



disease fatal to both white and red flowering horse chestnut.

Greenkeepers with horse chestnut trees on their golf courses will have undoubtedly noticed these problems and may have already been forced to prune and even fell affected trees. However, there is widespread confusion about the different symptoms and ultimate effects caused by horse chestnut leaf miner and bacterial bleeding canker and what can actually be done to avoid and alleviate these problems if and when they arise.

Horse chestnut leaf miner

Horse chestnut leaf miner (*Camraria ohridella*) first appeared on white flowering horse chestnut trees on Wimbledon Common (south west London) soon after the dawn of the new millennium having entered the UK as the overwintering pupa stage inside dead horse chestnut leaves attached to the wheels of cross channel road traffic.

Its appearance was not surprising the insect having spread across Europe from its native Balkans (e.g. Macedonia and Greece) in less than 15 years. Once in the UK the insect spread rapidly with well-known golf courses in London Boroughs like Richmond, Merton and Kingston among the first to experience this new insect pest problem.

Within several years it had spread out of London across southern England and into East Anglia and the Midlands. The insect is still spreading and has now reached as far as Cornwall, West Wales and the Scottish borders. However, infestations occurring in the more northerly areas of the country are apparently held in check by cooler summer temperatures not allowing as many generations of the insect and the build-up of pest populations in the canopy.

The tiny adult moths with white and brown barred wings hatch in late April from pupae which



TOP LEFT: Horse chestnut 2.
Red flowering horse chestnut

LEFT: Horse chestnut 3. Adult leaf miner moths aggregating on the trunk for mating in late April

TOP RIGHT: Horse chestnut 3A. Tiny adult leaf miner moths are hardly visible to the naked eye

MIDDLE RIGHT: Horse chestnut 3B. Canopies affected by leaf miner gradually dry out and brown from the bottom up through the summer months

BELOW RIGHT: Horse chestnut 3C. Mined areas of horse chestnut leaves are white and bleached like at first



have overwintered in fallen horse chestnut leaves under and around the tree. Both male and female moths aggregate on the tree trunk where they mate, the females flying to the nearest foliage where eggs are laid on the undersides of the newly emerged horse chestnut leaves. Hatching larvae bore into the leaf and proceed to mine the tissues, systematically eating the chlorophyll-rich palisade and spongy mesophyll packed between the upper and lower epidermis (outer layers) of the leaf.

Mined areas of the leaf initially turn white as if bleached then progressively dry out and turn brown in the sun. Having lost their turgor (pressure exerted by water in living cells), tension and physical integrity they eventually roll up inwards to resemble crisp brown brandy snaps still attached to the tree. Several generations of the pest develop through the spring and summer, especially in southern England, gradually moving up through the canopy to mine unaffected green leaves. The larvae are very small and cannot be seen with the naked eye but if you hold an affected leaf up to the light and view from the underside you will see the insect frass (excreta) deposited by larvae in the mined and bleached area of the leaf.

By August, when trees should still be in full green leaf, the canopy looks as though it has been scorched by fire. Leaf miner is not fatal but brings the green canopy to an early end in late summer thus destroying one of the main reasons why white flowering horse chestnut is preferred and selected over many others as an amenity and landscape tree.

Leaf miner only affects white flowering horse chestnut there being a chemical in the leaves of red flowering horse chestnut, inherited from the red buck-eye parent, which prevents the growth and development of larvae hatching from eggs laid on this tree species.

Bacterial bleeding canker

Bleeding canker caused by several species of *Phytophthora* (a fungus like pathogen) had affected white and red flowering horse chestnuts for many years but was sporadic and slow moving and in no way a threat to trees on a large and long term scale. However, soon after the horse chestnut leaf miner appeared in south west London in 2003 plant pathologists at Forest Research (the research arm of the Forestry Commission) started to find similar bleeding canker

symptoms but on a much larger and wider scale.

The causal pathogen of this new disease was clearly much faster spreading between trees. What's more it moved much more quickly in the bark, rapidly girdling affected main branches and trunks to the extent that full grown horse trees could be dead within several years.

