

ment and the correct use of cultural factors is clearly being recognised by Course Managers/Head Greenkeepers within the industry.

The level of inputs (water, fertiliser and chemicals) will play a major role in determining the success of a sustainable management programme. Once the ideal environment has been created through the use of necessary cultural practices then input levels can start to be monitored and reduced. Reduced water, chemical and fertiliser inputs could be an outcome of any sustainable management.

However, depend on your current situation i.e. soil type, local climate, health and condition of the turf.

A total of 35% of the respondents identified 'fescue grass' within their understanding of sustainability. There can, however, be confusion surrounding the desire to achieve fescue-dominated swards. The likelihood is that this will not be achievable in some areas, but what is achievable is movement towards

estly and realistically, determining the environmental conditions of that course and what it is possible to achieve there. Within this the importance of the business balance was also noted.

This is a crucial part of sustainable management. If you remember, sustainability encompasses three aspects; environmental, economic and social. Economic sustainability i.e. the business balance must be achieved for sustainability as a whole to be successful.

'Resources', including 'budget', was identified as a key response by 21% of course managers / head greenkeepers. Resources can be linked to minimal inputs; fertilisers and chemicals are becoming increasingly more expensive and quality water sources are a finite resource.

Judicious use of resources could have a positive impact on the budget, which might be beneficial in the current economic climate. Reducing the use of natural resources,

sustainable golf course management. So the question has to be asked; is the information available appropriate and in the right context? Perhaps it is not reaching as much of the targeted greenkeeper audience as intended? Or maybe there are those out there who don't buy into the philosophy and therefore don't want to understand?

The interviews with key personnel from the greenkeeping and golfing industries highlighted some interesting information.

The issue of improving education and informing greenkeepers what is involved in the process of sustainable management was a view echoed by a number of the interviewees.

From these interviews it also became very apparent that although the key organisations within the greenkeeping industry (R&A, BIGGA & STRI) had a very good understanding of sustainable golf course management those from the golfing industry (professional and secretary) had limited knowledge. To ensure more success and understanding of sustainability on the golf course all those involved need to be educated.

So in conclusion, these results show that a considerable proportion of Course Managers/Head Greenkeepers fully understand the concept of sustainable golf course management and are aspiring to incorporate aspects of sustainability into their management philosophy.

There is still a lack of education and understanding, however, and a refusal by some to accept the need and benefits of this type of management. Is more education the answer to this?

Golf courses are often perceived as polluters of the environment, which use and destroy valuable habitats. Many in the industry will know this isn't necessarily the case but an undesirable reputation that the industry has developed.

Careful use or management of the environment will therefore help to reduce this negative perception and create valuable habitats for wildlife whilst reducing environmental impact.

From the questionnaire there were also a small number of courses that provided generous detail of their successful progress towards sustainable management.

These 'real-life' examples illustrate that sustainable golf course management is possible, but that small steps need to be taken to allow maximum benefit with minimal disruption.

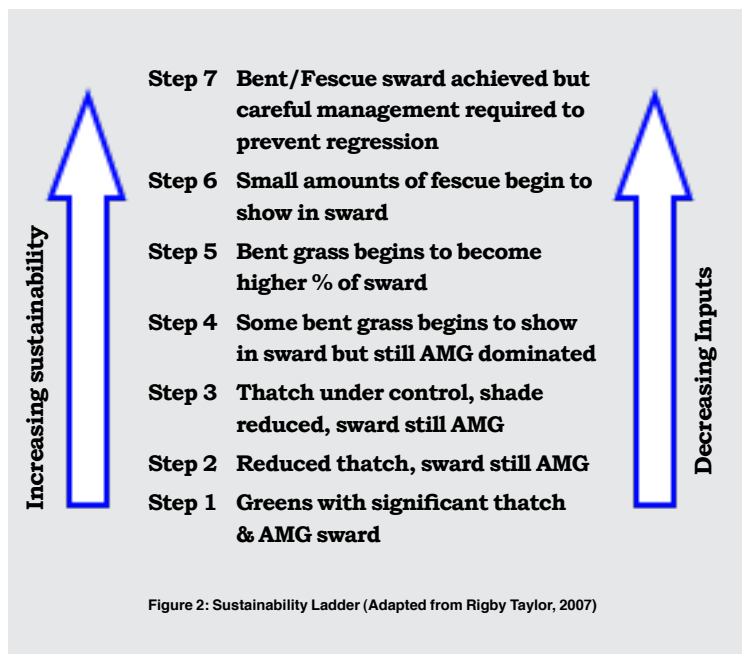


Figure 2: Sustainability Ladder (Adapted from Rigby Taylor, 2007)

managing in a more sustainable way. This can be demonstrated by the following sustainability ladder.

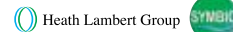
Progression up the ladder, even if only one or two steps, shows increasing sustainable management. Reaching step 7 is desirable but not always achievable and that's why the balance and business of the 'individual situation' must be taken into account. The importance of this was identified by 23% of the course managers / head greenkeepers.

The R&A prescribes that the first step in sustainable golf course management is to assess the course's current sustainability status, hon-

including energy is a major part of the sustainability concept, with energy / recycling being recognised by 17% of the respondents.

