



Trailed attachments have the added advantage of fitting behind both ATVs and utility vehicles. On level terrain a light, 2WD ATV will pull around 250kg, more powerful models coping with double that even over rougher terrain.

C-Dax. ATVs are more than just a means of getting from A to B, with a range of attachments from manufacturers to include C-Dax and Logic greatly extending what can be done with them. A mounted sprayer is a key application,





The agricultural sector has taken the ATV to heart, livestock farms in particular exploiting the ability of these units to get to hard to access parts of most farms. Note the use of gloves, hard hat and eye protection, a key basic requirement that should be adhered to.

engaged, the turn radius is 2.9m. With the diff in its default unlocked mode, the KLF300 will turn within a more modest 2.6m. Slow for the turn, easing the KLF300 around on a hint of throttle, and the turn will be clean too.

Anyone who knows their ATVs will realise the KLF300 is based upon a model that first saw the light of day way back in the 1980s.

The current 2009 machines are well proven in other words. And, at around £3,900, ex VAT, they continue to make a good case for themselves as an affordable, potentially turf friendly, ATV.

Kawasaki, as with the likes of Honda, Suzuki and Yamaha, do not offer ATVs in road legal, quadricycle form. If you want a KLF300 to travel down the road, it will do so on the back of a trailer. There are ways to make a non-homologated ATV road legal – farmers have done so for years – but the restrictions are such that if road travel is a priority it is probably better to go for a homologated quadricycle.

In broad outline, a quadricycle will have its power output restricted to no more than 15kW, be fitted with a catalytic convertor, and have lighting equipment suitable for highway use; in other words indicators and road legal headlights that dip to the left. Entry level models are available from what appears to be an ever growing range of importers, KYMCO being among the most established in the UK.

So how much will you need to pay for a road going ATV? As an example, the 2WD KYMCO

MXU300 RL, a CVT dual-range automatic designed for heavier use, has a sticker price of £3,043, ex VAT and registration fees. Well under £4K on the road in other words.

Larger models, including the 2/4WD MXU 500 RL have output restricted to under 15kW too, but the larger engine has more 'oomph'. The penalty is a much heftier price tag of £5,699 ex VAT and registration fees.

So what about other ATVs and the choice of utility models on offer? At the extreme end of the power scale are 50hp plus v-twin engine models. Units made by Polaris and Can-Am can be specced up in two-seater and load platform guise and ready for the road too. There is a far broader spectrum of ATVs on the market than there was at the turn of the century.

The key point is not to dismiss an ATV because it has perceived weaknesses but to rather take a look at what an ATV can do. Fit a tow hitch, and larger models will pull up to half a metric tonne. Add a winch, and an ATV can be used to carry out jobs to include light tree clearance.

The rear rack can be fitted with more than just a spray tank and the hitch can operate a light top dresser. You can even tow powered mowers or light gang sets.

The biggest reason not to consider an ATV will remain the light utility vehicle, but the latter will cost considerably more. If you are looking for a light runabout that can be used for a range of light duties, perhaps now is the time to take another look at an ATV.

### Manual or automatic?

Automatic CVT drive is now widely found as the only transmission option on a broad range of ATVs. The once universal semi-automatic manual transmission with a foot operated gear shift remains an option from some manufacturers, Honda resolutely sticking to this format with ESP, electronic shifting, adding a modern twist to a proven concept.

The key reason 'manual' transmissions remain popular is that it is easier to keep a relatively constant speed. Although a CVT transmission can settle to a reasonably fixed working speed in level going, as it will with a utility vehicle, a geared drive and centrifugal clutch combination seems to do it better.

Honda now offer the 420 Fourtrax AT automatic as an alternative to its foot and push button shift 420 siblings, the new model arguably proving the best of both CVT and manual transmissions. This is because the ATV can be operated in a manual ESP mode to enable the operator to select and hold a given forward speed.

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partners in turfcare

# WARNING

## THIS COULD DAMAGE THE HEALTH OF YOUR COURSE

## THE MASTERS

*Television Commentator and former Ryder Cup golfer, Ken Brown, offers thoughts and advice on Augusta and The Masters*

Beware, "Masters" is back at a screen near you, from Georgia, the must see Augusta National Golf Club. Golfers from around the world will watch the yearly drama unfold gripped by the golf and the outstanding arena that Augusta provides.

