



LEFT: A *Microscoclex phosphoreus* cast (circled) next to a golf ball to show size.

BELOW: Close-up of two adult specimens of *Microscoclex phosphoreus*. Each is of typical adult length, of about 25 mm long.



# Close-mown greens face a *new menace*

By Dr David T. Jones, earthworm specialist, Natural History Museum, London, and Dr Kate Entwistle, Turfgrass Pathologist, The Turf Disease Centre, Hampshire.

**In the last few years a small, non-native earthworm called *Microscoclex phosphoreus* has started appearing in golf greens and bowling greens across Britain. It deposits small casts on the surface of the sward that can interfere with play.**

Anecdotal evidence suggests it does not respond to any of the products currently available for controlling earthworms. It is thought to be spreading across the UK, and your help is needed to investigate its distribution.

## Microscoclex on the move

*Microscoclex phosphoreus* is native to temperate South America. But this species has been spread by man's activities, and it has now been found in parts of North America, Africa, Asia, Australia, New Zealand and continental Europe. It was first recorded in Britain in 1899 from Worcester, followed by two more

records in 1913 from Nottingham and Jersey. There were no further reports from Britain for almost 100 years.

However, in the past five years about 20 new records have been confirmed from golf and bowling greens. These isolated populations are scattered across the country from Cornwall and Kent in the south, up to North Yorkshire. Worryingly, unconfirmed sightings by turf mangers and agronomists suggest that this species may now have arrived in many other locations in Britain. At the moment it is not subject to any official notification, nor is it on the list of quarantine species.

*Microscoclex phosphoreus* is a small, pale, thread-like worm of length 10–35 mm, and width 1.0–1.5 mm. Unlike our native species, this earthworm is unusual because it can exude a luminescent fluid at night when disturbed, although it is not always easy to see its greenish glow. It produces small casts on

the surface that are about 10–15 mm in diameter, up to 10 mm in height, and which detract from the visual quality of the sward. The casts consist of loose sand grains and fine soil particles suggesting the earthworm lives and feeds in the root zone where there is a high sand content. The casts are sometimes clustered close together indicating highly localised patches of infestation.

Native species that cast on the surface tend to do so at night. Therefore, areas affected by deposited casts can be swept clear before the turf is mown prior to play. In contrast, it has been reported that *Microscoclex phosphoreus* can cast throughout the day, causing a continuous problem for play, especially on putting greens. No studies have been carried out on this species in Britain but discussions with some turf managers whose greens are infested suggest that products used to reduce the surface casting of native earthworms have no





# BIGGA Golf Day 2010

Monday 14th June 2010  
at Aldwark Manor

For further details, please contact  
Kirstin Smith on 01347 833832



EAGLE

## Point of Play Tee Markers

- Hardwood - Teknos Finish
- Galvanised Steel Pins
- Faces Any Colour
- Optional tee caddy version



£4.95 each



£9.95 each

If there's anything from signage to seed boxes  
you want to discuss, call 01883 344244

+44 (0)1883 344244

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

**PGA**  
Official Supplier

 **TEKNOS**

affect on this invasive species, even when applied at the highest recommended concentrations.

### Putting *Microscoclex* on the map

Now the Natural History Museum and the Turf Disease Centre, sponsored by Syngenta Golf and Landscape, are investigating *Microscoclex phosphoreus* to map its current distribution and to assess how rapidly it may be spreading across the country.

You can help by looking out for this species and its small casts on your golf greens and bowling greens. However, these earthworms can only be correctly identified by examining them with a microscope. So, if you think you have this species we would be very grateful if you would send us a small sample of infested turf.

These delicate earthworms can be easily injured or killed while trying to remove them from the soil. Therefore, it is better if we extract the earthworms from the turf under laboratory conditions. Their populations may fluctuate with changing weather conditions and you may not see their casts at the time when this article is published. However, please keep looking, and send us turf samples any time over the next 12 months if you find their casts.

If possible, please use a golf hole changer to take the turf sample. Place the hole changer over a piece of turf with one or more casts on the surface. Remove the soil core and with a sharp knife cut the soil core at a depth of 50 -60 mm and send us that top layer with the grass and roots still intact. If you don't have a golf hole changer, send a turf sample of similar surface area as a golf hole.

