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The BIGGA National Championship 2011 is sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota



Breaking barriers to better turf.



WORLD LEADER IN MINI EXCAVATORS

The wind was blowing hard and the formidable West Lincs course was baring its considerable teeth, but one man stood firm to clinch the 2011 BIGGA National Golf Championship, sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota.

Jason Hunt, a 29 year-old Assistant at Addington Palace Golf Club, near Croydon, kept his cool and carefully two putted the final hole for a single shot victory and the biggest win of his golfing career.

"I have won a few Open tournaments but the quality of the field here makes this the biggest win I've had," explained Jason, for whom it was the culmination of a fine year which has seen his handicap drop from two to scratch.

"These were the toughest conditions I've ever faced in a top tournament and it is one of the hardest courses I've played. I had to scrap for every par," he revealed.

"I had it in mind that it was between our three ball on the second day, me, Garry Duncan, from Carnoustie, and Kevin Boxall, from Guildford. Kevin had a good front nine and was in front at that stage, but Garry was leading by the back nine. I just hung in and on the final green I thought I might have two for it and that proved correct," said Jason, who is self taught, and who has never changed from the left hand below right grip he adopted when he took up the game.

The opening round was perhaps the difference when, in calmer conditions Jason shot a two over par 74 to hold the clubhouse lead by a single shot from Kevin, and two from Garry. It proved to be the difference when both Jason and Kevin shot 79s on the second round and Garry, dropping a few shots in the closing holes, shot 80 to complete the first second and third in the main competition.

"I thought West Lincs was a fantastic golf course and in superb condition. I'm looking forward to going to Scotland next year to defend my title at Irvine Bogside," said Jason.

"I'd like to thank West Lincs Golf Club, BIGGA and our sponsors, Charterhouse and Kubota, for making it such a wonderful event."

The handicap competition for the BIGGA Challenge Cup produced some real fireworks and one has to feel a little sorry for Mark Tucker, of Saunton Golf Club, who finished third, but had the same 151 score as Mark Blacknell and Gary Burgess.

He did lose out though to two players who, remarkably, both holed 4-irons during their second rounds.

Gary's was the most spectacular as it produced that rarest of birds, an albatross! The Grange Park man, had exactly 200 yards to go on the 478 yard 5th hole and his 4-iron was pinpoint accurate.

"I watched it all the way and thought I saw it drop in but you can never be sure from that distance," said Gary, a three handicapper, for whom, needless to say, it was his first ever albatross.

Mark Blacknell, who won the BIGGA Challenge Cup, was in a purple patch when he arrived at West Lincs, having just won his Club Championship at Leen Valley, but he could not have expected how his 36 holes would pan out.

The 5 handicapper shot a 10 over par 82 on the first day, without making a birdie, but when he set out on the windy second round he soon made up for it.

A 6-iron to eight inches on the





1st was a fine birdie start and he followed it up with a 50 foot eagle putt on the 2nd to be three under par gross after two. But that wasn't the end of it as he holed his 4-iron from 170 yards into the wind at the 13th for a two and his second eagle of the round.

"I thoroughly enjoyed the golf course, it suits my game as I hit a low ball, and I think it is a great event. I've already planned to take my wife with me to Scotland next year. I always enjoy it when we go to Scotland," said Mark, who celebrated his 50th birthday the Sunday following his win.

The Challenge Bowl for affiliates was a hotly contested category this year and it was Phil Dewhurst, of Rigby Taylor, who emerged victorious with a two round score of 157 to win on the better second round.

The 18 hole Stableford Challenge Plate was won by Brian Robinson, of De Vere Belton Woods, with 32 pts, while the Regional Cup, for the best four nett scores from each Region over the opening day was won by the South East Region with a score of 295 with the Midland Region, two shots adrift.

The difficulty of the West Lancs course can be amply illustrated by the fact that the scoreboard operator was deeply concerned

that he was running out of number "8"s, "2"s, "3"s, "4"s and "5"s were in plentiful supply and "6"s and "9" were interchangeable, but with many scratch, and indeed handicap scores, in the 80s and thus including the "snowman", contingency plans were put in place for the second round.

