



TOP: Research work
 ABOVE: Syngenta spends a lot of time working with its customers
 LEFT: Andrew Howarth, Course Manager at Marriott Hanbury Manor
 BELOW: Disease microscopy



product and in Syngenta's track record, Andrew gave it an extensive trial on the greens at Hanbury Manor at the end of November last year.

"It snowed the very next day and the greens were covered for the best part of four weeks, but when it cleared the greens were perfect," he said.

Timing of the application is all important and this is where the GreenCast website comes into its own as a disease prevention tool as it identifies the potential for disease to strike.

"Historically, greenkeepers have used a 'wait and see' approach to management. If they saw disease they would spray it and be disappointed when it returned two weeks later," explained Rod.

"With the ability of GreenCast to identify when disease is most likely to strike, the spraying can be carried out just before the disease becomes established and as a result, typically, it provides six to eight weeks of control. By targeting the spraying at the most effective time you can actually reduce the number of spraying applications you use in the course of a year

ensuring that products are used at the right time for best effect and creating savings overall."

It is a view that is endorsed by Andrew:

"We very much operate on a preventative basis but we aim to be specific. It's certainly not a scatter gun approach and so tools like GreenCast are great. You might think in your own mind that it is the right day to go ahead with an application but now you then check with GreenCast which can confirm if you are right," said Andrew, who admits to visiting the site at least once a day.

"As greenkeepers we are all obsessed with the weather so it's great to have somewhere to go which has so much useful information."

Andrew was also one of the first to use the growth regulator, Primo Maxx, which perhaps more than any other has left its mark on the industry in the last 10 years.

"I started using Primo Maxx in 2007 and believe I was in the first group of people to do so. It has made a huge difference in terms of quality of surface, as well as savings in manpower as a result of the growth regulator element of it.

"I have to say that it has done everything that we wanted it to do and we've got more out of it the more we have used it and learnt about it," explained Andrew, for whom quality at such a high profile golfing venue is of prime importance.

Indeed, like so many of his fellow users, Andrew has become more sophisticated in his use of Primo Maxx, which is now an integral part of the turf management routine.

Syngenta has done a significant amount of research aimed at putting together a persuasive case for golf clubs to invest in turf management - clearly demonstrating the benefits and value created by new solutions and techniques to bring an economic benefit.

"We provide the tools for Course Managers like Andrew, to take a proposal to their Director or General Manager to persuade them to move forward on a programme of investment in turf quality," explained Rod, who added that this was done on a number of fronts.

"On quality, if you can increase membership by just 1% that typically equates to an extra £5000 income a year, while if you attract five more players a week with your quality golf course that increases income by around £15,000 a year on typical figures," explained Rod.

Furthermore they have also researched the benefits on cost

savings that are there to be had.

"It costs £15 per hour to run a mower, if you include labour, machinery costs and fuel. The growth regulation properties of Primo Maxx reduces the mowing requirement and cuts associated costs, as well as freeing up labour for other course improvements and detailing to increase the players enjoyment of their round."

As part of the marketing approach Syngenta has put together a series of packages including the Ultimate Fairway Programme in conjunction with distribution partner Everris, containing all that is needed to produce top quality fairways including Primo Maxx, nutrition and nozzles which have been developed to ensure that the company's product is applied in an effective and accurate fashion.

"Our big drive is to reduce water rates and reduce drift, both of which our nozzles help to achieve. Where our trials show it is appropriate we aim to reduce water volumes to 200-250 litres per application, from current typical levels of 600-650 litres. It will help to spray quicker and reduce costs, as well as enhancing product efficacy and results," said Rod, who explained that Syngenta also works extremely closely with the STRI on its research.

Syngenta is also the driving force behind Operation Pollinator, an international five year biodiversity programme to boost the number of pollinating insects by creating specific habitats, tailored to local conditions and native insects.

In golf, the project aims to utilise out of play areas to increase the attractiveness of courses for insects and players.

Participants are provided with agronomic advice and innovative research based practices to successfully establish and manage specific wildflower mixtures designed to benefit pollinators and improve course playability.

As a Gold Key Supporter of BIGGA since 2008 Syngenta supports the Association's Education and Development Fund, which was set up to offer support and tools for BIGGA members.

"We see the professional development of BIGGA members as being extremely beneficial to the industry," added Rod.

