



Trained fitters typically dislike arriving to find a machine has been taken apart to solve a problem that cannot subsequently be checked as the machine is reduced to a pile of bits.

The key is having enough mechanical knowledge to understand what may help but know when it is best to leave well alone and call in help.

There are other issues too.

Few realise, for example, that hydraulic circuits can be under tremendous pressures.

A tiny leak, when pressurised, can produce a jet of hydraulic fluid that may not be visible but still has the power to penetrate clothing and 'inject' oil into anyone unfortunate enough to probe with an investigating hand.

Those that understand this will

never work on a mower with a leak until they are sure there is no pressure in the system.

Those unaware of the potential dangers could end up with a nasty injury.

So, a little knowledge can save money and help avoid accidents.

But how do you know who has the right level of knowledge and who should be instructed to stick to a pressure washer and a grease gun? The short answer is training.

Those with various 'paper' qualifications may be able to prove they are safe to be let loose on basic mechanical work but a newcomer claiming mechanical skills may need to offer some proof of competence.

Getting it wrong can cause equipment issues and, more importantly, even result in injury.

### Warranties and equipment care

Modern equipment should demand less in terms of routine care and not necessarily tax the servicing skills of club personnel who have been working on various types of equipment for years.

On the other hand, manufacturers and supplying dealers are increasingly linking in a maintenance package to various sales initiatives.

For both manufacturers and dealers it makes sound business sense to ensure a given item of kit is serviced to OEM schedules using OEM replacement parts.

Of equal importance, there is a need to ensure equipment is serviced during its warranty period.

It is difficult for warranty claims to be handled sympathetically when there is no record of the machine having been serviced in accordance with the manufacturers recommendations.

This is of increasing significance with equipment with a long original or extended warranty. In all cases, it pays to talk through how a given item of new equipment will be looked after to ensure you get the best backup. If the dealer / manufacturer offers any training courses as part of a deal try and ensure they are taken up and by as many staff as possible.

Operator training is increasingly valuable and should go well beyond the basic machine installation you may get when a new bit of kit is delivered.

Knowing where an elusive grease point is can make a great deal of difference!

As budgets are squeezed, the cost of maintaining certain items of equipment may come under review. Below are some pointers that may help when thinking ahead

### Maintenance contracts and dealer servicing – with in-house routine and simple servicing offers:

- Planned regular maintenance, in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations, will comply with warranty requirements
- Regular servicing will enhance reliability
- Burden of maintenance responsibility shared with a third party
- Routine maintenance reduces downtime
- Enhanced residual values of kit with a dealer service history
- No need to invest in specialist service tools
- Reduced need to send workshop personnel on factory training courses
- Specialist equipment may be available to reduce service and repair times
- Cost of servicing in demanding season covered

### Advantages of ensuring you retain in-house skills can ensure:

- Minor breakdowns can take less time to resolve
- In-house workshops personnel 'know' the levels of use equipment is put to and can develop a maintenance schedule to match
- In-house repairs may be more economic, particularly on equipment out of warranty
- In-house skills can be tapped to develop modifications and adaptations to suit specific requirements
- Operating costs can be spread to cover all items of equipment, reducing overall maintenance bill
- Older equipment can be kept running longer, particularly by skilled personnel not afraid to modify and adapt to suit changing demands

The ability to repair a puncture quickly in-house can save time and money.

Basic workshop skills should be nurtured and encouraged, particularly for those willing to undertake further training to enhance their skills.

Setting the height of cut or verticutter adjustment is a job typically left to one person.

But if another wants to learn what to do then they should be encouraged.

Sharing skills is an asset.



# Seed and sustainability

With the imminent launch of Arrowtown bent at BTME 2013, a unique new cultivar from Johnsons Sports Seed, Noel MacKenzie of Sports Turf Consulting Limited has a closer look at bent grass use and asks if this grass has something to offer where sustainability is concerned







**Everybody would agree that sustainability is a high priority in the management of golf courses, but is true sustainability actually achievable? For many people the simple answer is “No!” – however it is fair to say that the sustainability of golf course management has been significantly increased but we should perhaps accept that golf is only sustainable as long as it gets inputs.**

As I understood it, the R&A and other bodies were promoting the minimal use of resources due to criticism from the press, environmental groups and the public.