While it was exceptionally tough the course is also very fair and the conditioning was second to none and a real credit to Course Manager John Muir and his team, while the warm hospitality generated by the clubhouse staff was second to none. Club Captain, John Morris, attended the dinner and delivered a lovely speech and personalised Grace, and Lady Captain, Bernadette Metcalf, joined John at the Tuesday Prize Giving.

Charterhouse and Kubota, in the shape of Nick Darking and Curtis Allen, of Charterhouse and Tom Dunlop, of Kubota, were superb partners during the two days and the display of machinery they brought along was a demonstration of the commitment both companies give to the Championship.

The 2012 BIGGA National Championship will be held at Irvine Bogside Golf Club, Ayrshire, on October 8 & 9, 2012.



The BIGGA National Championship sponsors' were a great partnership



Course Manager, John Muir, receives a tankard from BIGGA Vice Chairman, Tony Smith



Club captain, John Morris, speaks at the dinner

2011 BIGGA National Championship, sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota

Results

BIGGA Challenge Trophy (Best Gross over 36 holes)

1. Jason Hunt (0), Addington Palace GC, 74, 79 = 153
2. Kevin Boxall (1), Guildford GC, 75, 79 = 154
3. Garry Duncan (+1), Carnoustie Links, 75, 80 = 155

BIGGA Challenge Cup (Best Nett over 36 holes)

1. Mark Blacknell (5), Leen Valley GC, 77, 74 = 151 (Better Second Round)
2. Gary Burgess (3), Grange Park GC, 75, 76 = 151
3. Mark Tucker (12), Saunton GC, 73, 78 = 151

BIGGA Challenge Plate (Stableford)

1. Brian Robinson (9), De Vere Belton Woods, 32pts

BIGGA Challenge Bowl (Affiliate)

1. Phillip Dewhurst (11), Rigby Taylor, 157 (Better Second Round)

Regional Cup

1. South East – Kevin Boxall, Dougie Fernie, Jason Hunt, Kane Stone = 295
2. Midland – John Bowness, David Lyons, Paul Reeve, Simon Woolley = 297

Handicap Prizes Day 1

- +1-5 Category. Paul Teviotdale (1), Montrose Links, 76
- 6-12 Category. Kane Stone (9), Ealing GC, 73
- 13-24 Category. Dougie Fernie (17), Upminster GC, 74

Handicap Prizes Day 2

- +1-5 Category. Andrew Riley (2), Colne GC, 73
- 6-12 Category. Peter Hogan (12), Eccle Riggs GC, 74
- 13-24 Category. Tony Thacker (13), RAF Marham, 84

- Nearest the Pin** – Kevin Boxallm, Guildford GC
- Longest Drive** – Duncan Cairnie, Carnoustie Links.

Trophy Winners (L-R): Brian Robinson, Mark Blacknell, Jason Hunt and Philip Dewhurst, flanked by Curtis Allen, of Charterhouse, and Tom Dunlop, of Kubota)



ABOVE: Nick Darking, of Charterhouse, address the dinner, and LEFT: Jason Hunt tops the board



Regional Cup Winners South East: Jason Hunt, Dougie Fernie, and Kane Stone (Kevin Boxall missing) with Tom and Nick

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

The anatomy of... Cylinder grinders

Hunter Grinders Jupiter ATI. Note the gantry to facilitate raising cutting units onto the machine.

A well managed in-house grinding station will not occupy much workshop space.

Some points to consider when choosing a grinder.

Enough settings to suit the job. A key requirement is to ensure the grinder under consideration will return both cylinders and bottom blades to the original manufacturer's specification.

Accuracy and durability.

The grinder should perform accurately for at least a decade. When costing a unit, find out the machine's maintenance demands and its projected service life. Compare machine specifications and ensure the unit will work to the tolerances you demand and that these are easily achieved.

Coping with coning.

Some modern cutting units have the cylinder and rear roller fixed in the frame during manufacture. During use, the cylinder can be subject to 'coning' that cannot be corrected other than through correct grinding. Check the machine you purchase will be able to remove such coning.

