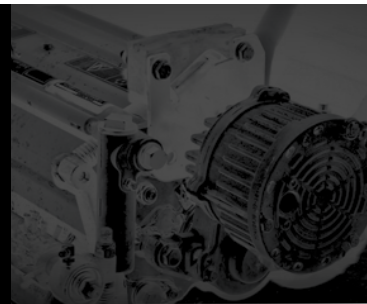


Step-by-step Analysis... Imants Shockwave



Campey Turf Care Systems can offer the Imants Shockwave in its compact tractor friendly 100, 155 and 210 versions, with the heavy duty 220 model being sold primarily as a contractor or local authority tool.



It is difficult to see in the photograph, but the test hole dug through a Shockwave slice can show how the turf has shuffled laterally across the working width of the machine.



With its protective cover removed, the central gearbox and rotor shaft and blades can be easily seen. The forged blades wear in a manner that is designed to preserve the working depth; new blades have squared off ends.



A collapsed drain provided a handy pool of water. Running the Shockwave through the waterlogged area speedily drained the surface water away.



Simple 'before' and 'after' readings from the dial of a Campey Compaction Meter suggest the tool has certainly made it easier to push the probe into the ground.

Formerly called the Earthquake, the Imants Shockwave rotary decompressor is designed to complement existing aeration systems. It should leave a clean finish, even in less than ideal conditions.

There is nothing complicated about a Shockwave, formally known as the Earthquake. From a central gearbox, drive passes to a shaft that drives a three-blade rotor. These blades are used to power a vertical slit in the ground at a depth of up to 250mm (or 380mm for the heavy duty 220 model) and that is it. Simple.

Well not quite. Although mechanically straightforward, the manner in which the Shockwave works is somewhat more complex.

This is firstly down to the individual blades and secondly the manner in which the unit is operated and set up.

The aim is to complement existing systems of aeration and drainage, slicing through compacted layers that may be punctured, but not be removed with alternative approaches. This is also designed to be achieved with the minimum of surface disturbance.

The blades are made from forged steel, with a curved profile that is claimed to preserve the blades overall length as it wears.

The way in which the blade is made also helps to keep the cutting edge 'sharp'. Compare a new to a part-worn blade and the latter should have a keen edge that will cut if you are foolish enough to rub its edge with your finger.

So far, so what. Slicing channels through fine turf is hardly a new idea. Where the Shockwave differs is that the blades have a slight offset. In work, this leads to each blade shuffling the soil laterally with each pass.

Take a look at a Shockwave in action, and you can see the turf physically shuffling back and forth across the width of the unit as it moves forward. It is not a dramatic shuffle, but it is easy to spot.

This lateral movement is aimed at breaking up compaction across the width of the unit and explains why a Shockwave can complement the action of tools such as a Verti-Drain or Terra Spike. The aim is to decompact and aerate by breaking a compaction layer of layers laterally, leaving the task of punching holes through a compaction layer to alternative tools.

That said, the Shockwave can be pretty effective when working on its own. The key is to look at how deep the compaction runs. The 'smaller' Shockwave 100, 155 and 210, which have respective widths of 1.0m, 1.5m and 2.1m, will work down to a depth of between 120mm to 250mm.

If the compaction runs deeper, the

larger 220 model will work at depths of between 200mm to 380mm. This larger unit is built to the same design as the narrower machines but is physically a lot larger. To get an idea of the difference between a Shockwave 210 and 220, consider their respective weights of 680kg and 1270kg.

The 220 is more typically seen as a contractor tool, with a guide tractor requirement of 80hp to 120hp, with Campey Turf Care suggesting a larger, heavy tractor is better able to cope with the machine when working ground with hidden debris such as large stones and other 'rubbish'. More on this later.

The 'smaller' Shockwave models can be used on tractors ranging in power from around 28hp for the 100 and up to 60hp for the 210. Operating speeds for all models can be varied between 0.5km/h to 2.5km/hr depending upon operating depth, soil conditions and levels of surface disturbance.