"We increasingly find that we are dealing with professionals of the quality of Andrew, who appreciate what we are bringing to the market place in terms of high performance products, integrated solutions and services and comprehensive support."

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

The anatomy of...

Toro ProCore 648

Engineered to perform? James de Havilland turns his
attention to the newest machine to enter the corer market



In work, the aeration head
follows behind the inset wheels,
preventing the unit running over
non-windrowed cores

Step-by-step Analysis... Toro ProCore 648



When working with needle tines, the operator can use fold out markers to assist aligning bout passes.. It does not take long to aerate a green, the total time required to cover 18 holes needing to include the time to move between. The latter can take longer than the aeration itself!

Superseding its Pedestrian Greens Aerator in 2006, the Toro ProCore 648 is now well established. Offering a 48in/122cm working width, the unit can be fitted with needle, solid, side-eject and hollow tines in diameters of 5 to 16mm and can work down to a maximum of 102mm. But is it really that different from its predecessor?

There are new model introductions that leave you scratching your head, wondering if it is just a few details or even just the model number that has changed. In the case of the Toro ProCore 648, however, the company ripped up its previous pedestrian aerator design and started anew.

A key feature of the ProCore 648 is its operating speed, Toro publicly boasting of its 18 greens in seven hours performance. That sounds pretty impressive for a pedestrian machine, but it perhaps detracts from the unit's other features that include of ease of set up and operation.

Opt for the Toro QuickChange tine option, launched in 2010, and swapping tine sets can be done without the need for spanners. Of equal importance, the QuickChange system makes it really simple to remove a damaged tine.

Setting the operating depth is achieved via a lever, Toro 'grading' the depth settings A to H. This allows the operator to set the working depth without the need for any tools and quickly adjust the unit to accommodate tine wear; rest a tine on the decal beside the depth setting lever, read off the letter that corresponds with the desired aeration depth and adjust the depth accordingly. Simple.

With regard to hole spacing, the adjustment is simple, a notched bracket alongside the lever enables operators to quickly return the lever to a pre-determined setting when using a different set of tines or working to a different hole pattern.

Any room for improvement?

Toro has done a good job with the design of the ProCore 648, but the optional QuickChange system would be even better if it came as standard. At present it adds an extra £680 to the unit's £18,507 list price. On the plus side, existing users can retrofit QuickChange.



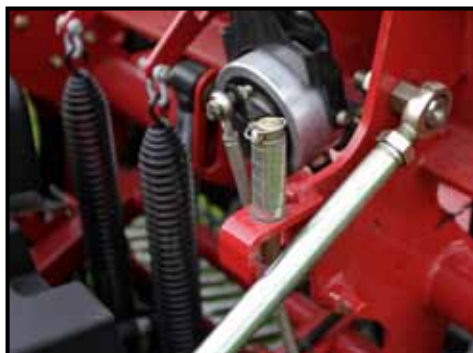
Once set up, operating the ProCore is straightforward. The only complexity is trying to decipher the warning on the decals.



The Toro QuickChange system was introduced in 2010 and is a retrofit option for existing ProCore 648 pedestrian and mounted 864 and 1298 models.



Simple tricycle undercarriage allows good contour following. Steering king pin is one of the few grease points on the machine.



Adding or removing shims can control lateral float. The head can be fixed when aerating level surfaces such as a bowling green.

This includes 6 tine heads, 24 Inserts and the QuickChange tool

We also think Toro could add a few small detail refinements to further enhance opting for Quick-Change. First, the combination tine release and lock tool has separate ends to perform each task. Each end could do with marking so you don't have to work out which end does what. Second, the tool could be stored on the aerator along with few tines and spare mounting collars. This would ensure they were always with the machine.

This nit picking does not get away from the impression that Toro appears to have listened to criticisms of its original Greens Aerator. The ProCore is manoeuvrable and easy to control and has little details that enhance its operation. An example is little markers that pull out to allow you to match each bout without having to walk so you can always see the nearside wheel. The wheels are also mounted inboard and ahead of the aeration head. This ensures the unit does not run over freshly produced holes or cores.

Floating head and balance

When aerating a level surface, such as a bowling green, a fixed aeration head will deliver consistent hole depth across the width of the unit. Golf greens are of course different, so allowing the head to float to follow contours is desirable.

On the ProCore 648, Toro suspends the head via a pivot and spring system with removable spacers controlling the degree of available float.