The course will be an avalanche of spring colours, immaculately manicured emerald green fairways lined with columns of cathedral pines and the yellow, pink and red of the azaleas. Add to this almost guaranteed sunshine and you have what appears to be a heavenly setting for golf.

Surfacing from what has been a cold and snowy winter it is easy to be tempted into thinking that this is what our own course should resemble. It is rather like being seduced by Charlie Dimmock and rushing out the next weekend to buy some expensive decking to cover over what is already a perfectly good lawn forgetting that you have just opted for a rather expensive, less practical and high maintenance alternative.

This Georgian horticultural golfing playground is achieved with vast amounts of money and an army of green-keeping staff. The carefully selected cultivars of grass have been developed specifically for Augusta greens with the exact amount of water and fertiliser applied with eye dropper precision. The on course weather station predicts any necessity to use the sub-air system which controls the temperature of the soil. The shrubs are cosseted to ensure their flowering is simultaneous with Masters week. The course remains closed for six months of the year. At Augusta green-keeping has become more of a science than an art.

The effect of this spectacle has been to influence golf club committees to follow suit. With enough water and fertiliser the green and

stripy look can be readily achieved, however as with most things in life you can have too much of a good thing. Excessive water and fertiliser can encourage the proliferation of meadow grass which in time shrouds out the finer fescues and bents resulting in thatch and poor drainage. There is a huge difference between perfect looking turf and perfect turf for playing golf.

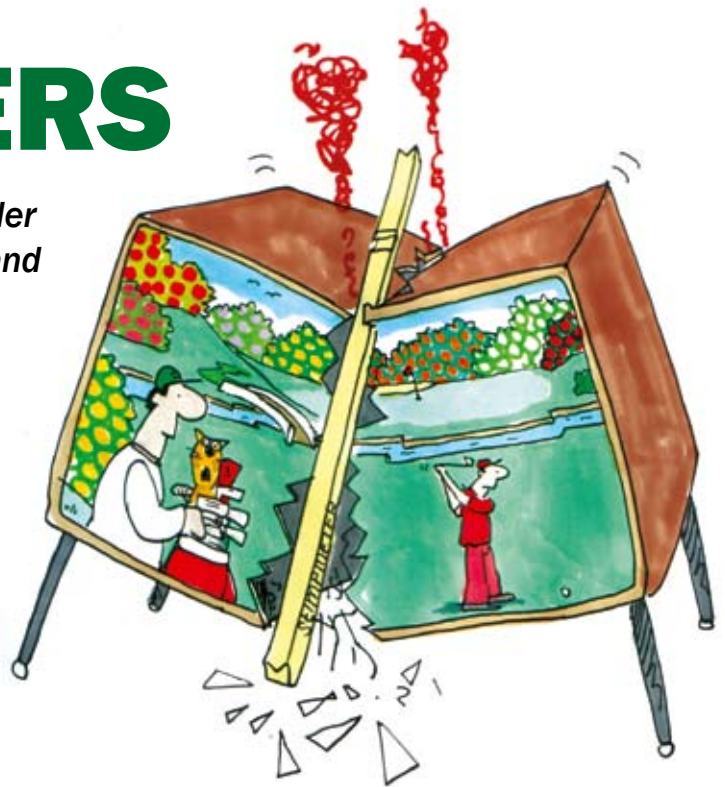
The course conditioning for the Opens on the Old Course at St. Andrews has always been just right. Despite the large greens only around a thousand pounds a year is spent on fertiliser and we are always presented with wonderful natural putting surfaces which are both delightful and just as nature intended. Efforts to preserve the native characteristics have been consistent with Alistair Mackenzie's thoughts that St Andrews Old Course was "too sacred to be changed". Imagine you are on the first tee and your view of the Swilken Bridge is obscured by a row of leylandi cypress dividing the first and eighteenth fairways, a simply ridiculous idea. Why then consider planting rhododendrons and laurel at

your club? Maybe more thought should be given to our own indigenous species such as heather and gorse dependant on the setting.