A final response to mention was that of the 13% who admitted to not really knowing what sustainability meant. Without a level of understanding of the principles and the process it is difficult for the course to be managed in a more sustainable manner. This particular response raises the issue of education and informing greenkeepers what is involved.

As mentioned in the introduction to the piece there have been numerous talks and articles relating to



This article comes to you courtesy of the BIGGA Learning and Development Fund.

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# GI

# NEW PRODUCTS

The latest products from Saltex 2009 reviewed



## Toro

Toro launched the ProCore Soil Reliever (SR) aeration range as well as the eco-friendly new Workman MDE electric utility vehicle.

Offering effective aeration up to depths of 40cm, the ProCore SR Series of deep-tine, tractor-mounted aerators alleviate subsurface soil compaction on applications spanning sports fields, parks, golf greens and fairways penetrating through the compaction layer sometimes caused by traditional aeration methods.

The SR Series' tines fracture the soil, creating channels through the rootzone that allow oxygen, water and valuable nutrients to penetrate deep into the soil profile, improving drainage and deep root growth. Turf is healthier and more vigorous as a result, in turn helping to guard against disease and making more efficient use of fertilisers while also reducing water usage.

The Workman MDE is an electric-powered utility vehicle launched as part of the new Workman MD Series line-up. Packing all the power and performance of Toro's mid-duty petrol-driven models in a quieter, cleaner and more eco-friendly package, the MDE is ideal for groundsmen and greenkeepers keen to reduce the environmental impact of their fleet.

Powered by a 48V, 500-amp motor, the MDE is equipped with extended-run batteries and regenerative braking for a longer-per-charge work capacity.

Toro has combined the MDE's enhanced suspension with an innovative Active In-Frame twister joint, which allows each axle to react independently to the terrain. This means that all four wheels can maintain constant contact with the ground for better traction and stability, plus less potential turf damage.

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

## Etesia

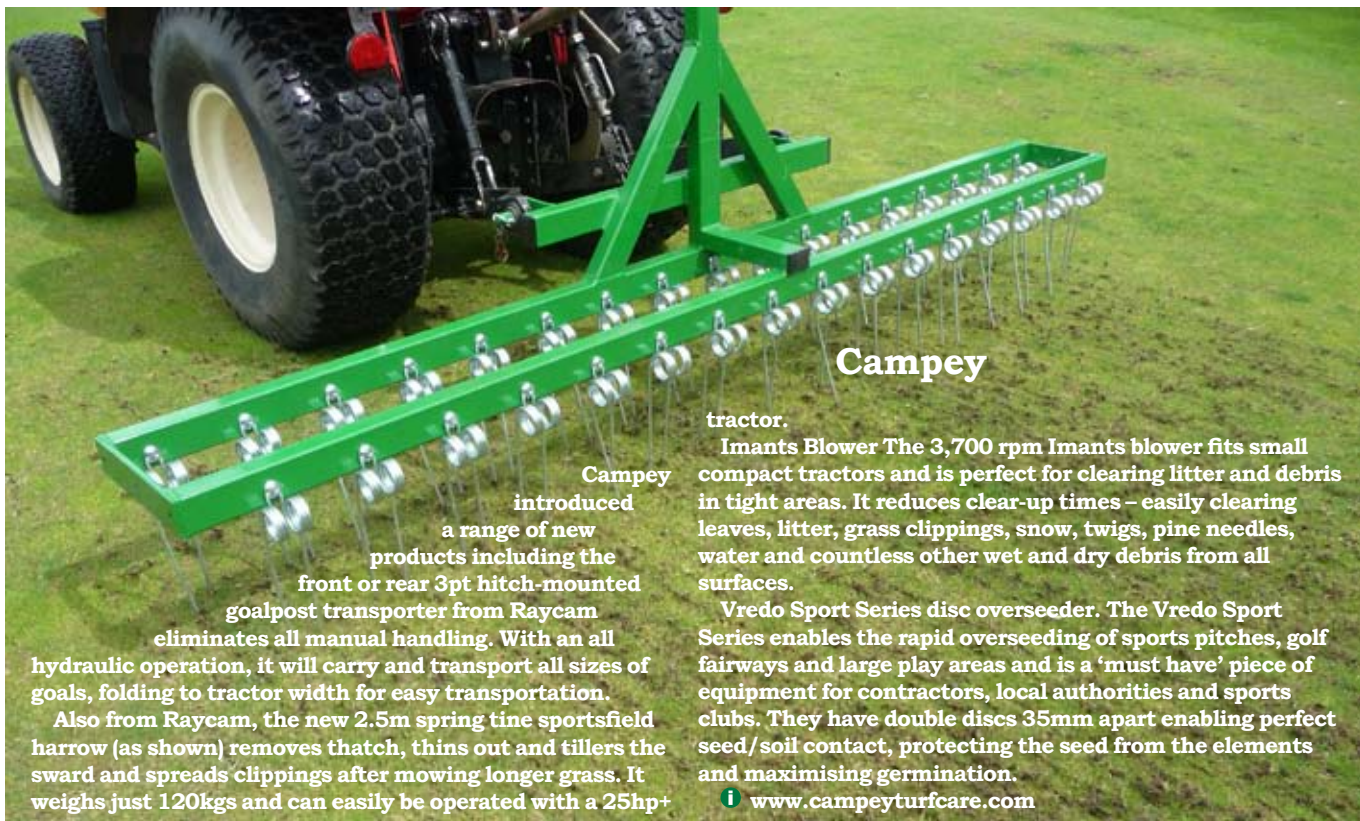
Etesia launched a 4-wheel drive ride-on rotary mower – the Hydro 100DX BPHPX. Hydraulically operated with four individual wheel motors, the drive system is permanently engaged to ensure optimum grip when working in difficult mowing conditions. This enables the machine to take slopes, banks, uneven ground and potholes without wheel spin and scuffing.