The float can also be locked off if desired. For the most part, the float setting is something operators can just set and forget but those who also contract out the aeration services to a local bowls club will value the ability to set the head accordingly.

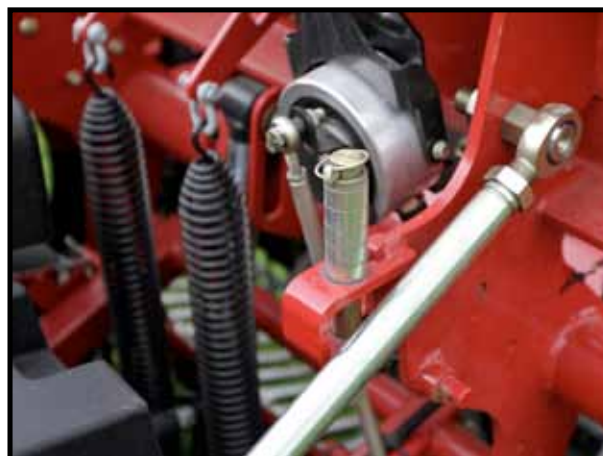
Moving on the crank, this is driven via a belt that is in turn powered via a hydraulic motor. The crank and connecting rods are balanced in the factory, with the components numbered to ensure they are matched following any maintenance.

To further reduce vibration, the crank hangers are mounted on isolation blocks and each throw of the crank is counter-balanced by the connecting rods acting in pairs.

In work, the ProCore obviously vibrates as does the ground as the tines penetrate the surface of the turf. But vibration passing through to the operator is well controlled.



A decal adjacent to the depth-setting lever enables the setting to be set to accommodate tine wear. Not collar on tine. This is part of the QuickChange system.



Adding or removing shims can control lateral float. The head can be fixed when aerating level surfaces such as a bowling green.

Spot the grease nipple

Those who enjoy delaying getting out to the greens nice and early will curse the ProCore for its lack of grease points.

The crank and key joints all run on sealed bearings, with just the steering pivot requiring the odd shot of lube to keep everything in order. Add QuickChange tines and there is no need for a pre-run spot of tine tightening either.

Summary

The ProCore 648 is a well-engineered item of equipment.



Balanced crank has numbered connecting rods to ensure they are re-matched following a major overhaul. Note vibration isolation blocks.

It is clear Toro has invested a great deal in making the machine efficient and easy to operate and also taken a look at maintenance demands too. It is the manner in which the tool goes about its work that is of course the key point. Here it is hard to really find fault

It is clear Toro has invested a great deal in making the machine efficient and easy to operate and also taken a look at maintenance demands too.

It is the manner in which the tool goes about its work that is of course the key point. Here it is hard to really find fault.

As long as the operator is fit enough to keep pace with the unit's potential work rate, the boast of 18 greens in seven hours should be no problem.

With particular thanks to Tadmarton Heath Golf Club and Course Manager Brian Owen, Alastair Rathbone, Central Contract Supplies and Rob Atwell of Toro distributor, Lely UK.

Toro ProCore 648 – outline specification

Engine Make.....	Kohler
Engine Power (hp).....	23
Working Width (mm).....	1220
Maximum Working Depth (mm) ..	102
Weight (kg)	722
Tine Types	
Needle (mm).....	5, 8
Solid (mm)	9.5, 11, 13, 16
Side-eject (mm)	6.4, 13, 16, 19
Hollow core	9.5, 13, 16
Tine holders.....	3 and 4-tine
Key options	QuickChange tines*
List price	£18,507.00

*Available as a retrofit kit.

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PROCORE SR54-S



PROCORE SR72



PROCORE 648



PROCORE 864



PROCORE 1298



partners in turfcare

Don't Miss Harro

Harrogate Week 2012 is already taking shape and is on course to be one of the finest weeks yet



The Continue to Learn Programme will offer something for everyone while the 2012 Show coincides with BIGGA's 25th Birthday and the 100th anniversary of the very first Greenkeeping Association. Both events will be recognised at Harrogate next year.

Demand for stand space has been extremely positive with many exhibitors taking advantage of the loyalty scheme introduced earlier this year while many of the large manufacturers have already re-booked for 2012.

Continue to Learn Programme

Sami Collins, BIGGA's Head of Learning and Development, has put the finishing touches to the Continue to Learn Programme for Harrogate Week 2012 which will be packed with educational opportunities for turf professionals at all stages of their careers.