Please fill in the short questionnaire and return it with your sample. If you send your email address we will confirm whether or not you have *Microscoclex phosphoreus*. All the information you send will only be seen and utilized by the Natural History Museum and The Turf Disease Centre, and will be treated as confidential. We will not disclose specific site locations or contact information to third parties. A summary of our findings will be published in this magazine and full results will be published in a soil science journal and made available on the web. In all publications the distribution map of *Microscoclex phosphoreus* will be plotted at low resolution to ensure precise locations cannot be determined.



Close-up of *Microscoclex phosphoreus* cast, showing loose formation of sand grains and soil particles. The cast is about 10 mm high.

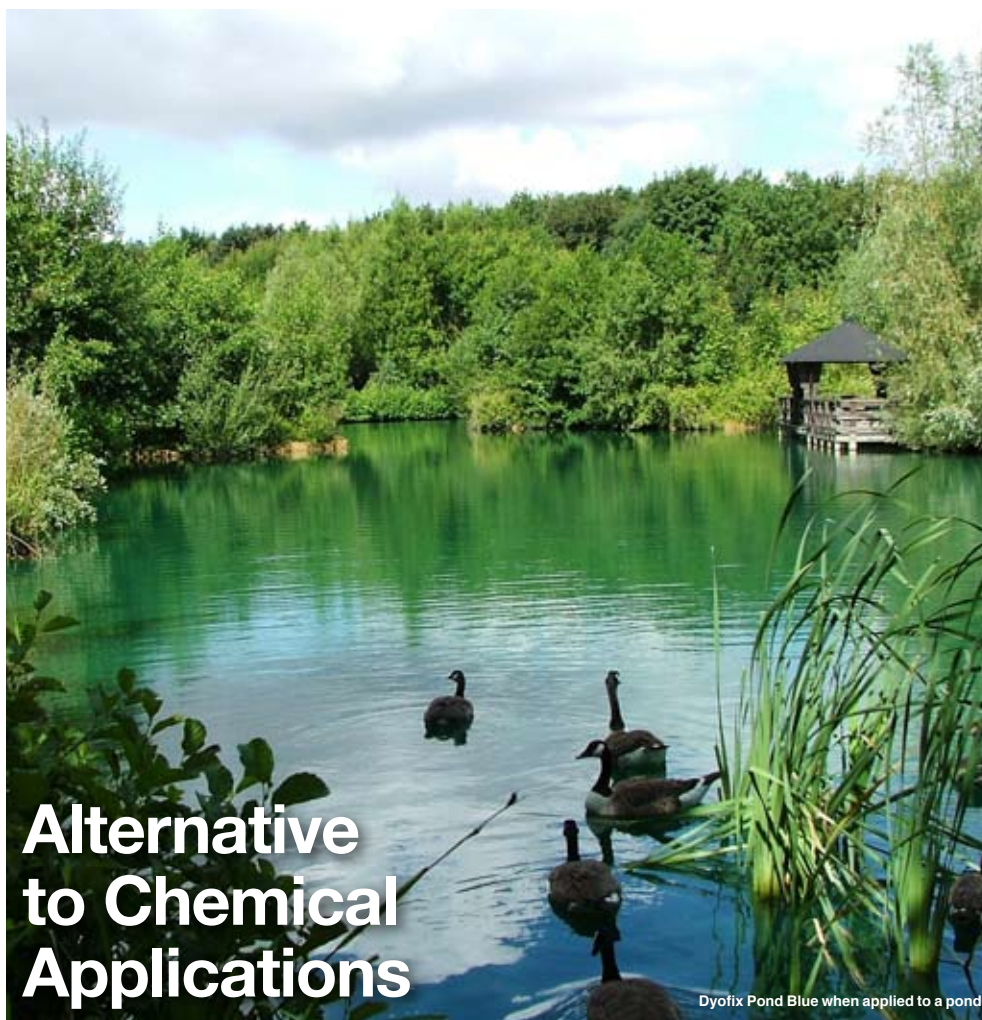
## How to send your turf sample

You can send your turf sample through the post in any small plastic container that is strong enough not to get crushed in the post. Puncture some small air holes in the top of the container. Ensure the sample is moist but not waterlogged. Loosely pack crumpled-up newspaper around the sample to prevent it being thrown about inside the container while in transit. If necessary, use strips of sticky tape to ensure the lid of the container remains firmly closed. Put the container in a padded jiffy bag together with the completed questionnaire, and send by first class post to the address at the bottom of the questionnaire. Please place the questionnaire in a plastic bag so it is not damaged if the container should leak.

