JUNE 1992

GREENKEEPER

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NATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

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Journal of the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association
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IMA 92
Support grows for Education and Development Fund

Cash pours in to boost profession’s future

The Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund continues to grow.

Former members of the British Golf Greenkeepers Association will be interested to note that the Trust fund established to administer the funds of the former Association has now been finally wound up by the Trustees and a second and final cheque paid into the Education and Development Fund. The fund has benefited thereby to the extent of £22,611.53 and this has provided a firm base for the new fund to move forward and further advance the status of the profession and standards of golf course management. Over the last five years the Trust Fund has been wisely administered by Alan Gamble, Ivo Scoones, Alan Kite and the late Water Heelis. The thanks of all members are due for their stewardship.

Following the report in the May magazine that Gordon Child and Norman Exley have become members of the Silver Key Circle, another Regional Administrator, Elliott Small has joined them in membership. It is particularly encouraging that Association members wish to support the new fund and we look forward to seeing Gordon, Norman and Elliott sporting their attractive silver key ties.

A donation of £1,000 has been received from the Golf Society of Great Britain. In expressing every good wish and encouragement for the Association’s work, the Golf Society is pledged to support the amateur game and in pursuance of this sees the furtherance of the aims of the Association as highly appropriate. Neil Thomas, Executive Director comments: “This most welcome donation is further evidence of an increasing momentum within the game to support BIGGA’s aims and objectives. This donation follows a previous donation in 1991 and the Association’s Board of Management wishes to express its great appreciation to the Society.”

The Golf Society of Great Britain was founded in 1955 by the late Sir Aynsley Bridgland of Princes Golf Club and aims to promote goodwill and the interests of amateur golf. It is non-profit making and donates large sums to golf’s governing bodies towards international match expenses.

It is also most pleasing to report that the first donation has been received from one of BIGGA’s sections. A cheque for £200 was recently presented by the Scottish Region Central Section and BIGGA Vice-Chairman John Crawford, who is also Secretary of the Central Section, reports that the donation was made possible by the section setting-up its own Education Fund a few years ago and that hopefully donations such as this can be continued in future years. Executive Director, Neil Thomas commented: “I am delighted at Central Section’s initiative and it is the support now forthcoming from our membership which will give a real boost to the fund. Contributing Regions and Sections will be presented with plaques in recognition of their support. The progress of the fund since its launch by our President, Viscount Whitelaw, at the BTME in January has exceeded my expectations and enhanced promotion and financing of educational programmes in the future new seems assured.”

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AD REF 59

AD REF 203
Who and what are moving on and moving in, in the greenkeeping industry

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) has announced that it will open a fully-staffed office in Singapore to manage membership activities and services in the Pacific Rim countries. Services will include education and training, certification, publications, conferences, trade shows and research - the same as in the United States. Their new operations will cover Japan, Guam, Taiwan, Hong Kong, China, Korea, The Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Australia, New Zealand and India.

GCSAA President William R. Roberts said emerging governmental interest and concern over environmental and development issues are driving the need for long term education and quality control throughout this region. GCSAA currently has a growing number of members in this area. Nearly 4,000 golf courses are in operation and hundreds more are planned or under construction.

Sta-Brite Supplies Ltd announce new appointments to the board and two new territory sales managers. Sales manager Chris Sharp is now sales director, and Mike Fabb is confirmed as general manager and a board director. In addition, Sta-Brite’s sales force has risen to seven with the appointment as territory sales managers of John Mullins and Graham Paul. Graham is well known through several years with Rhone-Poulenc and takes over most of North London, Essex and Suffolk. John spent several years with Supaturf and takes over the South Midlands area. All four are BASIS certificated, as indeed are all members of the Sta-Brite sales team.

Willie Arnold, long time ‘Toro Man’ in the north of Scotland, has moved to larger premises. His new address is Poynerneuk, Pitgair, by Turriff, AB5 37RZ. Tel: 08885 624.

Visiting the Shetlands recently, Scottish turfgrass consultant John Souter happened upon a ferry which connects the Shetlands to one of the northern isles called Yell. Imagine his surprise on discovering the ferry was named BIGGA. The explanation is that there are two islands around Yell, one called Bigga - the big isle; and the other called Langa, the long isle. The question must be posed - will members be able to negotiate advantageous terms?

Otterbine Barebo Inc., the acknowledged world leaders in water quality management and based in Emmaus, Pennsylvania, USA, are currently advertising their products in our magazine and of course you can contact them direct. Nearer to home, however, Golf Course Services of Market Harborough look after their business in the UK and you can contact Mike Walker on 0858 463153. Not only will this take the strain off your telephone bill, but you won’t have to take account of the time difference across the Atlantic...

Golfers at Aldwark Manor, built in 1876 and headquarters of BIGGA, had to give way to a giant crane recently as a 30 tonne 60 metre span bridge was eased into place between the fairways. Engineers used a 500 tonne mobile crane to lift the steel frame timber decked bridge, which now stands as a splendid course feature and access for golfers and maintenance machinery over the River Ure, running through the picturesque 6,171 yard Par 71 parkland course. This operation brings to an end a two-year project to extend the original nine holes (opened in 1978) to eighteen, and is the first new bridge to span the Ure since 1887, when Aldwark Toll Bridge was re-constructed.

The full 18 holes are now in play, making Aldwark Manor one of the few new courses in the region to be actively encouraging new members. Continued improvements to the golf and hotel complex has seen membership rise steadily and this now stands at 300 for the original nine-hole course.

Aldwark’s new owners, Chessingham plc, awarded the bridge design and build contract to Beazer Construction NW Ltd, who in turn appointed Ove Arup and Partners to act as construction engineers and designers.

When?!
... January 18 – 22!
Surely the best way to invest in the future is to invest in people. Training and education are the greatest motivating factors. A more articulate and educated workforce will inevitably lead to greater rewards and an awareness and recognition of the greenkeepers profession.

Langside College
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Rutherglen, Glasgow,
Scotland.
(041) 647 6300.
Contact
Colin Urquhart

Lancashire College
Myerscough Hall
Bilsborrow
Preston
Lancs.
(0995) 40611
Contact
Martyn Jones

Teagasc National Botanic Gardens
 Glasnevin, Dublin 9,
Ireland.
Tel: (0103531) 371 636
Contact Pat Suttle

Welsh College
Northop
Mold
Clwyd
Wales.
(035286) 861
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Graham Wright

Oaklands College
St. Albans,
Herts.
(0727) 50651
Contact Ian Merrick

Cannington College
Cannington, Bridgewater,
Somerset.
(0276) 652226
Contact Nick Rigden

Elmwood College
Cupar, Fife, Scotland.
(0334) 52781
Contact Carol Borthwick

Oatridge Agricultural College
Ecclesmachan, Broxburn,
Scotland.
(0506) 854387 Fax: (0506) 853373
Contact Steven Miller

Cheshire College of Agriculture
and Horticulture
Reaseheath, Nantwich, Cheshire.
(0270) 625131
Contact Dennis Mortram

Askham Bryan College
Askham Bryan, York.
(0904) 702124
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Warwick.
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**Fornham Park Golf & Country Club**

**HEAD GREENKEEPER**

This is a key appointment, central to a major programme of expansion at this forward thinking, innovative Club.
Applicants should have at least five years' experience in a similar position, together with excellent technical knowledge and the ability to achieve the highest standards of course management.
In addition we shall require proven man management skills enabling the Head Greenkeeper to lead and motivate a small, committed team and to generate ideas and provide positive input into our planned programme of improvements.
For the successful applicant this represents a fine career opportunity, with excellent remuneration package (no accommodation).
Please apply in writing enclosing a full CV and current photograph with references to:
Sean Clark Director of Golf
Fornham Park Golf and Country Club
Fornham All Saints Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP28 6JQ

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Woodbrook Golf Club requires a

**HEAD GREENKEEPER**

Our head greenkeeper is retiring after 40 years service.
We need a successor to maintain the Club's reputation as one of Ireland's premier courses - which has hosted many championships over the years.
The successful applicant will be a fully qualified, experienced greenkeeper, with managerial skills. He must demonstrate sound knowledge and practical experience of good greenkeeping, equipment maintenance, staff organisation, supervision and motivation, and a proven record of golf course management.
Please send written applications with full CV by fax to:
The Secretary/Manager
Woodbrook Golf Club
Fax: 010 3531 282 1950

---

Heworth Golf Club (Tyne & Wear)

Applications are invited for the position of

**HEAD 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
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The old saw about not picking up a ‘lost’ ball until it has stopped rolling is one that has an ironic ring of... at this Club forbids members buying balls from any casual on course sources, no matter how cheap they may be.

Ball theft is the thin edge, though the demons that manifest themselves in the nightmares of most... in ruining several at once, on occasions culminating in rolling and burning the stolen car on the green.

Cars are not the only cause of wheeled damage however, for many courses with large open areas away from the clubhouse or maintenance shed... that bunkers and adjacent contoured areas make ideal tracks for performing ‘wheelies’. Control of these antics, often performed in daylight, are not easy, for the riders can be exceedingly swift when confronted by authority – though one good ruse used to superb effect was the thrusting of an umbrella between spokes, the resulting damage seen as a very real deterrent.

Less traumatic though equally frustrating is the stealing of pins and yardage markers, these often lobbed into deep rough. The obvious answer on all high risk sites is to remove pins at end of play and to install permanently fixed markers (heavy timber or stone are best), embedding them deeply into the ground with cement.

Vandalism is not totally restricted to hooligans, for on many common land courses Joe Public is not above... I well remember on one occasion accosting such a gathering, only to be told in no uncertain terms to b— off!

Few would deny that free roaming dogs are another problem, and it is hard to find suitable words of discouragement when the fangs of a Rotweiller or similar beast are slavering for action. Canine defecation on turf is unpleasant to say the least and urine can cause severe scorching. Additionally, a rampaging dog hell-bent on hunting rabbits or wildfowl can cause untold damage in short time. Incidentally, have you noticed how dog owners so often resemble their ‘pets’?

If your trolley shed is open to the elements, this can be an invitation for malicious invasion which often results in the theft of fuel, lubricant or weedkiller, greenkeepers will be all too aware of the havoc that even a small amount can cause in a short time. Incidentally, have you noticed how dog owners so often resemble their ‘pets’?

The battle against destructive forces

The battle against destructive forces

Well protected by deadlocks and properly installed heavy hinges – if in any doubt, ask your local crime prevention officer to visit and follow his recommendations.

On the subject of fuel, lubricant or weedkiller, greenkeepers will be all too aware of the havoc that even a slight spillage on greens can cause, and one recent act of vandalism reported will serve to remind of the dire consequences. A disgruntled former employee broke into the sheds, purloined what was later discovered to be gramoxone, and spilled the contents over a green, wiping out a large area. It was necessary to cut out the offending area and completely re-turf, a costly and heartbreak exercise.

Combating crime has never been an easy task, but there are a few ground rules which the wise greenkeeper will want to see implemented. At all vulnerable points of wheeled entry the installation of very solid precast concrete posts can deter all but the heaviest of vehicles, whilst the digging of deep and wide outer perimeter ditches will stop all vehicles save those that can be lifted, and the laying of ‘sleeping policemen’ on all approach roads will cause added frustration – deterrents all. On private roads, the fitting of iron gates will stop most intruders, who will be thwarted upon finding their way locked and barred at night.

Why do vandals especially target golf courses? Is it that they mistakenly perceive golfers as some kind of rich kids on the block: hurt the rich and you hurt ordered society? I have a theory that vandalism stems from the attitudes of couldn’t-care-less parents, giving vent to violence, anger and frustration from their own children...
The Year of 1991 began in fine style with the now well-established Westurf, and though marred this time by poaching, it did little to dampen spirits. This show meets a real local need in the West and continues to attract both enthusiasm from the region and from those traders who rightly see it as a valuable showcase. Every credit, therefore, to Gordon Child and his energetic team.

The Iseki Tournament was a huge success, continuing to cement relationships at regional level and culminating with triumph at the wonderful final staged at Hillside. Members were unanimous in praising this fine course and echoed the view that the Iseki event is one that would be sorely missed should it cease to be staged. As members know, Colin Gregory was the driving force behind Iseki and he has now moved to pastures new. That stated, we will make every effort to ensure the continuance of this tournament, which has been a cornerstone of greenkeeper golf since 1988.

The Open Championship at Royal Birkdale in July was a time when favourable comment was voiced for our support team, suggesting that both in appearance and conduct our professional image was greatly enhanced.

For the National Tournament to be staged at Royal St David’s in August it was a personal thrill and gave considerable pleasure to welcome those who had never crossed the border. They were not disappointed, for the event was voted by many as the best ever, culminating in a fantastic banquet and Welsh choir in full voice! A stunning few days for which we cannot thank ICI Professional Products enough in providing support and active participation.

As we moved towards autumn, there was a marked increase in activity beginning with the Ransomes International staged at Fulford. In October came the annual Kubota Challenge at the Belfry, an event in which the Greenkeepers have won six times out of nine – this year we defeated the EGU by eight matches to nil! Your Board sees a need to broaden the basis of selection for such events, which need to be used to promote the Association as well as the playing of golf. It has been decided to widen selection away from the major banquets and Welsh choir in full voice! A stunning few days for which we cannot thank ICI Professional Products enough in providing support and active participation.

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there may be some hope not too far ahead, emanating from 'The Way Forward', last year saw the formation of the Joint Golf Course Committee (JGCC). BIGGA supports the need for a clear need for an end to the prevailing 'politics' along with a united approach if the new structure is to offer lasting benefits to both education programmes and much needed research within the game.

In terms of education and training, let me conclude with a few notes. It is pleasing to report that the presentation of the first Master Greenkeeper Certificate was made by Viscount Whitehall at BTME. It is not easy to obtain, and let no-one doubt that the award indicates that the recipient has achieved the highest standards of excellence within the profession of greenkeeping. At the outset of the Association in 1987, BIGGA signified its intent to make education a number one priority and without any doubt the best exemplification of BIGGA carrying out its intent is the MGC. Many golf Clubs are now aware of and understand the Scheme – this is very important – and our experience indicates that they will support those employees who set out to obtain their qualifications. Club responses to BIGGA plans and programmes have generally been positive. However, there is evidence that for every greenkeeper who complains that his Club will not support his education, there are probably two or three Club secretaries who will say that they haven't been asked and were they asked would willingly support the staff concerned.

