



ABOVE: Turf disease control after an early year's start in West Sussex.

Both images on this page were featured in an article by Dr Terry Mabbett, entitled, "Focus on Fungicide," in *GI*, June 2009.

it re-binds with the cuticle wax. In the initial stages of disease, the germinating spore is located on the outside surface of the leaf and is easily controlled. Once the fungal hyphae penetrate the inside of the leaf the level of chemical present is often too low to halt the growth of the fungal mycelium. Therefore, timing is critical to the successful use of these QoI products.

A disadvantage of 'single-site' mode of action is that it offers a much greater potential for resistant strains to develop than is the case with fungicides having a 'multi-site' mode of action. Whilst I do not want to cause unnecessary concern over the potential for fungicide resistance in UK turf, it is something we all need to be aware of when selecting a fungicide strategy. Acquired resistance is an ever present threat that needs careful management to prevent the loss of valuable chemical weapons in the fight against disease. The turf market in the USA is much larger than ours in the UK and the QoI products have been used there more extensively and over a much longer period.

A study by the Fungicide Resistance Action Committee (FRAC) has revealed isolated cases of resistance to turf-grass diseases in the USA – notably; Anthracnose, Gray Leaf Spot and Pythium Blight – the latter two being of no importance to UK turf. However, the same group also reports isolated cases of resistance to *Microdochium nivale* in wheat grown in Europe. This same fungus is the cause of the UK's most important turf disease formerly known as Fusarium Patch.

Where a group of fungicides has the same 'single-site' mode of action, resistant strains of fungi will demonstrate cross resistance to all members in that chemical family. Consequently, rotation of fungicides and tank-mixes should

involve products from different chemical groups.

Many scientists believe the theory of evolution dictates that fungi will develop a way around any chemical agent in time. The strategy must therefore be to delay this for as long as possible by sensible use of these valuable materials.

In the past, cases of resistance have been attributed to over-use, under-dosing or incorrect application. When fungicide resistance develops, it is often the most popular, most effective material that becomes worthless almost overnight. Fortunately we now have watchdog groups like FRAC who routinely follow up and monitor suspected cases of acquired resistance and more importantly advise manufacturers and users on the best way to minimise resistance risk.

The following guidelines for use of QoI fungicides may help to prolong their usefulness:-

- They should be treated as preventative fungicides and applied before or at the earliest moment after the onset of visible symptoms.
- Fungicide programs must deliver effective disease management. Apply QoI fungicide based products at effective rates and intervals according to manufacturers' recommendations. Effective disease management is a critical component to delay the build-up of resistant pathogen populations.
- The number of applications per year must be restricted to the statutory requirement – whether used solo or in mixtures.
- Because all of the QoI fungicides have the same mode of action they will exhibit cross resistance to other members of the same group. Rotation of fungicides must therefore be outside the QoI family with substances having different mode of action.

So you can either direct people to the homepage: www.sherriff-amenity.com or direct to the article: www.sherriff-amenity.com/technical.asp?newsid=18.

SELF ASSESSMENT

Use the questions below to check your understanding of this topic. Readers can claim two BASIS points if the questions are answered correctly, by filling in the form online at www.sherriff-amenity.com

Circle the correct answer(s)

1) Which of the following active ingredients are registered for use on managed amenity turf in the UK? More than one may apply.

- a) pyraclostrobin
- b) fluoxastrobin
- c) azoxystrobin
- d) kresoxim methyl

2) What do the initials FRAC stand for?

- a) Friends Reunited Against Chemicals
- b) Fungicide Research into Agricultural Chemicals
- c) Fungicide Resistance Action Committee
- d) Federation of Royal Agricultural Colleges

3) Which UK turf diseases have produced strains resistant to QoI products in the USA?

- a) Fusarium Patch
- b) Anthracnose
- c) Gray Leaf Spot
- d) Take-all Patch

4 In general, how would you classify QoI fungicides in terms of their uptake activity?

- a) Contact acting
- b) True Systemic
- c) Trans-laminar
- d) Root absorbed

5) In which year were the strobilurin fungicides first discovered?

- a) 1979
- b) 1997
- c) 1977
- d) 1967

6) If a fungicide has a 'single-site' mode of action, will it:

- a) be unlikely to encourage resistant strains of the disease.
- b) work better in warm climates
- c) be more prone to develop resistance than those with 'multi-site' mode of action.
- d) be cheaper to produce



The First Hole Cutter – Still on Display at Royal Musselburgh

Tin cup

Tim Webb provides a fascinating view on the development of the holecup

As the UK hosts two of golf's greatest competitions this year: the recent Open Championship, on the Old Course at St Andrews for the 28th time, and the Ryder Cup for the first time in Wales, questions and commentary abound.

