

should be marked with red stakes or lines, thus enabling the golfer to drop the ball laterally within two club-lengths of the point where it last crossed, or if possible, on the opposite margin equidistant to the hole. If greenkeepers think about this when marking water hazards, they should always end up with a correctly marked hazard which will dramatically reduce the risk of a tricky ruling situation!

The Putting Green – Pin Positions

When setting a golf course up, pin positions on the green are one of the hottest debated topics at a tournament or a monthly medal at a golf club. Greenkeepers should be aware that when setting a pin position, there is no law as to how far on a green the pin should be or how far from the side of the green the pin should be. However, as a rule of thumb, it is recommended that a pin position should never be less than four paces on the green from the front edge and less than three paces from the side; ie. a three on, two right pin would not be recommended as this would not only look strange on the eye but would also be deemed as being unfair to the competitor.

When setting pins, another area to consider is whether the area where the pin is to be put is close to a bunker and may be affected by the sand which lands on the putting green. Although in the Rules of Golf, sand and loose soil are only loose impediments on the putting green and thus, may only be moved on the putting green, it would look visually poor for visitors or members of the golf club to have a pin position covered with sand. If these guidelines are followed, then there should be less cause for debate in the clubhouse after play!

Ground Under Repair (Gur)

Finally, the subject of ground under repair (GUR) tends to cause much discussion in clubhouse bars. Normally the debate is what defines an area of a golf course to be GUR and is usually sparked off by an angry golfer who had the misfortune of experiencing a particularly nasty lie in the rough!

An area of GUR should only be marked by a greenkeeper if they are certain that this area is abnormal from anywhere else on the golf course. If during a tournament, relief is given for GUR, this area must be marked by a white line immediately so that any further



balls within this area are given the same ruling as given previously. Consistency is the key in terms of the rules of golf.

However, it is worth noting that many areas of the course that are classed as GUR under the Rules of Golf need not be marked. It is often common for golf courses to be covered in white paint under the instruction of the Committee of simply just a paint happy greenkeeper... there is no need for this!

For example, casts, holes or runways made by burrowing animals or birds do not require white lines, nor does casual water, material piled for removal or any hole made by a greenkeeper. By remembering this, the greenkeeper will promote consistency in his marking of GUR and visually, the golf course will look a lot better to visitors.

In conclusion, under Rule 6-1, the player is responsible for knowing the Rules. However, if a greenkeeper pays special attention to the above pointers, his course will be presented to a highly professional standard and will fall into line with recommendations outlined in the Rules of Golf.

When playing tournament golf, a correctly marked golf course will also aid the competitor in applying the rules both fairly and consistently which at the end of the day is the desired effect for both a Committee and the player.



Turf Professionals Talking Heads

| | Question 1 | Question 2 | Question 3 |
|---|--|--|---|
| | How have the demands on your playing surfaces increased over the last few years? | What one thing (product, machine etc) has helped you meet those demands and how? | What one area of your job has changed most markedly in recent times? |
| <p>Name: Lee Evans Position: Head Groundsman Club: Millennium Stadium</p>  | <p>Professionalism in sport has increased along with increased television coverage. The public and playing professionals demand immaculate surfaces which also play to an incredible standard and this means that we are always researching best practice and constantly striving to improve playing surface quality.</p> | <p>Artificial lighting rigs have been an amazing advance and allow me to create an artificial micro-climate which negates some of the hostile environment and allows me to provide a playing surface which benefits the stadium.</p> | <p>Artificial lighting technology has transformed the ability to maintain sports pitches in stadia. We can now provide surfaces which compliment and hopefully enhance the occasion and ultimately result in a more rewarding time for professionals and watching public.</p> |
| <p>Name: David Cole Position: Course Manager Club: Loch Lomond GC</p>  | <p>Expectations for quality playing surfaces have never been higher. This is not a complaint or an excuse; it's a fact. In this economic climate customers want value for money. We set a target of trying to achieve outstanding playing surfaces every day throughout the season as we have an international membership.</p> | <p>If I had to select one thing, I would choose people. I firmly believe in surrounding yourself with like minded people who are professional, dedicated, enthusiastic, hard-working and most importantly, follow your vision. I think a good team is the biggest asset in any business.</p> | <p>Environmental management has changed for the better for all of us, not just in our work but also our home lives. Greenkeepers and club owners have a responsibility to not just manage the turf following a good IPM approach, but also to preserve and enhance the other parts of the golf course.</p> |
| <p>Name: Steve Birks Position: Head Groundsman Club: Trent Bridge Cricket Ground</p>  | <p>There are a great deal more televised cricket matches, more international games, and an increase in demand on practice in the middle, which can stress the grass out. And the weather is a constant issue.</p> | <p>The Hover cover, as you can cover the whole square in five minutes, whereas before it used to take 45 minutes. We can get it on and off quickly so the game gets started again. The new outfield drains at 25 millimetres-an-hour, so this is very important for international games.</p> | <p>I have to deal with the media a lot more, as there is much more interest in the sport and in the wicket condition. Also, the way in which the weather is dealt with now is very different from past times.</p> |
| <p>Name: Graham Kimpton Position: Grounds Manager Club: The Queen's Club</p>  | <p>Demands to our playing surface have increased over the last few years but the players all becoming bigger, fitter and more athletic. Not many tennis players are under 6ft 3 now. The technology of racquets and in particular shoes put extra stress on the grass surface.</p> | <p>I guess that the advance in grass breeding and technology has been a major bonus. The fine and dense varieties, particularly of Lollium Perrene.</p> | <p>The area of my job that has most changed in recent times is Health and Safety and also having to rely more on culture practices to try to 'manage' problems such as worms, as a lot of the effective products of yesteryear have been removed from use.</p> |
| <p>Name: Adrian Kay Position: Head Groundsman Club: York Racecourse</p>  | <p>Expectations within the sport have risen from all quarters. Even our own expectations have increased. With more technical knowledge and improved machinery that is available, come higher standards to go hand in hand with the expectations of the end users of the course.</p> | <p>The Verti-drain. This has allowed us the means to de-compact at different depths and heave, or fissure, so to compensate for the high levels of maintenance operations and the direct nature of horses running at 40mph over the racing surface.</p> | <p>Investment and I have very fortunately been involved with forward thinking Managers and Boards within the two racecourses that I have worked for. Without this investment in machinery, drainage, irrigation and most importantly staff, plenty of these sports surfaces would not be in the condition we find them today.</p> |