At the end of 1991, it was pleasing to announce that our numbers now exceed 4,000, giving us a strong membership base though with no room for complacency. For whatever reasons we lose some 500 members each year. It is quite true that we are on a growth curve because the number of new members is more than offsetting the losses. Perhaps this is normal, with members leaving the industry and being replaced. That being the case, there are still large numbers who are not members. If every member went out and brought one fellow greenkeeper into membership just think of the impact.

Membership of the Association brings many pleasures and benefits – it also brings obligations. Members abide by a Code of Ethics, but I sense that this Code lies dormant in most files. Our Constitution states that 'After five years from the inception of the Association, each full member shall be required, when attending a formal national occasion, to dress in tie and jacket of the Association and to follow the guidelines on shoes, slacks and shirt.' January 1992 has now passed and we are some way from achieving this – look no further than the recent Iseki Tournaments for proof. Since 1987 we have sought to present our members professionally at such events, with BIGGA sweaters and shirts provided and on occasions blazers and ties have been lent. The Constitution must now be adopted by Golf Clubs. Greenkeepers have made great strides in presenting themselves professionally but there is still some way to go – even now we are talking of perhaps only 20% who take pride in their appearance with some 80% adopting a laissez faire approach to the detriment of themselves and their Association.

1991 proved a good year – the first good year for our magazine since 1987. Its content and presentation have been widely applauded throughout the industry whilst there has been a constant effort to improve and to reflect the needs of the profession. We could not have chosen a harder year, in the midst of the recession, to bring the magazine in-house. The industry has remained supportive and levels of advertising have been sustained – this augurs well for the future. We are in a highly competitive business and the magazine has to be run on strict commercial lines. This is happening and we are more than maintaining our own.

We have mentioned the industry and out there many companies who have historically supported the profession are experiencing very hard times. The great majority recognise the benefits of ongoing relationships with individual greenkeepers and with our sections. It is in many ways a small and closely-knit industry where everyone knows everyone and amidst the competitive rivalry, a camaraderie exists. Many greenkeepers are at ease with company reps and pressure selling is rare and generally unwelcome by our members. At National level we benefit from a small number of sponsorship agreements, primarily aimed at promoting the education and training of greenkeepers. Those agreements are very welcome and I would suggest mutually beneficial. They generally work well and over a period of three years have stood the test of time. The danger we face is of some companies receiving one-off benefit from their relationship with the Association to their exclusion and in time this could have a polarising effect. The launching of the new Education and Development Fund marks another significant advance for the Association. Significant contributions will now channel the resources of the game and the industry into one central fund which will enable the promotion and financing of educational programmes, scholarship awards and training aids for the benefit of the greenkeeping profession.

The enhancement of knowledge and technical expertise will in turn lead to higher standards of course management.

Nearly five years on we can look up and be proud of our achievements. Yet there is much to be done. We must start by examining very carefully where we are falling down before criticising others. Our biggest problem can be summarised in one word – apathy – the apathy of members passive in their approach to seeking educational betterment. Whilst this can be seen as a product of past attitudes within Clubs, many of our members really do need to wake up to opportunities now becoming available. Many of them lack the confidence to pursue those opportunities having in the past adopted the traditional role of knowledge of the industry. Our Management Courses are designed to instil the self-confidence needed to march into the secretary's office and make a case for financial support in the pursuit of training and qualifications. The pendulum is swinging and we can no longer wholly apportion the blame to reactionary and narrow-minded golf club committees. Again there is fear – fear of the agronomist; of the club secretary; of the green committee; of change and of the unknown. It is debilitating, insidious and can be career-long. Greenkeepers should have nothing to fear and here we get to the heart of the matter. Such fear will only be overcome through involvement – in education, with BIGGA and in interaction with fellow greenkeepers. That is the way ahead.

Golf in the United Kingdom is now a wealthy game – that is undeniable. The distribution of that wealth is totally out of proportion. At the top end is the pro tour generating vast sums of money, but adopting an insular approach and seemingly showing little concern for the development of the game as a whole. We have swung the scale too bottom out with junior golf and the Association constantly seeking funding and support. If support is not forthcoming what future lies ahead for the golfing stars of tomorrow and what will be the quality of the golf courses on which they play?

The work of the new JGCC will be substantial, it must address key issues and the solutions it puts forward will have fundamental effects on the future of the game in the UK. There is no doubt that the game is now a healthy one and standards in course maintenance and presentation – it is the technically experienced course manager who will best be able to meet the required standards. In turn he will be rewarded by a more realistic approach to their chosen profession and the necessary salary levels within the profession. We can view the future optimistically – there are now tremendous job opportunities, but for those obtaining these top positions there will need to be more study and application as well as a grabbing of opportunity. This way lies the path to success.

The demands made on greenkeepers today never cease to amaze me. The depth of technical knowledge needed to be successful in the profession is extensive and ever increasing. There are heavy physical demands. There is still much ignorance on the part of Club committees and members to be tolerated and overcome each day. I stand committed to improving the position of greenkeepers and the greenkeeping profession and BIGGA will not be deterred in taking the profession forward to its rightful place at the forefront of the game.

Finally, my special and sincere thanks to our chairman, George Malcolm, for all he has achieved during his year of office. I have enjoyed his steadfast support during the year and no-one should be in any doubt of the extent to which George has promoted the Association. On behalf of you all, I conclude by thanking George for all he has done and achieved.

BIGGA will not be deterred in taking the profession forward to its rightful place at the forefront of the game.

GRENKEEPR INTERNATIONAL June 1992
Being an island nation, it is natural enough that many of us should regard the likes of Jacques Delors, the wheeling and dealing behind closed Maastricht doors and the infuriating parochial dictats of Brussels based Eurocrats with a fair degree of cynicism.

When the long running debate over our entry into the European Community becomes a final reality on the 31st December 1992, will it, we wonder, really turn the key to fresh opportunities for anybody prepared to cross the threshold? In my opinion, the short answer is yes, especially for those of us involved in a whole range of activities which collectively forms an industry geared to supporting the game of golf.

Entry into the community of twelve will provide a wider choice of employment and free-trade opportunities: for greenkeepers, golf club managers, golf course architects, constructors, contractors and manufacturers of equipment and machinery essential for the well-being of today's golf course development, management, preparation and on-going maintenance - providing the Eurocrats are kept at bay!

Such opportunities are not only real, they have been on offer - and in many instances, taken-up - ever since golf started to become popular on the Continent. In the mid-1980s for example, agronomist George Shiel was asked to oversee the standards of greenkeeping and course maintenance at the Monte Carlo Golf Club. This eventually resulted in the on-the-spot appointment of Mike Merrick, a young English greenkeeper, as "Le Boss" of greenkeeping affairs on the slopes of Mont Aiguille, home of the Monaco Open tournament.

At that time, Mike didn't speak a word of French. Having accepted the opportunity to broaden his career, he later told me that he spent the entire flight time from Nice back to Heathrow wondering how he would cope - and equally important, just how his wife would react to his news!

Twenty-odd years earlier, the late Sir Henry Cotton was taking advantage of his vast professional playing experience and imagination to create new golf courses in Portugal.

Going back even further in time, Bob Buckingham, head of Hampshire-based Toro machinery sales for Europe, tells me that golf course mowers manufactured by his company have been exported into Germany for over 40 years.

Exceptional cases you may think, but are they? Remember if you will that the game of golf has its origins buried deeply in our sporting history. We were building and caring for golf courses long before Bleriot's flimsy aeroplane was the first to stagger across the Channel in - when was it, 1907?

That was long before Germany's revolutionary diesel powered train, the 'Flying Hamburger' broke all existing pre-war railway speed records - and even longer still before General Franco led Spain into his bloody, military based dictatorship.

Spanning some eighty-odd years, those events happened decades after the game of golf had become an organised sport in this country. Little wonder then that when it comes to the finer points of construction, preparation and maintenance of golf courses, the rest of Europe eyes Britain with respect. We have a history, tradition and knowledge of the game with which they cannot compete.

Why, for example, do you think that this magazine carries advertisements from golf clubs in France, Germany, Italy and other European countries inviting British applications for the position of head greenkeeper? Being an island nation - and a moderate people - we tend to overlook our own strengths. We are not too enthusiastic about blowing our own trumpets - but this is no time for modesty. We can and should get out there and show them a trick or two!

Some already have. Mike Greaves, whose Bucks-based company, Agripower, builds and maintains sports pitches and golf courses, views the advent of European free-trade as a positive step forward. "We have recently carried out work on a French golf course - our first involvement across the Channel - and I see this development as a good opportunity to extend our interest into Europe."

In the neighbouring county of Oxfordshire, White Horse Construction Limited say that they have received several enquiries from Continental Europe. "We have made no real attempt to promote ourselves - as yet - but we are keeping a close eye on the developments," reports the company's contracts manager, Kevin Smith. Down in Dorset, the Brian Pier-son organisation have not only been employed on golf course work in Bordeaux and Toulouse but have also opened an office in Paris to service the French golf market. "Languages are a problem - especially when we receive very detailed specifications from developers over the Channel" says Mark Pierson. "Discussions at architect, developer and especially hotel group levels are easier" he says, "for most business people use English". Nevertheless, Mark is working hard studying both French and German. "Our standards of golf course construction are usually much higher than those accepted in other countries, yet surprisingly we are finding that our cost projections are lower", he concluded.

In Pocklington, Yorkshire, fine turf specialists Inturf say that although they are fully committed to existing developments in the UK and Eire they are fully aware of the potential of the European market. As managing director, Derek Edwards, put it, "I believe that Europe will be good for us - both as individuals and as a nation. Our present commitments mean that we cannot seriously promote ourselves in European markets until late '93. Nevertheless, we currently have plans to open a new operational base in Kent - when established, it will give Inturf the perfect entree via the Channel Tunnel."

Dr Peter Hayes of the Sports Turf Research Institute is equally positive. "We have been providing advisory services throughout Europe for a number of years. Indeed, the demand for our services is increasing simply because of a lack of local expertise on the other side of the Channel." However, in the context of turf, Dr
Hayes expressed the opinion that even setting aside the possibilities of restrictions being imposed on the exportation of soil, the sheer weight of large deliveries might be uneconomic. In his view, British turf suppliers would find it worthwhile establishing a link with a similar, existing company and grow turf on the Continent. Equally, the possibility of problems arising when British companies get involved in other European countries can be real enough, he suggests.

In Germany, specifications for golf course construction are very much aligned to German based DIN standards - which differ from our own BSI requirements. This raises the question of Brussels style bureaucracy! Negotiations are already under way (with the Sports Council and the STRI batting for the UK) to endeavour to reach agreement on the new Franco-German driven CEN standards, which will set the specification for the construction of greens.

At present, standards for the construction of soccer and hockey pitches and tennis courts are being debated. As an example of what this entails, Dr Hayes tells me that Germans are seeking to establish a standard for soccer pitches - similar to the 'super' levels laid down for the Olympic Stadium at Munich.

One can imagine the reaction of UK Parish or Town Councils or other local authorities faced with the costs of providing 'park's pitches' equating to those standards of excellence! The STRI takes the view that providing a grass pitch is able of producing an even bounce of the ball, has sufficient traction (grip) and that drainage is good, the actual components used in its construction is of relatively no great importance.

Golf courses? Dr Hayes is of the opinion that this important area will not be discussed and finalised for another two or three years.

As might be expected, that doyen of British greenkeeping practices and construction methods - Jim Arthur - has his own views on the subject. "Bureaucrats and politicians are meddling in matters which are beyond their comprehension," says Jim, referring to attempts by Brussels to standardise everything - never mind golf. He continued, "British architects and constructors, some of the most experienced people on the European scene, are apprehensive about the underlying implications of the Euro-CEN standards relative to golf course design and construction. There is no logic in Eurocrats wasting their time and our money trying to impose themselves by creating 'rule book' standards which will apply to both construction and the management of golf courses. Because they have no real experience or tradition of the game they are being blinded by the American way of doing things. They perceive target greens as the ultimate way that golf should be played this side of the Atlantic. Unless we dig our heels in, we British are in danger of selling our birthright down the river!"

Over-riding Brussels, CEN and all that, Jim is convinced that the game of golf as we know it will be taken over by professionals. "Europe or not, it will all come down to money" says Jim. "The game will deteriorate into a professional lottery - run by and for professionals."

Greenkeeping? "There are some very good young people coming through" he says. "Hopefully, they will not be compromised by the dictates of commercially minded entrepreneurs motivated by the wrong reasons."

Talking of greenkeeping, David Whicker, course manager at Wisley, made some pertinent comments related to his experience gained during a two and a-half year stint at Golf du Domaine Imperial, an 18 hole Swiss course. In charge of a 9-hole in this country and keen to better himself, David jumped at the chance of going to Switzerland. "I didn't speak French and my support team of locals had never seen a golf course before - never mind worked on one!" he says. Nevertheless, David soon got to grips with his dual problems and says that he soon developed his labour force into a working team - who wanted to learn more. Like so many young greenkeepers, David moved - in his case to Switzerland - to broaden his experience but not to stay indefinitely. "I always knew that I would return to home soil at some time" he says.

In David's opinion, countries such as France, Germany and Belgium are waking up to the needs of providing greenkeeper training. "Lots of chaps went for the money" says David. "Now, thanks to the efforts of BIGGA, salary levels in the UK are catching up fast."

British greenkeepers eyeing EC countries should also bear in mind that many of the new developments are based on America practices - sand based greens, creeping bent and wall-to-wall irrigation. These types of courses call for a radically different approach compared to traditional UK turf management techniques.

In the final analysis, Europe is of course all about people, so the last word on the subject goes to BIGGA's Education Officer, David Golding. "Europe has come to us for greenkeepers" says David, "especially since we have raised the level of education to the point where many young greenkeepers are of outstanding management calibre. In contrast", he continues, "little formal training is, or has been, available to young people in countries like Germany, Spain, France, Portugal or Holland."