Amid the hoopla and gossip—talk about Tiger's tumble, speculation about whether an English man could work some wonders, and the strut toward Celtic Manor—an unobtrusive, modest pair of contributors are helping stage the competition. I'm talking about the flagsticks and the cups. They do their best work if the wind is up, but whatever the conditions, the flagsticks bend with the breeze, and the cups will shine bright, their luminous white liners visible not just to the players on the greens but to galleries and TV audiences world-wide. Big deal, you say—it's a flagstick right; it's a cup, correct?

The golf cup is younger than the game—the requirement for a cup is just over one hundred years old, while the game is five times that age. The original cups were installed simply to keep the hole from growing unsportingly large. It was long the custom for players to grab a handful of sand out of the hole when they retrieved their balls and use it to build a little cone-shaped tee on the driving ground. The first recorded shaped hole was at Musselburgh, near Edinburgh, in 1829, cut with a drain pipe and measuring 4 1/4 inches in diameter. In 1891, the R & A standardized that as the legal cup size in its official rules. Golf holes all over the world today measure 4 1/4 inches (even in metric countries, where that is approximately

108mm), and they have been this size since 1891.

The reason for that precise diameter is that Royal Musselburgh Golf Club had invented, in 1829, the first known hole-cutter. It is still in existence and on display at the club, and had become the accepted norm at clubs in that part of Scotland. Musselburgh pioneered the cleanly cut, standard-sized hole, by using a handy object—a piece of old drainage pipe which coincidentally still today measures 108mm. Try measuring the soil pipe that comes from your toilet and you will see what I mean.

Gordon Moir is the Director of Greenkeeping for the St Andrews Links Trust. In that role Moir is responsible for safeguarding a legacy that extends from the Old Course, the most venerated of golf courses worldwide, to the Castle Course, a brilliant example of modern golf design executed by a son of Scotland, David McLay Kidd. "At St Andrews Links," Moir says, "we have found the Tacit holecups to be long lasting—especially the liners, which are excellent. They stand up well to windy conditions," he confirms, "and help the hole keep its shape." Did Gordon have a crystal ball in anticipating the conditions the players at this year's Open would encounter when on the second day of play when play was stopped as balls shivered and were blown off the immaculately prepared greens. Why else (perhaps a few years of local knowledge maybe) would he ensure that the Old Lady was adorned with cups and pins that just wouldn't blow out and stood to attention in conditions that the Authorities regarded as unplayable?

Twenty years ago a new type cup and ferrule was developed by Richard Webb of Tacit. An Anti Swivel Ferrule/Holecup combination that has now been adopted by the majority of courses throughout Great Britain and Ireland. Indeed it is so good that some companies have taken the idea and produced anti swivel systems of their own.

Tacit in recent years took another leap forward with the introduction of the Sub Cap to the central Ferrule bore, thus reducing holecup sinkage and reducing substantially the amount the ferrule will wear.

“Try measuring the soil pipe that comes from your toilet and you will see what I mean”

Tim Webb

How did they achieve this?

Imagine the ferrule on the bottom of flagstick to be a pebble in a stream. Imagine the holecup to be a rock pocket that has collected the pebble, as the pebble turns within the hole, both the pebble wears smaller, whilst the hole wears bigger. How to stop the wear? Simple, stop the movement.

This is where the splines on the underside of the ferrule come into their own. Although unobtrusive, the splines instantly locate in the corresponding slots in the holecup and stop the flagstick from rotating within the holecup. Instead of the flagpins needing to be replaced annually, there is now a two year renew cycle.

Adding Tacit's sub cap to this scenario, could lead to a three or four year renew cycle, as the wear



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on the ferrule and holecup is slowed even more.

Without this excessive wear brought about by ferrule rotation, the flagstick stays upright longer, with the chances of the flagstick blowing out of the holecup in strong winds being substantially reduced.

Why add a Sub Cap?

