THE OPEN
Ayrfield prepares for the big one

Journal of the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association
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All greenkeeper members of the association receive a smart, colourful car sticker free with this month's magazine. It's yours to display with pride, either in your car or maybe in an office window. The stickers are also available on request for anyone else who wants one – just call BIGGA HQ on 03473 581

GREENKEEPER International
JULY 1992

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Chris Whittle is a man with a mission, as he heads up the team preparing Muirfield for golf's premier tournament – and worldwide scrutiny. David White gets the details

How to fail in golf course development
Jim Arthur, Britain's most astute golfing observer, casts some wry comments on how to lose colossal amounts of money

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Around the Green
Updates from our regional correspondents. Find out what's going on

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A panoramic vista of Muirfield, venue for this year's Open.

Greenkeeping in the UK: what it's worth
More than 10,000 people work in the greenkeeping business in this country. A new survey turns up several surprises

Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund
Launched by Viscount Whitelaw at BTME 1992, the Fund provides the key to the future for greenkeeper, golf club and game. Individuals and companies can join the Golden Key Circle and Silver Key Circle. For details, contact Debbie Savage on 03473 581 for a BTME 1993 Information Pack and find out how your company can take part.

The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition and Seminar Programme is now recognised as the industry's most significant indoor event.

Contact Debbie Savage on 03473 581 for a BTME 1993 Information Pack and find out how your company can take part.

EDITOR
Hi-Tec Print, Unit 7, Universal Crescent, Howth Road, North Anston Trading Estatci, Doncaster, South Yorkshire S31 7J
Tel: 0909 565800 • Fax: 0909 565806

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GOLDFINGER INTERNATIONAL July 1992 3
If you’re ready to catch the magic, Anaheim, California, is ready for you! BIGGA has this year joined forces with Thomas Cook to transport you to 'the Magic Kingdom', with the option of a four day trip to San Diego after the GCSAA Conference - sun, sand and surf!

We have this year chosen two outstanding luxury hotels:

- **The Anaheim Hilton and Towers**, a superior first class hotel, is situated 50 feet from the Anaheim Convention Center and two blocks from Disneyland. Guest rooms have climate control, colour cable TV and radio. There is an outdoor heated pool and four jacuzzis, full health club with sauna, massage, tanning beds, steam room, exercise equipment and aerobics, games room, and beauty salon. There’s also a vast range of entertainment and dining facilities – sample Italian, Japanese and of course Californian cuisine.

- **The Hyatt Islandia**, another superior first class hotel in San Diego, located on Mission Bay. Guest rooms are air-conditioned with private bath, remote-control colour cable TV, phone and phone. The Islandia Bar and Grill offers fine Mediterranean cuisine with bay views at lunch, dinner and Sunday brunch. There is a heated outdoor pool, whirlpool, tennis courts, sail boat rentals, windsurfing, water-skiing, snorkeling, scuba diving and parasailing and whale watching (in season!).

Details of the GCSAA programme will be available from headquarters at a later date.

**Package 1**
25th January to 5th February 1993
London Gatwick/Los Angeles on Virgin Atlantic - 25th January
Transfer to Anaheim Hilton
6 nights Anaheim Hilton - 25th January-31st January
Transfer to San Diego – 31st January
4 nights Hyatt Islandia – 31st January-4th February
Transfer to Los Angeles Airport
Los Angeles/Gatwick on Virgin Atlantic - 4th February (to arrive in UK on 5th)
Cost: Twin Room £842 per person
Cost: Single Room £1266 per person

**Package 2**
25th January to 1st February 1993
London Gatwick/Los Angeles on Virgin Atlantic – 25th January
Transfer to Anaheim Hilton
7 nights Anaheim Hilton – 25th January-1st February
Transfer to Airport
Los Angeles/Gatwick on Virgin Atlantic – 1st February (to arrive in UK on 2nd)
Cost: Twin Room £689 per person
Cost: Single Room £1004 per person.

**Insurance**: Anaheim/San Diego £42.95; Anaheim only £34.80

I shall/shall not* require Insurance
('delete as applicable)

Gl. 7.92

I enclose a deposit of £100.00 per person plus insurance payment (if required).

Total enclosed: ______________

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GCSAA Conference and Show, Anaheim

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**CANCELLATION PROCEDURE**

If cancelled more than 42 days before departure date: cancellation charge will be the deposit; 42-29 days before departure: 20% of total holiday cost; 28-15 days before departure: 30% of total holiday cost; 14-4 days before departure: 55% of total holiday cost; 3-1 days before departure: 70% of total holiday cost. No refund for non-appearance. Under certain circumstances, cancellation charges are covered by the comprehensive travel insurance policy. As cover is provided by the insurance company from the date of purchase of the policy, insurance premiums are not refundable and are excluded from the total holiday price for the purpose of calculating cancellations charges.

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GCSAA Conference and Show, Anaheim

Please return to BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2IF

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A GRASS ROOTS BUSINESS
Robert Dryden has joined the Commercial Products Division of Kawasaki Motors (UK) Ltd as their regional sales manager for the Northern Region. Robert is responsible for servicing the needs of existing Kawasaki ATV, Engine and Generator dealers, plus the appointment of new dealers in open-point areas. His region includes the north east of England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and its islands.

Representing Lloyds in London and the Northern Home Counties is Steve Fletcher, appointed to sell the company’s range of professional grass cutting equipment. Many golf Clubs and local authorities will already recognise Steve, who has been working in the territory for the past two months. Although new to the industry, he has a wealth of business experience and a keen interest in golf.

Tom Murray, head greenkeeper at Ratho Park Golf Club and recently elected to the BIGGA East of Scotland section committee, has been awarded the 2,500th Chainsaw Operation Certificate of Competence issued in the UK. The scheme is operated by Scottish Skills Testing Service, the National Proficiency Tests Council in England and Wales, and the Forestry Training Council. Based at Ingliston, SSTS conduct practical skills tests for the land based industries in Scotland. Tests available also cover pesticides applications. Tom also holds a full Certificate of Competence under the statutory pesticides application scheme operated as part of the Control of Pesticide Regulations.

The former deputy principal of Merrist Wood College, George Shiels, and our very own Jack McMillan, former BIGGA chairman and course manager of Sunningdale GC, have established a new golf course consultancy, McMillan-Shiels Associates, intent on supplying a complete specialist service which will include course maintenance, training, conservation, ecology and arboriculture, operating through a network of selected consultants. Shiels, who set up the first HND in golf studies, has quit full-time education in some frustration following long delays in establishment procedures for the diploma course at Merrist Wood, which after nearly five years has only just been given the OK to proceed.

The linking of McMillan/Shiels, who are old friends, boasts a combined greenkeeping/agronomic experience of over 50 years, brought together in ‘team’ form at the Wildwood course in Surrey last year, where their paths were inextricably linked for the greater good. McMillan-Shiels Associates are at 21 York Road, Woking, GU22 7XH.

The Course Care division of Highspeed has appointed Paul Shaw as technical sales representative to take responsibility for development of the Course Care range to the turf maintenance market in Lancashire and the West Midlands. The Course Care range includes high quality lubricating oils, fuel treatments, greases, spray dispersants and cleaning products. Paul will be based in Stoke on Trent.

Keith Wishart, Rigby Taylor’s technical representative for North Yorkshire and the north east, has retired after 16 years service. At a retirement party, Keith was presented with a portable TV by Bernard Hedley, chairman of Rigby Taylor Limited. Taking over this important area for Rigby Taylor will be Paul Taylor (BASIS certificated), who has many years experience as both a head greenkeeper and with Trident as an equipment salesman. Pictured: Paul Taylor, left, and Keith Wishart.

The Lancashire College of Agriculture and Horticulture was awarded the BALI-CHALK Trophy and £50 for the best college stand at the Landscape Industries ’92 exhibition at Stoneleigh. There were a total of 16 colleges from all parts of Britain exhibiting at the show. Jeffrey Bernhard, Chairman of the BALI Chalk Trust and one of the panel of judges said: “we were disappointed with many of the stands this year, as we felt that they lacked imagination – we were looking for a stand that presented the college with creativity and flair, and Lancashire achieved this”.

Ransomes has appointed Jeremy Chowns, FCIMA, as chief accountant. Jeremy, with some 24 years experience in both manufacturing and distribution, has joined Ransomes at their Ipswich headquarters.

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Where?
...the north of England
January 18 – 22!
Hugh Tilley goes through the ABC of ATV and TMV

Tractors, trailers and turf maintenance vehicles (TMVs) are the means of getting men and materials around the golf course, a job almost as traditional as shanks's pony. However, time is money and the (golf) world becomes increasingly impatient, with a growing demand for faster and more efficient means of transporting machinery and bodies around. Tractors and trailers are a normal part of the golf course scene and a legacy of agriculture, with turf tyres a simple and increasingly common semi-effective customisation. TMVs are purpose built, but it is one sector of the industry which had seen little development save those one or two manufacturers with specific ranges of implements. There are also a number of utility vehicles, mostly adapted for the golf and amenity market, whilst All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) have received a mixed reception on the golf course.

Some golf courses can manage with a conventional road pick-up vehicle, gaining the advantage of being able to travel on the road at the expense of non-acceptability on greens, tees and (possibly) fairways.

**Trailsers**

The ubiquitous golf course trailer is invariably a 3 or 4.5 tonne capacity hydraulic tipping trailer of agricultural origin, usually with relatively narrow tyres. However it is usually possible to get special wide flotation wheels and tyres, even though these may extend beyond the trailer body. Most have all steel construction with drop sides, but those with hardwood sides and deck resist abuse better and are more easily repaired using standard greenkeeper carpentry. Most will have brakes of some sort, but whether these still work is another matter – for the most part do they need to – as tractors are designed to do the braking for them. Gross trailer weight should not exceed two and a half times the weight of the tractor, but even this can be excessive on wet grassy slopes – thus it is sensible to ensure that the trailer brakes work in conjunction with those of the tractor. Legislation sets maximum weights and requires brakes that operate from the tractor when on the public highway, and these requirements could be construed as a 'code of practice' under Health & Safety legislation, even for off road use – especially if there is sloping land or tracks.

While agricultural trailers are devoid of springing there is an almost infinite range of designs of trailers of up to about 3.5 tonnes gross designed primarily for road use. These have suspension, lights and over-run brakes, however they may suffer the disadvantage of narrow wheels. For transporting heavy machinery and ease of unloading, consider the benefits of tilt-bed four-wheel versions with steel mesh sides, these giving added security to such small items as fuel cans and hand tools. Standard coupling is the 50mm ball hitch but most offer options. Very light trailers such as those designed for ATVs seldom need brakes and as they inevitably have balloon tyres they are ideal for golf course use. However they lack capacity – normally little more than 500 kgs. There are also a large number of relatively small trailer manufacturers who buy components from suppliers and undertake the simple fabrication work. Thus it is easy and inexpensive to get a trailer custom built. Most trailers
Cushman three-wheel Turf Truckster
can be physically loaded with significantly more wet soil, sand, gravel etc than their intended capacity, but be aware that this is a recipe for tyre, axle and tipping troubles. Generous 'over specifying' is the best recipe for a trouble free life, and if there is one additional piece of advice on purchasing trailers, it would be to plump for galvanised framework. The ease of maintenance will remain long after the extra cost has been forgotten.

Turf Maintenance Vehicles
Without doubt the best known name in TMVs is the Cushman Turf Truckster, and the success of this system, which has interchangeable attachments which cater not only for top-dressing but also spraying, spreading and even aerating, has resulted in many other manufacturers producing similar designs. Hydraulic linkage and pto dimensions on TMVs are usually different to tractor standards, however the use of adaptor brackets (or a little welding) make it is possible to utilise and interchange most attachments. Flexibility is a most important feature of these machines and the ability to tow a dragmat, pull and lift a sitter or carry and operate a sprayer or topdresser is a prime reason for purchase. Equally important on many courses, however, will be the light tread of the machine which makes it acceptable on greens. Mounting a sprayer or topdresser over the back axle gives advantageous weight distribution, and this also applies to carrying bulk loads such as soil or sand in a 'box' on the back, although the capacity will not match that of a trailer. The Huxtruck is particularly suitable for spraying in having an electronic speed control, while for straight forward transport operations it has a top speed of 20 mph, a 680 kg load capacity and is equipped with a passenger seat. Similarly, this applies to the Sisis Hydromain Twin 25: twin seats, good capacity and a 15 mph speed. These machines have the speed to take the greenkeeper quickly to any part of the course and because they are 'of golf' they can 'slip across' the fairway without raising too much wrath.