## Microscoclex Mapping Project Questionnaire

*Dr David T. Jones, earthworm specialist, Natural History Museum, London*  
*Dr Kate Entwistle, Turfgrass Pathologist, The Turf Disease Centre, Hampshire*

<b>Contact details:</b> Name:  Email address:  Phone number:	<b>Location of turf sample:</b> Name of club:  Address of club:   Postcode:
<b>Date the sample was taken:</b>	<b>Where was the sample from?:</b> For example: golf green, bowling green, other (please specify).
<b>In what year (and month, if possible) did you first notice these small casts at your club?:</b>	
<b>Any other comments:</b>	
I AM / I AM NOT* willing to help with future investigations relating to the occurrence of this earthworm. <small>* Please delete as appropriate</small>	
Please complete and return with your turf sample to: <b>Dr David T. Jones, Department of Entomology, Soil Biodiversity Lab, 7<sup>th</sup> floor Darwin Centre 2, Natural History Museum, London. SW7 5BD</b>	



## Alternative to Chemical Applications

Dyofix Pond Blue when applied to a pond

Dichlobenil, the last remaining biocide used to control rooted submerged plants, was withdrawn last month to comply with EU directives. With it, the range of products available to greenkeepers charged with the upkeep and maintenance of water hazards will be more limited than ever before.

One of the few non-toxic and environmentally friendly products available is Dyofix, an algae prevention and inhibitor product which uses blends of European Food Safety Approved colours.

The imminent Dichlobenil ban comes as research by the charity Pond Conservation found that 80% of Britain's ponds are in a "poor" or "very poor" state, and their condition has deteriorated markedly since 1996.

Dyofix has been developed by West Yorkshire based industrial colours specialists, Town End (Leeds) plc.

"Our inhibitors don't kill algae, but they do prevent growth, allowing the algae to either sink or be scooped off the surface of the pond," said Director Peter Watson.

The Dyofix product range – Pond Blue and Lake Shadow – are free of pesticides, algacides and other harmful chemicals. They don't have a chemical reaction or interaction to attack submerged plants and/or algae; instead they have a mechanical reaction with the water to create a UV reflector, and so don't pose any threat to humans when retrieving their golf balls.

Dyofix Pond Blue can be used by golf clubs and greenkeepers to prevent the growth of algae and submerged plants and colour the water an appealing blue colour.

One kilo of Pond Blue will treat up to 10,000,000 litres of pond water.

Dyofix Lake Shadow offers the same benefits as Pond Blue and has been developed for customers who require a more subtle colourless effect in their lake or pond.

Once applied, both products will last for several months, and can be used all year round.

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



## AIMED AT GRAVEL SURFACES

Scotts has launched a new pre-emergent herbicide that protects against regrowth on gravel and soft surfaces.. Applied post-emergence, ProShield is rainfast within one hour and gives rapid knockdown and kill to a broad range of problematic weed species while its barrier action prevents germination for up to six months.

It is fast acting because of the synergy of its two potent actives, Glyphosate and Diflufenican (DFF), which have complementary modes of action. Diflufenican is extremely hydrophobic.

It adheres to the surface and forms a skin or 'barrier' that protects against germination. Because it's hydrophobic it stays in place, preventing weed germination.

Glyphosate is taken up through the foliage and translocated throughout the plant. Its post-emergence activity kills seedlings and established weeds. The effects of ProShield on broad-leaved perennials can be seen 8-10 days after application, compared to 14-21 days with Glyphosate only.

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



## New Wetting Agent

Vitax Amenity's leading, long term wetting agent Ultraflo is now available in a new formulation with a dilution rate cut by over 50%.

Ultraflo Advance retains the same application rate as its predecessor – 50 litres per hectare – but this can now be diluted in just 950 litres of water instead of the former 2,000 litres. This means that more turf can be treated with a single tank saving time, money and water.

Vitax's Commercial Manager Daniel Wilkinson says that although Ultraflo has earned a solid reputation as a highly effective, long term wetting agent which reduces irrigation requirements by improving water penetration, it is the product's longevity that has made its name.

"Ultraflo's main claim to fame is the fact that a single application persists for up to 12 months," he explains. "If the product had a disadvantage it was the amount of water needed for application. With the development of Ultraflo Advance we've kept all the long term benefits of the original, including reduced risk of run-off from sloping ground, flooding and water logging of turf and put them into a much more manageable and even more cost effective form."

Ultraflo Advance is available in 10 and 20 litre drums and suitable for application on both fine and amenity turf.