Sports turf comes in many forms and each requires a very special range of skills to maintain it at its best. Compiled by Jim Cook.

| Question 4 What one thing makes your particular job different from those of other sports turf professionals? | Question 5 What has been the highlight of your career to date? | Question 6 Have you found that those using your sports surface are becoming more critical and demanding? |
|--|---|--|
| <p>We have one of the most hostile conditions in the world in which to grow grass, due to the heights of the stands, the close proximity of stands to pitch and the fact that as a town centre stadium we are relatively 'boxed in'. This coupled with the fact that we have the only portable pitch in the UK.</p> | <p>Appointed at the tender age of 34, I have overseen four FA Cup finals, three Rugby Grandslams, and Rugby World Cup games. It's a real privilege to have provided surfaces for such iconic sporting occasions. Being a proud Welshman, providing the surface in 2005 which saw the first Welsh grand slam in 27 years was a personal highlight.</p> | <p>There has always been, and should always be, a quality standard requirement and failure to reach this will ultimately end in criticism. It's good to be able to have profitable conversations, with groundstaff, about how we can help the performance of all teams and ultimately give the paying public a more enjoyable experience.</p> |
| <p>The diversity of the role. Golf course management has evolved so much in recent years. Obviously greenkeepers need to have an in-depth knowledge of agronomy, but these days they also need to be well versed in ecology, arboriculture, wildlife and habitat management, best environmental practices, hydrology, golf course design and construction methods as well as people and business management.</p> | <p>There have been so many highlights in my career. Achieving the Golf Course Superintendent and Estate Managers position in 2008 at one of the finest golf clubs in the world has to be my greatest achievement and receiving accolades from PGA professionals, peers and members.</p> | <p>Yes, I think customers are more demanding in this competitive leisure industry. I would say that we welcome constructive criticism as it keeps us focused and inspires us to keep on improving. This does involve harder work and more hours, but together with drive and dedication this is crucial to ensure that we always have that special edge.</p> |
| <p>We have to work with clay and also have to work with a very fast draining outfield. I have to deal with the two extremes of soil, so water movement in the soil is most important. On two levels, one drains quickly and one holds the water. Both have their problems but that is what I have to work with.</p> | <p>It would be going to Buckingham Palace, when Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club received their championship winning medals in 2005. And also doing last year's 20/20 World Cup was a highlight.</p> | <p>Yes, definitely, because there are more games broadcast on television and a lot of people tend to listen to the commentators when they discuss the ground.</p> |
| <p>We are a members club, which gets transformed into a venue for a world class event. Our centre court for example has our pavilion on one side and two hard courts on the other for ten months of the year. For the championships it becomes a bowl full of 7500 seats. Three weeks later it's back to the usual layout.</p> | <p>The highlight of my career is probably passing the IOG National Diploma in Turf Culture and having Rafa Nadal come and shake my hand before he collected his trophy when he won the Aegon here at Queens.</p> | <p>Not sure if users have become more critical or demanding than in the past. I guess with so many less grass tennis courts around than in the past, the users, in particular the professionals, do not understand the idiosyncrasies of a grass court.</p> |
| <p>The one factor that separates horse racing from other sports is the extremes of damage following a race meeting in conditions that are not ideal. Imagine around 90, half-tonne horses running on heavy going in one day, then you repair it for the next and you have another one, two or even three days in the race meeting.</p> | <p>My first Grand National in 2000 as Head Groundsman was very special. Also being involved with the two-and-a-half million track project at York over the past three years. Winning the Neil Wyatt Flat Racecourse Groundstaff Awards for 2009 at York this year was incredible after winning the jumps division at Aintree earlier on in my career.</p> | <p>Most definitely, as more money becomes involved in any sport this ultimately brings more pressure to all involved within the sport. As with every sport, there seems to be a lot of experts who know a lot about our job and some love to air their views on television, without knowing the full facts.</p> |



Reducing Electricity Costs from your Irrigation System

Tim Hooper looks at how you can make savings to your electricity bills by cutting down on irrigation consumption

Electricity charges are soon to increase by 25%; it was recently announced by the BBC. So then, we should be looking at how to save on our electricity consumption on irrigation systems.