Others - including ATVs
When sophistications such as pto and hydraulic lift are an extravagance and the prime need is simply to move personnel, tools and a limited bulk of materials around, there is a diversity of utility vehicles. Some are born to golf club use but a greater number are of industrial parentage. There are raising too much wrath.

SOME SUPPLIERS

Turf Maintenance Vehicles (TMVs)
Cushman - Ransomes Sirs & Jefferys, Ipswich, Suffolk.
Hydromain - Sligo Equipment, Shrewsbury Works, Maxenfield, Chester.
Argo - Greyford Special Equipment, Luton Road, Harpenden, Herts.
Mal SOLD - Malard Trucks, Fishermans Lane.
Bonas - Martin Traders, 61 Oldfield Road, Shrewsbury.
Mule - Kawasaki Motors (UK) Millennium Rd, Bicester, Oxon.
Hanler-Hanler (Europe), 12 Oakham, Nottingham St, Staffs.
AMT - John Deer, Harby Rd, Langar, Notts.

All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs)
Allen Power Equipment, The Broadway, Didcot, Oxon. OX11 8ES
Heron Safari, 46-62 Gower Rd, Chiswick, London W4 SYT
Honda Motor Europe, Power Rd, Chilworth, London W4 SYT
Kawasaki Motors (UK) Millboard Rd, Bourne End, Bucks.
Polec - JF Barnes, Lawrence Rd, Leicestershire.
Yamaha - Minium Machinery Sales, Oakdene, Chiswick, London W4

Trailers and other equipment

Bonza - Martin Trucks, 61 Oldfield Road, Shrewsbury, Shropshire.

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'A go anywhere ability'

7 • needed around a factory site, not for moving from green to green — and many only have a single seat, perhaps valid reasons for not buying. A bench seat to take two or three people is a significant advantage in many situations, room to carry tools, topdressing or other repair kit making them useful workhorses. Of course there is no point in buying a speed machine for the sake of it, especially if it is likely to be abused. A growing number are available with diesel engine and cab options which makes them more economical and suitable for all weather use.

Prime reason for the ATV is usually the light tread, go-anywhere-ability and the reasonable travel speed which enables the greenkeeper to be at the ninth green while his mate on a tractor is picking his way around tracks on the rough. ATVs have succeeded in breaking away from two or three people is a significant advantage in many situations, driving of all the above types of machine varies so long as they do the job.

— John Deere AMT 626

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Key findings of the BIGGA/Golf Research Group maintenance survey show a number of surprises.

There was a fantastic response to the survey from greenkeepers all over the country, with just under 200 survey returns received and with a depth and quality of return that researchers have described as "excellent." With this number of completed questionnaires, it has been possible for the first time to produce statistically accurate figures for the size and nature of the UK greenkeeping industry.

The availability of these figures may well have a significant impact on the greenkeeping industry in this country. Whilst in America I undertook a similar study in 1985 for the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), the effect of this work in the USA has been considerable. This survey for the first time showed the sheer scale of the American greenkeeping industry: over $2 billion annually. Superintendents and the greenkeeping industry generally became marked for respectful treatment when it became known how large their business had become.

Secondly, the publication in the States of standardised 'average' greenkeeping budgets had a significant effect. Prior to the survey there were about as many charts of accounts for greenkeeping budgets as there were golf courses, though afterwards the standard budget, hammered out so carefully for the survey, was increasingly adopted as the uniform budget for American superintendents. Further, with these 'average' budgets figures now available, the American superintendents had a firm ruler by which to measure their own operations and a strong tool assisting them when pressing home budgetary requests.

A strong indicator of the success of this first US maintenance survey is the subsequent establishment by the GCSAA of a whole department which today does nothing else save producing a whole series of surveys of the American greenkeeping industry, these surveys being continually updated.

This diversion across the Atlantic is useful in setting the scene for the BIGGA maintenance survey and gives an indication of the considerable effect this work may have on the UK greenkeeping business.

The UK survey shows the UK greenkeeping business to be of a considerable size, worth £187 million annually and employing over 10,000 people. Labour is the largest single component of this expenditure, accounting for £92 million annually. Capital spending is the second largest item accounting for £36 million. Two thirds of this spending goes on new machinery, one third on course projects such as extending tee boxes and re-laying greens. In fact, the amount spent on course projects is likely to be somewhat higher as the labour for these projects is not always properly accounted, the work simply being added to the duties of the regular green staff.

Looking at the use of chemicals, golf courses are spending £16 per acre per year on pesticides (herbicides and fertilisers) whereas arable agriculture spends £75. This is a very important area indeed, one where golf can say it is environmentally friendly - all the more important in the current climate when new golf development is increasingly under attack as being evil incarnate.

The report, 'Golf Course Maintenance In The UK', is available for £70 (£40 to BIGGA full greenkeeper members) by sending a cheque payable to the Golf Research Group, located at LSE, 406 St Clements Building, Houghton Street, London, WC2A 2AE (071-9557721). BIGGA members enjoying their substantial discount over non-members will, for £40, obtain a piece of market research that would cost £50,000 if commissioned by a single user.

* The author, Colin Hegarty, conducted the survey on behalf of the Golf Research Group.

GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL July 1992 9
Grand expedition and ‘entertaining’ golf

Keeping true to their highly legitimate claim in titling the Barenbrug Trophy ‘International’, the good folk of Barenbrug UK Ltd held a competition which included as reward a trip to compete in the third International Barenbrug Trophy at Nunspeet GC in Holland. Thus it was that a party representing and upholding the traditions of British greenkeeping golf took to the air for a three day visit, included Jim Lake (Druids Heath), Barry Holt (Burford), Hugh Parry (Bristol & Clifton), John Philip (Carnoustie) and Richard Pride (Thorndon Park) and your humble editor.

The whole event – sans golf – could only be described as wonderfully entertaining and totally informative, with grand expeditions to both Barenbrug’s testing, breeding and scientific plant and to the factory where literally billions of seeds are sorted, cleaned, bagged and dispatched worldwide. It was, quite literally, mind boggling and did much to further the enlightenment of those who might have imagined that seed is seed. Don’t ever believe it, at Barenbrug it’s a scientific act of wizardry!

I use the term sans golf, for it is not being too critical to say that the golf at Nunspeet, or more specifically the golf course, whilst being charmingly pretty and delightfully set in what should have been perfect golfing country, with pines, heather and delicious sandy loam soil, was a disappointment. I do not know the name of the architect, though I understand he is of aristocratic blood, but I hope someone will take him aside very soon and tell him what a golf course ought to be about. Here we had a course laid out with Penncross which had gone horribly wrong, coupled with a lay-out that provided no facility for ballooning, no width to speak of, no alternate routes and with treachery and disaster awaiting every shot that was even minutely off-line. Nunspeet is one to send people dashing to the bar not for mere sustenance, but to wash away the taste of doom and horror on the course.

Notwithstanding the golf, which at least was entertaining, our Barenbrug friends — the delightful and refreshing Muchel Mulder and the ever-smiling John Bradley — were our most charming hosts and our scores — all of them — will remain a secret in order to protect the reputations of those I know to be good golfers. In passing, I can heap nothing but praise upon Mr G B Kooster, handicap 10, who succeeded where others failed and produced the almost unbelievable score of 37 Stableford points!

David White

NIKKEN KNAPSACK
BRUSH CUTTER/MOWER

The Nikken fitted with its unique hover hood gives total flexibility and freedom of movement, giving a very neat finish to your bunker slopes and banks.

The operator can either mow from inside the bunker mowing uphill or mow from the top reaching down into the bunker, both achieved with total ease.

Flying sand is no problem with Nikken due to all sensitive components being protected and out of harm’s way on operator’s back, which only weighs 12lbs.

Edges can be quickly and neatly trimmed by removing the hood, attaching a small 4-tooth blade and finally rotating the handle through 90 degrees.

Nikken Knapsack Brush Cutter/Mower

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It’s a Must for any Golf Course!


Some not-so tongue in cheek observations from JIM ARTHUR, Britain's most astute golfing observer and outspoken critic of the absurd and ridiculous.

Failing is, in fact, one of the easiest of all tasks, but you will need to acquire a few specialist qualifications and obey a few rules to achieve total success, ie. failure! However, there are so many ways of achieving the desired end that if you do not initially succeed, do not despair. Just when things start going well you will find you have overlooked something.

The first prerequisite of any successful failure is that those who have to deal with the human race should actually either dislike or, better still, despise them. The management of twolegged livestock is quite different in some basic respects to that of fourlegged ones, as many farmers, seeking without success a less exhausting and frustrating way of life than agriculture, have discovered. An additional prerequisite is that such livestock answers back, is very difficult to satisfy and can voice with its feet.

The next stage is planning, but do not waste valuable time and money on that. All the answers are in the R & A's handbook – The Demand for Golf – a publication which made it clear that 700 new courses were needed in the last decade of this century, irrespective of such trivial factors as location and location and location, suitability of soil and terrain, and above all the proximity of the potential market. Consequently, in order to fail really dramatically there must be no unsatisfied need in your area.

You will need some advice on the layout of course, though for a real humdinger there is nothing to beat being your own architect. In passing, I had experience of one DIY man who produced three doglegs in a par 3 – though on reflection I have seen only very little less daunting designs of courses where vast sums have been expended on the advice of 'experts'.

Of course, to make a real success of failure you should be an enthusiastic golfer. The prospect of designing a course to suit you and you alone is something that few golfers can resist, even if they are aware – and few are – that this may prove to be a very expensive present.

Never mind all those professionally experienced architects, agronomists, drainage and irrigation consultants! Why not go to the real experts – your local Club pro – who will knock up a design for you for a modest fee. If, however, you want real success then opt for that professional (always identified by capital letters) who, if he can be tempted with enough money, will design you a course fit for his peers – and only his peers. He may just possibly produce you a good design, though what is certain is that he will not only charge you ten times too much – as he has an army of real experts to pay behind their desk tops – but the costs of construction will be in proportion.

Having got over these trivia – and assuming you have access to untold wealth – now is the time to start the work. You are unlikely to be presented with ideal golfing country. More likely it is some flat, heavy, featureless agricultural land – a legacy of prairie farming. Never mind – we can soon alter that. Carefully watching your television set, you will see televised tournaments played over water-scapes. Nothing pleases the average golfer more than watching someone at the top of the leader board plop one straight into the pond in front of a steam-rolling green, as bounded by tiger country. (Nothing of course pleases him less if he suffers the same fate personally).

Therefore your design must incorporate lots of water – never mind if managing water is expensive in order to keep it clean and sparkling, instead of blooming with algal growth and evaporating (or extracted) to leave their surroundings like watering holes in the Serengeti! After all, what is money for?

Clearly the course must be challenging. (It seems no coincidence to me that this term is increasingly being used by do-gooders to describe those with serious handicaps and disabilities). Therefore, we need at least five carries of 200 metres over water. Think how much the green-keepers could make in the sale of lost balls – you might even cut their wages accordingly.

The course must be long – length before strength is a good gambit which applies to another game, so must be right for this.

So we have a flat heavy featureless expanse! No problem! Let's bring in an army of earth moving equipment and push it about a bit. You want a hill here – certainly. A lake there – fine, no sweat. What about the existing field drainage.

Oh, we ignore that because in the States we rely on surface run-off to fill our irrigation lakes – field drainage is old fashioned. The first things to build are, of course, the greens. If they are not in the right place, no matter – we can move them later. Now you have a real decision to make. Do you build them on land only on a well drained base, set as they are in sacers of impermeable clay? Or do you use the local soil wherever possible (which means always) and mix a bit of sand with it. Someone must that sand plus clay makes bricks. Nonsense, if it works in Texas, its got to work here. What about a blinding layer over the stone carpet between it and the rootzone layer? Old fashioned USGA Green Section rubbish! With pure sand you don't need it. With soil and sand use a geotextile membrane! Nice and easy and no problems about comparable particle sizes. It may get silted up?

So what, we can always put the Vertidrain over it and punch it full of holes.

When making the greens, do not waste money on hand work. What are machines for anyway? Get them in – the bigger the better – churn it up and spread it all around. It doesn't matter about working over the future approaches and surrounds – we can top the lot with sand to make a seed bed, having rotavated up the soil.