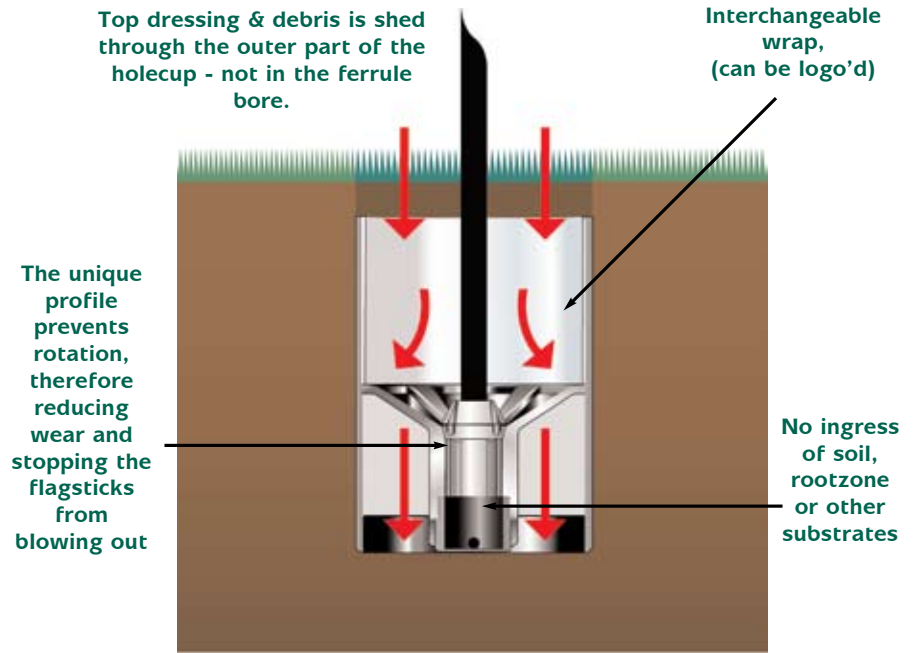
The only way flagsticks will blow out of the hole or wear excessively, is if the ferrule is not locating correctly in the hole. On a busy course, the flagstick is relocated every 10 to 15 minutes throughout the day; the holecup is constantly hammered deeper and deeper into the hole. Originally set to the R & A recommended 1" depth; the holecup can end up 2" below the surface after a few days, especially in U.S.G.A. specification sand greens. The sub cap increases the ambient surface area by over 300%, allowing the holecup to effectively float in the green.

The ingress of soil up the middle of the holecup is completely stopped but the cup can still be bedded solidly into the root zone. The flagstick and ferrule can then sit in the holecup in perfect harmony and work together at their optimum in a rootzone free world, because the ferrule / holecup combination is grit free the ferrule and holecup do not jam and therefore the holecup is not pulled out of the ground when the flag is being tended.

But what about the cup itself?

Tacit's holecup is unique in that it works opposite to all the other cups on the market, while they have been designed to move all the debris and topdressing down the center bore causing all sorts of problems with wear and "ferrule jam" the Tacit holecup is designed to shed all that unrequited rubbish through the outer windows keeping the central bore clear. Constructed and machined to exact tolerances in the UK by skilled time served craftsmen from Marine Aluminum, the leading edges being given a taper both top and bottom allowing for ease of setting and extraction of the cup whilst maintaining an exact 4 1/4 " diameter to the body of the cup.

