

# “What’s so different about how you apply nutrition?”

(And why you will deserve a wage rise)



David Snowden looks at the various methods used to apply nutrition.

**The advances in spray equipment, have enabled Course Managers, and their spray technicians to apply nutrition, and other chemicals with greater accuracy, and efficiency.**

Sports turf, and, in particular, high maintenance golf turf requires all the correct nutrients, in the correct forms, on a continual basis throughout the growing season.

However, there are three main areas, which will influence what you apply, when you apply it and in what form. These are - Physical, Chemical, and Microbial.

The physical aspects of the soil

are largely determined by the composition of the soil, meaning the soil physically allows for the continual movement of Nutrients, Oxygen (and CO<sub>2</sub>), and water throughout the soil profile.

Most chemical reactions and activity in the soil take place in and around the clay particles and organic matter, so changes in the physical conditions will always affect the chemical characteristics of the soil. i.e. compaction and aeration, etc.

Microbial activity is vital in the soil, without microbes there will be no oxidation, which is essential for nitrogen conversion, and certain other fertiliser compounds to be

broken down into a solution, therefore becoming available for root up-take, if you have an adequate root system!

Healthy microbial activity is dependent upon Nutrients, Oxygen, Water, and temperature. This is a never ending process, ensuring adequate levels of nutrition, Oxygen, and water in a favourable balance.

Here is a commonsense rule of thumb to understanding nutrient application.

Soils are generally low in oxygen, cold, with a reduced root system after winter, and low sunlight in spring and autumn, reducing



microbial activity, photosynthetic process, and therefore nutrient up-take.

Here is the Catch 22. Is there any point of applying something to the soil when all the conditions are telling you not to at that specific time year?

Granular, Organic & Controlled Release Fertilisers are vital for a base feed, and specific soil amendments.

The technology in producing high quality granular products has also advanced tremendously.

But REMEMBER you still need roots, the right temperature, with good physical and microbial environment, to ensure the products are converted to a solution, and work with good efficiency. If this is not the case then the product efficacy will be compromised, and not a cost effective way of applying fertiliser, So it may be worth looking at some form of liquid application, whether it is a foliar which by-passes the growing medium completely, or a soil liquid, which can address the interim gap before granular soil applications become effective.

Soil liquid applications; They can be faster acting than granular applications, but are still temperature driven.

Good for NPK, and have a relatively quick response depending on the nitrogen source.

Let's look at the high spray vol-

umes which are designed to apply soluble, and soil liquid products to the crown and root zone area.

Spray solutions are applied under pressure, whether it's for high volume or low volume. Large orifice spray nozzles produce "rain-drop" type spray droplet most often encountered with high volume sprays. This type of droplet size does not provide maximum leaf coverage, and makes it nearly impossible for a large water droplet to stay on the leaf surface to be absorbed.

There is much more chance of run off, into the crown area, where it is designed to be used effectively by the upper root system of the plant.

You will often see written on a product label the following information.

- Apply product in 400-1000lts of water per hectare.
- Lightly water in after application.
- For higher volumes of water to secure the products into the crown; soil area. e.g. (Tee jet White 11008 VS; 2 bar 5 km/h gives 600 L/ha; Hardi white 08-110; 2 bar 5 km/h gives 620 L/h)

• If labels have EDTA, HEDTA, etc. written on them, they are forms of Chelate, these chelates are designed to protect, for example, trace elements from other elements binding them together once they come in contact with the rootzone,

they help the element stay available for longer.

Most chelating agents (EDTA, HEDTA, etc.) have a molecular size too large to be effectively absorbed by leaf tissue.

• One other reason for a product to be watered in after application is to prevent leaf burn from unwanted residue.

• These types of products are valuable for soil applications, but are far less effective for foliar applications. Do not be misled, as there is a big difference between leaf applied nutrition, and soil liquid applications.

So, if a container has any of the above written on it, that product is designed for crown and root up-take, and not as a foliar applied product. Soil Liquids are an effective way of providing Nitrogen, Potassium, Organics, Seaweeds, Humic Acids, etc.

Using low volume of water is important for foliar applications.

When applied correctly foliar products provide the course manager with a high degree of control, for a much more accurate way of feeding the plant.

For a cool season grass, the best time to spray is early morning or late evening. These are the times when the stomata are open, and remember to remove any dew.

Two main points to remember when applying a foliar application.



## “I believe the best management approach to maximising nutrient availability is to develop a balanced soil nutrient reservoir, supplemented by regular and strategic foliar applications of nutrients”



### about the author

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1. You must have a fine spray mist (small droplet size) to ensure as much of the product stays on the leaf for as long as possible.