Research finally isolated and identified a bacterium (*Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *aesculi*) as the causal pathogen. This had only previously been recorded in India as a very minor leaf spotting problem on Indian horse chestnut (*Aesculus indica*). Bacterial bleeding canker is fatal to both white and red flowering horse chestnut trees, the latter apparently more susceptible to infection and succumbing more quickly due to its much thinner and less robust bark.

Bleeding lesions (cankers) with widely spaced drops of yellow-brown, rust-red or even black gummy fluid exuding from affected areas of bark on the stem or branches are usually first symptoms of the disease. At the start of the growing season the ooze is dark coloured but still transparent. As the temperature rises through late spring and early summer more bleeding occurs with increasingly rusty red and cloudy/opaque ooze running down the stem. During dry summers the ooze dries out to leave a dark-coloured and brittle crust near the point of exudation. Bleeding may resume in autumn indicating highest pathogen activity under milder moister conditions.

Bleeding cankers caused by *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *aesculi* vary widely between trees in extent, frequency and position on the trunk (bole) and/or branches. Most bleeding occurs during mild wet periods during spring and autumn. Ooze may dry up in summer on one side of the tree only, depending on aspect, air temperature and light and heat from the sun. Bleeding cankers may appear anywhere from root flares at the collar to positions high up on the scaffold branches. And especially in the forks of main branches which are ideal traps for the bacterial cells as well as taking longer to dry out after rainfall.

Disease and symptoms are cumulative. Within two to three years the fungus grows through the inner living bark (phloem and cambium) on multiple bleeding cankers which coalesce to girdle the branch or bole, cutting off vital functions above and below. At this point foliage starts to yellow and the crown



BOTTOM LEFT: Horse chestnut 3D. By late summer the leaves are completely dry, brown and rolled up to look like 'brandy snaps'.

LEFT: Horse chestnut 4. Active bacterial bleeding canker on a red flowering horse chestnut tree

ABOVE: Horse chestnut 5. Infections caused by the bacterial bleeding canker pathogen commonly occur in the forks formed between scaffold branches and the trunk



thins out. Large parts of the canopy fail to re-foliate in spring and the remaining leaves yellow and drop prematurely as the tree dies.

Affected trees become 'stag-headed' and may require severe pruning or felling in sensitive situations. Horse chestnut wood is inherently soft, moist and fractures easily when compromised. Dead phloem (inner bark) will show as a watery orange brown necrosis distinctly mottled and zoned and the wood (xylem) underneath may have stained blue black. Fungal mycelium visible under dead and dying bark is usually that of the honey fungus (*Armillaria*) invading diseased and weakened horse trees as a secondary pathogen. *Armillaria* can attack healthy trees to cause stem bleeding but only as a root or collar invader.

Bacterial bleeding canker can now be found on horse chestnut trees throughout the United Kingdom including Scotland.

Advice to greenkeepers

First realistic advice to greenkeepers is not to plant anymore white and red flowering horse chestnuts. Leaf miner which doesn't affect red flowering horse chestnut and is not fatal to white flowering horse chestnut is not an insurmountable problem but at the moment bacterial bleeding canker essentially is and for both white and red flowering horse chestnut trees.

Diagnostic kits called Lateral Flow Devices are available to determine whether bleeding canker symptoms are in fact caused by *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *aesculi* or less pressing and serious *Phytophthora* pathogens. A positive result indicates the presence of a *Phytophthora* while a negative result, by default, is strongly indicative of bacterial bleeding canker. All trees including horse chestnuts may sometimes exhibit stem bleeding which has nothing to do with disease.

Greenkeepers should not preemptively fell healthy trees but certainly check horse chestnut trees mainly for bacterial bleeding canker but also leaf miner throughout the year every year. There is no immediate need to fell a tree showing bleeding canker symptoms because there is strong evidence to suggest that some trees are overcoming infections by vigorous production of bark wound tissue which surrounds, isolates and eliminates the infection.

Trees showing early signs of disease and indeed healthy ones may benefit from specific management

practices, in addition to good all round tree care. This includes use of soil de-compaction to alleviate physiological stress and the application of phosphonates which are fertilizers with claimed additional disease protection benefits through inducing trees to produce natural anti-fungal and anti-bacterial chemicals.