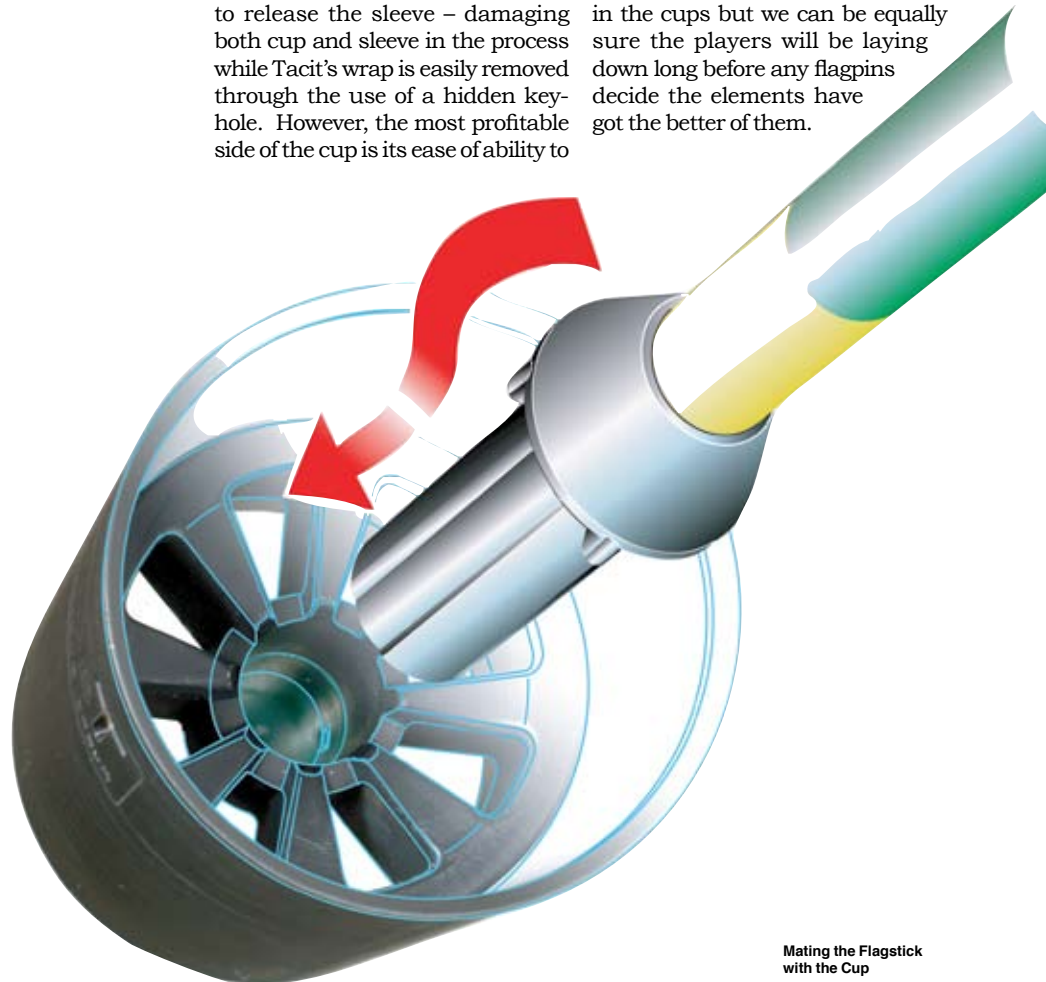
But the "piaster resistance" must be the wrap contained in the cup. For years green keepers have had to struggle with damaged and chipped paint coming off the cups. With the introduction of a PVC wrap all these problems have been instantly eradicated. The cup stays bright and white month after month,



and when it needs changing it is replaced cheaply and in seconds and because it is constructed of a very fine surfaced PVC, dirt and dust are not easily engrained unlike other similar sleeved designs. These other sleeved designs also have an inherent weakness in that a screwdriver has to be pushed down the front edge of the cup in order to release the sleeve – damaging both cup and sleeve in the process while Tacit's wrap is easily removed through the use of a hidden key-hole. However, the most profitable side of the cup is its ease of ability to

be logoed or branded. This can be done cheaply and easily while flat either locally or ordered in specially, the advertising space can then be sold over and over.

As we sit back and listen to the dulcet tones of Peter Allis at this Years Ryder Cup at Celtic Manor we can be pretty sure we wont be seeing any Union Jacks or European flags in the cups but we can be equally sure the players will be laying down long before any flagpins decide the elements have got the better of them.



Mating the Flagstick with the Cup

DEALER OF THE MONTH

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

MAJOR R. OWEN LTD

Location and size

Parc Road, Penrhyndeudraeth, Gwynedd, North Wales. 2 Acre site

Employees and size of premises

26 Staff. 18500sq feet of covered trading space

Number of service vans:

8

Brief history of company

The business was established in 1977 by Major Raymond Owen and operated from his garden shed at his home in Penrhyndeudraeth. At this time, the concentration was primarily on two-stroke machinery, especially chainsaws and brush cutters. Major's daughter, Deborah, looked after the accounts with him.

Major moved to his first retail premises in School Street, Penrhyndeudraeth. In 1984, he was on the move again and took up a lease on the Old Market Hall in the centre of the village and was joined by his son in-law David Burnham and son in-law to be Andy Jones. As the volume of business increased, it soon became apparent that purpose built premises were necessary and in 1988 two acres of land was purchased at Park Road, Penrhyndeudraeth and a building of 5000 sq feet erected.

The business was incorporated in January 1990 and moved into its new premises during September of that year. Since that time, expansion has continued and this site now houses approximately 18,500 sq feet of covered trading space, incorporating showroom, workshop, parts, warehousing and administration areas.



Our operating area extends throughout North and mid-Wales. Currently the company employs 26 people including a team of 14 after sales staff.

Major retired in December 1997 and his son-in-law, David Burnham was appointed as Managing Director, supported by Major's other son-in-law, Andy Jones as Sales Director and his daughter, Deborah Burnham as Administration Director.

David retired in early April 2008 and Andy Jones was appointed as Managing Director and supported by Deborah Burnham as Finance Director.

Key services offered

Sales, service, parts, hire on all makes of equipment.

