Regarding coring, the greens at Ham Manor are about 500m² and are what would be regarded as average size. The Ryan GA30 we use is a remarkably fast and efficient tool for hollow coring and, when coupled with a Cushman Harvester, we can (and indeed do) core and clear 18 greens in an eight hour day.

**Mark Ellis** Woburn Golf and Country Club, Bedfordshire

With BIGGA offering an ever increasing variety of official uniform dress, do you think it would be a good idea to provide official BIGGA overalls? A small range would do much to improve the professional image we try so hard to create.

**Peter Lacey** Pensard Golf Club, South Wales

Moves are indeed afoot to make BIGGA neckties and blazers obligatory wear at all official or invited functions, such as the Kubota Challenging and the Ransomes International Tournament, and indeed such a ‘uniform’ greatly improves one’s professional image. At work the choice is perhaps one of greater individuality, though we reserve the right to edit for brevity, clarity and good taste.

**Jon Allbutt** Biggin Hill, Kent

It is always worrying when those with little practical or technical expertise get involved in very important matters such as how to comply with the Control of Pesticides Regulations, and in particular with the Code of Practice. In order to fully comply with the Regulations, the operator of a pesticide applicator must show that he/she is using a ‘safe system’ to accurately apply the pesticide to the target, and only the target. Whereas marker dyes will show the operator where he has been, correctly aligned boat markers quite clearly show him where he is going! Thus it can be seen there is a role for both marker dyes and boat markers and sometimes they may well be used in combination to good effect. Ground conditions vary so much that having options is very wise, and all who are involved in this area, be it selling, advising or using, must be responsible and professional in their approach to protecting the environment.

Regarding his questions on the use of S.P.I.s and the Control of Pesticides regulations, these products fall outside the scope of this Act as they exert no effect on the pesticides activity, being applied after the treatment has been made and thus not falling within the pesticides activity. Therefore, contrary to Mr Arthur’s comments, the use of S.P.I.s does not mean that the pesticide has been applied illegally.

**Linda Exley** Northwood, Middx.

Linda echoes the opinion of many readers, all of whom say they enjoy the Grinkeeper cartoons. “Badleigh Dunne” is, in fact, a cartoonist, whose work also appears regularly in national and local newspapers.

We feel these exchanges can only be good for the game, believing that no one person can honestly claim to have total knowledge.

In our experience of running professional golf tournaments, which even Mr Arthur might concede is considerable, we have found that the wish of everyone concerned at a Tour venue is to achieve perfection in terms of presentation for their tournament week, and if we are asked to provide practical help, we will continue to do so.

It is quite wrong to suggest that the Tour have advocated prolonged ‘shaving’ of greens to achieve speed alone. Indeed, all the methods mentioned by Mr Arthur – including rolling – have been used to good effect and certainly in taking the long term health of the Tour golf courses into consideration, Mr Aaron seems to suggest that the Tour have no care or consideration for the venue when the final putt of the tournament is holed. I regard this as quite symptomatic that it does not even require further comment!

It is to be welcomed that the inclusion of Tour representatives on the R&A’s Joint Golf Course Committee does not seem to be considered.

We wish, and believe it is also that of the R&A, is that with all parties ‘pooling’ ideas constructive ideas may be forthcoming.

Mr Arthur mentions that many if not all readers of your magazine would dearly love to read constructive ideas from a man who was, for so long, the agronomist. I am sure that he can pass on a great deal of knowledge, rather than embarking on yet another attempt to disrupt other organisations or individuals.

**J N Paramor** Director of Tour Operations, PGA European Tour

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