

As with any item of equipment, brushcutter designs have evolved. You may not notice this when you take a casual look at what is on offer but compare similar models made a few years apart and the chances are the newer machine will be more pleasant to operate.

This will typically be down to lower vibration and noise levels, two key improvements that can really help reduce fatigue. Power to weight ratios have steadily improved too, some nominal 25cc units seeming to pack a punch well above what you could have experienced per-

with a greater degree of adjustment, are more common. So too is a longer line of mounting points for a harness, enabling more operators to select a balance point to suit how they want to work the machine.

That said, key developments relate to noise and vibration. What is often not considered is that the level of vibration produced will be influenced by the task being carried out. Large brushcutters, with the right blade type, can be used as a clearing saw to tackle heavy growth to include small saplings.

This type of work will produce different levels of vibration than when the same tool is used to clear



Choosing a brushcutter is not easy – there is not only the choice of engine type and power to consider but price, make and local support too. Although you can play it safe by sticking to a big name, there are alternatives that may well fit your specific needs better.

haps just a few years back. But do not expect a dramatic improvement over more recent designs; much changed when power units were brought into line with legislative demands made in the 2000s.

Detail developments have of course continued. On loop handle trimmers, not only has the shape of the loop altered on some machines but so too has the material from which they are covered; soft finish grips are increasingly common to help improve comfort. Similarly, anti-vibration systems have evolved.

Fire up a new 'pro quality' brushcutter with cow horn bike handles and then revert to an older machine from the same maker. Notice anything different? Offset handles,

bracken or brambles.

Similarly, a light trimmer used to cope with long grass around trees, benches and marker posts will behave differently when dealing with docks and thistles. It is for these reasons that it is important to try out different makes and models in the key environment in which they will be operated.

Most professional users tend to target top spec models with a full harness and wide bike handles. This type of tool can be used all-day and everyday. But is it the right tool to fit with a nylon line cutting around obstacles?

A light loop handle trimmer may be the better choice for this type of work.

When it comes to power units, you have more choice. Still most popular are two-stroke engines. Proven, simple and reliable, modern two-strokes are not only quieter but cleaner too. But to get the best from these engines it is important to use a high quality two-stroke oil.

A 50:1 'petrol' mix is pretty much the default with a synthetic oil, but more advanced oils not only lubricate better at a low mix rate but burn more cleanly too. This reduces fumes and, of equal importance, helps keep the engine internals cleaner too. A modern 'green' Pro or Ultra oil can cost three times as much as a decent 'bulk' two-stroke oil but you get what you pay for.

Conventional two-stroke alternatives include the now familiar 4-Mix designs from Stihl and C4 from Shindaiwa plus four-stroke engines from companies to including Makita, Honda, Ryobi and Hitachi. Jonsered and Husqvarna offer two-stroke brushcutters with a catalytic convertor and... well you have far more choice with regard to engines than you may think. You can also opt for battery power.

With this in mind, it is perfectly fine to admit to not really being fully up to speed on what would make the best choice. And nothing beats getting your hands on a given unit and trying it out. Take four-stroke power. When the first four-stroke brushcutters were introduced over a decade ago, uptake among professional operators was low. And it still is.

But the latest four-strokes, such as the MM4 models from Makita are impressive tools, the company claiming its 33.5cc EM4340L models can consume up to 60% less fuel than a two-stroke alternative with lower noise and vibration too.

Entrenched brand loyalty is another point. Nothing wrong in sticking with the same make but insisting that a given brand is better needs to be tested occasionally. You may be surprised to find a different brand actually fits your demands perfectly – and if it doesn't you can use this to prove your loyalty point.

There are no best buy recommendations; the right tool is the one that suits your business and no two operations will ever be exactly alike. But now is a great time to consider trying before buying. There are some really good brushcutters out there and some will be made by companies you may not have considered before such as Echo, Tanaka, Sanli, Efco, Solo and Kawasaki.



Emission controls have driven small engine developments, the Stihl 4-Mix cutaway diagram showing its four-stroke 'breathing' combined with two-stroke lubrication simplicity. A four-stroke engine runs on straight petrol, with a sump full of oil for lubrication. Two-strokes can have a catalyst fitted to reduce fumes, but the best oil you can buy will also help.