Equally be confirmed that BIGGA approved colleges are increasingly aware of the potential importance of golf on the European continent. This autumn, Cannington College (Somerset) is introducing an HND educational programme linking European studies with greenkeeping courses. Elsewhere, other colleges have set out to encourage the use of a second language. Yes, the signs are good for those with a positive attitude, n'est pas?"
As well as the damage which may be caused to golf greens and other areas of the course by pest and disease attack, there are also many physical & chemical causes of damage/injury which may occur. Obviously it is important to be able to distinguish between physical, chemical and biological causes of damage as this has strong implications in the development of an appropriate remedy. In this article, NEIL BALDWIN, the STRI’s plant pathologist describes some of the more common sources of injury to golf greens and discusses ways of minimising the damage should a problem occur.

**Damage to golf greens may occur for any number of potential reasons. For example, the damage may be deliberate such as vandalism, or accidental such as chemical or fertiliser scorch due to mis-application at the wrong time or at too high a rate. The use of modern turf care machinery with engines containing mineral oil and operated by hydraulic controls can lead to accidental spillages onto the green surface. Also, animal urine from female dogs or foxes may scorch severely. These various sources of chemical damage are amplified below.**

**Vandalism**
Unfortunately nowadays, vandalism is of common occurrence on many golf courses, particularly those in which the public has free access to the course, or on inner city courses which are surrounded by housing. Vandalism may come from many sources, for example disillusioned contractors who have been known to wreak havoc on the turf areas under their care, as have club members who on occasion feel hard done by, thus seeking revenge. In many cases the cause of turf injury by vandalism may be readily identified. If a burnt-out car wreck is found in the middle of a green then the cause is obvious! However, in many cases identifying the toxic substance applied is not easy. Identification of the toxic substance used, i.e. whether it only lasts in the short-term or whether it is residual, is vital as this has a direct bearing on control methods (see later). One of the most difficult to solve cases I have seen is where greens were scorched using a dry ice fire extinguisher, realised only when the equipment in question was found in adjacent heather.

**Machinery**
Despite high standards of machinery care and maintenance being the norm on many courses, sadly accidents do happen. For example, spillages of petrol or diesel (due perhaps to an over-filled tank) may be the source of the problem. Drips or spillages of hydraulic fluid from leaking or split hydraulic pipes may also occur. Field trials at STRI (Figure 2) are currently investigating the use of new organic-based oils which are claimed to be less phytotoxic than mineral oils.

**Chemical scorch**
Perhaps the most important consideration when using pesticides is to read the label and follow the instructions carefully. Under normal usage chemical scorch due to over application of pesticides is rare. However, over application due perhaps to incorrect sprayer calibration may cause severe problems. Certain turf treatments such as wetting agents are widely known to scorch fine turf if not watered in after application, as demonstrated in STRI field trials (Figure 4). Thus the correct use of pesticides and other chemical treatments must be emphasised. Extreme care must be taken in the use of total herbicides as these chemicals will kill any turf in which they come into contact. For example, heavy rain shortly after application may wash the total herbicide off the path or other area to which it had been applied, especially if the treated area is on sloping ground (Figure 3).

**Fertiliser scorch**
Dry weather (as we have seen over the last three growing seasons) or whenever turf is drought stressed, are the conditions under which fertiliser may scorch if not watered in after application (Figure 5). As the symptoms of fertiliser scorch bear an uncanny resemblance to those of fusarium patch disease, great care must be taken to identify the problem correctly.

**Animal damage**
Burn marks due to animal urine, particularly during the night by foxes, may be a problem. Characteristics symptoms are of circular patches, brown or straw coloured in the centre, with a lush green peripheral ring. This scorching effect is due to the fact that animal urine contains soluble salts, urea and other compounds which may kill or sometimes stimulate turfgrass growth (Figure 1).

**Recommendations for control**
The procedures to be implemented when physical or chemical damage to golf greens depends very much on the exact cause of the problem. It must be stated at the outset that the best solution is in the preventative sense, i.e. not to let it happen in the first place! When this is under the greenkeeper’s control, i.e. operations such as fertilising, spraying pesticides and machinery maintenance, then naturally prevention is the best policy. However, animal damage and vandalism cannot be predicted and consequently minimising the damage caused is the only practical solution. With the various types of chemical scorch the greatest chances of success are if the problem is identified soon after it has occurred and action taken immediately. In the case of spillages of fuel, oil, pesticide concentrate or hydraulic fluid then removing chemical deposits by blotting with absorbent paper or by using a water stream of the correct temperature such as the flowable formulation of ‘activated charcoal’, which has recently been marketed. The next stage is to wash off the turf surface with copious amounts of water applied to the spilled material. Addition of a wetting agent may prove beneficial at this time. The wetting agent ‘new improved Turfex’ contains label instructions for dealing with spillages of toxic chemicals. This washing procedure may work well if done soon after the spillage has occurred, however, if one or two hours have passed before the spillage is noticed the damage will have been done and severe turf injury will be the result.

Some of the worst scorch problems are caused by total herbicides being applied to golf greens, where of course their application was not intended. The problem is at its worst when a residual herbicide, e.g. simazine, atrazine or sodium chlorate, has been applied. In these situations the STRI undertakes a laboratory ‘growth test’ whereby grass seedlings are grown in contaminated soil. Failure of seedlings to establish or poor rooting may indicate the presence of a residual herbicide, in which case the only solution is to remove damaged turf and soil below and then repair the whole area. If, however, the problem is due to a non-residual herbicide, e.g. paraquat or glyphosate, then renovation and overseeding will probably suffice.

The author, Dr Neil Baldwin, is the Sports Turf Research Institute’s Plant Pathologist.
1. Fox urine scorch. Note the stimulated green grass around the edge of the scorch area.

2. STRI field trial evaluating oil/hydraulic fluids for adverse effects on fine turf.

3. Total herbicide run-off causing severe damage.

4. STRI field trial evaluating wetting agents for scorch effects.

5. Fertiliser scorch, sometimes confused with fusarium patch disease.
Every buying decision means someone must make a financial decision. A greenkeeper can put enormous effort into researching the best machines for the course and enormous effort into researching the evaluation of demonstration performances and price. But if the person responsible for the financial decision says ‘We can’t afford it’, then the proposal, irrespective of its value, is halted.

All too often a Club can afford it, but ignorance of the funding alternatives means that decisions are based on the assumption of a fixed financial ‘pot’ to cover all investment for the year. As a result, capital is rationed to balance investment priorities against the need for any substantial increase in membership subscriptions. Put simply, fixing the clubhouse roof may defer a decision on a new greens triple mower.

There is an amazing array of funding sources – from cash to banks and finance companies – but the funding options can be divided quite simply into ‘Buy’ or ‘Hire’. The key difference between the two is who retains title (legal ownership) to the asset? Under purchase options title passes to the purchaser either immediately (cash and loans) or at some later date (hire purchase and other deferred sale options). Under ‘hire’ options (eg. leasing) title never passes to the hirer, but that is not to say that Clubs which lease lose out. Some could have a lot to gain, particularly when the overall cost of funds is taken into account.

Where the Club is aware of the funding alternatives and is prepared to consider them, the question then becomes “What is the best way to fund it?” and there are a number of basic criteria that a Club can apply to make a better financial decision:

- **Cost of Funds:**
  - Price and cost are two different concepts. For example, you know the price of a machine the day you buy it, but you only know what it cost the day you sell it. That is after you have totalled-up the running costs, including repairs and maintenance – not to mention how well it performed under different conditions. It’s the same with funding. Lease or buy, you know the price at the outset, expressed either as a rate of interest or as a repayment in pounds (£s) per thousand borrowed. However, the real cost is only known when all the costs and the benefits, eg. tax concessions and cashflow advantages are taken into account, together with any special fees charged in connection with the facility. For example, an arrangement fee charged by a bank for a loan or the percentage rebate of rentals passed to the lessee at the end of the lease. These are costs which are not immediately obvious. Interest too, can be expressed in a variety of ways. Simple interest expressed as a Flat Rate Percentage always looks more attractive than the corresponding True Rate. Therefore to compare the cost of one finance deal against another, techniques like Discounted Cashflow are valuable, even to non-commercial organisations.

- **Availability of Funds:**
  - For most Clubs the first call for additional funds will be the bank, either for working capital through current account and overdraft facilities or for longer term loans. However, it makes good sense to use a finance deal against another, techniques like Discounted Cashflow are valuable, even to non-commercial organisations.

- **Cashflow:**
  - There is a popular misconception that a deal done for cash must be the best deal, but will a new machine work any harder because you pay cash for it on day one? Instead, paying cash ‘up-front’ probably places an additional strain on existing lines of credit. It can even increase the overall cost if the funds are borrowed on overdraft. Better to plan investment with repayments matched to income. Monthly payments may be fine for most businesses, but not for organisations with seasonal income. The size and timing of payments should be fixed in advance to minimise impact on cashflow and to fit in with budgets. For example, it may be better for many Clubs to make payments in

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February, March and April each year that fit in with subscription income. Spreading the cost, rather than making one big payment each year, also takes pressure off cashflow.

Sometimes things happen that fall outside existing plans and budgets. For example, a tractor breaks down and repairs are uneconomic compared with replacement. A carefully structured lease or hire-purchase agreement can put a new tractor on course in mid-season with payments timed to coincide with the following years subscription income. This reduces stress on current lines of credit. In addition, using credit instead of cash does not reduce your bargaining power, because the supplier is not aware of how you intend to fund the machine.

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Whilst zero percentage finance is attractive, don't overlook longer term alternatives. If you intend to keep a machine for five years, why not pay for it over the same period. Where low cost funds are available it may pay to look into funds with a true cost well below bank base rates for as long as you can. In addition, the fixed payments will help you budget more accurately.

Capital investment is essential if Clubs are to deliver what the members want - whatever that may be. One thing is certain, with increasing playing demands being made on every course, the green staff need up to date machinery and equipment to cope and that means additional investment. So, when putting a proposal to committee, or making your own evaluation, look beyond the technical justification for the machine, to the way in which it can be funded.

The author, Eddie Henderson, is a director of NMB Farm Finance. He is also the current captain of the Agricultural Engineers Association Golf Society and a member of Aldwark Manor Golf Club.

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by DAVID WHITE

I t is not surprising that greenkeepers look to great locations for their own National Championships; and a quick perusal of previous sites upon which our champions have been crowned will reveal no weaknesses in that sphere, our quest being always for challenging courses that bring out the best in the best players.

Littlestone is no exception, located in that corner of Kent noted for its fine turf – a veritable gem of a links course so close to the sea we snuff the salt deep in our nostrils. It is a wonderful test of golf, playing host throughout its 104 year history to a multitude of championships, including use as a qualifying course for The Open.

This attraction as a championship site is easily explained, for though at first glance Littlestone appears to be wide open and begging to be murdered, it defends its honour with subtlety rather than great length and has an unusually high number of outstandingly fine holes. The fairways are quite wide, the turf a delight, and the greens are always swift but never impossible – and therein lies the rub. The greens are quite small, they are well defended by bunkers that properly defend – indeed every single one of its 94 strategic bunkers (added to at various times by James Braid and Alistair Mackenzie) play an absolute part in giving the course its reputation, this despite arguments that rage over the modern ball and its 'lengthy' nature. Add to this the breezes that sometimes snarl in over the English Channel, with their propensity to dry out those holding characteristics found inland; and you have a course where finesse beats the erratic slogger every time.

Malcolm Grand, the Club’s dedicated head greenkeeper, is of the opinion that the run-up shot - the bump and run - will be the shot to practice; and as one who has dedicated all his working life to his craft whilst spending the majority of his time on linksland courses, his opinion is one would-be champions will do well to heed.

Meeting him was a real pleasure, made the more so by his immediate declaration that greenkeeping is a career that gives him huge pleasure and satisfaction, and when I learned that this love had been forged from early links with Rye - just down the road from Littlestone - where his father was in charge of the victuals at that famous Club, it came as no surprise.

Taking up the story, Malcolm told me that without parental pressure - though heeding Dad's sound counsel - he opted for the attraction of working in golf and joined the Rye greenkeeping crew under Frank Arnold, straight from school at 17, a move he has never regretted. There must be something about the magic of the place, for the ‘Grand’ invasion of golf continued when Malcolm’s younger brothers, Simon and Garth, both took up greenkeeping careers at Rye; and though Simon has now moved to Highgate as first assistant, Garth remains a dedicated Rye man, working under Trevor Ockendon, who took over as head when Frank Arnold retired.

In the event, Malcolm left Rye following six very happy years in which he learned his craft well, moving for the first time to an inland course at Newark, though Malcolm and Trevor Ockenden remain good friends to this day, sharing in the same delights and challenges of managing true linksland golf.

Inevitably for a Southerner, the urge to return to one’s roots remained strong, though it was quite by chance that Littlestone came to Malcolm’s attention. On a visit in 1986 to attend his sister’s wedding at Rye (where else!) he heard on the
Grand, Malcolm

'grapevine' that Littlestone were seeking the services of a head greenkeeper and hot-footed along for a pow-wow with secretary Bill Bailey, who offered him the job straight away!

I asked him if he had inherited any problems at Littlestone, the answer being a categoric no! 'The course was in lovely condition', he said, 'indeed, just as it has always been.' Offering an opinion as to this phenomenon, he suggested that perhaps it was because in the so-called boom years when everyone was mucking their greens up by applying fertiliser by the truckload, Littlestone had the good sense not to waste their money. 'You are still mean with fertiliser', I asked, to which Malcolm grinned before replying, 'the fertiliser rep gets fed up calling on me, for we use so little. Last year we used none at all save a liquid 50/50 feed dressing on the greens - just to keep them pretty - and you can see for yourself how good they are'.

Indeed, I have to admit those Littlestone greens put as well as they look, which is very well indeed; and would opine that this might also be down to the intelligent use of water. Throughout those aforementioned boom years Littlestone was without automatic irrigation, and although they now have this facility, the past two years have seen drought orders enforced, with minimal night-time watering only. Though forced upon them, this is in many ways a blessing for the predominating bents and fescues, kept to perfection principally by the use of the hand-held hose.