In times when money is tight clubs should keep things simple, less can be more. Decisions should be made with planning, professional advice, and forward thinking. When planting trees think fifty years and not five, it will cost you more to take them down than put them up. Clubs don't need greens running at 1.1 on the stimpmeter, narrow fairways cut at 1/2 an inch in a tartan stripe and long rough. The mantra "difficult" equals good for 99.9% of golfers doesn't hold water. There's never been a more important time than now for clubs to make sure that golf takes less time, is more enjoyable to play and costs less.

Augusta National is the perfect place for Masters golf, but The Old Course at St Andrews is still the bench mark for golf.

**Ken Brown works with Creative Golf Design  
Creative Golf Design Ltd, 6 Barony Way, Chester,  
CH4 7NP, UK. Tel/fax 0044 1244 659265**

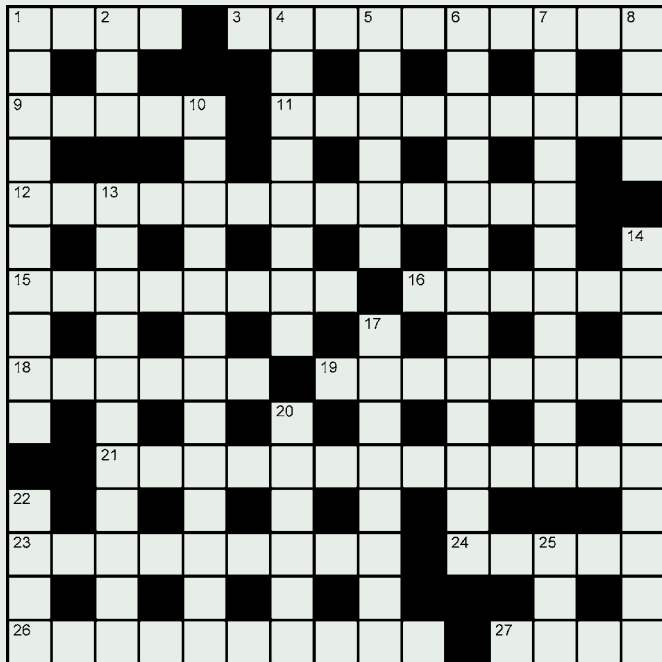




# In the Shed

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 Senegalese hip-hop performer Aliaune Thiam's stage name (4)
- 3 System of beliefs (10)
- 9 You Little —, Feargal Sharkey hit that followed A Good Heart (5)
- 11 Chiaroscuro that imitates relief work (9)
- 12 Ancient town in Co Antrim, NI (13)
- 15 Expulsion (8)
- 16 Joules and ergs are measures of this (6)
- 18 Cheapjack, tawdry (6)
- 19 "Going —" - wearing trousers without underwear (8)
- 21 Liking gained after experience (8,5)
- 23 Worked hard (9)
- 24 Follower of what is regarded as the oldest religious tradition (5)
- 26 System whereby cable/satellite users are charged for individual programmes (3-3-4)
- 27 Affectedly quaint (4)

### Down

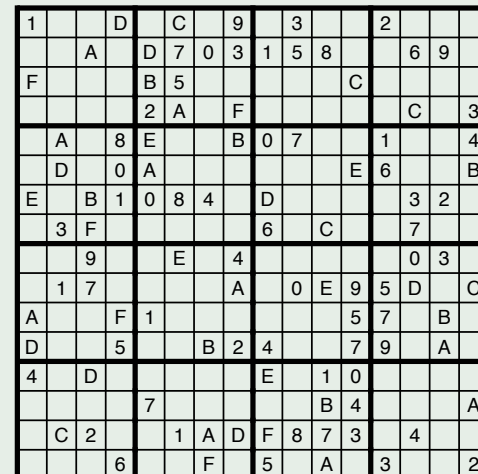
- 1 Ian Paisley's description of Pope John Paul II in 1988 (10)
- 2 Kimono sash; witchcraft practised in the W Indies (3)
- 4 Dance move used in e.g. the can-can (4,4)
- 5 Hang around (6)
- 6 Bitter exchange of abuse or insults (8,5)
- 7 US desert city previously called Agua Caliente ("hot water") (4,7)
- 8 — Rocher, global cosmetics company (4)
- 10 Honest (4-3-6)
- 13 Large star system of a type suitable for detection over great distances (5,6)
- 14 Longest side of a right-angled triangle (10)
- 17 Utterly lazy (4-4)
- 20 In the Hebrew calendar, third month of the civil year (6)
- 22 Come to an end (4)
- 25 In the historical present (3)