A Variable-Speed Drive Inverter (hereafter called an "inverter") will reduce electricity consumption and can make significant savings to your electricity bill. Furthermore, if your system happens to have a leak, the inverter can be set up to help minimise bursts.

An inverter when linked to a pressure sensor, controls the speed of your pump which in turn enables the pump to keep the pressure in your system at a set point, as long as the flow's required fall is within the pumps capability.

The pump or pumps in an irrigation system should be sized to operate the 'station' that has the highest flow rate (plus 10%) at a given pressure. A standard pump-starter operates the pump at full speed, drawing maximum electricity, unnecessarily for most stations and either generates unrequired pressure or passes water back to the tank via the pressure relief; this correction is done using precious electricity which could be saved.

If an inverter is fitted, on stations that require less duty from the pump, it slows the pump down. The result is that the motor draws less electricity. For example, on a tee 12.5 metres wide and 40 metres long a pump with a 7.5kW motor can draw as little as 1.6kW. A saving of 6 kW!

If you multiply this saving of 6kW at £0.47, by eighteen tees, run each tee for an average of 15 minutes per night and 100 nights a year; you would be looking at a saving of £1,250.00 per year on

your tees alone. A saving certainly worthwhile.

Inverters have additional benefit. They can help prevent bursts on leaking systems and for those Clubs which have only single phase electrics, there are inverters that operate on single phase electricity, but run three phase motors. The impact of this is that you can run a pump with a 4kW motor instead of one with a 2.2kW motor. Some sites have three pumps, each with 4kW motors, robust enough for most irrigation systems that water greens, tees and approach. It is more costly than the standard three-phase inverter, but still far cheaper than any alternative.

There are three main styles of inverter. Each one can be installed as a single or multi-pump pumping station, but all have variable functionality.

Type 1: this inverter is an integrated part of the motor as on the Grundfos CRIE pump range. These inverters are manufactured by the pump manufacturer and as a stand alone unit, offer a reasonable level of functionality. You can also fit a single or multi-pump sets to a network. This gives full remote network monitoring, fault notification and integration to the larger types of controllers. Since the inverter is an integral part of the motor, this option is normally used when new pumps are installed.

Type 2 is a motor mounted inverter: an example would be the Lowara Hydrova. The inverter is simple to install on existing systems and has most of the functions you would want. They can also be linked together in multi-pump sets.

Type 3 is a dedicated wall mounted inverter. This option is slightly more expensive, but offers

considerably more functionality and the added ability to integrate with even simple wall mounted controllers and larger PC controlled systems. The additional benefits such as the option for GSM (mobile phone) control and fault notification also offer cost benefits.

If your system has leaks, some inverters can be programmed so the ramp up (the speed the pump speeds up) on start up and the last ramp down (the speed the pump slows down) can be set to take a few minutes. This results in the mains being filled considerably slower than conventional pump starters and helps prevent water hammer.

Water hammer occurs when water travels down a pipe and then stops quickly. The energy in the water creates shock waves up and down the pipe and fittings. This results in pipe work being put under greater pressures than it was designed for and results in bursts.

Another area to consider is your controller. If your irrigation controller can only run one station at a time and your system has stations with low flows, such as tees, approaches etc. you can dramatically reduce the time the pump is run by upgrading your controller.

Modern controllers (even some wall mounted controllers) have the ability to run two or three stations at a time on the same cable path and so preventing the need for a rewiring. This would obviously shorten your system run time and reduce running costs.

With electricity price hikes on the way again, and Clubs becoming increasingly vigilant at curbing running and maintenance costs, you should look seriously at the inverter and controller options, if you haven't done so already.



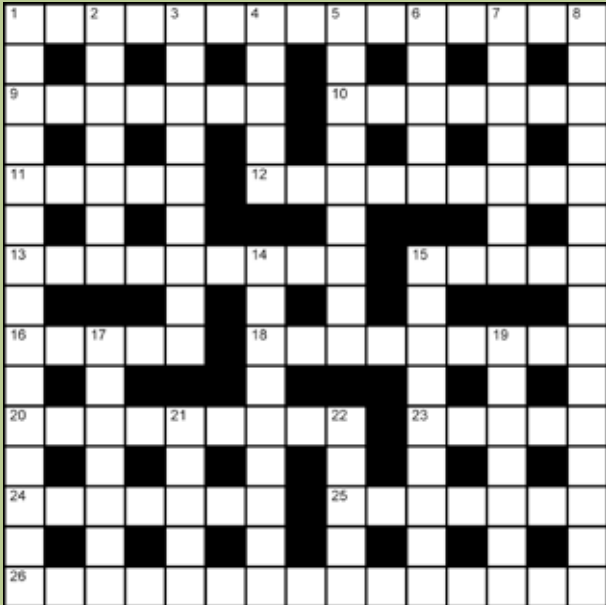
Tim Hooper is Managing Director of TCR Irrigation, Hall Lane, Utkinson, Cheshire, CW6 0JQ Visit www.tcrirrigation.co.uk



in the shed

Our monthly puzzle page to keep you entertained when you're forced indoors..