The great day dawns – ready for seeding. What seed? Why, naturally, Penncross or the equivalent – because it does so well in the States'. Do not believe those, including many US Agronomists, who say it does not suit most of the States. They probably have an axe to grind with someone else's seed!

Your 'architect' will have planned your irrigation system – costing mega-bucks and so computerised that the control panel looks like the pilot's view of Concorde. What's all this nonsense about not being able to use the water? Who do the NRA think they are anyway. You have a wall-to-wall watering system and the God given right to use it. Throw some money at the problem – that should resolve it.

At last the course is green instead of brown and your thoughts turn to the grand opening ceremony. But first there is a small hurdle to face. How many staff? One per hole! And the machinery list costs as much as a luxury house? So now you look for members or unsuspecting punters.

You are assured that there will be an insatiable demand from well-heeled golfers, all of whom will be happy to put up £30,000 a piece plus a hefty annual subscription to keep the place select.

Or alternatively you can have thousands vying for membership, happy to pay through the nose to take five hours for a round, (seven if you include teeing off-head). Then to have to use brute force to get to the bar against a throng of like-minded characters.

You now have the makings of a really spectacular failure and you ask yourself, who is this insolvent firm Cork, Gullie? How you wish you had settled for golf in a field – a no-nonsense cheapie. But then again, you would have been successful, having to pay staff for twelve months of the year but only have the course closed for three, because of lack of drainage.

Of course, you could minimise your losses by pulling out halfway, leaving yet another blot on the landscape – and with your advisory team high-tailing it back to the States – or wherever they came from. There must be more exhausting ways of losing money, but I do not know of one off-hand.

* Editor's note: If this seems too far-fetched to be true, no less than five multi-million pound golf courses were advertised in an estate agency window in York last month, the developers of which had all run out of cash before the trees had shed their first autumnal leaves. Most were being offered at prices well below the cost of land and construction. All were described as 'championship' courses.
New laws on Special Waste came into effect on April 1st in England, Scotland and Wales, known as the Duty of Care under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. This requires anyone who has the responsibility for controlled waste to take all reasonable steps to ensure its correct disposal. These steps are: • To prevent the illegal management of special waste by themselves or any other persons. • To prevent the escape of waste. • To ensure on the transfer of waste that the waste goes through a section 17 transfer schedule, and only through properly authorised persons. • That records are kept for at least two years.

Failure to comply with the Duty of Care or with the requirements to provide and retain appropriate documentation is now a criminal offence, with no limit on the fine that may be imposed on conviction or indictment.

The dumping of waste or the treating of it without a licence may result in a fine of £2,000 (from April 1993, £20,000) in a Magistrates Court or unlimited fines and/or up to two years prison in a Crown Court. If the most poisonous waste is involved, the £2,000 Magistrates fine may also include (and/or) six months in prison, and in the Crown Court the fine could be unlimited or five years in prison. Breach of Duty of Care or its regulations are subject to a maximum of £2,000 in a Magistrates Court or an unlimited fine in a Crown Court.

Furthermore it is the greenkeeper's responsibility to ensure that the Special Waste disposal contractor is Local Authority registered. The contractor must also provide you with details of their registration number. Failure to obtain this information can result in fines.

Special Waste can be identified from the table below, however as a guide, any product carrying a hazard symbol as shown can be interpreted as Special Waste.

SPECIAL WASTE ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Decision</th>
<th>Special Waste</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Does waste comprise or does it contain prescription-only medicines?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>SPECIAL WASTE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Does waste comprise or does it contain substances listed in schedule 1 part 1 of the regulations?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>SPECIAL WASTE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Does waste have a flashpoint of 21°C or less?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>SPECIAL WASTE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Does waste contain known or probable human carcinogens (S) at a concentration of 1% (W/W) or more?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>SPECIAL WASTE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Is waste likely to cause serious tissue damage on exposure for a period of up to 15 minutes?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>SPECIAL WASTE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Is ingestion of up to 5cm³ of waste likely to cause death or serious tissue damage to a 20kg child?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>SPECIAL WASTE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The most important item in assessment with regards to pesticides is as above. This statement simply means if the pesticide will cause discomfort or damage to skin or eye tissue over a period of 15 minutes then it is Special Waste. Having identified Special Waste (with pesticides in mind) what disposals are likely?

1. Any full containers of pesticide no longer cleared for use by MAFF or no longer required.
2. Any empty containers that have contained these products.

How do you dispose of special waste?

Disposal by burning? – NO

The burning of pesticides or empty pesticide containers must have approval from the air division of H.M.I.P and the Environmental Department of the Local Authority. Fumes or smoke present a serious health risk and should burning take place the following must be adhered to. • Burning must take place in an open space at least 15 m from a public highway and not in a location where any smoke produced is likely to drift over people or livestock or move towards any highway, housing or business premises. • Any containers must be open and placed on a very hot fire a few at a time. • The fire must be supervised constantly. • Care must be taken to avoid breathing any smoke the fire produces. • The fire must be extinguished before being left. As far as we are aware, no approval has ever been given for illegal burning. The penalty is £2,000 (as from April 1st 1993, £20,000 or 6 months imprisonment).

Disposal by burial – NO.

It is an offence to cause or knowingly permit any poisonous noxious or pollutant matter to enter * any controlled waters. These include rivers, lakes, canals, estuaries, coastal waters and underground waters. A consent to discharge issued by the National Rivers Authority must be obtained and to date no known approval for burial has been given. (*) eg. by leeching.)

Fine for illegal disposal £2,000 (20,000 or 6 months imprisonment from April 1st 1993).

Empty containers washed and then disposed of? – YES.
• Providing they are thoroughly cleaned. Following research by the Waste Technical Division of the DOE it was found that this takes at least 6 rinses. Even then some residue may remain in the curl, thereby you will commit an offence. • That you gain approval from your Local Authority to take the 'clean' empty containers to a landfill site. • That all necessary waste transfer notices have been completed.

Disposal in a correct and legal manner through a licensed Special Waste contractor – YES
• Providing they are registered. • You complete a section 17 consignment note.
A number of special waste contractors are already registered and a special section has been set up within the Local Authority Unit to ensure consistent standards of enforcement and to deal with pesticide matters.

Contributed by Carl Crome, marketing director of Maxwell Hart Ltd. Their national Special Waste disposal company is Envirogreen. Tel: 0345 125398.
Two men, Peter Roberts and Graham Dale, though from different sectors of the turf industry, have become irrefutably linked and identified, certainly in BIGGA circles, by a company name that is world renowned in the sphere of fine turf management. Both are dedicated to furthering greenkeeper education and both are known for their involvement with BIGGA under the umbrella that is Toro.

To be scrupulously accurate, Peter works for Toro Irrigation Ltd - he is their UK managing director - whilst Graham is identified as ‘Mr Toro’ in the machinery sector, though he is actually the managing director of Lely (UK) Ltd, the Toro machinery distributor for the UK. Both are high profile personalities known best as the joint sponsors (along with the PGA European Tour) of the TORO/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award, a prestige event that has caught the imagination of thrusting young college greenkeeping students. This is seen as a wonderful, indeed mind-boggling, experience for the fortunate winner, who is whisked away for two months to the USA as a guest of the Toro Parent Company, visiting such widely differing places as the City of London, through to the warmth of Southern California and the Toro machinery manufacturing plant in Minneapolis, through to the market of the golf world.

Winning this event is a fairy-tale experience, with the planning, execution and financing down to the individual companies of Messrs Roberts and Dale. All that ought to be enough, but these two uniquely likable workaholics are not content to just sit on the sidelines and watch - no, they are in at the deep end, tossing ideas around like confetti and offering more than mere finance - the Student Greenkeeper Award is very much the better for their active involvement.

Let me now turn to their individual characters and personalities, so much alike in their collective thinking about BIGGA - twins almost - yet as different in style as, say, Camembert and Parmesan. Peter is the archetypal salesman, a following that has been his forte for all his adult life and for over 21 years in the irrigation industry. He is instantly recognisable, a 'character' with a wicked grin, a winning personality and a ready wit, though at times appearing almost scholarly when his pipe is on fire and his beard is perfectly trimmed. It’s what he smokes, I wonder? I must ask him!

Peter began in irrigation quite by accident. In 1968, he was hired and the rest, as they say, is history.

Those were pioneering days, the British irrigation industry was in its infancy and much was myth and magic, with few understanding what they were buying. Someone in the golf world (not the irrigation world) had put a round sum of £5000 as the amount that would buy an automatic system - it didn’t, but it bought a few domestic sprinklers, a bit of piping and rudimentary controls - only when drought hit hard did weaknesses manifest themselves.

The irrigation industry learned quickly, and by the time the first recession of 1980/81 ended they were well organised and thinking and acting in a professional manner. The British Turf and Landscape Irrigation Association had been formed, a watch-dog group dedicated to establishing standards and a Code of Ethics and seen as a voice of reason when 'cowboys' were muddying the water during the so-called ‘golf boom’. The market on both sides now viewed irrigation as a professional science and one that must not be entered into lightly.

For approaching ten years Peter was all things to all people in the UK, an irrigation power-house, especially in the golf field. In 1986 his job changed, he took over Northern Europe and became embroiled with distributors and developers, acting as a management consultant - living out of a suitcase and enjoying every minute. Only in early ‘92 did he come home to roost, this time as managing director of what had become Europe’s fourth largest Toro business turnover, the British market. This, in his own words ‘is of such size that it needs total dedication, for it is more difficult to stay number one than to get there. My time will now be 100% in the UK marketplace and my plan is to take Toro forward to an altogether different level – we’ll stay number one by dynamic management in selling not just systems, but through a total concept of consultation through design facility and product application, together with immaculate installation and after sales. Above all, the product will not stand still and we will become even more technically advanced – that is what makes an irrigation system’.

Outside of work Peter is a tournament castor - a fisherman who doesn’t catch fish! He’s good, scratch by golfing standards, and challenges most amateur golfers that he can cast further than they can drive a golf ball – to the first bounce - take up the challenge and get good odds!

Turning now to Graham, we see a man whose bearing and appearance suggested Peter was their man, he was hired and the rest, as they say, is history.

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would not go amiss in the corridors of power: the bearing of a politician—and in truth rather saw him as a you! I digress.

Graham is from Ipswich, as are so many others who make it in the world of turf machinery marketing or technology, and began his career at Ransomes. His early interest leaned toward a career in farming but it became evident to him by the late 1960s that unless one was of direct farming stock that wasn’t likely—and indeed there was no guarantee even for those with the farming silver spoon, as later events have proven. He began as an apprentice, one of twenty or so Ransomes annual intake of raw recruits from which the future of their industry—indeed almost the industry, would find its new production managers, designers, engineers and sales technicians. Exposed in the mainstream of Ransomes technology, Graham quickly felt that agricultural machinery sales should be his chosen path. He was fortunate in being trained at a time when Ransomes were selling combine harvesters and even more fortunate in manoeuvring himself from a mundane apprentice to the most interesting exercise by being assigned to finished goods, an interesting exercise. Equally fortunate, Ransomes encouraged further education and Graham took several courses in mechanical engineering at Ipswich College.

The role of a Ransomes apprentice is very thorough and opportunities presented themselves for Graham’s exposure within the agricultural sales division. With his apprentice not yet complete, decisions nevertheless had to be made on his career path and he was guided by Roger Smith, who suggested that the future lay not in agriculture but in grass machinery—and that a vacancy in sales was there for the taking! At the tender age of 20 Graham was a demonstrator, at 21 seconded to Australia on an exchange scheme and working in the distributorship network for three years. It was in Australia that he saw another side—the smaller and altogether more personal side of the distributor.

Although there were to be no instant changes—still too much to do and learn in Ransomes—this ‘other side’ had sown a seed in Graham’s mind—which was to come to the fore later. For the time it was work as a territory rep back in the ’80s till 1977, then a brief and satisfying flirtation in being one of the original salesmen in internal sales (the ‘sailing connecting’) which only ended when recession cut into every yachtsman’s pocket and made work as a territory rep back in the ’80s till 1977, then a brief and satisfying flirtation in being one of the original salesmen in internal sales (the ‘sailing connecting’) which only ended when recession cut into every yachtsman’s pocket and made

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David white
Membership joins with industry to boost Fund

Jacobsens are the latest company to join the Golden Key Circle.

René Orban, Managing Director, Jacobsen Ltd commented, "We think the Education and Development Fund is ideal for companies wishing to contribute to the future development of greenkeeper education and training. "Membership of the Golden Key Circle is a natural path for Jacobsens to follow as a company with a long tradition of supporting the greenkeeping profession.