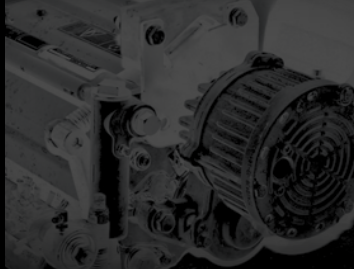
With thanks to Hunter Grinders – a division of Lloyds & Co of Letchworth Ltd.



Despite the simplicity of methods employed in cylinder grinding, there remains a degree of confusion regarding spin and relief methods. What is the difference and do they matter? James de Havilland offers his thoughts on the issue

Step-by-step Analysis...

Cylinder grinders



Technical terms

The relief on the back of a blade is cut to a specific 'relief angle'. The relief angle will typically be set by the mower manufacturer and will range between 20 to 45 degrees.

The cutting area of a given blade is often referred to as the land; so a blade with a relief that reduces the blade thickness to 1mm has a 1mm land.

Spin grinding

As the name suggests, spin grinding will typically sharpen the cutting edge and, assuming the grinder has been set up correctly, restore the edge profile to its original angle to the manufacturer's specification. The time it takes to do the job is influenced more by how long it takes to get the cutting unit into the grinder and correctly setting it up than that actual grinding process itself.

There are those that suggest a simple spin grind is always inferior to a relief/relief spin grind. This is a misleading argument because, as previously outlined, a relief may still be present following a spin grind.

Relief/Relief spin grinding

Terminology can be confusing, so it is best to consider relief grinding as a separate process; its job is to grind a relief into the back of the blade.

If the blade cutting edge can be reground at the same time, then it follows that the job will be carried out faster and hence the somewhat confusing description of spin relief grinding; the grinding stones spin but the cylinder blades are ground in turn - the cylinder is not powered and spun as it is when spin grinding.

Is a relief essential?

No, but it is accepted that relief ground units will stay on cut longer than those that are spun ground only. Cylinders can be exclusively treated to a spin grind and still deliver decent performance.

Manufacturer advice, however, tends to favour a relief grind for fine turf mowers, noting that with or without contact the technique reduces friction which in turn cuts heat generation which can help preserve the cutting edge for longer. Reduced friction also reduces overall wear and power consumption. The latter can help save fuel.

Of equal importance, a reduced land on the blade can ensure the



The cutting edge has been relief ground, leaving a slim 1mm thick 'land' on the blade.



A grinder that allows a complete pedestrian mower to be worked upon will make the whole grinding task simpler.



Spin grinding in action, with the cylinder in-situ in the cutting unit.



Modern controls make it easier to replicate grinding tasks, ensuring accuracy across multiple cutting units.

It could be argued that those responsible for the sale of cylinder grinding equipment have made outlining what specific tools do far more complex than it needs to be.

In very simple terms, modern golf course mowers are designed to produce a high quality of cut.

This quality can only be maintained if the cylinders – or reels – are kept not only sharp but also maintained with the correct relief on the blade or with an air gap.

The relief is essentially a section of metal ground out behind the blade to reduce the actual width of the cylinder cutting edge. The relief helps reduce friction between the cylinder and bottom blade – or bedknife – where a cylinder is set to light contact.

The relief also provides a degree of extra clearance behind the blade that in turn can help with the dispersal of clippings; this applies to cylinders set to both contact and air gap settings.

The relief cut into the blade essentially reduces the cutting edge width to around 1mm; this can vary according to manufacturer specifications and type of mower.

Rough mowers, for example, may have a thicker cutting edge with a reduced relief.

This is to ensure the cylinder cutting edge retains enough strength to cope with thicker, heavy mowing.

With a spin grind, there is no relief cut into the back of the blade. So the cutting edge presented to the grinder is simply reground.

If the cylinder is relatively new, the existing relief on the back cylinder blade is likely to have sufficient 'depth' not to be ground off. So although the spin grind will not have cut a relief, the existing relief may well remain and the cutting blade will still benefit from the relief.

Conversely, the relief is obviously eroded each time the cylinder is reground.