I wholeheartedly agree with this approach, and I don't mind having another look at it too.

The focus is on installing fescue into golf greens.

Spurred on by observations in Denmark, where inputs are low and playing numbers generally lighter than UK courses, fescue was found to be performing well and some agronomists pushed this species as part of sustainable development.

It is a grass that does well in many parts of the UK, especially on coastal and colder areas where play and maintenance pressure is less intensive.

While it is fair to say fescue has

a role in sustainable agronomic management, it is worth asking the question whether this approach is the be all and end all of the improved sustainability process.

And what role, if any, can bent grasses play?

On courses in and around big conurbations, they are usually dominated by annual meadow grass due to certain factors such as:

- high wear and trampling levels,
- intensive management to combat those high wear levels,
- poor soil types which in winter work against deeper rooted grasses and favour Poa due to waterlogging,
- compacted soils requiring a lot of relief which opens up the surface to meadow grass germination
- low mowing heights below 4mm
- the combination of high fungicide/fertiliser/water inputs that allow Poa to survive when it might otherwise be affected by disease,
- and finally... a lack of co-ordinated seeding effort together with excessive fungicide use that protects Poa from Fusarium and Anthracnose attack.

In these environments the benefits of fescue can be greatly reduced – it simply does not survive the pressures on it.



But with bent grasses most agronomists and greenkeepers agree that these will get a foothold even when the management regime is not well suited to it.

Quite often it persists in a situation where the management, instead of helping this grass to thrive, is at best ambivalent about its presence and sometimes downright derogatory.

With the right approach bents can fulfil a very useful place and make up a useful proportion of the sward.

Five key issues need to be considered:

1. Ensure you have the backing of the club in pursuing the policy



TOP: Bowood Golf and Country Club, Wiltshire

and be clear why you think this is a good idea.

2. To have any chance of success it's important to ensure the management regime of greens is going to work with your bent grass - if you cut at 2mm expect failure.

Realistically bench set mowing heights need to be about 4mm minimum for success with Colonial bent; Creeping bents may be happier at 2.5-3mm.

Verticutting and scarification requirements may be different both in terms of frequency and aggression - Velvet bent will need plenty as will Creeping bent; Colonial bent will simply need a tickle about every 10-14 days in the growing season).

# RIGBY TAYLOR'S MAGNIFICENT SEVEN



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3. Not all bents are the same – they will respond to different conditions through the year.

Different species have different requirements for feed.

For example, Creeping bents need plenty, Colonial about half and Velvet about half as much as Colonial, and some are more water dependant than others.

Creeping bent really doesn't like the winter or being allowed to get too long or too hungry, whilst Colonial and Velvet do well all year round but their feed and verticutting requirements were quite different.

4. How you make introductions with seed is as important - get it wrong and there'll be trouble ahead, and don't rely on a single seeding action.

Make sure you determine the right time in the year to seed - the bent seed has limited reserves and can't be too wet, cold or buried if it's to have chance of survival.

Late spring, summer and a very early autumn are best in my opinion.

There are plenty of ways to overseed but the crucial part is to get the seed to soil contact and this requires sarel spiking and/or scarification at the very least.

Some greenkeepers have had good results with overseeding with deep scarifying when the surface is really opened up.

Some of those greenkeepers have also seen that grass disappear

later under a tide of Poa due to failures of the rest of the maintenance programme.

5. Select the right species and cultivars.

You might think it's a bit odd to leave this until last, but I really wanted to make the point that the other issues are essential in getting to this point not vice-versa.

Choosing the right species is the first step in relation to your other maintenance parameters, then you need to look closer at the cultivars.

This may or may not mean choosing from the top listed varieties – a suitably qualified agronomist can help you in this area.