It has easy-to-use forward and reverse hydrostatic drive with high-tip emptying of the grass box up to 1.80 metres. With its 100cm cutting deck, easy manoeuvrability, and tight 1.10m-radius turning circle, this ride-on is as at home mowing parks, open spaces, sports venues, verges and lawns as it is maintaining awkward smaller areas of grass. Operators can work at speeds of up to 12km/h in the assurance that there is no need to waste time stopping to unblock the chute. This is achieved through the unique design of Etesia's deck and specially profiled blade, plus its wide open ejection system.

Power is at the heart of any rotary mower, hence this high specification ride-on is fitted with a Perkins 403D-07 20.5hp 3-cylinder water-cooled diesel engine – a unit noted for its quieter, cleaner, smooth yet powerful delivery. Designed for durability and long life, this engine has a track record of proven reliability and performance and offers maximum fuel efficiency; low running costs plus longer intervals between servicing and oil changes.

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





## Campey

Campey introduced a range of new products including the front or rear 3pt hitch-mounted goalpost transporter from Raycam eliminates all manual handling. With an all hydraulic operation, it will carry and transport all sizes of goals, folding to tractor width for easy transportation.

Also from Raycam, the new 2.5m spring tine sportsfield harrow (as shown) removes thatch, thins out and tills the sward and spreads clippings after mowing longer grass. It weighs just 120kgs and can easily be operated with a 25hp+

tractor.

**Imants Blower** The 3,700 rpm Imants blower fits small compact tractors and is perfect for clearing litter and debris in tight areas. It reduces clear-up times – easily clearing leaves, litter, grass clippings, snow, twigs, pine needles, water and countless other wet and dry debris from all surfaces.

**Vredo Sport Series disc overseeder.** The Vredo Sport Series enables the rapid overseeding of sports pitches, golf fairways and large play areas and is a 'must have' piece of equipment for contractors, local authorities and sports clubs. They have double discs 35mm apart enabling perfect seed/soil contact, protecting the seed from the elements and maximising germination.

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



## New Holland

New Holland introduced its very own touch of retro at Saltex to gauge reaction to its classic style.

The Boomer 8N was launched in the USA last winter with its distinctive styling mirroring the original iconic 8N, but combined with the very latest technology from New Holland.

The 50hp compact tractor is ideally suited to those who wish to mix the classic charm of yesteryear with the reliability and efficiency of a modern machine, whether on the polo field or golf course.

Sporting a red chassis, grey hood and fenders to give it the look and feel of the original 8N, the new model breaks away from New Holland's blue livery. Customers can have a choice of canopies, decals and chrome accessories.

Derived from the Boomer 3000, the 8N version retains the 2.2 litre, four cylinder naturally aspirated diesel engine which combines with the EasyDrive transmission for efficient, effortless driving.

Four-wheel drive is standard for improved traction and manoeuvrability, while the deluxe three-point hitch with telescoping stabilisers has 1600kg lift capacity to handle a range of implements. Attachment is eased by a two-position extendible swinging drawbar.

Modern creature comforts are provided for the driver, with a large platform, adjustable seat, and tilting/telescoping steering column, while traditional styling is continued in the instrumentation.

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



## DJ Turfcare

DJ Turfcare launched Bio-Line from the Viano organic range.

It acts to reduce the acidity of the soil, particularly if the pH is below 5.5, but also assists with the uptake of nutrients and the decrease of moss development. The lime element helps to correct the pH while the magnesium gives the grass a healthy colour throughout the winter.

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





## Autoglide

Autoglide Equipment launched its UK built StarStrimme, a fast, accurate, safer alternative to hand-held trimmers working round posts and uprights.

It attaches to the back of a 30 and 50 horsepower tractor and connects to the power take off. Operated by the driver as the machine is driven down a line of posts or uprights, the StarStrimmer is simple to operate and highly effective. There is no vibration, no need for fuel thus reducing fumes and does not scalp the grass.

Effective on posts up to 15cm in diameter, the unit contains three trimmer heads which rotate around the post, as the tractor drives on, trimming the grass from all sides. It is ideal for racecourses but is equally impressive where the lowest rail is at least 30cm from the ground.

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

## Ransomes Jacobsen

Ransomes Jacobsen launched the Highway 3™, a new triplex cylinder mower.

This new four-wheel drive machine is powered by a 33hp turbocharged Kubota diesel engine, which combined with a 6.7% weight reduction over the current Highway 2130.

It has several new features, never seen before in a commercial triple. A first for a mainstream municipal mower is the swing-out centre cutting unit, a principle adapted from the Jacobsen G-Plex III golf greens mower.