2. The total spray volume should be no more than 350lts/ha, ideally 250-350lts/ha

The pH of the spray tank is also important; remember the “ideal” soil pH is around 6.5, as this is where most nutrients are available, so it makes sense to have your spray cocktail at a similar pH.

This is to secure uptake and absorption through the leaves, and will be beneficial if you are applying soil liquids.

You do not want rain or irrigation water within 3 - 4 hours after application. Otherwise the mix could be washed off the leaves.

If your water source has a pH higher than 7.0 use a pH adjuster to increase spray tank efficiency.

Spray nozzles (Tee jet blue type 11003 VS; 2 bar 5 km/h gives 283

L/ha; Hardi blue type 03-110; 3,5 bar 5 km/h gives 310 L/ha)

By applying a foliar fertiliser and certain other elements directly to the grass leaf, it increases the activity in the leaf and plant, at the same time increasing chlorophyll and thus photosynthesis, this is the most important function of the plant.

Because of this increased activity within the plant, it increases the need for water by the leaf. In turn this increases water uptake by the plants vascular system, which in turn increases the uptake of nutrients from the soil.

This shows the importance of both soil and foliar applied fertilisers. The need to maintain the balance of the correct nutrients in the soil, the use of foliar fertilizers can increase their effectiveness, and the plants efficiency at using them.

How does foliar spraying work when common perception is, that plant nutrition is a one-way movement from the roots to the leaves?

A vascular network runs through the leaf, providing the cell walls with water, and removing the food products of photosynthesis, as well as nutrients, to other parts of the plant.

In simple terms the vascular system runs from the roots up and from the leaves down, providing two ways for nutrients to be distributed to areas of the plant.

I believe that the best management approach to maximising nutrient availability is to develop a balanced soil nutrient reservoir, supplemented by regular and strategic foliar applications of nutrients. Managing nutrient levels in this manner provides for linear availability of all nutrients, and allows for precise adjustment to specific nutrient levels being delivered to the plant. It will not produce flushes of growth, which are directly related to increase in disease pressure.

Having a diverse range of application methods, will give the Course Manager far greater control, and accuracy of what is applied and when.

Foliar applications are an excellent way of correcting nutrient deficiencies, and supplying the plants with a small amount of Nitrogen, and other nutrients which are designed to help the plants get going in spring and summer, at a time when soils have the inability to supply nutrients.

Tests have shown that up to 90% of a foliar fed nutrient solution can be found in the smallest root of a plant within 60 minutes of application. A project conducted at Michigan

State University, using radio active tagged nutrients, proved that foliar feeding can be 8 to10 times more effective than soil feeding, when soil conditions are not favourable. ie. cold soils, low microbial activity, reduced root system. That is why you need a combination of foliar and granular.

Depending on the quality of product, and if it is a true solution, not a suspension, it can be immediately available in the plant. This makes them perfect for correcting nutrient deficiencies.

It is worth remembering that foliar spraying stimulates the plants to create exudates in the roots which excite microbes to work harder and thus increases nutrient uptake from the soil.

When purchasing foliar products ensure you use high quality, safe, non-toxic fertilisers from a company you trust. A lot of companies are selling fertilizers with, cheap ingredients, low nutrient concentrations, which are not designed to be taken up by the leaf.

You can use foliar products nearly any time during the year with great efficiency. It's one of the most efficient and effective methods to deliver many key nutrients.

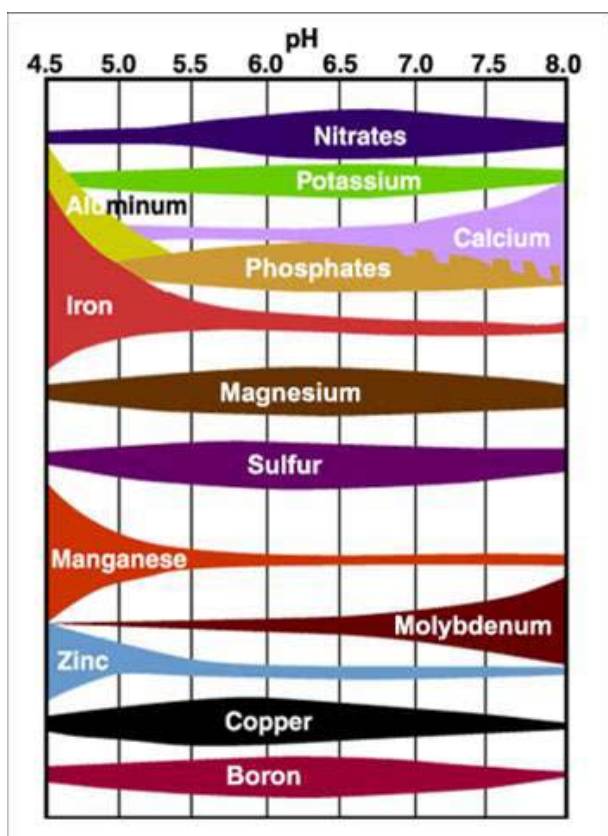
It does not substitute a granular program, rather work along side, and will improve the overall strength of the plant in periods of stress, i.e. spring, disease pressure, heat stress, nematode attack, autumn/winter prep, etc.