Also look at company trial sites to see what's new - the BSPB Turfgrass Seed Book is a useful source of information.

Sustainability means using less chemicals, and seeking to ensure the course can run effectively under its own steam.

Whilst fescue has its well deserved place in maritime and colder climates in the UK and Ireland (and during winter or dry conditions) bent grasses offer a very good, and in many circumstances, better route, towards sustainable playing surfaces.

Bents require a considered and careful approach, looking at each of the management factors listed previously to get the best from them.

Remember there is no point in seeding into acidic, wet thatch

accumulation so it is essential to get the scene set before undertaking seeding.

If you're tempted to start a bent grass renovation program then DLF Trifolium's Derek Smith says "the new Arrowtown bent is worth a consideration.

It fits into the existing Johnsons Sports Seed line up of bent grasses which include Manor, Villa 1 and Cobra Nova, the latter being the highest rated creeping bent grass for UK conditions".

Greenkeepers can take a first look at the official independent trial results with the publication of the 2013 Turfgrass seed booklet, but it's believed that in the first year seed availability is likely to be limited.

Derek adds: "Arrowtown is bred from exceptionally fine and dense plants collected from greens at Arrowtown Golf Club and in trials, it really stood out being noticeably much denser than the cultivars currently available, like Manor, Barking and Aberroyal.

Arrowtown is an exceptionally fine and dense browntop, ideally suited to closely mown (4mm) greens, tees and fairways.

On greens the tight, dense surface sets new standards for quality & disease tolerance.

It has a natural vigour to recover quickly from renovation and an improved drought stress to retain its green colour for longer in summer."



# BIGGA

## Regional Conferences

South East	14 November	Thorpeness Golf Club, Thorpeness
S West & S Wales	15 November	Oaktree Arena, Bristol
Scotland	5 March	Carnegie Conference Centre, Dunfermline

### SOUTH EAST CONFERENCE

**The South East conference is on Wednesday 14 November at Thorpeness Country Club, and we've once again arranged a variety of excellent speakers to participate in what should be a very interesting and informative day.**

Registration begins at 8.30am and CPD points will be awarded for attendance.

Thorpeness Golf Club is situated off the A12, then take the B1353 following signs to Thorpeness.

Ian Willett of BIGGA East Anglia and Regional Chairman Tom Smith will welcome attendees before Jim Croxton, BIGGA Chief Executive, speaks.

Other speakers are:

Kate Entwistle – 'New pest and disease issues'

Richard Stuttard – 'STRI environment competition'

Nigel Church – 'Safety equipment improvements'

Ken Moodie – 'Course improvements case study – Thorpeness'

Mark Hunt – 'Planning for the future'

For more information please contact Clive Osgood on 01737 819343 or [cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk)

### BIGGA SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES CONFERENCE

**The BIGGA South West & South Wales 2012 conference will take place on Thursday 15 November at Oaktree Arena in Highbridge, Somerset.**

The theme is 'Turf Management in all its Glory' and features an exciting range of guest speakers. They include:

Dr Colin Fleming, Plant Pathologist, "Biology and the Effects of Parasitic Nematodes"; David Cole, Course Manager Loch Lomond Golf Club, "Winter Kill In West Scotland"; Cameron MacMillan, Course Manager Queenwood Golf Club, "Mission Impossible"; Robert Wills First Assistant Remedy Oak Golf Club "Changes in greenkeeping as seen by a First Assistant"; Richard Comely Director of Product and Marketing at Ransomes Jacobsen "Perceptions in Greens Management".

Any further information can be obtained by contacting Jane Jones, BIGGA Regional Administrator on 01454 270850, 07841 948110 or [jane@bigga.co.uk](mailto:jane@bigga.co.uk)



## Section Notes

Please email your notes to [steve.castle@bigga.co.uk](mailto:steve.castle@bigga.co.uk) by the 15th of the month

All the latest news from your Section

# Around The Green



## Scottish Region



### Central

The Section held its autumn outing on one of the better days of the summer on 19 September at Piperdam Golf and Leisure Club.