The four-wheel drive system operates on a cross-flow principle, which transfers oil from the front hydraulic wheel motor and delivers it to the opposite rear motor, preventing traction loss should the front wheels begin to lose grip.

Unique to any current mowing machine is the optional TST stability enhancement system. An inclinometer is fitted to the underside of the seat platform where it measures the working angle of the machine. At predetermined angles it activates some of the hydraulic components on the machine, increasing its stability on slopes. At 15 degrees the operator is warned by an icon on the large dashboard display that the machine has reached that angle. At 18 degrees, the hydraulic lift valves close, locking the lift arms creates an 'outrigger' effect, which increases stability. If the operator continues to a steeper slope at 22 degrees, the cutting units will shut down, to prevent mowing at this angle.

The Highway 3 features the most advanced control systems yet seen in a Ransomes mower, with many of the traditional gauges replaced with a single, multi-functional screen.

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

More  
New Products  
from Saltex  
next month



## Dennis

Dennis launched a new mower at Saltex developed with the help of its customers, who were invited to give their feedback when the design was previewed in Harrogate this year.

The Razor Ultra 560 is an exceptionally versatile cylinder mower for applications ranging from golf greens and tees to cricket pitches and bowling greens.

At the heart of the design of the 56cm cut mower is an 11-blade British-made cylinder, relief ground for a quality cut and long intervals between grinds, reducing downtime and boosting productivity.

The Razor Ultra 560 has heavy duty independent roller and cutter clutches for smooth operation and two-section cast aluminium rear roller with steel geared differential; it offers easy pull back for accurate alignment of the next run.

Manoeuvrability on tight, undulating greens is ensured by an ultra-short wheelbase. Adjustment is also made simple with a 'click adjust' to select the desired height of cut.

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



## John Deere

Designed for maximum durability and operator comfort, John Deere's new 8400 Commercial triple reel mower features high capacity Jumbo cutting units and a unique Cross Cut function for increased productivity in a range of commercial mowing applications.

Key features include the 25cm six-blade cutting units, with an overall cutting width of 2.13m, and John Deere's established GRIP all-wheel drive traction system for effective mowing on slopes – both firsts on a John Deere commercial triple mower.

The Jumbo cutting units have been specially designed for cutting long grass on road verges, parks and sports fields, and other public and private green spaces. They feature robust lift arms, self-cleaning smooth rear rollers and easy reel to bedknife adjustment, with cutting height also easily adjustable from 20 to 100mm.

For more effective grass dispersion, the two front cutting units throw the grass out to each side of the machine, so that the middle unit does not have to handle the extra clippings.

The 8400 uses a turbocharged Tier 3 diesel engine with direct injection and a fuel capacity of 49 litres, to maintain high performance levels in the toughest conditions.

John Deere's Cross Cut feature is the only one of its type offered on a commercial triple mower, and makes turning and switching from mowing to transport very quick and easy. A rocker switch on the CommandARM allows all the reels to be lifted just off the ground when turning and then lowered back to the mowing position.

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



## British Seed Houses

BHS's fertiliser division launched a nutrient solution which can be applied to the seedbed without compromising seedling numbers. It incorporates a soil inoculant designed to create the ideal conditions for seedlings to resist pathogens that lead to turf disease.

Two products were introduced; Fertilis Speed and Fertilis Swing are organo-mineral NPK fertilisers with magnesium, sulphur along with trace elements Boron, Iron and Zinc. The 'secret' ingredient is *Bacillus Subtilis*, a naturally-occurring, rod-shaped bacterium used as a soil inoculant.

In trials, *Bacillus Subtilis* spores were shown to grow out from a treated fertiliser granule, resting the pathogens responsible for diseases including Fusarium, Brown Patch and Dollar Spot.

Effects of *Bacillus subtilis* were shown to improve root growth nine-fold and promote more than twice the leaf growth compared to an untreated plant 21 days after application. For new sowings, Fertilis Swing at 35-50g/m<sup>2</sup> combines NPK 14+6+17 with *Bacillus subtilis*

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

## Kubota

Superseding the ZD Series, the new ZD326 zero turn mower is fitted with the 26hp Kubota E-TVCS D1005, 3 cylinder, liquid cooled diesel engine, the ZD326 has the power, torque and durability to take on the toughest mowing jobs. And it can work for longer, thanks to the 45 litre dual fuel tank and Kubota's outstanding fuel economy with low emissions, noise and vibration.

The ZD326 is fitted with Kubota's integral HST transmission and drive train system, which provides reliability and durability for the rigours of day in, day out commercial mowing. Each drive wheel is independently operated by two steering drive levers, which allow the machine literally to turn within its own radius.

To ensure cutting performance, even at faster speeds, Kubota's newly developed, 5.5" deep, heavy duty pro-mower deck is built to withstand long hours of mowing.

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





# A QUICK GUIDE TO...

## Artificial Grass Pathways

Verde Sports Limited provide this month's Top Tips

**As the winter weather is fast approaching, preparations to ensure that courses will be playable right through till Spring is getting underway.**

It is important not to neglect pathways especially if money is tight. Artificial Grass is a cost effective solution despite common misconceptions.