Soil Liquids; Are an effective way of providing liquid soil amendments, some NPK products, seaweeds, humic acids, etc. for the plants to take in by the upper root system. They are still somewhat dependant on temperature, and a healthy root system.

Granular products; Granular nutrition is the main source of NPK, and other bulk amendments to help balance the soil reserves. In order to maximize the efficiency of granular fertiliser you need a number of things to be in order; adequate soil temperature, the correct balance of Oxygen, CO<sub>2</sub>, Water, and therefore microbial life, and a root system. If any of these are compromised then the efficiency of a granular will reduce.

So by using the correct application method, combined with the right nutrients at the appropriate time of year, this will greatly improve the percentage of nutrition the plants receive, and in the long term be much more cost effective.

Meaning all Greenkeepers & Course Managers can and should have a wage rise!



James de Havilland takes a closer look at the intricacies of current machinery

# The anatomy of...

## Kubota Grand L5740 HST Plus tractor

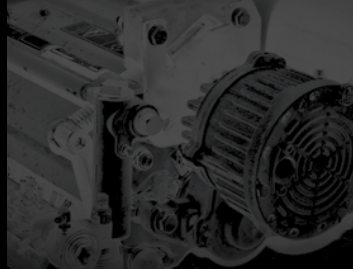


Fixed speed cruise for working precision  
When Kubota introduced its Grand L40-Series tractors in early 2008, the company's all-new HST Plus transmission was a highlight feature. So what makes HST Plus different?

With HST Plus, Kubota enables the operator to precisely manage the relationship between forward speed and engine rpm using the transmissions cruise control. The aim is to offer hydrostatic ease of operation with mechanical tractor precision.

# Step-by-step Analysis...

Kubota Grand L5740 HST Plus tractor



**Kubota offers its HST Plus hydrostatic transmission on two Grand L40-Series tractors, the nominal 52hp L52040 and 58hp L5740. Complementing the mechanical transmission 16F/16R or 24F/16R 36hp L5040, the L5240 can be specified with or without a cab, the range topping L5740 having a cab as standard.**

With the HST Plus system, the transmission can be set using the Cruise function so it in effect 'locks' to match the forward speed and engine rpm, just like it is with a mechanical drive.

This enables the transmission to be set up to offer the same repeatability as a mechanical transmission.

This enables the operator to set a fixed speed and for this then to be accurately maintained.

Kubota is not claiming this 'fixed' drive be a unique feature HST Plus.

Both the John Deere eHydro hydrostatic and New Holland EasyDrive CVT transmissions offer similar abilities.

Where Kubota feel its system has an edge is in ease of set-up. All the operator has to do is push the dash mounted Mode control to select Cruise and set the desired engine speed on the hand throttle.

The tractor speed is then set up by firstly selecting the working ratio and then using the Cruise control lever to set the forward speed.

The latter appears on the LCD display within the main dash.

"In work, most operators set the Cruise for aeration work by looking at the work done," adds Dave Roberts.

"Once the desired settings are noted, it is easy to replicate the hole spacing by setting the throttle to the right engine speed for the PTO, selecting the right ratio and then setting a Cruise speed to get exactly the desired spacing.

What is useful with the HST system is that the travel pedal can still be used to adjust the tractor's speed.

This enables the operator to raise the aerator and then speed the tractor up to make a faster turn.

The transmission will revert to Cruise when the pedal is released and the operator does not need to re-set the desired operating speed."

It is not just in this fixed Cruise mode that the HST transmission differs from a 'traditional' hydrostatic. In transport, for example, the operator can set the throttle to Auto Throttle Advance.



The Cruise Control lever is positioned next to the low, medium and high range selector. Once the desired engine speed and working ratio have been chosen, the lever is progressively eased forward to increase and then fix the forward speed.



The steering column is home to the throttle (right), H-DS control (upper left) and (below left) the Auto Throttle Advance. The latter enables the HST travel pedal to also control the throttle, matching engine speed to the tractor speed in transport.



Where Kubota's HST Plus hydrostatic cruise control differs from normal hydrostatic drive is its ability to monitor and fix the forward speed using the tractor's IntelliPanel. The digital display above the tachometer shows selected ratio on the left, a hare or tortoise symbol in green showing the selected high low split.



The servo-controlled travel pedal allows the operator to override the Cruise Control setting when making a turn or to alter the forward speed to meet a change in terrain or conditions. Once the pedal is released, the transmission will revert back to the cruise settings.