## QUICK NINE-HOLE QUIZ

1. What is the common name for the medical condition epistaxis?
2. Who did Ted Turner, the media tycoon, marry in 1991?
3. Who has written a series of letters entitled 'Dear Fatty' in the form of an autobiography?
4. What type of material is produced in a ginnery?
5. What is made using soda, lime and silica?
6. What sort of creature is a cassowary?
7. How old is Juliet when she dies in Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet?
8. How is the chaparral cock, a ground cuckoo native of Mexico, better known?
9. What was the name of King Henry VIII's older brother?

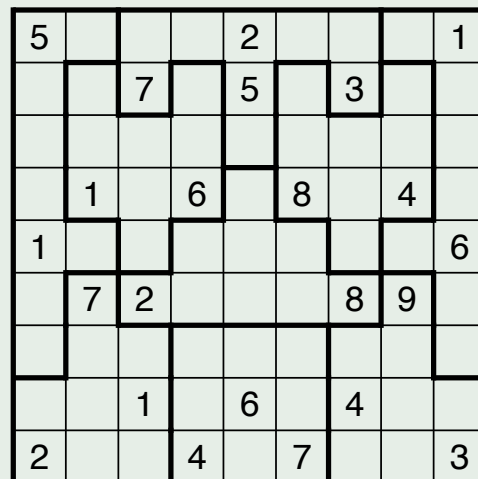
## MONSTER SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 4x4 box contains the numbers 1 to 9 and the letters A,B and C.



## SUDOKU

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



**IN THE SHED ANSWERS**  
can be found on page 55



IN THE SHED



## News from the Chief Executive

**I would like to start my column by paying tribute to the late Alex Millar, whose funeral Billy McMillan and I attended last month. Alex was a retired groundsman and Chairman of the IOG at the time of his death.**

I had the pleasure of first meeting Alex during the talks in 2007 between BIGGA and the IOG and his passion for the grounds care industry was immediately obvious. He was astute, likeable and a role model for others and anyone who spent time with him quickly appreciated being in his company. Alex was someone for whom I had the highest regard and he was the perfect gentleman who will be sadly missed by his friends and colleagues in greenkeeping and groundsmanship.

On a lighter note at last there are signs of spring being just around the corner, the daffodils are coming into bloom, the crows are nesting and the daylight hours are slowly increasing in length. As we emerge from a more traditional winter all our hopes are pinned on it being a better summer than experienced over the last couple of years. I sympathise with greenkeepers everywhere who annually suffer from the Augusta syndrome, how the industry can get the golfer to appreciate that not all clubs have the ability (or budget) to create Augusta like conditions remains one of our most difficult challenges.

Who knows, perhaps a weaker pound may help the UK holiday industry, a bit more sun may encourage golfers out onto the golf course a little more often and some good weather should help greenkeepers in their quest to produce better playing conditions, despite the budget constraints that we are all experiencing.

There is no doubt that the current world economic crisis will do golf, both as a sport and as an industry, no good. The major tournaments are coming under scrutiny from sponsors who are having to make soul searching commercial decisions, possibly for the first time in many years. BIGGA is no exception and the downturn in advertising revenue in particular is having an adverse impact in our profitability, requiring some close scrutiny of our overheads. It's not all bad news though. Stand bookings for our own exhibition in Harrogate next year are coming in steadily and Halls A, B, C and M are filling up. Once fully booked we have several options for expansion including Halls Q and D but it's too early to commit at the moment.

Plans are well under way in the restructuring of BIGGA into a company limited by guarantee and the intention is to have the new company in place so as to enable trading with effect from July 1. In due course members will receive formal notification of the changes but in the meanwhile anyone requiring further information should contact HQ.

During the coming months I and some of my colleagues at BIGGA HOUSE will be attending some of the Section and Region events around the country and we look forward to meeting members. Please take full advantage of the opportunity to discuss Association matters, we welcome your views!