Artificial grass could benefit your club, bring in extra revenue and increase your profits.

### 1. Muddy Paths Put Players off

A lot of work is carried out through the year to ensure that the course is in tiptop condition. However, the golfer still has to get both to the course and from one hole to another. Cheap, quick fixes for these paths are often used. In the long run these aren't cost effective and players are put off on many occasions. Would you want to walk across a mud bath?

### 2. Cost Effective Solution

Artificial grass doesn't cost as much as people presume. It's a bit like buying a cheap car. It may cost less initially, but it is expensive to maintain and has to be replaced much sooner. If a more expensive car had been purchased it would have cost less over 20 years and would have freed up time considerably, along with a lot less stress. Artificial Grass may appear expensive at the outset, but there is minimal maintenance required and it should last up to 20 years once installed. The green staff now have more time to concentrate on the course. All in all giving long term cost benefits.

### 3. Easy Installation

Artificial Grass is easy to install and can be carried out by the green staff themselves. As long as a free draining base is in place the artificial grass can simply be laid directly over the compacted soil or stone sub-base. Both sand-filled and non-sand filled options are



available to suit different areas of the course. If fixed securely this will remain in place for years to come. The installation is very similar to that of natural turf.

### 4. Low Maintenance

Once Artificial Grass has been installed there is very little maintenance required. Simply ensure that leaves are brushed off to prevent moss and keep the grass looking green. However, if left unattended and moss should appear, it is easily removed with various moss killers without damaging the surface. You now have a mud free pathway all year round.

### 5. Versatile & Hardwearing

A properly installed artificial grass pathway is substantial enough for the golf course machinery to drive over - the same path can be used for tractors, mowers, buggies, trolleys, golfers and the greenkeeper. Not only does it withstand this constant traffic but is also suitable for playing from if a ball should land on the path.

### 6. All-Weather Surface

Artificial Grass creates a surface, which is safe to use 12 months of the year. It isn't

muddy or slippery in wet weather or worn and dusty in the dry. Come rain, sun or shine it is a perfect solution all year round

### 7. Sound Resistant

One of the benefits of artificial grass is that it provides a surface, which is silent and comfortable to walk on, allowing the golfers to concentrate on their shot without the distraction of a noisy path.

### 8. Natural Appearance

The attractive green surface of the artificial grass blends well in to the course surroundings. This enhances a wide variety of areas that look and feel like natural grass without the associated wear or maintenance problems.

**Taking all these points in to consideration your course would now remain open all year round, which in turn generates revenue and increases profitability.**

For further advice on installation  
Contact: Verde Sports Limited  
Tel: 01254 831666  
Fax: 01254 831066  
Email: [sales@verdesports.com](mailto:sales@verdesports.com)  
Web: [www.verdesports.com](http://www.verdesports.com)




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## Section Notes

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

All the latest news from your Section

# Around The Green



## Scottish Region



### Central

The Section AGM will take place in the training rooms at Elmwood Golf Course on Monday, October 26. Full details are available on the website.

That morning the Section will be holding a seminar on disciplinary training at the same venue and at the time of going to press we still have a couple of spaces available.

This is an ideal course for Course Managers or Head Greenkeepers and their Deputies who have to deal with staffing issues. It will take people through the correct procedure in carrying out disciplinary investigations and hearings, thereby avoiding costly mistakes to both the employee and the employer. Subsidised by BIGGA HQ, the half day course costs £55.

To secure one of the remaining places contact me on [gmoir@standrews.org.uk](mailto:gmoir@standrews.org.uk) asap. More details are available on the website [www.biggacentralsection.org.uk](http://www.biggacentralsection.org.uk) along with details of the STRI ecology course in November for which we are starting to receive some names for.

The Section autumn outing will have been held by the time you read this and the results will be on the website and appear in the next edition of the magazine,

Gordon Moir



### East

Sorry about the last two months of our news from the east Section. We have now

found out the problem. BIGGA headquarters were experiencing problems downloading data from different systems and lost our news for the last two issues. All is fixed now and you can read what is going on in our Section.

We played our "Willie Woods Invitational tournament" at Kingsknowe GC, the format for the golf was fourball better ball and with 10 teams entered for our tournament the chances of winning were good.

I brought along as a partner - he says the best thing that came out of Fife - no prizes for guessing, Derek Scott, who came in as a late sub for Mike Denis who is over golfed just now.

We were drawn with the formidable pairing of "Toro Jim" and Rab Wilson, from Henderson's - you could sell tickets for this challenge.....well.

I think the combination of the big occasion and the windy conditions got to both sides, and the game did not materialise into what might have been called the "Dual in the Wind". It was more like "Gone with the Wind". We came out the victors in this battle with more golf balls left than Jim and Rab. Sorry guys, I'm sure that you will get revenge somewhere.

And now for the Real Event! The weather was a bit windy to say the least so the guys who could keep the ball about a foot of the ground would win this one.

You would have to look at the Links players for a victory. Correct, Ian Watson and his partner, George Ford, from Gullane, were the winners posting a score of 65. Well done lads.

At last we managed to track down Robert the Bruce and invited him along to our tournament. We blew the dust of his retiral gift and this was presented to him by our Chairman, Stewart Crawford, on behalf of the East Section members.