Specialist services offered

Regrinding of cylinders and bottom blades, Specialist lathe work, all types of welding, all types

of electrical testing & fault finding, all types of hydraulic testing & fault finding, shot & bead blasting,

What would you like to see changed?

More appreciation of greenkeepers and the superb job they do, especially in the current financial climate.

Do you support customers who have in-house service facilities (ie OEM parts supply)

Yes

Major customers

All leading golf clubs in North Wales, All Local Authorities, Environment Agency, All leading caravan parks

Franchises

- Kubota, Toro, Hyster, Greentek, Ferris, Gianni Ferrari, Honda, Stihl, Husqvarna, Viking, Ifor Williams and many more too numerous to mention

To nominate a GI Dealer of the Month contact Scott MacCallum with your reasons why the dealer of your choice should be featured...
Email scott@bigga.co.uk

Unlock the potential of greenkeepers

Become a key sponsor

The funding provided by Golden and Silver Key supporters means that BIGGA can continue to produce training and career aids including DVDs, CD Roms, field-guides, as well as refunds for training fees, subsidised learning and development courses, the lending library, careers advice, posters and manuals.

To find out more, contact BIGGA HOUSE on 01347 833800



“ I really wanted to develop my education but had to fund my own training, so I contacted BIGGA to ask for financial support. A refund of my course fees has enabled me to complete my chainsaw maintenance and cross cutting, felling of small trees and my PA6 spraying certificates. I really do appreciate what BIGGA, with the support of the Golden and Silver Key Companies, has done for my career. ”

Murray Mannall, Greenkeeper



“ The support for this fund has enabled BIGGA to enhance the value of being a member, and it has previously given many greenkeepers the opportunity to further develop their careers. As an association we owe our Golden and Silver Key sponsors a huge vote of thanks. ”

John Pemberton, Chief Executive



Thank you to our Golden and Silver Key Sponsors



JOHN DEERE



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Heath Lambert Group



Golden Key Individual Members: Steven Tierney; WJ Rogers; Andy Campbell MG, CGCS; Iain A Macleod; Frank Newberry; Neil Peachey

Silver Key Individual Members: Ade Archer; Steve Dixon; Paul Jenkins; Richard McGlynn; Sam Langrick; Neil Whitaker; Graham Wylie; Michael Beaton; Douglas Duguid; Derek Grendowicz

A BIG LAUNCH FROM TYM



TYM Tractors has launched its largest tractor to date, the 100hp T1003, at Saltex. Delivering 100hp from a Perkins 1104D-44TA engine, the T1003 is designed to tackle tasks from gang mowing to hedge and verge trimming and handling the meatiest aerator or decompactor.

This tractor remains compact enough to manoeuvre easily around the works yard with a wheelbase of 2300mm, and weighs in at 3685kg. A fuel tank capacity of 125 litres is more than ample for a long working day.

MORE SALTEX
NEW PRODUCTS
WILL APPEAR
NEXT MONTH

www.tymtractors.co.uk

Hello ELMOW



Allett's new battery-powered fine-turf cylinder mower made its world public debut at Saltex.

Known as ELMOW, the walk-behind machine is available with a choice of cutting units, both fitted as standard with a 120mm diameter, 10-bladed cutting cylinder and a powered turf groomer.

Its rate of cut is 220 clips per metre a rate - maintained irrespective of working speed or variations in speed.

The battery pack powering ELMOW is a 24 volt, 42Ah gel-type unit located using a 'slide and click' system that allows rapid interchange of discharged and fully-charged battery packs.

Price of the ELMOW 20 and 24 mowers, including a battery pack and charger, is £5,400 and £5,650 respectively.

www.allett.co.uk

Dethatcher And Spiker - A Two In One Renovation Machine



Having added the RotaDairon range of renovation and maintenance equipment to the stable this year, the Grass Group has launched the ED 130 TS dethatcher and spiker with collection box - a two in one renovation machine. With the PTO engaged, the ED is capable of working from 0 to 60 mm deep, and offering fast, clean removal of thatch from fine turf. Detach the PTO and the ED becomes a spiking machine for golf greens and sports fields.

Advanced Turf Technology's TMSsystem is another addition to the range. With eight individual cassettes, the system is fully interchangeable between all mainstream makes of triplex greens mowers and lightweight fairway mowers.

Choose from groomers, vibratory rollers, spikers, scarifiers and brushes to suit the conditions in hand, all superbly engineered for best results. Swapping attachments takes a matter of minutes with the four-bolt "Easy-In-Easy-Out" cassette installation and removal method.

www.thegrassgroup.com

LINE-MARKING PAINT MAKES...