**John Pemberton**  
Chief Executive



### SCOTTISH REGION - CENTRAL

Over 50 Course Managers, Greenkeepers, Golf Club Committees and members from some trade organisations attended a seminar at The Castle Course - organised by STRI and supported by The Scotts Company. Entitled "The Art of Objective Greenkeeping" those present heard some excellent deliveries from Richard Windows, Henry Bechelet, Andy Cole, Alistair Beggs, Lee Penrose and Kelly Harmar. As well as a brief course walk at the end of the day there was also a demonstration and explanation of a few new tools which will shortly be available to help put objective figures to turf firmness and surface smoothness.

The next event we have planned is an evening seminar from Stan Zontek, of the USGA Greens Section, John Kaminski, of Penn State, and Lane Tredway, of North Carolina State Uni. They are over in the UK on a fact finding study tour (it involves beer and golf) and have kindly agreed to come along to the training room at Elmwood College at 7pm on April 23. These three have a wealth of knowledge in research and experience and some of the subjects they hope to cover would be how putting green management influences disease activity, how management has changed over the past 20 years and the effect climate change is having on our greens. This should be a great night with plenty of opportunity for questions.

You should shortly receive our annual newsletter (if you haven't already done so) along with the entry form for the Spring Outing at Scotsraig. The Committee would again ask you reply quickly if you plan to attend the outing and please send your cheque with your entry form as we will not accept money on the day, no pay = no play!

Finally, we have a number of events lined up for the autumn. On October 26, on the morning of the AGM, we have a training course on disciplinary procedures, how to structure them and follow the correct procedure. On 17 and 18 November we plan a two day Ecology Course with assistance from STRI, and on December 2 a half day course on carrying out staff appraisals. We are hoping to secure some funding for some of these but most of all we need your support.

More details can be found on: [www.biggacentralsection.org.uk](http://www.biggacentralsection.org.uk)

Gordon Moir

#### Section Notes

Please email your notes to [melissa@bigga.co.uk](mailto:melissa@bigga.co.uk), or [scott@bigga.co.uk](mailto:scott@bigga.co.uk) by the 5th of the month.

Suggested word guide: 500



## EAST

Spring is in the air, the grass is waking up...we hope.

Our Section were very fortunate to be invited along on February 17 to a new development of two Donald Ross Memorial Championship courses that are presently being constructed at Whitburn near to the old Polkemet colliery site in the west Lothian area.

The site that the courses are being built on are actually old mining's, meaning that the coal waste, shale is being graded and used largely to build and construct the two new championship golf courses along with other materials that are handily available on site.

Alex Muirhead, Site Engineer and Consultant, tells me that the courses should be completed by 2012 and at an approximate cost of £12 million for the two championship courses. The area is reputed to be the biggest global land move site in Europe.

We must thank Jim Davidson and Graham Miller, from Henderson's Grass Machinery for sponsoring the excellent afternoon that we had at the Heartlands Site.

Our two Patron Award winner's, Joe Robertson and Adam Sherwood, were true to their word, thanks lads. They have produced a written report of how their experience at Harrogate went. There report can be accessed on the Regional pages on our BIGGA website.

I attended Oatridge College Greenkeeping Advisory meeting on Friday, February 20. The purpose of the meeting was to put forward proposals of changes to SVQ levels 2/3. Revalidated NCG and possibly add further short courses for the future.

People on the move are Bruce Cruickshank's, presently Course Manager at "The Roxburghe" Golf Course Kelso, who is moving to pastures new in the spring time. Bruce will take over at Hamilton Golf Course as Course Manager. Ronnie Frame (Rigby Taylor), has now has taken up the post at Sherriff Amenity - we wish them both all the best in their new jobs.

Our spring meeting is almost upon us, I hope the weather is kind to us when we are playing golf down at Eyemouth, it can be a bit open to the elements there and there aren't many hiding places, but I am sure that Mark Pagan, Head Greenkeeper, will have organised the sunshine for us. A full report of how the scoring went will be recorded for the May issue of our Section news. So play well...fore!

Ross Prowse, formerly of Marriott Dalmahoy, is now working at Muckhart GC. We are delighted to announce that Ross's wife Lynn gave birth to a baby girl, Rebecca, on Saturday, March 7 and the both of them are well.

Ross is a bit of a runner so that will come in handy when Lynn needs him to run and get things for Rebecca - that will keep you fit Ross.

