

colour. Type 2 fairy rings are generally caused by *Lycoperdon* fungi producing physiologically active chemicals that stimulate grass growth.

Type 3 – most easily recognised by the prominent circle of stand-alone toadstools or puffballs with no visible effect on the associated ring of grass, either through toxins killing plants (Type 1) or chemicals stimulating grass growth (Type 2). Type 3 is caused by different fungi including *Hygrophorus* and is the easiest type of fairy rings to live with, being temporarily removed during mowing.

No easy task

Experienced greenkeepers can instinctively recognise and identify the main diseases of turf, just like my first GP could do with childhood diseases. Already in his seventies and practicing since the turn of twentieth century he could stand at the bedroom door and tell a mother what disease her child was suffering from. Naturally he would examine the patient to confirm his initial diagnosis from a distance, just as a greenkeeper will get down ‘on all fours’ to inspect his turf and consult his local agronomist

if unsure.

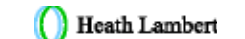
The situation for younger and less experienced greenkeepers is altogether different. Dealing with diseases in fine sports turf is much more difficult than crops in agriculture. The farmer inspecting wheat, which is essentially a grass allowed to grow naturally and completely, is looking at a sufficiently large leaf area that allows him/her to observe discrete and easily identifiable disease symptoms.

The greenkeeper does not have that luxury being essentially reduced to looking at fine turf in its entirety for spots or patches of discoloured and dying grass. That is why guideline descriptions for turf disease are generally reduced to simple statements like ‘round straw coloured patches’. That one straw coloured patch, whether caused by a fungus or associated with parasitic nematodes, is very much like another is clearly cause for confusion and misidentification. Insect pest damage and even spilt mower fuel can add to the confusion. What’s more wear and tear during play and unauthorised traffic, which may include the public with dogs delivering toxic urine and even foxes, can further complicate an already confusing situation with

additional ‘straw coloured patches’.

Of course there is always the local distributor at hand to offer an expert opinion and only too pleased to provide something in a bottle to solve the problem. If in doubt always ask for a second opinion but I would additionally invest in a microscope and some basic knowledge of microscope slide preparation and fungus staining techniques. With this facility at his/her fingertips the greenkeeper is now inside an altogether different disease dimension, able to observe for himself/herself mycelium, spores and spore bearing structures that he/she otherwise only reads about.

From then on identification with the help of a sound text book on turf pathogens and diseases is not rocket science. Given the quality of contemporary turf management courses and teaching I would be surprised if most young and academically qualified greenkeepers have not already been introduced to these basic techniques in plant pathology. They allow greenkeepers to be more resourceful and not totally reliant on the turf ‘medicine man’.



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Evolution in Action

The light and super light fairway mower offering has evolved over the years. A combination of reduced sized cutting units and a lower powered and lighter ride-on 'tractor units' can mean you can buy a true precision cut wide area mower

James de Havilland takes a look at the new breed of light fairway mower which have arrived on the market





Manufacturers typically offer a choice of 'light' fairway models within a range to give a choice of engine and cutting units. These models will be based around what amounts to pretty much the same ride-on unit.

A key to differentiating between light fairway mowers is to concentrate on the cutting units and to match these to the desired mowing height of your fairways. It follows that light and narrow units are better suited to high frequency 'light' mowing, so obviously how the fairways are managed will have a major impact upon model selection.

It also follows that larger units offer improved ability to tackle less frequent mowing and coping with a heavier cut when it has not been possible to mow for a more extended period than would otherwise be adopted.

Conversely, a light mower may be able to work on fairways that would otherwise be too wet to take the weight of a heavier model. It is one of those subjects that can lead to a somewhat circular argument. There are no simple 'if you do this, this type of mower is best' rules.

So how a light fairway mower, or

more often than not two or more light models, fit into the mowing and management of a course is in itself a subject. But the key is that there is a choice of equipment on offer, starting from narrower width, small unit 'super light' through to more conventional 'light' fairway mower designs. It is the latter that have seen a growth in popularity over the past decade.

