



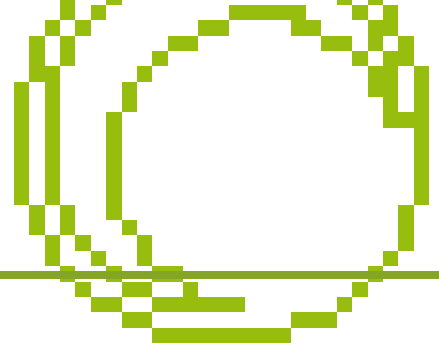
You could be doing so much more with eAurora Central Control.

Introducing the first web-based central control system in golf irrigation. One that requires no desktop software and gives you all the functionality you'd expect of a central control system – right from your home or wherever you like. For a demonstration, contact your John Deere dealer.

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



# New Products



## SIMPLE AND SAFE

Sisis has designed storage frames for two of their most popular implements – the SisisVariseeder 1300 and Sisis Osca 2 brush.

Storage frames, obviously, have advantages as far as Health & Safety are concerned but will also make handling and fitting the implements to the tractor simple and safe. The implement can easily be positioned at the tractor linkage and attached with minimum effort. They can also be used to protect the implements during movement and storage around the depot as they are fitted with castor wheels for ease of movement.

**i** 01625 503030  
www.sisis.com



## NEW FAMILY OF POWER UTILITY EQUIPMENT

Ditch Witch has introduced a new family of power utility equipment. The new Zahn series consists of three power units, the R150 (15hp), R230 (23hp), R300 (30hp) and a set of inter-changeable front ends that will revolutionise the industry. The Zahn series have been designed to be more versatile, more powerful, more productive and features articulated steering for increased manoeuvrability, enabling the front end to perform like a dedicated unit, elevated operator's platform for greater visibility, traction assist and cruise control.

**i** 01792 895906  
www.ditchwitch.com



## INNOVATIVE ADDITION TO RANGE

Spaldings has announced the introduction of a powerful 12V 55-watt magnetic halogen work lamp. The lamp is designed for a variety of lighting applications and the magnetic base and 360° swivel head provide the user with ultimate freedom to work in the darkest of conditions. This high performance and energy efficient lamp joins the ever-expanding range of Spaldings' workshop lighting.

**i** 01522 507 500  
www.spaldings.co.uk



## LOW EMISSION

New from Echo, is the PB-500 backpack blower with new Stratified Scavenging engine, ideal for clearing leaves, litter and debris. The new PB-500 produces an incredible 1014m<sup>3</sup>/h air volume and a maximum air speed of 42.4m/sec using the newly developed 50.8cc stratified scavenging engine from Echo, with significantly lower emissions.

A new design of fan and fan housing enables increased air speed and volume, and an improved debris protector ensures that the air intake is fully protected from leaves and debris, maximising airflow capacity.

**i** www.countax.com



## BRAINS AND BRAWN

Toro has launched the next generation of its industry-leading range of wide-area rotary mowers – the new Groundsmaster 5900 Series in the form of the 5900 and 5910 models, which boast cutting widths of 4.9 metres.

Both models are equipped with an ultra-powerful and efficient 99hp Cummins turbo diesel engine, which enables them to mow at an impressive rate of five hectares (12.5 acres) an hour – that's one whole hectare (two-and-a-half acres) in less than 15 minutes!

**i** www.toro.com  
01480 226800





### NEW FORMULATIONS CUT COSTS

Headland Amenity has expanded two of its popular fertiliser ranges, offering the customer a wider choice of cost effective, low temperature performing products.

Multigreen 28-0-0+3MgO joins the well established Multigreen granular fertiliser range, (known for its longevity and consistent performance) featuring a 73% controlled release portion offering temperature-dictated release of nitrogen over 4 to 5 months.

The addition of sulphate of ammonia to this new formulation enhances the product's early season fast-start performance, providing rapid green up and improved colour at low soil temperatures, an effect that is further assisted by the inclusion of magnesium.

Solufeed NK 15-0-25+MgO joins Headland's water soluble range, with a new formulation combining sulphate of ammonia with potassium nitrate and magnesium.

**i** 01223 597834  
www.headlandamenity.com



### CORDLESS ANGLE GRINDER INTRODUCED

Spaldings has extended their electrical tool range with the introduction of the Hitachi 4 1/2" disc cordless angle grinder. Weighing just 1.9kg the Hitachi angle grinder is lightweight and compact, easily fitting into the tractor toolbox for in the field repairs and maintenance; where a corded tool is both impractical and limiting.

**i** 01522 507 600  
www.spaldings.co.uk



### NEW OUTFRONT MOWER

Equally at home on long grass, quality sports turf and rough roadside verges, the new Wessex ProLine TGX out-front flail mower from Broadwood International is designed to fit all popular out-front power units, including John Deere, Shibaura, Kubota, New Holland etc.

As well as cutting grass superbly, the ProLine TGX's flail cutting action leaves no unsightly grass swathings as occurs with rotary blade mowers. Clippings are spread perfectly evenly, which is particularly important when mowing sports turf.