RIGHT: Modern cow or bike handle designs are 'offset' to the right, a degree of adjustment allowing the operator to set up the machine to suit personal preferences. Vibration control varies between makes and models, so it is worth trying a few alternatives; the best designs are much less tiring to operate over extended periods.



ABOVE: Modern cow or bike handle designs are 'offset' to the right, a degree of adjustment allowing the operator to set up the machine to suit personal preferences. Vibration control varies between makes and models, so it is worth trying a few alternatives; the best designs are much less tiring to operate over extended periods.



LEFT: A grass blade can tackle heavier growth than a line and, dependant upon design, also cope well with docks, light brush and bracken. There are so many designs of blade available that it is worth trying a few different types. The reversible four-blade unit pictured produces very little mulch and suits long grass that is raked and cleared separately.



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The BIGGA show heats up

A look ahead to the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition, and Continue to Learn educational programme for 2013

BTME is back at Harrogate for 2013, and is shaping up to be another must-attend event, with many exhibitors having already confirmed their spaces, months in advance, as the countdown to 22-24 January 2013 begins.

The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition, incorporating Continue to Learn Education Seminars and Workshops, which start the weekend before and run for five consecutive days, is the ultimate experience for golf greenkeepers.

BTME, widely regarded as Europe's leading showcase for turf and grounds care professionals and buyers, offers a fantastic opportunity to browse, buy and seek advice from over a hundred of

the top manufacturers and service providers across the world. To pre-register for your free visitors pass, visit www.harrogateweek.org.uk and click the **Register Now** icon. Then, simply enter your details to receive your access badge.

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2013

22-24 January 2013 at the Harrogate International Centre

Exhibition



IMAGES:
A selection from BTME 2012,
courtesy of SiRA Studio
sirastudio.com

*Continue
to learn*

5 days of
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20-24 January 2013

**BIGGA Seminars
& Workshops**

Continue to learn at BTME 2013

BIGGA can already confirm a host of education seminars and workshops, coming your way in January 2013...

Turf Managers' Conference 2013
Monday 21 January 2013
The Crown Hotel,
Harrogate

The Turf Managers' Conference 2013 will make its return to the Continue to Learn at BTME 2013 education programme.

Taking place at The Crown Hotel in Harrogate on Monday 21 January 2013, the new venue will offer delegates a more comfortable learning environment whilst cementing the success of the Conference as it enters its third year.

The programme will feature some familiar industry names and will introduce new subject specialists to provide an interesting and thought provoking range of topics for Turf Managers':

- **Dr Thomas Nikolai** - 'The Doctor of Green Speed' from Michigan State University, a specialist in putting green management to maximize turfgrass health, investment and customer satisfaction.

- **David Bancroft** - Turner from

3D Training and Development, a specialist in organisational politics.

- **Dr Kate Entwistle**, Turf Pathologist from the Turf Disease Centre, a specialist in disease and pest identification.

- **Lorna Sheldon** from CWI International a specialist in communication and presentation skills.

With prices held from 2012, this must attend event is being offered to BIGGA members at £99 + VAT (£195 + VAT for non members). To reserve your place at this popular event, telephone or email Rachael Duffy, Learning and Development Administrator on 01347 833800 (option 3) or rachael@bigga.co.uk.

Continue to Learn Workshops

The Continue to Learn Workshop programme will make its return to the Queen's Suite of Harrogate International Centre on Sunday 20 and Monday 21 January 2013.

Featuring a series of one and two-day workshops including:

Two-Day Workshops

- Essential IT Business Administration for Greenkeepers





- Irrigation System Management and Design
- Moving into Management
- So You Want to be a Golf Course Manager

One-Day Workshops

- The A, B, C's of Putting Green Maintenance
- The Grass Plant
- Basic Golf Mechanics
- Health and Safety Documentation
- How to be an Outstanding Manager (Part 2)
- How to be an Outstanding Manager (Part 4)
- Diagnostic and Problem Solving
- The Soil
- Basic Budgeting and Golf Course Finance
- Pesticides Update for NPTC Certificate Holders

Continue to Learn Seminars

The Continue to Learn Seminar Programme will feature more than 25 sessions, all of which are free of charge to all visitors.