Over 45 players took part with the numbers boosted considerably by the large contingent of students from Elmwood who came along for the day.

It was great to see so many youngsters attend what would have been their first event and mix with the regulars.

The course was presented beautifully by Shaun Anderson and his staff although the pace of the greens caught many of the players out and our thanks go to them and everyone else at Piperdam for making us so welcome.

The main prize winners on the day were:

Scratch, Allan Patterson, St Andrews, best overall net and also winner of the spring and autumn handicap combined, Shaun Anderson, Piperdam.

Best nett in section 1 handicap, David Gray, Ladybank and in section 2, Gary Douglas, Piperdam.

Allan Wright from Fairways GM won the trade prize and Martin Kerr was the best student.

The full list of prize winners is available on the website [www.biggacentralsection.org.uk](http://www.biggacentralsection.org.uk) <<http://www.biggacentralsection.org.uk>> along with a brief précis of the Section AGM held on 30 October.

The final of the 2012 pairs tournament was played at Kingsbarns Golf Links on 15 October before this article was written.

The finalists are Paul Armour and Kevin Webster from Leven against Kenny Mitchell and

Scott MacKintosh from St Andrews.

Thanks go to Kingsbarns for allowing us the use of the course for the final.

The irrigation course we are running at Elmwood on 12 December has only 4 places left at the time of going to print and we are also trying to arrange another seminar for an evening around the end of November.

Members will be notified by email in the normal fashion.

If you haven't been getting regular emails about educational or golfing events, then please check we have your correct email address.

Regards,  
Gordon



### East

We had our Autumn Golf Tournament at Murrayfield Golf Course on Wednesday 19th September.

The weather was dry and sunny and should have reflected some low scoring in our stableford competition, results as follows:

Scratch winner - Stuart Ferguson Dundas Park GC 76 scratch

1st class winner - Phil Butler Murrayfield GC 35 points

Runner up - Sean Cunningham Mortonhall GC 34 points

2nd class - winner Alan Campbell Carrickknowe GC 35 Points

Runner up - Ryan McCulloch, Goswick GC 26 points

Trade winner - Stewart Clayton, Greensman Ltd 31 points

Veterans winner - Alastair Holmes, Seahouses GC 29 points

Apprentice prize - Andrew Terras, Goswick GC 29 points

Bill Lyon (course manager) and his staff had the course

in perfect condition, with Phil Butler (Murrayfield) coming through and winning a trophy, local knowledge eh Phil'.

We would like to thank Stuart Taylor Scottish Chairman, for attending and also David Greenshields for his barrenburg presentation after dinner.

Next year's venues and dates are already set, thanks to our hard working and forward thinking, secretary Stuart Ferguson.

Events 2013:

Spring - Seahouses GC - 23 April

Willie Woods - Mortonhall GC - 21 August

Autumn - Haddington GC - 17 September

On the 6 November this year, we have a presentation by Tour Spec at Turnhouse GC from 9.30am to 1.30pm, please contact Scott Corrigan on 07877098237 or email [scottcorrigan4aol.com](mailto:scottcorrigan4aol.com) for further information.

I believe two CPD points will be awarded for attendance.

The AGM this year is on 31 October at Gifford GC sponsored by Aitkens, good luck to you all who play for Jimmy Neilson's claret jug in the afternoon.

This will be my last entry for the East Section as I step down from chairmanship and let vice chairman Scott Corrigan take over.

I would like to thank you all for your support over the last four years.

Your attendance at all events helped to keep the East Section strong.

Thanks to all the committee members with whom I have worked and a special thanks to Stuart Ferguson who has been on the end of the phone for constant help.

Good luck and best wishes to you all in 2013 and beyond.

Stewart Crawford  
[s.crawford@live.co.uk](mailto:s.crawford@live.co.uk)



### West

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

The outing held at Fereneze Golf Club on 18 September experienced beautiful sunshine and a well groomed, dry golf course which was a joy to play.

Unfortunately I was unable to find form that day, although I struck the ball well some misinformation from the captain Peter Boyd scuppered my efforts.