However, these chemicals do exist as dedicated fungicide products approved for use in plant nurseries and other situations but not on horse chestnut trees in amenity and landscape situations. Greenkeepers wishing to utilise the fertiliser benefits of phosphonates to bolster tree growth, health and protection should consult their supplier or a professional arborist to make sure they stay within current PSD guidelines.

Trees with active bacterial bleeding canker, and especially those with advanced symptoms including branch die-back, should be monitored carefully and be pruned or even felled accordingly.

Leaf miner infestations occurring year after year clearly weaken trees and almost certainly reduce the amount and quality of fruit and seed (conkers). However, leaf miner infestations are not fatal unless associated with something else that is. Individual trees can be protected to a large extent by clearing up and destroying all shed horse chestnut tree leaves in autumn. With no dead leaves under or around the tree there are no pupae for continuity of pest infestations into the following spring and summer.

The pest will invariably return but can be kept at minimum levels by clearing up and destroying fallen autumn leaves every year. Burning the leaves is the quickest and safest option providing it does not infringe Environment Agency Regulations. Greenkeepers unable to or not wanting to burn leaves for whatever reason can make sure all pupae are killed by deep layer composting, the leaves achieving a sufficiently high temperature during rotting to kill any leaf miner pupae inside.

Those who still want to plant horse chestnuts could do worse than trying Indian horse chestnut (*Aesculus indica*), a tree similar in size and stature to white flowering horse chestnut and with equally beautiful blossoms.



ABOVE: Horse chestnut 6. Horse chestnut wood is already inherently weak and infections with bacterial bleeding canker can cause major tree failure

RIGHT: Horse chestnut 7. Advanced infection with major bark cracking, sloughing and loss on a red flowering horse chestnut tree

BELOW: Horse chestnut 8. Leaf miner and bacterial bleeding canker significantly reduce both the yield and quality of 'conkers'



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For 2013, several exhibitors have taken the decision to increase their stand space. Bayer have followed this encouraging route as they plan launch a new product at the show.

Claire Matthewman, Product Manager at Bayer, said: "We are looking to maximise publicity for the new product and believe that BTME is the best platform to kick-start our launch campaign.

"We're also hoping to demonstrate a new iPad App which is designed to help greenkeepers and groundsmen to identify turf weeds, diseases and insects so we're really looking forward to it."

Amazone have extended their stand space for BTME 2013, and Groundcare Sales Manager Joe Weston said: "It's our annual shop window to advertise our products

to golf clubs and the turf market as a whole, we simply couldn't afford to miss it."

Farmura Managing Director Jonathan Harmer struck up a new business relationship at BTME 2006, and says: "If you're in the golf business you have to be there, it's as simple as that." He urges you to attend the event in 'The Back Nine' article on page 68.

We're also pleased to welcome some brand new exhibitors to BTME 2013 including John Nicholson Associates, George Interiors, Greentek (associated with True Surface), Sustain Natural Fertilizer and Spectrum Technologies (associated with Enviro Monitors), Ceres Turf, British Sugar Topsoil, Creative Golf Designs, Nomix Enviro and Art 4 Golf.



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Section Notes

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Around The Green



Scottish Region



North

As I write this report the weather has been slightly better – I'm hopeful we will get a good dry spell before winter comes in. I am pleased to say the north section retained the Norrie Whytock trophy so well done and I'm hopeful we can retain it next year.

Also we got the trades final played at Hazelhead and the Greenkeepers beat Tullochs by 11 holes so well done George Mitchell, Doug Elrick, Dennis Grant and myself first time since 1999 so well done boys.

The results for the autumn outing will be in the next report and lets hope we will have a good day and hopeful the weather will be good.

That's it for this month.

Kind Regards

Ross Macrae

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Central

I start off this month's report with the sad news of Joe Oliver's death. Joe just recently retired as Head Greenkeeper at Pitreavie GC in Dunfermline although he had been ill for some time before he retired. He was at Glenberrie for many years and latterly spent close on 25 years at Pitreavie.