Until next month

Tom Murray  
tom.murray@rathoparkgolfclub.co.uk



## NORTH

The season is just around the corner now and your respective councils/committees will be pacing up and down wondering whether or not the course is going to be ready for the first competition of the year. Hopefully most of us are nearing the end of the winter work but in all honesty it never ends does it? We all seem to be finding other little jobs that could be done, 5 minute ones as one of my mates would say. It just seems to be never ending, you think that you're there then the Greens Conveynor pops in and says, "Can you just do that for me please?"

The 200 Club cards have all been sent out to you by Robert Hardie. Can you make his life a little easier by returning any unwanted cards. This enables him to get them punted out to other members and to get the maximum amount of monies possible.

Ben Brookes  
benbrookes@yahoo.co.uk  
07813889374



## NORTHERN REGION - NORTH EAST

Well, I'm looking out of the window - what do I see, more snow - here's me thinking summer was just around the corner. I've seen no rain for a couple weeks and that blasted white stuff is back again - I will be glad when this winter is out of the way, it seems that it's been here for six months.

Having recently heard from a rep. then getting confirmation through the local newspaper - Close House will not only be starting work on their new clubhouse but also starting on the construction of the new 18 holes



# Around the Green

championship course, the starting date I'm unsure about.

Dates for the Section golf competitions are as follows: Wednesday, April 22 at Whitley Bay GC, Wearside GC on October 14 - again on a Wednesday members will be notified. If anyone has any news, just give me a ring.

Jimmy Richardson



## NORTH WEST

Hello everyone, we have the Spring Seminar coming up on Friday on April 24 at Birchwood Golf Club on the disturbance theory and objective greenkeeping. This seminar will have four experts from the STRI - Henry Bechelet, Richard Windows, Andy Cole and Alistair Beggs.

It will last from 9.15am until 3.15pm and will cover the subjects of formulating your ideal, fundamentals of the disturbance theory, greenkeeping through the phases, organic matter testing and performance measurement and development - a very interesting seminar. The cost will be £20 for members and £25 for non-members. Forms are available from Nick Gray, of Bathgates, and Phil Dewhurst, of Rigby Taylor, or you can contact me for details and forms. The cost also includes lunch.

The re-arranged Bert Cross Memorial Trophy has been played and the first winner of this magnificent trophy, kindly sponsored by Richard Campey, was Peter Hogan - well done Peter. Our thanks go out to Bathgates who kindly sponsored the Nearest the Pin and Longest Drive. The day went really well and the hospitality of the Captain of Wilmslow Golf Club was magnificent - as he very kindly supplied the wine for the meal. The course was up to its usual, very high standard and the new caterers provided us with a meal fit for a king.

The Spring Tournament this year will be played at the West Lancashire Golf Club, on Monday, May 18. The Summer Tournament will be at The Warrington Golf Club on Friday, July 3, and the Autumn Tournament will be at Mere Golf and Country Club on a date to be arranged. The annual match against the North Wales Section will be on Wednesday, June 10 at Bolton (Lostock Hall) Golf Club. I will require a team of 12 for this event which will be sponsored so the day will cost nothing, all as you have to do is get there and win.

Please contact me if you wish to play - if you wish to play in any of the tournaments 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 mobile number: 07985175825. I can be contacted on: 01512894625 or my email is: jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk

Chris Sheehan



## NORTHERN

Well I hope by now we have seen the last of the winter weather and all your courses are looking well for the start of the season.

There is little to report this month but can I remind you all that the first event of the golfing calendar in 2009 is the Spring Tournament at Pannal Golf Club on April 29 and is a 10am tee off. Can I also remind you that all names and payments must be received at least seven days prior to the event.

Just one other thing this month, you should all have received a copy of this years fixture list by now but if you haven't received yours then please let me know on the number below.

We are currently in the process of looking into setting up a Facebook page for the Northern Section so I will hopefully bring you more details of this next month.

Adam Speight  
07739319060  
speight619@btinternet.com



## SHEFFIELD

Hello again everyone. I am sure as you read this article you will either be at work or just finished work and you will have experienced a glorious early April day. It should be true, according to very early weather predictions, that we are going to have a 'great' summer. I hope this is true as I think we deserve a good summer after the past couple we have had.

I hope those of you that attended the spring lecture enjoyed the day - I must thank Geoffrey Davison for giving up his time and coming to Rotherham and giving us the lecture. I am in the process of organising lectures for the back end of the year, if anyone has any suggestions as to what they would like to see please feel free to contact me.