"With over 150 hours of education scheduled, there is sure to be something of interest for all visitors to the Show," revealed Sami.

"We are providing a combination of events including the Turf Managers' Conference; half, one and two-day Workshops; Seminars by renowned Course Managers and a range of sessions presented by companies whom are exhibiting at BTME."

She also revealed an internationally renowned speaker from the United States, that will be speaking at Harrogate for the first time.

"I'm delighted to confirm that Dr Frank Rossi, from Cornell University, will be making his debut on the Continue to Learn education programme.

"He will be talking on 'Progressive Cultural Management Programmes' and 'Redefining IPM; Reduced Chemical Management of Golf Course Turf,'" said Sami.

"It is our aim, along with the help of a superb line-up of speakers, to smash the record set in January 2011 for the number of attendees at education events by providing the most comprehensive education programme for the greenkeeping industry in Europe."

The Continue to Learn programme offers benefits to Golf Clubs and employees by providing education that is specifically targeted at the greenkeeping and golf industry, ensuring that staff are kept up to date with changes in legislation, technical skills and current research as well as the supervisory and management skills that are essential in the workplace.

Stand Sales Update

Stand Sales have been extremely positive and with six months to go until Harrogate Week 2012 80% of stand space, within the four halls has already been sold.

The recently-introduced loyalty discount scheme allows repeat exhibitors the chance to claim up to 10% off the price of their stand space as long as they rebook before end of business on September 16.

To claim this discount Exhibitors need to contact Sue McDonough sue@bigga.co.uk or Jill Rodham jill@bigga.co.uk

Or call on 01347 833 800.



Harrogate Week 2012

24 - 26 January 2012



“With over 150 hours of education scheduled, there is sure to be something of interest for all visitors to the Show”
Sami Collins

tions. That is also being recognised at Harrogate Week 2012 with a display taking visitors through the past 100 years. If anyone would like to contribute to this with the lending or donation of Minute Books, historic memorabilia, photographs etc please contact Elliott Small, who is co-ordinating the 100 Years of Greenkeeping Associations work. Elliott can be contacted on: elliott.edna@hotmail.co.uk

We are happy to announce that the registration for Harrogate Week is now OPEN. Entry is FREE, just go to www.bigga.org.uk and click the “Register NOW” button, complete the form and you will receive an eBadge if you have chosen the green option.

Firmly established as Europe’s foremost turf care show, this unmissable event takes place from January 24-26, 2012 at Harrogate International Centre over three vibrant days in which Harrogate becomes the heart of the turf care industry.

Now in its 25th consecutive year, the exhibition encompasses every product in the industry including artificial grass, course furniture,

drainage, fertilisers, groundscare machinery and equipment, irrigation, mowers, soil biology, spraying, turf and seeds, water, lake and pond management, wetting agents and so much more.

Where to Stay

Reservation Highway, the officially appointed accommodation agent for Harrogate Week, provides a centralised point of contact for all your accommodation and travel enquiries. The Reservation Highway website and the rooms and rates shown there, are for your benefit only and are not available to the general public as the site is password protected.

By visiting www.reservation-highway.co.uk/conference_info.php, you can gain instant access to all the accommodation special event rates that have been negotiated. All the rates shown are the rates that you will pay with no hidden extras.

As well as having special nightly rates, Reservation Highway also offer special deals such as three night specials, Advance Purchase, Early bird rates etc.



Anniversaries

BIGGA is 25 years old in 2012 and celebrations to mark the occasion will be launched at Harrogate Week 2012. The Association has come a very long way since 1987, thanks to the outstanding work of so many of its members, supported by the HQ and Regional Administrator staff, and Harrogate Week is the perfect place to recognise the achievements.

BIGGA was launched 75 years after the very first greenkeeping Association was formed so, coincidentally, 2012 represents 100 years of Greenkeeper Associa-

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



East

Well the weather has certainly improved and the hard graft begins. The last couple of weeks has brought us a flush of growth to deal with at long last. That's the story on the links anyway, but no doubt you fellas inland have been hard at it for longer than that.

Hopefully you will have received your entry forms from our hardworking Secretary, Stuart Ferguson. The Willie Woods Tournament at Mortonhall Golf Club on August 9 should be a cracking day. One remembers being there for an Autumn Tournament years ago and if anyone can come up with the proper year I would be grateful if they would let me know.