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 Prudent advice to keep one from poverty (5,3,4,3)
- 9 Fat (7)
- 10 The innermost membranes of an organ (7)
- 11 "Nice one, _____" - The Cockerel Chorus (5)
- 12 In addition (9)
- 13 Arboreal growth under which Isaac Newton supposedly gained inspiration (5,4)
- 15 A synthetic fabric (5)
- 16 An item of value (5)
- 18 Very high (9)
- 20 Tutor to Alexander the Great (9)
- 23 Home of The Derby (5)
- 24 In a bit (5,2)
- 25 The first was beheaded (7)
- 26 Post-Impressionist French painter (8,7)

DOWN

- 1 Thingy (15)
- 2 Support for rider's foot (7)
- 3 Making supple (9)
- 4 800m gold medal winner at 1980 Olympics (5)
- 5 1949 film starring James Cagney as Cody Jarrett (5,4)
- 6 Saltpetre (5)
- 7 Only in name (7)
- 8 Musical featuring the song 'Edelweiss' (3,5,2,5)
- 14 Severe reprimands (9)
- 15 Classic 1922 German horror film (9)
- 17 Small dog with long, silky fur (4-3)
- 19 Surrounded by water (7)
- 21 A headless and limbless human body (5)
- 22 Surpass (5)

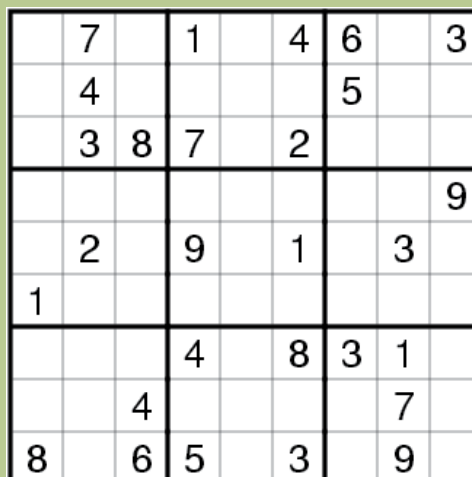
QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ

1. Who are the Great White Shark; The Golden Bear and the Big Easy?
2. What was basketball star, Earvin Johnson better known as?
3. What was the nickname of tennis legend Rod Laver?
4. British Ski Jumper, Edward Edwards, was known to the British public as...
5. Eric Moussambani, a swimmer in the Sydney Olympics, was affectionately known as this.
6. Who was The Fridge?
7. Which Rugby League player was known as either Chariots or Great Balls?
8. What was former Chelsea player Ron Harris' nickname?
9. What was middle distance runner Miruts Yifter's nickname?



MONSTER SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 4x4 box contains the numbers 0 to 9 and the letters A to E.



SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 9 box shape contains the numbers 1 to 9.

Puzzle Answers on page 65

No Turning Back for Kubota



Superseding the ZD Series, is the new ZD326 zero turn mower from Kubota. The ZD326 zero turn commercial mower delivers all the power, productivity, durability and manoeuvrability demanded by professionals for day in, day out mowing applications.

Fitted with the 26hp Kubota E-TVCS (Triple Vortex Combustion System) 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 large radiator improves cooling to prevent the engine from overheating, even in the most demanding conditions, and the dual element air cleaner ensures cool clean air is delivered at all times.

www.kubota.co.uk

Hit Ragwort Early with the Weedstick



Ragwort will soon start to cover the countryside but by then it could be too late for effective and lasting control.

Attempts to dig out plants makes matters worse by generating a new plant for every fragment of the long and stubborn tap root left in the ground.

Spot-on and measured shots of herbicide applied when spring re-growth is set to start, but while plants are still sluggish and susceptible after low light and temperature conditions in winter, is required.

The Weedstick, from Micron Sprayers is easy to carry and use and allows operators to place herbicide exactly and precisely where needed, which is spot-on the flat ground-hugging rosettes of leaves.

The Weedstick is simply placed over the ragwort weed to be treated and pressed down to deliver the required dose of herbicide which is once for small plants and a second time for larger plants.

www.micron.co.uk

ROBOT MOWERS



Campey Turfcare has introduced the Timan RC-750 Remote Control Brush Cutter/Slope Mower.

