

6. MYTH: I never sunbathe, so my skin will never be damaged by the sun.

FACT: Many cases of sunburn happen when people are not deliberately sunbathing.

According to the Skin Cancer Working Party, individuals who develop skin cancer do not always have a history of deliberate sunbathing. Those who have an outdoor occupation and/or recreation such as golfing, gardening, skiing or sailing are also at risk and must learn to protect their skin.

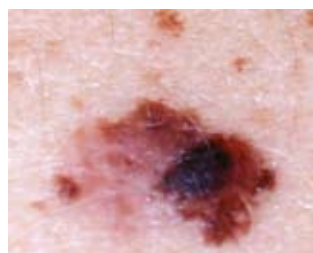
People are also living longer and so their lifetime sun exposure is greater. They often have more time and money for outdoor recreation and holidays in sunny climates and although many people actively choose not to sunbathe they are still putting themselves at risk.

It is likely most skin damage from ultraviolet radiation occurs during childhood and it is thought a build-up of over-exposure to the sun over a period of several years can in the future lead to the development of skin cancer.

7. MYTH: I use fake tan regularly which gives me a lovely golden brown colour so I don't feel the need to cover up and protect my skin in the sun

FACT: Using fake tan products is a great way to achieve that bronzed goddess look – but don't be fooled when stepping out into the sun. Most tanning products do not offer protection against sunlight, so you still need to use sun protection and follow all of the safety tips as normal when you're out in the sun.

As well as your tanning cream, ensure you slap on some sun protection when out and about. Experts recommend using an SPF 30 or above. Not only will this help to reduce your risks of developing cancer but it will also help to protect your skin from premature ageing – which no amount of fake tan will be able to hide!



Asymmetry



Borders Irregular



Colour Differences



Diameter over 7mm

BIGGA MERCHANDISE



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THE SEVEN DEADLY SKIN CANCER FACTS

- There were 8900 new cases of malignant melanoma reported in 2004 in the UK.
- In 2004 melanoma was the seventh most common cancer in the UK.
- In the age group 20-39, melanoma is the second most common cancer.
- In males over a third of all cases of melanoma occur on the trunk, while the most common site for females is the legs.
- Over the last 25 years rates of malignant melanoma in the UK have increased almost five times in males and have more than tripled in females.
- Both UVA and UVB radiation are linked to all types of skin cancer.
- Number of moles, family history, fair hair and fair skin increase the risk of skin cancer.

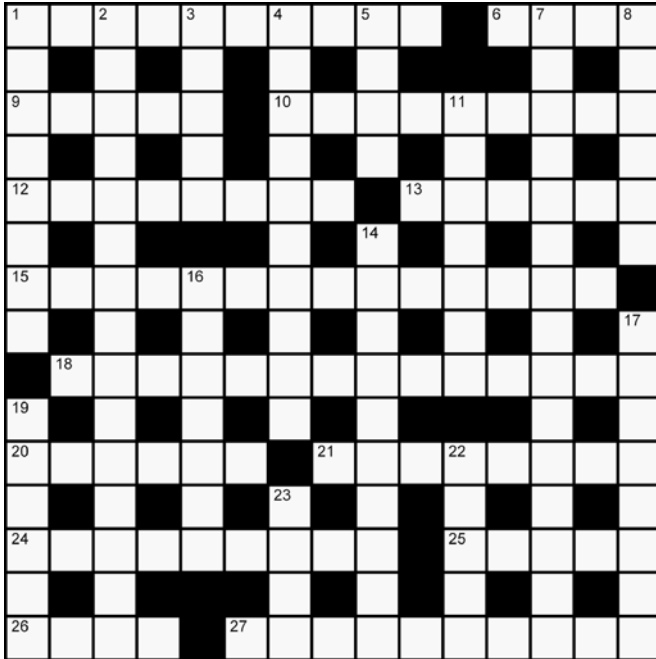
For more information visit: www.uvstat.com or call: 01582 560393.