The course in excellent condition and thanks must go to Sandy Bulloch and his staff for their efforts although none competed we appreciate all their hard work.

The Fereneze committee have to be commended for 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 gross 74  
1st class winner Gerry Bruen; Runner up Craig Littlejohn; Third Derek Duthie; 2nd class winner Sandy Brawley; Runner up Brian Logue; Third Kenny Hunter; 3rd class winner David Reid; Runner up Michael Maxton; Visitors prize and nearest the pin at hole 7; Peter Boyd; Nearest the pin at hole 14; Gerry Bruen

On the day 28 people attended and enjoyed the event which is a wee bit disappointing but maybe the next time we might get a better turn out, but I do understand as this was one of the best days for a while.

The normal annual dinner



last year was not really a dinner but a get together with like-minded individuals and the occasion proved to be very successful with 26 turning up for a few drinks and chat.

This year a similar format is planned and the intended date is Friday 30 November for those who are interested meeting once again at all bar one.

Recently I played in the British Championship at Irvine Bogside which was a joy to walk round experiencing lovely dry surfaces and beautiful firm quick greens, sadly my golf did not live up to the course.

Gordon Sangster from Cathkin Braes did pick up a prize and the Scottish region won the team prize, so congratulations to the team members.

Two brilliant golf days were experienced by all and on the evening of Monday a lovely meal was laid on by the club steward.

Well done to the Irvine Bogside council and committee for allowing us the privilege of playing your wonderful course and thanks to all at head office for their efforts in running an excellent competition.

May I pass on my best wishes to Tony Smith, my playing partner the first day, and wish him well as new Chairman.

The annual match against the club masters has still to be arranged but if anybody is interested in playing, then please call me, please remember to get in touch with any information of births, deaths, marriages etc.

Tel 0141-942-5554, or 07790823914, or e-mail [stuart.taylor@glasgowgolfclub.com](mailto:stuart.taylor@glasgowgolfclub.com)

## Northern Region



### North East

On October 10 at Tyneside Golf Club we played our Autumn Competition.

After an early bout of frost the sun was out and what a beautiful day it was too a rare sight this year - compliments to Head Greenkeeper David Simpson and his staff for the great condition of the course a credit to them all and thanks to the club.

The venue must have been a good choice as sixteen people turned up now that's a lot better than recent years my thanks to the greenkeepers who made their debut and look forward

to seeing them in the future events, and thanks also to Sandra Raper the new Regional Administrator for doing the cards and keeping the members informed of forthcoming events.

Finally to the sponsors on the day Rigby Taylor, Rickerbys, T.S.L.

Shorts of Whitburn and Greenlay thank you all once again.

### Leading Scores

Best Nett M.Gunn Tyneside GC 65; Best Gross S.Harrison 74 Close House; Greenlay Cup nett J.Moutrie 70 Tyneside; Ransome/Jacobsen Shield J.Grey 68 Middlesbrough Municipal; J.S.Richardson 68; SRPope 72; P.Walton 73; A.Reay 75.

Other news which was actually phoned in is Grant Burton, formerly of Gosforth GC, has landed the job of assistant greenkeeper at The Northumberland GC.

Apparently there were 40 applications for this position, the new man at Gosforth is Paul Wright formerly of T.S.L.

who also used to work at the City of Newcastle GC.

Sadly I received some really bad news that another Head Greenkeeper has been made redundant due to the economic climate - Peter Anderson of Newcastle Utd GC a long serving the member of the section.

I'm sure we all wish him the best of luck and hope he gets fixed up in the near future.

And lastly a piece of news from the Isle of Man where Clive Patterson formerly of Arcot Hall works.

As you know we all have a bit of news about all the rain this year well his secretary has passed it on to me that in June, July and August they had 18ins of rain hence the rough has been thick and lush.

Reckon that's the same all over this year not many golfers played to their handicaps.



### North West

Again, a very quiet month.

I am writing these a month before publishing and I hope the weather has improved by now.