The HST transmission response is adjusted via a rotary knob (left), a push-button key (right) switching between transmission modes. Setting the tractor up to exploit various modes is not difficult. The transmission can be worked just like a conventional hydro using just the throttle and travel pedal.



Hydro Dual Speed, H-DS, is operated via a steering column mounted lever. H-DS essential adds a high - low split which can be selected on the move. A typical use would be when using a loader, selecting 'low' for digging and 'high' when shuttling back and forth.

In outline, this marries engine and transmission speeds to the tractor forward speed. Come to a stop, and the engine speed will drop back to idle.

Depress the travel pedal, and the engine speed will pick up in relation to how far the HST travel pedal is pressed.

In addition, there is a separate "Stall guard" feature that can be selected for applications like loader work.

With a conventional hydrostatic drive, the operator can 'stall' the engine by driving into a heap and not backing off on the travel pedal as the load on the tractor increases.

This load Sensing system detects a drop in the engine speed and simply bypasses the hydrostatic pump to prevent the engine stalling.

"The operator can also choose to use the (H-DS) Hydro Dual Speed control to select a high and low ratio on the move," adds Dave Roberts.

"This is done by simply moving a steering column mounted lever. An example of how useful this can be is to consider how you work during a turn or shuffling back and forth when loading. In work and when loading into a heap, a low ratio is engaged.



"When turning or moving between loads, a faster travel speed is desirable.

"This can be done by simply using the H-DS lever to select a higher ratio".

The HST transmission has a further control that allows the operator to select how aggressively the transmission takes up drive. In outline, soft for work on fine turf, a more aggressive setting helping boost take up in transport or when using a loader.

This is again not a new idea, but setting the system up is simple.

All that is needed is a twist of a dash mounted knob.

So, Kubota is able to offer those who demand the fixed speed abilities of a mechanical transmission with all the convenience and ease of operation more typically associated with hydrostatic drive.

The downsides?

HST is not offered on many models for a start.

If you are after a sub-60hp

Kubota suggests its HST Plus transmission is well suited to loader work, a Response Control enabling the operator to adjust how quickly the transmission reacts to travel pedal movement. A Load Sensing 'stall control' can also be selected for optimised loader performance.

# Raising the game for disease control





**Outline Specification:**  
Kubota HST Plus  
L5740 tractor

**Engine type**  
E-TVCS 4cyl diesel  
**Max power ECE-R24 (kW/hp)**  
41.5/55.6  
**HST Plus transmission**  
3 range hydrostatic plus H-DS splitter  
**Speed range (km/h)**  
0-30.7 fully variable  
**2 and 4 wheel drive**  
Selectable  
**Guide gross weight (kg)**  
1920  
**Guide rear linkage capacity (kg)**  
1750  
**Dimensions (L : W : H) (mm)**  
3245 : 1470 : 2375  
**Minimum Turn radius (m)**  
3.20  
**Fuel tank capacity (litres)**  
54  
**Standard turf tyres (F:R)**  
29x12.00-15:475/65-D20  
**List price**  
£24,600

Kubota with HST you can only have it on the L5240 and L5740.

Kubota also concede the transmission does sap some engine power. Realistically, if you need a 52hp tractor it should be the more powerful 5740 that you should be looking at.

And then there is price. It is always difficult to do a comparison when there are no like for like alternatives on offer, but consider HST to carry a premium of around £3,000 over a conventional mechanical tractor and

you will not be too wide of the mark. So is HST worth it?

The answer will depend upon how you use your tractors.

But if you want a power unit that you can set to operate at a speed you want to do a job, and not be tied to the speeds dictated by the available ratios in a mechanical gearbox, HST is well worth a look.

It will also be a versatile choice, ideally suited to loader work, transport as well as operating mowers, spraying and top dressing.

Cruise control can set up to operate in conventional hydrostatic mode for mowing, with load sensing accommodating changes in terrain to keep the engine speed constant. Versatility is a key feature of modern hydrostatic and CVT drives.

**Headway brings you two of the worlds most successful turf fungicide active ingredients in one package – protecting the plant inside and out, from leaf to root.** Easy to use and cost effective, Headway is approved for control of key foliar and soil borne turf diseases.

**The Headway combination of two powerful actives gives:**

- Complimentary power of two actives
- Long lasting results
- Protects the plant as it grows
- Broad spectrum activity
- Trials have shown over eight weeks control of Fusarium



**Headway protects from leaf to root**

Headway is the first multi-active turf fungicide approved for the control of both foliar and soil borne diseases.