There will be feature sessions including presentations from:

- Thom Nikolai, The Doctor of Green Speed, from Michigan State University
- Curtis Tyrrell MG CGCS, Superintendent from the 2012 Ryder Cup venue, Medinah Country Club, Chicago, USA
- John Philp, retired Course Manager from Carnoustie
- Steve Chappell, Course Manager, PGA Centenary at Rydengates, host of the 2014 Ryder Cup
- Stuart Yarwood MG, Course Manager, Lymm Golf Club
- Richard Jenkinson, Deputy Course Manager, gWest



- Rob Wills, Assistant Greenkeeper, Remedy Oaks Golf Club

- Les Howkins MG, The Richmond Golf Club

This year we will be introducing a seminar pre-booking system for BIGGA members. Look out for further details in the Continue to Learn brochure.

2013 will see the introduction of 'Focus On' sessions. These 1.5 – 2 hour sessions will home in on specific areas, split into different strands including:

- Management
- Technical
- Environmental
- Information Technology

For further details on all of the education on offer, see the full Continue to Learn at BTME 2013 education programme that will be delivered with your October issue of Greenkeeper International.

ABOVE: The Turf Managers' Conference from Continue to Learn 2013

Accommodation

Are you planning your trip to BTME and Continue to Learn 2013?

Reservation Highway is the officially appointed accommodation agent for BTME 2013 providing a centralised point of contact for all your accommodation and travel enquiries.

By following the link on the BTME website you can gain instant access to all of the accommodation rates that have been specially negotiated for the event. All of the rates shown are what you will pay, with no hidden extras. In addition to special nightly rates, Reservation Highway also offers special deals such as 3 night specials, advance purchase and early bird rates.

Reservation Highway can be contacted on +44 (0) 1423 525577.

Section Notes

Please email your notes to
media@bigga.co.uk
by the 5th
of the month

All the latest news from your Section

Around The Green



Scottish Region



East

Well it's mid August and the temperatures are up the rain has subsided and the grass is at its most vibrant. Golf courses are at their best in East Lothian at the moment and there is no sign of disease from the wet weather in June-July.

We wish our team good luck for Norrie Whytock event at Auchterarder on the 16th. S Ferguson, P Butler, A Holmes and G Moran make up the East section team (Bring it home boys!). I met the new Regional Administrator John Young last week and look forward to working with him in the Autumn golf tournament.

Stewart Crawford,
s.crawford@live.co.uk



Central

At the time of going to press, we are close to confirming 12 September for a one-day irrigation course presented by Adrian Mottram. Full details on the course with costs will be on the website www.biggacentralsection.org.uk and members will be emailed details in the normal manner.

This is being partly sponsored by the BIGGA learning and development fund so as well as being an excellent course it will be great value. The results of the autumn outing at Piperdam on 19th Sept will also be on the website as soon as practical. This magazine might just be out

before the closing date so any last minute entries, please get in touch pronto. The pairs event will have reached the final stage by then.

On behalf of everyone in the Section, a huge thanks to Andy Mellon for all he did for the section in his time on Committee. As well as his stint as Secretary/Treasurer he was always helping in other areas particularly in the use of the training room at Elmwood. His actual leaving date crept up on us and took us a little by surprise and we didn't have the time to organise a farewell. We did manage to get him a nice bottle of malt on behalf of all the members so by the time he reads this he will hopefully have had the opportunity to grab a seat and sample a drop. Best wishes from us all Andy, I'm sure most of us will get the chance to catch up with you at BTME.

Gordon Moir



West

Just a couple of things to mention for the coming months as autumn comes upon us and the sun is shining outside for a change, why do Scots always talk about the weather I wonder? Ross Fraser our new Secretary has confirmed the autumn outing venue at Ferenze Golf Club on 18 September. The AGM will once again be at Renfrew Golf Club with a date and speaker still to be confirmed but this will be sometime in October as usual.

Disappointingly the Scottish outing held at Ratho Park golf club was poorly attended by the west section as only five people from our area managed to go along to an excellent venue and educational days golf, the sec-

tion did however did reasonably well picking up some prizes.

As Chairman of the Scottish section of the Association I was asked to sit on the panel to select the candidate to represent Scotland at the Student of the Year competition sponsored by Toro. I was very impressed by the quality coming through and the enthusiasm expressed by all the candidates and I hope Christopher Watson is successful in his bid to achieve this award.

Congratulations to Alasdair MacDiarmid on being appointed Head Greenkeeper of Bothwell Castle GC, the section wishes him well in his new role and hopes he enjoys a successful tenure at the club.