The Braids Golf Club will hold the Autumn Tournament on Wednesday, September 14. Can't ever remember playing a BIGGA event there before, so looking forward to it with anticipation.

Our Norrie Wytock team is captained by Alastair Holmes, Seahouses; Grant Moran, Mortonhall; Philip Butler, Murrayfield, and Ryan McCulloch, Goswick. Remember guys we won it last year so NO PRESURE. But bring it home.

There are other areas for your attention at the bottom of the entry form, please let us know if you are interested?

Remember for all correspondence on events, contact: S. Ferguson (Secretary), 50 Easter Road, Shotts, North Lanarkshire, ML7 4AS stuferg@btinternet.com

For any any interesting comments you may wish to make, email s.crawford@live.co.uk

Lastly, thank you to Shaun Cunningham for the text, it was gratefully received, I look forward to my large rum. Don't burn Samaras's shirt yet!

Have a good summer
Yours in golf
Stewart Crawford



Central

All the best to the Carnoustie crowd who will have hosted the Ricoh Women's British Open by the time you read this, and also to the teams at Fairmont and Gleneagles, who shortly have the Scottish Seniors' and Johnnie Walker tournament respectively.

We are fortunate to be in an area where so many large events are staged.

The next event to look forward to is the Autumn outing at Kingsbarns on Tuesday, September 14 and entry forms will be emailed out those I have email address for or can be found on the website:

www.biggacentralsection.org.uk

This may well be over subscribed and if this is the case then there will be some type of selection criteria which the committee shall decide upon at their meeting in the first week of August and which will be explained on the entry form.

Also on the website will be news of the next few educational events and the AGM. The Pairs' competition has reached the knockout stages and has proven very popular with those who entered.

Down in Leven, Kevin Webster's wife, Karen, gave birth to a daughter, Grace Catherine, Kevin has just endured the first sleepless night.

Gordon Moir



West

Sorry for not submitting something last month but the only item to be included was the Spring outing held at Cowglen Golf Club on May 19, which surprisingly experienced a lovely sunny day unlike many of the other days in that month. The course was in excellent condition for the time of year after all the difficulties and for that I would thank Michael Slack and his team for their efforts and the council for allowing the Section to play the course. The results were as follows: Scratch Prize A. Reid, Williamwood, 74, First Class. 1. D. Mackintosh, Cathkin Braes, 32pts; 2. J. Brown, Bearsden, 31pts; 3. G. Bruen, Williamwood, 30pts. Second Class. 1. M. Slack, Cowglen, 34pts; 2. B. Sommerville, Helensburgh, 27 pts (bih); 3. D. McBride, Vale of Leven, 27pts. Third Class. 1. D. Reid, Lenzie, 32pts; 2. C. Boyd, Helensburgh, 15pts; 3. S. Reid, East Kilbride, 14pts. Apprentice prize A. Orr, 27pts, Trade Prize, as usual, D. Duthie, Aitkens.

The only disappointing issue from the day was a lack of numbers with 22 in attendance unlike our normal amount of 35-40. So where were all you guys and what are you up to? Is the cost too much or are we having to take days off to attend? I would appreciate if members could contact me or any Section committee member to discover reasons for the absence.

A wee match has been arranged for the North of the river verses the South which I will report on at a later stage but the intention was to contact a few people who haven't been attending things over the last years with the idea of socialising

and get together for a chat about different aspects. If you wish to be involved then give me a call on 07790823914 or contact Gerry Bruen on the blog and we can include you.

The Scottish National Tournament was held at the Duke's course in June and this had an excellent turn out of 70, to play a reformed course which proved to be a great test of golf. Congratulations to Derek Robson and his staff, and thanks also to the in-house staff, along with the administrative staff, for all their assistance in helping to make a successful day.

As usual Peter Boyd organised everything in a first class manner with the assistance of Andy O'Hara, the Vice Chairman. I am much obliged to both of them for all their work.

Finally if anyone has anything to say give me a call on 0141-942-5554 or 07790823914 or e-mail me on stuart.taylor@glasgowgolfclub.com I hope everyone as a good remainder to the season and eagerly await your calls.

Stuart Taylor

Northern Region



Northern

Hi everyone hope you are all well and enjoying the prolonged hot spell. Sadly in our part of the country the few showers we are getting are cancelled out by the drying winds. On June 22 we held our President's Day, at Moortown GC. The Section would like to thank the club for a great day, and Steve and his team for a great but challenging course. Winners on the day were as follows, President's Trophy. S. Mason, 35pts. Div 1. 1. N.