 **Headway**<sup>®</sup>

 **syngenta.**

## 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



### Ayrshire

Hey folks. Wednesday, April 27 saw 30 Greenkeepers travel to Largs Kelburn Golf Club for the Spring outing. A typical Ayrshire day greeted us with wind and rain - par for the course! Not that the wind or the rain was a worry for us hardened weather beaten boys.....A certain greenkeeper must have woken up with a sore head this morning as those pin positions were challenging to say the least! Nice one Lefty! A great day was had by all and our thanks must go to Iain and George for having the course in great condition for us. Thank you!

Results: 1st Class. 1. Ian McDonald, 36pts; 2. Robbie Macbeth, 35pts; 3. John Mair, 30pts; 4. William McMeiken, 29pts. 2nd Class. 1. Dale Norquay, 38pts; 2. Colin Murray, 32 pts; 3. Ewan Grant, 30pts; 4. Duncan Gray - 29pts. Trade Prize. Derek Duthie, 33pts.

Well done boys! Keep it up for the Autumn outing at Dumfries & County.

A big thank you must also go to Derek Wilson, Peter Boyd and Jim Paton for the running of the day. A lot of work is put in by these guys for our section which is greatly appreciated! Thanks gents.

News has filtered through the industry about Mr Gordon Peebles. Gordon has recently become the proud owner of a senior bus pass... like to see him ditch the old Tacit van & go on a bus...lol.

Also Mr George Brown has been spotted hitting a ball in anger again after an operation to get a new knee. Hats off to you

George, glad your getting back into the swing of things!

I hope all your courses are coming along and things are going well. If not, you know where I am. Any news big or small don't hesitate to contact me. [johnmair982@btinternet.com](mailto:johnmair982@btinternet.com) & 07500874449

John Mair



### East

This month's report starts with our Spring Outing to Kilspindie Golf Course.

Our Chairman, Stewart Crawford, welcomed everyone to Kilspindie on Tuesday, April 13. Notable attendees were, our Scottish Chairman, John Geddes, and, ever present, our Regional Administrator, Peter Boyd. Thank you both for supporting the Section.

List of prize winners: Scratch Winner. Scott Corrigan, Greenburn GC, 70 gross. 1st Class. 1. Mark Pagan, Eyemouth GC, 76 nett; 2. Keith Burgon, Goswick GC, 69 nett. 2nd Class. 1. Ryan McCulloch, Goswick GC, 65 nett;

2. Robbie Murdoch, Dundas Park GC, 67 nett. Trade Winner. Gray McCandles, Rigby Taylor, 64 nett BIH. Best Nett. Tom Murray, Ratho Park GC, 67 nett. Veterans' Prize. George Aitchison, Duns GC, 70 nett; Guest Prize. Derek Scott, Scoonie GC, 61 nett. Longest Drive. David Greenshields, Barenbrug. Nearest the Pin. Jim Darling, Aitkens Seedsman Ltd.

Well done to our two Course Rangers, Jimmy Neilson and Jack Dalrymple, for making sure that we all kept a steady pace round the golf course and helping out with any stray golf balls to be found .... those was the ones which stayed on dry ground.

Our Chairman thanked Paul Casley, General Manager, for having the East Section at this great venue, and the Head Greenkeeper, John Arbuckle, and staff for the excellent condition of his golf course.

The Chairman thanked all the patrons for their continued support and wished everyone a safe journey home, hoping to see all at the Summer Outing - the Willie Woods, at Gullane GC

Until next month

Tom Murray



### Central

Hands up, I got well caught out last month saying how good the Stan Zontek/USGA seminar was when in the end it had to be cancelled because of the volcanic ash situation. Unfortunately they were stuck in the States but as I write they are busy trying to reschedule for September so watch this space. Saying that, as I write this at the beginning of May, Irish and some Scottish airports are shut again which can have a huge impact on Scottish tourism and as a result financial implications for a lot of golf clubs.

Luckily I was much more accurate predicting the winners of the Spring outing and got them all correct! Well done to Kevin Muir and his staff for getting the course so good following the recent floods he had to cope with. Things are well under way on the Old Course in preparation for The Open. A number of stands are already up and the tents begin to go up towards the end of May. The Central section has organised a Course Walk with Gordon McKie and me on June 23. Meet at the Jubilee greenkeeping sheds at 4pm, and members from other Sections are also welcome.

Gordon Moir

## Northern Region



### Northern

Hello everyone, hope you are all enjoying the spring sunshine. The first golf event of the new season was a great success. The event was held at Sandmoor GC, played on a fine sunny day, on a superb playing surface. On behalf of the Section I would like to pass on our thanks to John and his staff, and everyone connected with the golf club.