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

## SPORTS PITCHES



Limagrain UK has revamped the popular winter sports seed mixture MM60 this year so that it contains double the level of STRI chart-topping perennial ryegrass Madrid, and for the first time, new variety Milan, also rated highly on the STRI List.

Limagrain's Matt Gresty explains: "MM60 is a 100% perennial ryegrass mixture designed to provide a dense hard wearing sward with excellent recovery and disease resistance.

As more seed for these new varieties has now

been produced, we have been able to increase the levels in the formulations raising the visual merit and ground cover potential to further enhance the playing surface of winter sports pitches."

MM60 now contains 30% Madrid, 10% Milan, 45% Melbourne, and 15% San Remo. As with all the MM range, the seed is treated with the biostimulant Headstart to help improve establishment.

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



## New Publication from British Seed Houses

British Seed Houses' new publication explores the options available to Greenkeepers and offers an explanation of the difference between Fescues and Bents. With a foreword by Leah Brilman, Director of Research & Technical Services at Seed Research of Oregon, this guide details the characteristics of suitable cultivars and puts the case for sowing a purely Velvet Bent mixture.

The brochure is available to download from [www.bshamenity.com](http://www.bshamenity.com) or to get a printed copy email to [seeds@bshlincoln.co.uk](mailto:seeds@bshlincoln.co.uk)

# DEALER OF THE MONTH

A new series aimed at celebrating the great work done by dealerships up and down the country

## ERNEST DOE & SONS LTD

### *Location and Size*

Ernest Doe & Sons Ltd is a £100 million turnover company operating from 19 branches in East Anglia and the South East of England, under three trading names; Ernest Doe, Ernest Doe Power and Harper & Eede. Head Office is located at Ulting near Maldon in Essex on a 10 acre site.

The company employs just over 500 people, with over 120 service and parts vans on the road, 20 of which are dedicated specifically to groundcare.

### *History*

The company had its beginnings in 1898 in a blacksmiths shop run by Ernest Doe. The initial business was involved in making and repairing agricultural implements, and then, through the founder's son, Ernest Charles Doe, the company expanded by gaining tractor franchises, notably Ford and now New Holland.

Through the years, expansion was gained by extending the branch network and diversifying into both construction and groundcare. This expansion was started by Alan E Doe, son of Ernest Charles, and more recently by Alan's son Colin Doe, the current Managing Director.

The company has been very active in the supply of professional grass machinery for over 50 years and has latterly become Ransomes Jacobsen's largest European dealer, having won their UK Dealer of the Year award several times and has also been crowned European Dealer of the Year.

The company's slogan is "Where you can buy with confidence" and the underlying premise behind this is that Ernest Doe is there not just to



sell good products, but to ensure that they can be maintained and repaired.

### *Key Services Offered*

Ernest Doe has full servicing workshop facilities at each of its sites. Apart from the usual repair and service work, the company offers a tyre service, a paint shop, a ram shop which can deal with hydraulics and make up hoses as required, air conditioning maintenance and full cylinder grinding capabilities.

The company also offers Doe Plus, a warranty and breakdown policy which is combined with a maintenance contract so that repairs and servicing can be covered on a fixed cost basis.

A full parts stocking policy is enhanced by daily deliveries between branches to ensure that parts are readily available at short notice.

All the major franchises offer a pre-7am next day delivery to

the company's premises. The company has parts vans on the road which can bring parts direct to customers' doors.

The company's own transport fleet operates a collection and delivery service with articulated vehicles available for larger plant.

### *Training*

The company operates a four year apprenticeship leading to NVQ Level 3, specialising in groundcare. Apprentices spend time at Evesham College as part of their training.

### *Major customers*

The company has supplied many of the local authorities, golf, football and sports clubs in East Anglia and the South East.