Robert accepted the gift and thanked the East members for their kindness. (You don't look

old enough for this retiral thing Robert).

It was nice to see our Scottish Chairman, John Geddes, making the long journey down from Aberdeen to play in our event. Thank you John.

Our Chairman thanked the Captain of Kingsknowe for having the East Section outing at this venue and Stevie Dixon, and his staff, for the excellent condition of the course. Stevie thanked the East Section for the presentation of a plaque and welcomed everyone back in the near future.

Other notable thank yous went to Gary Smith, from Scott's, for sponsoring the day and to all the raffle prizes that were mostly donated by the trade.

Our Section committee would like to thank all the members and guest who came along and supported the event.

All the Scores of the "Willie Woods Invitational"

1. Ian Watson & George Ford, both Gullane, 65; 2. Shaun Cunningham, Royal Musselburgh, & Colin McArthur, Broomieknowe, 66 (BIH); Jim Smith & Gary McCandles, both Rigby Taylor, 66.

All other scores: S. Crawford & S. Dixon, 68 (BIH); J. Geddes & B. Moir, 68; R. Murdoch & S. Ferguson, 69; T. Murray & D. Scott, 70; G. Smith & R. Bruce, 72; A. Caldwell & J. Caldwell, 77; R. Wilson & J. Davidson, 84.

Longest Drive. Gary McCandles; Nearest the Pin. George Ford; Nearest the Hole in Two. Jim Smith.

Tom Murray  
07709960163



### North

As I am writing this month's article it is absolutely chucking it

down outside. I have never seen such a huge amount of rainfall in such a small space of time. In fact, after speaking to another member, who measures the amount of rain we have, he said that we had 96mm in just over a day and a half. That's quite a lot in my book.

I was speaking to John Geddes, at McDonald Golf Club, and that is a course that doesn't take too kindly to a lot of rain. He was saying that his whole front nine was under water and in some places up to four feet deep. I have sent a picture of his 7th hole with a wee article.

This is in the news pages of the magazine.

There hasn't really been a lot else happening in the North Section over the past month. If there has then I haven't heard about it.

The Norrie Whytock Trophy was played on August 20 at Archie Dunn's Auchterarder Golf Club. The weather prior to the event had been terrible and the course was luckily opened at 1pm.

The North Section sent a team down packed with experience and stamina. John Geddes, Hugh McLatchie, James McCormack and George Mitchell travelled with great expectation. The team came a creditable 5th with 81 points.

The overall winners on the day were Ayrshire with 92 points. A big congratulations and well done to them.

A report will follow in next month's article for the Autumn outing to Alyth. All the winners and losers, and stories will be written. I hope everyone enjoyed it.

There is news of the AGM. This will be held at Cruden Bay Golf Club on Thursday, October 15. Cost of the day per person will be £10 and the tee times will run from 11am. Anyone interested in coming along to the day should get in touch with the secretary Dale Robertson on



07711274525.

I think that's it for this month. If I have forgotten anything I apologise and will remember to include it next month. Cheers

Ben Brookes

Murcar Links 07813889374



## Ayrshire

The date you've all been waiting for! Yes this year's AGM will take place on Thursday, October 29 at Bogside 7.30 pm.

Ayrshire finally got its name on the Norrie Whittock Trophy, sponsored by Bayer, at the fourteenth time of asking! Auchterarder GC hosted the event which looked liable to succumb to the weather.

The course held up well though and all players got 18 holes in! Archie and his team had the course in great shape considering the recent poor weather. Thanks also to the catering staff for the excellent food and service.

Our team consisted of myself, Derek Wilson, Martin Lothian and Duncan Gray.

With the Belfast trip and Powfoot taking place in the next few weeks I will get the reports in the next issue.

That's it for now then any news to me at [denis.t@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:denis.t@hotmail.co.uk) or 07939 104701

Denis Tweddell

## Northern Region



### North Wales

This month's column like the daylight hours at this time of year is I'm afraid, a bit short.

The autumn tournament and AGM took place on October 1 at Eaton Golf Club and a full write up on tournament results and AGM in next months column, I think we would all like to thank Eaton Golf Club for the warm welcome and use of the course and the facilities.

Next month we will hopefully be holding our autumn seminar, venue and dates yet to be confirmed so watch this space! In our local news section, we seem completely lacking in local news so come on help me out a bit by

giving me some of your news so I can fill this column up, like I said only a short column this month so.

ALL THE BEST UNTIL NEXT MONTH.

Pete Maybury [Petemayb66@aol.com](mailto:Petemayb66@aol.com) 07756001187

Johnny Evans

[Johnny.evans@tesco.net](mailto:Johnny.evans@tesco.net)



### North West

The next fixture coming up is the autumn tournament at Mere G&CC.

This is on Tuesday, October 13. The entry fee is £25 payable to BIGGA North West Section for £25 to Bill Merritt. The Lodge, Beacon Park Golf Club, Beacon Lane, Dalton, Wigan, WN8 7RU. Billy can be contacted on mobile number 07985175825.

As always in the Section there is no news of any kind as nobody phones me or

e-mails me so there is nothing to write about. I sometimes get asked why there are no Section notes, so I assume that members do read them but I cannot understand why nobody wants to contribute. Some members are quick to pass comments about the Association but do nothing to move it on.