**i** www.broadwoodintl.co.uk  
01202 601050

### MOSS PROBLEMS HIT FOR SIX

From the DJ Turfcare stable of specialist products for the grounds care industry come two new products to eliminate moss from hard surfaces. DJ Turfcare has become distributor for two new products called Batimoss CR and Batiface.

Batimoss CR is a biodegradable solution for removing moss, lichen and algae from all surfaces, including delicate and painted areas.

Batiface is a powerful solution for quickly removing moss, lichen and algae and renovating most surfaces such as tarmac to 'as new' within minutes. This product is ideal for removing slippery moss on paths and hard surfaces.

**i** 01483 200976  
email: sales@djturfcare.co.uk



### REGULATING RODENTS

Spaldings has extended its rodenticide range to include two new rodent bait boxes. The new additions have been carefully chosen to explore the natural behaviour of both rats and mice and will offer further assistance in rodent regulation. The robust bait boxes have been designed for both indoor and outdoor use allowing for total treatment of an infested area.

**i** 01522 507 500  
www.spaldings.co.uk

### NEW ARTICULATORS

Two new Articulator mowers have been introduced by Lastec. The model 3300 is a light weight, fully articulating five-deck rotary ride-on with zero turn and a 2.4 metre cut. The new model can fold its outer decks at the flick of a switch to reduce transport width to a mere 78in.

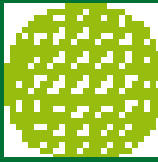
**i** www.lastec.com



before



after



# Hobbies

Here's something you didn't know about me...

**Name:** Bruce Hicks  
**Position:** Head Greenkeeper  
**Club:** Boston Golf Club  
**Hobby:** Musical Theatre

## How and when did you get into musical theatre?

"As with most things in my life I just "stumbled" into it when my wife became the Secretary of the local Operatic Society. While attending the society's summer BBQ I fell into conversation with the then Chairman who asked me "do you sing at all?" As a boy I spent eight years as a Chorister so my answer was yes but "not for many years". Anyway to cut a long story short several burnt sausages and cans of Stella later I found myself agreeing to audition for their next production (HMS Pinafore) as they were short of men for the roles."

## What is it about the theatre that appeals to you?

"It is not easy to put into words, but for me it is probably the test of your memory, commitment, confidence, vocal skill and quick wittedness for when it starts to go wrong. Oh and I nearly forgot the applause at the



end is also quite nice. It is rather a strange hobby to pursue but the level of detachment from my day job is huge as I can honestly say that never once have I stood in the wings waiting for my cue and been thinking about my golf course, which is probably another good reason for me pursuing it. Although it is only considered amateur theatre, the standards are extremely high and my own vocal range and skill has been improved after attending hundreds of rehearsals and working with many different professional musical directors."

## What have been your most memorable performances?

"Yeomen of the Guard with Nene Opera which was performed at the International Gilbert & Sullivan Festival in Buxton Opera House to an audience of about 1000. Also South Pacific where I played the character "Stewpot" and sang "There ain't nothing like a Dame" one night to a front row that consisted of my then Lady Captain and many members of her Section! But probably one of the best was Fiddler on the Roof (alas not Tevye but Avram the bookseller) which I did with my wife and two children in the cast, a real family experience and an award winner in the eyes of the National Operatic & Dramatic Association."

## HUMAN RESOURCES

BIGGA's Management Support series produced by Xact  
[www.xact.uk.com](http://www.xact.uk.com)



## CHANGES IN DISCIPLINARY RULES

As some of you may know, the Employment Act 2004 introduced certain changes to the conduct of disciplinary and grievance procedures in the workplace. From October 2004, it became mandatory for employers to follow certain procedures prior to the dismissal of an employee.

These included: Writing a letter to the employee setting out the allegations against him/her and advising the employee that they are required to attend a disciplinary hearing. Setting out the complaint in writing and giving the employee the opportunity to be accompanied at any subsequent disciplinary hearing. Thereafter, any decision to dismiss was required to be confirmed in writing and a right of appeal offered.

This procedure was prescriptive - any failure to follow it resulted in a dismissal being automatically unfair. It meant the employer could offer no defence to the dismissal being unfair. Similarly, if the employee wished to raise a grievance against the employer, for example in respect of discrimination or failure to pay holiday pay or appropriate wages etc. they, in turn, also required to follow a similar procedure by: Putting the grievance in writing. Waiting at least 28 days before raising the matter at an employment tribunal.

The object of ensuring employers, and employees alike, followed these mandatory procedures, was the fallacious belief that by introducing such measures it would reduce the spiraling number of claims that were being brought before employment tribunals. Unfortunately, the reverse proved to be the case and both employers and employees became more intent on ensuring they followed the procedures and therefore getting

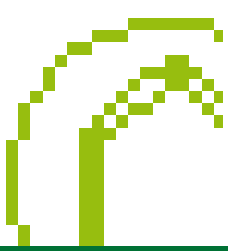
beyond first base rather than using the time for resolution of the dispute which had been the intention behind the legislation.

