How to be a MASTER

Full report and pictures from the show of the year

THE MAGIC OF BTME

Journal of the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association
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The show of the year
BTME continues to break all records with attendances this year topping 6,000. We've a full report over five pages, plus photographs from the event that's well and truly the show of the year...

Here is the news
With a new editor at the helm, Greenkeeper International launches an expanded news service, which this issue covers three pages starting...

Masters of their craft
Three more professionals have proved their worth by collecting Master Greenkeeper Certificates. Chris Boiling reports on the ultimate accolade ...

Malcolm's Yorkshire
Malcolm Hinderson is golf professional turned head greenkeeper — with an eye for design. Steve Verrill caught up with him...

Conference is an education
All eyes now to BIGGA's next event — the National Education Conference in April. We set the scene for an occasion not to be missed

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COVER PICTURE:

by Peter Shaw and the winning photograph in a Farmura competition. More details on Page 7
WE SAY

All write now

New editor Chris Boiling launches an award scheme to encourage you to contribute to your magazine.

THE PHOTO on this month's cover was taken by a greenkeeper. The crossword is compiled by a greenkeeper. There are a couple of articles by greenkeepers. But I want more.

This is your magazine, so why don't you all make it your goal to contribute at least one article, idea, letter, photo or news story this year. That will give me more time out of the office, so I can come and sample your courses.

To encourage you I'm launching two new awards this issue - the Greenkeeper International Writer of the Year Award and the Greenkeeper International Photographer of the Year contest. Any greenkeeper who has a word or image published in the magazine this year will be eligible.

As well as a trophy there will be a prize, but I've only just started in this job so I haven't had time to source something suitable. But it will be worth winning.

The winners will be selected by the magazine sub-committee and the work of all the shortlisted candidates will be exhibited at the 1995 BTME - for all your colleagues to admire.

The American magazine Golf Course Management runs its own editorial awards and the winner, Thomas Christy, a golf course superintendent in Oregon, collected his prize at the 1995 BTME - for all your colleagues to admire.

In the course of this column I will report from time to time on Board of Management matters and I believe a particularly important decision was taken at the recent December meeting. 1994 has been earmarked for the preparation of a five year plan which will take the Association through to the second millennium. Throughout 1994 there will be the opportunity to work on the workings of the Association after seven years of solid growth and achievement. Whilst the plan will be initiated from your Headquarters there will be a full consultative process through the Board of Management to Regional Boards and Section Committees and then back up through the structure. I would urge each individual member who has something to say to make his views known to his Section Committee by contacting his Section Secretary - and the earlier the better!

Apart from looking at policies and programmes to take us forward from 1995, the review will examine the structure of the Association as established through the Constitution from Board of Management through to regions, Sections, changes may be necessary to the Constitution. If so they need to be well thought out and capable of standing the test of time. The Constitution is fundamental to any organisation and whilst ours has served us well during the last seven years it may well need a little fine tuning now to ensure a viable structure for the Association into the next century. There has been much discussion of late concerning the composition of the Board of Management, on how long Board members should serve and an increasing awareness of the demands made on Board members. At regional level the increasing amount of paperwork is a concern and there is a need for an uniformity of approach amongst Regional boards. In line with the Constitution sections continue of you may be aware of recent problems within the structure of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. There the fundamental issue concerned a large organisation which was perceived to be losing touch with its members. As one GCSAA member put it... "the board needs to know what the people in the field are doing, and the people in the field need to know what the association is doing... it's a sign of opening up for the members out in the field. Now here we are talking about an organisation over sixty years old. By comparison we are very much at the fledgling stage. However, after making allowances for size and tradition, some comparisons are valid. I have long since been aware of the need for BIGGA to provide within its structure the opportunity for any member to make his views known, and for that member to have the confidence that those views will be listened to, respected and, where appropriate, acted upon. With our membership now well past the 5,000 mark we need to examine the democratic processes we have in place to ensure that they will serve our members well in the future. BINGA is a members' organisation established not for the benefit of its officers or staff but for its growing membership and it is they who must ultimately determine the future direction of the Association.

During the early months of 1994 your senior management team at Headquarters will initiate the review and five year plan. Regions and Sections should be submitting ideas for consideration as soon as possible. After consideration by the Board of Management, the initial draft will be circulated to Regions and Sections in early summer with a view to comments being forwarded to Headquarters by the beginning of September. It will be incumbent on Regions and Sections to widely canvass the views of members at section level. During the autumn period a final plan will be drawn up for approval by the Board of Management and ratification at the 1995 Annual General Meeting. It will be a year of opportunity, a chance for objectivity, a time when we can consolidate our achievements but be innovative and initiate policies and programmes which will enhance our development. If, through this exercise, we can improve our structure and administration as well as set future goals then we will be strengthening BINGA and ensuring that greenkeepers both now and in the future will be well served by a forward-looking, professional Association. Like me, I hope that you, the members, will look forward to the challenge.