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 Type of aircraft sometimes called an eggbeater (10)
- 6 In television, person who moves a camera while in use (4)
- 9 George Gordon —, English romantic poet (5)
- 10 British comedian who created Basil Don Bond character (4,5)
- 12 Greek philosopher who specialised in the field of ethics (8)
- 13 Instantly identifiable as representative of something (6)
- 15 Missing for unknown reasons (1,1-3)
- 18 Come again? (1,3,4,6)
- 20 State of noisy confusion (6)
- 21 Fill in a form (8)
- 24 Global (9)
- 25 In darkness (5)
- 26 Term for a North American, specifically a New Englander (4)
- 27 US president during World War II (10)

Down

- 1 Showy flower, symbol of Hawaii, South Korea & Malaysia (8)
- 2 Role of 3rd Earl William Peel since October 2006 (4,11)
- 3 A form of line dancing? (5)
- 4 Someone who torments - anagram of CORRUPT, SEE (10)
- 5 Relaxed, not strict (4)
- 7 "Disguise" name of Puck, a pagan nature spirit (5,10)
- 8 Coup d'etat, either illegally or by force (6)
- 11 Region of Greece, capital Tripoli (7)
- 14 Pigeonhole (10)
- 16 Of words, ancestry etc., related by origin (7)
- 17 Distant relative (8)
- 19 Furnish, provide (6)
- 22 Velvet-like fabric, usually softer and with longer nap (5)
- 23 Of an aircraft, to move slowly before or after take-off (4)

QUICK 'NINE-HOLE' QUIZ

1. In golf, Augusta is in which US state?
2. Who was the England football captain at the start of 2001?
3. In football, which team won the most Scottish League titles during the 1970s?
4. What was the previous name of the UEFA Cup?
5. Who lost the 1974 and 1978 World Cup finals?
6. What is the name of the Nottingham Ice Hockey Team?
7. In which country was the boxer Evander Holyfield born?
8. Who co-hosted the World Cup in 2002?
9. Where were the first Winter Olympics held in 1924?

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.

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

SQUIGGLY SUDOKU

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

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

IN THE SHED ANSWERS ON PAGE 58

HUMAN RESOURCES

BIGGA's Management Support series produced by Xact
www.xact.uk.com



WHEN DOES A WARNING EXPIRE?

If you are unfortunate enough to be subject to disciplinary action it is normal, after a period of improved conduct or performance, that the warning issued to you will have expired.

It has long been the conventional wisdom in employment law that employers cannot rely on expired warnings to justify the termination of employment except in the matter of selection for redundancy.

The ACAS Code of Practice on disciplinary and grievance procedures (DGP) provides guidance on this. Not only does it tell employers that warnings should be recorded but, moreover, advises that after a period of time has elapsed they should be disregarded for disciplinary purposes. It goes on to recommend that that period should be:

- 12 months for a final written warning
- 6 months for a verbal, stage one or first written warning.

Many organisations' disciplinary codes refer to the fact that a warning will expire after a set period of time and will be removed from the employee's personnel records.

However, in the recent case of Airbus v Webb the Court of Appeal has suggested that an employer can rely, in certain circumstances, on expired warnings to justify what would otherwise have been an unfair dismissal.

In this case, Webb was dismissed for gross misconduct, having taken a break when he should have been working. The incident happened three weeks after the expiry of his final written warning for a similar offence.

Four other employees were also caught but, as they had clean disciplinary records, they were given final written warnings whereas Webb was dismissed. Webb claimed at an employment tribunal that he had been unfairly dismissed as the company had wrongly relied on an expired final written warning.

The Court of Appeal has found that the employer, in the limited circumstances where the employee has committed a serious offence so soon after the expiry of a final written warning, was entitled to rely on the expired warning and hence the dismissal was fair.

This decision is highly controversial and has created a great deal of uncertainty for employers and employees alike. In particular, employees cannot now assume that just because a warning has expired, if they commit a similar offence, that warning may be relied on by their employer to justify a dismissal that would, otherwise, be unfair.

Employers too have a degree of uncertainty, in that they may rely on an expired warning without any degree of knowledge of whether or not an employment tribunal would uphold their decision or not.

Employees need to be aware that they may not be able to 'get away' with misconduct after a final warning has expired and their behaviour may need to be exemplary for some time thereafter.

Get smooth, fast acting relief – whatever the conditions



The New Super 70 is the latest addition to the Soil Reliever family of great value, deep tine aerators. The unique triple roller design will deliver a consistent depth over the most undulating of surfaces.

Like the rest of the range the unique angled frame delivers more punching power right where you need it, over the tines.

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www.jsmd.co.uk





Last year's winning picture of The Duke's Course, Woburn taken by Michael Cunningham

SNAP HAPPY!