So it follows that once the relief is removed it will need to be re-ground if the cylinder is to be returned to the manufacturer's original specification.

Although this is a simplification, it follows that the relief essentially describes the edge of the cylinder blade where metal has been removed to reduce the width of the cutting edge.



Should you buy your own grinder? The view from one manufacturer, Hunter Grinders. Accepting a manufacturer will always argue in favour of buying its products, the following may help those considering grinding 'in-house'.

Cost.

The expenses related to sending cutting units out to be sharpened will range between £100 to £150. Some units may need to be ground more than once a year due to ever increasing frequencies of top dressing applications hastening cylinder wear.

Quality of cut.

In-house grinding can help ensure units are kept in premium condition throughout the whole of the cutting season – around 80% of grinding work with third parties is carried out over winter. Owning your own machine enables grinding schedules to be timed around top dressing programs, weather patterns and competitions.

Quality of grind.

Golf courses operating their own grinding equipment will not face the same pressure to grind large numbers of units, this in turn allowing – it is hoped – for more time to be dedicated to the grinding process. Automatic grinders are offered. These make it easier to maintain repeatedly high levels of grinding performance. With your own grinder, you are in charge of your own quality control.

cylinder blade to bottom blade angles are more tightly controlled for a cleaner and more consistent cut.

A spin grind will typically need to be carried out more often as the cutting edge tends to dull sooner.

As with backlapping, spin grinding delivers best results if carried out little and often.

Regardless of technique adopted, the most important issue is to keep cylinders sharp. So spin grinding will always be preferred to running dull cylinders.

So relief is best?

Simple answer is yes. Manufacturers put a relief on the back or trailing edge of a blade for a reason.

When this relief is worn away, it needs to be reinstated.

So spin grinding is can only work well as long as the original relief remains post sharpening.

It may be the case on some commercial mowers that no relief is present but not always.

Conversely, if you want to retain the relief as per the manufacturer's specification you need to regrind it as it is eroded by blade wear.

Contact or air gap?

With regard to air gap versus light

contact 'reel to bedknife' settings, it depends upon who you talk to; Toro is in the light contact group, John Deere and Ransomes Jacobsen setting most of their cutting units for golf with an air gap.

As a rule, it is best practice to follow the advice offered by your equipment supplier.

What about backlapping?

Not everyone thinks backlapping is a good idea.

The process re-hones the cylinder cutting edge from the rear and also possibly takes the cylinder 'out of true' as it relies upon the action of a grinding paste between it and the bottom blade.

Backlapping can actually further dull cutting units that are blunt to start with too.

The counter argument is that backlapping is not intended to re-sharpen a dull blade. Its job is to help retain an existing cutting edge, helping to restore it as it just starts to dull. Judicious 'little and often' backlapping can help lengthen the periods between regrinding the cylinder.

The problem with backlapping is that not everyone understands that it is only effective if the units have been relief ground because the relief is necessary to force the paste to the cutting edge.

It is not just a case of slapping on some backlapping compound, winding on a little extra pressure on the bottom blade and then running the cylinder up to speed in reverse.

The job needs to be carried out according to the mower manufacturer's instructions and performed long before the blades on the cylinder are really dull.

There are those who actually advocate a modest backlap post grinding; the argument is that grinding leaves a burr on the cylinder blades and backlapping removes them.

The more widely accepted consensus is that any burrs quickly dislodge during initial mowing, making a backlap unnecessary.

What about the bottom blade?

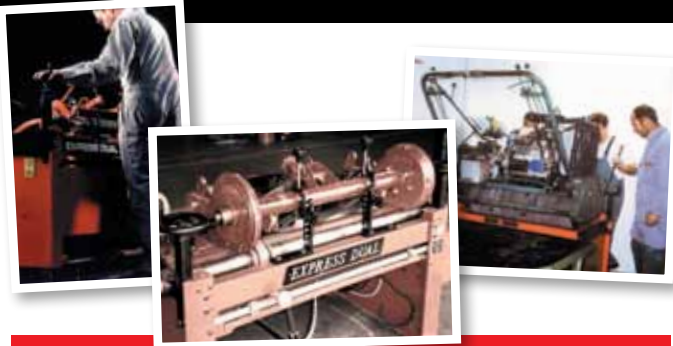
The correct bottom blade 'shear' angle is absolutely critical to the performance of the cutting unit.