Coultish; 2. A. Court; 3. T. Gerard. Div 2. 1. A. Holroyde; 2. B. Knowles Jackson; 3. D. Campbell, Div 3. 1. E. Newsham; 2. K. Christie; 3. J. Bryson. Trade. M. Brear. N/P.D. Collins.

As usual a big thank you to the sponsor, Bob Wilde Grass Machinery. The Section's best wishes go to our President who is recovering after an operation on his hand. Get well soon, Dennis.

At our last Section meeting we discussed the possibility of a trip to Wembley Stadium, to get an idea of numbers. If you are interested please get in touch with a committee member.

Our next golf event is Invitation day at Bingley St. Ives GC, on August 31, Cost is £20 per person. Please get in touch early to book your place. That's all for this month, any news or gossip please get in touch, Frank Stewart 72 West Park Grove, Roundhay, LS8 2DY. Mob: 07947401278. email frankstewart3@hotmail.co.uk.

Frank Stewart



North East

Well just checked the Rigby Taylor wall calendar at work and I see the first weekend in August is my last one EVER. Yes it's that time in my life when I have been put out to grass. Not my choice as I would have preferred to carry on working for a couple years more but the powers-that-be declined my services. So after 41 years in greenkeeping what next? Decisions, decisions. Shall I just trot off into the fields, or what? I don't think I could do that, as I need to be doing something in greenkeeping. It's such a brilliant profession, plenty of fresh air, meeting people, listening to the members moaning on... God I will miss all of those.

Looking back to 1970 when I started under the guidance of Steve Pope. What a privilege that was. Many others, as well as me, did ok between us over the forthcoming years and I am sure all of those people will agree with me that Steve was what we call a one off. We can tell lots of stories.

For the past 29 years I have been the Secretary of the North East Section of the then BGGA and BIGGA.

One of my claims to fame was

when I was appointed Chairman of BGGA in 1985 and to be involved with that historic meeting at Hagg's Castle with BGGA, EIGGA and SIGGA to form what we have now. It took two years, but it was well worth the wait in the end.

Another claim to fame I was lucky enough to enjoy was to be chosen, along with nine other greenkeepers from around the country, to attend the first Bernhard's trip, away to Vancouver.. So when you see that advert in Greenkeeper International, go for it.

Think that's all I am going to say, other than I expect to see quite a few of you at BTME in January and that I am still carrying on as the Secretary of the North East Section.

Whoops nearly forgot. If anybody wants a hard working retired greenkeeper in the future on a part time basis, or whatever, just give me a ring or email me.

I always said that if I received no news I would write about myself! So come on lads, you must have something to tell me even if it's winter projects, someone getting married, or moving on,. The summer months are always the hardest to write about.

There was one thing I could have written about last month and that was about Russ Black. For those of you who know him as he know longer works at Westerhope Golf Club. Unfortunately for him, and a couple of other staff, they were paid by Newcastle City Council and they needed to reduce the staff by one. So now Russ works in one of the City parks on bowling greens etc. You will, however, still see him at Section outings.

Finally, let's see a lot more people turn up for the Autumn comp at Longhirst Hall, on September 21. This venue was chosen in the honour of Stuart Wilson, Deputy Head, who tragically lost his life last year.

Jimmy Richardson



Sheffield

We reach August, and near the end of another season. As I write these notes I can safely say that the weather for once has been on our side this year and long may it continue (fingers

crossed I have not placed a jinx by saying this).

Firstly, I would like to thank everyone concerned at Roundwood GC for what was a fantastic day at our Annual competition. I would like to say a special thanks to Ryan and his staff for producing a very good and difficult course. It was a credit to them all. I would also like to thank our sponsor, Mansfield Sand, for once again supporting the Section. Thankfully we managed a good turnout and I'm sure everyone had a great day. The results are as follows (Andy Unwin didn't do the countback).

Best gross A. Unwin, 78, (on Countback); Best nett D. Chappell, 78/69; 2. D. Brownlow, 78/70; A. Riley, 89/70. Trade R. Latham. Nearest the Pin Jamie Hobson, 10ft 13 inches (Yes, this is what he wrote for anyone who is puzzled)

Well done to all our winners and to everyone who played.