Setting up

Once the depth of compaction has been established by digging a few test holes, the Shockwave depth can be set by adjusting the rear depth roller. A pair of gas struts help make this a simple job. The machine then needs to be lowered in to work, and set to run level via the tractor top link.

Once up and running, the quality of work and finish should be checked, matching the tractor's forward speed to the work done.

The rotor blades may draw up clods when they are new, a good run to burnish them typically improving the quality of work.

It is worth bearing this in mind when having a demonstration, a brand new machine needing chance to settle down before it leaves a clean finish.

Initial set up is this simple, but it pays to follow the machine and to check the set depth is delivering the required results. The simplest approach is to use a simple probe, testing how easy it is to push through the soil both before and after the passage of the machine.

Underground debris

Tine aeration equipment has evolved to the point where most designs can cope with a degree of hidden sub-surface debris. But hit a suggestion of large stones and some machines may develop problems.

The Shockwave is designed so the smaller stones are either pushed

aside or even sliced through. If the stone or other obstruction will not yield to the blade, the rotary action will lift the unit up and over the obstruction.

According to Campey Turf Care, the Shockwave 220 has been used in projects to aerate local authority sports fields built in the 1950s and 1960s over demolished houses and factories. In some cases, the 'top soil' was a thin layer over broken up concrete and rubble. According to the company, the Shockwave did its job.

If the rotors do meet an object that will not allow the unit to slice through or force the machine out of the ground, the tractor and Shockwave transmission are protected via a torque-limiting clutch on the PTO. Once triggered, the clutch will reset once the obstruction has been cleared.

Temporary slit drains?

During its demonstration for GI, a Shockwave was operated on a fairway that had a broken drain with a resultant damp patch.

Running the Shockwave from a ditch to the area where water was puddled on the surface demonstrated how the slits could be used to provide surface drainage.

The surface puddle drained away nicely. Not a solution but an effective temporary fix.

Maintenance

Look for grease points on the 'smaller' Shockwave models, and you will find two – both on the PTO shaft.

The larger Shockwave 220 has a pair of grease points on the rear depth roller, but that is it.

Key maintenance checks will be the PTO shaft and the torque limiting clutch plus a periodic blade check.

Apart from keeping the unit clean and perhaps applying an anti-rust coat to the blades for units that will be parked out of action for a while, this is it.

Summary

A Shockwave is one of those tools that can be a useful aid to relieving compaction over wider areas where surface disturbance needs to be minimised.

Relatively fast and capable of working in less than ideal conditions, the Shockwave should prove easy to operate and look after. Most important of all it appears to do a good job.

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Communications Talking Heads