BIGGA Staff Profile JOHN PEMBERTON Administration Manager

The man with day to day financial control of BINGA's affairs is a former company accountant and computer and systems manager - with a passion for classic motorcycles! John Pemberton, who is married with one boy and two girls, owns a Triumph Bonneville which puts him on slightly firmer ground than his sporting interests when he was younger. "I was a keen oarsman in my teens and twenties," he says. "On several occasions I competed in and completed the UK's - if not the world's - longest rowing race of 21 miles from Lincoln to Boston. It involved negotiating locks by lifting the boat out of the water..." John relaxes these days by "trying" to play golf, walking, squash and DIY "by necessity".
Boiling in the hot seat

Keen golfer Chris Boiling is the new editor of Greenkeeper International. He took up the position just before the hugely successful BTME.

Greenkeeper International is the sixth magazine the 34-year-old newspaper trained journalist has edited. Immediately prior to the BIGGA post, he was editor of the award-winning Sports Boat International, Waterski Illustrated and Jet Skier magazines.

He has also written for Today’s Golfer and Golf News.

GOT A HOT NEWS STORY FOR US? CALL CHRIS BOILING AT THE NEWSDESK: 0347 838581

Greenkeeper’s charity drive

One-legged Dennis Archer, the course manager at Whitchurch Golf Club, Cardiff, raised more than £1,000 for charity by go-karting. He survived 29 laps during the Renault Disabled Karting Championship and although he didn’t win any of the races he did collect a prize as the highest individual fundraiser. Nearly three-quarters of his £1,000 76p total came from greenkeepers. “This is sufficient to pay for up to three car conversions allowing disabled persons to drive again,” said the 57-year-old manager who lost his leg last June due to a blocked artery.

Jack’s all right after hip op

Jack McMillan, head of the McMillan clan of greenkeepers, receives his MBE after 48 years in the business. When we phoned to congratulate him, his wife Rita said he was recovering in hospital from a hip operation. He’d been waiting two years for it. Jack is well known in greenkeeping circles having been chairman of BIGGA in 1988, head greenkeeper at Sunningdale for ten years and having fathered five sons, all of whom are greenkeepers. His one daughter works for BUPA, so now he’s got something to talk to her about.

Toro gets load of bull

This is one piece of bull Graham Dale, managing director of Lely (UK) Ltd, doesn’t mind receiving. It’s the Toro Bull, an award which Toro gives to recognise “the best all-round performance” among its international distributors. Presenting the award is Ted Riley, Toro sales and marketing director for Europe.

ALL EDITORIAL SHOULD NOW BE SENT TO CHRIS BOILING, GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL, ALDWARK MANOR, ALDWARK, ALNE, YORK Y06 2NF
Often described as the most efficient machine in the sea, we liken this beautifully designed beast to our grinders. Capable of completing their task with the most ruthless efficiency, both are designed and fine tuned to provide the optimum performance.

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A new European ecology unit has been set up by the European Golf Association, Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews and PGA European Tour. The aims of the European Golf Association Ecology Unit, which will be based in Brussels from April, are:

- to improve the image of golf through ecological interests;
- to encourage a higher standard of environmental performance from the golf development industry and golf course managers;
- to provide a serious contribution to the European environmental debate; and
- to ensure that the development and management of golf courses in Europe are not impeded by excessive, inappropriate environmental restrictions.

The programme, which is funded for an initial period of three years, has been developed in recognition of the need for the leading golfing bodies in Europe to present a coordinated approach to environmental issues.

The unit will be headed by British ecologist David Stubbs of Environmental Golf Services. He is experienced in matching golf and conservation interests.

### Peter in the picture

British greenkeepers working in Europe claimed the top two prizes in the Blazon/Farmura 'Better-Way-To-Spray' photographic competition.

Peter Shaw (left), course manager of the Munchen-Riedof Golf Club in Germany, took the first prize with the photo on this month's cover. His prize was an expenses paid trip to attend the GCSAA Convention in Dallas, USA, and £1,000 of free Farmura products for his course. He is pictured with Farmura's Jonathan Harmer.