Recently Gavin Jarvis resigned as Head Greenkeeper of Helensburgh GC which was disappointing to hear but I hope he enjoys his new venture and we wish him all the best from the section for the future.

The results for the Norrie Whytock trophy held at Auchterarder golf club on 16 August will be included in the next edition of the magazine.

Please remember to contact me with any information you may want included for future additions, I can be contacted on 07790823914 or 01419 425554, or by e-mail on stuart.taylor@glasgowgolfclub.com.

Best wishes for the rest of the season.

Stuart Taylor

Northern Region



Northern

Afternoon sports fans...I had the pleasure of being part of a fantastic support team at the recent Open at Royal Lytham last month and am still feeling

the effects now! The whole experience was truly amazing, from seeing the fantastic golf played to the wonderful state of the course...unbelievable.

Right from the top boys and girls at HQ to the girls feeding us at the hotel everything was top drawer. Rachel, Tracy and Sandra were brilliant and even Mr Young had his moments, nothing was too much trouble for these guys and the whole event ran very smoothly. The early starts to the late bedtimes took its toll but just having the chance to walk with the players and watch them play more than made up for it. For me the highlight was chatting to Tom Watson and getting a signed golf ball after he commented on my bunker repair! I think back to being shown how to rake bunkers many moons ago by Mat Bulmer at Ilkley who I worked, sorry turned up with at Hollins Hall, good training old boy!

So to the section golf, it's invitation day at Horsforth next followed by our rearranged Sheffield match up in September, at the moment the numbers are good for them both!

If any of you guys are interested of playing in the Nationals in October please get in touch and maybe we can share cars to make it easy for us.

That's it for this month folks, one last thing the missus is coming out of retirement and helping out the boys at Baildon golf club for a couple of weeks...

Andy Slingsby
07506407867
andy.slingsby98@googlemail.com



North East

First on the agenda this month is the news of Head

Greenkeeper Stuart Imeson of Dunstanburgh Castle Golf Club on making into the final six in the Toro Student of the year. Stuart, aged 20, has now been in this role for a couple of years and is attending Newcastle College. He's currently studying for his level 3 and wants to continue on to level 4 - last year Jon Watson of Burgham Park had also qualified for the Toro Student of the year, well done our local College.

Last month I had the pleasure and the company of our new Regional Administrator Sandra Raper on board to start going around the section to visit courses who had members and those who didn't. Our first stop was Tyneside GC who once had five members. We had an interesting meeting with staff and a meeting with the Club Manager, then off we went to Dunstanburgh Castle, Bamburgh Castle, Alnwick, and finally Longhirst Hall where we picked up two new members straight away.

Out of all this we had very good news from Tyneside and Dunstanburgh as both clubs are joining the section so not a bad days work in all - nine new members. Further visits are planned in the coming months in fact by the time you read this we will have been around the Newcastle area.

It was recently decided at a Section Committee meeting that the venue for the Autumn Comp be changed. It was felt that at this moment in time we are not likely to get many to make a 100 mile round trip. A letter was sent to the Secretary of Wooler GC a few weeks ago, now a new venue has been booked this will be at Tyneside GC on October 10th tee booked from 11am to approx 11.45 at the latest. Well that's it for another month.

Jimmy Richardson



Sheffield

As we close in on the end of another golf season we can all reflect on our performance over it. When we see such big competitions on tv constantly raising the standards golfers demand, it is important sometimes to take a step back and look at what we have on our own courses and evaluate if we are achieving the most from it.

We are reminded often of the importance of being the keepers of the land and the responsibility we have to maintain the land and to maintain the land in the most natural way we possibly can which all adds pressure to the job. If we do take the time to take a step back and reflect I'm sure most of us will appreciate what a wonderful profession we are in, even though we all have something to complain about now and again we are very lucky to have a wonderful office to work in each day.

On the section front I would like to thank everyone at Phoenix Sports and Social Club for what was an excellent day for our summer competition. Everyone who attended commented on how good the course was and they were all very pleased with the food at the end. Results for the day are on our Facebook page. We would also like to thank the sponsor on the day and also thank all our sponsors for their support of the year.

I would also like to congratulate Stewart Piggott on completing his 24 hour golf challenge. Stewart completed six and a half rounds in the 24 hours. If anyone did sponsor Stewart can you please get your money to him as soon as you possibly can and if anyone would like to sponsor him then there is still time. Congratulations to Stewart once again on what was a fantastic achievement and all the proceeds will go to a very worthy cause.

