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AFT45

For compact tractors from 20hp

With chain or slitting wheel, augers or conveyor to quickly install drainage systems, pipes or cables as and when needed.



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produces a surgically sharp cut leading to
superior turf and a lot of happy golfers.



SHARPER SOLUTIONS

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New Products



NEW PRODUCTS



DISCOVER THE HARROGATE EDGE...

GroundsCare Products exhibited their full range of Turf Teq equipment at Harrogate Week including the new Hard Edging Blade and 7" trenching blades. The new blade increases the versatility of the Edger/Trencher, giving it the ability to cut grass and soil that has grown over the edge of kerbs and paths.

i www.groundscare-products.co.uk 0870 3218900



ORGANIC HERBICIDE'S HARROGATE DEBUT

Headland launched Seacomplex 4-3-4 a new, organic soil amendment designed to work as both a fertiliser and biostimulant at Harrogate Week 2009. Formulated from cold extract seaweed meal, humic acid, aerobically composted cow manure and micronutrients Seacomplex encourages soil microflora as well as providing essential plant nutrients. The free-flowing mini-granule is easy to apply and breaks down rapidly on contact with moisture.

i 01223 597834
www.headlandamenity.com

Jewel

UK'S FIRST DUAL ACTION MOSS AND WEED CONTROL PRODUCT

Scotts Professional has launched the first product in the UK to control both moss and weeds in managed turf and amenity grassland.

Jewel contains two powerful active ingredients in a unique combination which gives both pre-emergence and systemic activity.

The contact activity comes from Carfentrazone-ethyl, a selective, broadleaf active from the triazolone family of herbicides which also kills moss.

The systemic hormone type herbicide Mecoprop-P is absorbed by the plant's leaves and translocated to the roots, giving a complete kill.

i www.scottspprofessional.co.uk
0871 220 5353



GO COMMANDO

Two of golf's biggest names have teamed up and launched a new collection of golf range balls at Harrogate Week.

Nassau Golf and Penfold Golf Ltd introduced 'The Commando Collection' to UK golf ranges.

The new Commando Collection will introduce six new range balls: The Dura Range Ball, The Dura Rft, The Standard Range Ball, The Rft Range, The Floater and The Commando PC90.

i www.penfold.com
0121 250 5745

PACKS OF TECHNICAL INFO

'Green Innovation on the Golf Course' is just one of nine comprehensive technical information sheets, launched by Lindum as a complete pack at Harrogate Week.

Covering between them, the whole spectrum of Lindum's turf products from 'Hard Wearing Grass on the Sports Field' to 'Lindum Wildflower for Green Roofs,' each colourfully illustrated A4 document features a choice of turf for each situation, alongside specification details including a breakdown of seed mixture for the relevant grade, roll size and weight.

i 01904 448675
www.turf.co.uk

NEW CONVEYOR SYSTEM

A new conveyor system has become available for Groundpro's Pro-Cast range of top dressers. The new elevator now makes this machine a versatile material handling system, as well as a top quality bulk top dresser. The front mounted conveyor system is multifunctional and easy to use. It can deliver material into smaller top dressers or trailers, back fill drains and top up bunkers.

i www.wiedenmann.co.uk



NEW LAUNCH

Echo has introduced the first Hybrid 4 brushcutter into their range, the SRMF-340U.

The SRMF-340U is powered by a latest generation 34cc air cooled Hybrid 4 engine, providing an incredible 10,500 maximum rpm. As a result, operators benefit from the high torque and quick throttle response normally reserved for 2-stroke engines, but with the added benefit of low engine noise, up to 33% better fuel economy, and extremely low levels of exhaust emission.

i 01844 278800
www.echo-tools.com



COMPACT UNIT MULTI-TASKS

DJ Turfcare recently launched the 'Turfsaver', a new machine from the US that de-thatches and overseeds (or fertilises) in one compact unit is ideal for contractors, greenkeepers and groundsmen. It comes fitted with blades to verti-cut and covers a 22-inch wide swathe in a single pass.

i 01483 200976
www.djturfcare.co.uk

TERRAIN FIGHTS PHYTOPHTHORA

Following an increase in reports of phytophthora disease in Yew trees, Terrain Aeration has launched a new service to attack the problem.