Contributions from the industry, the game and BIGGA members are now being channelled into one central fund, which will provide substantial future training benefits for greenkeepers."

Neil Thomas, Executive Director, BIGGA, welcomed Jacobsens' contribution pointing out that they are the tenth company to join the Golden Key Circle since its inception in January.

Donations to the new fund in the last month signify the impact of the fund on the BIGGA membership. The South East region board donated a sum of £790.65 whilst the Surrey section committee has contributed £1,000. In welcoming these initiatives at both region and section level, Neil Thomas said: "It is particularly pleasing that BIGGA's own membership is recognising the importance of the new fund in terms of enhancing future greenkeeper education and training.

These are significant contributions and give a further boost to the fund which to date has met with an encouraging response. In the months ahead I am hopeful that increasing publicity will generate further interest within the game, the industry and our own membership and thereby provide a sound base for future educational developments."

The growth and success of the Westurf Exhibition has been reflected in a donation of £1,000 to the Education and Development Fund by its organising committee. The committee says it considers it "very important that monies raised from the exhibition are utilised towards new and improved training programmes for greenkeepers. " Those companies supporting the exhibition are therefore contributing to the continued growth of the new fund and BIGGA is much appreciative both of their support and the donation of the Westurf committee.

BIGGA will be presenting plaques to Jacobsens, the South East region, Surrey section and the Westurf committee to mark their donations.

Association Chairman Roy Kates has joined the Golden Key Circle on an individual basis.

"I consider it most important that members of the Association support the new fund," he said. "I am sure it will have a significant impact on the future of greenkeeper education and I would urge all members to offer their support in this inaugural year – and thereby ensure the fund is soundly established and will offer lasting benefits for the future training of greenkeepers."

Howard Evans, Special Financial Advisor to BIGGA on pensions and mortgages, has also joined the Golden Key Circle.

"I am in regular contact with greenkeepers all over the UK on a personal basis and I am only too well aware of the need to offer increased educational and training opportunities to those working in the profession," he said.

"It gives me great pleasure therefore to contribute to the Education and Development Fund."
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**Golf Course inspection under FEPA**

From April 1992 the responsibility for enforcing the Pesticides Regulations passes to the environmental health officer for the local authority. He or she has just completed the excellent Open Learning Course for FEPA (available from HMSO price £16) and is now 'armed' and ready to do battle! This new responsibility is added to their other duties to enforce the Health and Safety at Work Act; The COSHH Regulations and, of course, the Environmental Health (Food Hygiene) Regulations. Your local inspector is now able to take a broad look at the workplace with his enforcers eye; so what will he be looking for with his FEPA/pesticides hat on?

The inspection is going to be 'by the book', as most EHO's will not have much experience of the use of pesticides on the golf course. They are likely to take a more severe view of even small points than the HSE agriculture inspector and have powers to issue Improvement Notices giving a number of days (usually 30) to carry out the improvements or else!

Because the Regulations place a duty upon the employer to protect staff and the environment from any hazards arising out of the application of pesticides, it would be wise for the employer to have a formally written policy setting out the Club's position. The inspector on reading this will be in no doubt that the Club accepts its responsibilities and has taken steps to meet them. The policy will set out how the Club intends to meet the main requirements of the Regulations, these being clearly set out in the Code of Practice for the use of Approved Pesticides (copies from David Golding).

The inspector will want to see details of the training and certification of staff, and this should include office copies of the certificates and details of the training carried out. If the training and testing was carried out more than three years ago, there should be details of revision courses carried out or proposed. Just having certificates is not enough, for staff must be kept up to date on the many changes that are taking place in product labelling, application techniques etc.

**The inspector will look at the general condition of the sprayers**

The storage of pesticides is important. The inspector will want to see the store, the inventory, spill clean-up procedures, empty container storage and disposal arrangements. There are changes in approvals for some pesticides: some are being withdrawn (simazine and atrazine 1992/3), others are being discontinued. Make sure that all the products in store are up to date and approved.

The pesticides applicators will be inspected and the inspector will look at the general condition of the sprayers: are they clean; do they look new; are there any worn or chafed hoses, is there a clean water tank for rinsing of containers and for operators to wash after mixing a batch of pesticide out on the course.

The pesticide application records are important too. The Code of Practice has a suggested format for a record of pesticides application. The records must be kept for at least three years and may be important for health monitoring if staff have been using organ-phosphorous or carbamate chemicals.

The issuing and use of personal protective equipment (PPE) will also be looked at. The new PPE Regulations (to be published shortly) will form a part of inspection. The first question to be answered is whether the PPE is 'suitable for the purpose'. Are there data sheets showing the equipment has been tested and is suitable for protection against the pesticides in use. Is the equipment clean, in good condition and stored separately from other clothing where it can dry. If respirators (RPE) are in use, they must have the correct filter fitted, they must be stored in a sealed bag and be in a clean condition. Many respirators are supplied with dust filters as standard so when buying respirators tell the supplier what they will be used for and make sure they are supplied with data sheets showing that they are suitable.

If a Club has made a good start by implementing a policy, has good storage arrangements; owns good equipment; has trained staff and is keeping good records, the inspector will be much less likely to go into print on what improvements he requires. But if no effort has been made then beware – the inspector will not be amused and may well add a lot of improvement items under health and safety legislation as well.

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JON ALLBUTT
Bookings up and hotel prices stay the same for BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition 1993

Bookings are up on this time last year, for the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition in Harrogate, with a number of companies exhibiting for the first time.

Although it's early days, the stage is set for another hugely successful event. The 1992 exhibition was hailed by many to be the best so far.

The majority of exhibitors who took space in this year's exhibition, have booked their positions again for January. Exhibitions Officer Debbie Savage believes exhibitors are moving more quickly this year, in order to secure the best stand spaces.

And there's further good news for delegates. The Old Swan Hotel, situated just around the corner from the exhibition and focal point for a number of activities, have agreed to peg their prices for the 1993 BTME. Rates remain at £59 (single) per person and £72 (double) per room, including full English breakfast. Reservations can be made now by ringing direct on 0423 500055. Quote your attendance to the BTME to reserve these rates.

As last year, the BTME Newsline will be distributed in October. It will give visitors and delegates news and industry information on what they can expect to see at the show. Companies who have already booked their stand positions will soon be invited to contribute news of intended product launches, or any other relevant information. Information for the Newsline can be sent straight away, however, to Debbie Savage at BIGGA HQ.

For more details about the show, or for a copy of the comprehensive BTME 1993 Information Pack, call Debbie on 03473 581 or fax 03473 8864.

THE OPEN

When the victor of the 121st Open Championship marches down the eighteenth fairway of Muirfield on July 19th, savouring the sweet smell of success and basking in the tumultuous cheers and adulation, there will be another who will share equally in that victory. His name? Christopher Alan Whittle, golf course manager to the Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers at Muirfield, East Lothian, Scotland – the undisputed number one golf course in Great Britain.

Despite the clatter of grandstands being built and giant marquees being lifted high to the sky, the place that is Muirfield still retained its undoubted air of aristocratic elegance when I called to see Chris Whittle, so much so that the raising of voices or the revving of engines seemed tantamount to hooligan behaviour – one must always be on one’s best mark in such august surroundings. Granted, the place was being turned into a circus arena for The Championship, with hundreds of contractors beavering away, but above the hustle Chris Whittle, pictured left, remained serenely calm, despite this being his Open preparation debut.

Chris and I had met before – at Royal Birkdale in '91 – and I had walked the links of Muirfield many times, falling for those subtle bunkers that lurk to trap the least weakness – fade or draw – and always impressed by the sheer discipline of the course: Muirfield wants good golf to be played, but it never allows liberties. I knew how good the course was as a golfing examination – now I could see that it was most exquisitely well kept.
My first question for Chris - I really wanted to know - was "how does an Englishman come to be managing the number one Scottish course, indeed the number one rated course in all of Britain, here in the very heartland of what many regard as Scotland’s Mecca". His answer was honest and without an ounce of side - "Why not - I had always set my sights on managing an Open venue and when I saw this post advertised I went for it, all guns blazing".

Chris’s story-book career in golf began in the time-honoured way as a schoolboy golfer who caddied on Formby Links. Although he became a banker on leaving school in 1971 this was short-lived, for he gave himself just six months in which to either like banking or quit - six months to the day he resigned! Straight to Formby he strode and asked for a job, which by good fortune was given to him, working as an apprentices greenkeeper under the inimitable Jimmy MacDonald, now head greenkeeper at Royal Lytham & St Annes.

"Jimmy has taught me just about everything I know", Chris said, "he’s just about the best in the business and he certainly knows how to keep a ‘mean’ golf course". Pride indeed, which perhaps explains why Chris needed no second bidding, on completion of five years at Formby, to join Jimmy at Royal Lytham. Good fortune continued when Jimmy’s deputy soon moved to Royal Dornoch, for Chris was offered the deputy’s job! Time moved on, skills were honed to perfection and Chris was ready in 1981 for his first ‘head’ job, close by at St Annes Old Links, a delicious course much loved by all who play upon it and known as a fine challenge for those who seek to qualify for The Open. The practice of keeping a ‘mean’ links continued at St Annes Old and in October 1988, well skilled and eminently well suited, Chris took up his present role as course manager of Muirfield.

"How does your present job as course manager manifest itself", I asked, "Ninety per cent in directing and supervising the management of course and crew, with, if I’m lucky, ten per cent ‘hands-on’", he replied. "The trouble is the minute I’m in a ‘hands-on’ situation, someone wants me, so my tendency now is to delegate more".

He expanded on getting the job, telling the tale of driving the heavens are open the course will drain beautifully - but once any dry layer is moist, which takes minutes, even if the rain is much dryer, with around 50% less rain, though gales are a problem and an ‘overnighter’ will take upwards of 60 man-hours to replace bunker sand. We had eleven gales one spring, which took up most of my labour for weeks on end."

"How long did it take you to get the course to your own personal high standards", I asked, "well, it can never be perfect, for links maintenance is an on-going thing", Chris replied. "We can seek perfection, but there is always something... the course is fully grassed, a mixture with a moderate degree of course grasses such as patches of rye, dating back to a time when seed for divoting was unspecified. We’re soon to start a campaign to remove this, for apart from the unsightly appearance it’s awkward to cut. The greens are fine, though we get a flush of Poa annua in April, but it soon goes as we are too dry for the weed to cope. We fertilise very little - I’m a minimal man in this respect - we have always been – Jim Arthur proved to me the wisdom of this approach and I’m a devoted fan. Everything he ever showed me works very well and is so simple. Granted that sometimes it hurts before it gets better, but prevention is better than cure, of that I am convinced – ‘tis a pity more people don't follow his creed, which, simply applied, is keep it basic”.

A typical playing season at Muirfield starts in April, though the Club don’t encourage stroke play and the average field for a medal is a mere handful. The proper game is foursomes. Weeds were a huge problem when Chris first arrived and over £2000 is spent annually on selective applications, not only for the course proper but also turf nurseries, paths and practice grounds - all call for treatment and they are now well on top of the problem. All watered is by hand – no automatic system - and though the idea of installing a system is discussed just about every year, the members express greater satisfaction in playing on a fine-textured, sometimes browning, turf at Muirfield than on a lush green one elsewhere! True links golf indeed. Chris opined that there might be an automatic need at the moment of Open Championship preparation, when they are busy chasing hoesipes around the course, but true to his minimalist beliefs, he suggested that at the end of a season - any season - automatic water is about the last thing on his mind.

"Mainly the season is taken up with watering, weed spraying and mowing, just like any other course, and at the back-end of the year I usually get a Vertidrain in to treat at least part of the course, mainly fairways, tees and paths, and we begin our own aeration programme, with spiking, hollow tining, whatever is necessary. We also go mad on retaining, using our own nursery turf, because it must be down and rooted before the year end. This is very necessary, as we can get frost and gales, which really do crash in with a vengeance and bring us scuttling back to base to work on machinery or boundary work and scrub clearance. We are inundated with rabbits and employ contractors to do their worst - using gas; snares; shooting; ferrets or whatever. They are a huge problem and we actually had one tee collapse on us through underground burrowing; we backed a tractor on it and the whole thing sunk! We rebuilt it, fitted a reinforced plastic mesh below ground and have it netted off, which helps."