Super light mowers

Introduced in the UK in late 2003, the now well-established five-gang Jacobsen SLF 1880 was the first of the true super light fairway models. Fitted with 5in/12.7cm diameter cylinder reels of just 18in/45.7 cm in width, this mower will cut 82 inches or just over 2.0m in a pass. A choice of 8- of 11-blade units are offered together with a choice of 25 or 33hp diesel engine.

And how much does the SLF 1880 weigh? From 959kg in 2WD and 998kg in 4WD form. This is spread between 24x13-12 front and 18x9.5-8 rear tyres - which should mean a really light footprint. By way of comparison, the latest 'light fairway' Jacobsen 2WD LF 550 weighs in at 1287kg with its

five 22in/56cm units raised. That is a significant difference.

That said, Ransomes Jacobsen suggests that the super light SLF 1880 - which has had a few design nips and tucks over the years - remains more of a niche player. It is the company's LF 550 and LF 570, which replace the LF 3400 and LF 3800, which are the key sellers as they both cater for more 'mainstream' light fairway mower needs.

The Jacobsen SLF 1800 no longer has the super light niche to itself, the five-gang John Deere 8000E E-Cut hybrid matching its 5 inch/12.7cm diameter by 18 inch/45.7 cm wide cylinder reels to offer an 80 inch/2.0m mowing width. The 37hp Deere mower drives hydraulic pumps for the mower's traction motors, steering and lift rams, with a generator powering the cutting units electric motors - the same system as employed on existing E-Cut Hybrid models in the company's line up.

Of equal interest is that the three-wheel tractor unit has smooth tyres as standard, John Deere suggesting the 8000E will leave a striped finish that will be similar to a ride-on greens mower. A choice of 7- or 11-blade QA5 units are

As with its competitors, Toro offers its Reelmaster 5010 series fairway models in specs to suit different needs. The pictured 5410 sits above the less powerful 5210, with both the 5510 and 5610 alternatives having larger cylinder reels. In outline, as you go up the range you get more power and larger DPA cutting units but also more weight. A 28hp 2WD 5210 will weigh from 1087kg.



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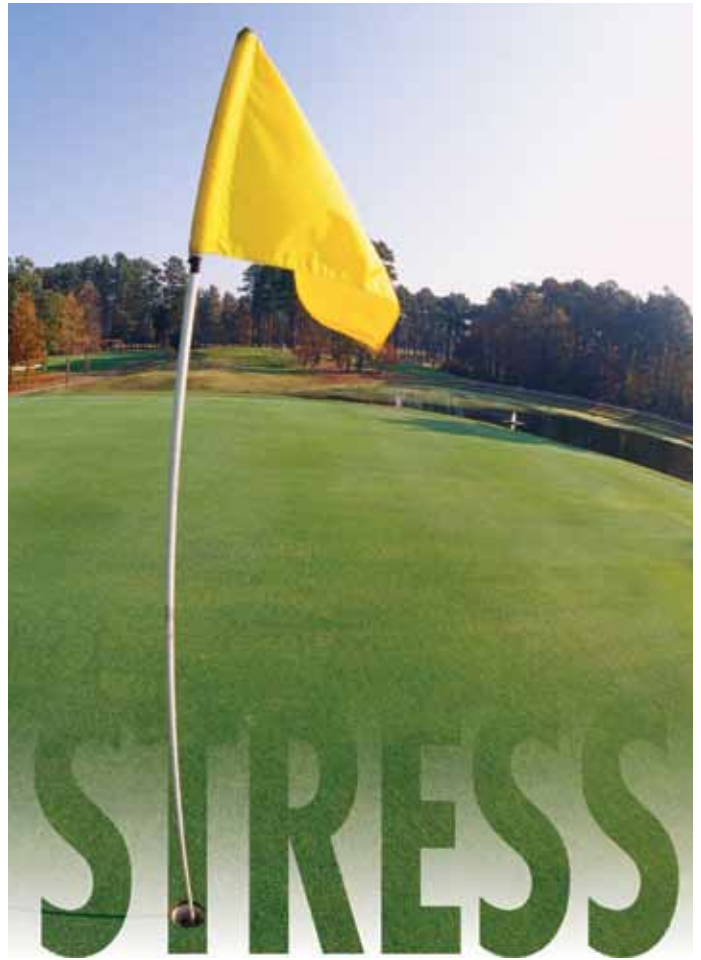
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offered, height of cut spanning 2 to 28.5mm dependent upon bottom blade bedknife and roller specified. Those heights of cut are not a typo either, reflecting the use of 'greens' cutting units on a mower that has the width to tackle a wider area.