Affected trees are treated with a mixture of parasitic bacteria and beneficial fungi after the root area has been de-compacted using one metre deep compressed air aeration.

The 'Fight Phytophthora' service is aimed at disease stricken Yews on golf courses, parks and gardens etc.

i 01449 673783
www.terrainaeration.com

OFFERING EXPANDED IN THE UK

Following on from the UK launch of AgriMetal 'low decibel' blowers last autumn, JSM Distribution has expanded the choice of AgriMetal products available to UK groundscape markets.

The expanded range now encompasses the full line of turf vacuums and sweeper collectors, together with the full range of trailed and self propelled blowers, and the floating head fairway slitter.

i 0845 0260064



CLASS A INNOVATIONS FOR GOLF

British Seed Houses introduced a new seed mixture at BTME 2009, which promises significant turf quality and environmental benefits for golf course managers.

A27 is a specially formulated all-fescue mix, offering low nutrient requirement and needing minimal maintenance. Suitable for multi-purpose use across the golf course, A27 provides dense ground cover.

i www.britishseedhouses.com
01522 868714

New Products



SPRAYING SPEED AND SAFETY IMPROVED

Syngenta Crop Protection launched a new range of liquid product packaging at this year's Harrogate Week, to help turf and amenity managers achieve safe, simple and secure spraying operations. The new S-pac incorporates a host of innovative features for easier opening, handling, rinsing and disposal.

The unique manufacturing process for the Syngenta S-pac has, for the first time, eliminated the need for foil heat seals on the full range of the company's liquid packaging, making the containers faster and safer to open.

i www.syngenta-crop.co.uk

NEW TURF SUPPLEMENT

Rigby Taylor has launched Phos-Form, a phosphorus turf supplement containing potassium phosphite and L-form amino acids, for the treatment of phosphorus deficiency in amenity turfgrass areas.

Rigby Taylor claim that by using Phos-Form, the turf develops more root growth and a more vigorous leaf growth, while also providing benefits of stress resistance.

i 0800 424919

NEWEST ADDITION

Ruston's Engineering (Reco) had their latest addition to their range of Kioti tractors on display at Harrogate Week.

The EX series, with a factory-fitted luxury cab, sits between the existing CK and DK range, offering machines in 35, 40, 45, and 50hp, either in Rops or with a luxury fitted cab. Matching front loaders and backhoes are also available.

i www.reco.co.uk



TAKE IT EASY

New Holland presented its exclusive EasyDrive™ Continuously Variable Transmission (CVT) in its production format for the first time at BTME 2009.

Available on the new Boomer 3000 series compact tractors from 40-50hp, EasyDrive™ offers an advanced automatic transmission system with a number of benefits over hydrostatic transmissions.

As EasyDrive™ operates more efficiently than a hydro, it offers improved fuel economy and transmits more power to the wheels and PTO, boosting workrates.

The right speed for the job is automatically selected, which along with the electronically engaged independent PTO gets the best from attachments.

i www.newholland.com

NEW WHEELED SANDBANDER

The Wheeled Sandbander complete with support wheels and low impact tyres allows access to greens and fine turf areas with a fully loaded machine. Designed for use with the smallest 20hp tractors, the new Wheeled Sandbander gives you all the benefits of the standard Sandbander plus the added flexibility of needing a less powerful tractor, thereby further reducing the impact on the surface areas.

i 01787 311 811
www.trenchers.co.uk





REDUCED PULLING POWER

Echo launched two new emission compliant chainsaws at Harrogate Week, the CS-310ES, and the CS-600.

The new CS-310ES operates on an air-cooled 30.5cc 2-stroke engine, equipped with Echo's easy-start system, which means that the operator requires greatly reduced pulling power on the starter cord compared to other 2 stroke engines, and there is no kick-back effect in cranking.

The CS-600, operating on a torque efficient 59.8cc 2-stroke Echo engine, is supplied with a 45mm bar as standard, and weighs 5.9kg. This powerful saw is ideal for professional use, with a declared vibration level of just 6.1m/s² on the rear handle.

i www.countax.com

COMPREHENSIVE, TOUGH & BUDGET CONSCIOUS

Vitax's new range of Supaturf Spreaders caters for applications across the board.