A two day Essential Management course has been arranged for November 4 and 5 at Birchwood Golf Club in Warrington. This course will be partly subsidised and I expect it to cost somewhere in the region of £150 for the two days including meals. Please apply to myself, Chris Sheehan, on 01512894625 or mobile no 07840706738 or e-mail [jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk) places will be on a first come basis.

Chris Sheehan



### North East

As you read your September magazine you would find that Close House was given a feature and, of course, since it was visited by Scott McCallum a lot of work has since been done. For example some of the greens have been seeded and also more recently new staff have been

recruited. These are Roy White and Graham Lauder, both from Slayley Hall. We wish them well.

Whickham Golf Club is about to do a major alteration on its course very shortly. For those who have played Whickham's 18th hole you know that you can get some difficult lies if you don't get your drive away. Well, apparently they are hoping to make the fairway stepped, then replace the stream with a small lake or pond.

On behalf of the Section we would like to wish Jordan Gibson, of Northumberland Golf Club, the best of luck in playing in the National Championship at Burnham and Burrow later this month.

James Richardson



### East Midlands

Not much news on the golf front here, you should have all received letters for the Autumn Tournament and AGM on October 15 at Matlock Golf Club. There is still time to get your entries in so come along. Any volunteers for next year's committee will also be gratefully accepted!

The Autumn Education day is now confirmed with the speakers including Paul Lowe, Greg Evans, Frank Newberry and Andy Cole, of the STRI. The day promises to be fun filled and informative with plenty of lively debate! It will be good to see as many of you as possible at Forest Hill Golf Club on November 19.

By the time of publishing both the Section trip to Wimbledon and the Headland Pairs' final at The Grove should have been completed – full report in next month's magazine.

As always if anybody has any interesting news or gossip please let me know at [biggaeast-midlands@hotmail.com](mailto:biggaeast-midlands@hotmail.com).

Regards

Andy de Wet



### East of England

October already, once again where did the summer go? A pretty mixed bag this side of the

country with warm dry spells in June and August coupled with a pretty miserable July that have contrived to keep us on our toes at all times. Hopefully the weather will settle down now and allow us to get to Christmas fairly dry, then see what the new year brings.

Our last golf event was the annual Greenkeepers vs Trade match held this year at Abbot-sley Golf Club, home of our Chairman, Allan Walker.

The event was well supported by greenkeepers, however, there was a disappointing turn out from the trade for varying reasons.

Thanks from Gary Cooper go especially to Tony Kvedaras, from Independent Turfkare Solutions, who came all the way from his native North West for the fixture, enjoy the overnight stay and our Chairman's hospitality!

Thanks also to the guys from Pottergate Golf Club who made up the numbers for the trade team to make all six matches two verses one! Sportingly our Chairman refused to give any trade teams a head start and therefore a one sided fixture gave a one sided result with the greenkeepers winning 5 – 1.

Gary Cooper would like it known that for the second year running and even with an extra player that Allan Walker has not been able to take a point from him!

Praise for the condition of the course goes to Allan Walker and all his staff, despite their new pink workshirts - yes I did say pink! Thanks also to all at Abbotsley for making us feel so welcome.

Hopefully next year's event can be organised to allow a more even match to be played.

Our next golf day is our annual AGM which this year is being held at RAF Cottesmore Golf Club on Thursday, October 15. After the success of our visit there last year it will be good to play the course again and enjoy the hospitality in the Officers Mess.

The AGM will this year take place before the golf so arrive early and get involved. AGM and full golf day details will be sent out soon and remember ID to be allowed on to the base.

Many thanks  
[steveimingham@aol.com](mailto:steveimingham@aol.com)  
[www.eastofenglandbigga.com](http://www.eastofenglandbigga.com)  
Steve Beverly





## Midland

Well that's it I've had enough, kite flying is now for me. It will take one hell of a long tippet to get my flies in the river using such a method! While we are on angling let me tell you a little story, all true and bear with me it is of relevance to us all.

I, and my brother (Ceri), were fishing a huge hole on the upper Severn, I gave him the better, very deep middle section, to fish and I took the fast flowing upper part. As usual my flies became snagged and while retackling heard a faint "ah". Looking up all I saw of Ceri was his panicked face off to Bristol with his waders evermore dragging him further under. Like Tarzan in I go, manage to grab his legs and push him out of the current to safety, but now I'm in the same predicament. However, I've read the H&S while fishing books. I simply turn on my back with legs down stream and ungracefully float to the shallows and watch, out of reach, both my smokes and wallet pass by. Ceri is a trained lifeguard and worked for 10 years as such. So who was to blame? Me. I did not tell him that the water was too deep past a point, did not advise wearing polarised glasses so he could see the danger, but most importantly did not tell him what to do in such an event.

The point I make is that while it is not enthralling reading it is of importance that we all read and understand the "operator's manual" of a machine and/or receive on the job training BEFORE we undertake any works. I am as guilty as the next, but of course I know everything! But does the person you send? You can't read when in difficulties.

Now what's this I hear, the newly-wed Colin Wood, of Sandwell Park, has left to, one can only assume, peruse a career in his passion for darts. Or was the little wife fed up of you working seven and a half days a week - under the thumb or what, Colin. Good luck to you in your new venture "Ice Man". Still waiting for my tobacco chap, let's call it a wedding gift mate.