Light fairway mowers

Toro Reelmaster 5010 models are the company's light fairway models, the four model line-up comprising the five-gang, 100in/2.54m cut width 5210 and 5410 with 5 in/12.7cm diameter cylinder reels and the 5410 and 5610 with 7in/17.8cm diameter units. Apart from cutting unit size, the remaining model differences are engine outputs of 28, 35.5, 35.5 and 44.2hp respectively.

Jacobsen LF 550 and LF 570 models essentially have the same unit stats as the Toro models, the 22in/56cm wide individual cutting units having the further option of a 9-blade cylinder. Power choice is 35.5 or 44.2hp for both models.

John Deere 7500 and 8500 PrecisionCut Fairway mowers, together with the 7500 and 8500 E-Cut Hybrid again they offer the same size units as the models from Jacobsen and Toro and same 100in/2.54m width of cut, the engine output of 37.1 and 43.1hp determining the model number.

ABOVE: The Sunningdale Golf Club, Berkshire, currently operates four Jacobsen SLF 1880 fairway mowers. These 'super light' models have a height of cut range from 7.62 to 17.78mm (or up to 23.8mm with a high cut kit). Narrow units and small cylinder reels allow good contour following. It all adds up to offering the potential for a really good finish.

BELOW: Superseding the established LF 3400 / LF 3800, the LF 550 and LF 570 have a range of new features to help cut maintenance and boost productivity. Power to the wheels is controlled by a 'drive-by-wire' electronic system designed to reduce travel pedal pressure and help eliminate wheel spin.



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Section Notes

Please email your notes to
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by the 5th
of the month

All the latest news from your Section

Around The Green

Scottish Region



East

Well I hope you are all well and prospering in 2012. The winter months are almost over and spring is just around the corner (we hope!)

The committee had our first meeting on December 13, at Rigby Taylor's HQ, in Newbridge, specifically to have a Cabinet reshuffle, as it were.

Mr George Oliver has the reigns of Social Convenor and is busy thinking of ideas to bring some welcome cheer for the year ahead - if any of our members have any ideas or input please contact George - Tel: 07824557041. He will be glad to hear from you.

The Vice Chairman and Education Convenor, Mr Scott Corrigan, has the honour of Philip Butler as an assistant. Both Scott and Philip will bring to the table fresh, inspiring ideas to discuss and both young men will work well together, I am sure, in this difficult, but highly rewarding, role. Please contact Scott on 07877098237 or Philip on 07841759080.

Jim Smith 07841316864 will be calling in on you throughout the spring period to establish any information about any BIGGA matters you may have to gauge the feedback and give us some indication as to how we, as your East Section Committee, can best serve you as a member.

I would ask that you help us to help you, by contacting and contributing in these matters - your opinion counts.

Stuart Ferguson 07961630553 - stuferg@btinternet.com, as ever will be on hand as our hard working Secretary. The experience he has

amounted over the last three to four years is crucial in the smooth running of the Section.

It was suggested by me to bring back the summer knock-out comp whereby two members or member and guest, play against a similar set up at the top named venue or neutral venue, to establish the Section's Champions. Any input or opinion would be gratefully received.

Our Patrons' Award, Messrs Philip Butler and Jamie Martin, should have enjoyed their Harrogate BTME experience, (well done boys). We look forward to hearing about your trip.

Once again please inform us of any questions or queries you have and we look to hearing from you.

Yours in golf
Stewart Crawford
Chairman 07873464097 - s.crawford@live.co.uk



Central

Congratulations first of all to Grant Frogley, who is leaving gWest to take up the position of Course Manager at The Roxburgh. We wish him well in his new job. Before he left, Grant and Lee Strutt MG gave a presentation to a full house of greenkeepers hoping to make the step up to Deputy or Course Manager, at Auchterarder GC, on January 11.