BIGGA's Golf Photography Competition is back

CALLING ALL BUDDING PHOTOGRAPHERS!

Are you proud of your course? Do you catch yourself admiring it in a certain light?

The BIGGA Golf Photography Competition, back for its third year, creates an opportunity for greenkeepers to display their artistic flair, while also earning some publicity for their club.

The winner will receive a full course profile in Greenkeeper International, a trophy and a special prize, while the 12 best pictures will be selected for the 2009 BIGGA Calendar.

Photographs will be accepted in three forms. Prints (nine inch by seven inch), transparencies, or digitally (pictures MUST be at least 300 dpi and capable of being blown up to nine inches by seven inches in size).

Anyone wishing to enter should send their pictures to:
Scott MacCallum or Melissa Jones, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark Manor, Alne, York, YO61 1UF by July 31, 2008.

Alternatively you can email them to scott@bigga.co.uk or melissa@bigga.co.uk

Entries will be judged by Alan Birch, whose inspiration the competition has been; Professional Golf Course Photographer, Eric Hepworth, Golf Photographer, Matthew Harris and Scott MacCallum, Editor of Greenkeeper International.

Only BIGGA members are eligible to enter.

So come on...strike a pose!



Second prize went to Marek Zubert last year for this picture of Mount Juliet, County Kilkenny



Chris Sherrington took third place last year with his shot of Sunningdale Old

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Trilo have a range of quality high specification groundcare equipment which offers the complete solution for scarifying, mowing, spreading and blowing. Built to an extremely high standard, the wide choice of models and numerous options available ensures you can trust Trilo to make your job easier and more efficient. With 35 years' experience and a range of quality machinery, it's easy to see why Trilo is the world-leader in vacuum sweepers.



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NEW PRODUCTS

NEW RANGE OF TEE TURF

Tee Turf NF (for Non Filled), is a new product from ALC. A new generation all-weather artificial turf designed specifically as a low wear, low maintenance alternative to natural turf. A tough, 35mm thick knitted nylon construction gives greater pile density enabling easy installation without the use of sand or rubber infill. Standard tee pegs can be placed easily and securely anywhere on the surface or balls can be played directly off the surface if required.

For further information, please contact ALC on: 01474 364 320 or visit www.teeturf.com

NEW TO THE MICRO EXCAVATOR MARKET

Bobcat has launched the new E08 and E10 micro-excavators, designed and engineered to provide the best combination of high performance, stability, operator safety, ergonomics and durability in the micro-excavator market.

The E08 micro-excavator is a conventional model with a machine weight of 1028 kg and a maximum digging depth of 1.82 m. The E10 model is a zero tail swing micro-excavator with a maximum digging depth of 1.82 m and a machine weight of 1066 kg.

For more information visit: www.bobcat.com



INSTANT PAIN RELIEF

A device specifically designed to ease the pain suffered by those playing golf and other sports is now available in the UK. SuperStim Pro is no bigger than the size of a mobile phone yet after just 15 minutes use the device effectively relieves pain, strengthens muscles and substantially speeds up the healing process for sufferers.

SuperStim Pro claim this is the only product of its kind on the market and has proved crucial in treating numerous conditions suffered by golfers. There are no side effects and the device can be used as often as required, even while playing golf.

For more information visit: www.superstimpro.co.uk

ATTACHMENT EXPANDS VERSATILITY

High-performance aerators are now available as part of a new range of attachments for Grasshopper front-mounted mowers distributed in the UK by Rustons Engineering.

The PTO-driven AERAvator has solid forged-steel tines that vibrate rapidly as they penetrate the ground, so the areas around the holes are fractured, relieving compaction and opening up the soil. The design of the tines and the heavy-duty construction of the machines enable them to cope with dry, compacted grass areas without previous irrigation, even if they contain stones. As no debris is left on the surface, treated areas are ready for immediate use without further work.

For more information tel: 01480 455151.



NEW BRUSHCUTTERS

Echo are pleased to announce the arrival of two new brushcutters, the SRM-2306ESL, and SRM-335ES.

The lightweight SRM-2306ESL is ideal for domestic use, weighing just 5.6kg. The Echo 21.2cc two-stroke engine delivers plenty of power to enable clearing of dense brush.

The larger SRM-335ES, available with loop handle or U handle, is fitted with a 30.5cc two stroke engine, and a 1845mm shaft.