Second prize of £500 worth of Farmura products went to Arnold Phipps-Jones, course manager at Limburg Golf and Country Club in Belgium. Third prize - £250 of Farmura products - was won by Peter Dawson, course manager at Wanstead Golf Club. More than 100 greenkeepers entered their views of 'Summer on the golf course'.

### Stirling effort pays off

Stirling Golf Club's James Easton, pictured right, a part-time student at Elmwood College, Cupar, took the prize for the HNC in golf course management (first year) and the Carnoustie Golf Links Award, which was presented for the first time this year. Ian Grant, chairman of the Scottish Tourist Board, handed over the prizes. Also given awards for greenkeeping were full-time student Paul O'Neill (Scotvec National Certificate in Greenkeeping) and part-time students Joseph Scriven of Callan GC (first year), Gordon Haughie of Southerness GC (second year) and Peter Haggarty of Helensburgh GC (third year). David McOwat of Charlton GC, Fife, received the Distance Learning prize for the Scotvec National Certificate in Greenkeeping Supervision. The St Andrews Links Trust Award went to Scott Patrick of Ladybank GC for the best practical work in greenkeeping, and Rupert Lawrence of Verulam GC, St Albans, took the Gleneagles Challenge Trophy for the best project in greenkeeping.

### John Deere figures leap for '93

John Deere's managing director, Alec McKee, reports a good '93 and is hoping for more market share in '94. "UK sales were significantly higher in 1993, as a result of several new product launches, particularly the 455 lawn and garden tractor and the 1145 front mower," he said.

"We expect further market growth in 1994," he added. The parent company has reported worldwide net sales of lawn and grounds care equipment of more than $1 billion for the first time since the company set up its amenity business in the mid-1970s.

### FLYING DIVOTS

- DONT WORRY IF YOU missed the big BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition in Harrogate, there are two more BIGGA shows to look forward to this year. Organised by BIGGA regions, the shows look set to ape the success of the main event. The shows are Westurf, organised by the South West and South Wales Region, and Southturf, organised by the South East Region.

Westurf will take place at Long Ashton Golf Club, Bristol, on April 27 (tel: 0803 844056) and South Turf will be staged at Motspur Park, south-west London on June 29 (tel: 0342 850875).

- HERE'S A MAN who's not letting the grass grow under his feet. Ian Backhouse has been appointed amenity product manager for Sharpe's International with responsibility for the development of the company's Designer Range of amenity grass mixtures.

- A MEETING OF REGIONAL Administrators and Section Secretaries will be held at BIGGA's Aldwark Manor HQ on February 22 and 23. The seminar is designed as an update as well as providing the opportunity for informal discussions on the development of the Association.

- THE TOP 10 GOLF courses in Ireland, according to a poll carried out by the Irish Golf Institute, are:
  1. Portmarnock
  2. Royal Portrush
  3. Ballybunion
  4. Royal County Down
  5. Waterville
  6. Mount Juliet
  7. The European Club, Co Wicklow
  8. County Louth
  9. The K-Club (Co Kildare)
  10. Killeen, Killarney

- WEED CONTROL seminars, organised by herbicide specialist Nomix-Chipman, are to be held throughout the country from February 15-March 3. The impact of new legislation will be highlighted. For full details contact Nomix-Chipman on 0272 574574.
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and more to come...

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Cost: £45 each day, inclusive of buffet lunch

Please contact Sue Robbins on 0926 651367 ext. 250 for further details
Here for life

Change may be the name of the game in the world of golf as new clubs, new schemes and new courses develop rapidly. But there's also a place for constancy. Malcolm Huntington paid a visit to one such organisation, Easingwold Golf Club in Yorkshire, where continuity is a driving influence...

There were some prestigious jobs going in last month's Greenkeeper International: Royal Birkdale, St Pierre, the Greenkeeper International. Jeff, when I talked to him in his comfortable office at the end of one of his worksheds alongside the 18th fairway.

The rain poured down, the fairways were flooded and, like many places, the course was closed, so he had time to reminisce about his life at the club.

"If you enjoy your job, you stick to it. I have been very happy here and have no intention of applying for another post elsewhere.

"If they will have me, I want to be here for the rest of my working days. In any case, it would be too much of an upheaval.

"My wife Carol works in Easingwold and so does our daughter, Tina, so I can't imagine I could possibly be happier anywhere else," said the contented Waind, who was born in Thursoe, near Doncaster, 49 years ago, but has lived most of his life at Yearsley and Easingwold.

It is a far cry from early working days after he had left Easingwold School.

"I worked at Thornton Lodge Farm and then had a couple of years on the dustbins with North Yorkshire Council."