Where the grass is too long and the ground slopes heavily, and conventional mowers are not a safe option the Timan is the ideal alternative. Characterised by its low working height, self propelled tracks and remote control system which enables this heavy-duty flail mower to cut very long grass safely even on steep banks. With its 750mm working width and low centre of gravity the Timan RC-750 is the ultimate machine for working safely on difficult terrain and slopes of up to 58 degrees.

www.campeyturfcare.com



Soil Conditioner from Inturf

Designed especially for golf and sports turf applications, TerraCottem Turf harnesses a unique combination of over 20 hydroabsorbent and nutritive components to significantly improve soil quality and water retention for healthier, more vigorous turf.

Central to this new formulation's is the addition of zeolite, a natural volcanic mineral that helps increase soil fertility and water retention. Zeolite is renowned for its high Cation Exchange Capacity, the ion exchange between the soil and soil solution that represents the soil's ability to hold onto nutrients and prevent them from leaching beyond the roots. The inclusion of 42% zeolite with a CEC range of 150 to 180meq/100g, together with 31% high-CEC hydroabsorbent copolymers, ensures the CEC levels of soil treated with TerraCottem Turf are far higher than normal.

It also includes humic acid, an addition that has a positive affect on soil structure, water retention capacity, drought-stress resistance, plant element-absorption and microbiological activity.

www.inturf.com



New Golf Irrigation Software

V3.00 aims to make programming and operating GTI irrigation systems simpler, quicker and more cost-effective and efficient, plus is Windows Vista and 7 compatible.

Bailoy Products launched its next-generation Gemini-Trident Irrigation (GTI) software at Harrogate Week.

Boasting an array of new features and a fresh new look, the designer and manufacturer of this golf irrigation system says that GTI V3.00 is the first stepping-stone in a series of upgrades to keep GTI software up to date and give greenkeepers greater control and flexibility.

The software is compatibility with Windows Vista and Windows 7. Current users, however, can rest assured that V3.00 and its successors will be fully back-compatible with existing GTI controllers and decoders, in keeping with Bailoy's commitment to providing customers with a cost-effective product.

The two systems – Gemini and Trident – couple a computerised central control system with decoder field hardware for effective and economic irrigation. Suitable for both new-build and retrofit golf projects as well as sports and amenity turf applications, GTI's state-of-the-art management and maintenance system ensures today's greenkeepers and groundsmen can make optimum use of every last drop of this precious and costly resource.

www.bailoy.com



BTME LAUNCH FOR NEW 25HP COMPACT TRACTOR FROM MASSEY FERGUSON

Rated at 25hp, the new MF 1525H compact tractor made its European debut on the Massey Ferguson stand (no. A27 at Harrogate Week).

Replacing the 22hp MF 1523H in Massey Ferguson's 1500 Series compact tractor line-up, the MF 1525H features a number of key enhancements over its predecessor. These include important upgrades to the engine, transmission, hydraulics and driver platform, all designed to make the MF 1525H a formidable contender in the sub-30hp compact tractor class.

Powered by a new three-cylinder diesel engine developing 25hp at 2,600 rpm, the MF 1525H has been given a larger 28 litre fuel tank, enabling operations to continue for longer without having to refuel.

Drivers of the MF 1525H will find a spacious, semi-flat operating platform offering enhanced comfort and control layout for improved efficiency and performance.

www.masseyferguson.com

Section Notes

Please email your notes to
scott@bigga.co.uk
by the 5th
of the month

All the latest news from your Section

Around The Green



Scottish Region



Central

Congratulations from everyone in the Section to Andy Mellon on being elected Vice Chairman of BIGGA. All on the committee realise this will be the start of a busy period for him and the hunt is on to find a replacement Sec/Treasurer for the end of this year. Committee member Donald Gardener, from Scoonie GC, braved the chilly waters of the Firth of Forth off Leven on Boxing Day for a sponsored swim and raised over £1,000 for the children's cancer charity, Sergeant. Well done to Donald who at the time of writing this will be swimming again off St Andrews on Valentine's Day. Twelve greenkeepers attended an excellent training day on managing performance which was held at Ladybank GC, January 29. Organised by the CMAE, this was the first of what we hope will be an ongoing series of events where members of both Associations can benefit from attending joint training seminars that are appropriate to Greenkeepers and Club Managers alike. This follows an agreement at National level between some of the different organisations in the industry and we would encourage CMAE, GCMA, and PGA members to attend some of our upcoming events arranged for the following months.

At Elmwood on Wed. March 17, Kenny Liddle, of Bayercrop Sciences, will talk on the future of pesticides and on Tues. April 27, Stan Zontek, of the USGA, and John Kaminski, of Penn State, will talk on winter damage to turf. Both talks will be at the

training room at the golf course and begin at 7pm, lasting for an hour approx. Details will be on the website www.biggacentral-section.org.uk and members should shortly be getting their entry form for the spring outing which will be held at St Andrews on Tuesday, April 6, over the Eden Course. Numbers are restricted slightly so return your entry form quickly to guarantee a place.

Gordon Moir



Ayrshire

Hello everyone, hope you've managed to get some of your winter projects completed around the freezing weather conditions we've experienced this Winter. Hopefully this indicates a hot Summer to come, or is that a bit optimistic?

The Spring Outing is to be played at Largs Kelburn on Tuesday, April 27, with the Scottish National being contested over Murcar GC on June 17.