For more information tel: 01844 278800 or visit: www.echo-tools.com

STAY SAFE THIS SEASON

Nomix Enviro is encouraging safe and legal herbicide storage this season via their range of purpose built chemical storage units.

Chem-Safes are the ideal way to meet your herbicide storage legal obligations. They are lockable, leak proof and organised.

The range of units include chemical safes of varying sizes, walk in chemical stores and colour coded fuel stores. Chem-Safes range from 15 - 1500 litre capacity and can be used as fixed units at your business address or in vehicles for mobile storage.

All products are fully seam welded with leak proof sumps to eliminate the risk of any chemical escaping. Vapour seals absolutely remove the risk of bystander exposure to fumes or a risk of explosion.

For more information call: 01264 388050.

TWO-IN-ONE

Greenkeepers faced with the all-important task of ground rejuvenation can boost performance and efficiency with the Raycam AERA-SEEDER, one of the latest innovations from Campey Turf Care Systems. The tractor mounted, purpose-built implement combines the functions of an aerator and an overseeder for maximum versatility.

For more information visit: www.campeyturfcare.com



PREMIUM WATERPROOF BACKPACK

OverBoard, design and manufacturer of waterproof travel and sports gear, today announced the Premium Waterproof Backpack.

A spacious 100% waterproof roll top bag that protects its contents from water, sand, dirt and dust! The backpack is available now from www.over-board.co.uk



MAKING HEALTH & SAFETY LESS PAINFUL

Punctus announces the release of "Punctus Professional", a module complementing the existing Punctus System, containing Health & Safety, Full Cost Calculations and Time Keeping Functions in addition to the existing documentation on jobs done, man hours, machines etc.

Punctus Professional is an inexpensive, fast and easy to handle system for day-to-day application with documentation of appropriate procedures requiring just a few mouse-clicks a day.

Safety advice on a daily basis, training and exposure to noise and vibration (including the seven day rolling averages) are all covered in clear documentation. All reports are generated automatically.



For more information email: mail@punctus.biz or tel: ++49531 250 56 44. www.punctus.biz

LEAF COLLECTION

Pinnacle Power Equipment has announced an important new range of vacuum sweepers to replace its ever-popular Billy Goat KD machines that feature in so many equipment sheds around the country.

With innovative design ideas for the 21st century such as zipperless collection bags and optional on-board hose kits, the new models require little maintenance and are quieter and more powerful than its predecessors.

Powered by a 6.5hp GSV Honda or 6hp Briggs & Stratton Quantum engines the vacs have five blade steel impellers with debris reducing knives for efficient shredding and optional shredder screens to reduce the bulk even further.

For more information call: 01932 788799 or visit: www.pinnaclepower.co.uk

HIGH-CAPACITY SCRUB CUTTERS

The new Bush Hog 320 series heavy-duty rotary scrub cutters and the new Bush Hog Flex Wing high capacity cutter are now available from OPICO Ltd.

The mounted 320 series have evolved from the original Bush Hog 300 series which for over 30 years has been used by woodland and estate managers for clearing scrub, cutting rides and managing vegetation.



For more information visit : www.opico.co.uk

SINGLE SIDED HEDGETRIMMERS

Echo UK have announced the launch of two new single sided hedgetrimmers, the HC-331ES and HC-341ES.

Designed for commercial use, these two new hedgetrimmers have extensive vibration-dampening features, which means both models achieve remarkably low vibration levels, substantially increasing safe operation time.

Both models are fitted with an Echo 23.6cc two stroke engine, and feature the Echo ES Starter which for the operator, means greatly reduced pulling power required on the starter rope, compared to other makes of hedge cutter. There is also no kick-back effect in cranking. A new fully transparent fuel tank allows the user to easily monitor fuel levels.





News from the Chief Executive

I was saddened to learn of the sudden death of Bert Cross who has been a leading light in greenkeeping and an example to all for a great number of years. I have enjoyed Bert's company on many occasions and he will be missed by many people, not only in the UK but also in Africa, where he and his wife did so much unsung charitable work. Our sympathy goes to the family that he leaves behind.

The building work at BIGGA House is progressing well and the completion deadline of the end of April should easily be achieved. We are already surprised by how much more space the development has created and we eagerly await the time when we can see if the office furniture fits as we have planned.