The competition was a medal off the white tees. Winner of the Scratch Cup. T Gerrard. Div 1. 1. A. Court; 2. N. Coultish; 3. A. Baxter. Div 2. 1. J. Watts; 2. A. Holroyde; 3. N. Booth. Div 3. 1. G. Street; 2. B. Knowles-Jackson; 3. P Colley. The winner of the trade prize was G. Potter; 2. I. Collett. Our thanks also go to Tito, and Sherriff Amenity, for their sponsorship. If anyone has got a trophy to be played for at future events, would they please try to get them to a member of the committee before the event. As usual if you have any news or gossip PLEASE pass it on to me, Frank Stewart, 72 West Park Grove, Roundhay, Leeds, LS8 2DY. Tel. 07947401278.

Frank Stewart



### North East

Well it's that time again already for Section news. What have we got this month? Funny enough the phone did ring this time, in fact, several times. Doesn't news travel fast via



mobile what a wonderful invention. Anyway let's get down to the nitty gritty. On April 21 we had our Spring competition at the City of Newcastle GC. A couple of records were broken there. Firstly I believe that it's the first time we have had a competition there – I certainly cannot remember playing there in recent years. Secondly, it was the first time that I had actually won a Spring event - the best nett, and, thirdly, it was the worst turnout ever for either Spring or Autumn comp.

In fact, very embarrassing, to the point that an apology was made to the club and the steward for lack of support. What do we have to do? We have changed the day, changed the teeing off time to an afternoon maybe we should change the month. By the way, only seven people bothered to turn up with only one or two regulars missing. I'm just looking through my comp. file. We have averaged 15 players since 2008, the last time we had over 20 playing was in 2006 at Stocksfield and the largest field was at Matfen Hall in 2004 with 30 persons playing. My how times have changed. Mind you we have lost a few members on the way to other Sections and different professions. Anyway let's get to the results.

Best nett J.S. Richardson 79-8-71 (T.S.L. Trophy) Hexham GC; Best gross J. Gibson 74 Salver, Northumberland GC; G. Brown, 73, Wooler GC

S. R. Pope, 75, Tyneside GC; R. Black, 77, Westerhope GC; R. Reid 80 Prudoe GC; G. Lee no return.

My thanks to the City of Newcastle Golf Club for giving us courtesy of their course and to Barry Walker Head Greenkeeper and his staff for presenting a course in tip top condition as all who played agreed. Considering the winter and dry spring we have had it's a credit to you Barry.

Lastly, to our sponsors on the day, T.S.L. (Terry Charlton); Rigby Taylor (Glen Baxter); Tacit (Peter Marshall). Thanks lads.

Right what else do we have? Yes more moving around. First Craig Parkinson, formally of Matfen Hall, has moved back to working as a greenkeeper at Slaley Hall and Aidan Love has moved from Loch Lomond to Close House. Good luck to the both of you in your new jobs.

Now only one item left. At a recent regional meeting I was asked if we would consider having the Golf Management

Trophy in our Section. This is a four man team event - Captain, Secretary, Green Chairman and either Head Greenkeeper or member of his staff. Somehow this would have been a good competition to have a few years ago but now I don't think so considering the turnouts we have had and it's likely to be held in the summer so it might be a good idea to pass it on to another Section to consider.

Well that's the lot for another month.

Jimmy Richardson



### Sheffield

I know I say this every month but I really do hope that when you read this we will have finally had a decent spell of nice weather. It seems that the most things have been against us at the start of 2010, im sure though that everyone is working hard and remaining positive to get through this difficult time.

Our Spring competition was held at an excellently presented Chesterfield G.C.

Mark and his staff provided us all with an excellent course to play on the day, thanks must also go to the catering staff who also provided us with an excellent meal to finish of a good day. I would also like to say a massive thankyou to Pro turf for once again sponsoring our Spring event.

The results: 1. T. Strong 40 pts; 2. D. Coop 38 pts; 3. L. Davies 36 pts; Trade T. Dodson

Personally I would like to thank Andy Bunting for continually giving me news to fill my column. Andy has recently taken over at Kenwick Park G.C which is near Louth. Good luck Andy we all hope it goes well for you.

On the section front we are in the first stages of planning this Winters lecture programme. Im sure you will agree that these events provide a vital part of our Learning and Development. This years events are being carefully planned by your Committee so that everyone will find them beneficial.

Thats all from me this month. I hope June goes well for you all and I will speak to you again in July.

James Stevens



### Cleveland

Hi everyone, hope you are all fit and well. How bizzare is the weather?. Its just so cold at the moment as i write this piece, second week in may and still got winter long Johns on! Very little growth on the greens, up to a week without any rain at times and a frost forecast for tonight. Not exactly as most of us would like it i am sure but none the less, the show must go on.