Launched at Harrogate Week, the range consists of six models from the professional 60RD Broadcast spreader with a capacity of 46 litres to the DS10 Economy Drop model holding just 23 litres.

i 01530 510 060
www.vitax.co.uk



FIRST UK SHOWING

Shown by Massey Ferguson for the first time in the UK at Harrogate Week was an all-new cab for the 32hp MF 1532 and 28hp MF 1529 compact tractors.

Available as an option on both tractors in place of the standard rollbar, the high quality two-door cab is manufactured to Massey Ferguson's specifications by cab specialist,

Walter Mauser. Features include full "anti-noise" sound-deadening insulation, tinted glass all-round, a wide-sweep front wiper with electric screen washer and a roof-mounted heater with two-speed blower.

i www.masseyferguson.com

A QUICK GUIDE TO...

The Rules of Golf

10 Rules You Should Know, by Shona McRae, Manager – Rules of Golf for the R&A

1. The Teeing Ground

Tee-markers should be about six to seven yards apart with the front line of the teeing ground set up at right angles to the centre of the drive zone. As the Rules state that the teeing ground is an area of two club-lengths in depth, the tee markers should always be at least two club-lengths from the back edge of the tee. A player should be allowed to tee the ball as far back in the two club-length area and still make an unobstructed swing. Remember to take account of left-handed players.

2. Hole Positions

There is no Rule stating the distance the hole should be from the edge of the green, but generally, it is recommended that the hole be at least four paces from any edge of the green. Ideally, an area of two to three feet around the hole should be as level as possible, ensuring that the hole is not within three paces of a very severe slope or of a recently used hole.

3. The Hole

To conform to the Definition of a "hole", the hole must be 4¼ inches (108 mm) in diameter and at least 4 inches (101.6 mm) deep. Often collars/inserts are used on practice putting greens to help protect the hole from overuse and as a result, are not sunk one inch below the surface. This is permitted on practice greens, however, on the actual course, a plastic collar or insert is considered to be part of the hole liner and as a result, both the liner and plastic insert/collar must be at least 1 inch (25.4 mm) below the surface.

4. Relocating the Hole during a Competition

In a stroke-play competition the Committee is prohibited from relocating one or all of the holes and from moving the tee-markers (Rule 33-2). If the locations of the hole or tee-markers are moved, generally the round should be declared null and void. If the area around a hole contains casual water, in stroke play, the course should be considered unplayable and the Committee should suspend play until such time the conditions improve. In match play, the Committee is permitted to relocate the hole.



5. Bunker Rakes

It may be argued that there is more likelihood of a ball being deflected into or kept out of a bunker if the rake is placed outside the bunker. However, in practice, players who leave rakes in bunkers frequently leave them at the side which tends to stop a ball rolling into the flat part of the bunker, resulting in a more difficult shot. This is most prevalent where the bunkers are small. Alternatively, if a rake is in the middle of a large bunker, it is either not used or the player is obliged to rake a large area of the bunker, resulting in unnecessary delay. Therefore, on balance, it is felt there is less likelihood of an advantage or disadvantage to the player if rakes are placed outside of bunkers in areas where they are least likely to affect the movement of the ball.

6. Water Hazards

There are two different forms of water hazard – normal and lateral. A common example of a lateral water hazard would be a body of water running parallel to a hole with the ground on the far side of the hazard being wooded or overgrown. As provided in the Definitions of the Rules of Golf, stakes and/or lines used to define the margins of a water hazard must be yellow and, in the case of lateral water hazards, they must be red. Stakes or lines defining the margins of a water hazard should be placed as near as possible along the natural limits of the hazard, ie. where the ground breaks down to form the depression containing the water.

7. Grass Cuttings

Grass cuttings are GUR only if they have been piled for removal. If cuttings piled for removal interfere with a player's stance or swing, the player is entitled to relief under Rule 25-1b. Grass cuttings are loose impediments, whether or not they are piled for removal, and may be removed by the player – Rule 23-1. Try to keep grass cuttings away from playing areas.

8. Bunker Totally Under Repair

If a bunker is being renovated, it does not lose its status as a hazard. However, it is recommended that the Committee should define the bunker as GUR and classify it as "through the green". This means that the player is entitled to take relief under Rule 25-1b, which allows the player to drop the ball out of the bunker without penalty.

