commercial squeeze. Course Managers/Head Greenkeepers must address their management training needs if they are going to cope. It's no good just being a good greenkeeper any more, in order to survive those with responsibility need their skills honing. BIGGA has helped in the past and aims to provide more 'bite size' management training modules in the future. It will be teaming up with the GTC, the Home Unions, the GCMA and potentially the PGA to address training issues, in particular at management level. This doesn't mean we will be abandoning those below CM/HG - suitable training courses will be arranged where there is sufficient demand.

Learning and Development is no longer an option but a necessity, part of BIGGA's aim is to get better support for this by the employer. I've been proud to represent the Association at various meetings and conferences during 2007 where I have always been treated with respect. Times have moved on and so must we but we can only succeed through unity.

I wish everyone a trouble free 2008. Let's hope the sun shines, the puts drop and golfers recognise the difference between 'nice to have' and 'achievable'!

**John Pemberton**



### SCOTTISH – AYRSHIRE

Firstly, hope you're all well and had a great time over the Festive season. It's been a while since you've heard from me but never mind eh!

To catch up on last year's relevant news I'll start with the classified results from the Autumn outing at Shiskine GC which were as follows: Middlesbrough 0 , seriously now!

Harry Diamond Jug – G. Morrison – 1.1 G. Morrison; 1.2 B. Aitken; 1.3 B. Gray; 1.4 I. MacDonald; 1.5 S. Higgins. 2.1 G. Taggart; 2.2 R. Bunting; 2.3 I. Barr; 2.4 D. Gray; 2.5 M. Sloss. Trade Prize- Alistair Taylor

Our thanks to the club for allowing us the tee times, to the friendly staff who served up some delicious fare and refreshments and to the Head Greenkeeper and his crew for presenting a fine course on a dry day with a touch of gale force winds added for extra effect!

The BIGGA National Championship, sponsored by Kubota, held over The Dundonald GC and Kilmarnock Barassie GC in October, I am told, was a resounding success with a couple of local boys picking up top prizes! Clandeboye GC hosted the second playing of our match v the County Down Greenkeepers and although we only had four from the Section it seemed like eight or was that just the Guinness? No, we managed to hire four mercenaries who did a grand job. Before the result I would just like to say a massive thanks to Terry Crawford for arranging all the tee times and pub crawls and everything! Cheers pal! To the club and all the staff who made the trip so memorable we really had a great time, thanks! And last but not least the greenkeepers themselves who made us most welcome. Oh! And that rep who insisted on getting the first four rounds of drinks in for all! Nice one!

The result ended 3 – 1 to the home side, but came right down to the wire with myself and Colin Shanks just missing out on a half at the 18th and Duncan Gray and his partner, Ronnie, losing their match after being 3 up with 4 to play! I ken! It was all in good spirit and Duncan made up for it by holding an impromptu lecture at the hotel at 2am that night - much to the night porter's delight!

On to recent news then, George Morrison, Largs GC, and John Wilson, Bogside, are the Patron's Award winner's this year. Congrats lads! The Portland course at Troon will be the venue for the Spring with the date in April to be finalised. The Pines GC, in Dumfries, will host the Autumn Outing where we will also be trying to arrange the match with the Irish Greenkeepers, but it's a long way off so watch this space every few months or so? Adios mis amigos and remember "Let's be careful out there"

Denis Tweddell [denis.t@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:denis.t@hotmail.co.uk) 07939 104701



### CENTRAL

Hi, I hope everyone has recovered from the excesses of Christmas and New Year and have a quiet spell before it all starts up again at Harrogate towards the end of the month.



# Around the Green

The Central Section had a very successful evening seminar at Elmwood on November 28 when 40 people turned up to hear Prof John Kaminski, of Connecticut, Prof Mike Fidanza of Penn State and Stan Zontek of the USGA Greens Section give presentations on Dollar Spot, Fairy Ring and growth regulators. A larger report has been posted on the website [www.biggacentralsection.org.uk](http://www.biggacentralsection.org.uk)

Unfortunately I was unable to attend as I was in Marseille giving a presentation to the French Greenkeepers Association, AGREF, at their annual conference and show, Green Expo. Although the show is nowhere as large as BTME, there were over 500 people attending from a membership of around 1,000. Like Harrogate it was also partly a social occasion while they have strong desire continually to improve and a healthy thirst for knowledge. There was also a strong representation from the French Golf Federation with whom they have a strong relationship.