The sharpest cylinders will not deliver if they are acting on a dull or incorrectly profiled bottom blade.

So it follows that grinding the bottom blade is as important as honing the cylinders.

Bottom blades also have a finite life, with a wear limit mark cast into many OEM designs.

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Back in time to this month in... 1975

Do you have any old artifacts from days gone-by?

Perhaps your grandad was a greenkeeper and has something stored away in the loft? Maybe an Association tie, or a journal? If so we would love to hear from you. We are particularly interested in the early part of the last century but anything you have would be worth considering for future editions of this article.

Please contact us on 01347 833800 or email Elliott Small, BIGGA Past Chairman,

elliott.edna@hotmail.co.uk

Back in time looks back at cuttings of greenkeeping news from days gone-by. 2012 will be a landmark year, as it will be the centenary of Greenkeeping Associations, as well as 25 years since BIGGA was formed. Each month we will look back at the current month, but in a different year, from over the last hundred. This month we travel back to November 1975.

The issue covered **Drainage Problems**, a piece written by **D. F. Boocock**, an **Advisory Officer**, at the **STRI** and a piece on turf which came from a paper entitled **Composition and Nourishment of Amenity Swards**, delivered by **Robert W. Palin**, **Technical Director**, of **Sutton Seeds**, at **Turf 75**, held at **Reading University**.

A pub honours the fine art of greenkeeping, featured in the issue. The Greenkeeper was built at the entrance to Thorpe Wood Golf Course in Peterborough and the magazine appealed for the subject of the pub sign to make himself known. The success of the search is not known!

The information was provided by Mr F.E. Sismey, Head Greenkeeper of nearby Peterborough Milton Golf Club.



BGGA
JOURNAL

FOUNDED 1912

Published monthly for the benefit of greenkeepers, greenkeeping and the game of golf on behalf of the British Golf Greenkeepers Association

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The British Golf Greenkeeper



No. 366

November 1975 15p

Drainage problems

THE surface drainage of a golf course is greatly influenced both by design and by the character of the soil. This applies to all areas of the course from putting greens to rough. Design should not only take account of the natural features of the site to produce good golfing holes at an acceptable cost, but should bear in mind the varying drainage characteristics and subsequent maintenance of the area.

These latter aspects are particularly important when siting a new green or moving an existing one. Low lying areas are generally best avoided. If these parts are not naturally boggy and ill drained (or extremely difficult to drain artificially) they will nearly always be affected by surface water from surrounding higher land. Some of these problems may be overcome on the green itself by use of drainage carpets with emptying drains and an improved soil mix. Even then such good drainage can be severely taxed by heavy run-off in

By D. F. Boocock, Advisory Officer, The Sports Turf Research Institute.

storm conditions. The surrounds and approaches to such greens, usually with unimproved soil and little or no tile drainage, can deteriorate seriously.

Where a green must be of necessity sited in a different situation like this, some help can be gained by reshaping the fairway or surround to direct surface water run-off to the side of the green and, of course, away from the next tee.



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SECTION NEWS

with their prizes by Mr. Machin. I would just like to say a special thanks to Mr. Norman Spencer, who helped with the cards, etc., not only at this competition but also at our others this year.

It was very good to have with us at Dore & Todley one of our Hon. Life Members, Mr. Percy Booker, who was a very active member of this section in the past. Nice to see you, Percy.

Next winter meeting at Abbeydale G.C., December 4th at 2.30 p.m. Mr. D. F. Boocock, S.T.R.I., will talk on the subject of Modern Golf Green and Tee Construction.