There has been some concern by the Board regarding the Association's vulnerability should I not be able to carry out my duties for some unforeseen reason and there have been suggestions of the appointment of a Deputy, or someone who may aspire to that role in due course. After full consideration it has been decided to strengthen the roles of the Heads of Department so that they have joint and several responsibility for the general management of the office while still reporting to me. By improving the communication between them and me I should be able to devote more of my time to developing and reviewing the Business Plan to ensure that the Association is able to face the challenges of the industry as they exist today as well as improving its overall position. This will incorporate greater use by the Board and the Management Team of the sub committees and details of scheduled meetings will be advertised in both Greenkeeper International and on the BIGGA website. Additionally the Board has created an Environmental sub committee that will look at the Association's own policy as well as developing initiatives for the industry.

The annual selection of a new Vice Chairman has become increasingly difficult in recent years as the demands of the role increase but so do the demands of the job held by suitable candidates. Several members have expressed an interest in being considered and so in order to make the process more democratic the Board will in future invite the Sections to make nominations through their respective Regional board. Nominations will then be reviewed by the main Board and assessed for interview by the Chairman, the Past Chairman, the Vice Chairman and myself. A job description will be available to anyone interested together with broad details of the amount of time required throughout the year. No nominations will be considered without the candidate having received the prior approval and unqualified support of their employer.

Despite the breakdown of talks with the IOG the Board still feels that the Association has something to offer groundsmen and that a suitable category of membership for could still be appropriate. To this end a review panel has been set up that will look at the potential for developing this initiative and it is the intention that a report be submitted to members for their consideration in the not too distant future. This will detail the advantages to both exiting and potential members and may well incorporate a strategic alliance within the industry. While any such move does not need to be put to a meeting of members it is never the less considered by the Board to be in the best interest of the membership to allow for a process of full consultation. Once published I will be pleased to try to address any concerns that members may have.

John Pemberton



SCOTTISH REGION – CENTRAL

For anyone who isn't aware, I start this month's report with the sad news of the death of Jim Finlayson who passed away on March 16. Jim was a great supporter of greenkeeping over the years, always keen to lend a hand at Section events and a good friend to many in the industry. Our thoughts are with his wife, Margaret, and his family.

Weather wise, It has been a strange old start to the year again up here on the East coast of Scotland with what feels like even stronger winds than normal for a sustained period and light snow falls both over Easter and early April. March was so dry that many Course Managers were hand watering greens during the day just to keep the grass alive.

Thanks go to Elliot Small for the work he has done in writing up the early history of the Greenkeeping Association in Scotland which is available to view on the Central Section website: www.biggacentralsection.org.uk It is fascinating to discover that greenkeepers were getting together in the very early 1900's to discuss their situation. I am told there is no truth that in the first picture on display Elliot is the guy second from the right in the front row!

The first week in April saw the American Golf Course Architects hold their AGM in Scotland along with a tour of some of our country's finest courses. While in St Andrews they also took the opportunity to visit the Castle Course which is due to open in June and were extremely positive in their feedback, both in the layout and the grow in conditions they saw.

Gordon Moir



EAST

I write this report in early April with Primula Drummondii's and some of the dwarf Rhododendrons in full flower in our garden, despite the artic conditions outside. The Fine Turf industry is at present extremely volatile with price increases almost becoming a weekly occurrence. Hopefully prices will stabilise in the not too distant future.

Our congratulations this month go to Scott Poole on his appointment as Head Greenkeeper at The Hirsell Golf Club, in Coldstream. I am sure his previous employers, Duns Golf Club, will wish him well! He commences his new appointment on the 7th April. The new Head Greenkeeper at Duns is Scott's former Deputy, Wayne Ford. He joined the club as a trainee in January 2000, working initially under the guidance of Ian Aitchison and latterly under Scott. I am sure he will prove a worthy successor.

The previous incumbent at The Hirsell, Geoff Logan, has departed after many years loyal service to set up his own Landscape/Garden Maintenance business in Prestonpans. I am sure all in the section will join me in wishing him best wishes for the future.

I also have changes to report at Melrose with John Christie departing to join the grounds maintenance team at Borders General Hospital. He has worked at Melrose for a number of years after learning the trade at Minto Golf Club.

Around the Green

His first boss at Minto, (a real blast from the past!) Sandy Whillans, has taken over the hot seat at Melrose.