A little bit of news for you this month as follows. Congratulations to James Parker and his wife Sarah on the arrival of a new baby boy. Oscar arrived on Saturday 24th April i am told, all fit and well. Secondly, James has landed a new job at Close House, he will be leaving Blackwell Grange and starts on the 10th May. Well done

On Wednesday 21st April a seminar/workshop was held at Llyods of Bishop Auckland and the subject was Cutting Technology and After Cut Appearance, as well as operator safety and fault finding on ride on equipment. The event was organised by Alister Whitby and was presented by Ian Sumpter of Toro. It was a very good day and im sure those who attended came away a bit more wiser. Well i did, but that doesnt really take much doing!! Dinner and refreshments were provided by Llyods. There was also a talk for the Cleveland section held at Billingham golf club in the evening. Thanks to Lloyds, Alister and Ian Sumpter for putting on the event.

That is it for now, no more news to report,

Any news  
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### North Wales

Well at least we have got a reasonable column for you this month. To start the spring tournament golf day took place at Caernarfon Golf Club on April 28 and on a beautiful, if rather windy day 24 of North Wales'

best took to the really well managed turf. I believe all, including myself, were very pleased with the course that Martin Roberts, Charlie Land and co. provided for us. Well done, we were all exceedingly grateful to you and your preparation of the course.

A big thank you also has to go to the catering for the quality (and quantity) of the food provided on the day. It's not very often we are given the choice of four main courses and four desserts, Andy Acorn nearly tried all the desserts, he, I believe, got as far as three but had to give up to help me and Terry Adamson work out the scorecards. I feel I must point out that I'm sure we normally have a better turnout at the Spring tournament and I'm afraid anyone who didn't go because of travel concerns really missed out on an excellent day.

Results of the day were: 1. Paul Stanley, 36 pts; 2. Nigel Green, 32 pts; 3. Rhys Butler, 29 pts. Best gross also went to Rhys Butler with a score of 76. Best guest went to J. Richards, with 31 points, and best trade went to John Mooney, with 30 points. Paul Stanley and Rhys Butler now qualify for the National Championship, sponsored by Kubota and Charterhouse Turf Machinery, at The Berkshire later this year. The CONNECT trade show at Conwy golf club seemed to be a success with local suppliers showing big brands and what was even better it was hands-on with demos on the practice area. A big thank you has to go to Dave Lewis, and all at Conwy, for holding hopefully the first of many years of this event. Pictures of the golf day and the CONNECT event now available to view on facebook group north Wales bigga. In local news we send our thoughts to the friends, family and colleagues of Les Gower, of Penmaenmawr Golf Club, who died in tragic circumstances on April 27. Les had been in greenkeeping for 35 years.

Gareth "Bronco" Williams, of Portmerion, was on television in a silent hero show on s4c where he and his wife, Janet, were treated for their selflessness in giving over 100 foster children a welcome place to stay in their time in fostering. Well done, Bronco, perhaps Portmerion will be known for you being on television instead of The Prisoner.

Well I think that's about it all the best until next month

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## Midland



### East Anglia

Purdis Heath had the dubious honour of being the first venue for the motley crew of the 2010 season. Norman Fenwick had the task of getting the course in some sort of order following a severe winter and a spring that didn't turn up. Norman and the crew did a very good job.

It would seem the winter break did some good for the trophy hunters as the scores will show. Half of the winning scores were 40 points or more. The real golfers scored the usual amount 20-30.

The 'who's who' of our section are as follows:- 0-9 Handicap  
1. Nick Brewster, 43 pts; 2. Peter (I'm retired) Howard, 38 pts BIH; 3. Mark Henderson, 38 pts. 10-18 Handicap. 1. Mark Clements, 41 pts BIH; 2. Tony Thacker, 41 pts; 3. Jonathan Smart, 37 pts. 19-28 Handicap - Real Golfers 1. Roy Britton, 40 pts; 2. Paul Ashcroft, 38 pts; 3. Graham Broughton, 36 pts. G&Ts. 1. Lewis Blois, 43 pts; 2. Reg Claydon, 40 pts; 3. Chris Cushnahan, 38 pts. Nearest the Pin. 10th Steve Millard, 15th Nick Brewster. Longest Drive. 7th Ben Wallace, 17th Glen Rayfield

The recipient of our brand new loo seat was Lewis Blois. Although he scored the most points, he also managed to hit the clubhouse on the 18th. Said he hit the road and it bounced - Yeah Right! Hero to Zero in one afternoon!

All the prizes were presented by Neil Ellis, Club Manager.

The day was sponsored by Bartram Mowers/Textron and well supported by:- Aitkens, John Deere, Headland, Rigby Taylor, Bailey's of Norfolk, Sheriff, Collier Turf Care, Mike Lish (Stumpbusters), Tomlinson, Tacit, Doe's.

I am sure that the 70+ who turned up had a good day - Thank you Purdis Heath once again.