### **Franchises**

- Ransomes Jacobsen
- Iseki
- EZGO
- Kawasaki
- Wiedenmann
- New Holland
- Case IH
- Stihl
- Husqvarna
- Yamaha
- Bomford

*and many more too numerous to mention*

**To nominate a GI Dealer of the Month contact Scott MacCallum with your reasons why the dealer of your choice should be featured...  
Email [scott@bigga.co.uk](mailto:scott@bigga.co.uk)**

# The new Eclipse 322

The world's first diesel electric hybrid greens mower  
with no hydraulics



- Reduced noise, low fuel consumption and minimal maintenance means a lower cost of ownership
  - Electric drive systems mean no hydraulic leaks causing damage to greens
    - Diesel hybrid version
  - Cutting performance can be infinitely adjusted to any course condition
- Ergonomically designed operator station reduces fatigue and provides an unobstructed view

**The Eclipse 322 – the green solution to precise greens mowing**

Want an even better finish to your greens? Then contact Ransomes Jacobsen for further information

***Ransomes Jacobsen Ltd***

West Road, Ipswich, IP3 9TT UK

+44 (0) 1473 270000

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

Code: GKI/04/10/E322

**JACOBSEN**  
A Textron Company

**Driving Environmental Performance**

## 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

Not a lot to report on this month but the Section has held a couple of interesting evening seminars at Elmwood recently with Andy Russell, from Headland Amenity, and Kenny Liddle, from Bayer Crop Sciences, talking generally about fertilisers and pesticides.

Attendances were reasonable although it is surprising that there were so few younger members and students along. It is a great opportunity for them to learn practical points about many of the products on the market from incredibly experienced people as well as the opportunity to network with many Course Managers from the area. Both are things that will help them as they move forward in their career.

When I was a student, I certainly learned as much attending events such as these and even golf outings and by asking questions of the course managers of the time than I ever did at college.

On April 27, Stan Zontek, and friends from Penn State, will be talking at Elmwood on winter damage while the spring outing will probably just have been played as you read this. Winners and losers in the next report and on [www.biggacentralsection.org.uk](http://www.biggacentralsection.org.uk).

Back in the area after a couple of years away is Andy Campbell, formerly of the Duke's Course, who has begun working with Ransomes Jacobsen and is planning to base himself in the St Andrews area. Welcome back Andy and I'm sure we see you at a number of our events in the future,

Gordon Moir



### East

Well we thought the last of the snow was gone.....But back it came! Just when we were getting our winter work programmes on the course finished.

Looking for our first flowers of spring I think everything is at least one month behind in Scotland and probably the rest of the UK. Roll on the summer!

Back in February we organised a site visit to Barenbrug seeds Factory and Falkirk FC.

Our thanks go out to David and Billy for the very informative talk on their seed cultivars at the Barenbrug factory; Jim Dawson, Head Groundsman at Falkirk FC. for showing us round, and last but not least, Tom Brannan, of Greentech, for sponsoring the very enjoyable day.

The Scottish Conference held at Carnegie Conference centre Dunfermline on March 2, was excellent, all credit to Peter Boyd, BIGGA Regional Administrator, for bringing together some of the best speakers we have linked to our profession.

Our spring Outing is almost upon us. It is time to blow the cobwebs off the golf clubs and possibly the golf swings too. Kilspeindie is the venue, a very popular golf course down the east coast and we anticipate a big turn out for this one. Good luck to everyone who plays and enjoy the day with fellow greenkeepers. Let's hope the sun shines for us.

The East Section wishes Chris Yeaman every success in his new job as Head Greenkeeper at the Royal Burgess Golfing Society Edinburgh.

Have you registered yet?

CPD points are being made more available in our Section with educational site visits that

we are organising in our Section. BIGGA is now recognising these for credit points so why not go to the BIGGA website to find out how to claim other credits from work related studies that are on going in our profession. Download forms and register. It's free to BIGGA members.

The US. Masters Syndrome is upon us ..... golfers brainwashed by the Evergreen Masters at Augusta now in glorious HD on 50" flat screen TVs.

The Question will come on the Monday morning of April 12 at local golf course - the same as we hear every year. How come we can't have our courses looking like that?

The Answer? Climate, money, staff... Do we need to say more?  
Until Next Month  
Tom Murray



### Ayrshire

Hi, I would like to take this opportunity to wish Dennis Tweddell good luck in his appointment as Head Greenkeeper at GC Schallenburg, in Germany, All the best 'D'. Unfortunately Dennis now leaves behind an Ayrshire Section without a leader! We all have Dennis to thank for all the hard work he put into our Section over the years ie the footy matches against the West Section and especially the home and away ties against the Irish GreenKeepers. Going to be a great autumn outing to Germany I'd say!

A record number of bodies turned out for the Scottish BIGGA Conference, in Dunfermline, on Tuesday, March 2. Many topics were covered, including the 2mm debate! A few eyebrows were raised at that one, I can tell you! It would

be interesting to hear anyone's comments on this issue. It was a very informative day for everyone involved and, a very entertaining presentation from STRI among others.