	1. How important is it for you to be able to communicate with staff out on the course?	2. How do you keep in touch with staff during the day? Are they asked to call in on a regular basis if lone working?
<p>Name: Stuart Greenwood Position: Course Manager Club: North Berwick Golf Club</p> 	<p>Very important; right down to seeing if everyone is ok and checking there are no problems. Communication is something that has been almost forgotten about up to now and the subject of health and safety has brought it more to the fore than ever before.</p>	<p>I would be out on the course whenever I can be, and my two Deputies usually are and they're keeping in touch with staff on a very regular basis. I tend to discourage lone working wherever possible because of various reasons, but there are situations when it can't be avoided.</p>
<p>Name: Steve Mason Position: Course Manager Club: Stocks Golf Club</p> 	<p>It is very important to be able to communicate with staff on the course and also works the other way too, such as breakdowns and damage to the course.</p>	<p>When the lads are given their duties, they get that certain task completed and come back to the sheds for extra jobs to be completed. If I didn't think they were capable of working alone, they wouldn't be out there by themselves.</p>
<p>Name: Dan McGrath Position: Course Manager Club: North Foreland Golf Club</p> 	<p>Communication with the team is the most vital aspect in the success department, running efficiently and professionally. We are in a highly competitive market and any time saved by means of constructive communication is both a labour and money saving.</p>	<p>We have been using Entel two-way radios for the last five years and they have proved very reliable. They are a licence-free radio and give excellent coverage. The team communicate constantly throughout the day and are always in sight of each other on this exposed, open site. The radio use also covers the company in its policy of working alone.</p>
<p>Name: Peter McVicar Position: Course Manager Club: Hesketh Golf Club</p> 	<p>It is very important for us to communicate with staff out on the golf course. The need for regular contact is there as new priorities may arise at anytime.</p>	<p>With regards to lone working, all members of staff are asked to communicate with other staff members every hour. This year will see the addition of a course marshal, however, and this policy will be removed.</p>
<p>Name: Phil Wentworth Position: Course Manager Club: The Army Club</p> 	<p>Communication with all the staff is essential. It enables me to keep track of progress with the planned work and to inform staff of any changes I might make to improve the operation with regard to perhaps members and society play.</p>	<p>I generally, through observation, keep track of my staff's work schedule throughout the day to monitor progress and to deal with any problems that might arise. It helps to let them know also the position of golfers especially if you have members and a society using both starting points at the first and tenth holes.</p>

Jim Cook returns with another Talking Heads feature, this month asking five Course Managers for their views on communications in and around the golf club

3. Have you encountered any situation where having a communications system or indeed the lack of one was highlighted?	4. Do you have a club system or do you rely on the staff's own phones? What is the network coverage like at your club?	5. What would the ideal system be and how do you think this could impact on the condition of the playing surface?
<p>We have had an injury to a golfer out on the course so having a communication system then was important to the green staff to be able to report it. It has happened on a couple of occasions so having a mobile phone was important.</p>	<p>We do have a radio system installed, but normally we rely on the staff's own mobile phones to communicate if any problem arises and the network coverage at the club is very good. We do discourage the use of phones in the clubhouse and around the course though, so only in emergency. Radios are a bit bulky and heavy.</p>	<p>The ideal system would be for everyone to have a mobile phone, to answer report or communicate, but the last thing you would want was for everyone to be ringing each other regularly and not doing what they're meant to be doing. I don't see it as having a great impact on the condition of the course.</p>
<p>Yes, before we had a new irrigation system installed, our old system was constantly breaking down, by the way of leaks, so our walkie-talkies were a godsend to communicate out on the course and the pump-house and the main shed at the same time, this saved so much wasted downtime.</p>	<p>We have a Kenwood radio system, plus a new keypad controller for the irrigation that allows us to put the water on any area that is looking dry on the Greens, tees and approaches. My lads also carry phones, just in case of emergency. The Orange network works well; all the others are intermittent.</p>	<p>I think our present system works really well and wouldn't change it at this moment in time. My lads all know to keep an eye out for each other too and also to see what else needs to be done as they complete their tasks, therefore keeping the course in the best possible condition.</p>
<p>Having a high percentage of senior members we have had the odd occasion where a golfer has fallen ill while playing. The first member of staff on the scene is generally a member of the green staff. We have called in to the clubhouse on many occasions for assistance and this would not have been viable without our radios.</p>	<p>The carrying of mobiles is seen as vital, as a radio cannot obviously dial for emergency services should they need to be deployed. Coverage is good, but we can occasionally go into the Belgian mobile network with our location on the north-east coast of Kent.</p>	<p>The system we have here works very well and the efficiency of the in house communication and professionalism is for all to see in the presentation of the two courses. So for us at this moment in time, carrying both radios and mobiles has proved successful on this site.</p>
<p>During the summer of 2008 a member collapsed on the course. With the help of staff mobile telephones the call for emergency services and the arrival of a first aider probably kept the gentleman alive.</p>	<p>We at Hesketh Golf Club rely on staff mobile phones. We tried radios, but the ones delivered had poor coverage. Perhaps we will look at improved ones in the near future.</p>	<p>I think that our current system works well as it is, but perhaps the club should reimburse staff for work calls however.</p>
<p>I think it is essential that communication is used and I prefer the use of mobile phones to a radio system purely because of being able to connect the emergency services if required. This has happened on several occasions when dealing with heart attack casualties and fractures occurring out on the course.</p>	<p>Originally we used radios to communicate between staff, office and course marshal but now all the staff use their own mobiles for keeping in touch, which suits them and at no cost to the club either. Network coverage is very good out on the course but one member of staff sometimes has difficulty getting a signal at our maintenance facility.</p>	<p>I think the way forward is with mobile phones unless your network coverage is poor. I believe communication is important among staff and particularly to keep the membership and committees informed of the work programme. This will in turn lead to a better working relationship with everyone at the club by hopefully producing a better golf course overall.</p>