He was instrumental in setting up the Central Section (SIGGA) and was the first section Chairman in 1980. A large number of people from the

industry attended his funeral service where the Captain of the golf club spoke, just two points which demonstrate the high regard he was held in and our thoughts go out to his family.

Section members were also sorry to hear recently of the sudden death of Stan Zontek who was well known to so many of them from the numerous presentations he gave to the section while holidaying in the area.

Many members from the section have been out and about this past month. A few course managers from the area enjoyed a great trip to Berlin over a weekend for the launch of some new products developed by Weidenmann and their thanks go to David Rae and Mikey James for arranging that. It was great to see how a relatively small company has built itself up over the years and the investment they put into research to develop their equipment.

Greenkeepers have also been to the fore in helping out at some key events across the globe including the US Womens Open at Blackwolf Run, the Swiss Open at Crans-Sur-Sierre while Steve Chappell and Lee Strutt were in Medinah to help with the Ryder Cup. And that just after Steve held a very successful tournament over the PGA course at Gleneagles where the last Ryder Cup places in the European side were decided.

Spaces for the one-day irrigation courses on 12 December are filling up fast and we are limited to 20 people with course fees required to confirm your place. The pairs competition has reached the final stage where Leven players Kevin Webster and Paul Armour take on Kenny Mitchell and Scott Mackintosh from St Andrews. The results of the Piperdam outing are on the website www.biggacentralsection.org.uk <<http://www.biggacentralsection.org.uk>> and will appear on the next addition of around the green.

Gordon



East

We had another successful Willie Woods Tournament at Mortonhall GC on Wednesday 21 August. A big thank you goes to Tom Mowbray (Club Captain) and the committee for hosting the event for us for two years in a row now. Thanks also go to David Fraser (Course Manager) and his excellent staff as the course was in top condition for us - well done lads!

The results are as follows:

Winners: Sean Cunningham, Colin McArthur

Runners Up: Scott Corrigan, Gordon Thompson

Third: Lachlan Imrie, Stuart Clayton

A huge congratulations to Sean and Colin for making it a third consecutive win, I do not believe this has been done before in the tournament's history! Scott and Gordon gave you a run for your money but you held on well done! The tournament was sponsored by Henderon Grass Machinery Ltd, and thanks to Robin Duncan for the presentation after the evening meal.

On a less positive note Graham Wood was admitted to the ERI following fluid on his lung, that has been treated- we wish him all the best and hope he gets back to Roodlands very soon.

On a final note, Congratulations goes to Jamie Martin and his wife on becoming parents for the first time with a new baby boy called Callum - another Greenkeeper in the making!

Stewart Crawford

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Northern Region



Northern

Afternoon all, I wish to start my notes by way of an apology to my fellow greenkeepers from the Sheffield section, once again my sense of humour has offended and I'm truly sorry for this. I realise that not everyone knows me and what I'm about which is understandable as I'm from Barnsley! The comments are not in personal way and were only put as banter, sorry again.

We had the pleasure of playing and chopping up Horsforth golf club for our Autumn golf event last month and a great day was had by all, our massive thanks to Andy and his chaps for a fantastically presented course and the club itself for the courtesy shown to us. In fact all my dealings from day one have been excellent, a very friendly welcoming golf club truly first class. Also Tito and Glen from Masstock and Rigby Taylor for a outstanding prize table, once again boys your generous sponsorship is fantastic. To finish the day off was the tucker, my god there was enough food to go round again, lovely food ,great service great company thank you all guys for supporting the section. Fitting it was though Mr Baxter and his playing partner Mr Stokes cleaning up his own prize table with a winning score of 44 points! Second place was Mr Davies and Mr Potter with 41 points and third was Alan Baxter and Mr Dixon with 40. Glen also won the longest drive but gladly gave up the prize to the runner up which was me! The nearest pin prize was won by Mr Liddle. The day was a total success with Ben Jackson from Scarborough managing to get in

and out of the car park without hitting anybody's car.

Looking forward to the next gig at Halifax golf club already, which we will have had our AGM and hopefully got the fixtures for next year for you.