"Tell me about your plans for The Open", I asked. "It's..."
really business as usual, but more of it’, Chris replied, “more intensive maintenance – and obviously we are protecting the greens and not cutting them quite so low – normally at this time we would cut at 3/16”, mowing six days a week with three hand cuts and three by machine, but at the moment we are cutting at 1/4”, though obviously we shall gradually lower to 1/8” when the Championship approaches – it will all be very gradual, ending up with a twice-daily cut using both hand machines and the Jacobsen Triplex, which we stipulated should have extra blades in the verticuts from 3/4” to 1/2” spacing – it’s a great machine!

David Boocock, the STRI agronomist, is a regular caller, increasingly so during Open year and we think along the same lines. He’s a great help and we sort out any problems together”. I asked about the R&A influence, which Chris indicated was minimal, “I’m sure they would have greater input if things were not to their liking, and they’ve been around quite a bit over the past year playing, inspecting and walking the course. It seems they’re happy. Bear in mind, however, I’ve worked at Clubs where major R&A events have been staged. I’ve had the Curtis Cup, Ryder Cup, English Amateur, British Amateur, Home Internationals, The Open whilst at Lytham and I’ve had the British Amateur since I’ve been here, so I’m not new to the task or the demands. The R&A folk work fantastically well, manage their side of this huge operation quite remarkably and ensure that contractors are in the right place and not running around where they shouldn’t be – they smooth out a lot of wrinkles and are great at team work”.

“Any particular problems this year”, I asked, “Drought” the quickfire reply. “We have a bit of browning-off and moss is a recurring problem. It’s been difficult to eradicate as we’ve had no growth to speak of until a few weeks go – just a typical East Lothian cold, dry spring – so we just get on with it. During the season we don’t fertilise much, maybe two light feeds of an 8-0-0 on greens and tees, and this year we’ve dressed the fairways with a farmyard type slurry dressing, followed perhaps next year with a seaweed formula”.

Almost inevitably my next question was, “what will you do to the greens, will you be doing anything special”. Chris is a man who knows about tournament golf and has the answers: “Obviously we will increase the frequency of mowing, our greens are undulating and cutting at 1/8” will make them plenty fast enough. In the final analysis, of course, it will be down to the R&A to tell me if they are too fast, but I fancy they’ll be fine. We cut at 1/8” for the British Amateur and they were plenty fast enough!” Tell me about stimpmeter readings”, I asked and again this was clearly answered by a man who knows: “I’ve got one but frankly I haven’t found it helpful enough, undulations are such that you can get far too many variable readings – easily the best way to judge is to get out and play the course and all my nine staff are very observant players”.

This team of nine includes a full time fitter, though with an increasingly large percentage of state-of-the-art machinery used, his time is now split 50/50 with on-course work. A good example of changing ancient for modern is seen on the cylinder grinding side: from somewhat archaic old grinders capable of handling only up to 30” reels, and resulting in an annual bill of £750.00 for off-site grinding, Muirfield workshops now boast an ultra modern Juno grinder and a Garfitts spin grinder – money and time savers both.

Another nice ‘Whittle touch’ is the thinking behind never spraying chemicals during playing time – an ecology move that may mean a 5am start - with Chris at the helm keeping his hand in – and again at 8pm for a couple of hours.

Turning thoughts to Open week proper, Chris is greatly looking forward to the big occasion, though he’s far too busy to be nervous – “it may happen, who knows”, he says with a wry grin. He’ll be pleased to welcome the BIGGA support team in their distinctive regalia, is delighted that help from BIGGA is close at hand whenever it may be needed and is the Association’s most enthusiastic supporter – “haven’t we come on well in the past couple of years” his astute observation.

Great champions have been crowned at Muirfield and to a man they’ve heaped praise upon its hallowed acres. Five times winner, Tom Watson, acclaims Muirfield as a place where ‘there isn’t one poor hole on the course’. As the world’s TV cameras flash the saga of The Open across the airwaves into billions of homes, many watching will also give silent thanks to Christopher Alan Whittle and his dedicated team of expert greenkeepers, maybe even waving a flag or two – quite rightly so.
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Compaction is a major problem on heavily trafficked turf, causing lack of grass vigour and waterlogging. How prone any area to compaction depends largely upon soil type, with the fine particles found in clay and silt soils more readily aggregated or compacted than sand. Nevertheless, it is possible to get high levels of organic matter which can block even sands. Several methods of alleviation are available to the greenkeeper, from long term remedies such as incorporating sand into the rootzone through less radical mechanical operations like tining, slitting and scarifying, or operations such as subsoiling or moleing. How radical an operation is needed will depend upon many factors such as soil type and condition, and the depth of the compacted layer. Operations such as sand slitting or gravel banding will also have an effect on compaction.

Compaction problems on a golf course tend to be relatively shallow, which means that alleviation can be undertaken with minimum disruption and effort. Although slitters and tiners were designed to ‘erate’ and scarifiers to ‘de-thatch’ (and these are slightly different objectives from compaction alleviation) such tools can be expected to have an effect on breaking up compaction - to a greater or lesser extent according to design, operation and timing. Some manufacturers claim their scarifiers are able to penetrate into the root zone to 50mm thus (perhaps) removing surface smearing and providing some aeration of the rootzone. The displaced fibrous material requires to be collected and several machines are able to do this at the same time. Slitting also has the effect of root pruning and fine turf slitters with narrow blades minimise surface disturbance, especially when there is a strong and healthy root system. However, minimising disturbance means that they do little to open up the rootzone. Likewise the principle of the tiner is to open up the turf for aeration and drainage rather than to cause disturbance of the soil, nevertheless the core tiner, by providing pathways for topdressing, fertiliser and roots to penetrate actively, assists opening up the soil. While most tiners are carefully designed to stab the soil without tearing it, the core tiner, by providing pathways for topraising and roots to penetrate actively. Some, including spoon tiners, can produce some loosening of the soil, - how severe and effective this will be is controlled by the intensity of the operation in terms of tine size and spacing. The removal of cores allows surrounding soil to spread into the vacant space, that is if not immediately replaced by sand or topdressing.

Perhaps the most revolutionary method of aeration to reach the golf scene in recent years is the Toro HydroJect, which uses jets of water at high pressure to puncture the turf and rootzone with minimal surface disruption and no cores, and while it does not break-up compaction directly, simply punching holes through, it will answer the needs for easing compaction. The machine is self-propelled using an 18kW engine which is used (mainly) to drive a high pressure pump, with water being supplied through a hose from a hydrant or tanker. Penetration is normally to about 150mm although by using repeated shots it is possible to penetrate several times deeper. A number of firms are now offering a contract service using the machine.

Arguably the best known and most widely used machine for relieving compaction is the VertiDrain, a machine able to operate down to depths of 400mm, depending on model and tine fitment. The principle of its action is a leveraging of the tip of the tine, rather in the way the greenkeeper might operate manually with a fork. Both pedestrian operated and tractor mounted/pto driven models are available, but one constraint may be owning and putting a suitable tractor on greens or tees, as this must have sufficient weight and power and a low enough bottom gear to operate.

**MAIN SUPPLIERS**

Bob Andrews Ltd, Leavelace Rd, Bracknell, Berks RG12 4YT.

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Ransomes, Sims & Jefferies Ltd, Ransomes Way, Ipswich, Suffolk IP3 9QG.

Sachs-Dolmar (UK) Ltd, Clare St, Denton, Manchester M34 3LZ.

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COMPACT the implement. However as it is not a draft operation the power requirement with the smaller machines is not high, nor is weight required for grip. Timing the operation for maximum effect means working when soil conditions are optimum, i.e. dry and drying - a wet soil may be too 'plastic' to gain full benefit. A worthwhile surface aerifier is the Ransomes TM80, the action of which allows compacted soil to expand into the scooped out 127mm deep holes, leaving the rootzone open and loosened to receive nutrients and improve soil drainage. The TM80 incorporates a fixed axle to ensure that soil is removed by deeper penetration on high areas of undulating ground.

Sorting out soil structure below 400mm is liable to be a major operation, probably involving a drainage system, however limited areas can be deeply aerated using air blast injectors such as the multi-needle Terralift or the single needle Fuji-Robin Dagger. These machines work by driving needles into the ground before releasing a blast of compressed air which heaves and shatters the surrounding soil. A different approach is that of Sisis with their Powadrill, a compact tractor mounted machine which uses 12 large masonry drills to drill holes at 100mm centres to a depth of 305mm. Most 'agricultural' methods of compaction relief result in a considerable degree of surface disturbance and so may only be acceptable for greens as a last resort, nevertheless they may be valid for fairways and walkways. Such methods mainly comprise the dragging of winged tines through the soil to get a lift and heave effect - with a disc before the leg and a roller after it reducing surface damage. Vibrating the tines, as on Turf Conditioner, Vibramaster and Shattermaster machines, reduces draft and so reduces the danger of tractor

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wheel damage as well as significantly improving the 'shatter' effect. The Shattermaster was first seen in UK at IoG last year. Again such operations are soil condition dependent — dragging them through the soil when it is plastic is most likely to produce a mole channel with smeared sides. However in very wet conditions it may be valid to operate many of these machines to produce drainage channels, vertical or horizontal, just to get the water away and allow the rootzone soil to dry out so that a compaction relief operation can be carried out. 

HUGH TILLEY

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM BIGGA EDUCATION OFFICER

Certificate of Competence - PA1-2A. Application of Pesticides

I have received many verbal complaints from members regarding problems associated with the above examination techniques and procedures. If any member has experienced any problems I would appreciate a letter outlining just where this operation can be improved.

The National Proficiency Test Council has acknowledged my concern and before they can investigate individual complaints, documented evidence would be required. With this in mind, whatever your problem please write to me at BIGGA headquarters. The major complaints received are as follows:

- Examiners having scant knowledge regarding fine turf care.
- Equipment and machinery used in testing which is not familiar to course managers/greenkeepers.
- Chemical labels used in testing are not those which course managers/greenkeepers use in turf care.

For those who have not yet attempted the examination please either contact your nearest college or book for the next BIGGA course scheduled for 5th-9th October inclusive, which will be held at Aldwark Manor. Jon Allbutt will again undertake training and the North Yorkshire Testing Council will carry out examinations.

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Whilst the merits of the Master Greenkeeper Certificate are beyond
doubt whether a one-day, pre-arranged visit with preparatory
examination - given the syllabus - required for Stage Three.
I foresee a real danger of greenkeeping moving into the next
century with the alarming situation of a succession of candi-
dates in possession of a Master Greenkeeper Certificate yet
actively managing, albeit well presented, *Poa annua* dominated
turf, although perhaps 'going through the motions' of change to
golfing turf but without real commitment and purpose, proba-
bly fuelled by a lack of the required understanding to achieve
the correct progression. What a hollow, totally meaningless
qualification it would be if my fears materialise and indeed com-
pletely contrary to all publications and worthy professional
advice from authorities in the game. I hope BIGGA sincerely
wish to follow "the professional way forward" and perhaps
the executive director can allay my concern by confirming BIGGA
policy with reference to Stage Two and publish at the same time
the aspects of management constituting the 'guidelines',
together with corresponding rating or 'scoring' and what safe-
guards, if any, are in place. I presume progression to Stage
Three is not possible unless candidates are successful in Stage
Two.

In closing, it is my opinion that a British Golf Course Stan-
ards publication is overdue, by which courses may be classified
and given a rating relative to what they offer the paying cus-
tomer, and although this may not be a direct responsibility of the
Association I do think they should have an active involve-
ment. This may just stir lower rated golf club administrations
into much needed action and course investment. Equally essen-
tial is an in depth practical and administrative manual relating
to golf course management and development

**Neil Thomas says:**

I am delighted to respond to John's comments and hopefully
alleviate his concerns particularly with regard to Stage Two of the
Master Greenkeeper Certificate. Progress to Stage Three is not
possible until Stage Two has been successfully completed. Stage
Two is therefore a very important aspect of the MGC and John's
letter presents a timely opportunity for members generally to be
made aware of just what is involved.

John touches briefly on Stages One and Three, as the main
thrust of his concern relates to Stage Two and I will respond
briefly on those stages. Knowledge, qualifications and experi-
ence are integral parts of the certification scheme and should
not in any way be under-valued. The Association's efforts over
the last five years have concentrated on improving the educa-

**John Philip says:**

Head greenkeepers and course managers are encouraged: 'Be a
master of your profession' and register for the Master Green-
keeper Certificate Scheme, a seemingly worthy qualification on
offer to all head greenkeepers and course managers who are BIGGA members.