A few things coming up in the Section. On February 9, Agrovista is staging a Vermin Control course at St Andrews Links Practice Centre and will happily run a second course in the west of the Section if there is sufficient demand. Also in February, we still hope to stage a practical training course on how to rectify irrigation faults with Tony Barnett, of Bar Systems. On Wednesday, March 21,

James Cobb, a retired lecturer, will give a presentation on planting of native species of trees and shrubs for maximum environmental benefit and our Spring outing will be over the Craighead course at Crail on Tuesday, April 17. For all information on these and other events look on www.bigga-central-section.org.uk or follow us on Facebook. All correspondence for events will now be done by email so please provide us with your email address. Finally, thanks to all those companies who have again sponsored the website which allows us to stage these educational events. Their logos are all listed on our website and a click on them gives you a direct link to their website.

Gordon Moir



Northern

I would like to start off this month with the weather and I am sure everybody has experienced the baw bag and I hope you have not had too much damage on your course with fallen trees etc.

I was told a very funny story about an excuse for being late which I would like to share with you. It starts off with the certain person phoning his boss and letting him know that he was going to be late because his parrot had a heart attack and he had to wait for the vet to come to give him an injection. The worst part of it all was when he got the bill through the door. Believe it or not this was a true story.

Also there has been some movement with the greenkeepers starting with my good friend and work mate, Dennis Grant, who is leaving Newmachar Golf Club to become Head Greenkeeper of Huntly Golf Club. We wish him all the best for his

future, also I (Ross Macrae) am leaving Newachar Golf Club to become Head Greenkeeper of Turriff Golf Club. On this note I wish to thank Dale Robertson and George Mitchell for having me at Newmachar Golf Club again (I'm going to miss the banter and the rest of the staff).

Ross Macrae

Northern Region



Northern

I hope everyone is enjoying these mild conditions for this time of year. The fact that I played in the weekend comp on New Year's Eve was fantastic considering this time last year we were under snow! As always I'm looking forward to another good year in the Section. We have some great courses to play and with The Open at Lytham this year it is always a great week to look forward to.

Since my last notes we had our final golf day at Selby in December. Frank Stewart and I were sitting having a brew in the clubhouse that morning fearing the worse. The black clouds and the very strong winds were a concern but us northern boys are made of strong stuff. Gordon and his lads were out cutting away while we were trying to work out the coffee machine in the warm lounge talking to nice ladies!

The weather all week had been horrible and it's a massive credit to Selby, Gordon and his crew, for turning out a fantastic course for us. It was hard going, but very enjoyable all round. A big thanks to Gordon and his team again; to all you guys who braved the conditions and, as always, our sponsors.

Last, but not least, I bumped

into an old chum of mine who I have not seen for a long time - James Bentley, who I had the pleasure of working (???) with at Hollins Hall and Moor Allerton. He moved to Oslo in Norway and has moved up to Deputy at Miklagard Golf Club. It just goes to show all those afternoons sitting and listening to me have finally paid off!

No, it's great to see young lads, who have a bit of ambition in them even if they can't hold their beer, pull girls and are bone idle.... Sorry, that was harsh. His girlfriend was very nice.

So, as always, any news please pass it on and I will bid you a great month. Take it easy.

Andy Slingsby



North Wales

With the winter competition calendar in full swing it's a rush in the mornings to get ahead of play and be able to see the course in the late dawns.

I hope you all tried your best to get to Harrogate. At the time of writing this month's column, I don't know as yet if enough people booked seats on our Section's coach to make the trip viable. I always enjoy my time spent there and I hope you get as much enjoyment and information from your time there.

The Christmas Competition and AGM took place at Heswall Golf Club on December 7, with good weather (although more than a little windy), a great course and extremely friendly clubhouse staff and membership. A good day was had by all.

The results of the day were as follows: 1. Stuart McCall, Paul Stanley, Callum Roberts and Simon Whitley, 73 pts; 2. Jez Hughes, John Evans, Andrew Cornes and Jim Croxton, 71 pts; 3. John Morris, Miles Todd, Barry Wright and Darren Anderson, 70 pts. Nearest the Pin went to Jez Hughes, on the 7th, and Charlie Land, on the 14th.