The Government subjected these rules to review and they will now be abolished with effect from April 2009. In their place, the Government has introduced a new strengthened ACAS Code of Practice. If an employer fails to follow the new Code and an employee is unfairly dismissed, an employment tribunal will have the discretion to increase any award by up to 25% for that failure. Similarly, if the employee fails to appeal against his/her dismissal, an employment tribunal will be able to correspondingly reduce any award by up to 25%.

Employees will not now be required to raise grievances prior to bringing complaints for non-dismissal matters but, again, a tribunal will be able to take this factor into account when assessing an amount of compensation should the employee be successful in their claim.

Neither of these changes, however, diminishes the fact that both employers and employees are still being encouraged to resolve any differences in the workplace informally between themselves rather than resorting to litigation which automatically raises the temperature in any potential dispute and, accordingly, reduces the possibility of the two parties maintaining a successful working relationship in the future.

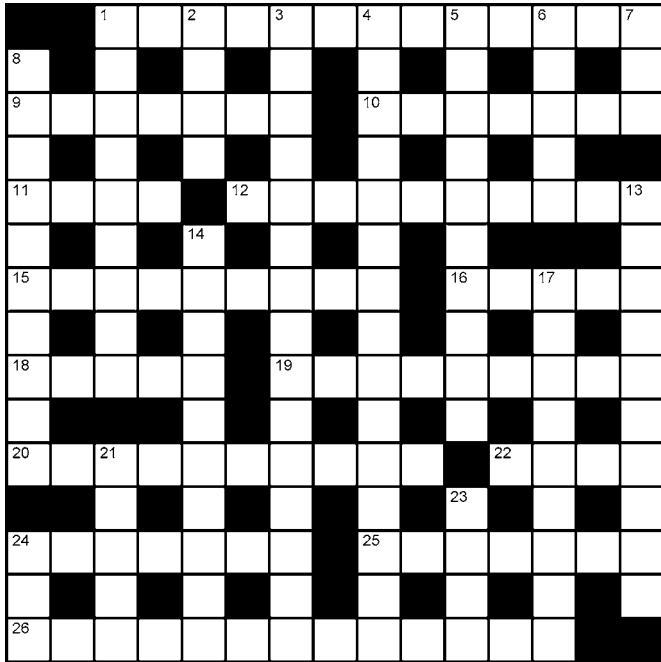
The lesson must be informal resolution of disputes is always better than the formal route and we at Xact would certainly recommend if you have a dispute, of any description, with your employer you should attempt to discuss this informally prior to embarking on costly litigation which may not achieve the desired result.



# 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 2000 film starring Mel Gibson and Helen Hunt (4,5,4)
- 9 Make work, put into service (7)
- 10 Lengthen the duration of something (7)
- 11 Gardening implement; immoral man (4)
- 12 Claimed by oneself, usually without justification - soi-disant (4-6)
- 15 Communist official assigned to indoctrinate the military (9)
- 16 Jewelled headdress (5)
- 18 Informal, often pejorative word for money (5)
- 19 – City, formerly Saigon (2,3,4)
- 20 Lacking thought or emotion (10)
- 22 Equipment used to join together two draft animals (4)
- 24 Test of local knowledge? (3,4)
- 25 Islamic spiritual leader (7)
- 26 Climbing plant also known as old man's beard (10,3)

### Down

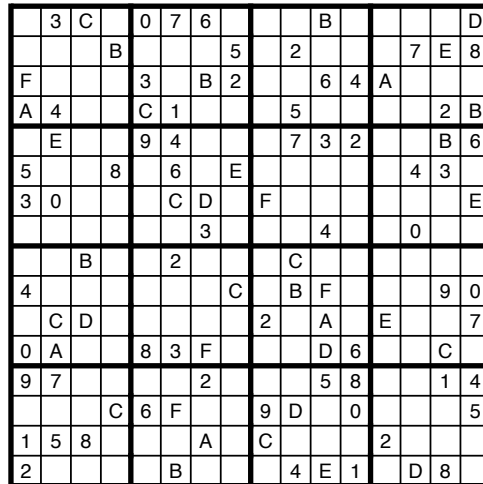
- 1 Alcoholic drink consisting of Scotch and green ginger wine (6,3)
- 2 Extremely enthusiastic (4)
- 3 Viennese dish of deep fried breaded veal cutlets (6,9)
- 4 1989 Holly Hunter film, a send-up of beauty contests (4,11)
- 5 Of heavy traffic, such that slow-moving vehicles are almost touching (4,2,4)
- 6 Be of use (5)
- 7 2240lbs in the UK, 2000lbs in the US (3)
- 8 Course of academic subjects (10)
- 13 Extreme form of rock music inspired by thrash (5,5)
- 14 Written works (10)
- 17 Feeling that arouses active hostility (9)
- 21 Venomous snake noted for expanding its neck skin to form a hood (5)
- 23 Muslim pilgrimage (4)
- 24 Set to rivalry or opposition (3)

## QUICK NINE-HOLE QUIZ

1. In golf what is the name given to the grassed area between the tee and the green?
2. In which game would you find cover point, silly mid off and square leg?
3. Who at the 1984 Olympics, won the 100m, 200m, the print relay and the Long Jump?
4. Which sport featured in many of the Beach Boys earliest hits?
5. Which sport uses asymmetrical bars, rings and a pommel horse?
6. Who won Wimbledon every year from 1976 to 1980?
7. Which Grand Prix team's world champions have included Emerson Fittipaldi, Niki Lauda and Alain Prost?
8. What is the name of the method of training a horse to carry out a set routine of movements?
9. Which sport was originally called Mintonette?