I was saddened to hear that Ian McKay had passed away recently after what I believe to be complications from an illness. Ian was a regular attendee at our Section events when he worked in the trade and I had the good fortune to play a few rounds with him at these events. Ian was a gentleman, a great character and will be sorely missed by all who knew him. Our thoughts are with Ian's family and friends at this sad time.

As you are reading this I will have started my new job in Germany, at a lovely course up in the mountains, east of Cologne. At time of writing they have 40cm of snow lying so maybe I'll have a little time to settle in before the snow clears and the hard work begins!

Don't worry though I'm sure they'll be queueing up to take over this reporting lark. I believe there may already be one willing to step into the breach, eh Johnny boy?

Any news or comments please don't send to me! but if you want to say Hello or "What chu doin ya crazy fool!" then send it to denis.t@hotmail.co.uk

Auf wiedersehen, bis spater!
Denis Tweddell



North

As I am writing this month's article the snow seems to have relented and we can all get on with our respective winter programmes. If you do have a sizeable workload to complete then hopefully you won't be held up any more.

I feel sorry though for Muir Ross, at Ballindalloch Golf Club. The first time the snow made an appearance, there was so much snow lying on his machinery shed roof that it brought down the whole lot. Luckily there was nobody in there at the time it happened. That's little consolation to him and the club. I hope that everything works out for you and that you get back on your feet again and that there's not too much damage.

On the staffing side of the Section, David Stephen has made the step up to Deputy Head over at Kintore Golf Club. He has moved from Meldrum House Golf Club. Kenny has assured me that you will be sorely missed by him and the rest of the lads, there.

By the time you read this article the Scottish Conference in Dunfermline will of passed us by and a report will follow in next months edition. It is very well supported so hopefully

the North Section had a good attendance.

Not a lot else to report in these Winter months so hopefully I'll some more news for you next month.

Ben Brookes
07813889374



West

What a difference a month makes or at least I'm hoping that's the case as in the months of December, January and early February when I prepare this we've had only three weeks of weather and ground conditions which would allow course work to be tackled. At least the trees are all trimmed and wooded areas are looking the best they've ever been but pity help the guys with no tree work, those sheds must be so well organised by now and the machines in tip top condition.

Well what's been happening over the peace other than my home club burning down I would say not a lot, I would extend my regards to East Kilbride Golf Club at this time with all the hassle and problems a situation like this could cause. East Kilbride have over recent years held various events for the Section and we hope everything runs as smoothly as it can in these circumstances.

Just to let members know the Spring outing will be held at Lanark Golf Club on April 29 and the Autumn venue will be Helensburgh on September 2, both of which we have played in the past, but are excellent venues and should be a joy to play if past experience is anything to go by.

All those people at Harrogate in January should have enjoyed a great show with plenty of

equipment exhibited and a variety of other distributors showing their wares. I thought the exhibition was first class and was able to obtain all the information I needed, even seeing a few things never viewed before. Can I extend my thanks to those people who helped make my trip enjoyable Scott, Jim, Mark, Neil, Stuart, Gerry, Brian, David, and, finally, Suz, Looking forward to that bowls exhibition game from you and Scott though.

Can I extended my congratulations from the Section to Chris Yeaman the newly appointed Course manager at Royal Burgess Golf Club who started on March 1. I hope he enjoys his new challenge. Chris moves from West Linton Golf Club, a course which was always in good condition, so best of luck.

It is with great regret that I announce the death of Ian Mackay who died last month. A great supporter of the Section over the years. Ian was known as Mr Sisis and attended all the outings for more years than I can remember. Our thoughts are with his family at this time.

The fixture list for 2010 will soon be on your doors allowing you plenty of time to plan for the season's activities. We thank Aitkens for the continued support in this area.

Finally, if members have any information for me please do not hesitate to contact me on 0141-942-5554, or mobile 07790823914, or by e-mail at st.greenkeeper@ukonline.co.uk.

Stuart Taylor

Northern Region



Northern

Hope you are all well, and ready to start your spring work programmes now that we can see the grass again. Hope everyone had a good and informative Harrogate Week, and, hopefully, found a bargain.

In mid December we held our Christmas Golf Tournament, at Ilkley Golf Club, everyone had a great day out. Our thanks go to Duncan and his team for

presenting such a good course despite being under Water the previous week. Thanks must also go to the event sponsors, County Mowers & Toro.

By the time this goes to print we should have a finalised list of this year's events in the post to you. We will be holding a regional seminar in March. It will be limited to the first 45 applicants so get you names down as soon as possible.

The Golf events will again be £20 to enter payable one week in advance of the event, payment to the Secretary or any committee member.

Any news or gossip please contact me, Frank Stewart on 07947 401278 72 West Park Grove, Roundhay, Leeds, LS8 2DY.

John Watts



Cleveland

Hello everyone, hope you are all fit and well. I can't believe how fast time goes by, it doesn't seem a month ago since I was last writing the newsletter. We will all have our fertiliser spreaders and mowers at the ready before we know it. Or is that just wishful thinking.