DEALER OF THE MONTH

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As a qualified Horticulturalist, Mike Dooner has been involved in the industry in some form or another, since leaving school in 1969. In the late 1970's to early 1980's, he operated his own landscape business in Vancouver BC before returning to the UK in 1982. Prior to commencing his present business, he was employed as Contracts Parks Manager with Wycombe District Council until 1992 when he returned to Scotland and worked for a competitor in the Fine Turf Industry as a self employed agent.

In December 1995 he set up Thorntrees Landscapes trading initially on a Sole Trader basis. In the early days the company operated with a single salesman Mike himself, and a part time office administrator. In 1998 they purchased their current premises at Newtown which includes offices and storage facilities all under the one roof.

Towards the end of 2001 they formed the Limited Company dropping the 'Landscapes' and incorporating the much more appropriate 'Amenity' into the name.

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Section Notes

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of the month

All the latest news from your Section

Around The Green



Scottish Region



East

I start my report for this month with reminders of the harsh winter that we have all experienced. Certainly the worst winter that I can ever remember. On the east Lothian coastline some of the courses have been hit with what could be termed as a "mini tsunami"! Coastal erosion has lead to some golf holes being partially washed away.

Let's hope the summer makes up for it.

By the time you read this report our Spring meeting at Kilspindie GC will be history, June edition of GI will reveal all of the scores.

At the beginning of May we are running a Pest Control event (No not how to get rid of some complaining golfers), but mole trapping and vermin control over two days. This event is kindly sponsored by Mike Dooner, of Thorntree Amenity. If you are registered 1.5 credit points are awarded for event.

Our Secretary, Stuart Ferguson, is on the lookout for old SIGGA East Section memorabilia ie photographs, letters, stories, trophies .medals etc. If you have anything of interest please contact Stuart.

People on the move are David Kelly, formally my apprentice at Ratho Park and presently at Marriott Dalmahoy. who is moving on to pastures green where he will take up the new post in Holland on a new Colin Montgomerie 36 hole design complex. We wish David every success for the future.

Other people on the move are Graham Bryce, who held the position of greenkeeping lecturer at Oatridge College. Graham will be a big miss from Oatridge

College as he offered a lot of his knowledge to up and coming young greenkeepers . Graham being from a greenkeeping background who previously worked alongside Andrew Mellon at Elmwood. Graham is moving on to teach at Myerscough College. We wish him all the best.

Still with Oatridge College this lady needs no introduction to our greenkeeping Industry.

Eileen Barry is calling it a day after 28 years as Oatridge College Liaison Officer. So many success stories have come out of the greenkeeping world and a lot of this is down to Eileen's hard work and enthusiasm.

I am only one of many greenkeepers who would like to thank Eileen for the honesty, professionalism and dedication that she has shown throughout the years and wish her all the best for the future.