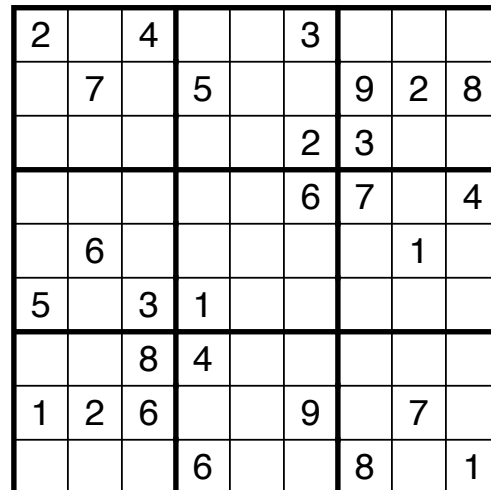
## MONSTER SUDOKU

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



IN THE SHED





## News from the Chief Executive

Having had the approval of the membership at the AGM to convert the Association to a limited company the Board have tasked me with organising the legal work necessary. I have had preliminary meetings with solicitors and accountants to establish what needs to be done, by whom and by when. It is going to be an immense task but one that perhaps should have been done some while ago.

In the past the main deterrent has been the lease on the land at BIGGA HOUSE that is held by myself and a Past Chairman in favour of BIGGA. Once incorporated, then BIGGA can hold the lease in its own right but past owners of Aldwark Manor, in whose grounds BIGGA HOUSE sits, would not approve the changes. The current owner, Q Hotels, has taken a much more positive view and has sanctioned the changes. It is likely that BIGGA Limited will commence trading on 1st July and in conjunction with the accountants I am looking at the viability and advantages, if any, of splitting the commercial activities from the membership based activities and perhaps applying for status as a charity. We are hoping to maximise the revenue and minimise the tax burden!

The Board at its next meeting in March will be looking to fix a date for an EGM with a view to progressing its proposals for the better integration of sports turf groundsmen into BIGGA. Now that the Constitution has been changed to allow for voting by proxy everyone will have the opportunity to influence the future of their Association. We all acknowledge that there are still a great many greenkeepers who are not members and this we will attempt to address over the coming months. It is a matter of fact, however, that a lot of these non-members never will join for a variety of reasons. They have no interest in belonging to a professional association, they do not value being a member, they do not play golf or, perhaps, they are not interested in the more formal training and education that helps career development. It is also a matter of fact that in a commercial world it is numbers that count and BIGGA needs more members to be able to progress.

Let us not get carried away with the notion that greenkeepers are potentially going to be swamped by groundsmen. If BIGGA widens its base to cater for sports turf in general, just as the IoG has always done, then I would see a gradual influx of groundsmen taking place over a number of years. At the moment there are many, many groundsmen who do not belong to the IoG and so perhaps we can be of greater appeal. It's not about challenging the IoG more about offering a second choice that could help secure a better future for the Association and the industry.

We have tried the merger route and that failed but it did highlight how much greenkeepers and sports turf groundsmen have in common. Let's wake up to this fact and try to capitalise on it. If BIGGA does not embrace this concept soon then I have genuine concerns that another organisation will enter the membership arena and that is the last thing we need in today's economic climate. Golf is going to be hit hard by the recession in 2009 and some greenkeepers will lose their jobs as certain clubs struggle to balance the books. There is nothing BIGGA, nor any other body for that matter, can do about this if clubs act within the law. I hear criticisms of Greenkeeper International and the lack of jobs being advertised these days. I wish the critics would realise that there is a reason for this - there are very few vacancies and even then some are being filled by referral.

I seem to be always having a moan but I find it frustrating. BIGGA has grown on the back of the development in golf over the past 15/20 years. The Association has met many of its goals but in a shrinking market with overheads increasing and a decline in revenue how does it progress? The future rests with you, the member.

John Pemberton



### SCOTTISH REGION - AYRSHIRE

Hello all, hope you're all well and looking forward to a good spring and longer hours in the sunshine?

Starting with Harrogate, I felt the show was well attended and the decision to make the seminars free a huge success. In fact, some missed out due to size of the rooms and I'm sure this will be rectified for next year. Quality and content of the seminars was high and I particularly enjoyed Colin Burns' (Winged Foot GC) and Gordon Irvine's (Askernish) presentations.