'I'm very happy with the Watermation system installed, complete with TW2 controller, and it's a boon if used ... though he thinks the real learning is largely down to experimentation and using the system - playing with it. If I am allowed another opinion here, I would suggest that Malcolm's avowed credo - minimal watering at a rate just enough to keep the grass alive, is extremely sound indeed, for though links golf is different - with its humps and hollows, its bounds and ricoloces - it is this very difference that makes it attractive beyond measure. The green committee at Littlestone do well to insist upon maintaining the status quo, for once a links course is allowed to degenerate (not too hard a word) into lughness and 'green grass at any price', the quality that is links golf is lost forever!

We talked of visits from the STRI, Malcolm pointing to the advisory reports emanating from agronomist David Stansfield and suggesting that nothing much had changed over the years. 'From Jim Arthur's earlier visits, when he was agronomist for the R&A Championship Committee, down to the present visits of David Stansfield, the same sensible, logical and workable ideas still persist', he said, 'Jim Arthur's policies are still very much with us, albeit written with a different pencil - nothing much changes, which pleases me'.

Malcolm has had one big surprise this year, a pleasant one but a surprise nonetheless. I asked him when he first learned about the BIGGA Championships coming to Littlestone. 'When you shook my hand four months ago, on the first of your photographic visits, was his candid reply. When you came and said to me 'getting ready for the big one?' I thought you were referring to the English Ladies Stroke Play Championship, which is here at the end of July. I didn't let on to you, but I had no idea; and it was only when I got home and found your latest copy of Greenkeeper International that I realised you were not kidding!'

It says something for the man that he took this surprise in such good spirit, and as he was quick to point out, 'we are always ready for the big occasion anyway, my policy being that the course should be as good as a monthly medal as a British title championship. Big events don't frighten me, but I would be kidding you if I didn't feel a little apprehensive at the thought of being judged by my peers - I've no holiday booked until the event is history and I'll be on tenterhooks until the BIGGA Championship is over - then I'll either be sacked or relaxed!' He laughed at this comment, but I have a sneaky feeling he'll be relaxing come sundown on August 12th.

'Will you be 'tricking' up the course in any way, creating anything out of the ordinary?', I asked. He grinned - 'I'll look to make it as tough as its 6,424 yards can play for those three days, but at Littlestone in August the weather will do all the tricking for us. The course can and probably will dry out to an extent that will make it 'fiery' and the run-in approach shot will be called for, though players may get a false impression from the grassy fairways on the first five or six holes. There is no logical reason why these fairways should yield more grass cover - perhaps it's how reclamation from the sea has left us - but we often need only to gang-mow just these six, leaving the rest! Green speed will also be dictated somewhat by nature, which means fairly fast - or downright rapid if the drying winds take control! I rarely need to cut lower than 3/16" on the mainly fescue/bent surfaces. We've a wee bit of Poa annua, but I verticut the life out of it - weekly if the greens look as though they can stand it - and the slit-tiner gets used regularly, with as many passes as possible, from the end of summer till spring. The greens drain freely and we never have any surface water even after a downpour, nevertheless I run the Vertidrain over every two years or so - largely as a safety measure'.

Malcolm is confident that if the weather holds to form - which means little rain - tight lies will be the order of the day, which will please the better players no end. He has supreme confidence in his loyal staff; with first assistant, John Stickels, having no less than 22 years service with the Club - a veritable Godsend. 'They're a fantastic crew: dedicated, loyal and very hard working - I cannot praise them highly enough!' - commendation indeed!

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PipeMachinery is shared with the adjacent Warren course, which is also maintained by the Littlestone team. An additional nine holes at the Warren have recently been constructed by Malcolm Grand and his crew.

GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL June 1992
Petrol or diesel, which is best? Of course the answer depends on so many variables but probably the most important of all would be the type of equipment to be powered. A solidly built, heavy diesel engine could be suitable for the larger ride-on commercial mowers but is right for equipment that travels over sensitive greens and other fine turf? Perhaps a lighter, quieter, vibration-free OHV petrol engine is a better alternative. The advantages of petrol over diesel can be summarised as follows: Typically a 12kw petrol engine will weigh only 32kgs, reducing the chances of equipment leaving ruts or compacting the surface. As the petrol engine tends to be more compact it allows equipment manufacturers to reduce the overall size and weight of the equipment.

**Low noise levels:** Comparing like for like a petrol engine will be quieter than an air cooled diesel so it is often necessary to build expensive enclosures to reduce noise levels from diesel engines to acceptable levels.

**Lower vibration:** Modern petrol engines such as Briggs & Stratton’s Vanguard 16HP V-Twin have very low vibration giving high levels of operator comfort and minimising the need for a reinforced chassis and mounting plate.

**Better starting:** Especially in cold weather the petrol engine will normally start easier than the diesel due to its lower compression ratio and the higher volatility of the fuel.

**Fuel economy:** This is the area where the diesel usually has the biggest advantage but the latest OHV petrol engines are up to 30% more fuel efficient than the older side valve designs. And of course, they can all run on unleaded fuel, which now costs about the same as diesel. The fuel consumption for a 12kw petrol engine running on a typical 50% load would be approximately three quarters of a gallon an hour.

**Lubrication:** Modern petrol engines now have pressure lubrication systems with external oil filters – just the same as their diesel cousins.

**The environment:** Improved carburettor design has resulted in lower emission levels and catalytic converters will soon be available for some engines. Most petrol engines can also be run on environmentally friendly LPG (Liquid Propane Gas).

Equipment manufacturers often offer a choice of engine allowing prospective purchasers to make the decision themselves on which type of power unit is most suitable for their operation.

In recent years there have been many improvements in lightweight, high speed diesel engines which make them suitable for purposes for which they would not have been considered a few years ago. The diesel unit, because of its high compression ratio – often in the region of 20:1 – has to be a robustly constructed engine which in turn is one of the factors that leads to a long service life. Often they are now of a size that makes them interchangeable with an existing petrol engine which is fitted to an expensive piece of machinery.

**Diesel advantages:** Amongst the advantages of the diesel are a much lower combustion chamber temperature leading to longer valve and piston ring life, less dilution of the oil on the cylinder bore during cold starting and a very much improved fuel consumption. If ‘red’ diesel is being used, fuel bills can be cut by as much as 75%. It is normal for a diesel engine to run for 1,500 hours before it needs decarbonising and the injector cleaned and reset and a further 1,500 hours before a reboiler needs to be considered. As many engines are built to have two or three overhauls in their lives, a total life of 10,000 hours is not an unreasonable expectation. This, together with the outstanding fuel economy, will repay the extra first cost of a diesel engine many times over. The essential advantages of the diesel engine are: Robust construction, long engine life, good fuel economy and reliability.

**P**etrol or diesel, which is best? Of course the answer depends on so many variables but probably the most important of all would be the type of equipment to be powered. A solidly built, heavy diesel engine could be suitable for the larger ride-on commercial mowers but is right for equipment that travels over sensitive greens and other fine turf? Perhaps a lighter, quieter, vibration-free OHV petrol engine is a better alternative. The advantages of petrol over diesel can be summarised as follows: Typically a 12kw petrol engine will weigh only 32kgs, reducing the chances of equipment leaving ruts or compacting the surface. As the petrol engine tends to be more compact it allows equipment manufacturers to reduce the overall size and weight of the equipment.

**Low noise levels:** Comparing like for like a petrol engine will be quieter than an air cooled diesel so it is often necessary to build expensive enclosures to reduce noise levels from diesel engines to acceptable levels.

**Lower vibration:** Modern petrol engines such as Briggs & Stratton’s Vanguard 16HP V-Twin have very low vibration giving high levels of operator comfort and minimising the need for a reinforced chassis and mounting plate.

**Better starting:** Especially in cold weather the petrol engine will normally start easier than the diesel due to its lower compression ratio and the higher volatility of the fuel.

**Fuel economy:** This is the area where the diesel usually has the biggest advantage but the latest OHV petrol engines are up to 30% more fuel efficient than the older side valve designs. And of course, they can all run on unleaded fuel, which now costs about the same as diesel. The fuel consumption for a 12kw petrol engine running on a typical 50% load would be approximately three quarters of a gallon an hour.

**Lubrication:** Modern petrol engines now have pressure lubrication systems with external oil filters – just the same as their diesel cousins.

**The environment:** Improved carburettor design has resulted in lower emission levels and catalytic converters will soon be available for some engines. Most petrol engines can also be run on environmentally friendly LPG (Liquid Propane Gas).

Equipment manufacturers often offer a choice of engine allowing prospective purchasers to make the decision themselves on which type of power unit is most suitable for their operation.

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Then the question is, can I get an engine to fit my machine? The answer is most probably yes, as engines are now available in a very wide range of configurations from single and twin cylinder air cooled units which can be obtained in horizontal or vertical crankshaft form through multi-cylinder water cooled units. Engines are available with drive from either or both ends of the crankshaft and with additional PTO’s for hydraulic pumps. Starting can be by rope, recoil, hand crank or battery. Power ratings can be from about 5hp onwards with very good torque characteristics.

As much machinery used on golf courses is imported from America (where fuel is cheap) the use of high horsepower petrol engines goes by unnoticed. In the UK, however, petrol is very expensive, particularly in relation to gas oil or ‘red’ diesel, so much so that a diesel engine can more than pay for itself in fuel saving in less than a year. If these savings can be made on a long life engine for one piece of equipment, imagine the scale of economy when a whole fleet of golf course equipment is considered; and as every course manager and greenkeeper will know, cost is of paramount importance. All courses have tractors and therefore diesel fuel will be readily obtainable. Its extended use will reduce the quantity of highly inflammable petrol that needs to be stored at any one time.

Now that diesel engines are made to be more readily started, many of the small units can be as easy to start on the recoil as a petrol engine. The multicylinder indirect injection engines have heater plugs and many or all of the features found on modern automotive diesel engines to ensure that they are trouble-free cold starters.

The diesel no longer need be regarded with suspicion, for it can be easily started, is reliable, economical and has a very long service life. There is a type and configuration for nearly every job on a golf course. As we have already seen, engines can be bought from small air cooled single cylinder versions to multicylinder liquid cooled units with their own radiators. Now is the time of year to consider re-engining that expensive equipment with a long life, low fuel consumption diesel engine.

Engine efficiency means less pollution

Fuel economy was the prime goal for engine development a few years ago but now the goal posts are in front of engine efficiency - reflecting demand by customer, user and the general public. In particular the golf playing public is expecting mowers to be seen (but only if essential), but not heard nor smelt, (nor should they smoke or otherwise pollute the atmosphere). For the operator there are also health and safety hazards in noise and toxic and obnoxious emissions which have to be avoided. Development is also taking place in engine management systems which offer considerable scope for improvement in engine efficiency, the main factor restricting their introduction appearing to be cost and acceptability.

There is a clamour for bio-degradable and synthetic oils though this ideal has yet to match the reality. There has been rationalisation in the number of makes of small engine used in turf machinery, perhaps as smaller makers fall behind in R & D and marketing, and today is the day of the lightweight, high speed, compact diesel engine, especially for the professional who values the greater economy and reliability they offer - so says one leading maker of such engines. Another manufacturer suggests that one gallon of diesel will do the work of three gallons of petrol, similarly he estimated the service life of a diesel to be twice or three times as long, perhaps 10,000 against 3,000 hours. This may be exaggerated as the latest petrol engines also have improved combustion and a longer service life. A number of American manufacturers have been a little tardy in adapting their machines to diesel - because ‘gasoline’ is cheap (in America). In the UK, diesel has many advantages and prime reasons for specifying it include the ease, safety, and convenience of storing. Considerations over whether to specify diesel or petrol must also look at annual running hours: some machines will never put in sufficient hours to justify the extra cost of a diesel engine. Significant advances have been made in petrol engines, and petrol is still the predominant fuel for pedestrian operated equipment, and because weight, simplicity and cost are usually important, most are air cooled. Much noise has been designed out by better balanced components and improved ignition chambers, and the trend is towards overhead valves which, while more complex and expensive, do result in better ignition, - thus a cleaner, quieter burn and improved fuel efficiency.

Solid state or electronic ignition has made a dramatic improvement in both the reliability and performance of small petrol engines. Most people have also been converted to low octave unleaded fuel without real trouble. Many of these petrol engines now have automatic decompression systems which dramatically reduce the effort required to start them, this is particularly noticeable with recoil starters, but it also applies to key starting. Because the engine spins more readily so is it quicker to start - making ‘first pull’ starts more of a reality. The saving in broken cords and frustration can be quite real too.

Diesel engines are now available from about 5hp, and while they are more expensive than an equivalent petrol version they may now be very little heavier. Air cooled versions can be expected to be noisier that an equivalent liquid cooled version, but the deeper note of the diesel may be more acceptable than the more penetrating tone of an air cooled petrol engine.

The latest generation of diesels, particularly for ride-ons etc., are likely to be compact multi-cylinder water cooled designs, and these...
YOUR BUSINESS WILL RUN SMOOTHER AFTER AN OIL CHANGE.

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QUALITY OILS
Liquid cooling provides added advantages

Correct approach to chemical usage: sensitive and sensible

Careful chemical selection and weed control programme planning will do much to answer the growing public and legislative pressures related to herbicide use in sensitive areas, according to Mark DeAth of weed control specialists Nomix-Chipman.

Speaking on the options for environmentally-friendly weed control at a specialist water quality seminar in London, Mr DeAth advised local authority and amenity managers to examine their options in detail. With the choice being between residual and non-residual herbicides, there are four primary strategies available to specifiers today, he said.

The ultimate in environmental acceptability is to use non-residuals only. This obviously has a higher cost in that at least two applications will be needed each season to give an acceptable level of weed control. However it also poses the least risk of water contamination.

“Another option is to alternate between residuals and non-residuals, using a residual in a single application one season followed by a non-residual which may require several applications in the next,” he continued. “This will reduce the chemical burden on the environment while maintaining good weed control.”