Southern Section

Chairman: D. S. GIBB
Hon. Secretary: MRS. D. MASON
 36 Tynedale Road,
 Strood Green, Brockham,
 Surrey.

congratulations go to John Gerrards Cross Golf Club and of this section on winning the News Weekend Golfers Tour West Byfleet on September defeating 16-year-old Middx. Curtis at the 19th. This section also represented by Don Major, Park Golf Club, who he last eight.

come to this section the following members: F. G. Catchpole and Wilson as Vice-Presidents, andington, D. R. Fisher (R.A.F.), W. H. Millen (Tenterton), oness (Chestfield), H. W. Cave Green), M. P. Fitzsimmons (am Place Park Municipal), ale (Surbiton G.C.) and Mr. It.

day's outing with a game of enjoyed by members of this at Foxhills Golf Club, at the of Huxleys. -A special thank



Sheffield Section

President: S. K. ARNOLD
Hon. Secretary: B. V. LAX
 153 Killon Road,
 Worksop, Notts.

AT Dore & Todley Golf Club on

The British Golf Greenkeeper

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 ew Mounted Hydraulic 3 tractor mounted
 ower which made its debut at the Institute
 anship International Exhibition, Mospur
 urther deals on Page 11.

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HISTORY was made on September 12th when the first public house in the U.K. featuring the noble art of Greenkeeping was opened. Owned by brewers Greene King, the pub, appropriately named "The Greenkeeper", was built as the entrance to Thorpe Wood Golf Course, the only municipal course in Peterborough, 1 1/2 miles west of the city on the new A.47 road. In case you don't identify yourself with the character depicted, the artist was a lady, her model unknown. Will the offending greenkeeper please stand up. Our thanks are due to Mr. F. E. Simesy, Head Greenkeeper at Peterborough Milton G.C., for this information.

- ## Diary dates
- Oct. 20 N.W. Section, Lecture by Joseph Metcalfs Ltd., Swinton Park G.C., 7.30 p.m.
 - Nov. 3 North West Section, Talk by Mommersteeg Seeds, Swinton Park G.C., 7.30 p.m.
 - Nov. 3 Southern Section, Suttons Seeds, 6.30 p.m.
 - Nov. 15 East Midlands Section, Annual Dinner/Dance, Shakespeare Inn, Leicester.
 - Nov. 27 Northern Section, Lecture by S.A.I. Horticulture Ltd., Moor Allerton G.C., 7.30 p.m. for 8 p.m.
 - Dec. 2 South Coast Section, Lecture by Mr. J. Bradbury of Mommersteeg International, Alresford G.C., 7 p.m.
 - Dec. 3 Southern Section, Ransomes, 6.30 p.m.
 - Dec. 4 N.W. Section, Visit to Toro.
 - Dec. 4 Sheffield Section, Talk by Mr. D. F. Boocock of the S.T.R.I., Abbeydale G.C., 2.30 p.m.
 - Dec. 12 Northern Section, Annual Dinner, Oakdale G.C.
 - Jan. 12 N.W. Section, Lecture by Mr. T. L. Hewett, Atco Ltd.
 - Jan. 29 Northern Section, Lecture by Mr. Tyldesley, a Meteorological Officer, Moor Allerton G.C.

LAWN MOWER GRINDERS

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Section Notes

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by the 5th
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All the latest news from your Section

Around The Green



Scotland



East

What a fantastic autumn outing we had at the Braid Hills Golf Course. Twenty-two played on September 14 on a warm sunny 'breezy!' day. I believe the Braids is a highly under rated course, with some fabulous holes, great views and super greens. Thanks to Derek McLeod, the Head Greenkeeper and his crew, for the excellent presentation of the course and also Ian Grimwald, 'the pro', for providing Jim Davidson and myself some excellent advice on the day.

Eight-five year old George Stavert was there with two of his friends, one of whom was George Thompson, an ex Head Greenkeeper of the Braids, for 12 years, back in the days when men were men, eh!

You were very welcome boys, and it was nice to see my old friend George Stavert again, he even gave me a smile. Cheers boys.