Tom Murray



Central

As I write this I hope we are coming to the end of one of the worst winters most of us in the industry can remember, four months of snow, ice, rain and wind have kept courses closed with little or no income making it a difficult time for everyone. The inland courses such as Crieff, Auchterarder and Gleneagles have been open for as little as 10 days since mid December, with a second fall of snow in March meaning some were still closed into April. Trees down, disease scars and ice damage have affected many courses while others, despite the snow cover, appear to have come through virtually unscathed.

It was an appropriate time for Stan Zontek and friends to give a presentation on winter damage at Elmwood on April 27

which was very well attended. The coastal courses suffered as well with exceptional storms at the end of March combining one of the highest tides of the past 50 years with strong North East winds to leave many places damaged. Crail, Kingsbarns and others all lost a piece of the coastline to the sea. or else had part of the beach washed up and deposited on a fairway along with tree trunks stones etc and similar stories can be heard from Aberdeen to the borders.

At St Andrews, a sea wall on the Eden Estuary just beyond the boundary of the Eden course was washed away flooding three holes on the Eden and three on the Strathtyrum course every time the tide came in, while the Swilcan burst its banks and sea water spilled onto the 1st green and fairway of the Old Course. Fortunately the damage appears to just be discolouration to the grass where the water sat for a period although silt deposits on the Eden fairways from the neighbouring fields may yet prove more troublesome.

Our next education evening is on May 19 at Elmwood Training Room at 6.30pm when Rex Kimberly, of Terralift, will talk on nitrogen fixing bacteria. Rex is an experienced speaker and I am sure it will be an entertaining evening as well as informative. Meanwhile Gordon McKie has started a blog on the Links trust website www.standrews.org.uk on the preparations for the Open Championship.

Main winners at the Spring outing are as follows: Best Scratch, Allan Patterson, The Castle Course - 71

Best Hcp. Dougie Barr, Caird Park - 67 nett. Section 1, Archie Dunn, Auchterarder - 68 nett Section 2, Derek Scott, Scoonie - 70 nett. Trade prize - Kenny Hunter of Fairways. Guest prize - Mike Horkan, Property Manager at St Andrews Links Full results are on the website www.biggacentralsection.org.uk

Gordon Moir



West

The sun is shinning as I sit and write this article which makes a slight difference from the recent rain and snow, so spring has sprung eventually, and growth will be sprouting from all areas to fill in the damage caused by the snow mould attack in February/March. What a winter that was, let's hope we get a good summer to cheer everybody up for a change.

Only a couple of things to mention as March was a fairly quite month.

The West Section was recently represented at a charity event in aid Bernardo's Children's Home by our present and past Chairmen and myself playing over the Duke's Course in St Andrews but sadly we didn't live up to expectations. The course was in great condition for the time of year and the event was well organised by the students at Elmwood College. The eventual winners were Turnberry on 84 Stableford points.

Please remember that the Scottish National event to be held at Murcar will be on June 17.

A report on the spring outing at Lanark GC will be given next month, and I will include the STRI talk on wetting agents which is being held at Loch Lomond on April 20.

I would like to extend best wishes to Gordon Kerr, of Marr Hall, as his course is now ready for play and opened last month (April). The Section hopes everything went well on the day and we wish him and his staff all the best for the future.

May I also extend the Section's best wishes for the future to Denis Tweddell who started his new position as Course Man-

ager in Germany. Let's hope the language problems aren't too great and you benefited from all those night class lessons.

Brian Hillan is trying to organise football as a couple of challenges have been issued by other Sections, so those people interested should contact him on his mobile 07721610160 or on e-mail brian@hillan69.fsnet.co.uk.

Finally, a couple of items to cover, firstly, Gavin Jarvis, our Section Secretary is compiling a list of all e-mail addresses and would like as many people as possible to contact him with their details, his number is 07725363715.

The second item relates to all members news matters, please contact me for interesting items worth a mention in the magazine, weddings, births, sponsored runs etc, or anything of note contact 0141-942-5554, or 07790823914, or my e-mail st.greenkeeper@ukonline.co.uk.