Another highlight was to see Ayrshire's own, if adopted, George Brown receive the Lifetime Achievement Award for services to the profession. George gave one of his trademark speeches and when he finished off by dedicating the Award to his lovely wife, Brenda, there was more than a few moist eyes in the room. When the photographer moved in for his shot of George with his Award, he asked George if he could "hold it up a bit", to which George quickly explained he'd had a bit of trouble with that lately!

Oh and I can't forget to mention Marshall Sloss' kind invitation to a whisky tasting event on the Wednesday afternoon in his room, with a bottle of his roommate's (Martin Lothian) Glenfiddich. Marshall assured the attendees that Martin had insisted that he could help himself to the malt, as it was brought to be drunk. This proved acceptable to us! After catching up with Martin and thanking him for his benevolence, he remarked "Aye, that's fine I was just hoping to o' been there n'aw!" or words to that effect. Cheers Dip! All in all a most enjoyable week.

Thursday, April 30, is the date for the Spring Outing to West Kilbride Golf Club. Get you're entries back to Derek sharp, as I'm sure this will prove a popular venue!

The Greenkeeper's v Secretaries Match will be contested at Strathaven Golf Club, on May 12.

The Scottish Greenkeeper's National Tournament takes place on Thursday, June 11, at Cathkin Braes Golf Club, in Glasgow. Hopefully we'll have a good turn out from the Section, as there will be a good bit of silverware to defend from the haul taken at last year's competition!

Auchterarder Golf Club hosts the annual Norrie Whittock Trophy, on August 20.

Irvine Golf Club hosted a presentation from Martin Ward (Symbio) on Monday, January 26. There were over 20 greenkeeper's in attendance and although the subject matter was academic in nature I'm sure everyone took something from it. I know I did! On behalf of the Section I would like to thank Irvine Golf Club for their support and to Martin Ward for an excellent, thought provoking, seminar. Thanks also to Jim Paton for expressing the Section's appreciation on the day.

Finally, footballers, and I use the term loosely, are required for our match against the West Section due to be played at Cambusdoon, Alloway, on Saturday, March 21, from 10am. Anyone interested in a run out can get in touch with me at: [denis.t@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:denis.t@hotmail.co.uk) or: 01292 475309.

The plan is to have a friendly, yet competitive, match, some lunch and refreshments in the clubhouse then possibly into Ayr for further refreshments and an honest explanation of where the West lads got their tactics wrong!

Denis Tweddell



## CENTRAL

I am sure you will all by now be coming to the end of your winter programmes and hopefully now be looking forward to some more better weather this coming spring. Certainly at St Andrews it has been a busy winter period with the guys having done an excellent job in re-building our bunkers in preparation for next year's Open.

My own staff and I will be heading down to Turnberry for a course visit to see how preparations are going for this year's Open. Check out the website to see how things went!

At the end of February many of the Section members enjoyed a great and very informative day at The Castle Course, where STRI held its latest seminar "The Art of Objective Greenkeeping", this was very well attended with over 50 members being in attendance, a big thanks to Richard Windows, Henry Bechelet, Andy Cole, Lee Penrose and Alastair Beggs for a great days education and also to Gary Smith, from Scotts, for so kindly sponsoring the day.

The committee has been working hard over the winter month's putting together an educational programme for the coming year and hopefully full details will shortly be available on the website: [www.biggacentralsection.org.uk](http://www.biggacentralsection.org.uk)

You will shortly be receiving our annual newsletter along with the Spring Outing invitations to Scotsraig Golf Club on April 30.

The annual Scottish Conference was held recently at Carnegie College, in Dunfermline where we all again enjoyed some quality speakers, well done to all concerned, and to Peter Boyd, for organising such an excellent day - and also to some of the committee who assisted in organisation of the day in Peter's absence.

Towards the end of March we shall be holding an evening seminar on drainage, look out for details nearer the time on the website.

Anyone with any news they would like included in the "Around the Green" Section can email Gordon Moir at: [gordon.moir@standrews.org.uk](mailto:gordon.moir@standrews.org.uk)

Gordon McKie



## EAST

I will start my report for this month by saying that the members of the East Section were pleased to hear that Graham Wood has been made a Life member of BIGGA - this was passed at the AGM at Harrogate. We hope Graham will be able to attend some of our fixtures in the near future.

Patrons' Award winners, Joe Robertson and Adam Sherwood, enjoyed

their visit to Harrogate. They both thought the exhibition hall was interesting and enjoyed meeting other greenkeepers and representatives from different companies throughout their time at Harrogate.

They attended several seminars, one on the US Open and another about aeration with the STRI, which were very good.

All the seminars were very informative and easy to listen to and understand.

Joe and Adam would also like to thank the East Section for nominating them and BIGGA for organising their package to Harrogate - all would not be possible without the patrons' backing. They sound as they both enjoyed their time at Harrogate.

After a blaze of pre-publicity, Scottish Borders councillors have finally given the go ahead for a £50 million luxury hotel development at Rutherford Castle, near West Linton.

The developers, Manor Kingdom, in conjunction with the De Vere Hotel Group, also plan an upgrade of the existing golf course to championship standards. With job losses and cuts on hours for many of our members, it makes one wonder where the customers will come from to patronise all these new developments.