...AN IMPACT

Rigby Taylor launched Impact Gold a ready-to-use line marking paint which offers a total integration of paint, its application to the target surface and packaging disposable.

The paint is free of volatile organic compounds and bio-degradable. Finely atomised spray droplets ensure complete coverage of both sides of the leaf blade with a single application while special pigmentation attributes impart a bright, highly reflective white surface coating that increases in intensity as the paint dries.

Using a specially developed gold nozzle, a football pitch can be over-marked with as little as one litre per pitch.

It provides major benefits in environmental saving including reduced water consumption, fuel economies and waste disposal. As a ready-to-use product. It does not require water, therefore eliminating the need for mixing, measuring and pouring. The only water require is for priming the new iGo spray marking machine pump and nozzle cleaning.

When using traditional dilutable paints, a typical 35 week football season this can amount to over 400 litres of water using a standard 4:1 ratio of water to paint. Impact Gold over this time may use less than 5 litres of water.

The iGo spray-marking machine can carry 2 x 10 litre packs, so a single operator can mark out up to 20 pitches without the need for water or, repeatedly returning to a central base to fill up.

www.rigbytaylor.com

The Excelion: Brush Cutting And Grass Trimming Combined



The Pellenc Excelion is a new product to the UK, available through Etesia. Pellenc is the only manufacturer to be able to produce machines that can be used up to a full day's work on a single charge of the ultra lithium battery and at the same time guarantees use with no odour, no pollution and virtually no noise making them an environmentally friendly product.

The Excelion combines both a brush cutter and a grass trimmer: only the cutting head change. This change-over is very quick, taking

less than one minute to change from the brush cutter version to the grass trimmer version and all without the use of any tools.

Half the weight of the lightest petrol brush cutters, the Excelion makes brush clearing easier in ditches and on steep slopes. Fitted with an adjustable handle, directional head and telescopic system gives the user exceptional working comfort.

www.etesia.co.uk

Sanli extends its range



SANLI has added three new self-propelled wheeled rotary mowers to its range of outdoor power equipment.

The new pedestrian machines are all powered by SANLI 5.5hp OHV engines with similarly sized Briggs and

Stratton power units available as an extra-cost option.

They comprise steel-decked 3-in-1 and 4-in-1 mowers producing a 56cm width of cut, the LSPA56 is the widest yet pedestrian machine to be developed and manufactured

by SANLI. The mower's tough, lightweight aluminium deck and wide cut make it ideal for commercial users requiring a high performance, quality mower at a very competitive price.

The LSPA56 can be used in either cut and drop or cut and collect modes to suit mowing schedules and the specific finish required, with cut heights adjustable from 25mm – 86mm

Large rear drive wheels are a feature also of the new LSP514 steel-decked 4-in-1 pedestrian mower which combines cut and drop, cut and collect, mulch and side-discharge capabilities in a self-propelled wheeled machine.

Powered by a 5.5hp SANLI OHV engine the LSP514 offers all of the cut, collect and mulch mowing options that are likely to be needed by professional users.

www.sanli.co.uk

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Are you employed in the maintenance of sports turf at a sports facility?

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- Regional and national events
- Sports turf industry networking
- Commitment to CPD
- Maintain standard and quality within the profession
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email: membership@bigga.co.uk

visit www.bigga.org.uk



Promoting best practice in sports turf management

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



Ayrshire

Hey chaps, Hope you are all well.

Back to that time of year again with aeration, or as the members would put it, "Damn greenkeepers wrecking our greens again". Well, as we all know, that ain't the case, but keeping any disruption to a minimum always helps.

I've got to say the majority of members these days actually warm to the tasks we carry out, with a lot more members having an understanding of what the benefits are instead of looking at the negative side of the work we do.

I find keeping our members informed of any works being carried out through a monthly newsletter helps keep the club informed and up to date.

Another thing which is popping through the ground this time of year is the dreaded leatherjackets or as they are commonly known the daddy long legs. They are the larval stage of the crane fly (daddy long legs).

Leather jackets start to feed on grass roots in the autumn. They will continue feed through the winter and spring. In the summer months the leather jackets pupate and the next generation of daddy long legs emerge and lay their eggs in the infected areas. Arrrgh! Who said this job was easy, eh!

Anyway guys that's me for another month... so as I keep asking, if you have any news please let me know.