Until next month
Stuart Taylor



Ayrshire

A very busy period is upon us again and with a little warmth now creeping into the ground & our old friend the rain we are sure to be kept on our toes!

I wonder how the Masters last month has affected our club members? Will their expectations still be as high after the winter we had?...Course they will! So we greenkeepers must continue to provide quality surfaces so early on in the season. Keep up the good work lads! We will get it right one day eh!

A congratulations is due to George Morrison, of Largs Kelburn GC. George and Maggie are expecting a little visit from the stork sometime in July. Won't be spending as much time on the old Land Rover now, George! We wish you both and your little bundle of joy all the best when the time comes.

Remember guys this is your Section news, So any news, Any goss, Anything you would like to be seen in the mag let me know.

John Mair.
johnmair982@btinternet.com
07500874449



North

Where do I start this month? The weather is up to its old tricks again. While I was sunning myself in Tenerife with the family the snow decided to make a return in the Easter holidays. Shame. It didn't last too long though and it was only here for a day. I think though further North it was still hanging around a couple of weeks later.

Hopefully your season is under way, I'm sure many of you are still putting the final touches to your Winter programmes. I know next door at Royal Aberdeen they have been very busy. They have added another eight bunkers to their course (as if it's not difficult enough!) and they have extended the blue tee at the 4th to a 464 yard par-4. If you don't already know they are holding the Walker Cup next year and these improvements are for this competition. I'm sure there will be further alterations before the tournament begins.

Richard Mullen, of Meldrum House GC, is a proud new dad again. His wife gave birth to another girl, Cara, who was born on April 2 weighing in at 8lbs 1oz. Congratulations and we hope both mother and baby are doing well.

Richard 'Dicky' Pirie, my old work mate at Newmachar, has become a granda for the first time. His daughter, Debbie, gave birth to baby, Chloe, weighing in at 7lbs 2oz. She must be nearly as big as you mate. Hope they're doing well and I'm sure you'll soon be called on for some babysitting duties.

Also at Newmachar the Head Mechanic, Sandy Gammack, has been in hospital recently and just to let you know that all your friends and work colleagues are thinking of you. Hopefully you'll have plenty of banter with the hospital staff and I'm sure you'll have a garage set up in the car park ready to fix their cars!

There is a new man in charge at Letham Grange. Keith Law has been placed in charge on a trial basis. Hopefully this goes well for you, Keith, and good luck with all your efforts in keeping Letham a great course to visit and play.

In next month's issue I shall have all the runners and riders

and who won what at Deeside GC.

That's all for this month guys, as usual if you do have any news give me a shout on 07813889374.

Ben Brookes
Murcar Links

Northern Region



Northern

Hello everyone hope you are all well. The committee are sorry to say we had to cancel the Spring Seminar, due to a poor response from the membership and one of the speakers was unexpectedly taken ill. I am, however, pleased to report he is now making a full recovery. A big thanks to all who did expressed an interest in the seminar, hopefully we will be able to reorganise it at a later date. The date & time has been set for our Autumn golf tournament & AGM, September 29, first tee 10 am. Sorry there is no more news, I hope by the time you are reading this I will have seen lots of you at the spring golf tournament. If you have any news or gossip PLEASE pass it on to me, Frank Stewart, 72 West Park Grove, Roundhay, Leeds, LS8 2DY. Phone 07947 401278

Frank Stewart



North Wales

This time of year we can look forward to the grass flushing more than the toilet at an continents' convention, but at least now is the time to bang in some overtime to bring us up-to-date with the Bank Manager after such a savings draining winter.

We now have a facebook group called "North Wales B.I.G.G.A" so if you're on facebook you can find Section events listed there and also space to chat to other group members.

I hope everyone who went to Caernarfon Golf Club for the Spring tournament enjoyed themselves, at time of going to print, I'm afraid I cannot give any write up about the day

until next month but there will be results and if I remember to take the camera, pictures on our new facebook group. Likewise hopefully you will be able to see pictures of the CONNECT days that took place at Conwy Golf Club recently.