Five members of the Central Section were part of a delegation taken to the RJ factory at Ipswich by Ian Bridges and Scottish dealers Fairways (GM). They had an interesting visit looking at the latest additions to the RJ product range, the ongoing factory upgrades and the investment in training which included the progress on the recently commissioned three hole golf facility on site, designed by Howard Swan.

Congratulations to Simon Connah, of St Andrews Links, and his partner, Niki, on the birth of their second child and welcome to new member, Steven Wilson, who is an Assistant Greenkeeper at the Duke's Course.

The venue of the spring meeting has yet to be confirmed by the club in question but this will be finalised shortly and posted on the website. Invites will be sent out to members in early March along with a newsletter similar to last year. If anyone has any news about things happening in the area then please contact myself at [gordonmoir@standrews.org.uk](mailto:gordonmoir@standrews.org.uk)

*Gordon Moir*



## EAST

I start this month with a sincere thank you to our Regional Administrator, Peter Boyd, for all his sterling efforts throughout the year, which culminated in organising the Patrons' Lunch at the Terraces Hotel in Stirling.

The education meeting at Oatridge Collage on November 16, was attended by several committee members when the main discussion point was future training programmes, with particular emphasis on Levels 3 and 4. The aim is to organise 'bite' size training days in key areas in these two levels.

Our congratulations this month go to Martin Kohler, Kingsknowe Golf Club, and his partner, Paula, on the arrival of a daughter, Alicia. I understand from Stevie that Martin will be allocated some light duties, until he becomes immune to the sleepless nights!

On December 4, greenkeepers from across Scotland attended an educational day at Carnoustie Golf Links. We were met by Golf Course Superintendent, John Philp who enthralled all with a guided tour of the championship course. His technical knowledge and enthusiasm for his

subject were there for all to see. On behalf of everyone in attendance I would like to thank John for giving us some of his valuable time, and for his courtesy on the day. The Dinner Dance on Saturday, December 8 at the Kilspindie House Hotel, Aberlady, with 30 in attendance. A good time was had by all. Next year's Dinner Dance will be held at the same venue on Saturday, December 6 – book the date now to avoid disappointment!

Our former Chairman, Graeme Wood, is making a slow but steady recovery from his illness, at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Edinburgh, where he is getting regular physiotherapy sessions. Our thoughts are with Graeme and his wife, Helen, at this time.

*Until next month, Mike Dooner*



## NORTH

Happy New Year to everybody, hope it was prosperous for all. Another year is upon us God knows what kind of weather we will get this year. Hopefully drier and warmer than last year.

Harrogate is just around the corner and will be eagerly anticipated by greenkeepers around the country. Not much happening in the Section at the moment to talk about. One new member is Grant Hope, Apprentice Greenkeeper at Dufftown Golf Club, welcome to the North Section Grant. Also William Shepherd, First Assistant at Ellon GC – Welcome William.

Kevin Strachan has kindly agreed to sponsor the 200 Club next year so our thanks go to him for this kind gesture. Kevin has been busy at a few clubs in the Northeast with his screener and tilt buckets making new tees and bunkers. He is currently in at Royal Aberdeen G C re-constructing the 1st and 6th tees, which are being re-developed at the moment and some mounding features to screen some holes on the back nine prior to the Walker Cup in 2011. This is part of a long-term plan with new bunkers and tees added and more mounding between holes planned for the next three years.

Murcar Golf Club recently won the Scottish Tourist Board Golf Club of the Year. It was awarded for excellence in all areas of the club. The award was presented at a ceremony at the St Andrews Bay Golf hotel to the Captain of the club, Steven Price. This is tremendous achievement for the club considering they were up against Kingsbarns, Carnoustie to name but a few. Martin Fullerton, Assistant at Murcar is going to be a dad again in the summer. Murcar are also pushing on with more alterations to extend and toughen up the course with new tees and bunkers being added around the course.

*Robert N Patterson*



## WEST

Welcome to this month's report. I would like to congratulate Kerr Hunter who was appointed Course Manager at Gleddoch Golf Club earlier in the year. Kerr was Assistant at Hilton Park and then went on to Dumbarton

# Around the Green

Golf Club as First Assistant. The Section would like to wish you all the best in your new post. I apologise for being so late with this news.

In my last report I forgot to mention that Robert Bruce won the trade prize at our autumn outing at the Vale of Leven GC. Sorry Robert and many congratulations on your prize.