I think we all owe a big thank you to Guy Cannings and team for the fantastic course they set up for our day.

The AGM also took place on the day and we welcome three new members to the Committee, two greenkeepers and one from the trade, the new Greenkeeper members are; Rhys Butler of

Aberdovey GC and Neil Oxtan of Heswall GC. The new trade member is Paul Lowe, of Symbio. We hope your time on Committee is a long and fruitful one!

In January my Course Manager Jez Hughes took up his position as Club Vice Captain at the Vale of Llangollen Golf Club, which coincides with him also celebrating 25 years as a Greenkeeper. Well done, Jez!

I think that just about does it for this month, please remember to send your news to my contact details at the bottom of this and every column so all the best until next month!

Pete Maybury e-mail petemayb66@aol.com mobile 07756001187



North East

Here we go again. It's that time of the month for Section News. I always struggle this time of the year. In fact, I had sent out a couple of e-mails to members to see if they could fill me in on news from their course, even telling me what they were doing for their winter programme. I mean to say how hard is that to reply to. Anyway God loves a trier.

Well I do have some news but now having been informed by Newcastle College recently I see that not only greenkeepers James Curry and Tony Callan, of Prudhoe GC, are attending, but also Michael Hall and Stuart Ineson, both from Dunstanburgh Castle, and Grant Burton, of Gosforth GC, and lastly Harry Carvey, of Heworth GC. Well done to those golf clubs on sending them onto further education in greenkeeping.

I have recently just received confirmation on the Spring and Autumn comps. They are as follows: Spring. South Shields GC, April 18, tee off time 11am-11.30am. Autumn. Wooler GC, October 10. Now for those people who have not played South Shields, leave home earlier than normal as it's not easy to find first time around unless you use Sat Nav. It's been a long time since we have played there and it would be good to have a few more people turn up the same goes for Wooler. This will be the first time we have played

there I am sure you will enjoy both courses. Members will be notified in due course to these events.

Jimmy Richardson

Midland Region



East Midlands

Come on now, be honest, did anyone manage to continue their New Year Resolutions through Harrogate Week?

How great to see so many greenkeepers, old and new, at the show and also socialising at organised events and in the hostelrys of Harrogate. For an industry that is under great pressure from the media and bank-fuelled recession the vast majority of people seemed upbeat with a positive outlook for 2012 and beyond.

Having already thanked Andy and Danny, at Lingdale, in my January notes for their hospitality in early December I am now able to report the results of the windswept East Midlands Christmas Tournament. Firstly, the Greenkeepers' Nearest the Pin prize was won, with a majestic strike of a 7-iron to four feet of the pin on the 16th hole, by..... Greg Skinner. Nearest the pin for the trade was won by Carl Chamberlain, of Rigby Taylor - some say quite fortunately, but I didn't see it! Nick Miles partnered Simon Banks (marking their own card...hmmmm and with Mr Banks playing his 15th day of consecutive golf) to victory with 44 pts. Pete Smith and Sam Voss were runners-up. Longest Drives were won by Chris 'Plus Fours' Weir for the Greenkeepers while Matt Court took the Guest/Trade prize. Both Nearest the Pin and Longest Drive prizes were sponsored by Tacit, so thanks go to them along with Symbio and Farmura for their support of the day.

For all the Chairmen, Green Committee members, Proprietors and golfers in general who get to read Greenkeeping International magazine I can reveal that having whipped all my colleagues at cards, darts, pool and Wii in the shed over the winter I am now looking forward to warmer days next month. There is only so much Jeremy

Kyle and Loose Women that you can watch before you develop shed fever. In addition to this my doctor says that the strain of kettle finger I have contracted over the winter is immune to my winter flu jab. Odd?

Leicestershire has, like a lot of areas, (not you Pete 'Arctic Circle' Smith) enjoyed a very mild, Long John-free winter, which has enabled winter projects to be completed ahead of schedule and allowed a more frequent than usual winter mowing programme. This has kept the golf course looking like a golf course which in itself is motivational and most importantly keeps our salary providers (the golfers) happy (ish)!