Harrogate has been and gone, hope you all had a good time and enjoyed the show. I thought the show was fairly quiet compared to previous years, maybe a sign of the current economic climate with golf clubs expenditure limited, and the fact that the snow just cleared perhaps meant staff were staying on their courses getting work under way.

None the less, it was yet again extremely well run by the staff at BIGGA. I am pleased that Mr Graham, of Bishop, managed to stay conscious this year after a few beers. Well done Phil! Once again, Terry Charlton put on his bus, so thanks Terry for your continued support.

On January 21, Ian Pemberton, Ian Holoran, Bob Lawton and I attended the funeral of the late John Gregory. The service was a fitting tribute and also very moving. There were others in attendance from the turf profession.

Other news as follows. Dave Cuthbertson, and the lads at

Rockcliffe Hall Golf Club, would like to thank, and wish all the best, to Adam McFarlane, who is leaving the team to join his lady in Canada at the end of the month. This leaves a position for a trainee at Rockcliffe starting in March.

Before I forget, the autumn golf tournament will be held at Rockcliffe Hall on Wednesday, October 13. The fee will be £30 for golf and a meal. Although this is more expensive than the usual £15, let's not forget that Rockcliffe Hall is one of Europe's longest courses and is a championship standard golf venue, that normally costs £95 per round. I predict this to be a highly demanded day so book early. Further details will follow in the coming months. BE AWARE THOUGH, BIGGA MEMBERSHIP CARDS MUST BE SHOWN AND YOU MUST BE A MEMBER.

Spring Tournament, Seaton Carew Golf Club, Tuesday, March 23. Tee Off 10am 'til 11am

A big thank you to the Secretary, Tony, and his lads for inviting us to host the spring tournament on their lovely course, I know I say this for all the golf events but they are really popular with entries being turned away so it is in your interest to get your place reserved ASAP. Lloyds has kindly offered its continued support and will be providing the prizes for the day. The cost is again £15 to include bacon bun on arrival and a two course meal. Send cheques made payable Cleveland BIGGA Section and send to Ian Pemberton, 6 Rosewood Court, Marton, Middlesbrough, Cleveland, TS7 8QR or pay Alistair in cash if he is calling in to see you. No entries on the day. Members only BIGGA CARDS REQUIRED ON THE DAY

Cutting Technology and After Cut Appearance, Wednesday, April 2 17.30pm, Teesside Golf Club. With the help of Alistair, from Lloyds, we have been able to acquire the expert knowledge of Ian Sumpter, Lely's National Training Manager, to give us enlightenment on all principles and factors that affect clip, unit configuration and after cut appearance.

Any news, contact Kev on 07921817857 or kevscarce@aol.com

Kevin Scarce



North Wales

Here we go with the days finally lengthening now, all we need is some heat to follow to kick start our turf into some meaningful growth. We'll all be preparing for our spring maintenance programmes to get underway now, so the longer days and hopefully some heat would help us enormously with that I think we've all had enough of dithering in sub-zero temperatures this last winter.

The seminar that took place at Eaton Golf Club on February 23 was very well attended and thankfully the speakers were all very engaging with varied, interesting topics that kept our attention all day. I do have to apologise to anyone that wanted to hear the drug awareness part of the day as advertised in this column last month, due to unforeseen circumstances, we were unable to have that talk in this seminar but we are hoping to have an autumn seminar with that and other subjects later in the year. We have to thank Eaton Golf Club for the use of their facilities, the lovely catering and warm welcome that was extended to us all.

The spring tournament takes place this year at Caernarfon Golf Club a new venue to me and well worth a visit or so I've been reliably informed.

As ever do appear to be slightly lacking in local news but feel free to contact me if you have any news to pass on to the rest of the Section.

All the best until next month.

Pete Maybury petemayb66@aol.com 07756001187



Sheffield

Hello everyone,

I hope you are all finally getting over those winter blues and are getting ready for the challenges of a new season.

As some of you may know Andy Bunting has had a career change and has bought the

lease on Popa's bar. in Anderby Creek, which is near Mablethorpe. If any of you are in the area Andy would love to see you for a drink or two. Good luck Andy from everyone in the Sheffield Section.

Our Spring lecture will be held at Rotherham GC on March 11. The speaker will be Eddie Seaward, Head Groundsman at the All England Lawn Tennis Club (Wimbledon). I hope that many of you will attend what will be a very interesting afternoon listening to how Eddie goes about preparing Championship tennis courts.

We have also organised a Machine Maintenance-Workshop Management Aay in association with Golf and Turf Machinery. This will be held at Hallamshire GC. You will all receive more information about this day closer to the time.

We are in the process of producing a Section polo shirt. It was discussed at the AGM that we haven't got a team uniform when playing in golf matches against other Sections. The committee has decided that it would be best if we made these shirts available to all members for a small fee which will be decided when we have been given a full quotation. We are in the process of getting a shirt printed for members to look at and give their views.