I am concerned, however, about the adequacy of the criteria
as described for this intended 'standard of excellence'. Although
in agreement with the principles of both educational, self
advancement and the elevation of the greenkeeping profession
in general, I remain sceptical, as I have from its inception, of the
ability of the formula per se to accomplish the desired goal: that
of being a widely recognised professional status for golf course
managers and greenkeeping in general.

One can imagine a large number of greenkeepers achieving
the 200 credits applicable to Stage One sooner or later, and no
doubt many will also possess the necessary capability to pass the
evaluation - given the syllabus - required for Stage Three.

The vital yardstick however, to my mind, has to be involved in
the 200 credits applicable to Stage One sooner or later, and no

John Philip

**In search of a**

24 GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL July 1992
John Philp voices concern how it works in practice.

Today, there is much evidence of greater knowledge and relevant qualifications do not guarantee professional skill. Certainly not every successful individual will put into practice in later years what he has learnt. Clearly the certification scheme had to ensure that sound use was being made of the knowledge gained and this could only be done at the place of work. The golf course visit is a vital part of the MGC and therefore necessitated very careful planning about how best to carry this out in a fair and meaningful way. Three or four unannounced visits at different times of the year would have presented practical and financial difficulties of some consequence, before considering the Club's reaction to such visits. The Master Greenkeeper working party determined that a planned, well-structured visit would eliminate as far as possible the subjective judgements which are always likely to reduce fairness.

It needs to be understood that the golf course assessors have been trained and are sufficiently experienced to recognise the difference between good preparation and presentation and the fundamental composition of the turf. It would suggest to John that to make composition of the turf the sole method of assessment is to take a very narrow view. The visit is also to determine the candidate's ability to organise, to plan and to assess progress in the implementation of an agreed programme. It looks at relationships at the place of work and also examines the candidate's abilities as an initiator. Would it not therefore be inherently unfair to mark down or fail a candidate who has lost momentum on his greens when it may well be that he inherited a problem and is in any event seeking to reduce it as part of a planned programme?

I am happy to detail criteria applying for Stage Two within the nine relevant sections. Each area of assessment within a section is marked on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being poor and 5 excellent. Each section has a set pass mark. Within each section any area of assessment marked 3 or less is the subject of further consideration to ensure overall fairness to the candidate. The nine sections are as follows:

SECTION 1 - PRESENTATION OF THE COURSE: Presentation involves accuracy and tidiness of maintenance, siting, condition and playability of the whole area. It covers greens, tees, fairways, semi-rough, rough, bunkers, surrounds, pathways, furniture, hazards and clubhouse area.

SECTION 2 - STAFF ORGANISATION: Staff organisation the assessors should be looking for general attitude to work: from the golfer's viewpoint, dress, welfare, accommodation and training programmes on and off site. This will require questions relevant to the adequacy of accommodation for working, dining and the general attitude to safety at work.

SECTION 3 - ORGANISATION OF SHEDS: Assessors should be concerned with general tidiness (not daily dirt), compliance with appropriate safety regulations regarding storage of tools and equipment, also the current state of repairs of buildings.

SECTION 4 - BUDGET MANAGEMENT: The wide range of variations and responsibility should be recognised in this section, but the least to be expected is that the budget has been prepared by the course manager as the basis for management discussion. The important elements are therefore responsibility for the budget within members (committee) limits. Lack of direct involvement with setting or servicing a budget by whatever means should be regarded as a disqualification.

SECTION 5 - RECORD AND STOCK CONTROL: In this area it is expected that all records required as a result of legislation are covered adequately. However, other records are necessary for achieving an adequate level of management. Accessibility of records to other staff should be taken into account where appropriate and therefore relevant questions should be asked. Diary, machine maintenance, stock inventory and chemical log are all important elements.

SECTION 6 - MANAGEMENT PARTICIPATION: In this area a course manager should play a major role in the decision making process of the club with regards the golf course. It is essential therefore that the relationship to management, the role within the committee and the ability/opportunity to submit reports and support them, are considered. Questions regarding the exact role of the course manager are therefore appropriate.

SECTION 7 - COURSE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME: In this area the candidate is expected to have recognised potential problems and to have drawn up a programme to correct or rectify them. This may involve a long term maintenance programme or a construction programme. Assessors will be expected to determine the relationship between the course manager's programme and the plans of the Club management committee, as well as the methods used in drawing it up. It is assumed that contractors providing relevant assistance would be brought in as required.

SECTION 8 - MACHINE AND IRRIGATION: Assessors should be looking for a planned replacement and maintenance programme. The course manager's influence in this is important. Also the operative condition of equipment should be considered, coupled with questions directed to seeking explanations for what is found.

SECTION 9 - GOLF: An ability to play golf is desirable, including a detailed knowledge of the requirements of golfers of varying standards. Questions should be directed towards relevant rules and surface requirements where playing abilities are irrelevant.

As a final comment, may I say how much I welcome John's thought-provoking observations, which remind all concerned of the importance of an ongoing assessment of the Master Greenkeeper Certificate Scheme. As I have said on many occasions, this is not an easy award to obtain - were it to be so the Scheme would be fundamentally flawed and devalued. It is designed to find the 'master' rather than a good course manager. Members can rest assured that BIGGA and the working party will continue to ensure that the Scheme is equitable for its members and the industry as a whole. It remains my belief that the education and training programmes now in place and those being planned, particularly the introduction of HND courses in golf greenkeeping this coming September, coupled with the Master Greenkeeper Certificate Scheme, will accomplish full professional recognition for greenkeeping and a real status for golf course managers in the years ahead.

Neil Thomas, Executive Director, BIGGA.
Living the American dream

Nothing could quite prepare me for my journey from Silloth on Solway to the far side of the Atlantic Ocean and my visit to the University of Massachusetts, this as part of my organised Toro tour. After a 21 hour journey which culminated at the Spruce Motel, I was in trepidation for what might be waiting in the weeks ahead but need not have worried, for which culminated at the Spruce Motel, I was offered a ride to the university, a touch of hospitality that I discovered was no means unique — Americans are so very friendly.

The motel room assigned to me was so huge I gladly shared it with Phillip Miller, a superintendent from Indian Lake Hills in Michigan, and I was soon to discover he was something of a film star, having played a 'bit' part in the film Lethal Weapon II. Once at the university we were joined by other students for a two-tendent from Indian Lake Hills in Michigan, and American is so very friendly.

I gladly shared it with Phillip Miller, a superintendent from Indian Lake Hills in Michigan, and I was soon to discover he was something of a film star, having played a 'bit' part in the film Lethal Weapon II. Once at the university we were joined by other students for a two-tendent from Indian Lake Hills in Michigan, and I was soon to discover he was something of a film star, having played a 'bit' part in the film Lethal Weapon II. Once at the university we were joined by other students for a two.

As one might expect, the course content was first rate, though highly intensive and with much to absorb in a short time. My favourite subject was Irrigation System Design, which proved an eye-opener, as prior to visiting America I had mistakenly thought that irrigation was just a matter of putting in a few pipes with some sprinklers at the end and away we go! Not so, as I soon learned, and I was very impressed at being taught by the man who wrote our learning manual — Professor Pira.

Golf Course Design was another favourite, made doubly interesting by the enthusiasm shown by our lecturer, Brian Silva, and spiced with a wide range of topics that made learning far more interesting than just gleaning facts from books. Brian was most gracious in his willingness to reveal all — not only his successes but also his mistakes in design.

Turfgrass Calculations were fun and more than just a little useful, though it was confusing for me to return to Imperial measurements, and the lecture on Turf Management by Dr Cooper was made fascinating by the inevitable discussions which arose thereafter. With two weeks remaining, I decided to take the week-end off and visit the GCSAA Show in New Orleans, though on arrival I discovered the show didn't start until the day I was to leave! What was to have been a great experience turned out to be the low-point in my trip, though I now had added time to explore the city. Down by the River Mississippi and the river-walk was nice, with the French Quarter — especially Bourbon Street — having to be seen to be believed.

Following two days of sightseeing it was back to the University of Massachusetts for a further week before travelling to Bermuda to visit a friend, Tim Carr, who had gone there to become a policeman. It was a fun weekend, and he even managed to get me entered in a competition at the exclusive Mid-Ocean course. I also played at Castle Harbour, much impressed by the fantastic weather and temperatures of 65° in mid-February! Leaving Bermuda came as a body shock, as I returned to Massachusetts at -12° for the last week at college.

A grand dinner was a fitting end to our course, enriched by the receipt of our well-earned certificates. This was also time to say goodbye to many good friends and to enjoy two final days of reflection on all that had been achieved at the college — a tinge of sadness at its ending.

Now on to Toro headquarters at Minneapolis, marred by weather that was simply too bad to get us to the assembly plant, though we did enjoy a tour of the prototype/testing areas. I say we, because I was shown around by Barry Beckett, along with Dennis Schmidt, a superintendent at the Sun City Complex in South Africa. After a couple of days 'living it up' in the Embassy Suites Hotel it was onward again, this time for a week at Toro's Irrigation Division HQ at Riverside California. I was met at the airport by Veronica Smith, who showed me to my rental car, experience of which was an eye-opener — not only for the drive on the right problem but the lack of warning before junctions — tough stuff this bumper-to-bumper driving!

The weather was kind once again and I spent my first day sunbathing by the pool. John Skidgle had organised a game of golf at the PGA West course at Palm Springs and we played with the superintendent — who informed me that he had 69 men employed on 36 holes! I am inclined to think that is the main difference in golf course management on the two sides of the Atlantic, with money no problem and superintendents commanding far greater respect than in the UK. The PGA course was fantastic, with views of the snow-capped Californian mountains and 70° of sunshine. I saw Bruce Forsyth outside the clubhouse and said to John Skidgle, 'Look — there's Bruce Forsyth!' His reply — 'Who is he?' Next day I met Bob Symonds, who showed me around the Toro irrigation plant, followed by a trip with him to Orange County for the weekend. As a seal of excellence I was able to visit Disneyland on the penultimate day, with a splendid Mexican dinner enjoyed with Bob and his wife Amara capping an unbelievable trip. Of course, there had to be one more surprise — a personal limousine from the motel direct to LA Airport, leaving only a 26 hour journey to bring me back to Britain and reality.

There are so many people to thank and the hospitality of everyone in America was of the highest order. In singing out just one, the biggest of thanks must be to my sponsors, Toro, for such excellence — I hope many more greenkeepers will enjoy the benefits this award allows. Finally a big thank you to my Club, Silloth on Solway Golf Club, for granting me eight weeks off during their busy centenary year.

BRIAN STORY,
Toro Student
Greenkeeper of the Year
reports on his experience of two months in America as part of his winner's award — from high-powered university lectures, to sharing a motel room with a film star...
containing machines and specialist back up support for Hardi sprayers that are appropriate for the amenity market.

Examples are the Hardi BL mounted sprayers and the PS de-mount model, which fits Cushman and similar power units. There are also the well known Hardi knapsack and KS and TR wheelbarrow and power types for use around buildings, parks, etc, and machines designed for pick-up mounting and for use with ATVs.

T. Parker & Sons and Roffey Brothers Ltd. have launched the new Parker liquid fertilisers and turf feeds. Parker Turfmaster is a foliar feed and stimulant based on fermented seaweed with good levels of nitrogen, potash and sulphur designed to increase the density of a fine fescue/bent sward and to encourage the breakdown of thatch. Parker liquid fertilisers offer a range of high analysis nutrients for use on lighter soils where leaching of nutrients can cause environmental problems or where pressure of play precludes the application of traditional fertilisers. Available as liquids in N; NK or NPK, the fertilisers are easy to apply through standard spraying equipment.

Watermation have introduced a new tensiometer - the Hydrovisor - which is buried in the ground close to the soil, ie. sandy soils and containers, normal soil and clay soil. It is the first and only solid state, maintenance free, tensiometer and can to provide water/energy savings levels of up to 60%.

Barenbrug UK has produced leaflets to cover its BAR range of grass seed mixtures. The BAR range has been specifically formulated to meet the professional standards required for golf courses, parks, lawns and turf production, chosen from Barenbrug's own wide range of high performance grass varieties, many of which are recommended at, or near, the top of STRI turfgrass lists. A separate leaflet covers each of these areas, giving colourful pictures to identify the end use for the mixtures. The characteristics of each variety within the different BAR grass seed mixtures are clearly explained, showing how these will blend together to form a mixture that suits a particular amenity need. Leaflets are free. Tel: 0359 70766.