That's all from me at the minute but I will be back next month with news on upcoming golf matches and some news on our winter lecture programme.

Bye for now and just take some time one day soon and have a minute to look round your office and realise how lucky you are.

James Stevens
jimmy_jams20@hotmail.com
07738719614



North Wales

This time of year we parents give a grateful sigh of relief as we wave our increasingly bored children back off to school and in work we also know club finals and the autumn season are only just around the corner.

A cautionary tale from Darren

Anderson MG at Abergele GC. Make sure your fuel tanks are safe, his diesel tank at Abergele got drained and the thieves cut through two gates and a lock to get to it!

27 July we played the inaugural North Wales v South Wales match at Aberdovey GC and we won! Many thanks to all who played and of course the sponsors, Rigby Taylor, Countrywide and Farmura. Without you all this event would not be possible. Many thanks again. And a special thanks to Richard Dixon from the golf union of Wales who gave a short speech on the importance of greenkeeping in Wales.

On 7 August we also played the annual North Wales v North West match at Lymm GC and although Stu Yarwood MG gave the lads a course to be proud of they lost. I'm sure the lads looked resplendent in their new BIGGA t-shirts.

The North Wales v North West cricket match which was due to be played at Ashley Cricket Club on 18th July had to be postponed due to a lack of players. I understand Nick Grey is trying to rearrange a date, we'll keep you posted through this column or the Facebook group 'North Wales BIGGA'.

Just a quick reminder that

the autumn tournament takes place on the 11 September at St Melyd GC, I hope to see you all there.

I think that's about it for now so all the best until next month.

Pete Maybury e-mail petemayb66@aol.com text or phone 07756001187

Midland Region



Midland

You may see a different style to these notes this month as Sean is away 'gone fishing'. Some may be relieved thinking they might be able to understand the content this month, but I and many others look forward to reading Sean's notes, especially when we get a small glimpse into his thoughts. What a fascinating place it must be inside that remarkable head of his, and no, it's not true he and David Haselhoff are related!

Unfortunately for Sean we have received some news from a greenkeeper this month. Sean has been waiting for some genuine greenkeeper news

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Around The Green

directly from a greenkeeper for years, and when it arrives he is not here to report it, better luck next time pal! David Bevan, Course Manager at Overstone Park GC in Northampton would like to share some wonderful news that he and his partner Rachel have just had their first child, Mia weighing 6lb 15oz. Congratulations to you all and thank you for sharing the news with us.

The rearranged summer tournament at Oxley Park has just taken place, the results will be in next month's notes. Please be aware that the Autumn Tournament and AGM is fast approaching, venue being Druids Heath GC in Aldridge on Thursday 25 October. This is preceded by the Section's Autumn Education Day on Wednesday 24 October featuring Headland Amenity at the Forest of Arden. A full programme of events for the day, as well as entry forms for the golf days can be found on the website www.biggamidlandsection.co.uk.

September sees the final of the 'Everris' Doubles competition. At this moment the semi-finals are being contested between the remaining four pairs. The final is being held at The Belfry, around the magnificent Brabazon course, on Wednesday 26th September. Good luck to the lucky finalists. We would like to thank Emma Kilby and Everris for their continued support of this event, and for this month's calendar sponsorship. Please consider them for your fertiliser, chemical or seed needs. You can contact Emma on 07748 111965.

Glad that's over, come back Sean all is forgiven!

Ed Stant, Section Chairman
Tel: 07535 712232



East Midlands

It has been two months since my last magazine notes as I have been spending my time finishing building an ark to rescue the whole of Leicestershire from the biblical storms and rainfall that we have experienced. Just as it was ready to set sail the waters retreated, the sun appeared in the sky and a kind of summer

commenced. And then our work this year really began!

Competitions, Societies, Captains' Days, Ladies' Opens and Mixed Opens have been postponed/cancelled/abandoned/rescheduled, then suddenly within a matter of a few days everything was drying out and a well presented golf course was required. Not an unreasonable request in the middle of 'summer'. A nice little sideline in hay production would have brought in some of our club's lost revenue such was the volume of grass clippings being produced and a doubling of man power would also have proved beneficial too.