Committee news—this year's AGM was held at Higgs Castle on a very wet and windy day but the good news was there were approximately 50 members in attendance. Gordon Homes, of CSC, was the first guest speaker talking on primo-max growth regulator. The talk was very informative and was received very well from the body of the hall. Also to Stuart Ashworth, from Indigrow, who did a first class speech on their product list.

Douglas Macintosh, Chairman, conducted the proceedings very well covering all areas on the agenda so well done, also for your hard work over the past year. We still have no Vice Chairman to take over from Dougie for 2009 so anyone interested please get in touch. Many thanks to the Captain and committee for the use of their facilities and for courtesy of the course afterwards.

Stuart Taylor, our education convenor is stepping down. Stuart has done a great job over the past few years and all on committee would like to wish him all the best for the future. I will be taking over on education and I am planning a seminar for late March/early April.

There are also several training courses organised over the next few months any clubs interested please contact Fraser Ross for details, courses can be organised with topics that will suit the needs of the members.

Trade news - Kenny Hunter has returned from foreign shores, after spending the last couple of years in Dubai working for Toro. Kenny has decided to return home as he was missing the great Scottish weather, he has taken up a post with Bernard's so you will see him over the next couple of months after he settles in. Welcome back Kenny we look forward to seeing you at the Section events over the next year.

I went along to the Scotsturf show during November and I was very impressed with this year's set up. The show was very busy with a wide range of companies showing their wide range of products and machinery.

Clubmasters v Greenkeepers match - This year's match was held over Clobber Golf Club with the Clubmasters coming out on top after a close match. I would like to apologise to the clubmasters for the lack of team members from the Greenkeepers, next year we will make sure we have a full team so we can win back the trophy.

Many thanks to Clobber Golf Club for the use of their course and to the staff for their hard work on the day. I would like to thank Gary Smith, from Scott's, for sponsoring the day and for the continued support from the Scott's company.

Annual night out - This year's bash was held at Jongulars Comedy Club on November 23. A total of 20 members attended and the general feed back was very good, if anyone is interested next year's bash will be in the same place so put it in your diary for 2008.

The STRI will be holding a seminar at Loch Lomond Golf Club on February 19, the topic will be The Disturbance Theory on the Golf Course, there will be a limited number of places available so if your interested please get in contact with myself or David Carson Rigby Taylor.

Fraser Ross 07970 366 355 [Karen.ross@tesco.net](mailto:Karen.ross@tesco.net)



## NORTHERN – NORTH EAST

Firstly in the news this month is Tony McLure, of Whickham GC, who was trying to qualify to play on the Seniors European Tour. Playing at Quinta de Cima GC in the Algarve. Tony shot two 75s to finish in the top half of the field and finishing joint 13th to qualify for the finals the following week. The finals were played at Pestano Golf Resorts[Pinta Course] where Tony did quite well with scores of 76,70,71,75 and just missing out on qualifying for the tour next year by three shots not bad for first attempt and probably surprised a lot of people on his ability to play in the Seniors Tour. No doubt Tony will be trying again in 2008.

Vandalism is still ripe around the golf courses, Newcastle Utd GC are currently losing up to three and half dozen flagsticks each week, damage to the irrigation boxes, branches torn off trees and then smashed up a memorial bench. Let's hope it quiets down.

Another greenkeeper is on the move, David Cuthbertson, Course Manager at Slaley Hall, will have took up a new post by the time you read this. He is moving to Rockcliffe Hall GC this is a new course under construction and I believe it is owned by the Chairman of Middlesborough Football Club. I wish you well Davy for the future, if you are still going to support Sunderland you'd better think twice on that one.

And lastly if any of you are going to Harrogate as I said in the last report, I will be on the BIGGA stand and look forward to meeting you. Well I won't be there this year or any other year as I have had my services rendered after 20 years and it's all down to technology over the last couple of years. I had been doing less and less so I will most likely see some of you when I pop down for a day. If any of you have any news just give me a ring or send an email.

Jimmy Richardson



## NORTH WEST

I hope everyone has had a great Christmas and look forward to seeing some of you at Harrogate in the coming week.

This is a very quiet time of the year so I don't expect too much news. Here is the contact information for anyone who requires it. The Secretary Bert Cross on 0151 7245412 or myself, Chris Sheehan on 0151 2894625 my e-mail is [jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk) for golf tournament details contact Billy Merritt at The Lodge, Beacon Park GC, Beacon Lane, Dalton, Wigan, WN8 7RU. Mobile no. 07985175825.

Chris Sheehan