Jacobsen have appointed Henry H Sheach as their distributor for Scotland. Based at Kirkcaldy in Fife, the company is now responsible for the sales, service and parts support of the complete Jacobsen range of mowers, aeration equipment and turf utility vehicles. Henry Sheach has over 40 years experience in the turf market and, apart from the new Jacobsen franchise, already holds dealerships for Agria, Bomford Turner and Scag.

In a world of constant change, it's refreshing to know that sometimes things are best left alone. Members of the British Association of Golf Course Constructors know just when to leave things unchanged, or when change is required or becomes inevitable, just how to go about it with an eye to detail and a truly professional approach.

After all, why change what has become a successful formula established over many years based on the unique and wide ranging experience of our XXIV member companies.

If you’re in need of a company with a proven track record of building fine golf courses, contact the BAGCC:

Tim Banks, The Secretary,
2 Angel Court, Dairy Yard,
Market Harborough, Leicestershire LE16 7NL
Tel: (0858) 464346 and 433003. Fax: (0858) 434734

If you’re involved in the management, care or maintenance of sports grounds, playing fields, leisure or amenity facilities then there is no better opportunity to see over 400 exhibitors than at the IOG’s 47th trade exhibition. Held at the East of England Showground, Peterborough, the show covers more than 26,000 sq m, including 7,000 sq m of demonstration area, and is the only truly representative show of its kind.

All the latest developments and advances in sports and leisure management will be on display, giving visitors the chance to see more equipment, products and services during a single visit, than by any other means.

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The Institute of Groundsmanship, 19-23 Church Street, The Agora, Wolverton, Milton Keynes, MK12 5LG
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YOUR BEST OPPORTUNITY TO SEE NEW PRODUCTS AND DEVELOPMENTS IN:

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GOLF CONSTRUCTION XXIV

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SOUTHERN IRELAND

Due to airline re-scheduling, my time at Hermitage Golf Club for the Southern Ireland Iski competition was very short. However, in the time that I was there the sun shone over the magnificent picturesque course in beautiful condition under the care of head greenkeeper, Jim Byrne. My thanks to Chris Nolan for the taxi ride.

Twenty-nine greenkeepers took part in the competition and the results are as follows:

Category 1 - Handicap 0-9 inc
1st Tony Burke nett 73, 2nd Ian Ritchie nett 74, 3rd Ollie English nett 74.

Category 2 - Handicap 10-18 inc
1st Joe Flaherty nett 70, 2nd Jim Byrne nett 70, 3rd Tom Bagnal nett 73.

Category 3 - Handicap 19-28 inc
1st Raymond McMath nett 71, 2nd Paul McBlane nett 73, 3rd Hugh McLaughlin nett 85.

Like Debbie, I shall look forward to seeing the victors at Coventry GC, which I’m sure all will enjoy immensely.

DEBBIE SAVAGE

NORTHERN IRELAND

Unfortunately, (writes Debbie Savage) due to fog, Leeds/Bradford Airport was closed and my journey to Lurgan Golf Club was aborted. Luckily David White was also due at Lurgan as part his recent trip to Eire and Northern Ireland so the reporting is up to him as follows:

Like Debbie, my flight was also delayed, though due more to the monster park known as the M25 than fog! I arrived in Lurgan some hours late and was dismayed on asking directions as the M25 than fog! I arrived in Lurgan some hours late and was dismayed on asking directions - as the M25 than fog! I arrived in Lurgan some hours late and was dismayed on asking directions.

Our first tournament of the season was held in the “Soak of Peterborough” and a ‘wee soak’ is what we experienced. However, the weather did not spoil the friendly welcome we received at this municipal course, the first our section has played.

Nine was one where tee shots had to be well placed to gain advantage. With tees well back – nearly on to the busy A1 – it was not surprising that a local man, Graeme MacDonald, won with a splendid 35 points to beat Gilbert Ogden of Stoke Rochford, with Michael Wood of Thorpe Wood in third place.

I should like to place on record my thanks to BIGGA for making sure the wives who attended the recent conference at Cirencester had a superb time. Three members from our section took their wives along and they are now all looking forward to next year’s meeting.

COLIN SWINGLER

NORTH SCOTLAND

The section’s Spring Outing to Montrose GC was a great success, despite the windy weather. The course was in first class order, which would have helped the 29 golfers who played.

Unfortunately, due to fog, Leeds/Bradford Airport was closed and my journey to Lurgan Golf Club was aborted. Luckily David White was also due at Lurgan as part of his recent trip to Eire and Northern Ireland so the reporting is up to him as follows:

The South East. Laurie is to oversee the courses right from the pre-construction stage to the day-to-day maintenance when they are up and running – quite a challenge. We wish him all the best.

Section membership now stands at 150, a far cry from the 56 on the books when BIGGA started in 1987. There is still room for more however, so make every effort to convince any greenkeeper who might be interested to join.

GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL July 1992 29
RANSOMES - no one offers you a wider range of turf care machinery. We manufacture machinery to match a precise application. That's why it does a better job, more efficiently and more cost effectively. For mowing a fine lawn or cutting a large park there's a RANSOMES machine to fit the task. If you're maintaining fine greens there are aerators, spikers and top dressers too. There's even a range of cylinder grinders to maintain a fine edge. Check out RANSOMES first - you will be amazed how we can meet your needs exactly.
Thursday 6 August 1992. Time: Teeing off from our chairman’s wife is making a steady recovery.

A guest can be either a member as follows - Venue: Basingstoke Golf Club. Date: there’s never been a better time to join.

The competition, consisting of a member and greenkeepers at your Club who is not yet in, or maybe the next Club over from yours - greenkeepers at the next Club over from yours - extremely beneficial.

 Royale Golf Club, is currently at Mike Dorset GC, Blandford Forum. He intends to continue in the chair, sends his regards, and hopes to see as many of you as possible at the next meeting.

PAUL WORSTER

SOUTH COAST


The competition, consisting of a member and guest, will be the usual format of an 18 hole four ball better ball. A guest can be either a member from your own Club or a greenkeeper from a different Club. Written entries giving name and address, name of partner and current handicaps, together with the current fee, should be sent to: Mr Joe Burdett, 23 Jacobs Ladder, Child Okeford, Dorset DT1. 8EA. Tele: 0258 861482.

I am pleased to report that following a rainy fall at home followed by eleven nights in hospital, our chairman’s wife is making a steady recovery. Ken has been unable to attend one or two meetings but has become adept at overseeing numerous household chores. He has informed me of a number of new courses under construction in South Hampshire, including Cams Hall at Fareham, so hopefully this will provide plenty of opportunities for members in this section.

Not very many new members from Dorset took advantage of the Golf Club’s offer of free entry to the Section’s Summer Tournament, which was a little disappointing for your committee. Next year’s Spring Tournament will be at Sherborne GC, and a good turn out from members in West Dorset would be appreciated.

Finally, a report of our Spring Tournament, for which I am indebted to Joe Burdett, as follows: From a total field of 40 players from all over the area, the sponsors Husseys Grass Machinery Ltd (Alan Jeffery and Mike Read) and Jim Pry (section president) were well pleased with the response. The sponsors kindly presented their own individual prizes, which were appreciated by the winning greenkeepers. Additional prizes were donated by Rofey Brothers Ltd., GME Equipment, Sta-Brite Supplies and I.C.I. Garden Products, and distributed by the host Club, John Wilson, assisted by the section vice-chairman Paul Drodge. The vice-chairman thanked the host Club for their hospitality and generosity in not only donating two glass engraved tankards, but also for granting courtesy of the course to all the players. The day started very cloudy and rain drenched only a few of the competitors for a short while, but this did not deter the golfers from performing again in the afternoon to return some very creditable scores. Robert Munday (2) from the host Club recorded a net 61. Brian Forder (3) from Southampton with a 71. Kevin Glass (New Forest) and Gordon Payne (Maidenhead) both returned net 66’s. The afternoon rounds of 40 were


Lowest gross a.m.: Mark Webb, Alresford, 75. Lowest nett a.m.: Rob Bailey, Salisbury & S.W., 70. Lowest gross p.m.: Ted West, Broadstone, 77. Lowest nett p.m.: Terry Patchin, Hockley, 65. Nearest on the pin on the 5th hole: Ian Noble, Moors Valley. Longest drive on 16th hole: Paul Jackson, Ferndown. A special prize was awarded to Anthony Hyde from Ashley Wood, for actually returning his two cards, albeit achieving the highest gross score of the day.

BOB DENNIS

BUCKS, BERKS & OXON

Hi out there to all the down trodden masses now even harder at work after some lovely ‘warm & wet’ from the great greenkeeper in the sky. You asked for it, so don’t moan – go out there and cut the stuff!

Now down to the nitty-gritty, our Spring Tournament at Henley. I sure everyone had a marvellous day, I certainly did – and not just because I won the p.m. nett award, for that is all to do with the Henley Tribe and his staff for preparing the course to a standard we all enjoyed (not easily done when dealing with greenkeepers), to secretary John Hex, and to Club captain, Martin Jordon, who presented the prizes with a flair and originality of course, to ICI, who have also supplied us with stationery. My number, should you wish to call me, is 0628 829208.

RAY CLARK

SOUTH WALES

May 14th saw our competition for the Jacobsen Cup, Brown’s Shield and Waycott Cup, with the main sponsor being Keith Morgan of Usk, the Jacobsen agent. We thank him for the excellent prize fund and the captain and committee of Cradoc GC for allowing us the courtesy of the course and clubhouse facilities. In particular, thanks to the Club captain for presenting the prizes at the end of the day. RESULTS: Winner of the Jacobsen Cup, set of crystal glasses and a brolly – R. Kitcher, 69 nett. Winner of Brown’s Shield and set of crystal glasses, A Jenkins 80 low gross. Winner of the Waycott Cup and a golf bag, T Garland, 74 nett. All the above awards donated by Keith Morgan. Other prizes (net) were 3rd H Morgan (Whisky/Protrut), 75 on countback; 4th P Swain (Shirt/BIGGA funds) 75, 5th M Davies (Headcovers/Roffey Bros.) 76.

A raffle was again held with a view to swell section funds, the results being: 1st T Garland (Brollei, ICI), 2nd D Archer (Shery, Avoncroc), 3rd A Panks (Whisky, Toro), 4th D Jones (Sherry, British Seed Houses) 5th P Robinson (Wine, G Peck/Birds) and 6th A Jenkins (Wine, M Davies/Cradoc GC).

PHIL SWAIN

The vice-chairman Mike Jones for chairing the meeting, to Malcolm Davies and his green staff for the course preparation and to Ann Pugh and the catering staff for attending to our hunger pangs throughout the day.

PHIL SWAIN

MIDLANDS

On May 1st we held our Committee Cup at Moorhall GC, with the course playing nicely (thanks to Peter Woodward and his staff) and a good turn out showing Mike Hughes, who played well enough to win the second nett prize. The meal that followed was excellent, enjoyed by everyone and made even more pleasant by the Moorhall captain and his wife joining us in the evening. Thanks to Moorhall GC for showing us such a hospitable welcome.

Thanks to Eric Thomas for again organising the annual match against Handsworth GC. Although this is not a BIGGA event run by our section, our members have supported it for the past 40 years. At least, after the enjoyable evening enjoyed by everyone and this year the greenkeepers from Handsworth GC are to be congratulated for keeping this event going and for making us feel so welcome.

Dates to remember: Autumn Tournament at Harbourne GC on Sept. 9th. Closing date Aug. 7th. If you want to play and do not have an entry form, please call me (before the closing date) on 0789 762912.

DEAN CLEAVER

DEVON & CORNWALL

Trelawny’s army was once again on the march from the Duchy, but instead of watching the rugby at Twickenham, the party of true Cornish greenkeepers visited the Westurf trade show. It was reported to me that in case of a fire on their journey, some of the boys carried a red fire extinguisher! Those who were visiting Westurf for the first time were pleasantly surprised at the quality of the show and the professional way it was run. This, as usual, is down to Marlon & Gordon Child, who dedicate so much of their time in organising it and dealing with all other affairs of our region. Also I must mention the Devon lads, who as usual turned up in such large numbers. That makes the Devon region feel as though we can see an even bigger gathering of members from this section attending the show – you could even bring your club officials along. With the success of Westurf, once again the region is offering

AROUND THE GREEN

Brian Forder and Kevin Glass showed their determination in finding their way into the morning positions to take major trophies, with Brian successfully defending his trophy by a clear 4 shoes.

GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL July 1992 31
members a subsidised package to the 1993 British Turf Management Exhibition (BTME) & Seminar
with Gordon Child. Many Clubs already pay for their greenkeepers to attend, largely in the knowledge that extra greenkeeping skills are properly acquired - so don’t you ask your green chairman or secretary. All head greenkeepers should have received an application form, but if by chance you have slipped the net and are interested, please call either Gordon Child (0803 844056) or ‘yours truly’ on 028 353438.

RICHARD WHYMAN

SURREY
This section now boasts a membership of 295, including 85 new members enrolled this year! We extend a welcome to all these newcomers and encourage them all to make themselves known at our regular meetings.

Our candidate for the ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year this year is Ian McMillan, course manager at Hatley Common GC. Good luck to him in the rigorous testing that lies ahead.

Forthcoming fixtures see the McMillan Tankard at its familiar venue of Sunningdale GC on Aug. 6th and the Parkers Salver at Sutton GC on Sept. 24th. Please send all entries for these events by the deadline date and observe the following rules: All Stableford competitions to be played at 7/8 handicap allowance and lowest current handicap to be declared.

ROGER TYDEMAN

NORTH WEST
The venue for the ‘92 Spring Tournament was West Derby GC (Liverpool), and the members of West Derby, who celebrate their centenary in 1996, made us all feel most welcome. The caterers and bar staff did a great job looking after the 35 competitors. The course, which covers 110 acres, is a good test of golf with tight tree-lined fairways making accurate golf essential and with spring weather is responsible for poor response from fertilisers and top dressings. Warm weather is required for fine grasses to grow at all! Gordon White, head greenkeeper at Castle Eden GC, was retired at AV40 and his position being filled by David Crocker, who was first assistant at Blackwell GC (Darlington) – our congratulations to them both.

Of the new so-called ‘agronomy consultants’, I suggest that greenkeepers ask themselves where the consultants do their research work.

I have supported STRI for 28 years and have received an advisory visit most of those years. Their trial grounds are available for visiting and research is on-going. Before taking any unnecessary risks, I urge greenkeepers to support STRI and involve their Club in an annual subscription – which means an annual visit to the course and any amount of advice over the ‘phone – ie: how soon to irrigate following systemic fungicide treatment etc. Interesting answer, but invaluable.

When learning useful tips, keep a notebook of them.

Our regional rep., Ian Holloran, head greenkeeper at Middlesbrough Municipal GC, finds life hectic. Last year saw 79,000 rounds played and this year he has had staff cuts from 3 to 2, which is making his task impossible as allowances have to be made for holidays, sickness or both!

A recent SISIS and Kubota demonstration was well attended. The spring meeting scheduled for May 27th to bring the rainfall average back to normal! It is for this reason that special mention must be made of the work of Ronnie Bunting and his staff, for having the course in excellent condition and thoroughly deserved the many complimentary remarks made on the day.

Many thanks must go to the North West president, Arthur Harrison of SISIS, and many other trade supporters, including Cheshire Light Tractors, Martin Bros., Maxwell Hart and ICI, who helped to swell the prize table. RESULTS: best gross B Horvath 81-9=72, best nett J Pearson 87-14=73.

The following are ISEKI qualifiers: 0-9 B Horvath, F Platt and W Merritt. 10-18 J Pearson, T Davies and C Wheeler. 19-28 E Stewart, J Wright and G Corness.

The NOW fixture will be the Roses Match at Stockport GC on Friday Aug. 28th._shall we have a team of 16, so if you are available please give me a call on 051 7245412.

In the meantime, if any members are going to The Open or the BIGGA National, I will look forward to meeting them.

BERT CROSS

CLEVELAND
Tony Mears, head greenkeeper at Dinsdale Spa GC has constructed a new green with added features and mounds, and also a large lake as part of environmentally friendly alterations.

Tony’s hard work over the past years is improving Dinsdale – a slow job on heavy clay, but worthwhile – stick at it, Tony.

There are no guarantees to success in greenkeeping and a word of thanks is due to assistant greenkeepers who are hard working and conscientious – important members of a small team (average 5 per 18 holes). These important people make golf pleasurable for so many players (at least 50,000 rounds) and deserve our thanks and congratulations.

Today’s assistants are tomorrow’s head greenkeepers, so learning good standards is vital, i.e. trying not to top dress greens on ladies day. A five-day week is too short and time flies! Cold spring weather is responsible for poor response from fertilisers and top dressings. Warm weather is required for fine grasses to grow at all!

This is my last report as section secretary as I am taking up my position as regional administrator. My successor is Pat Murphy, course manager at Shipley GC, and all queries, golf deposits etc. should be directed to him at 49 Cornwall Rd. Binley, W. Yorks BD16 4RL tel: 0274 568128. He has taken up what can be a very demanding and time consuming job which is made worthwhile with good support from members and give encouragement. Best of luck, Pat!

The winter lectures list is in the process of formation and will include some joint ventures with our colleagues in the IoG. They are running a bus to the show in Peterborough in September and would welcome any of our members along.

The Northern region of BIGGA plans to hold a seminar in October on Toro machinery and irrigation, more details to follow.

BOB LUPTON

AROUND THE GREEN

NORTHERN
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BOB LUPTON

WEST SCOTLAND
This section held their annual Spring Meeting, courtesy of the captain and committee of Kilmacolm GC. Some 57 members and trade guests entered and it was a pleasure to see some new faces. This was, in fact, the biggest turn-out for an outing in almost ten years, ironically also achieved at Killearn.

As everyone in the West can vouch, the spring weather has been hellish to say the least. According to the Weathert Centre it has been the wettest spring for 60 years and the rain need fill no more than ‘t’ll mid July to bring the rainfall average back to normal! It is for this reason that special mention must be made of the work of Ronnie Bunting and his staff, for having the course in excellent condition.

At the end of the day, which did finally clear, the winners and qualifiers for the forthcoming ISEKI Tournament were as follows: 0-9 B Horvath, Drumpellier, 2nd Stuart Taylor, Glasgow, 4th Stephen Hogg, Drumpperill. Second class – 1st Martin Thiebel, Kilmacolm, 2nd Sandy Bravery, East Kilbride, 3rd David Montgomery, Cameron, 4th Stuart Cameron, Drumpperill. Third class – 1st Kevin McGuire, Drumpperill, 2nd Colin Scott, Glasgow, 3rd Andrew McDowall, Torrance House, 4th David Elliot, Drumpperill. New members prize – Derek Bute, Aikens, visitors prize – D Veitch, Captain, Calder GC. A special thanks to the captain of Kilmacolm for presenting the prizes.

A couple of dates for the future are Sept 17th for the Autumn outing to Haggerston Castle and Oct 20th for the Annual Dinner at a new venue – The Admiral Restaurant, Glasgow. The speaker has yet to be confirmed. These and other dates appear in our new fixture card, which was produced courtesy of Aikens Seedsmen, Glasgow. Details on this are in another newsletter, which will receive one in the post. In the meantime, may everyone in the section have a good season.

GORDON KERR

NORTH WALES
Chester Golf Club was the venue for the North Wales ISEKI qualifier. First overall and winner of the Lesco Trophy, donated by RJ Campney, was Alan Lewis with an excellent 74-6=-69. Best nett went to winner of the Rose Bowl, Ian Buckley, with a score of 70-8=-78. Second nett was Paul Best and best guest was Alan Buckley. Nearest the pin on 8th went to Rick Fletcher, who after the competition will be moving south to Henley on Thames GC. It is true, I am sure all members will wish him well in his new job.


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The Secretary, Beeston Fields Golf Club, Beeston Fields, Nottingham NG9 3DD

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Application in writing with full CV to:
Valerie Pamard, Royal Club Evian, 74500, Evian, France.
Tel: 010-33-50-75-46-66

The Aylesbury Golf Centre

invite applications for the position of

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This recently constructed 9 hole golf course set in peaceful and picturesque surroundings seeks a fully qualified individual in both practical and academic terms. The advancement to Course Manager status within the organisation is envisaged in the future, for the right candidate.
The salary and benefits are negotiable and will reflect the importance the organisation places upon the said position.

Applications in writing please, including full CV to:
The Aylesbury Golf Centre
Hulcott Lane, Bierton,
Buckinghamshire HP22 5GA

Heworth Golf Club

(Tyne & Wear)

Applications are invited for the position of

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

to become part of our enthusiastic course management team.

Applications with CV to:
The Secretary
Heworth Golf Club
Jingling Gate
Heworth
Gateshead NE10 8XY

This supercedes our advertisement in the June 1992 issue.
COURSE MANAGER

Applications are invited for the position of Course Manager at what will be the South Coast’s largest and most comprehensive golfing centre overlooking Chichester and the South Downs.

An 18 hole members course is already under construction, complementing the existing 18 hole ‘Pay and Play’ course, 9 hole Par 27 course and 27 bay driving range.

We are looking for a highly qualified and experienced person to join a quality Management Team dedicated in ensuring that Chichester sets the standard by which all golf centres are judged.

A top salary will reflect the qualities needed for a position managing 45 holes of golf and appropriately large greenkeeping staff. An excellent two bedroom house on the course is available. Written application, CV and references should be sent to the Golf Secretary. All replies will be treated in the strictest confidence.

DEPUTY COURSE MANAGERS

Reporting to the Course Manager and responsible for either the new 18 hole members course or existing ‘Pay & Play’ 18 hole course – applicants should be thoroughly versed in all aspects of greenkeeping with the ability to organise and supervise staff and demonstrate a willingness to work comfortably within a team structure – competitive salaries are available along with accommodation. Please send written application and CV. All replies will be treated in the strictest confidence.

TWO FIRST ASSISTANTS REQUIRED

Must be experienced. We pay BIGGA rates.

All applications to: The Golf Secretary, Chichester Golf Centre, Hunston, Chichester, West Sussex PO20 6AX

The Clandeboye Estate

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applications are invited for the post of Head Greenkeeper.

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Construction and seeding will be completed in September 1992 and the Head Greenkeeper will assume responsibility for the development and maintenance during the grow-in period.

Applicants will be expected to have had practical experience at a high level and have enthusiasm and desire to form and manage a team of staff.

Excellent salary and accommodation together with a first class pension is offered.

Applications to the above post will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Please apply in writing including CV to:
Simon Gidman, Golf Design Partnership, Estate Office, Clandeboye, Bangor, Co. Down, BT19 1RN
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A Head Greenkeeper
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A 1st Assistant Greenkeeper
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- Starting date for both posts September 1992.
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Applications in writing with full CV to:
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Assistant Superintendent required
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An attractive salary package will be negotiated.

Please apply with your full CV to:
Mr Aidan O’Hara,
Golf Course Superintendent, Mount Juliet, Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny.

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Application forms and job description from:
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The Island Golf Club requires a

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Applications in writing with full CV to:
Mr L O’Connor, Secretary/Manager
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No accommodation.
Applications in writing to:
The Secretary
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The Secretary, Effingham Golf Club,
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The Secretary, Mrs M Collier, Fortrose and Rosemarkie Golf Club, Ness Road East, Fortrose, Ross-shire IV10
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would like to thank Lewis Parks, chairman of Wood with a nett 71, with David Vidler (despite a better day out for £22 anywhere - imagine, you couldn't find a - possibly the best day we've had yet. Unfortunately only about 16 or so competed in the morning, with the numbers 'swelling' for the afternoon's Texas Scramble to about 20. Most of the usual hard core were there, so for those who did not make it, I can only say that you don't know what you missed for you couldn't find a - possibly the best day we've had yet. Unfortunately only about 16 or so competed in the morning, with the numbers 'swelling' for the afternoon's Texas Scramble to about 20. Most of the usual hard core were there, so for those who did not make it, I can only say that you don't know what you missed for you couldn't find a

Turning to other matters, anybody interested in staging one of our events at their Club should contact Terry Adamson. During the rest of the season we hope to arrange a match against the North Wales stewards, so - once again - anybody interested, please contact Terry.

On a personal note, Terry Adamson and I would like to thank Lewis Parks, chairman of Chester GC, for his company on the day.

KENT

May 6th saw our Spring Tournament and ISEKI qualifier held at Darenth Valley. It turned out to be a fabulous day: the weather was glorious, the course was in great shape (thanks to the hard work of Nigel Stapley and his lads), and the food at lunch and throughout the evening was terrific - possibly the best day we've had yet. Unfortun-

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