In late November, Keith Purves, currently working at Kingsbarns under the expert eye of Innes Knight, flew out to commence a three month work placement at Royal Melbourne Golf Club. A Selkirk lad, Keith worked previously at both Galashiels and Melrose Golf Courses before moving south to further his career at the Forest of Arden.

Since speaking to Innes at Kingsbarns, the latest is that Keith has decided to continue working in "Aussie land" as the sun is always shining and the beaches are great!

(Good on you mate).

We are nearing the start of the golfing season for our courses let's hope the weather is a bit kinder to us this season.

Our Spring Outing to Eyemouth Golf Course is nearing so blow off the dust from these golf clubs and come along to what will be a very enjoyable day at Eyemouth - I am sure Mark Pagan and his greenstaff will have the course in good order for us.

Members, please look on the 'Region and Section Pages' (which can be found on our BIGGA website - [www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk) - for dates of fixtures for the east Section.

If you have any stories or information that might be of interest that we can publish on our Section news please contact me.

Until next month  
Tom Murray



## NORTH

Hopefully by the time you read this month's article, everyone will be clear of the snow and ice that has wreaked havoc across Britain. At this present time the North of Scotland is experiencing such temperatures as -15. We haven't had those sort of temperatures for a number of years. If you have been saving those painting jobs for this sort of weather then now's the time to do them. If you've already done them then you can only paint things so



# Around the Green

many times. It's that cold the water has frozen in the sheds and we have to go up to the club to get water and go to the toilet.

Everyone I've spoken to recently have said that they are well into their respective winter programmes. As I've mentioned, this depends on the weather conditions. Most clubs are managing to get out and do some bits here and there whether it be limping up trees, ditch work or general tidying up.

Congratulations go to Paul Sharp, of Peterculter Golf Club. One of my neighbours has told me that you have recently been promoted to Course Manager. Well done. This person also told me that at the same club, one of its staff namely, Warren, has lost a stone. Well done keep it up. We won't recognise you at the next outing.

Over at Meldrum House there are a couple of pieces of news. Richard Mullen and his wife, Claire, have had a second child, Lucy. I just hope you've plenty of money in the bank, Richard. Also Stu Addison and his wife are expecting their first child. On behalf of the Section may I wish you both congratulations and I will put in an announcement when the time arrives.

The Scottish Chairman, John Geddes, has asked me to thank Thorntrees Amenity and Mike Dooner for inviting himself and Robert Patterson down to the Castle Course to have a look round at the set up. John did say that he had a very nice meal and a great day. Thanks Mike, for making an old man very happy.

Dale Robertson has also asked me to thank Symbio for the seminar that was held recently at Newmachar. It was very well attended. Altogether there were 42 delegates attending so that was impressive.

It is about that time of year again when the 200 Club recommences. It is the biggest earner for the Section and is well supported, so if you get a ticket through your door then please support the Section. Thank you.

I think that's all I can ramble on about this month. I've tried to string it out a bit. I was asked to do this job because the committee thought I could spin a story. I haven't got a clue what they're on about.

Until next month...

Ben Brookes  
07813889374



## WEST

A chilly welcome to this month's report, as I look out the window snow is falling - it makes a change, we haven't seen snow for a long time.

Harrogate Week was very well attended by the Scottish Region which is a great testament during these hard times. It was great to meet up with some old pals and share a few drinks over at Christies and Wetherspoons.

I spoke to Dennis Tweedle, from the Ayrshire Section, and we hope to arrange a football match during March, so if anyone is interested give me a bell.

On a different note Derek Duthie, from Richard Aikens, were involved in car accident in January and will be off work for some time, you can still contact him on the mobile, we hope you make a speedy recovery in time for the start of the golf season.

The fixture Diary for 2009 should be out over the next few weeks so check the post to find all information for the year ahead.

One date for your diary is the Spring Outing, which will be held at Caldwell Golf Club, on May 7, so come along for a good day.

As I said in my last report, I hope to have some education days planned over the 2009 season - as soon as dates and speakers have been confirmed I will let you know through the BIGGA website: [www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk)

A visit is planned to Mar Hall Estates, around April/May time, to see how the course is coming along before it opens later in the year, if you would like to come along you are most welcome, give me a call for details of arrangements.

On the Committee front we would be happy for some younger Assistant Greenkeepers to come forward and try their hand on committee, to bring some new and fresh ideas to our Section.

Well that's all for now, see you next month with more Section news.

Fraser Ross  
07970366355  
[karen.ross@tesco.net](mailto:karen.ross@tesco.net)



## NORTHERN REGION - NORTH EAST

Well I hope everyone who took advantage of Terry Charlton's generosity once again, by providing transport and food/drinks to BTME enjoyed themselves. Many thanks on behalf of the Section and while on the subject of Terry we have purchased a new trophy for the spring competition, which will be called the TSL. It is replacing the Quaich for Best Nett for Assistants - I think that's the least we can do for Terry and his company for all their support over the years.