I am sure now that the Weather is getting better that you are all dusting the golf clubs off and are raring to go for the new season. You will all be sent invitations to the first golf match which is on May 19, at Hallowes GC - we





hope to see as many of you there as possible. You will also be sent 2009 fixture cards with this invitation.

The Section website is still ongoing - I am trying to ensure that the site that we end up with is the best possible, so the research into it is taking a little longer than expected. I am trying to get this done as quickly as possible and get the site launched.

That is all from me for now, I hope April goes well and speak to you all in May.

James Stevens  
jimmy\_jams20@hotmail.com  
07738719614



## NORTH WALES

Spring should be starting to kick in now, lovely warmer weather and a bank holiday weekend to boot! The season truly starts here.

Sherriff Amenity ran a training course on the use of aluminium phosphide (phostoxin or talunex) at Northop Golf Club, on March 24, anyone who wants to use these as part of their mole or rabbit control must now be certified to be able to buy them. Anyone interested in enrolling on future courses please get in touch with Terry Adamson.

The annual North West/North Wales Spring Seminar will take place on Friday, April 24 at Birchwood Golf Club, Warrington. The subject of this year's seminar is Disturbance Theory and Objective Greenkeeping, the seminar is being given by STRI agronomists and should be exceedingly interesting.

The Spring Tournament is going to be held this year at Rhyl Golf Club, an intimate course just up past the Sun Centre on the Prestatyn road, as always on these days we always have a good time, so dig out your entry forms and make sure you get your tee booked.

In local news Johnny Evans and his wife, Tina, both of Carden Park, took receipt of a baby boy in March, named Dylan James he bounded into this world weighing a bonny 7lb 5oz.

I'm afraid that's all the local news I have for this month but I'm here for any news you want to pass on contact details below.  
All the best until next month.

Pete Maybury  
07756001187  
petemayb66@aol.com

Johnny Evans  
Johnny.evans@tesco.net



## MIDLAND REGION - MIDLANDS

I dare say that at the moment we are all far too busy to be trying to workout my usual nonsense. So let's keep it short and to the point for once, hopefully like our Graminae.

The Section would like to give a huge thank you to James Doyle, of New Holland, for stepping in at the eleventh hour to sponsor our spring event at the De Vere Wychwood Park GC. Entry forms for such and all our other events can be downloaded from the Section's website, or by emailing Gary on: gc.tpgc@hotmail.co.uk Also the start sheets can be found close to the date on the website.

The Scotts Doubles shall also be drawn at the spring venue, however please be aware that the final's date has had to be altered to the 14th September and being played at The Oxfordshire GC. Our thanks to Scotts for their continued sponsorship of this long running and successful competition.

Also, the autumn event has had to be altered to October 23, and the AGM will be held at 6pm there. Our thanks to Burton GC and to Gavin Robson.

I'm hoping that we don't have too many April showers, and that we get a summer for a change. Well, one can live in hope!

Sean McDade



## EAST OF ENGLAND

Hello all. April is finally here, although winter this year seems to have flown by, probably a result of the variety of different weather conditions we have experienced in the past few months. We have just taken on some late winter bunker and drainage work and that, coupled with tree work still outstanding, will keep us busy until the grass really starts growing.

It is that time of year now that everyone is able to set off hollow coring and topdressing their greens and bringing them up to scratch for the rapidly approaching golf season. It is also the time of year when budgets are approved and generally memberships are up for renewal. Everyone knows this is difficult any time of year, however this one may be the hardest yet. What we all need is a nice warm dry summer to get all the golfers flocking back to our courses.



# Around the Green

Wednesday, February 18, was our East of England Section Winter Seminar at Newark Golf Club. The day included talks from Neil Pettican and Jane Leyland, from Barenbrug, on grass seed production, breeding and future advances in grass seed. We were also pleased to welcome back Henry Bechelet, from the STRI, accompanied by Andrew Cole, who turned up with a variety of gadgets aimed at testing the ball roll and firmness of the greens. All talks were very interesting and informative, unfortunately the weather cut short the course walk, but we were taken on to the 18th green where various tests were carried out. All the results showed that the green was in fantastic condition so well done Graham, or is that just your staff ha ha! Many thanks to everyone involved in organising and speaking on the day and also to Newark for hosting us and providing their famous "cow pie" for lunch.