Pete Maybury
petemayb66@aol.com
07756001187



North East

Well what news do we have his month as usual the phone hasn't stopped ringing with info! I think not. But, surprise surprise, I do have some news. Looks like there's going to be lots of movement around the Section as Close House, Hexham and Matfen Hall have all been advertising for staff.

Right, here goes. David Thompson, who has worked at Matfen for the last eight years has taken over from Michael McKenna at Hexham. As you all know Michael has gone up to Loch Lomond. James Leighton, who has been working at the prestigious Wentworth GC for the last 18 months, has started at Close House. Kevin Wright, who was at Slaley, has also moved to Close House as well and I believe that a Mr J. Saunders, who worked at Gosforth GC, has moved to Matfen Hall. Let's hope that's the last of moves for a while. I recently heard that the Priestman course at Slaley Hall is going to be altering all of its bunkers in the next few weeks or I should say months, the way weather has been. I hope that it picks up pretty damn quick as I thought we have had a bad winter but with Slaley being a lot higher they had their fair share of snow.

Another bit of news recently read about was that The Northumberland GC has been chosen to hold the regional qualifying for The Open in 2013. I know it seems along way off but doesn't time fly these days. So well done to Head Greenkeeper, Gordon Proudlock, and his staff they must be doing something right as not every golf club get that chance to host a qualifier for The Open.

And last, but not least, I was talking to Steve Pope and he was showing me a magazine that he

Around The Green

still had way back in 1984. My God how has that changed over the years, seeing is believing. Anyway we were reminiscence on all the Regional and National competitions there were in those days no doubt only the older greenkeepers will remember them lets see if any other members and Sections can here goes Marshall Concessionaires, Iseki, Hayter, Jacobsen, Kubota Golf Challenge and the Ransome International which was played as The National Greenkeepers Competition, plus over three years on a point basis so the top three players would represent England against other countries around the world. Sadly we don't have anymore competitions like that these days but I suppose it's down to money. All I can say on that matter thanks to all those Jimmy Richardson



North West

So then Easter has come and gone and we here in the North West have just had our first tournament, obviously, I'm writing this in advance so let's just say thanks to all the new faces at the event it was great to see it well supported. Unfortunately, I couldn't attend as I had already booked a round at Turnberry, which couldn't be cancelled.

I am writing this at the beginning of April, the 8th to be exact. I've just returned home from the Northern Region Seminar at Penrith Golf Club, the topic being "The next decade". Peter Larter had put together a great programme of speakers. The morning started with Tracey Maddison talking about how CPD was developing and how BIGGA was advancing with relationships with GCMA and the PGA, to name but two, following Tracey was Laurence Pithie, (who I remember getting his MGC when I was a young 16yr old at Cannington College, (he's aged better than me)). Laurence talked about getting the basics right when it comes to greenkeeping, I had brought along my Deputy, Sec/Manager and Greens Convener to the event, the latter being very impressed with Laurence, hopefully in the not too distant future

we will have some of Laurence's workshops in the NW. Richard Minton followed next talking about the sustainable use of Pesticides, there were many thought provoking comments about current and future legislations. After lunch Bob Taylor, from the STRI, talked about developing a competitive, the amount of information that man can get across in 45 minutes is unbelievable - topics ranged from rough to trees, from ponds to dead-wood and from sustainability master planning to Hemi-views, all very interesting and I for one will be contacting Bob in the near future to Hemi-view Hesketh or something like that. The final speaker of the day was Tim Lobb, from Thompson Perritt and Lobb Golf Design, Tim gave a detailed insight on the workings of golf course architecture past and present. While not just talking about his own company Tim showed how an architect goes about tackling golf course changes taking into consideration all the factors affected by the redesign, again another very interesting talk ending a very good day, the four of us travelling the 80 miles back to Hesketh had plenty to talk about and all found the day worthwhile. Again thanks to Peter for setting up the seminar and also the setting at Penrith was excellent, the course looked great and the cleaner who ordered our Bacon rolls early in the morning was a star. Och well, I've probably talked too much now, hope all goes well for the coming month...