9. Defining Course Boundaries

It is essential that course boundaries are clearly defined so that there can be no doubt as to whether a ball is in or out of bounds. Different methods can be used to mark the boundary such as fences, stakes, lines or walls but it is not recommended to use a hedge or line of trees due to their irregular growth. When stakes are used, they should be positioned sufficiently close to each other so that it is possible to draw an imaginary line between the two stakes to determine if the ball is out of bounds. If possible, bushes or trees should not obscure stakes. Stakes and/or lines must be painted white.

10. Flagstick

It is permitted to have thin discs or sleeves attached to the flagstick to indicate the distance from the front of the green, provided that the attachments are circular in cross-section. Similarly, the use of different coloured flags is permitted to indicate when the hole position is at the front, middle or back of the green.



What's your Number?

Name: Richard Earl
Company: TGMS Ltd (known as TurfTrax)
Position: Managing Director



How long have you been in the industry?
"Six years."

How did you get into it?
"I set up Europe's first Masters Degree Programme in Sports Surface Technology with colleague Alex Vickers, when working as a Lecturer in Soil & Water Engineering at Cranfield University. Shortly afterwards, I was approached to join TurfTrax as Technical Director."

What other jobs have you done?
"I have been a Soil and Water Engineer (India), a Soil Surveyor (Soil Survey of England and Wales) and a Lecturer at Cranfield University."

What do you like about your current job?
"I like working with a great team. I also like the application of science to provide solutions to practical situations relating to golf courses

and sports pitches. And the satisfaction of seeing projects through from feasibility study to practical completion."

What changes have you seen during your time in the industry?
"A greater appreciation and acceptance of the role science can play in improving the way we construct and maintain sports surfaces."

What do you like to do in your spare time?
"I enjoy playing in a band (the drums and electric violin), County League squash, eating & drinking!"

Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?
"Hopefully working with the same team, in the same role."

Who do you consider to be your best friends in the industry?
"Many loyal clients and competent contractors that I have had the pleasure of working with."

What do you consider to be your lucky number?
"21"

Pick a number
"441 (212)."

Richard has picked Austin Jarrett from Turfmech to take part in next month's feature.



WHAT'S YOUR NUMBER?

Raise your game.

British Seed Houses is the premier source for grass seed and fertilisers for your course.

Let's start with the tees and fairways.

Why settle for a mixture that's 'good for all' when BSH technical experts have selected specific Grade A cultivar mixtures for individual applications.

And then move onto the greens.

For that super smooth finish we have a range of Bent grasses for all soil conditions, whether you're establishing a new green or overseeding existing.

But you can't finish there.

To keep all the playing surfaces fed with all the correct nutrients, our range of Floranid® slow release fertilisers are the ultimate complement.



And not forgetting our technical advisers.

They are always on hand to help you achieve the best standard possible. Buying direct gives you access to first class advice and great value specialist turfgrass products.

We should also mention our wild flower mixtures to make your roughs nice and colourful.



Visit www.bshamenity.com or call 01522 868714 to contact your regional advisor.

Letters



In the Shed ANSWERS

A THOUGHT FOR THE NEW YEAR

Dear Sirs

Can I ask through your columns that golf club's reply to emails, letters or phone calls from applicants to their advertisements. I recently took time off to attend an interview at a golf club and to date have heard nothing. Of course I realise that in this age I should not expect good old fashioned courtesy - it appears that there is not a BIGGA course on manners yet! - however, there is a happy ending I have secured a job on a local course and I intend to help make it one of the best courses in the area.

A Happy New Year to all my fellow greenkeepers and happy golfing.

Regards, John Button

SAD NEWS

It is with great sadness that I must report the passing away of Robert Moreton, 71, on New Years Day. Bob passed away peacefully at home with his family at his side. All of us who knew Bob as a friend or as a colleague can take solace in the fact that he is now with his greatest love, his wife Valerie. His life was never the same without her by his side.



Bobs career started at Flempton Golf Club in Suffolk where his father was the Professional/Steward. He then moved on to Bishops Stortford, Ashburnham, Patshull Park, which he helped to build, and then, from which most of you will know him, spent 20 years as Head Greenkeeper at The Berkshire, where he was highly thought of and will be fondly remembered by all.