You might like this one. Secretary asks greenkeeper to read an article from a magazine about fast greens, "Is the author a greenkeeper or agronomist?"

asks the greenkeeper. "No, he's actually a merchant banker by profession, but a very good golfer, his name is Warrington Smyth" said the Secretary. (Put a 'Y' in Smith and he's an expert - thinks the greenkeeper). After four cups of tea and three Chelsea buns he's read all about cutting greens to within 1mm of their life and using vibrating rollers every other day and three times on Mother's Day, usual squit. Secretary returns, "What do you think?" he asks. "You're right about one" thing replies the greenkeeper, "He is definitely a merchant banker!"

Mick Lathrope



### Midland

Well what can we talk about this month then? Fishing, not again Mac (not Paddy Bill!). Perhaps the opportunities that our fine profession can, and does, offer us. I cite the great accomplishment of one of our long standing members, Dave Gibbons, Deputy at Little Aston G.C, Four years ago he and John Ganley asked me to join them in undertaking a Foundation Degree so that the course could be run. Unfortunately my then boss prevented me from undertaking such. However Dave was able to complete his foundation and then continued with a B.Sc. HON's in Turf Grass Science. He, by his own admission, was not academically interested at school or indeed talented in such. Yet greenkeeping stimulated his wish to study further and improve his skills and understanding of this exacting science and art. Dave would like to thank Andrew Boristion and Little Aston for their support of him while completing his Degree.

It shows what can be achieved, and the levels available but we all must start at the beginning and work our way through to the level we wish. Our Section offers many courses, and indeed is open to putting-on what is wanted and required. Please contact our newly-appointed Education Coordinator, Kim Blake, with your thoughts for any education and training needs: 07540 771 924.

Many years ago I use to play

the Bromsgrove Golf Centre with two of my best friends on a weekly basis. They were always flabbergasted on a Sunday morning that I had been to work prior to our morning tee off time. I always found the course to be in great condition and enjoyed such every time. It was only nine holes then, but such has now become a full 18. Ted Evans has over the last 19 years been the Head Greenkeeper and instrumental in its success and development. Ted is now retiring and perusing his passion for golf, Angling (good form), and to do all of those jobs his wife has been waiting to be done. Pauline, keep him busy lass (sorry Ted). From the directors and the Section, enjoy your well deserved retirement mate. Ted's successor is Mark Cunningham and all the best to you in your new position. Well done Mark on your new post.

Now just a reminder, our summer tournament is to be held at the lovely venue of Edgbaston GC on July 19, start time: 2pm, at a cost of £25. Please get your entries into Gary ASAP to avoid disappointment. What a great venue.

Now we come to our wonderful sponsors of our superb calendar for this month. Such being our old friend's North Staffs Irrigation Ltd. Please consider them for all of your irrigation and drainage requirements. Please see their web page on: [www.northstaffsirrigration.co.uk](http://www.northstaffsirrigration.co.uk)

Until next month. Cheers.

Sean McDade



### Mid-Anglia

Apologies for no Section report last month, I had to move home office and everything was packed up! Upcoming golf tournaments are at Stocks GC on Monday June 14 with a barbecue and smart casual dress code. Berkhamsted GC is on October 20 and Ashridge GC will be the venue for the Turkey Trot. The first tournament will have been held at Bedford and County Golf Club by the time this goes to press so look out for the report next month.

Not much news this month but no doubt everyone is getting

geared up for the kick off to the World Cup. The schedule looks pretty good so hopefully you won't need to change hours/shifts etc, you have just got to watch how much alcohol you consume if you are on an early. Failing that, you could always ask an Irish, Welsh or Scottish colleague to stand in for you. I shouldn't be so smug as I am sure at some point we will manage to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory or fail to negotiate a penalty shoot out. Maybe I need to trace my family history so that I may discover a long lost Spanish/Brazilian/German relative so that I have a fall back position. Oh well, the anticipation is great, we could still win it at this moment in time!

Craig Spooner

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### East of England

Apologies for the lack on notes in the last magazine, the timing to get them in was all a bit hectic for me.

April began with getting the golf course ready for the first big open event of the year. This was followed by greens hollow coring and topdressing. The course then had to be prepared for its first ever Pro-Am just two and a half weeks later. Conveniently timed in the midst of all this was the safe arrival of our second child, the beautiful Violet Lily Beverly, who arrived safe and well on April 10.

The weather continues to baffle all at the moment with temperatures up near 20 degrees a few weeks ago, yet this morning there was a "white over" frost! However while many are crying out for steady temperatures to get the grass growing, Here at the Immingham grass factory we have been growing steadily for weeks and this cooler spell is being welcomed to slow the growth down.

By the time this is read our first golf day of the season will have been and gone, hopefully all will have been well at Newark Golf Club. A full report will be here next time.

As I write, Gordon Brown has just resigned and David