A big thank you must go to Peter Boyd for yet another successful conference. Thanks Peter!

Finally the Ayrshire spring outing has been arranged for Tuesday, April 27 at Largs Kelburn GC.

I look forward to seeing you all there.

Any news or gossip don't hesitate to contact me.... John Mair on 07500874449 or email me [johnmair982@btinternet.com](mailto:johnmair982@btinternet.com).

John Mair



### North

As I write this month's report the weather seems to have taken a turn for the better. At least on the coast it has anyway. Some courses inland still have quite a bit of snow lying about. You can travel 10 - 15 miles out of Aberdeen and you'll still find eight inches of snow, and that's at the beginning of March. Not long now until the season gets under way. We start our season, as do most clubs, with a Captains/Vice Captains' match and this takes place on March 27. Is it me or is the season starting earlier. With this weather we've had they'll still expect the place to be in tip top condition.

I recently spoke to the Scottish Chairman, John Geddes about the Scottish Conference down in Dunfermline. He was saying that there was a record amount attending this year and that Peter has got to find somewhere a little bigger if this year's attendance is anything to go by. John said that the speak-



ers kept everyone entertained although he did say he spotted a couple of nodding dogs in the afternoon session. Thanks go to Peter Boyd for yet another successful day and it just goes to show how popular it is. Thanks also go to the lads that travelled down from the North Section to show your support. You know who you are. Thank you.

The 200 Club is upon us again and that man Robert Hardie has been working his socks off to make sure it all runs smoothly. He has told me that the cards for this year have already been sent out so you should have received them by now. If you need any more cards for friends and family or you simply don't want to be part of the 200 Club then please get in touch with Robert on 07590 775957 and he will be only too happy to help. The cards are once again sponsored by Gary Smith and Scotts. Thank you so much for your continued support of the North Section.

The committee has asked me to point out that when you as a member of BIGGA, and use your card to get complimentary golf, you must telephone the golf club in advance to let them know that you will be turning up to play. Also please make sure that your membership card is up to date as more and more golf clubs are asking to see the membership card and photograph. Believe it or not some members are passing their own cards to their 'mates' to use on different courses. Anyone found doing this will be asked by the committee why this is so. It also spoils it for the other members.

I finish this month on a sad note for the lads at Peterculter GC. They are losing one of the finest apprentices who has ever graced the greens there. Who you ask? Warren Beveridge has decided enough is enough and headed back to where he lives. He has taken up a position at Inch Marlo Golf Centre in Deeside. The lads at Peterculter are absolutely gutted, Warren. As in the words of the Deputy, Mark Angus, he's a great lad and he'll be really missed. I just hope that you continue to come to the outings and that you have learnt to tie your tie! Good Luck Warren.

That's all for this month, any news give us a shout on 07813889374.

Ben Brookes  
Murcar Links



## West

Well let's hope by the time of press the weather has changed slightly as I think everybody has experienced enough of the cold, frosty conditions, and would like some sunshine and warmth, even a small amount of rain.

Panic will now ensue to catch up with all the course preparation jobs and aeration work, then the top-dressing and scarifying, how can we possibly fit it all in, I wonder?

After promising to submit an article each month low and behold the February issue was minus my article which I think can only be put down to a mislaid e-mail, never mind I do intend to try each month to put something in for the benefit of the members and would therefore request some help. Could members please contact me with some information on births, marriages, sponsored events, or even a point they want to get off their chest, all my contact details will be listed at the end.

Matters to be mentioned are the Scottish conference which I thought was very interesting although I was expecting some more discussion and controversy with regards to Greg Evans, but only a couple of people asked some questions so I assume everybody pretty much agrees with his principle argument. STRI followed and certainly put a different and entertaining slant on their presentation but the main points were put over comprehensively.

The afternoon timetable of Course Designer/Architect, Paul Kimble, was extremely interesting as it makes you realise what types of considerations have to be accommodated when looking at different sites and how often they alter the original formulation.

The last speaker of the day normally has folk falling asleep or nodding off at least but Lee Strutt seemed to hold their attention, probably because of the unusual subject matter of transplanting heather. I found his talk exciting and informative and was pleasantly surprised at the cost when considering how much work and time went into the operation.

Well done to all the speakers

and to Peter Boyd for his efforts, Stuart Greenwood filled in for Iain Macleod, as he was unwell, as Chairman of the morning session, and the Scottish Chairman, John Geddes, looked after the afternoon session. Well done to both. Let's hope next year's conference is as good.