Chatting to local greenkeepers who are in the same boat (no pun intended), does give you hope. This is something that I would strongly advocate to all greenkeepers as networking amongst colleagues gives you the opportunity to exchange ideas or simply put the world to rights and you put the phone down and feel some of the weight lifted from your shoulders.

No golf to really report on at section level this month, although we will have had our Par 3 competition at Nailcote Hall by the time you read this, and we will be planning for our AGM competition at Glen Gorse GC on September 20. Invites for this will be emailed only as the spiralling cost of postage will impact the section greatly unless we modernise our approach. This does impact on people who do not have internet/email facilities but I would ask anyone who knows any of the other 195 greenkeepers in the section to forward the information or advise them in whatever way they can that the event is happening. It will appear on the BIGGA website as well.

Glen Gorse is a beautiful course, kept in fantastic condition by Frank Kempster and his team and everyone there will no doubt makes us all extremely welcome. The profile of members attending these events has changed dramatically over the last few years and some of the 'old' faces would be very welcome to come along, swap stories, have a laugh and enjoy some competitive golf. As I have said many times the committee want to include as many members as possible in all our events and the golf events are the best supported so please come along if you can.

News in the area really centres around our new Regional Administrator, Sandra Raper who has rejoined BIGGA to take over from the retiring Pete Larter. Sandra has been out and about within her new section getting to know people and understand the needs and requirements of the members. She is already planning an Autumn Seminar for November and is having a big impact within the Midlands/Northern Region that she is responsible for.

Her impact was also felt by one of my member's cars when she visited Forest Hill in July. Unfortunately his stationary five week old car appeared to jump out and hit Sandra's three day old moving car. Seriously though on behalf of the East Midlands Section I would like to wish Sandra all the very best for her new role and hope her efforts benefit BIGGA as an organisation.

Christmas is coming and the goose is getting fat...

Greg Skinner
07970 095264

South East Region



Mid Anglia

Hello everybody I hope everyone is feeling more upbeat after the change in weather to more normal summer conditions. I am putting this together as the Olympics draws to close and feel that the efforts of Team GB has put some pride back into our great island and really captured the public's imagination - plus we totally stuffed the Aussies which is always nice!

Moving on we had our second tournament of the Year a Pairs competition hosted at John O'Gaunt GC. 36 players took part on a very warm day which made for very testing and draining conditions.

Results: 1 R Dowling and D Gass from Mid Herts GC 43 points; 2 P Rolfe and R Goddard from Ashridge GC 41 points; 3 N Broadwith and G Merrison from John O'Gaunt GC 40 points

Nearest the Pin in two shots on 11th went to A Butler. Near-

est the Pin on 16th went to S Boittier

Well done to Rob and Dave on winning this despite having to spend most of their round looking for my ball in the rough or trees on most holes. They were great company and we had a giggle which is what these days are all about. Our thanks go to Nigel and his team for the fantastic condition we found the course in it was appreciated by all who attended.

Mid Anglia's next outing will be at Verulam Golf Club on October 25 so please get your entries in nice and early as I am sure it will be very popular and is only £15 entry fee so excellent value for money at such a lovely venue.

Darren Mugford - d.mugford@rigbytaylor.com



East Anglia

I don't miss many of our golf days, but I couldn't be in two places at once. By all accounts, Haverhill Golf Club was the place to be. About forty souls turned out to play an immaculate course thanks to Glenn Norris and his crew. The catering was second to none.

The prizes were presented by Steve Ward club captain to:

0-10 Handicap; 1 Mat Gill 35 Points; 2 Jonathan Smart 33 Points; 11-20 Handicap 1 Andy Baker 34 Points - OCB; 2 John Andrews 34 points; 21-28 Handicap; 1 Ian Willett 31 Points; 2 Martin Myson 25 Points

Guests & Trade; 1 Edward Fairhead 32 Points; 2 Steve Creasey 31 Points

Longest Drive - Peter Sissons
Nearest Pin - Jonathan Smart; Loo Seat Recipient - Martin Myson for nearly killing his captain (no Christmas box this year then!)

Last, but not least - Captain & Greenkeeper Shield was won by Mike Virly and Steve Creasey - 64 Points. 2nd was Ian Willett and Chris Scott - 60 Points. The main sponsors were Leyley UK/Toro.

Other loyal sponsors were:- Bartram Mowers, Aitkens, Tacit, Tomlinson Groundcare, Ben Burgess, Rigby Taylor, Tex-