Out of Greenkeeping for a number of years, he returned a few years ago assisting John on a seasonal basis. I am sure Sandy's wealth of knowledge will benefit his employers in his new role.

On a personal note, Roz is off to Crete in a few days time, the down side for me being all the household chores. Oh well, roll on October!

Until Next Month,

Mike Dooner



NORTH

As I am writing this month's article it is absolutely dingy with snow outside. At last some sort of a Winter. I find it a bit disturbing that Aberdeen and the surrounding areas have been named the hottest places in the British Isles just lately. It's fine, but in February and March? You kind of expect the snow to come at some point but it is getting close to the beginning of the season for us now and we're just finishing off winter programmes.

It might be difficult for some of us to get onto the course to finish off these programmes. You can just hear the moans from the golfers already, can't you? We don't seem to be getting anything like we used to in the way of weather. Just a sign of things to come, what do you think?

Stevie Frost, of Royal Aberdeen, has just celebrated (if you can call it that) his 25th year at the golf club. At the recent do in the clubhouse to commemorate his achievement, his boss and friend, Robert Patterson, commented that if he was there for another 25 years he'll be 66. Who needs enemies? Congratulations Steve and on behalf of the Section. Wish you all the best for the next 25 years.

One guy who is leaving the Section for another golf club is Stuart Cordiner, of Peterhead Golf Club. He has taken the big step of moving down to Portsmouth and working on a course down there. Again on behalf of the Section we wish you all the best. Hughie has said that he is going to miss you. Ah bless!

The two greenkeepers teams will be taking part in the annual trades competition at Hazelhead golf club. There is only one problem though, we're a man short. Anyone interested in taking part ideally should be a 3 handicapper or less and get in touch with George Mitchell, at Newmachar Golf Club, on 07704851429. I did offer the services of Euan Rankin but George said he'd manage. If any of you fancy going along to watch the lads then I'm sure that they'll appreciate the support.

You should all have received your forms for both of the outings that section stages. Please keep them safe. If you haven't got yours yet then please get in touch with Dale Robertson.

Dale received a phone call from Stuart Grant, of Ballater Golf Club, who has been lucky enough to be selected for the BIGGA Support team at Royal Birkdale. He was wondering if anyone else had been selected and if possible share transport down. If there is you could maybe contact Stuart on 01339 755567.

On a final note I have a complaint from the in-laws. In the last Section news I mentioned 'lads' a couple of times. I do know of a couple of 'girls' in the Section. I apologise and will make sure that I include you in the future.

Ben Brookes
Murcar Links GC



NORTHERN REGION - NORTH WEST

I have to start with some sad news about Colin Denny, who is a North West committee member. Colin is the Course Manager at Heaton Moor Golf Club where we are staging our spring tournament. I hear he is making a slow recovery after suffering a stroke. From me, and all the North West committee, Good luck Colin and we hope you are soon back to good health.

A few movers and groovers. John Davenport has moved from Turton GC. to Dunnerholm GC, near Barrow, and an old friend of mine, Neil Woolfrey, has moved to Bolton GC. from Great Lever and Farnworth.

I have just finished watching the Grand National and am pleased to say that I had the winner. Five pence each way, not bad, better in my pocket than the bookies.

If you have any news please contact me on 0151-289-4625
my e-mail is jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk

Chris Sheehan



SHEFFIELD

The Sheffield Section held its spring lecture at Rotherham Golf Club on Wednesday March 12. The two speakers on the day were Stephen Bernhard and Martyn Jones. Both lectures were very interesting and I'm sure left everyone with a few things to think about. The day was well attended by members and trade, although as with all our Sheffield events there are still places open for anyone else who may be interested in our lecture or golf days.

I would also like to thank our sponsors for the day, Rigby Taylor and Bernhards. Special thanks go to Mike Brear and Steve Nixon who helped organise the day. A big thanks as well goes to Rotherham GC for letting the Section use these wonderful facilities again also the catering staff at Rotherham, who once again provided us with a wonderful buffet which I'm sure everyone enjoyed.

During the lecture at Rotherham a presentation was made to Chris Astle for his seven years service as Secretary. I'm sure everyone will agree with me in once again thanking Chris for all his hard work. Chris has also recently left Wheatley GC to take up a new position in the industry working for Golf and Turf machinery. Good luck Chris

All golf clubs in the Section will be receiving fixture cards for the 2008

Around the Green

season shortly. Many thanks to Aitkens for sponsoring these cards and especially Peter Fell for pulling it all together for us. All Section events for 2008 and will be listed on the fixture card, so it will be nice to see more and more people turn up to Sheffield Section events.