Well come on now "It wasn't me" worst the luck (respectfully). Ed and his lovely wife Julie are expecting another little one. So that makes 4 point 2 as opposed to the normal 2 point 4. Can you not do anything normally, oh the Point 2 being the new Collie, at least that can't climb trees. In less than a decade you have travelled a very long way my friend, well done and congratulations to you both. I've got a couple of bricks and a billhook here chap, black eyed peas is not the word. Ed, cc or si si.

This month's calendar sponsor is our old friends Scotts, please contact Nia Frost on: 07884 066 655 or go to: [www.scottspromotional.co.uk](http://www.scottspromotional.co.uk) for your fertiliser etc needs. Scotts have also been the sponsor of the very successful Doubles Tournament for many years now, and we are reaching its conclusion for this year's event. Who will be the final champions? However, all are winners in this wonderful event, thanks to Scotts for their continued historically kind support of the section.

Last month I dropped a booby, Burton golf venue is on the 23/10/09 and not on the 16th as reported, my apologies.

Sean McDade.



## B,B&O

October! What a month in our calendar. The summer is becoming a distant memory, the nights are pulling in and my Triumph bike is ready for a much deserved rest, the mornings are getting darker and colder with the evenings drawing us to a seasons close.

A warm welcome awaited the section members for the BBO Autumn Pairs Invitational which took place at Donnington Valley GC, The course was in excellent condition and on the day, full of surprises as Alistair gave us a brief insight to what it must be like to play on Augusta greens, certainly not for the faint hearted.

Thanks to Donnington Valley GC for the courtesy of the course and all the catering and management staff who provided

hospitality ensuring our every need was met, Alistair Higgs and Peter Smith and all the Donnington crew who gave us a day to remember.

Thanks to Ian Richardson from Headland Amenity for sponsoring this event.

The results 1. Dominic Lewis, Graham Down, Oakland Park; 2. Sid Arrowsmith, Peter Smith, Frilford Heath; 3. Phil Ryder, Keith May, Berkshire.

Steve Coone, James Moore 36pts won the Trade prize

A trip to Ransome's factory is on offer to all members, TH White are sponsoring a trip on November 25 to the impressive Ransomes manufacturing plant in Ipswich, this will include transport from TH White and a guided tour of these state of the art facilities with lunch and even a game of golf on the new 3 hole course.

Limited spaces are available, so get your name in the frame. All this for £5 per head.

Interested parties please contact Simon Marsh for details and times, Simon can be contacted on 07850 450 505 or email [greenkeeper@harleyford.co.uk](mailto:greenkeeper@harleyford.co.uk)

The next event for your diary will be held at The Oxfordshire GC on Thursday, December 9 and will run with a Texas Scramble Shotgun Start with the Annual General Meeting after play.

Adam King the Section Secretary is always interested in feedback and new ideas and ways of promoting the Section members to join in on our events throughout the calendar year, please do come forward and make suggestions to Adam on what you think we can do to further improve the BBO Section. [ajk@radley.org.net](mailto:ajk@radley.org.net)

The Section website is alive and has been kicking for some time, so if you have any news or views, give it a blast! [www.bbo-greenkeepers.co.uk](http://www.bbo-greenkeepers.co.uk)

Have a great Autumn

Mark Day

[mark.day@tacitgolf.com](mailto:mark.day@tacitgolf.com)

## South East Region

### South East Region Seminar Reigate Hill Golf Club, November 12

This year's Seminar is arranged and hosted by the Surrey Section - The Decade Ahead!

As we move out of the naughties what does the next decade hold for golf management and Greenkeepers?

With climate change an ever deepening recession and greater demands on Golf Course quality this years Seminar will include five excellent speakers from within the industry, covering a wide range of subjects to help us with the day to day challenges and long term improvements.

Speakers: Mark Hunt, Headland; Martin Ward, Symbio; Laurence, Pithie MG, TurfMasterOne; Tim Lobb, Thomson Perritt & Lobb, Lee Penrose, STRI Ecologist and Tracey Madison, from BIGGA HQ. Cost to members is £15

For more information please contact Clive Osgood South East Regional Administrator 01737 819343

[cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk)



## Surrey

Friday, September 5. Only another three weeks and I, and her indoors will be on holiday cruising the Baltic. Of course, when you read this, we will have just returned and that shows you just how difficult it is for me to write this one month ahead, when in effect, that month has already gone. Or has it? Where's Albert Einstein and his Theory of Relativity when you need him? And does it apply to travelling at only 25 knots, somewhat slower than the speed of light? I am now going to lie down quietly in a dark room and pretend that life is but a dream and that sanity will eventually be restored.

Monday, August 24. The annual competition for the much coveted McMillan Tankard, at Sunningdale. The weather was warm with sunny spells and playing from the white tees was a challenge that Paul Weston and myself accepted with much enthusiasm. Andy Gatland made up the threeball and struck his drives with great authority far beyond the heather. Paul and I, with less authority, went into the heather with agonising consistency. Members who played well were Ron Christie, with a magnificent longest drive, Phil (Angel) Rowlands got Near-