It was at that time that John Knowison, who was Easingwold's chairman of greens at the time, asked him to work part-time with Charlie Tennant and George Banks.

"I liked it so much that when I was asked if I would take over the club full-time in 1998, I jumped at the chance.

"I was on my own when the club was only nine holes, but once they started building the new nine in 1973, they took on more staff and we now have four." Waind has carefully overseen the growth of those nine holes, which had been laid out by golf course architects, Hawtree, and watching them develop has been one of his greatest joys.

Are there any changes he would have made with the benefit of hindsight?

"No, I have to say that with the 96 acres of land to be used, the people who have been associated with the club over many years have made good use of it.

"The course drains very well because it's on sandy soil and we have never had any major problems, or any returfing to do over the years.

"We have a fair number of rabbits on the course and they do some damage, but we try to keep on top of them by one means or another..."

Naturally, he has seen a lot of changes over the years, the development of specialised machinery being one of the biggest. "We used to cut all our greens with a walk-behind 14" lawnmower, now we have Toro triples which cost a lot of money, but do a very good job.

"We also have water sprinklers on all greens and tees and also on one or two fairways. "I would say this has been one of the biggest time-savers. It's all a far cry from the days when we used to come down in the middle of the night to move the hosepipe. Now the water is all metered in any case."

Like most dedicated greenkeepers, he often works longer than the 39 hours prescribed, but he has no complaints about that.

"If you have a job to do, you just get on with it."

Jeff's favourite hole on the 6,285-yard course is the 13th, a 171-yard par 3 across a lake to an elevated green.

So does he ever fancy actually playing golf on the course he has carefully tended over 25 years?

"Not really. I spend a lot of time at the club, so you could say my wife is a golf widow of another kind. I don't think I could spend all night and all day here," he laughed. "But I have been known to hit a few balls down the practice ground near the 18th, although I haven't had time to do that for 18 months."

Picture courtesy of the Yorkshire Evening Press.

■ GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL February 1994 9

FLYING DIVOTS

■ TWO OF THE BIG NAMES in turf and grass equipment, Iseki and Massey Ferguson, have agreed plans to cooperate in the British and Irish markets. This means MF's grass equipment division is now the exclusive distributor for Iseki products in the UK and Ireland.

The two companies have been working closely together for some time. They have a joint venture company in Australia, Massey Ferguson Iseki (Australia) Ltd, which was formed in 1992, and they have a collaborative agreement for the manufacture of tractors. MF builds and supplies high horsepower tractors for Iseki, and Iseki supplies the Japanese market and in return MF has access to compact and small horsepower tractors built by Iseki to MF specification, styling and colours.

■ GOLF COURSE ARCHITECT Martin Gillett wants to attract families with the complex he's designed at Longlands Golf Park, Sidcup, London. When the site is completed it will boast putting greens, mini golf, driving range, practice facilities and a nine-hole par 3 course. The driving range is a bit different in that it is fully contoured with target greens, bunkers and pond. The course also features water, bunkers and landscaping not normally associated with a par 3 course. Mr Gillett believes more facilities like this should be developed to allow access to the game at an affordable level.

■ Bucks-based Risboro Turf - Jacobsen UK's top dealer - has appointed Shaun Armstrong as sales manager for Herts, Beds and Middlesex.

■ COLLIER TURF CARE (Distributors) Ltd will be holding its annual open day/seminar at The Hotel, Norwich, on Thursday February 24. To get your ticket call Andrew Harding on 0603 870944.

■ FRASER GROWN LAWN Professional Ltd has opened new turf nurseries at Sealand, Chester. Tel: 0244 660901.
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Masters

What is the Master Greenkeeper Certificate?
How do you get it? Why should you want one?
CHRIS BOILING investigates