So here we are in early February with less than 180 days to go to the 2012 London Olympics, will Greenkeeping ever become an Olympic event like beach volleyball. I wonder?

TTFN

Greg Skinner



Midland

The Section's Christmas Tournament was held at Woburn Golf Club, on December 9, around the Duchess course. The weather was perfect as was the golf course, as presented by the Course Manager, John Clarke and his fine team. Our thanks to Woburn for allowing us courtesy of the course once again. The main prize sponsor on the day was Crocodile Golf, with thanks to Ian Marshall and Paul Tanner, for their continued support of our Christmas tournament. Thanks also to the chocolate and "sloe gin" on the 10th tee courtesy of Kevin and Russ, from Farols. Thanks also to all the other trade members who brought so many prizes for the Nearest the Pins and raffle on the day.

The result of the day: 1. Steve Scott & Aaron Saunders, 40 pts (back 9 22pts); 2. Ed Stant & Clint Woodall, 40 pts (back 9 21pts); 3. Tony Cheese & Simon White, 37pts. Nearest the Pin winners: Vince Gilroy, Steve Scott x2, Rich Lloyd.

Please make a note of the next education day coming up, hosted by Sherrieff Amenity, at Walsall Golf Club, on March 14. With some first class speakers

on show and lunch provided please contact Nigel Tyler on 07989 548058 to reserve your place or for further information.

Yet again our committee has produced a great calendar for 2012, and our thanks must go to our many sponsors. This month's page is sponsored by Farol Ltd. Please consider them regarding your John Deere needs, and indeed many other machinery requirements. Please contact either Kevin Pugh: 07943 192498 pughkevin@farol.co.uk, or Russ Tomlinson 07943 192588 tomlinsonruss@farol.co.uk.

My thanks to our Chair, Ed, for the above,
Sean McDade



East of England

Happy New Year to all.

By the time you read this maybe we will have actually experienced some winter weather! At the time of writing I can count the number of frosty mornings we have had on one hand. Couple that with mild temperatures and well below average rainfall and once again we have another upside down season of British weather. Quite when we are going to get all the indoor and off course jobs done I do not know.

As I write this before, and you read it after, BTME has been I am sure the entire event will have passed off as the success it usually is.

Our Christmas golf event this year was held at Belton Park Golf Club, in Grantham, on Thursday, December 8. This year saw a change to the format with a Team Texas Scramble, made up of members and invited golf club officials.

The golf course was presented in fantastic condition as always by Gary Poole and his team, although we all could have done without the gale force winds that accompanied the day. An excellent meal was also provided by the clubhouse staff who all made us feel welcome throughout the day. Many thanks also go to the sponsors of the day, Rigby Taylor and Mansfield Sands, for providing an excellent prize table and their continued

sponsorship of the Section.

The results of the day were as follows: Nearest the Pin. Bruce Hicks; Longest Walk. G. Poole, N. Smith, L. Carratt, L. Smith; 3. A. Kitchenson, R. Moody, A. Hill, D. Grundy; 2. P. Wilkinson, I. Mawer, R. Mawer, O. Gurney; 1. R. Welford, A. Cox, M. Sutherland, N. Fox.

Once again many thanks to all concerned for an excellent day.

The Midlands Region, Inter-Section Championship was held in October at The Belfry. For the third year in a row the East of England Section team of Rob Welford, Ash Cox and Rob Bemment were victorious.

Unfortunately this "Dream Team" will not be able to defend their title in 2012 as Ash Cox has now left the industry. We wish him all the best in his new career.

Belated congratulations also go to Brian Robinson (spelt it right this time, Mrs Robinson!) for his exploits at the 2011 National Championship winning the BIGGA Challenge Plate for best Stableford score on Day 2.

Finally congratulations go to Gary, from Burghley Park, and his wife on the birth of their son, Edward.

Many thanks.

Steve Beverly, Immingham Golf Club.