Thanks

Johnmair982@hotmail.co.uk
07500874449

John Mair



West

The AGM has arrived and will be held at Hagg's Castle Golf Club on Thursday, October 28 and hopefully a few people will attend even those wishing to lend a helping hand by volunteering for committee duty. Our various committee members have been running things for a few years now, and some new blood is required. The day will be similar to others with the AGM and then a talk on Toro machinery or Demonstrations of equipment - weather dependant.

The Section would like to thank Hamilton Bros for its co-operation and sponsorship for this event.

Brian Hillen, our running Chairman, has arranged a football match against the Ayrshire Section for late October. All those interested should contact him or myself, both numbers are in the hand book, or for those who might have mislaid theirs; my number is 0141-942-5554, or mobile 07790823914.

Sportscrete is running a golf day at Eastwood Golf Club with a talk about its product, which should be interesting, as the main bone of contention on any golf course is usually the bunkers. The date for this event has not been confirmed with me in time for this magazine issue, therefore I hope Gavin can inform you at a later date by e-mail or letter.

Next month I will include a report on the Loch Lomond talk regarding the wetters which is being jointly hosted with STRI. This has been rearranged from April this year when the guest speaker could not attend due to the volcano disruption.

I will also include the results from the outing at Helensburgh.

The Patrons' awards will be selected in the next month and those chosen will attend Harrogate, in January, which should provide them with a beneficial experience. The Section would like to thank all the patrons for their continued support at this time considering the difficult financial climate we are presently encountering.

Last but not least, the annual dinner deserves some mention, but as yet the venue has not been confirmed. The likely candidates are the Studio or Curry Karioke situated at the tall ship. I hope this should be a slightly better experience from last year and would request as many people attend as possible to help support the Section. Prices and detail will be confirmed next month.

Best wishes to all for the remainder of the season

Contact details for all wishing to inform me of any events are stuart.taylor@glasgowgolfclub.com or 0141-942-5554, or 07790823914, please do not hesitate to contact me about anything even a moan but please something at least.

Stuart Taylor



North

As I am sitting writing these notes, the weather seems to have a turn for the worse. It is the beginning of September and there are very high winds and on top of that the rain has just decided to help out.

A wee thank you to Scott, at Headquarters for his little input about the notes being missing from last month's edition.

By the time you read this, the Autumn outing will have taken place at Huntly and I will have all the runners and riders for you in

the next edition. Hopefully it was glorious and there were at least 50 people playing.

On the move this month is Eric Pickard, from Longside GC. He has decided for some strange reason to come and join us at Murcar Links. You really don't know what you are letting yourself in for Eric. It's true what everyone says about Brian.

Congratulations go to Kintore Deputy Dog, Davie Stephen, and his long term lover, Suzy. They tied the knot in Inch back in August. I did hear it was a great day and I also heard that the bridegroom fluffed his lines. Instead of saying 'To be your husband', he actually said 'To be my husband'! Now Davie, I've known you for a number of years now and my suspicions have been confirmed! Anyway well done the both of you.

Last but by no means least this month, we sent a team down to play for the Norrie Whytock Trophy, in Auchterarder, in August. George Mitchell, Robert Paterson, Paul Sharp and Mike Braidwood all travelled down and on paper you would think that we stood a pretty good chance of winning it! Well, when I say that we came fourth, you might think that's not bad either. But when I say there were only five teams in it, then you begin to realise that they must have had an off day. Never mind lads hopefully next year we could improve our position. Congratulations to the East Section for winning the competition for the second consecutive year.

On that note I will return next month with the scores from Huntly. Happy Greenkeeping.

Ben Brookes

Murcar Links

07813889374



Central

Congratulation to Section Vice Chairman, Derek Robson, and his wife on the birth of their son Sam who came into the world weighing a massive 9lb 1oz. This might have been in last month's report but Sam didn't realise there was a deadline to meet!

We had a great turnout for the seminar on September 1 to hear Stan Zontek, John Kaminski and Peter Dernoeden talk about the different types of winter damage of turfgrass they have encountered. There were between 40 and 50 people packed into the room and it was great to see the different age groups there from students and greenkeepers just starting out in their career to people such as Walter Woods and John Philp who have reached the very top of the profession.

By the time you read this the autumn outing will have been played and the winning scores will be on the website www.bigcentralsection.org.uk and I'll include them in the next report. Finally, a reminder that the Section AGM will be held on Wednesday, October 13, in the training room at Elmwood Golf Facility at 1pm

Gordon Moir

Northern Region



Northern

Hello everyone. Hope you are all well, as I sit here writing this article. Nice to see the sun after all the recent rain. On Aug 25 we held our invitation day at Harrogate GC. Our thanks go to everyone at Harrogate for their hospitality and courtesy of the course. We would also like to thank Tony and his team for presenting a superb course, a credit to them all. The winners on the day were R. Walker and H. Lampkin with 43pts on a back 9 countback; 2nd J. Dobson and N. Ormonroyd; 3rd S. Rothwell

and P. Saxon. Nearest the Pin 3rd P. Saxon and on the 12th J. Burnside. Thanks to all our winners and everyone for taking part. Thanks also to Mike Brear and Rigby Taylor for their sponsorship.