Unfortunately, now for a little bad news. We had to cancel our cricket match against Rigby Taylor due to poor numbers once again. I must thank Mike Brear for all his hard work in organising the day and also apologise to him on behalf of the Section. I believe it would have been a fantastic day if people had attended.

Our annual match against the Northern Section will have taken place in July and the results will be posted in next month's magazine.

Finally, I can announce we have our own facebook page. This will be updated with upcoming events and photos from events. Members can also go on and chat about all things greenkeeping. Find us at BIGGA Sheffield Section.

I am also on the final stages of completing a Sheffield Section website. I'm sure this will become a valuable tool to many members in our Section. More information will be posted in next month's magazine.

Have a good August and enjoy the sun.

James Stevens
jimthegreenkeeper@hotmail.com
07738719614

Midland Region



East Midlands

Sitting in a hotel room I've just realised it's deadline day for the magazine Section notes, so I'm going straight into things this month so there will be no waffling from me, "Hooray!" I hear you all cry!

Results from our Summer. First, the event was played at Cavendish GC and the course was in fantastic condition (I would say that wouldn't II!). Amazingly the rain also held off for the day so we were all truly blessed. Nearest the Pin prizes went to Andy Church, for the Trade bragging rights, and to Derek McJannett, for the Greenkeepers, Longest Drive went to Andy Lane, for the Trade, and Lee Wenlock, for the Greenkeepers.

The main prizes went to the "BIGGA boys" in the Trade section with Scott MacCallum taking third, and John Pemberton, newly-retired, taking first place. Thanks go to Andy Church for splitting them up. In Cat 2. Chris Weir and Greg Skinner took third and second with a card play off, and Pete Smith (yep, me again) ran out winner.

Please note that I have not put scores in for trade and cat 2 for fear of embarrassing all! Cat 1 winner was Derek McJannett, with Andy De Wet narrowly missing out by way of card play off, both scoring a fine 36 pts; third went to Lee Wenlock with 34pts.

As always thanks go to our sponsor for the day, these were Countrywide, Ultra soils, Campey Turfcare, Scotts and Tacit, without the continued support of our sponsors these events wouldn't be the success that they are. Thank you to all involved.

With the best combined scores from our Spring and Summer comps our BIGGA National Championship, sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota, representatives will be previous National Champ Derek McJannett and, just to make up the numbers, yours truly!

The Headland Pairs competition continues and in the next update I should be able to announce quarter finalists,



Around The Green

we will also be able to publish results from our first par-3 competition and summer BBQ. Here's hoping there're none of those long par-3's I love so much!

Regards to all
Pete Smith



Midland

Well, I sit at my computer each evening trolling through emails hoping that one day someone will send me a message which I can report within our notes. It's a bit like specimen coarse fishing, you often blank. However, unlike our , a 10lb+ Barbel, 5lb+ Chub or 25lb+ Carp will serve as wonderful memories and fuel many a tale of the one that didn't get away. Yes, yet again no one has any news for this month it seems. Reminds me of the 50s BBC news programme, "Good evening, there is no news this evening, so here's a little light music".

Please throw a man a bone, anything, births, marriages, retirements, promotions, educational achievement. My email address: sean.mcdade@homecall.co.uk bitte, bitte, takk fyrr.

Now away from the German and Icelandic, we have now a little light music in the form of our ever kind sponsor of this month's calendar page. Such being our long standing supporter of the Section and very dear friend, Nigel Tyler, and his kind company, Sherriff Amenity. Nigel is very knowledgeable within his field of pesticides, fertilisers, dressing etc. and from an unbiased personal view can be relied upon to give good advice for your requirements of such. Nigel's phone number: 07989 548 058, or visit Sherriff's website:

www.sherriffamenity.com

Looking forward to your emails.

The newsbarren.

Sean McDade.

South East Region



East Anglia

Our rather small but perfectly formed band of brothers (40 in total), descended upon Great Yarmouth and Caister Golf Club in the middle of June, in the middle of a drought. Guess what, the fairways were a lush yellow colour – a proper links course, lovely. Well done Simon Clark, Head Greenkeeper and his team.

In those conditions, club distance goes out of the window and you actually have to think! Well some of you did, they are as follows:

0 – 9 Handicap - there were only six of them, so only two prizes: 1. Graham Hurran 37pts, 2 Rob Boyce 34pts;

10 – 18 Handicap – not many again, same number of prizes: 1. Toni Thacker 37pts; 2. Richard Hurn 30pts; 19 – 28 Handicap – Real Golfers: 1 Neville Rowlandson 33pts, 2 Martin Mison 30pts, 3 "The Maestro" Ian Willett 28pts.