In a few days on the May 12 we will be holding our Spring competition at Coxmoor Golf Club with a 1 30 tee off time, so hopefully as many of you as possible will have returned your entry forms on time! And will be eagerly awaiting the 12th!

As usual any Section news please feel free to contact me on 07793111845 or jvl1967@sky.com (any news is worth putting in the magazine then people in the Section can hear about these things, such as moving jobs, marriages, births etc then hopefully we don't have to have months when we haven't got any Section news in the magazine!)

John Lax



NORTHERN

Hi everyone, it has been a busy month this time. The Section held a very successful spring seminar at the De Vere Oulton Hall. We would like to thank every one involved in the organisation and running of the event. Special thanks must go to Rigby Taylor and Bernhard & Company for their kind sponsorship and our guest Speakers, Martyn Jones, Stephen Bernhard and Oulton Hall's own Jim Brown. I am sure they gave everyone who attended a very interesting and enjoyable day with a lot to think about.

We say goodbye to two prominent members this month, Mel Guy who has been involved with the Section for many years and is now retiring from Sheriff Amenity, also our present Treasurer, Andy Slingsby, who is leaving to pursue another career. We wish them both good luck for the future and are sure we will see them again.

One amendment to the events calendar President's day will be held at Cookridge Hall on Wednesday, July 2 at 12.30.

Please get in touch if you have any news

Section Secretary

Adam Speight

07739 319060

adam@speight1156.fsife.co.uk



MIDLAND REGION – MIDLAND

Well isn't it a small world. While travelling back from Cumbria after a trout fishing trip I got talking to a bunch of chaps on their way to enlist in our Royal Navy. One of such it turned out to have been a greenkeeping student at Elmwood. A college of excellence within our field, I have been fortunate to have studied there myself. I do however wonder what skills in greenkeeping can be related towards a career in the Navy. Well I'm sure that Danny Partridge will soon find-out onboard H.M.S. Raleigh. Good luck to you all in defending our fine nation. My only experience of the nautical being in Austria with a greens mower - float it didn't!

What's this I hear; Nigel (the Dandy) Tyler has gone down on one knee and become engaged to Sue. When's the wedding date, mate? Congratulations to you both. Our thanks to Nigel/Sherriff Amenity for sponsoring this year's Section Programme card and for his good works on committee supporting our section.

Congratulations to Paul Mills, who is the new Course Manager at Penn GC. I hope that your experience there will be half as enjoyable and rewarding as my time there was.

And just to finish thanks to Bathgate Leisure for sponsoring this month's calendar page. Details of their topdressings, sands etc can be found at www.bathgatesilica.co.uk.

Sean McDade
Training and Education



EAST MIDLAND

Just to let all members know that our Summer Tournament will be held at Mickleover Golf Club on Thursday 24th July 2008, the AGM Tournament will be held at Staverton Park on Friday 31st October 2008.

We are also looking if people are interested in attending a four day First Aid course the cost of this will be £189 per person. In addition, a Talunex course will be held at Charnwood Golf Club, the price being £110 per person, but if we have over five this will reduce to £90 per person.

Please contact the Secretary Dan Rodgers on 07745 227224 if you are interested in any of these courses. Moreover, congratulations to Pete Billings on his return to the industry at Cotgrave Golf Club. We wish him good luck in his position as Course Manager.

Dan Rodgers, Shirland Golf Club, Lower delves,
Shirland, Alfreton, Derbyshire, DE55 6AU

Dan Rodgers

Secretary

07745227224



EAST OF ENGLAND

Well what a month March has proved to be! I think just about every weather condition has been experienced in the last few weeks from beautiful warm sunshine to three inches of snow, with heavy rain and high winds in between it all. Plus the fact that Easter has been so early this year, this has meant a lot of clubs expecting summer playing conditions earlier than usual and finishing winter work a month sooner. At Immingham the course has gone from looking like it does in the middle of summer to a wet winter look all in one week, unfortunately just as 160 golfers prepared to play in our Easter Open Event. Oh well, it won't be that early again for another 30 years or so!