Scores on the doors: Scratch winner. Philip Butler, Murrayfield GC. First Class winner. Derek McLeod, Braid Hills GC; Runner-up. Yohan Svard, Edinburgh Leisure. Second Class winner. Alan Campbell, Edinburgh Leisure; Runner-up. Ryan McCulloch, Gossick GC. (Old Veterans' winner) The young Alastair Holmes, Seahouses GC; Patrons' winner. Hugh Fraser, Huxley Golf Limited. Longest Drive. Andrew Terras, Gossick GC. Nearest to Pin. Stuart Ferguson, Dundas Park GC

On a sad note, I can tell you that Jimmy Neilson has had a small stroke, but he attended

our last committee meeting and is well on the road to recovery. We wish him well.

I had an email from Ronnie McCrindle, Liberton GC, to say that he had been unwell recently. So good wishes to him and his recovery.

The AGM this year at the moment is going to be held on November 15, at Niddrie Castle GC, in Linlithgow, the sponsor of which will be Huxley Golf Limited.

I look forward to seeing everyone there.

Yours in golf
Stewart Crawford



Central

A small but enthusiastic band of members were fortunate to hear a presentation from Joe Vargas, of Michigan State University, in St Andrews on October 3.

Joe spoke for over an hour on both the cultural and chemical practices of controlling a variety of common diseases such as dollar spot, anthracnose and fusarium patch diseases.

By the time you read this, the Section AGM will have come and gone and a full report will be on the website www.bigga-centralsection.org.uk

Allan Patterson, Course Manager at the Castle Course, was selected to represent St Andrews Links in this year's Alfred Dunhill Links Championship and acquitted himself well. Playing with Jean-Baptiste Gonnet as his Pro, they finished a respectable 17 under for the three rounds which was unfortunately four shots off making the cut for the last day. Many of the competitors were very complimentary of all three courses during the week.

Also at the time of writing, there may be an outside chance we can arrange a presentation from Marsh Benson, Director of Maintenance at Augusta National. Marsh is going to be in the area in mid November and if we can set this up we will contact members by email as well as advertising it on the website.

Gordon Moir



West

By the time you get this copy of the magazine the AGM will have been done and dusted, the venue being a mix of Ibrox Football Stadium and Hags Castle Golf Club, I will report next month on what happened and any feedback for members' attention.

The outing, at Williamwood Golf Club, was held on September 29 instead of the 15th, due to the poor weather conditions and the change of date certainly made the difference with beautiful sunshine sampled by all who attended. Unfortunately I, and my staff, were unable to compete due to a shortage of staff through a variety of things, but those who did play, experienced a course in excellent condition and thanks must go to Gerry Bruen and his staff for their efforts. Williamwood's committee has to be commended on allowing our presence this is very much appreciated, and thanks to both the catering and bar staff for attending to our requirements.

The prize winners on the day were: Scratch Alistair Reid, Williamwood gross 72. 1st Class 1. John Brown, Bearsden; 2. Craig Littlejohn, Bearsden; 3. Gerry Bruen, Williamwood. 2nd Class. 1. Blair Sommerville, Helensburgh; 2. Brian Hillen,

Drumpellier; Jack Steadman, Blairbeth; 3rd Class. Kevin Cross, Williamwood; 2. Sandy Brawley, East Kilbride; 3. David McBride, Vale of Leven. Visitors' prize and Longest Drive Peter Boyd. Nearest the Pin at hole 4. Gavin Jarvis. Nearest the Pin at hole 13. Willie Lewis.

On the day only 24 people attended and enjoyed the event which is a wee bit disappointing but maybe the next time more can get the time off.

The normal annual dinner has been difficult to discover a format which everybody wants and will attend, along with trying to get a suitable location which suits all. Last year the cancellation of the night meant a slightly reorganised pub crawl took place with those who had organised their baby sitters and house sitters, so this year it has been proposed to do a similar thing meeting in Glasgow at all bar one on November 25 for a few jars and a wee discussion on things. This will be an early meet up to allow those with trains to catch to get up the road in time, all are welcome so please let me know and keep you informed.

The annual match against the club masters was arranged for October 10 so I will report next month on the result, please remember to get in touch with any information births, deaths, marriages etc. on 0141-942-5554, or 07790823914, or e-mail stuart.taylor@glasgowgolfclub.com

Stuart Taylor



North

Hope everyone is well and by now all the Autumn renovation work is now done and dusted for another year. Our Autumn Outing this year was held at