“The third possibility is to combine atrazine and simazine residuals with knockdown herbicides. This eliminates the use of atrazine and simazine but maintains a high level of weed control from a single application at a comparable cost to a triazine-only programme.”

“Finally, the most economic option is to use triazine mixtures. Although this will control weeds over an entire season from just one application, it carries the greatest risk to local water supplies. No official restrictions have yet been placed on the use of triazine mixtures, but it is widely accepted that curbs will soon apply.”

DeAth went on to outline factors which govern the choice of weed control strategy, including the availability of labour, the need for operator safety and the application equipment to be used.

With herbicide application becoming as important as chemical choice in achieving the best balance, he defined the key application needs. Systems should maximise labour productivity, minimise spray drift and operator contamination, maximise chemical use and minimise chemical disposal problems.

“Whatever strategy is chosen, there are a number of operating guidelines which should be followed to minimise the risk of water contamination,” he concluded. “If there is any doubt, seek professional advice from suppliers and ensure that all advisers are BASIS qualified.”

Joe Gillett – always proud of his ‘calling’

It is with regret that we now inform fellow BIGGA members of the death of Joe Gillett, the much respected head greenkeeper of St Annes Old Links Golf Club from 1953 until 1981.

Joe, as all who knew him will surely recollect, was a great character and a skilful golfer who played with great enthusiasm, especially remembered as a worthy winner of the Ransomes Trophy at Wallasey in 1971.

Joe came from a family of greenkeepers and began his illustrious career in 1931 at the Fairhaven Golf Club. He was always proud of his calling and it gave him great pleasure to see his chosen profession grow from strength to strength.

We are all proud to have known him and on behalf of all his many friends and members in BIGGA, I send our deepest sympathy to his wife, Barbara, and to his family.

OBITUARY

GEOFF WHITTLE

GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL June 1992 23
Aluminium posts and inset panels have made these colourful new tee plates an attractive addition to the wide range already available, and were well received by the visitors to the Harrogate Exhibition.

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.

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Tel: 0582 597262. Fax: 0582 505241

To my knowledge, most head greenkeepers prepare annual budgets for their respective Clubs and, once approved, work within accepted limits. To do this effectively one must have up-to-date prices and I am thus bound to ask: ‘why is it so difficult to get these from stockists?’

Writing in late April, I have received just one 1992 price list, and this came through the pages of Greenkeeper International. When requesting lists the excuse offered is often that they are still ‘at the printers’ or ‘one will be sent’ (still waiting!) and I am prompted to ask: why are they not printed at the same time as brochures, which are always in abundant supply?

Do stockists resist sending them for fear of price comparisons, or are they just saying to themselves ‘greenkeepers need the products anyway, so why bother sending?’

I would like to think this letter will bring me some price lists, and would urge suppliers to send brochures only when they can be backed up with prices.

SAM MORRISON Head Greenkeeper, Royal Aberdeen GC, Scotland

I am writing to you to raise the subject of dyslexia. Over the last couple of years we have been in the process of getting help for our son, aged ten. Well, what has this to do with greenkeeping people you may ask? I shall try to explain.

We came to realise that our son was having learning difficulties, particularly in reading, writing, and also in short term memory, although he had no trouble solving practical problems. We took him to the Dyslexia Institute for assessment. The report confirmed our fears – in spite of an IQ of 120, specific learning difficulties were identified.

It was in conversation with the psychologist that she told us the Institute had been consulted by an agricultural college to advise of ways they might identify and help students who have problems. It had become apparent to the college that agriculture tends to attract a higher than average number of people who have some form of learning problem and greenkeeping must be included in this.

With more and more emphasis placed upon written examinations, this, in some circumstances, could preclude individuals with natural flair and ability from advancing to their full potential unless appropriate strategies are used and problems addressed. Our younger greenkeepers who feel their exam mark is below their ability at practical greenkeeping may well have a specific learning difficulty and should get specialist testing as soon as possible, as help should be available. The test for adults can cost around £25 and there is often a waiting list to endure. However, if a specific learning difficulty is established, help can be obtained in many areas and examining boards can allow extra time and/or make a greater allowance for spelling/grammar errors in such cases.

I think more discussion needs to take place on the subject in order to remove the cloud of academic failure from some of our able workers. How can the Association help? What can a head greenkeeper do if he believes one of his staff has a dyslexia problem?

More information about resources is available from local Dyslexia Institutes – details in local phone books or contact the Dyslexia Institute, 133 Gresham Road, Staines, Middlesex TW18 2AJ.

RICHARD HEASLIP
Hainault Forest GC, Essex

I read with interest the articles (May G.I.) about water features on golf courses. Certain points led me to wonder how hazards such as these are now influencing the design of new courses in the British Isles. At Bank House they have 18 holes and a driving range in a limited site of just 120 acres. I presume that most of the 13 lakes must be used as safety zones between fairways, as opposed to being created merely for irrigation storage purposes or as a majority of the resort courses in Florida feature lakes highly, but why? Is it to make the courses more difficult, or to improve the playability of the course, or is the real reason to provide further income for the developer in the resale of ‘lake’ lots? I think so, especially as they are becoming an increasingly profitable product in most pro’s shops.
nowadays, often selling at a pre-
mium. One resort course I know on
several dredging operations
that would have perhaps been
seen of at such an event in the
past. Other speakers included
himself on the role and objectives of
the Union, Henry Wylie on the diversity
of golfing organisations and Derek
Pulford on the role of the County
Unions. Much time was devoted
to the speakers and delegates were
involved in what was an extremely
lively debate, mainly inspired
by David's address. It would be fair
to say that a minority of the dele-
gates embarked on a spree of
greenkeeper 'bashing'.

The usual chestnuts came to the
front. 'Why do greenkeepers
undergo training?' They then ask for better
wages and conditions or are
poached by other courses or organi-
sations'. 'One of the newly con-
structed greens on my course is
appalling, it must be the green-
keeper's fault (even though he
couldn't build it) and what yard stick
can we use to show ineptitude and
kick him!' Also 'why do greenkeep-
ers need managerial, accounting
and computer skills to cut grass' -
from the odd secretary no doubt
this from the odd secretary no doubt
or good fortune.

Thinking back to some of the most
exciting Open Championships, this element has always
provided entertainment. Take, for instance, the
memorable final rounds of Watson and Nicklaus at
Turnberry in 1977. The result was uncertain right
down to the final putt, and it almost
swung in Nicklaus' favour after he
made a remarkable recovery shot
from a fortunate lie amongst the
gorse and then proceeded to hole
his putt for a three from the edge of
the green. Watson was left with a

two footer to take the Champi-

ship - a shot, which he

happily holed.

Hid Nicklaus' tee shot drifted into
a lake as opposed to the gorse, the
Championship would have been
over before they had even reached
the final green. And what an anti-
climactic result would have been.

My point in writing is an attempt
to explain that there will always be
a strong objection against the move
towards golf as a water sport. It
may well appeal to golfers in the
USA but I fail to see it gaining
nationwide approval in Britain.

Firstly because of increasing prob-
lems relating to water shortages and
to restrictions set by the NRA, and
secondly because of the British
golfers' reluctance in having to keep
buying new balls.

Do not misunderstand me,
though, because invariably, care-
fully located and well designed
water features on a golf course can
provide the perfect effect or setting.
Depending upon the character of
the site, a lake can be considered to
be useful for several functions: in
providing a natural habitat for
drainage purposes; as part of the
strategy of the golf course design
when a natural depression exists; or
for storage purposes for an irriga-
tion system. Ideally, though, the
later will not be visible from the main
playing areas.

It is up to the architects of these
new courses to convince the devel-
opers that there are alternative ways
of creating a hazard. In many cases I
regard a lake as a 'cop-out' - where
the architect lacks the imagination
to provide something more stimulat-
ing.

I appreciate that the flow of
golfers through these new facilities
has to be maintained, but surely
there has to be some compromise
somewhere and by this I mean to
provide some thick rough (or
heather and gorse) in strategic loca-
tions on the course to give the golfer
something to really get his teeth
into.

JONATHAN GAUNT
BA (Hons) Dip LA
Golf Course Architect, Forest Gate,
London

For those sceptics amongst us
who sometimes question the stand-
ing and direction of our Association,
whilst suffering from a seemingly
terminal dose of apathy, I would
like to report on our (BIGGA Kent
Section) strides forward and the
recognition we are receiving.

David Wood and myself recently
attended a seminar organised by the
Kent Golf Union at Rochester and
Gobhan GC, aimed at secretaries
and captains. David was invited to
talk on Greenkeeper Training,
something that would have perhaps
been unheard of at such an event in
the past. Other speakers included
himself on the role and objectives of
the Union, Henry Wylie on the diversity
goof golfing organisations and Derek
Pulford on the role of the County
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to the speakers and delegates were
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from a fortunate lie amongst the
gorse and then proceeded to hole
his putt for a three from the edge of
the green. Watson was left with a

letters

Golf isn't a water sport ■ Training is The Way Forward ■ A waste

I am pleased to say that there were
very keen for BIGGA to provide
more information on training - per-
haps encouragement for us to move
forward and do more. Finally, may I
thank Brian Evans and the KGU for
a cracking event - I can't wait for
the next one, for it is clearly what
is needed to enhance co-operation,
communication and response to
'The Way Forward'.

PAUL COPSEY
Head Greenkeeper,
Barnhurst GC, Bexleyheath, Kent

The 'concerned greenkeepers' of West Sussex GC have
sacred the issue in your May edition. Our
company gave consideration to the
problem of container wastage at the
design stage of our green foliar
feed, Agrimaster, and we opted to
reduce the number of plastic con-
tainers circulation while offering a
high nutrient input at the same
time. In the result one 25 litre con-
tainer of our concentrate proved
sufficient for treating 18 golf greens,
thus greatly reducing wastage,
storage and handling.

From time to time we have recov-
ered empty containers from some of
our larger users but transportation
and cleaning costs (including invest-
ments in equipment) make this a
discouraging proposition. Perhaps
the plastics industry should itself
take some responsibility for the
recycling of packaging materials.
We, however, acknowledge the leg-
imate concerns of West Sussex GC
and remain willing to discuss the
matter with any interested parties.

ROGER WEST
Technical Director, Agriland Ltd.
Bournemouth, Dorset.

In July of this year my husband,
Eric Palmer, will have served 50
years as a greenkeeper - 41 of those
as a head greenkeeper.

During his career he has worked
on just three courses, Sinisell Park in
Rotherham, Abbeydale in Sheffield,
and his present Club - Hickleton
near Barnsley.

His dedication to his work cannot
be surpassed and he is and always
has been a credit to his profession.
He has seen so many changes over
the years and I feel justly proud of
him - indeed I have learned quite
a lot myself.

Eric has been nominated by his
first assistant for the 'Greenkeeper
of the Year' award, but notwith-
standing this I feel his 50 years of
dedication deserve recognition.

MRS MARGARET PALMER
Balby, Doncaster, S Yorkshire

GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL June 1992 25
BOOKINGS are now being taken for the BIGGA Management Courses – fast becoming recognised as the best events of their kind throughout the entire industry.

And thanks to the continued financial support of Kubota UK and the Greenkeepers Training Committee, the in-house courses will once again be held at Aldwark Manor. In stylish surroundings delegates will be able to gain valuable knowledge, pick up new ideas and exchange views with their counterparts on other courses and some of greenkeeping's top names.

For six weeks commencing in mid-October, Aldwark Manor – home of BIGGA HQ – will be buzzing with all that's happening to make tomorrow's greenkeeper better equipped than ever before.

This is the fourth year of the courses. Delegates who have attended in the past will be aware of the need, therefore, to book early. It's a rolling programme, so book early. It's a rolling programme, so book early. It's a rolling programme, so book early. It's a rolling programme, so book early.

Attendance at each week's course qualifies delegates for eight Credits to go towards the Master Greenkeepers Certificate.

Remember, there are no examinations to take at the end of the Management Course. Your learning process comes from the quality daytime sessions – and from informal discussion in the bar afterwards.

Cost per week, to include accommodation (twin bedded rooms), all meals and tuition fees is £280 + VAT = £329.