After the golf presentations we had a couple of mementos to present to two long serving greenkeepers, Keith Gray, who recently retired from Driffild GC, and Tony Baxby, who is to retire shortly from Harrogate GC. We wish them both a long and happy retirement and hope to see them on future golf events.

Just a couple of quick ones. After being provided with a map it was nice to know Alan and Joe Baxter found their way out of Scarborough. It was also rumoured that Roy Armitage was going to join us at Harrogate for coffee and a chat, but was last seen wandering round Knarsborough GC. (Hope we soon get some younger members?). As usual any news or gossip please contact me Frank Stewart, 72 West Park Grove, Roundhay, Leeds, LS8 2DY. Mob. 07947401278. email frankstewart3@hotmail.co.uk.

Frank Stewart



North West

Firstly, let me apologise for not contributing notes for the last couple of Greenkeeper Internationals, sick relatives miles away and having very little to comment on have been the concerning factors. Having said that I still have nothing new to say.

The summer has now come to an end and most of us will have or are currently completing the autumnal renovation work, the turf is being laid and the concerns of last year's weather is at the forefront of my mind. I have always been one to ensure every piece of turf is laid by the end of the year, however, last year we finished turfing in February/March due to the snow, this was followed by the driest spring in my memory causing cracking and very poor looking turf. Having said that "What doesn't kill me makes me stronger".

At Hesketh over the past

weekend, we have just held a dance for the members, not only did we have a clean shed at the end, but also had 115 people raising over £3000 for cancer charities. Give it a try, it's great fun, by the way we called it "The Shindig in the Shed".

So there you have it. I told you I had nothing to report, before next months notes, I'm going to go on a tour to find interesting things to write about, as always please contact me with any info, Cheers

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North East

Is it that time again already the 5th of the month Section news is now due got to get in touch with the editor pretty damn quick as will miss the deadline. Again nothing coming in so I have to rely on news from other sources.

Well I got a very interesting phone call from David Golding of the GTC informing me that, as from September, Newcastle College has now been confirmed as an Approved Quality Assurance Centre, so if you have any staff who need to go to college get them enrolled you cannot be any more central than that. It's been a long time coming, info can be accessed from either Wayne Reid or Tony Milan on Tel: 01922004704.

Next on my list is that myself, Jordan Gibson and Russ Black will hopefully retain the White-moss Shield in the Inter-Section tournament on September 22, at Llangollen GC. This is now in it's third year. Finally, congratulations to Jordan Gibson and his wife on their new addition to the family - I believe a baby girl.

Jimmy Richardson



North Wales

Autumn is well and truly kicking in now, with the leaves losing their grip on the trees, colder

nights and much shorter days. But do we moan? Of course we do! We do what we do best, whinge our arses off about the "autumn blues" then, just get on with our work as always. The true mark of a decent Greenkeeper, no matter what the time of year or how low that makes us feel, is that the course comes first.

We held two golfing events last month, the Northern region day was held at The Vale of Llangollen Golf Club and the autumn tournament was held at Mold Golf Club. A full write up on both events will appear in next month's column, if you can't wait pictures will be open to see on the North Wales BIGGA group on Facebook. The Christmas tournament isn't that far

away and with it being held on the east of the Section at Mile End Golf Club, you can guarantee it will be heavily booked, so get your entry forms in early!

In local news, I'm sure you'll join in sending our sympathies to Andy "Acorn" Cornes and his family after his mother died recently after illness, and it is with regret that I have to inform you of the death of Graham Hall, who died peacefully at home in August after a long illness. Graham retired approximately three years ago from Bathgate Silica Sand after completing 18 years service. He was well known in the foundry and leisure industry. Our sympathy goes to his partner Etty, daughter Alison and son's Steven and Andrew. I hope the Section joins in sending a get well soon message to Peter Larter, who is convalescing after an operation on his shoulder.

I think that's enough for now so, all the best until next month.

Pete Maybury

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Sheffield

Hello once again fellow Greenkeepers and Groundsmen.

We have once again reached the end of another playing season and we now have the time reflect on the season that has passed. It has once again been a difficult