And finally Mike Brier from Rigby Taylor has got a little trip planned to PB Kents fertiliser in November if anybody is interested, the day will be subsidised by the section and we are looking in to a local site for a pick up point. Limited places so please let me no if you want to pop along.

Cheers chaps once again nearly forgot to mention the slight cock up with the raffle at Horsforth, sorry our little oversight, won't happen again.

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Sheffield

We reach the end of another golfing year and the presumably hard winter is about to set in once again, as I write these notes I have been reminded once again that we are due for a beautiful

September. I hope this comes true for us all because we certainly deserve it after the so-called summer we have had. It is years like this when we hope that some of the recognition for what us greenkeepers achieve is finally seen by golfers and committees.

I'm sure many of you will be aware that Derek Neve has finally put away the mower and is set to for a wonderful retirement after a very long and successful career in the industry. Derek has been Course Manager at Brough GC for many years now, it's that many that I can't work it out to put a figure down! Derek has also been a very strong supporter of our section over the years and was a popular face that many could speak to and ask for a little bit of advice now and again. I know that everyone at Brough has given Derek a terrific send off and we at Sheffield will hope to do the same soon. I would on behalf of the section like to wish Derek a wonderful retirement.

On the section front we are

close to organising several events over the winter months and all members will be informed of these events soon. The Northern region conference will this year be held in our section at Phoenix Sports and Social Club on Wednesday 9 November this is a full day conference with a wide range of speakers covering a host of subjects. All attendees will get tea and coffee throughout the day and dinner will be provided. All this can be yours for the minimal amount of £10. I hope to see many of our section attending as it will be a very insightful day for whatever level you are at. If anyone requires further information then please get in touch.

I also recently attended a Northern region meeting (on a Saturday) and I am pleased to say it was a very successful meeting. BIGGA HQ has now reorganised staffing and is working on a lot of fantastic new ideas that will benefit all members. It was also pleasing to see that many ideas from members are being listened to and considered at management level, so if you do have anything to say or any ideas then please get in touch.

Last but not least I must make an apology. In my haste I missed out some congratulations over the last few months, for both our spring and summer comps I missed out the winners in the magazines. Congratulations to Neil Peters who was the winner of both competitions - well done Neil. I must apologise for the mistake and can someone have a look at his handicap.

That is all from me, I hope to hear from some of you soon.

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North West

Not much has happened in the section or so it seems as no-one is contacting me. We played the North Wales section at Lymm and after a really good match we managed a very rare win. The North Wales lads as always were very sporting and a good day was had by all. Stuart Yarwood the course manager at Lymm was fantastic and took a number of the players up to his

offices and gave us the grand tour including compost corner. All in all it was a great day.

The Whitelaw bowl was played at the Penrith golf club on 12 September and once again, a great day was had by all. The rain stopped and the sun came out. Many thanks to Penrith golf club for their hospitality and use of their fantastic course, also thanks go to Phil Dewhurst and Rigby Taylor for organising and sponsoring this event.

The winners are as follows;

William Whitelaw bowl - Mike Crabtree; runner up Peter Hogan; Category 2 winner Steve Moyes; runner up was Chris Sheehan. The nearest the pin and the longest drive was won by Grant Docherty. The next tournament is the AGM and Bert Cross trophy at the Wilmshlow golf club on Thursday 15 November. Please contact Phil Dewhurst if you wish to attend, if you are attending please bring a bottle or prize to the value of £5.00 so everyone goes home with something.

Chris Sheehan



Midland Region

Firstly, I would like to thank Ed for composing last month's excellent notes, beautifully written, I think? With 'I think' in-mind, shall we have another instalment of 'The Marcus Chronicles' (16 year old trainee). It's 'Sean...Sean...Sean...' every two minutes. I made the fundamental error of stating that "there is no such thing as a stupid question", but omitted what in hindsight should have followed, "so long as such is of relevance and not completely random".