To reserve your place, complete the pre-paid postcard in this magazine. If you have any queries or you need more information, call Sue Gudgeon on 03473 581/2.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Management Courses Autumn/Winter 1992: TIMETABLES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Year 1</strong> 16-20 November 1992 or 23-27 November 1992. Delegates per week: 20</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Monday</strong> 9am - 12 noon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Delegates arrive at BIGGA HQ for lunch at noon</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday</strong> 9am - 12 noon</td>
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<td>Computers: continued</td>
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<td><strong>Wednesday</strong> 9am - 12 noon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conservation on the Golf Course: Robert Taylor, STRI</td>
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<td><strong>Thursday</strong> 9am - 12 noon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tulip Grass Diseases:</td>
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<tr>
<td>STRI speaker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Each day: Coffee break: 10.30am • Lunch: 12 noon • Tea break: 4pm • Dinner is served at 7.30pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Year 2** 2-6 November 1992 or 9-13 November 1992. Delegates per week: 20 |
| **Monday** 9am - 12 noon | 1.30pm - 4.00pm | 4.30pm - 7.00pm |
| Delegates arrive at BIGGA HQ for lunch at noon | Assertiveness: Frank Newberry and Lesley Moore | Report Writing: Frank Newberry and Lesley Moore |
| **Tuesday** 9am - 12 noon | 1.30pm - 4.00pm | 4.30pm - 7.00pm |
| Verbal Presentations: Frank Newberry and Lesley Moore | Leadership: Frank Newberry and Lesley Moore | Presentation: Frank Newberry and Lesley Moore |
| **Wednesday** 9am - 12 noon | 1.30pm - 4.00pm | 4.30pm - 7.00pm |
| Health & Safety at Work Act 1974: Jon Allbutt | Delegates depart following lunch |
| Each day: Coffee break: 10.30am • Lunch: 12 noon • Tea break: 4pm • Dinner is served at 7.30pm |

| **Year 3** 26-30 October 1992. Delegates per week: 20 |
| **Monday** 9am - 12 noon | 1.30pm - 4.00pm | 4.30pm - 7.00pm |
| Delegates arrive at BIGGA HQ for lunch at noon | Job Interview | Writing and Assessing CVs |
| **Tuesday** 9am - 12 noon | 1.30pm - 4.00pm | 4.30pm - 7.00pm |
| Team Development | Managing Performance: Paul Whiteley and Frank Newberry | |
| **Wednesday** 9am - 12 noon | 1.30pm - 4.00pm | 4.30pm - 7.00pm |
| Surveying: Robert Everett, STRI | Finance: What are the Options? Keith Jaynes | |
| **Thursday** 9am - 12 noon | 1.30pm - 4.00pm | 4.30pm - 7.00pm |
| Construction of Golf Greens: Brian D Pierson, British Association of Golf Course Contractors | Preparing and Implementing a Course Policy Document: David Stansfield, STRI | Delegates depart following lunch |
| Each day: Coffee break: 10.30am • Lunch: 12 noon • Tea break: 4pm • Dinner is served at 7.30pm |

| **Year 4** 19-23 October 1992. Delegates per week: 20 |
| **Monday** 9am - 12 noon | 1.30pm - 4.00pm | 4.30pm - 7.00pm |
| Delegates arrive at BIGGA HQ for lunch at noon | Advanced Public Speaking | Marketing and Customer Care |
| **Tuesday** 9am - 12 noon | 1.30pm - 4.00pm | 4.30pm - 7.00pm |
| Negotiating Skills: Paul Whiteley and Frank Newberry | Working Under Pressure: Paul Whiteley and Frank Newberry | |
| **Wednesday** 9am - 12 noon | 1.30pm - 4.00pm | 4.30pm - 7.00pm |
| First Aid | Health & Safety at Work Update: Jon Allbutt | |
| **Thursday** 9am - 12 noon | 1.30pm - 4.00pm | 4.30pm - 7.00pm |
| Health & Safety at Work Update: Jon Allbutt | Delegates depart following lunch |
| Each day: Coffee break: 10.30am • Lunch: 12 noon • Tea break: 4pm • Dinner is served at 7.30pm |
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and autumn
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There is a perversity in big business that belies good sense in that it feeds and flourishes on bad news, with the world of fine turf certainly no exception. One company rubs its hands with glee over another report of failing dividends or losses, a contrariness difficult to understand when one appreciates that almost any bad news in a given industry may have a knock-on negative effect. Taking this a stage further, I still wonder how many companies talked themselves into recession by taking too much notice of the doom and gloom fed to them in the 'heavies?'

What is even more surprising is that bad news moves faster than good, gathering rumour upon rumour upon rumour and embellishment upon innuendo as the story travels down the line. Thus it was with the snippet which circulating less than two months ago, purporting to tell of the demise/bankruptcy/closure/insolvency/receivership of Lawn Tech, the Lawn on a Roll company. This was a story that had my telephone humming for several days, versions changing with the tide.

My nature is to sniff out the truth and I was therefore heartened by the suggestion of Andy Church, the ex-Tottenham Hotspur head groundsman turned sales manager for Lawn Tech, who ventured the idea at Westurf that the true telling of their story would do much to clear muddied waters, whilst perhaps serving as a salutary lesson to others on the perils that lurk for the unwary when conducting business in the 1990s, together with the miserable inconsistencies and utterly unfair laws prevailing in company liquidation.

To begin at the beginning, readers should understand that Lawn Tech are not turf producers, rather they are the inventors and manufacturers of Big Roll turf laying machinery and independent suppliers and layers of turf grown by others within the industry, notably Inturf. Their work is the laying of big rolls in a controlled fashion, undertaken for the contractor doing the job on a given site. They began by developing their new machinery in 1990, completing trials by the end of that year and founding the company proper in March 1991, funded by independent sources. At the beginning there was almost universal scepticism about whether the system would work, even from Inturf, though they were eager to be proved wrong and Inturf's managing director, Derek Edwards, intimated that if it proved successful the machine could change the face of the industry and his company certainly wanted to be where the action was!

Taking up the story, Chris Bradshaw, the company's sales director, told of a successful first year when from a standing start they laid no less than 500,000 square yards, mainly fine turf for greens and tees. Being totally frank, he also admitted that in being very hungry for business the company failed to look carefully enough at some of those they were working for, and in the process they picked up irretrievable debts to the tune of £80,000. In particular, one single company (owing the major part of that £80,000) went into liquidation only to start up in business again the following week! In a sentence, Chris opined that this practice was obscene and should be illegal. Rightly and visibly angered, he further suggested that his anger is not just a personal thing, for he knows of other companies where the same thing has happened, rather a frustration for the injustice of a system which allows the miscreants to pull a 'fast one' and then re-form the same company under a different name on the same premises, using the same assets and employing the same people. If one company law decrees that this is not an illegal practice, there is a total impotence to get back at them - or for that matter, to get even!

This debt left the company strapped for cash going into winter – an obvious leaner time in the turf industry – and their position was rapidly worsening. They were left with three alternatives. Perhaps the simplest was insolvency but the consequences for these were too miserable to contemplate. The next was to struggle through, which was just possible, though in doing so they would be putting others at risk if they failed and therefore of hurting creditors even more by going down in a much bigger way. The final option was to enter a Corporate Voluntary Arrangement (CVA), a system whereby a deal is made with creditors to pay what is derivatively called a 'dividend' – a part payment of the debt, though substantially bigger than any resulting from insolvency – with an assurance that since the creditors were effectively helping the ailing company to stay in business, they would obviously be the first to benefit when the corner turned and the company became self supporting. The CVA method can only be entertained when a company can demonstrate to the courts (putting aside its immediate financial problems) that it is a viable business with a future.

With a few rather peddling exceptions, the creditors rightly opted for CVA and have been most supportive. Added funds were provided by the investors the day after CVA (March 27th) and this is held in escrow until the Inland Revenue can OK figures (which they know are right, but the Civil Service can be so slow...) when creditors will receive payment.

Inevitably there has to be some sacrifices at all levels, and the company has taken a long, hard look at itself and brought in economies to become altogether leaner and meaner. The company is now run by Chris Bradshaw and Richard Pickance, the finance director originally put in by the investors to act as their 'policeman' and now a shareholder. Chris pointed out that the recession had hit their business hard but late, coming very gently in fact. On the business front their 'phones are taking off - two scheduled for Sweden, where they have taken a storming market lead. On the business front their 'phones they provide by about 20%, not by any reduction in material, labour or running costs, but simply from gross profit, in order to remain competitive.

What they definitely could not afford to do is fund any more bad debts. Specifically, their major debtors came from outside the fine turf area – from landscaping to be more precise – and from discussions within the fine turf industry they now realise that this sector is one in which to tread very warily indeed, to be treated with caution or indeed suspicion.

They will now concentrate predominantly on golf, cricket, bowling and the like – and will look with an eagle eye at total ability to pay. Chris admits they were often so eager to get business that they were reluctant to press overly hard for payment. 'It seems silly now', he says 'and we're not going to make the same mistakes again.'

Other economies include trading down on costly company vehicles – Chris has changed from a 4WD Nissan to a much more practical pick-up, which can be used by anyone and is a veritable workhorse for carrying machinery – and slimming down on staff by utilising well trained self-employed landscapers to augment the permanent turf laying team of six. An air of complete optimism prevails where just six weeks ago there was despondency.

Summarising, their future looks decidedly brighter and the feeling is that the recession is easing. Perhaps, Chris suggests, this is in part due to the country feeling more settled about the political future, quite irrespective of the colour of government. On the business front their 'phones have never been busier and deliveries of new machines are taking off – two scheduled for Sweden. On the business front their 'phones have never been busier and deliveries of new machines are taking off – two scheduled for Sweden, and a veritable gaggle off to the United States, where they have taken a storming market lead.

New, innovative companies often need more than a modicum of good luck to set them safely on their way; and certainly they can do without being stripped bare by unprincipled crooks. Time will tell if the formula is right now, but there can be no denying that the will to succeed at Lawn Tech is alive and well.
There is little doubt that Westurf is here to stay, growing both in quality and stature with each passing year. As a meeting place for greenkeepers and green chairmen in the South West and South Wales, the excellent site at Long Ashton Golf Club knows no equal, and as a shop window for greenkeeping products and services it is undoubtedly reaching the parts that other shows cannot reach!

It is hard to put a finger on its success, but if there is one word that sums up Westurf '92 to a tee that word must be enthusiasm. This was evident in the enthusiasm generating from the hard working trio comprising Gordon Child, Ivor Scoones and Hugh Parry, who worked like Trojans to ensure that not a single thing was left to chance, and to a team of willing helpers who were as well drilled as any army – parking cars, directing traffic and making visitors feel very welcome indeed, despite a chilling wind which kept everyone on their toes.

The trade were equally enthusiastic in voting the event well worthwhile and this was borne out by increased participation, with 66 exhibitors taking up 92 stands and including many first time attendees. Informed gossip around the stands was of an upturn in business and traders’ general optimism indicated that perhaps the worst of the dreaded recession is coming to an end.

Quite apart from well supported trade stands, demonstrations of new and established turf care machinery were seen to be very busy indeed, kept buoyant by a constant stream of enquiries and helped by an exhibition of tempting equipment presented in colourful fashion.

As is to be expected, the importance of education was highlighted by the representation of Carnington, Sparsholt and Pencoed Colleges from the South West and South Wales region, along with the Welsh college of Mold and backed up for the first time by the welcome appearance of an STRI stand, manned enthusiastically by Tim Colclough, the ‘man on the spot’ for those in the West.

Both BIGGA and IOG stands were kept busy with a constant stream of members dropping by, and it is good to see the friendship between the two Associations still thriving in this region – indeed Ted Cavell of the IOG was most helpful in adding support to the worthy efforts of Gordon Child – many thanks, Ted.

With over one thousand visitors through the gates by mid-day, Gordon can feel justly proud of Westurf and, glutton for punishment that he is, he is looking forward to repeating the whole exercise on April 28th 1993, even though organising this event is no lightweight task.
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Will section reporters please note: Final copy date for inclusion of 'Around The Green' material in the August issue is July 1st.

NORTHERN

Everyone should now be flat-out cutting, slitting, dressing etc., and I guess you must all be too busy to play in our golf events, for they are not filling up very well. I'll give you a further reminder of these: Invitation Day at Shipley Northcliffe GC on Wednesday, 19th August (members must be accompanied by one of their Club officials). Autumn meeting at Scarborough Southcliffe GC on Wednesday, 30th September.

We also need names of those wanting to play for the section in the Roses Match. This is fully sponsored so all you have to do is get there (and win!). The venue for this is Stockport G.C. on Friday, 28th August. Names to me by 'phoning 0274/590463 please.

A recent event was our annual dinner dance where 26 people enjoyed a fine evening with good food and wine and excellent company. Of those attending, 12 were colleagues from the trade; so only 14 greenkeepers and wives out of almost 600 greenkeepers and wives on my list turned up. Come on you guys out there, this is your section, please support it. A lot of work has gone into planning events for your benefit and if BIGGA didn't exist we would all be back to square one with poor wages, poor opportunities, poor education and poor conditions. We have come a long way, but support is needed to keep the momentum going.

I am trying to organise a first aid training course for the autumn. I'm sure it must be useful (not to mention possibly life-saving) to have at least one trained first- aider on every Club staff. The course can be undertaken in a few ways, either at your own Club or at one venue. Also, a number of options are open with half day, one day, two day and four day courses all available. Please give this matter some thought and ring me if you are interested. I need to know numbers as soon as possible to enable me to organise what you want. Certificates will be issued on completion of the course whilst those aiming for Master Greenkeeper certification will gain 3 credits – all useful additions to your CV.

There are a few moves around the section: Gary Dyson takes over at Darrington and Adrian Holroyd moves from Lightcliffe to Ripon. I hear they are both about to join us and I look forward to seeing them soon. I am also losing my own right-hand man, Robert Gee, who is moving just up the road to Lightcliffe as head man. I suppose he will be forever on my doorstep borrowing tackle, but best of luck anyway to Robert, Gary and Adrian. More very good news is that Bradford's Ralph Smith has returned to work after long illness. Hope to see you soon Ralph, back amongst your friends in the section.

A potential disaster was averted when the location for our spring 'do' was cancelled just 12 hours before tee-time. Fortunately, Ganton GC kindly agreed to let us play at short notice and we thank them for accommodating us so very well. The qualifiers were: Div. 1 – E Walsh, R Gee, M Hannan and M Leatman. Div. 2 – E Paley, L Nelson, C Garnett and R Johnson. Div. 3 – L Kirkbright, A Gamble, D Cockburn and M Bryant... all of which means that last year's 'champ', Telford Jarvis, is out!

Cleckheaton GC have appointed Andrew Fowler as deputy course manager to replace Robert Gee and yours truly is resigning as section secretary to take on the post of regional administrator. My thanks to everyone who helped me during my time in office. BOB LUPTON

EAST MIDLANDS

Firstly, a belated note of thanks to Peter Jones and Phil Helms at Collingtree Western Park G.C. Steven Linthwaite, Western Park G.C. Matthew Buckley, Oakmere Park G.C. and Andrew Richardson, who is a student member at the Lancashire College.

Finally, it gives me the greatest pleasure to offer congratulations to Graham Arnold on his completion this year of 25 years at Erewash Valley. I understand (from the king of the second helping, Mr Barsby) that this is also Graham's silver wedding anniversary, so congratu-

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GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL June 1992
MIDLANDS

On April 7th the Midlands Section played their Spring Tournament at Stoatsbridge GC. The day started out with rain and though this continued for most of the day it did not prevent us from enjoying a well prepared course, for which we thank the Stoatsbridge green staff. Congratulations to Steve Wood, who won the nett prize with an excellent come-back in the afternoon; and to Ben Frawman, who was the low gross prize winner.

Our thanks to Stoatsbridge GC for the courtesy extended to us, along with our best wishes to them for a successful period of celebration in this their centenary year. I would like to also thank the many people – both individuals and companies – who again gave support and help in running this tournament.