I know we all have astory to tell about the weather.

I personally have never seen so much water fall on the course for such a long period.

I do hope you have all managed as best you can and you have my sympathy in what is by far the worst prolonged bout of bad weather that I have ever seen.

Some of you will remember Steve Dunn previously of Dunham forest and Mere Golf and Country Club.

He moved to New Zealand and into a Greenkeeping job.

He has now taken a new job supplying golf course machinery and I believe he is loving it, good luck to him.

Chris Sheehan



### Northern

The awful weather again put fowl to our autumn golf day out at Halifax Golf Club which makes me think we are jinxed because it's now three times we have had to cancel it! We now will have the AGM at our Xmas golf day at Bracken Gyll on 12 December, so come on guys good turn out please.

It's a 4 man team event and every team will get a prize! So you can play golf, have a great

meal, loads of laughs, maybe win on the raffle too all for £20... bargain.

I've not got too much for you this month I'm afraid, but I'm working on a few things for next year and will hopefully have next year's fixtures and these events confirmed by the AGM.

Thanks

Andy Slingsby

07506407867

[andy.slingsby98@googlemail.com](mailto:andy.slingsby98@googlemail.com)



### North Wales

The leaves are well and truly falling now and with Halloween behind us and bonfire night pretty well put to bed, the next big thing is our upcoming Christmas tournament on 21 November at Oswestry golf club, not 7 December as posted on our fixture sheet.

I must apologise as in last month's column I neglected to mention the outstanding achievement of Stu Yarwood, Eddie Ainsworth, Tim Johnson and Gordon Irvine who walked three mowers from Liverpool to

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# Around The Green

Hull to raise much needed funds for help for heroes approximately £2000 raised well done lads! The national tournament took place at Irvine golf club and by all accounts the course and competitive spirit where both at exceptionally high standards but even though our entrants, Andy Peel of Bull Bay and Phil Watson of Wallesey put a good show they didn't finish quite in the top tier.

I have to mention the sad news that Chirk golf club has folded and our thoughts go out to Adie, Haydn, George, Richard and also to Roy who although retired still used to go in to help out, we wish them the best for the future.

We are once again making an appeal for members e-mail addresses and education requirements if you could all please forward your details to [bnwales@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:bnwales@hotmail.co.uk) please.

There will be a half-day seminar very possibly on 4 December, speakers and venue yet to be finalised so watch out for information on our Facebook events page.

The annual trip to Harrogate is pencilled in for Wednesday 23 January but this year we will only run the trip if we have enough seats booked to make the trip viable, so if you think you would like to go please contact myself or Jez to book your seat and with it being free to members and only £10 to non-members it's a steal! I think that just about covers everything so all the best until next month.

Pete Maybury e-mail [petemayb66@aol.com](mailto:petemayb66@aol.com) phone and text 07756001187 Facebook North Wales B.I.G.G.A

## Midland Region



### East Midlands

I'm pretty certain that this is a first.

Picture this...I am sitting on my sun lounger, in my budgie smugglers, in the beautiful Turkish town of Kalkan in 37 degrees writing November's Around The Green notes! Those of you that know me will be frantically trying to get that image out of your head, those of you that don't are best advised to

follow those that do!

September and October have been very busy months for the East Midlands Section.

Our AGM tournament was held at Glen Gorse Golf Club on 20th September.

The day produced a number of surprises including Dave Smith (retired) turning up in a pair of trousers straight from the wardrobe of television's Flog It.

However, his highly distracting attire wasn't enough to put off the eventual winners, Nick 'Three-Birdies-in-a-Row' Miles and Mick Marvel with 40 points on count back from Simon Banks and Andy Marsh in second and Nigel Colley and Andy Lane in third place.

Nearest the Pin went to Nigel Colley and the Longest Drive prize was won by Nick 'I've-Just-Hit-It-A-Country-Mile' Miles.

These two prizes were generously sponsored as ever by Tacit, so thanks to Mark Chamberlain for organising that.