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Cleveland

Hi all, not got much news to report this time around. Hope you are all well and rearing to go for this season.

On Thursday, February 25 at Teesside Golf Club, Baz and Ally held their annual quiz. The night was great success and was well put together as always. Thanks to Baz and Ally for their hard work.

Congratulations to Phil Hargrave and his wife, Suzanne on

the arrival of their son, Finlay, on Sunday, April 4. Many sleepless nights for you now, Phil.

Congratulations to Richard Pybus, at Blackwell, who has been promoted to Deputy Head Greenkeeper. James Parker, also from Blackwell, has been invited to join the BIGGA Support team this year for The Open at St Andrews. This follows working at the BMW PGA Championship and the European Open last year 2009, well done to you both.

Our spring tournament was held at Seaton Carew Golf Club on March 23. The event was very well attended and the main sponsor of the day was Lloyd of Bishop Auckland, represented by Alistair Whitby, so thanks for your continual support. Other sponsors included, in no particular order, Boxer Chemicals, Tacit, Turfcare and Northern Lubricants.

Results. Category 1. 1. Ian Stuart, 41pts; 2. Dave Cuthbertson, 35pts; 3. Danny Simpson, 35 pts on countback. Category 2. 1. John Talbot, 35pts; 2. Ian Holoran, 34pts; 3. James Parker 34pts, on countback. Category 3. 1. Ian "The Bandit" Pemberton, 35pts; 2. Kev Scarce, no points because I had to retire due to an extremely serious thumb injury.

A ball hit hit me on the thumb and needless to say I received zero sympathy for my wound. Anyway on with the rest of the prizes, Nearest the pin was won by Gary Frazer, Longest Drive Ian Stewart, best par 3s Ian Stewart, and finally best par 5s was won by Danny Simpson.

All in all it was a great day and was well attended. Thanks to Head Greenkeeper, Tony, and his staff the course was in great condition, and a big thank you to Seaton Carew Golf Club for having us on the course and a big thanks to the catering staff and clubhouse staff for a nice meal and making us all feel very welcome. The day was also attended by Peter Larter, BIGGA Regional Administrator and Tracey Maddison, Head of Membership Services. It was nice to have you both.

Thanks also to Ian Pemberton for once again organising the golf day and organising the prizes.

Final congratulations must go to Newcastle United FC on their promotion back to the Premier League, they can now enjoy a short stay back in the top league with the big clubs such as Sun-

derland!

P.S I'm not a Sunderland fan. Any news, or verbal abuse after the last section, kevscarce@aol.com or 07921817857



Sheffield

I hope everyone is now finally settling into the new season and that we are all working in glorious sunshine.

Unfortunately we had to cancel our Grinding/Workshop management day due to lack of interest. I must apologise to those who wanted to attend and we shall be trying to reorganise the day later on in the year. Thanks to Golf and Turf Machinery for their help trying to organise this day.

Our first Golf match of the season will be upon us shortly hopefully you will all have received your invitations and will be dusting the clubs off. You will all be receiving Our 2010 fixture card soon but hear is a list of the competitions and venues for the year.

Annual Competition- Hillsborough GC, July 7. Autumn Competition- Silkstone GC September 13. Sheffield vs Northern match- Wooley Park, July 14. Christmas Competition- Lindrick GC, November 29.

It would be nice to see as many of you as possible at these competitions. I must also remind everyone that we must adhere to the dress code at all our events the dress code will be on the invitation to all events.

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Midland Region



East Midlands

Hi everyone, I hope you are all enjoying the warming weather. I am happy to report that we have some news for the East Midlands Section. There is a PGA Seniors Tour event to be held at