Both our knock-out competitions were drawn at the Spring Tournament, revealing some interesting matches. These are scheduled to be played by certain specified dates and competitors are requested to keep to them. Should you have any queries, my phone number is 0789 762912.

DEAN CLEAVER

NORTH WEST

Caldy GC on the Wirral peninsula played host this year to the annual tournament between the North West Section and the North Wales Section. Rick Fletcher and his staff had manicured this lovely and very testing course to perfection, and although the weather was not at its best the course certainly was. Many thanks to Rick and his staff and to Caldy GC for allowing us the courtesy of their magnificent course.

The result of the match was 5-3 to North Wales, and our congratulations to Terry Adamson and his team. Enjoy your win, boys – it will be your last! I would like to thank everyone who played (even though some were dragged in at short notice), for making the day a very pleasant one. During the run-up to the match and due to unforeseen circumstances, our sponsor reluctantly had to pull out, leaving us with the problem of who would pay for the meals. There was no need to worry, for a knight on a white horse (in the form of Andy Hardie from Gem Professional) arrived to pick up the tab. Many thanks to both Andy and Gem for saving the day.

Howard McAdiey, a former treasurer on the NW committee and regional administrator for the North Region, has had to relinquish his administrative post due to pressure of work. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Howard for the sterling work he has put in during his term of office, and hope that once the pressure is off a little he might join us on the NW committee once again.

The ISEKI regional final has been changed from Cleveleys GC to Bury GC and the date is now Monday June 29th. All qualifiers will have been informed. The Summer Meeting is at Worsley GC on Thursday July 9th with the tee reserved from 1.30pm till 3pm. Soup and sandwiches will be served at 12.30pm with dinner and prize presentation in the evening. Proper dress is essential and you must also bring along your membership card. This competition is included with our spring and autumn tournaments for the aggregate trophy sponsored by Aitcheson. All enquiries for this tournament to Paul Pearse, 1 Swan Close, Poynton, Stockport SK12 1HX. Tel: 0625 859258.

Finally, if you have any views, ideas or problems – please call me on 051 7245412.

BERT CROSS

NORTH SCOTLAND

The section committee held a meeting at Nairn GC recently, with a full turn-out and a lively evening ensuing, thrashing out section business. Our thanks to Nairn GC for the use of their plush conference room.

Hopefully, by the time you read this report we will all have had some warmth to go with the recent rains – this to encourage life into the grass up here in the North. Late springs following on from relatively mild winters are becoming the norm; and at my Club – Tain GC – the course is getting much busier in the winter with week-end golf choc-a-bloc. The result is that greens get no rest before the new season arrives. Thus far we are coping, but maybe an enforced period of rest will need to be considered in the future. We are back to full staff with the return (from a 4 month working holiday in Switzerland) of John Urquhart, now an accomplished skier and sporting a bronzed look.

Next month will see The Open Championship at Muirfield, when I am looking forward to once again being part of the Greenkeeper Support Team. I hope to see a few more North members involved this year, for it really is a great week for renewing old friendships and forming new ones.

It has not taken Mike Wilson of Kingussie long to regain his place in the North District Golf Team since his return from Wales. He joins other regulars, Steve Macintosh (Muir of Ord) and George Paterson (Fortrose), to give us greenkeepers a good representation in the team.

In fact ‘yours truly’ was invited to play last September, but only when someone else failed to appear and the game was being played at Tain. I hesitated to accept and my chance was lost, with one of the selectors standing in by using my clubs while his wife brought his own sticks over.

Congratulations to Willie Milton, long time North member and ex treasurer, on his election to life membership of BIGGA. This is a just reward for all the time he gave on our behalf.

The July report will feature the section outing at Worsley GC on Thursday July 9th with the tee reserved from 1.30pm till 3pm. Soup and sandwiches will be served at 12.30pm with dinner and prize presentation in the evening. Proper dress is essential and you must also bring along your membership card. This competition is included with our spring and autumn tournaments for the aggregate trophy sponsored by Aitcheson. All enquiries for this tournament to Paul Pearse, 1 Swan Close, Poynton, Stockport SK12 1HX. Tel: 0625 859258.

Finally, if you have any views, ideas or problems – please call me on 051 7245412.

BERT CROSS

SURREY

Foxhills GC were our hosts for the recent Spring Meeting, which consisted of 36 holes over the Longcross and Chertsey courses. Despite the excellent condition of both courses, coupled with fine weather, the scores were unusually high. Overall winner – D Barnes 143. 2nd – J Hunter 152. 3rd – N Whittaker 153. Scratch – R Christie 153. Trade – B Wilmott 164. Best a.m. - N Shade 72. Best p.m. – M Yolston 77.

Thanks were extended to Foxhills for their excellent hospitality and courtesy of the facilities, along with praise for Nevill Shade and his staff for presenting the courses so well. In addition, our thanks to those trade members who kindly contributed to the prize table. Iseki qualifiers will be notified shortly and are reminded that the regional finals will take place on July 6th at Chelmsford GC. If you cannot play on this day please notify Derek Walder in order that reserve players may participate.

By now the Huxley Bowl should be well under way and I would request that winners convey the results to Derek promptly, in order that the competition be kept moving.

ROGER TYDEMAN

CLEVELAND

Are you happy as a greenkeeper? Are you a member of BIGGA? Are you a qualified greenkeeper? Phase III is a supervisory block release course at college and even if you think Phase IV is too advanced, you should never stop learning or training. The colleges want students, so talk to a course tutor. Above all don’t underestimate yourself, for college staff are very, very helpful. Try a greenkeeper training course and surprise yourself with success.

Golf courses need trained people to help them train others. Training never stops and the pleasure is both in individual success and in helping others to obtain success. Go forward now and contact your college with a view to improving your career – book in for September. Above all; talk to a BIGGA section secretary, your Club secretary, your head greenkeeper or someone who you know will guide you and help you to improve your professional status. Best of all be smart, polite and create a good image. Polished shoes and the wearing of a BIGGA tie is a good way to start. Play golf and see if the course is as good as you prepared it. Finally, remember that Clubs pay college expenses and in Phase II you are trained for spraying qualifications as well.

BRUCE BURNELL

MID ANGLIA

On March 10th our members visited Lloyds of Letchworth for a factory tour and demonstration of their machinery range. This proved to be an informative, enjoyable and hospitable day, for which many thanks to all at Lloyds.

April 21st saw the first of our golf tournaments, a 27 hole Iseki qualifier played at Venu- gum Golf Club. St. Albans GC (the day was difficult (the first day following the Easter break) some 28 members entered with the following results: Handicap 0-9 R McKeown, G Boulton, G Bruce, C Brook and A Freeman (reserve). Handicap 10-18 A Grew, E O'Hanlon, N Whittaker, G Smith and J Chapman (reserve).

Handicap 19-28 M Ellis, J Cassidy, R Saunders, may be put off writing for fear of retribution in a later issue. I am sure it does not look good to non-members who read these letters.

IAIN MACLEOD
D Piggott and J Jones (reserve). Those who qualified will compete next at Brockton Hall GC, Stafford, on July 16th. The event was won by Alan Grew with a score of 107-12, Neil Whitaker was second with 108-14 and third was G Boulton with 108-8. The longest drive was Geoff Smith with 260 yards and nearest the pin on 17 was G Boulton.

Many thanks to Geoff and his team for preparing the course and to the officers and staff at Verulam GC, particularly the vice-captain, who bought wine for us to enjoy along with an excellent meal. Cheers! Let us hope this occurs at all future events! Many thanks also to Colin from Rigby Taylor for his hard work and organisation, not forgetting their sponsorship of the tournament.

Two of our members have moved Clubs recently: Phil Quarmby has left Beedlow Manor to become head greenkeeper at Mentmore GC, while Mark Ellis, who was previously at Woburn G&CC has joined Phil as his deputy. I'm sure all members wish them every success in their new positions.

Finally, a reminder about the Summer Tournament at Bedfordshire GC (Biddenham) on July 7th. All entries must be with Chris Brock by June 15th by entry form only. His telephone number printed in April was incorrect and you should note the correct number: 0462 442488.

PAUL LOCKETT

SOUTH WEST

"Shut the gate and keep out the draught" went the cry, only to fall on deaf ears. The early warm spring weather took a nose-dive at Swindon GC as a gale lashed the course for our section Iseki Qualifier.

All competitors deserved a prize just for finishing, never mind the scores, for it was not a round I would care to repeat too often. Still it all goes to prove one thing: if you're going to buy an Iseki tractor, make sure it has a cab! The course was extremely well presented, which is more than I could say for some members of our party. Please, please remember when you are out with the Association, you are representing the profession of greenkeeping and the right image is all important. Our grateful thanks to Swindon GC for their hospitality, and apologies for the one or two problems encountered during the day. Thanks also to Iseki, the main sponsor, also to ICI & Avoncrop for prizes. The results were: 1st A. Johnson (Salisbury) 96-28=68, 2nd D. Summerell (Castle Coombe) 88-16=72, 3rd L. Johnson (Salisbury) 96-22=74.

The team for the South West Regional Finals on 17th June is: Division 1 - P Godwin (5), J Kane (6), K Millar (4), C Fudge (3), and P Thorne (4). Division 2 - M Swales (10), M Gray (11), S Montacute (15) S Earl (12) and J Scoones (18). Division 3 - A Johnson (Swanston) (22) M Powell (26) J Leigh (23) and P Cox (24). Reserves are L Millar (4) J Farley (16) and C Sealey (28).

All good wishes to David Summerell as he takes up a new post in Spain, after bringing the course almost up to it's opening. Congratulations to Pat Smith, Greenkeeper of the Year on behalf of his daughter, Hannah, also to all twelve of our first FEPA trainees on successfully completing the foundation module training day and the subsequent exam. Grateful thanks to Bristol & Clifton GC for generously allowing us the use of their clubhouse and machinery shed for this purpose.

I look forward to receiving more applications for similar courses during the autumn. Also on the training front will be Extended Emergency First Aid and Safe Use of Chainsaws. All training days carry certificates and qualify for M.G.C. credits, further details on application to the secretary (home 'phone number 0265 651908).

The next event is the Summer Tournament at the Cotswold Hills GC, Cheltenham, venue for this years' Gloucestershire County Championships. I'll look forward to seeing you all then - well turned out, naturally.

PAUL WORSTER

SHEFFIELD

The winter lectures have now come to a close. The section thank Rotherham GC for the support they have given so willingly in allowing us to use their facilities, also to David Milbourne, Rotherham course manager, for making sure everything was in order prior to us all arriving.

The April lecture was on the Rules of Golf, and for those members that did not attend, you missed a real treat. Mr Peter Greenhough, a member of the R&A Rules Committee gave us a superb lecture. Thanks must go to Derek Neve, the head greenkeeper at Brough GC, for innovating not only a worthwhile talk but also an enjoyable one. When Mr Greenhough had finished he said he would be pleased to answer any questions from the floor. The response was very encouraging, in fact you had to be quick to get your say. Oh, by the way, no cross out balls to be used in BIGGA tournaments, they are not on the list of approved golf balls. Penalty-disqualification.

EDUCATION: David Goldberg will help us arrange a day in our area to enable members to be trained in basic first aid. In view of FEPA and COSHH I feel we must take advantage of this offer. If any member is interested, please let me know so that I can make the appropriate arrangements. Tel: 0298 81337.

COMPETITIONS: Please note all entry fees must be paid for by the closing date on the entry form.

RAFFLE PRIZES: At each lecture or golf event a raffle will be held and any member wishing to donate a prize is asked to bring it along. Contributions will be much appreciated.

TO THE GREEN CHAIRMAN: The goals of our (BIGGA) members for the golf Club are the same as those of your members... a high quality course of which we can all be proud. With a little help from Mother Nature and patience and co-operation from the membership, we will obtain both our short and long term goals.

TO THE GREENKEEPER: Hold your head up high; and you will be calm, confident and assertive, whatever happens to you. Remember, what you think you will be you will become.

GOOD LUCK.

JANE RYAN

EAST SCOTLAND

A cold windy day greeted our arrival at The Glen GC for the start of our annual Spring Tournament. This was the first time that many of our members had played this excellent course for until this year it had been a municipal. Our thanks as usual go to the captain and committee for the courtesy; the catering staff for the excellent meals and to head greenkeeper George Paterson and his staff for the condition of the course. Fifty six members, guests and trade attended and the lucky winners were: Best nett G Groom (Royal Musselburgh). 1st class C Graham (Goswick). 2nd class S Melville (Lothianburn). 3rd class G Hobbs (Torphin Hill). Veteran W Blair (Kingsknowe). Guest J Lockerbie (Baberton). Trade K Hunter (Frews). Knockout T Murray and S Crawford (Ratho Park).

Iseki Qualifiers:

1st class: C Graham, A Holmes, P Bowden and S Crawford. 2nd class: G Ferguson, S Melville, J Neilson and R Bullock. 3rd class: G Hobbs, A Gordon, W Armstrong and A Forrest. Reserves: 1st Class: G White. 2nd Class: I Bell and R Frame. 3rd Class: P Black. These players will be notified of future arrangements in due course.

Future Events:

Tuesday, June 23rd. Scottish at Kingsknowe GC.

Thursday, August 6th. Willie Woods at Swanson GC.

Tuesday, Sept 22nd. Autumn Tournament at Newbattle GC.

Thursday, Oct 1st. Half day tournament at Gifford GC.

Wednesday November 25th AGM at Kingsknowe GC.

Friday December 4th. Annual Dinner Dance.

Section News:

Things have been very quiet over the past few months, with no movements on the job front. Membership has increased and we are hopeful that the trend will continue. Six committee members attended the Association AGM at York on April 6th and our own committee meetings are being held on a very regular basis, thus ensuring the smooth running of the Section. The committee for this year is: Chairman, C J Yea- man, Vice Chairman, P Ormiston, Secretary, W Blair, Handicap Convenor, G Wood and S Greenwood, Social Convener, S Dixon, General Convener, J Neilson, T Murray and R Hogarth.