Bob retired over five years ago but still loved to talk about greenkeeping with the enthusiasm of someone just starting their career. I personally am indebted to Bob for my career and feel very privileged to have been able to work with someone so knowledgeable for four years before he retired.

All who knew him will have their own wonderful memories of Bob and the way he lived his life to the full. We will all miss a truly wonderful gentleman.

Chris Lomas

THANK YOU

Dear BIGGA

Many thanks for everyone's generous hospitality during my return visit to Harrogate Week 2009. There was no better way for me to celebrate my 25th anniversary as a member of BIGGA than being a speaker and to be a part of the great educational sessions, exhibitions and overall festivities. I also really enjoyed the Casino Night and thanks for the invitation to have lots of fun. It was also seeing lots of old friends and to make some new friends also. The quality of the people from the UK and from the other countries that attend Harrogate Week makes it so much fun to attend.

I look forward to my next return visit to Harrogate Week.

Take care, best wishes and continued success to all of you.

Kindest regards, Terry Buchen, MG, CGCS

Please email your letters to Scott MacCallum, scott@bigga.co.uk or Melissa Jones, melissa@bigga.co.uk

CROSSWORD

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QUIZ ANSWERS

1. St Leger
2. 170
3. Peter Shilton
4. They Think It's All Over
5. American
6. Rugby League
7. Adrian Moorhouse
8. Monaco
9. Chris Eubank

MONSTER SUDOKO

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SQUIGGLY SUDOKO

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VOLUNTEER GREENKEEPERS REQUIRED

The London Golf Club is hosting The European Open for the second year running and the club is currently looking for enthusiastic Greenkeepers to assist with golf course preparation for this televised European Tour event.

Successful applicants who work the full week can expect the following package:

- Accommodation for all non-local volunteers
- Food and Beverage while at work
- European Open shirts x 2
- Pro-quip rain suit x 1
- A round of golf for the volunteer and 3 guests

We welcome applications from people who are unable to work the whole week and offer the following package:

- Accommodation
- Food and Beverage while at work
- European Open shirts x 2

Contact...

greenkeepers@londongolf.co.uk
or call 01474 879200 for more info.

The 2009 European Open Monday 25th to Sunday 31st May



FEATURE

YOUNG PEOPLE AT WORK

BIGGA's Health & Safety series produced by Xact
www.xact.uk.com



Young people can be employed within golf clubs in a number of locations e.g. Apprentice Greenkeepers, Assistants in the Proshop, help within the Clubhouse and in some cases as work placements from local schools.

In Health and Safety law Young People in the workplace are defined as: 'A Child' those aged between 13yrs and below the minimum school leaving age (MSLA), currently 16yrs old OR 'A Young Person' Those aged between 16 to 18yrs old.

It is important to remember that Young People do not have the life and work experience of other workers and coupled with eagerness to please and bravado, are potentially more likely to be involved in accidents. Legislation recognises the increased risk and requires employers to either carry out a separate risk assessment for young people or include this category of person within their normal risk assessments.

There are restrictions on the employment of a 'child' i.e. those below MSLA, generally enacted by bylaws of the Local Education Authority. The restrictions will include what type of work is allowed, the number of working hours and that the key findings of any risk assessments are carried out. Parents or guardians should be notified, before the child starts work, of potential risks at the place of work along with any control measures identified to reduce these.

Children under 13yrs of age are generally prohibited from any form of employment.

Employers, before allowing Young People to start work, must therefore:

- Ensure that where applicable all Local Authority bylaw requirements regarding the employment of those below MSLA (13-16yrs) are met.
- Assess the risks in the workplace and work activity to young people before they start work, taking account of their immaturity, inexperience and lack of awareness.
- Formulate Risk Assessments that address the factors relevant to young people. Where Risk Assessments have already been formulated under other relevant regulations e.g. COSHH, manual handling etc, then these should be reviewed to ensure that they are adequate for the protection of any young people at work.

The Risk Assessment should ensure that Young People are not given tasks which expose them to: work which is beyond their physical and psychological capabilities; involves exposure to toxic or carcinogenic substances; work involving harmful radiation; a task where an accident is likely due to the Young Person not being able to recognise the potential for harm through inexperience or lack of training; a risk to health from the exposure to extreme cold, heat, noise or vibration; identify work which current legislation bans them from carrying out.