Yet, when the question is answered or the process required explained the response is inevitable and delivered with such certitude "I know". Such presents my strange mind with the 'thought' of, if you know why ask the question and also with this knowledge how come the task is not fully completed? I shall let the man work it out for himself, we were all 16 once upon a time and perhaps wish we were again. So just like my mother use to say "I'm changing my name", so am I. Please don't tell Marcus. The chap's doing

well and brings a freshness to a team of a load of old fogies.

The belated summer tournament was held at Oxley Park Golf Club on Wednesday 5th September. The course was presented beautifully by the Head Greenkeeper Ian Holborn and his team, congratulations to you on a job well done. The results from the day were as follows:

1 Nett A Brougham 35pts; 2 M Cutler 34pts; 3 S Thompson 32pts; 4 C Woodall 32pts; 5 E Stant 31pts. Best Gross: E Stant. The 4 nearest the pins on the day were won by S Thompson x2, E Stant and M Chamberlain.

Many thanks to all our sponsors on the day, especially Peter Lacey and Farmura Environmental who sponsored the main prize table. Also many thanks to Sherriff Amenity who provided the drinks and chocolate at the half way house and Sherriffs again along with Whitemoss who provided the nearest the pin prizes.

We have two events coming up in October to look out for. Firstly our Autumn education day which is being held at the fabulous Forest of Arden on Wednesday 24th October. This event is provided by Headland Amenity Products which will prove to be a fascinating day's education, provided by one of the leading innovators in the field of speciality fertilisers and turf management products. Details of the day will be on the website, so please register an interest with Nia Lisseter on 07747 686526.

Our Autumn Golf Tournament and AGM is the following day on Thursday 25th October, a week after the published date on the calendar and fixture card, due to a clash of dates. Please get your entries into Gary Cunningham or Rhys Thomas by post or phone. The venue of Druids Heath Golf Club is an ideal central location to many and it would be nice to see as many greenkeepers as possible on the day.

This month's calendar sponsor is our old friends North Staffs Irrigation Ltd. Please consider them for both your irrigation and drainage requirements. They can be contacted on 01785 812706, or visit their website at www.northstaffsirrigration.co.uk.

So what's the photograph that graces this month's calendar page? It's been named "Shaun the sheep" for obvious reasons. It was taken by my own lucky

Around The Green

finger, and has been awarded winner of 2012's photo comp with the prize of a very nice bottle of champers. If you wish to be in with a chance of a very nice tittle and indeed the prestige of having your photo published in our excellent calendar for 2013, please send you entries to, via email: rabforevergreen@gmail.com, or preferably send a disc to: Mr R. Beacham. 49 Eastwood Drive, Donnington, Telford, Shropshire, TF7 2LY. I feel that our thanks must go to both the sponsors of our section's calendar, and of course our committee. Well done, yet again gentlemen.

The Hoff, totally random dude.



East Midlands

So September has come and gone with some very good weather bringing smiles to the faces of golfers and greenkeepers alike. Rearranged Golf Society days, club invitations and the last of the season's notable club competitions have now passed and our focus is on autumn renovation work in preparation for the end of BST, the onset of frosts and the leaf collecting season. As a nation we do have a reputation for talking about the weather but this year has been so exceptional that absolutely everyone has been banging on about it.

Our annual Par 3 competition sponsored by Rigby Taylor was held at Nailcote Hall and won by 'Team Committee',,,hmmmm. As a section we are very grateful to Carl Chamberlain for organising this event and putting in the time and effort to set it up and offer a very generous prize table. With this in mind it is such a shame that it was again poorly supported by the greenkeepers of the section. This did include me admittedly, but the numbers for events are rapidly dwindling, although I am hoping that workloads will afford people the time to attend more events next year.

As I'm sure you will have read in GI, one of our East Midlands members Tom Flavell won the very prestigious Toro Student of The Year competition. This is

an incredible achievement for Tom and on behalf of the section I would like to congratulate him.

In next month's notes I will be able to report on our AGM and the Autumn Competition at Glen Gorse Golf Club and also my annual fortnight's holiday which is long overdue. So until then I bid you farewell.....