WILLIE BLAIR

DEVON & CORNWALL

Our guest day meeting was held at Launceston GC on April 8th, with April showers turning into a monsoon just days before our meeting and making arrangements very difficult. My thanks to Clive Ralph for his sterling support and I hope he hasn't yet pulled out all his hair yet! Our thanks also to George Bailey and his merry men for all their hard work in making the course playable.

On the day itself, the sun shone for the first time in weeks and all 22 pairs enjoyed playing on the well presented course whilst competing for similar courses during the autumn. Also on the training front will be Extended Emergency First Aid and Safe Use of Chainsaws. All training days carry certificates and qualify for M.G.C. credits, further details on application to the secretary (home 'phone number 0265 651908).

The April lecture was on the Rules of Golf, and for those members that did not attend, you missed a real treat. Mr Peter Greenhough, a member of the R&A Rules Committee gave us a superb lecture. Thanks must go to Derek Neve, the head greenkeeper at Brough GC, for innovating not only a worthwhile talk but also an enjoyable one. When Mr Greenhough had finished he said he would be pleased to answer any questions from the floor. The response was very encouraging, in fact you had to be quick to get your say. Oh, by the way, no cross out balls to be used in BIGGA tournaments, they are not on the list of approved golf balls. Penalty-disqualification.

EDUCATION: David Goldberg will help us arrange a day in our area to enable members to be trained in basic first aid. In view of FEPA and COSHH I feel we must take advantage of this offer. If any member is interested, please let me know so that I can make the appropriate arrangements. Tel: 0298 81337.

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RAFFLE PRIZES: At each lecture or golf event a raffle will be held and any member wishing to donate a prize is asked to bring it along. Contributions will be much appreciated.

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GOOD LUCK.

JANE RYAN
NORTH WALES
Our first competition of the season was held at Caldy GC on the Wirral; where the North wales section played the North West in some very spirited matches. The result doesn’t really matter, but we won! Thanks to Caldy GC and its committee and members for allowing us to play our match, and our congratulations to Rick Fletcher and his staff for a course which was in excellent condition. We hope to see Bert Cross and some of the North West lads on our patch again next year, and in the interim we wish you all a good season.

I would also like to wish Alan Sharp and his staff all the best on the opening of Chirk GC in April. Finally, I would like to hear from any members of the South Wales section who might be interested in a match against our section. Please write to me with your views to 33 Mill Lodge, Llandegfan, Menai Bridge, Anglesey. LL59 5YB or ‘phone me on 0248 713490. Once again, I would welcome calls from anyone who has any views or queries, or indeed anything they wish to say within these section reports.

SOUTH WALES
St Mellons GC in Cardiff was the venue for our Spring Meeting, held on April 9th on a warm sunny day. Such was the weather that some of us might have cast our thoughts to all the work we could have been doing on our courses. That stated, the competition was not one of the best attended, which may well have been due to the weather plus those who cry-off with illness at the last moment. The event was won by P. Swain (11). (10-18) A Panks (12) T King (12) A Jenkins (9) M Davies (10) reserve D Jones (12). (19-28) T Garland (19) S Price (4) M Jones (7) H Morgan (8) A Jenkins (9) M Davies (10) reserve P Swan (11). (10-18) A Panks (12) T King (12) H Parry (15) P Lacey (16) N Owens (18) reserve D Jones (12). (19-28) T Garland (19) S Lindsay (19) B Price (20) R Kitcher (20) L Hallet (24) reserve P Long (24).

AROUND THE GREEN
Will all members remember the handicap certificates and membership cards MUST be shown at ALL competitions. A £5 deposit must be sent for each competition, which will be set aside toward the entry fee and evening meal. Please take note: anyone not sending a deposit will not be allowed to play in the competition.

PHIL SWAIN

SUSSEX
The first section competition of 92 was held at Seaford (Brighton GC) – what a treat! The course was in superb condition, the weather just perfect and the views over the English Channel and the South Downs were brilliant. Just a shame there were not more members to enjoy the day.

The day started with an 18 hole medal round sponsored by John Shaw Machinery, with the following nett results: 1st Stuart Shellford (Ifield G&CC) 67. 2nd Chris Reed (Crowborough GC) 69. 3rd Peter Bay (Haywards Heath GC) 71. The trade/guest prize was won by Geoff Yelland of Rigby Taylor with 72.

Following lunch our golf continued with a Stableford round sponsored by Rigby Taylor, the results being: 1st Duncan Haste (East Brighton GC) 40 points. 2nd George Barr (Ham Manor GC) 33. 3rd Andy Painter (East Brighton GC) 31. The trade/guest prize was won by Gary Ogivie of Parkers with 34. Iseki qualifiers will be notified by post in due course.

Many thanks to Seaford GC for the courtesy of their course; and to Bob and his staff for their splendid efforts.

The next section event will be on June 10th, an 18 hole afternoon match at Copthorne GC.

MARK WILTON

EAST ANGLIA
Our 1992 season got off to a good start when 41 players dusted off their clubs for the medal round at Bungay, which is a pretty little place (if you stay straight) kept in good shape by Mick Mean and his men.

We had three handicap sections (good, not so good and keep practicing) for the Iseki qualifier, with the nett results being: (0-9) 1st Dave Wilkinson 68. 2nd Alan Carter 69. 3rd Peter Howard, 4th Mike Fance. (10-18) 1st Dave (HG) Wells 2nd Mike Verlay. 3rd Steve Norris. 4th Sam Sylvester. (19-28) 1st Tom Smith. 2nd Toddy Huddlestone. 3rd Mike Stead. 4th Ernie Hart. A good day out was had by all and our thanks to Bungay and Waveney Valley GC for a lovely day.

‘Uncle’ Sam would once again like all replies regarding golf tournaments back on time please, and NO ‘phone calls at 10.30pm the night before – I am NOT joking! Alan Carter is now the man to moan at when your handicap is mutilated, for he has taken over the job from Steve Freestone (with Steve’s blessing, I might add).

Something to smile about or cringe over if you are on the receiving end, with the best news always coming from the bar when talk gets to the nitty-gritty regarding our beloved green committees. The latest is the story of a head greenkeeper who found his pay frozen until the rest of head greenkeepers in East Anglia catch up with him. A bit like saying to the manager at Sainsbury’s you’ve got to wait until the manager of The Happy Shopper catches up! – Who says communism is dead? What will they think of next… answers on a postcard please.

On a sad note I must report the death (just before Easter) of Russell Allison, groundsman at Norwich City FC for 40 years. On behalf of all members of the East Anglian section I extend our deepest sympathy to his family, especially to his son (also Russell) who is himself a groundsman (third generation) at NCFC, following both father and grandfather. Russell’s stories were legendary, he was a fine man and will be sorely missed.

MICK LATHROPE

CENTRAL SCOTLAND
The section’s Spring Tournament was held recently courtesy of Crail Golfing Society at Balcombe Links, Fife, and despite the atrocious weather some 46 members and guests had an enjoyable day. Some were merrier than others and perhaps this was due to ‘liquid insulation’ against the cold and rain – which helped. Prior to our tournament, the east coast of Fife had been experiencing its driest spring for twenty five years: then the following day the weather returned to normal – perhaps none up there was trying to tell us we should have been working instead of enjoying ourselves.


Our sincere thanks go to the secretary and captain of Crail Golfing Society for presenting the prizes in the evening, to the club steward and staff for looking after us so well in the clubhouse and to Arran Plumbing and Heating for having the course in such excellent condition so early in the season.

Best wishes for a speedy recovery go to John Henderson, formerly of Dunfermline GC, who was taken ill recently. Hope to see you back at section events very soon, John.

Congratulations and every success in their new appointments go to Graeme Downie and Ronnie Cunningham, who have taken over at Irvinehead and Dunfermline respectively.

The annual prize draw dinner has been arranged for December 4th at Sterling GC, with Ernie Walker, former secretary of the SFA, as our guest speaker. More details will follow in the coming months.

JOHN CRAWFORD

BUCKS, BERKS & OXON
Now that summer has arrived I expect you will all be too busy to read this column, so this is my golden opportunity to put in anything I choose! Seriously, the busy time is probably just as well, for there is not too much happening at the moment – which leads me nicely into my first duty – an apology for the absence of a BBB&O report in May. This was simply a matter of...
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The City of Rochester Upon Medway

The City Council’s Direct Services Organisation has recently won the 5 year contract for the Management of the Deangate Ridge Sports Complex and are now seeking a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicants must be fully experienced in modern greenkeeping methods, possess a recognised qualification, have practical knowledge of modern machinery and irrigation systems and have ability to motivate staff.

The person appointed will also be part of the management team for the complex.

Salary negotiable. Rented housing accommodation may be available.

Application and job description can be obtained from the Personnel Services Manager, Civic Centre, Strood, Rochester, Kent ME2 4AW.

Telephone Medway (0634) 732706 (24 hour answering service).

Interviews will take place during week commencing 13th July 1992.

Closing date: 29th June 1992

Applications, with full C.V., to The Secretary, WEST LANCASHIRE GOLF CLUB

HALL ROAD WEST • BLUNDELLSANDS LIVERPOOL L23 8SZ.

East Sussex National Golf Course

Venue for the 1993 GA European Open

Set in the beautiful rolling countryside of the South Downs in the heart of East Sussex, the East Sussex National Golf Course is looking for an Assistant Superintendent to join its team of hardworking, conscientious staff.

With 4/5 years experience and a minimum qualification of City and Guilds stage I and II, the successful applicant will be required to motivate and supervise staff, and take responsibility for programming and overseeing the day to day maintenance of one of the 18 holes under the guidance of the Course Superintendent and Course Manager. The East Sussex National Golf Course prides itself on the high standard and quality of the condition of its two eighteen hole courses, three hole teaching academy and practice range and this is an excellent career move for an ambitious and confident greenkeeper who can demonstrate sound and positive team management, self motivation and a willingness to learn new methods and techniques.

Please apply in writing enclosing a current CV to:

Ken Barber, Golf Course Manager, East Sussex National Golf Course, Little Horsted, Uckfield, East Sussex TN22 5TS.

Closing date: 30th June 1992.

Applications, with full C.V., to The Secretary, WEST LANCASHIRE GOLF CLUB

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Ken Barber, Golf Course Manager, East Sussex National Golf Course, Little Horsted, Uckfield, East Sussex TN22 5TS.

Closing date: 30th June 1992.
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**WISH TO APPOINT A HEAD GREENKEEPER**

Applications are invited for the position of HEAD GREENKEEPER at this prestigious new golf course in Surrey. The course construction is complete and it will be open for play in August 1992. Applicants must have the necessary experience to take this course through the grow-in establishment period. The successful applicant will be directed by Jack McMillan & Associates – only persons of proven ability need apply.

*Applications in writing with full CV to:*

**JACK McMILLAN**
The Wildwood Golf Club
Horsham Road, Alfold, Cranleigh, Surrey GU6 8JE

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**Thurlestone Golf Club**

**HEAD GREENKEEPER**

required at this well known, picturesque Golf Club on the South Devon coast; due to impending retirement of current holder.

Successful applicant should have suitable qualifications and experience in all aspects of course management and be available to take up position by end of the year.

Salary negotiable. No accommodation.

Apply in writing with full CV by 31st July 1992 to:

**THE SECRETARY, THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB**, Thurlestone, Kingsbridge, South Devon TQ7 3NZ

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**The Belfry**

**HEAD GREENKEEPER**

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Please apply in writing with CV to:

**MELANIE KING**, Training & Personnel Manager, The Belfry Hotel, Lichfield Road, Wishaw, North Warwickshire B76 9PR.

Closing date 30th June 1992
Due to an industrial dispute in the postal services, applicants for the position of
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are requested to fax applications to:
L J Meade Fax: 010 353 61 301028
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Sene Valley Golf Club
require a
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Sene Valley Golf Club, Sene, Folkstone, Kent CT18 8BL

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Mr G Aymes, General Manager, The Botley Park Hotel and Country Club, Winchester Road, Boorley Green, Botley, Hants SO3 2UA.
Telephone: 0489 790888
A R O U N D  T H E  G R E E N

greenkeeper who warned us about the 'gators in the everglades at the bottom of the course!
Prize winners: Scratch - G Brown, Turnberry, 75.
Handicap 1st class: 1st J Devlin, KCDC, 82-12=70. 2nd W 'Arthur' McMeekin, Turnberry, 79-7=72. 3rd H Diamond, KCDC, 79-6=73. 2nd class:- 1st J Johnstone, Turnberry, 93-20=73. 2nd S Wilson, Western Galles, 93-18=75. 3rd D Whiffin, Dumfries & Country, 89-14=75. Trade D Duthie, 77-6=71. New member, A Gallagher, Skelmorlie.
It is with regret that I report the death of Jock Robertson, ex head greenkeeper at the Troon Municipal courses. Jock was a real character and will be sadly missed by his many friends in the greenkeeping world.
On the move: John Kinder is coming to us; moving from the Bushes in Paisley to Dumfries and Galloway. Robert Johnstone is moving from Whiffen, Dumfries & Country, 89-14=75. Trade D Duthie, 77-6=71. New member, A Gallagher, Skelmorlie.
Finally, we all wait with bated breath for the invitations to arrive for the grand opening dance at George's new 'mansion' at Turnberry. DUNCAN GRAY

COMING UP
July 16th-19th: The Open Championship - Muirfield, Scotland
August 10th-12th: BIGGA National Golf Tournament - Littlestone GC, Kent
September 8th-10th: IGQ Trade Exhibition - Peterborough, Northants
September 24th: ISEKI Championships Final - Coventry GC, Warwickshire
October 12th: TORO/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award - Aldwark Manor, York
October 14th-15th: KUBOTA Challenge - The Belfry, Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire
October 19th-November 27th: BIGGA Management Courses (six weeks) - Aldwark Manor, York
November 11th-12th: IGQ Scotsturf Trade Exhibition, Edinburgh, Scotland
November 12th-14th: Golf Course Europe '92 Show - Monte Carlo
November 24th-26th: Golf International 2000 - Sandown Park, Esher, Surrey
December 7th - ICI Professional Products '92 Show - Monte Carlo

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