There is provision in the legislation for allowing Young People to be exposed to these, and other hazards, at work provided it is for the purpose of training, that they work under close supervision of a competent person and that the risks are reduced to the lowest practical level. This exception applies only to those over the MSLA. Under no circumstances can children of compulsory school age do work involving these types of risk.



News from the Chief Executive

Another week at Harrogate comes and goes and all the pre-event apprehensions were, I am pleased to say, unfounded. Coming back into the office after Christmas the usual questions ran through all our minds: What will the weather be like? Will the visitors come in sufficient numbers? Will the Credit Crunch affect the spending power of those that do come? Will we sell the last couple of exhibition spaces? Will the Social Night be a success? And just as importantly - What will be the reaction of the visitors and exhibitors?

At a time when the industry in general needed a lift we got it. Yes there was talk of a recession and dark times ahead but the majority of people looked forward to the challenge of a new season and, hopefully, a better Spring and Summer than in the past couple of years. The exhibitors were buoyed by the good attendance levels and the high quality of visitors, with many reporting brisk business even on Thursday!

Let's not lose sight of the fact that there is still a healthy demand for golf we just have to accept that the nature of the demand is changing and clubs must learn to change with the times and become more attractive and be able to compete with a changing lifestyle and a changing economy.

An awful lot of use of the word 'change', something that many of us find alien but something that is necessary. BIGGA is no exception to the rule. We have already changed our office layout to improve working practices and internal communication, the Members at the AGM approved voting by proxy for future AGM's/EGM's and also approved the conversion of the Association into a company limited by guarantee.

A copy of my report to Members at the AGM has been posted on the BIGGA website and the minutes of the AGM will be also be made available for download.

What we do and how we do it will be coming under scrutiny and we will be attempting to forge closer relationships with other industry bodies to avoid duplication of efforts and better utilisation of resources, all aimed at improving the overall standard of service to Members. One such example is the signing of an Agreement with the Club Managers Association of Europe that will facilitate better provision of cost effective management courses for those wishing to develop their career along these lines.

The American Golf Industry Show will this year be held in New Orleans and I am looking forward to representing the Association at the Annual International Summit where associations from around the world meet and compare trends, working practices, current affairs and factors affecting the future of our industry. It is also an opportunity to share thinking on how, by working together, we can resolve some of the problems facing the game and the welfare of associations such as ours.

Finally I would like to thank Billy McMillan and Gavin Robson for their service on the Board of Management. Both have made significant contributions to the development of the Association and I look forward to working with Peter Todd and Paul Worster, Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively, and Garry Cunningham who succeeds Gavin as the representative for the Midlands Region.

John Pemberton
Chief Executive



SCOTTISH REGION - CENTRAL

There is very little to report from the Central Section this month. We are holding a one day seminar which is likely to be on February 24. This will be a follow up on the Disturbance Theory Seminar which we held in early 2007. Richard Windows, Henry Bechelet and Andy Cole will be the presenters and the purpose is to expand on the 2007 seminar with those attending providing feedback on their experiences, what has worked, what they would do a little differently, etc.

I believe a similar event took place at Cannington College at the end of 2008 and proved very successful and the West Section are holding one on February 25 at Loch Lomond. Details for our one have still to be finalised - timings, meals, etc as well as the venue - although it will either be at Gleneagles or The Castle Course. By the time you read this, these details will be available on the website, www.biggacentralsection.org.uk

Also, while you are freezing your bits off reading this, spare a thought for those Section members who are in sunnier climes, Willie Jardine and Scott Finlay, of St Andrews, will be in Australia where they have gone to work for a year starting with a placement at The Metropolitan Club.

Gordon Moir
gordonmoir@standrews.org.uk



EAST

This will be my first report for the East Section news as I will be taking over from Mike Dooner, namely "Thorn trees Amenity", who, with Kathleen McIntyre, has done a splendid job for our Section news.

Our Chairman and Committee would like to thank them both for all the hard work they have put into our Section newsletter over the years.

Sorry - we missed the January issue for our report so some of the text might be a bit dated now.