The committee would also like to thank Banks Amenity, Countrywide and Farmura for their generous sponsorship of the day in general, enabling us to provide a very appealing prize table.

Thanks also to Frank Kempster and his team for producing a course in tremendous condition along with an extremely hospitable clubhouse for a lovely meal.

Our Regional Administrator Sandra Raper was also there to photograph the event, assist with the AGM and show of her raffle coordination skills.

Overall the day was a great success, although again low numbers attended, it was reassuring for me to play a round of golf with Carl Chamberlain without him rendering any unassuming golfers unconscious with his wayward shots!

The AGM that followed produced a lively session with lots to discuss under AOB.

All members of the committee were voted back on and Andy Marsh from Charnwood Forest GC was voted on for the forthcoming year.

Andy also represented the East Midlands Section along with Garry Thurman at the National Championships on 8th/9th October.

On 11th October the East Midlands Section fielded a team of three, Adi Porter 36 points, Nigel Colley 36 points and Asa

English 33 points in the Whitemoss Inter-Section Golf Day at Greetham Valley GC.

This set of tremendous scores meant that the East Midland Section came second by one point to the Midland Section.

However, Adi Porter, with several years of local knowledge won the Longest Drive and Nigel 'This is becoming a habit' Colley won the Nearest the Pin prize.

Adi and his team are to be congratulated on their presentation of the course, especially the outstanding greens.

Sandra did a sterling job in organising the day along with Whitemoss, the day's sponsors and Greetham Valley GC for their hospitality and quality of food.

As I said earlier it has been a busy month or so for the section and all this typing whilst tanning my cheeks is making me tired and thirsty.

It must be nearly beer o'clock surely....

As Leslie Phillips used to say, probably whilst wearing Dave Smith's cast off trousers

Ding....

Dong....

Greg Skinner

07970 095264



### Midland

Well, as I sit here in Stratford Towers pondering what on earth to spew out for this month's notes, I am trying to find inspiration from "The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam".

His understanding of the human condition can only be found with the knowledge of experience and the writings of those before.

With this in mind it is quite fitting that our Christmas Tournament is to be held at Sutton Coldfield Golf Club on 3rd December, such is being held in respect to our long serving member Alan Kite, who is retiring.

It will be his last stand.

I hope that you will support this event and give Alan the send off he has earned.

I shall of course report in a little more detail next month.

Get your entries in to Rhys Thomas before the day.

You can contact Rhys on

07774 164173 or download an entry form from the website [www.biggamidlandsection.co.uk](http://www.biggamidlandsection.co.uk).

This month's calendar sponsor is Turfmech Machinery Ltd.

Tel: 01889 271 503 or : [www.turfmech.co.uk](http://www.turfmech.co.uk).

Our thanks to Turfmech for their continued support.

Please consider them for your machinery requirements.

The Region Inter-section team event was held on Thursday 11th October at Greetham Valley Golf Club.

The Midland Section won the event with a team score of 106 points.

Well done to Steve Thompson, Clint Woodall and Andy Brougham for bringing the trophy home for the first time since 2007.

Many thanks to Sandra Raper our Regional Administrator for organising the day and Andy Law and Whitemoss Eco for sponsoring the event.



### Berks, Bucks & Oxon

This year's BB&O Turkey Trot is returning once more to the Oxfordshire.

The event which is arguably the section's flagship golf day will take place on 12 December 2012 and will follow the same team format as previous years.

The Turkey Trot has been well attended over the last two years with around 100 people turning up on the day, hopefully as many of you as possible will be able to attend especially those who have not played before.

For further details and entry forms please visit the section website.

Sandra Raper our Midlands Regional Administrator has been busy visiting golf courses and members in the BB&O section putting names to faces.

Sandra will be working to update the HQ email system over the winter.

In order to keep up to date with what's happening in the section and BIGGA, plus news and events please email your details to [sandra@bigga.co.uk](mailto:sandra@bigga.co.uk)

The Rigby Taylor pairs competition has reached the semi final stage which will be contested between Castle Royal GC and