Our first golf day of the season is just around the corner. Everybody should have received a fixture booklet which has been very kindly produced by Aitkens this year. Our first event is at Toft Golf Club on Wednesday, April 22 - tee off at 1.30pm. Please arrive early for coffee, bacon rolls and the usual banter. All names of people playing to Bruce Hicks of Boston Golf Club as soon as possible please. Hopefully we will see some new faces this year.

On a personal note, I would like to wish Happy First Birthday to my son, Archie, for March 22. How time flies, it doesn't seem like a year since he was born, yet he is now taking his first steps. He is getting nearer and nearer to being handed a bunker rake!

Many thanks Steve Beverly, Immingham Golf Club



## SOUTH EAST REGION - SURREY

Saturday, March 7. I hope I'm not too late with this month's jottings as the deadline is normally the 5th of the month but as the Gentleman's Dinner was on March 6, I wanted to report on what turned out to be an excellent day's golf.

Golfers from the South Eastern Region teed off from three tees and my group did so from the 8th. We followed a four ball that included Mike Gould, Copthorne GC, and Anthony Freeman, Roehampton Club, and knowing from old that they could both hit a long drive I pointed this out to my companions and watched them with anticipation. Mike hit an excellent shot and then Anthony teed up. The ball rose almost vertically to a height of about six feet then dropped and stopped about 10 feet behind the ladies' tee. Anthony offered to do what is expected on these occasions but as it was still quite chilly his playing partners declined, preferring to let him buy the first round back in the clubhouse. The 8th hole is a par 5 and much to his credit, Anthony, even with his initial lack of concentration, ended with a par. The Longest Drive was on the 18th and just getting past the signature sign with my third shot, I read the name and then realised that Anthony Freeman had achieved that most unusual feat of winning both the longest as well as the shortest drive.

The best score of 41pts was Derek Cunliffe, Rigby Taylor, who won the guest prize. Ron Christie, the defending winner from 2008 came second this year with the winner of the Ray Day Memorial Trophy being Jason Hunt - one of Ron's greenkeeping team at Addington Palace GC. Jason, well done, I hope you will enjoy your year and remember that bunker raking and strimming every day is not only character building but also a reminder not to try so hard next year. Thanks go to Ian McMillan and his staff for presenting Walton Heath GC in such excellent condition and thanks to whoever was responsible for the weather. With no water hazards Garry Ogilvie retained his dignity much to the disappointment of his playing partners and the day finished with a delicious meal and again no raffle prize for yours truly.

Martyn Gray, Deputy at Bramley GC, and his wife, Lynne, are still celebrating the birth of, Lewes, born on December 17, 2008 who weighed in at 7lb. Congratulations to you both and remember that a football team can consist of five players so you won't have to go for the full 11.

There is little else to report on a slow news month, especially since I have not been on holiday or visited the Isle of Wight since Christmas. I thought it was most spiteful of Ron Christie in his year's report to complain that it was all I ever wrote about - just because I turned down his two chapters on the life and death of the Addington Palace dung beetle. My use of the word dung is more suitable for this monthly magazine than in Ron's original title. If there are any more budding columnists out there with ideas of making it as a writer please send your articles to someone else.

Brian Willmott



## KENT

Hi guys. Just a brief report this month in honour of the companies who have chosen to sponsor and support us this year. Their contribution to the Section funds is vital and is also the reason that we have been able to reduce the entry fee to all of our events this year to £25 for Course Managers, Head Greenkeepers and Trade and just £20 for Deputies and Assistants. We know times are tough but hopefully as many of you as possible will now be more able to afford to get away from it all for a few events with us. We would like to thank the following companies for their support: Avoncrop Amenity, Banks Amenity, Bourmes, Clearwater, Ernest Doe's, Godfreys Headland, John Shaw Machinery, MAB Groundscare, Rigby Taylor, Scotts, Sherriffs and T. Parker & Sons.

I hope you had a good day at Walmer and Kingsdown. Report to follow next month. Thanks to Clive Osgood for organising a great Annual Gentlemen's Dinner at Walton Heath Golf Club and thanks to Ian McMillan for presenting such a superb course steeped in traditional values.

Until next month, Best of British

Rob Holland