It was discussed at our last committee meeting at the possibility of having a Dinner dance/Presentation evening. Many of you should have received a letter giving more details on this. If you could please let me, or Ian Whitehead, know if you are interested so we can decide whether or not we should press forward with the idea.

I look forward to seeing many of you at these upcoming events. If you require any more information on the above events or have any other issues please dont hesitate to contact me.

James Stevens
jimmy_jams20@hotmail.com
07738719614

Section Notes

Please email your notes to
scott@bigga.co.uk
by the 5th of the month

Midland



East of England

Belated Happy New Year to all.

Apologies for the lack of writings in the last couple of months, a lack of things to say in December and then the general craziness of Christmas and the weather subsequently meant I didn't get things written on time. Did I also mention I was having new windows put in my house!

At the time of writing this all the snow seems to have disappeared, the temperatures have returned to around about normal and regular winter service has been resumed. While the snow is always nice to look at, the novelty wears off after a while and the reality of the problems it is causing to the course and the finances of the club become stronger.

The beginning of the recent cold spell came way back on December 17, the day the East of England Section hosted its annual Christmas Event at Seacroft, in sunny Skegness. The sight of two of their greenkeepers working near the 1st tee dressed as arctic explorers set the tone for the day. However, 30 brave players donned as many layers as possible and set off on the downwind front 9. The sight of a LMS support wagon sporting a steaming hot vat of tomato soup behind the 9th green is something that most of us will never forget. Manned by LMS guys, Dave Hampshire and Steve Canner, a good 15 minutes was spent there by everybody to attack the back 9. It was then that the hail showers arrived! These showers made it impossible to look up and see where you were walking let alone leave you any ability to hit a golf ball. It is also a hindrance to putting when your ball collects so much hail on it that it arrives at the hole bigger than the hole itself! Bravely everyone struggled on and no-one walked in and "no man was left behind"! I would like to add that the showers in the clubhouse felt like they

had liquid magma coming out of them which certainly helped everybody thaw out.

Many thanks go to Seacroft for being an excellent host and providing a great meal for us, also to Tim and his staff for the excellent condition of the golf course. Thanks also to our sponsors, Lawn Mower Services Ransomes Jacobsen dealers, of Lincoln, for providing the soup along with a generous prize table. Your continued support is much appreciated.

The golf on the day was won by Ian Collett, of Rigby Taylor, and Gordon Street, from Selby Golf Club, with an amazing score. Second place went to Gary Salisbury, Burghley Park GC, and Steve Smedley, Mansfield Sands, and third place were Matt Smith, Cleethorpes GC, and Ian Benn, Greensman. Longest walk went to Bruce Hicks and R. Giller, Boston GC, who both received a leftover tin of soup!

The end of January also signals the passing of a regular on the January calendar, BTME at Harrogate. Despite the best efforts of the weather to scupper this years event, congratulations need to go to all involved at BIGGA and beyond for putting on another excellent show and education opportunity, and for all the companies who attended this years show. There was a buzz around all the Halls as, for the first time, every greenkeeper had something to say about the big topic of the moment, and I am not talking about 2mm, or anything to do with that, but how much snow they had had, how they had coped with it and how long places had been closed for.

As far as our Section goes, many thanks to all our sponsors who turned up to our drinks reception as a thank you for all their efforts and continued support. At our committee meeting, Graeme Macdonald was voted in as the new Vice Chairman, with all other committee positions remaining the same. A final thank you goes to Gary Cooper, STG Amenity Supplies, for his continued sponsorship of the two night stay for the two greenkeepers contributing to the Section throughout the year.

In an effort to attract more members to our golf days this year, we have reduced the number of fixtures and changed

the calendar round slightly. The first two events combined will be National Championship qualifiers, so attendance is a must for anyone interested in playing in this event this year. They will be held at Grimsby Golf Club and Tydd St Giles Golf Club, in May and July, respectively. Our big match vs the Trade section will be held at the start of September at Torksey. Hopefully a better date and a central venue will encourage more players to what is always an entertaining day out. Our AGM will again be in October, this year at Louth Golf Club and that will be followed by our ever popular Christmas Bring and Win fixture, this year at Sleaford Golf Club. All dates and times are still to be finalised and a fixture card will be sent out to everyone in due course. Many thanks to all golf clubs for allowing us courtesy of their courses and to all our sponsors for the upcoming season. If you have never been before please come along and support us, you will be made to feel very welcome and an enjoyable day is guaranteed.

Our Winter Seminar is being put together for March this year to be held at Newark Golf Club. An exact date will be sent out by letter in due course. Full details are yet to be confirmed, however there will be presentations on irrigation; construction materials, topdressing and where it comes from; and greens construction in warmer climes! Your support for this event will be much appreciated.

Roll on the spring!

Steve Beverly, Immingham Golf Club. steveimmingham@aol.com



East Midlands

Hello Everyone. I hope you are all enjoying the unpredictable English weather. For those of you who attended Harrogate Week I hope you all had a good time and saw as much of the show as possible before the sweet whisperings of Wetherspoons and Charlie's lured you away!

Shows like Harrogate are of great importance to our industry, It gives many aspiring green-