Greenlay is holding an Irrigation Open Day at Heworth Golf Club, on March 18, regarding the John Deere water system, no doubt greenkeepers will be told in due course. Another piece of news, Ravensworth Golf Club purchased quite a bit of machinery from Greenlay at the end of last year, that being a new greens machine, rough cutter and a sprayer hope that quells any rumours that you have heard.

Tyneside Golf Club are in the process of changing the 15th hole, they have altered the angle of the yellow marker tee box so that it points to the left in order to stop frequently hit drives that land on the first tee, therefore making it a dog-leg to the right instead of a straight hole. Work on the right side of the hole will be taken up by planting 15 trees at four metres high, therefore forcing you to play left and hopefully making it safe for the golfers teeing off at the 1st. The trees have been carefully selected to give all year colour with the spring, there is cherry blossom followed by a contrast of bark changes with the maple, oak and other trees.

Well it looks like the recession is kicking in now and I'm afraid one or two courses are already laying off staff. I reckon any golf club that hires summer workers will be doing the same; unfortunately it will be the course that suffers, as you all know we can't do without these people. How long will this last? Looks like a couple of years - let's hope we have a drier summer.

Jimmy Richardson





## NORTH WEST

The committee has been very busy over the last month sorting out the North West and North Wales seminar and the venues for the year ahead. By the time you all read these notes they should be finalised.

The first tournament is the spring tournament at West Lancashire Golf Club on Monday, May 18 - this will also be a National Championship Qualifier.

If anyone has any news of births, deaths - or marriages or divorces for that matter - please let everyone know and get in touch with me on 0151. 2894625 or email: jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk

Chris Sheehan



## NORTHERN

While writing this, the snow is again starting to fall as the country is in the grip of the worst winter weather for 20 years. With most courses closed for well over a week already, it doesn't look good for them opening this week either!

January 13 was the date for the re-arranged AGM at Cookridge Hall Golf Club. A huge well done and thank you to John Wilde who was the only non-committee member to turn up! It was decided at the AGM that the cost of entering all golf events will rise to £20 with immediate effect. This £20 fee must be paid by cheque, a minimum of one week prior to the event. Failure to pay will result in your place being cancelled (no exceptions will be made!).

You should all by now have received completed fixture lists which were kindly sponsored by John Dobson, of Greensman Ltd, so thank you John for your support. If you haven't received a list the fixtures are as follows: Spring Tournament - April 29 - Pannal Golf Club; Presidents Day - July 1 - Branshaw Golf Club; Sheffield Match - July 21 - Abbeydale Golf Club; Invitation Day - August 25 - Howley Hall Golf Club; Autumn Tournament - September 15 - Pontefract Golf Club; Winter Golf - December 10 - Ilkley Golf Club.

This year's Spring Seminar has been arranged for Tuesday, March 10 and will be held at Cookridge Hall Golf Club, Leeds. With the kind sponsorship of both Headland Amenity and Rigby Taylor, the theme of the seminar is "What You Need To Know About Grasses for Golf".

We have three fantastic speakers for you, namely Mark Hunt, Headland Amenity; Brian Robinson, Rigby Taylor, and Steve Prinn, Senior Sports Turf Lecturer at Askham Bryan College. The seminar is limited to 50 places and is free of charge to members of the Northern Section, including buffet lunch on the day. Anybody wishing to attend please get in touch with me ASAP.

Adam Speight 07739 319060



## CLEVELAND

Hi all hope you're well. Not much to report this month as there has not been much news passed onto me. Hope you all enjoyed Harrogate Week - a big thank you to Terry Charlton for putting on his bus again.

As I sit writing this newsletter, we are still about three inches deep in snow at Bedale and it does not look as though it is going to melt any time soon.

A couple of dates for your diary are as follows: On Tuesday, February 24, there is a quiz night at Teesside Golf Club. The quiz starts at 7pm but could all committee members be there for 6.30pm for an informal chat about events for the coming year.

David Snowdon will be giving a talk on the uses and abuses of wetting agents on Tuesday, March 10 at 7pm, again at Teesside Golf Club.

Those who don't turn up will defiantly miss a good night. David is a very knowledgeable guy and his talks are always very informative and funny at the same time, with a chance to ask questions afterwards.

The Spring Golf Day will be held at Blackwell Grange Golf Club, on Tuesday, April 7. The day has kindly been sponsored by Lloyd Ltd, our local Toro and Kubota dealer.

Tee off from 10am to 11am. The price is £14 which includes a round of golf, a meal and a raffle so come on you can't grumble with that, even in a credit crunch!

The money must be paid up front in full, a week in advance, by March 31 in order to organise the catering.

Can all entry money be sent to either Ian Pemberton, 6 Rosewood Court, Marton, Middlesbrough, Cleveland, TS7 8QR, Tel: 07791695768 or Kevin Scarce, 11 Stapleton Close, Bedale, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL8 2UA Tel: 07921817857 or alternatively you can give the money to Alister Whitby of Llyod Ltd when he does his usual rounds.

Cheques are to be made payable to "Cleveland Section BIGGA" Last year's Spring Golf Day was at Blackwell, and the course was in great condition, let's just hope the weather is a bit kinder to us this year.