The winner of the Greenkeeper and Captain's Shield was Neville Rowlandson and Frank Griffins – 71pts.

Trade & Guest: 1 Frank Griffins 38pts, 2, Clive Pinnock 36pts; Nearest the Pin: 7th Steve Coonan, 12h Chris Scott;

Nearest the Pin in Two. Graham Hurren; Longest Drive. Mark Keysell; Uncle Colin was presented with the Loo Seat, after his ball disappeared down a rabbit hole. Shame it didn't have the flag in it!

Thank you Gt Yarmouth & Caister for a good day – the course and catering were lovely.

The main sponsor of the day was Toro - the best halfway house yet! Our other loyal supporters were Aitkens, Bartram Mowers, Ransomes Jacobsen, Tacit, Tomlinson Groundcare, Ernest Doe and Prime Irrigation.

Nearly 50 years ago, my old boss said "To create a good course may have to be the slow and laborious task of years. To destroy a course can be the thoughtless act of a Greens' Committee in a single day. Nothing has changed. (Keep smiling.)

Mick Lathrope



Kent

Not too much to report this month chaps, so I'll be brief.

Our Summer Pairs' Knockout is now in full swing with half of the games being played at the time of writing. I shall give a quick synopsis of the game between myself and Darren Child versus Darren Burton and Lee Campeney at the immaculate North Foreland Golf Club. It's fair to say that the low handicapped golfer on each side did much of the donkey work in making this match such a close fought affair. Ultimately, my partner's back giving way after carrying me for so long, leaving Lee to hole his putt on the final hole ensuring a very close victory of 1 up. A fantastic game guys at your superb venue. Many thanks and good luck for the remaining rounds.

If any of you have any news or reports for me then please contact me or Kev with the info you would like placed in this column. Also, we are compiling a fixture list for 2013 now, so if you would like to host an event then, again, please let us know.

Best of British

Rob Holland

www.kentgreenkeepers.com



Surrey

Monday, July 4. Ahoy landlubbers. I'd like to say I'm glad to be back on terra firma but after 23 nights cruising the Eastern Med, I'm not. It's the sailor's life for me, from Dover to Istanbul and many other ports in between. Her indoors, me plus 815 other intrepid seafarers enjoyed sun, food, and entertainment on board the good ship 'Black Watch'. Our next cruise? Well who knows, perhaps the world.

So what has happened in Surrey since my departure with Fred Olsen and Captains' Pugwash and Birdseye? Well, Surrey Downs GC and the Cresta Cup happened on June 8. Paul Weston, that well

known once keeper of the first 'Aqua Toro Cushman', missed the day having not received the email update showing the revised date. His wife, Doreen, has insisted that they must now have a computer.

Commiserations to Paul but congratulations to winner, Steve Alabaster, Richard Bacon, runner up, and Ron Christie, who followed up the rear. Jim Russell, yes the one with the long shorts, hit the Longest Drive and Richard Bacon, yes him again, got Nearest the Pin. I am told that the course, the food and the weather were all excellent.

I have just heard the news that the sheds at Surrey Downs GC have burnt down and to Tony Kyle, Course Manager, I send my hopes that he will soon receive replacement equipment.

Finally, to Lynne Gray and her second child, Connor, 8lb 2ozs, I, on your behalf, wish them well and to Martin, Deputy at Bramley GC, the proud father, I wish him a pay rise, a broken alarm clock, the necessary dexterity to change nappies and the ability to refrain from whatever he has done in the past and take up a less expensive hobby.

Brian Willmott



London

Well, we have finally had the rain need in June that was required by all, and now (beginning of July) the sun is shining and we have ideal conditions for golf course manicuring.

I had the pleasure of entertaining a few Course Managers from the London Section at my club the other day and it was a most enjoyable experience to talk to others, share ideas and points of view. May I make this suggestion to all to pop in on one's neighbour or pick up the phone and talk shop.

I also played nine holes of golf with Martin Smith, Course Manager at Porters Park. It was very pleasing to say the least, that someone who has been in the industry as long as he still has the enthusiasm, drive and enjoyment for the job as when he started. A true inspiration.

The website is currently being updated and information will be