South East Region



East Anglia

Lovely day at Thorpeness (bit breezy!) Course, as usual, in excellent condition thanks to Ian and his men. The bunkers look fantastic.

A total of 128 Players took part in the annual Turkey Trot sponsored ably by CMW as ever.

After the bacon rolls and the launching of the Aldeburgh Lifeboat, battle commenced. The battle was against the wind, frostbite and trying to swing a club in a space suit!

However, some of us (the few) managed to score some points, they are as follows:

1. Titchells Terrors, 56.7 pts
2. The Fielders, 57.6 pts

3. The Usual Suspects, 58 pts
4. The Lemmons, sorry Lemmons Lads, 58.1 pts

Nearest the Pin 2nd: Sponsored by Aitkens – Nick Ashman

Nearest the Pin 7th: Sponsored by Symbio – Steve Crabb

Nearest the Pin 10th: Sponsored by Bartram Mowers – Andy Curson: Nearest the Pin 16th, Sponsored by Tomlinson Groundcare – Tom Melvin

Nearest the Pin in two on the 6th, Sponsored by Baileys of Norfolk – Trevor Hurn

Nearest the Pin in two on the 11th, Ray Foreman

Nearest the white line 5th Sponsored by Ransome Jacobsen Ltd – Alan Sharp

Longest drive 1st 14-28 Handicap, Sponsored by Ernest Doe & Son – Gavin Rayford

Longest drive 18th 0-13 Handicap, Sponsored by Lely UK – Nick Staff

Longest drive 8th Trade & Guest, Sponsored by Prime Irrigation – Eddie Jack

Longest Drive 14th Trade Mat le Benn, Longest Drive 13th Guest, Warren Goddard

The Ernie Hart prize for Outstanding Greenkeeper of the Year went to Glen Rayfield, of Felixstowe Ferry Golf Club. Well done mate. Colin Rushbrook, President of our great Section, presented this prize.

Some trade members not mentioned above but still as valuable to us were Rigby Taylor, Scotts, Headland, Collier Turf Care, Toro, Tacit and Ben Burgess.

We could not do this event without the tireless (and sometimes thankless) efforts of our exceptional Secretary, Ian Willett, and the support of our trade friends.

We thank you all.

Must mention the 'Halfway House'. Well supplied with warming sustenance and the usual banter. Thank you Bartrams/Ransome Jacobsen

Our thanks once again to Thorpeness and their Captain, Chris Scott, for a great venue and great hospitality.

By the time you read this you will probably have forgotten most of the AGM. I say most because although the minutes of the last meeting, the Chairman's report and Treasurer's report were all passed without too much fuss. The Secretary's report did cause some concern from at least three people. Ian was explaining quietly and

professionally why there had been an increase of £5 to cover rising costs of our golf days. These people wanted to upset a very tidy apple cart. They do, however, need to look back and see just how far we have come in the last 15 years. They also need to show some professionalism, and at least get enough people to form a new committee and call an EGM. Our BIGGA Regional Administrator, Clive Osgood, has also stated that ours is the best run and supported Section and we should be proud.

It was also very noticeable that when our President and Treasurer asked if anyone wanted to take over, no one stepped forward. Good Luck.

On a happier note, our fixtures for 2012 have already been sorted out. They are: Waldringfield, Royal Norwich, Haverhill and Ely. How many other Sections can say that. Cheers Colin.

Our present committee was also re-elected en-bloc.

Pause for thought: To build may have to be the slow and laborious task of years; to destroy can be the thoughtless act of a single day.

Are you listening?

Mick Lathrope



Kent

As I write this at the start of January, wind has become a real issue. Many of you, I'm sure, would expect me to follow this line with a throwaway gag about the underlying reasons being copious amounts of brussel sprouts at Christmas. However, having seen that there are people being killed by falling trees and weak building structures I won't be doing that. Please bear in mind the trees and structures that are on your courses. Regular surveys on both are essential in order to safeguard yourselves and your customers.

On to issues in our fair county. Well, as usual, no-one has contacted me with any news so I guess everything is fine. Harrogate would have been and gone by the time you read this. I hope those of you that made the trek up enjoyed the experience and feel suitably enlightened by the