Greg Skinner
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East Of England

Our most recent golf day was held on August 2nd at Belton Woods. The day was kindly sponsored by TORO with Nigel Lovatt and Chris Sellars once again putting on an excellent day. Sandra and Tracey from BIGGA were also in attendance, Tracey joined in the golf competition while Sandra watched the Olympics...I mean assisted with the running of the day!

The results of the day were as follows

1st	Rob Welford
2nd	Rob Bemment
3rd	Ben Lowery
Trade	Ian Collett
Nearest Pin	Roy Brittan
Longest Drive	Rob Bemment

The course was presented in excellent condition by Angus and his staff and the hospitality in the clubhouse afterwards was excellent.

Once again thanks to everyone at Belton Woods and TORO for an excellent day.

Many congratulations from the section are due to Angus MacLeod as he has now actually left the section to take up the prestigious role of Course Manager at The Belfry. When he said at the end of our day at Belton Woods that he looked forward to welcoming us all again we will now certainly be holding him to the offer!

Congratulations this month also go to Rob Welford of Cleethorpes Golf Club. He has won a place in the World Finals of the Audi Quattro Cup in South Africa in December this year. All the best wishes from the section in your endeavours out there.

Congratulations also go to Rob Bemment of Immingham

Golf Club who is part of the team from Immingham that have won through to the National Finals of the annual Mail on Sunday golf competition. They are now one win away from a trip to Portugal. Again best wished from the section to him too.

Looks like we could be clocking up some air miles this winter! All the best for the onset of the autumn.

Steve Beverly, Immingham Golf Club.



North Wales

We are well and truly heading into autumn; I can already see the leaves turning colour and the addition of a backpack blower to the setting up tools also bears witness to the seasonal change. Talking of the oncoming season the autumn tournament was played at St. Melyd GC on 11 September and the results are;

1st Kieran Graham and Paul Sandals 39pts; 2nd Charlie and Colin Jackson 37; 3rd Paul Roberts and Chris Stewart 36pts; nearest the pin Andy Darlly. Only 24 played which was such a shame as an immaculate course with good weather and an excellent meal thanks to St. Melyd for the hospitality they showed us big thank you to Eifion Ellis and Jacob for the excellent condition of the course.

Please note Christmas tournament is on 21st November at Oswestry golf club not the 7th December as posted on our fixture cards. Northern region seminar will be held on November 7th all details will be available soon.

In other news Garry Hugget has moved from selling Textron at John Osman groundscare to still selling Textron at Burrows groundscare with a new stomping ground around the North West area. He has also been chosen to play for the Welsh senior, that's two consecutive years an accomplishment of which I know he is exceedingly proud.

I think that's about enough for now or I'll have nothing to write about next month, although I do keep hoping to hear from you about your news, contact details

follow as usual.

Pete Maybury. e-mail petemayb66@aol.com phone 07756001187 also keep logged into our section Facebook group "North Wales B.I.G.G.A"

South East Region



Berks, Bucks & Oxon

Temple Golf Club played host to this year's BB&O Tacit Cup. The event was well supported by the section with a considerable number of trade representatives. With the talk of sustainability in the industry at the moment it was interesting to play and see first-hand a course managed in such a way.

Conditions were blustery and windswept although it stayed dry! The long rough also meant scoring proved challenging.

Results: Keith May (The Berkshire) 34 points; Mark Green (The Berkshire) 33; Matt Short (Sand Martin) 30; Phil Beeny (JSM) 29 and Richard Fortmuller fifth also with 29 on countback.

Simon Mallock won nearest the pin with a thundering tee shot on the 8th and Graham Down smashed his tee shot on the 12th to take the longest drive. The guys from the Berkshire produced a strong showing on the day taking four of the top seven places. It was nearly a clean sweep with the longest walk prize going to apprentice Anthony Myles!

Johnny Beck of Sherriff Amenity provided some much welcomed refreshments at the 13th Hole assisted by the Midlands new Regional Administrator Sandra Raper who has replaced Peter Larter.

Congratulations to Keith and Mark who go forward and will represent the Section at Irvine Golf Club in the BIGGA National Championships.

Our thanks must go to all the staff at Temple who did a fantastic job of catering and looking after everyone on the day and to Tacit for their continued support and association with the BB&O section. The support