I think Phil Graham, from Bishop Auckland, is in training to become Disney's next sleeping beauty, his training started at Harrogate where he managed 16 hours sleep. No pin pricks just beer!

John Talbot, at Middlesbrough Golf Club, is eagerly awaiting the snow to melt, he and his lads are going to be very busy with course alterations, which include three new fairway bunkers on the 2nd, two fairway bunkers on the left hand side of the 18th, a new 18th tee and finally refurbishing a bunker on the right of the 18th fairway.

Any news to: kevscarce@aol.com

07921817857

Kevin Scarce



# Around the Green



## SHEFFIELD

Hello everyone, my apologies for the lack of news last month.

As I write this news it is currently snowing – it's the second week of it now and it is starting to get a little tedious. I am sure everyone will agree the days start to become like weeks when you are in the shed all day - but I'm sure it has given us all a lot time to catch up on important maintenance work and all our maintenance facilities are immaculate from top to bottom.

Unfortunately we had to cancel our winter lecture day with Geoffrey Davison, on February 5 due to the weather conditions, although by the time you read this I hope we will have rearranged it for a new date. Also, we should have some news soon about a visit we have planned, all members will be informed about this when we have something more definite.

I also hope that by the time members read these notes the new Sheffield Section website will be at an advanced stage - as a committee we hope this website will become a cornerstone of our Section and give us a platform on which to move the Section forward. If any members have any suggestions for the website then please feel free to contact me.

We also hope to have the 2009 fixture cards out to you shortly, they will hopefully be sent to you with the first golf competition invitation. Once again thanks to Aitkens and particularly Peter Fell for producing the cards for us.

I will finish on a positive note. As you read this the winter will be behind us (fingers crossed) and we will all be preparing for our spring renovation work. This is an important time for us greenkeepers and an enjoyable one preparing the course for the coming summer months.

I hope you all have an enjoyable March and I will talk to you all again in April.

James Stevens  
Section Secretary  
jimmy\_jams20@hotmail.com



## NORTH WALES

Hello again, I hope you're all starting to get back somewhere near on track after the big freeze of January and February.

I have to start this off with an apology, I didn't get the chance to advertise the seminar at Carden Park, on February 17, because the February column went to print before the dates were finalised, to anyone who went, I hope the day was informative and helpful in any plans you might have in bunker construction or drainage work. I have to thank Carl Crocher, Course Manager

of Caldry Golf Club, and Rob Heath, of Souters Sports Drainage Consultants, for their informative and interesting presentations. I would also like to thank Johnny Evans for the hard work he has put in behind the scenes setting this seminar up, also Carden Park for the use of their facilities.

In with your fixture list and competition form you would have received a form asking for your name, contact number and email address, please fill these in and return them, the information you provide will strictly remain solely for the use of North Wales BIGGA and will not be shared with any other organisation or group. This information will help us to reach our goal of being able to email fixture lists, competition forms and other information directly to our members throughout the Section.

In other local news, once again I find myself singularly without any news. If you know of anything that might be of interest then drop me an email or text or call either contact on bottom of this column.

Pete Maybury  
07756001187  
or petemayb66@aol.com

Johnny Evans  
Johnny.Evans@tesco.net



## MIDLAND REGION - MIDLAND

Well let's hope that the Holocene period has finally ended and that a return to the pathogenic suppressing Devensian has returned, particularly considering the economic constraints that many a budget may well be imposed with over the next few years. What's the crazy fool on about now? At last we have had bug suppressing, root zone fissuring, growth suppressing/ carbohydrate saving, good hard old fashioned penetrating frosts. We have all either said or heard "what we need are hard frosts". Let's see what difference such makes to the coming year's qualities of our courses.

My apologies for the lack of notes last month, this was due to a problem with my email. Consequently I must therefore thank three sponsors of our fine calendar. January's was sponsored by Whitemoss for rootzones, turf dressings and sands; Mike Whitehouse on 07795 395 669. Web: www.whitemossec.co.uk February's was sponsored by ALS for Sportsturf Products and Contract Services (01952 641 949 www.amenity.co.uk). And finally our thanks to Osprey for your Water Management needs - 01939 236 677 www.ospreywmg.com - for this month's calendar page. If you have not received your calendar via the postal sponsorship of P. McCrannor, or by the good grace of N. Tyler and T. Cheese please contact me and I shall ensure that you receive your copy of what is yet again a fine and free perk of being a member of the Midland Section. You shall also see that the Section's golfing events are listed within the calendar, and also the closing dates for entry. The reason for the closing date to each tournament is to make sure that we do not over book or indeed under book the requiring numbers. If we over book it often costs the section, if under booked it could cause disappointment, thanking you for your cooperation.

The golf is confirmed as: Spring - Wychwood Park (De Vere) May 11 at £25. Summer - Harborne July 8 at £20. Autumn - Burton October 16 at £20. Christmas - Woburn December 4 at £30. We have yet again tried to keep the cost of entry to £20 but due to the extra costs of the Spring and Christmas