A visit to Barenburg Seeds was arranged at the last minute on March 9 and some nine people attended all of which I gathered found the experience to be very informative. They were shown round the warehouse and facilities and then later given a tour of the Falkirk football pitches.

Barenburg has offered this in future should members be interested and the Section will probably look to organise something later in the year.

Dates to note

The spring outing at Lanark golf club on April 29, the summer outing at Murcar Golf Club on June 17, and the autumn outing at Helensburgh Golf Club on September 2.

As stated previously should members wish to have a specific item they want mentioned then please contact me on [st.greenkeeper@ukonline.co.uk](mailto:st.greenkeeper@ukonline.co.uk), or 07790823914, or my land line is 0141-942-5554.

Here's to a good season.

Stuart Taylor

## Northern Region



### North Wales

With Easter comes the season proper and instead of fighting the elements to get on with our work, we now find ourselves fighting an ever increasing tee time list to get on instead! We don't get bitter about it though do we? Well not much anyway.

The spring tournament takes place at Caernarfon Golf Club on April 28 tee times between 10am and 12.30, this competition is an individual and entry forms are to be returned to Jez Hughes by April 21 please.

There is a two day grounds maintenance trade exhibition taking place at Conwy (Caernarvonshire) Golf Club on April 21 and 22, entry is free but by ticket only, tickets available from Conwy Golf Club, or from any of the company reps showing at the exhibition.

In local news John Edwards, Head Greenkeeper of Padeswood and Buckley Golf Club broke his ankle in the recent bad winter, I think I speak for us all when I wish him a speedy recovery.

Carl Parry, of Mold Golf Club, has taken on the position vacated by ex-Around the greens columnist Dave Goodrich, at Denbigh Golf Club. By all accounts he's a character who will thrive in his new surroundings and his input will soon show through on the course. That's about it for now so.

All the best until next month!  
Pete Maybury 07756001187  
or e-mail [petemayb66@aol.com](mailto:petemayb66@aol.com)



### North West

Well, as I write this it's March and I'm sure I saw some grass growing yesterday, Winter is well and truly behind us and hopefully everyone in the North West has the weather they want and surely deserve after the Winter we have endured.

Plans are afoot for some great golf outings this year and the possibility of a joint venture with the gcma on an educational theme, but more on this at a later date.

Our first golf outing will take place at Fairhaven Golf Club, on Monday, April 26, it's a course I have never visited, but have heard only good reports of. Please come along if you can, sometimes it's good to visit other courses and chat with your peers.

Once again please send info on anything you deem to be of interest to your fellow sports turf managers and we will add it to these notes.

I'm going out to smell the sweet smell of cut grass. Oh how I've missed that smell, happy cutting for April,

Cheers  
Peter McVicar  
[pdmv@htmail.co.uk](mailto:pdmv@htmail.co.uk)  
07885347818



### Northern

Hello, hope you are all well. I am finally pleased to say, sitting writing this in the long awaited

# Around The Green

sunshine. Let's hope this is the start of a glorious spring.

A few golf dates for your diary, April 20, The Sandmoor Golf Club (Leeds) 1st tee at 10.30. Wed, June 30, Scarborough North Cliff Golf Club first Tee at 10am (Accommodation can be arranged for those wanting to make a few days of it.)

Wed, July 14, Wooley Park Golf Club (Sheffield Match) 1st tee at 1pm; Wed, August 25; Invitation day at Harrogate Golf Club 1st tee at 9.30. The cost of all events is £20 payable at least one week prior to the event. Sorry there is no news or gossip this month if you have anything you would like to share please pass it on to me thanks, Frank Stewart, 72 West Park View, Roundhay, Leeds, LS8 2DY. Phone: 07947 401278.

Frank Stewart



## Sheffield

Our Spring lecture was held at Rotherham GC on March 11. The speaker on the day was Eddie Seaward from The All England Lawn Tennis Club. I'm sure those who attended will agree that Eddie gave a fantastic talk that was interesting and informative. I'm sure not all of us would like those pressures though.

Unfortunately though we once again had a very disappointing turnout. In the Sheffield Section we have around 160 members and I think there were around 10 greenkeepers at the last event. I fully understand we are in difficult times, golf clubs are restricting members attending, members are very busy at work and it doesn't interest some people.

I feel that it is vital that we maintain a strong a Section as possible if not for ourselves for the next generation of greenkeepers. Not all events we organise appeal to everyone, but they do provide the opportunity to network and find out other people's problems and their success stories.

I must once again thank the representatives in our area for providing us with fantastic raffle prizes once again and for their attendance at these events.

You will all be receiving invitations for our first golf match soon. Hopefully we will see many of you there.

That is all from me for now, if anyone wants to contact me for any reason please feel free.

Speak to you all in May.

J. Stevens

jimmy\_jams20@hotmail.com  
07738719614



## North East

Well what can we write about this month, unfortunately there is not a lot going on. No doubt everyone is fed up with the snow this winter. Funny isn't it, when we want snow to close the course for a rest it's not too long when we are moaning to have it re-opened because we are sick of it. Ah well, it's nearly spring.

Both golf competitions are sorted this year two new venues which are long overdue. Firstly we are at the City of Newcastle on April 21, tee off time is a little later this year between 1-30pm --2 30pm, hoping this will tempt more people to play as they need not have to take a full day off.

Secondly, the Autumn comp is to be played at Gosforth GC [Bridle Path] on October 6, tee off time at 12noon till 1pm. This is the first time we have played there for a very, very, long time, so let's hope this year we can attract more people as its pretty much easy to get to both courses.

Michael McKenna, of Hexham GC, is leaving his job there and moving to new pastures at the end of March to work at the prestigious Loch Lomond course. I'm sure we all wish him well in his new job.

Well that's it for another month. News is getting a bit thin these days. Someone out there must have some news to write about it can be anything of course.

Jimmy Richardson

## Midland Region



### East Midlands

Hello everyone, hope you are well and enjoying the brighter days that we have been having. The start of the spring is upon us, and we can hopefully look forward to some warmer weather.

The spring tournament this year is at Erewash Valley GC and I hope that you have all sent your entry forms off and brushed the 1st tee nerves under the carpet! If you haven't sent in your form by the time you read this then you still have a couple of days before the closing date so please e-mail or ring Andy to let him know you are interested. If you are coming to a Section event for the first time then you can expect a warm welcome from everyone and a great day out. Erewash Valley's Course Manager, Graham Arnold, who has been a very active member of BIGGA for many years from its early days is due to retire during 2010, so please all come along to pass on our thanks and appreciation to Graham - especially some of the 'older' faces within the Section, who haven't been seen for a few years - we know you're still out there!

The Spring event this year is going to be part of the qualifiers for the National Championships this year along with the summer competition, both events are Stableford scored and aggregate scores will worked out to decide who we send. So if you want a chance to play the famous Red and Blue courses at The Berkshire during early October, and have the entry fee paid for you, please remember to get your entries in for both events.

By the time that you read this all of you that entered should have received the information regarding the Headland Pairs' competition. With some different pairings for this year and quite a few new teams it promises to be a hard fought competition with the venue for the final being the New Course at Sunningdale in September. Fantastic. But remember - you've got to be in it to win it!

The Section committee is

working very hard to come up with some great education days which we hope you will all enjoy and more importantly, get some benefit from. Once again, if anyone has any suggestions for what they would in the way of education or social events or even just some news from within the section then please contact Andy de Wet at [biggaeastmidlands@hotmail.com](mailto:biggaeastmidlands@hotmail.com).

Matt Wormald



### Mid Anglia

Not much news this month folks but please note that the Spring tournament has been re-scheduled for Tuesday, May 18 and will now be played at Bedford and County Golf Club, Green Lane, Clapham. Thanks very much to Geoff Fenn for arranging the venue for us at such short notice and good luck with the London Marathon, rather you than me. Berkhamsted, Stocks and Ashridge will be hosting the Section later in the year. And don't forget that the Spring tournament is also the Regional Qualifier for the National Championship and also the results will go towards Golfer of the Year. Please come along and support the Section, especially if you haven't been for a while. We always get a warm welcome at Beds and County and it is a very nice golf course. Get your entries in to Richard Saunders as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. Rich can be contacted on 07795 328663.

Craig Spooner

[craig.spooner@limagrain.co.uk](mailto:craig.spooner@limagrain.co.uk)



### Midland

The Spring Tournament this year is at Trentham Golf Club, on Monday May 17 with a 12 noon start. Cost of £23 to include soup and sandwiches before golf, a three course meal after golf, with Nearest the Pin on all par 3's, and a main prize table worth £250 courtesy of Farmura. To give more a better