Why would two Americans who are at the top of their profession and who are fast approaching their 50th birthdays want to sit a six-hour written exam to gain a British qualification?
The answer is that BIGGA's Master Greenkeeper Certificate is fast becoming the highest greenkeeping qualification in the world. It takes longer to complete than the American CGCS programme and, as the Americans who have taken both say, it is tougher.
Forty-seven-year-old Terry Buchen, who runs a "very, very, very private" course in Ohio, said he took it because "It's an international award and it's very well received. The response has been overwhelming. Golf Course News ran a story last April. The response was ten times more than I got when I picked up the US award."
His boss was so proud of his achievement that he paid out $1400 for Terry and his wife to come to Harrogate to collect the award.
Terry picked it up with two British greenkeepers - David Whitaker and Anthony Davies. This means, four years after the launch of the Master Greenkeeper Certificate, there are now eight Masters, three of whom come from America. Another American is well on his way to collecting the award - so is a Swiss greenkeeper and four from Southern Ireland.
Ninety-four greenkeepers have registered for the award, 60 of whom are still on stage 1. On average it takes about two years to get it, and you have to put in a lot of work. So why do they do it?
Terry Buchen said "I've been a certified golf course superintendent in America since 1978. I think there's over 1,000 of us now. I was one of the first 200 and I've been a member of BIGGA since 1984. I enjoy reading Greenkeeper International and when the Master Greenkeepers Certificate came up I was interested in it but I didn't think I'd be able to qualify because the standards were set very high. But that made me more determined to check it out."
"Once I found out my educational background was OK - I only have a two-year degree, I thought I'd have to have a four-year - but because of all my experience I did qualify."
"I think the big thing was it was an international award and BIGGA is very well thought of by Americans. The stand that they have at the National Convention every year is very well received. It was another mountain to climb and it was very fulfilling taking the written exam that had no true or false questions and no multiple choice - you can guess at a lot of the things on the American test but not on this, it's strictly essay questions. Very tough but very fair."
To prepare for the examine he had to brush up on his fescues and how courses are maintained in the UK which, in any case, he believes is the right way. "I think the way they're maintained over here is the right way. In America they're too lush, too green and too soft. In the UK you have non-irrigated fairways. Golf is played on grass not on colour. We cover it and spend far too much money on it. In the UK it's the playing conditions that matter not the colour. In the US it's the colour that's most important."
Fellow American Robert Malbusch, 36, course superintendent of Hinsdale Golf Club in Illinois, first read about the Master Greenkeeper Certificate in Greenkeeper International after picking up a copy on the BIGGA stand at the GCSAA convention in Las Vegas three years ago. "My interest in the Certificate was as a personal challenge at first," he said. "The work leading up to the exam forced me to go back and review everything I'd ever learned and it
was very rewarding. The exam itself was difficult but fair. The preparation is where the benefit is."

Bil Montague, who has spent 20 years at Oakwood Club, Kirtland, Ohio, was the first American to hold both a CGCS and Master award. He got interested in the scheme when he visited the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition a few years ago. "I joined up and then became determined to be the first American to be certified. I had reached a point where I still needed an educational challenge. It just seemed like a good thing for me to do," says the bearded 46-year-old.

The two British greenkeepers honoured with Terry Buchen at the '94 BTME are much younger than the Americans. They're both aged 32. Anthony Davies is head greenkeeper at Prestbury Golf Club near Macclesfield and David Whitaker is course manager at Wisley Golf Club in Surrey.

Anthony told Greenkeeper International: "After receiving the first ICI Greenkeeper of the Year Award in 1990, my greens chairman, Dr James Gardiner, asked me what else was there? I said, 'Well, there's this new Master Greenkeeper Certificate.' I was told to go for it, I wanted it and I got it. It's a great achievement and I'm very proud of it."

For David, who also has a consultancy business, the reason was very simple: "I wanted to have the highest qualification in greenkeeping."

The benefits are: "The golf course are very pleased, it's raised my esteem in golf and I get better recognition from my employers."

The award is based on three things: experience, ability and education. To gain a Masters Greenkeepers Certificate you need all three - in abundance.

"It is a highly meritorious award," according to BIGGA's executive director Neil Thomas. "Now four years old, it must rank highly among all three - in abundance."

"Sixty percent of my job was agronomy where I'd visit with agronomists on the US PGA Tour. The job was to set up all 47 tournaments on the regular tour, which meant visiting each course four-eight weeks in advance."

Sixty percent of my job was agronomy where I'd visit with agronomists on the US PGA Tour. His job was to set up all 47 tournaments on the regular tour, which meant visiting each course four-eight weeks in advance.

Bil Buchen receives his Master Greenkeeper Certificate from Lord Griffiths at the BTME. Looking on, in the front row, are fellow recipients Anthony Davies, left and David Whitaker

TERRY BUCHEN lives in the only house at the Double Eagle course in Ohio. He says the Tom Weiskopf/Jay Morrish course is "a very, very, very private club."

There are only 50 men's lockers and 16 ladies lockers for the 35 local members and 67 national members. The 7,100-yard par 72 course boasts four sets of yardage markers on each hole, permanent yardage markers buried below the turf on the tees and a total absence of portable tee markers. Members can tee off where they like seven days a week. "So we don't violate the rules of golf we have two permanent tee markers below the turf so we can mow over them. A lot of people tee off within two club lengths behind," says Terry. The course is a designer's dream: four of the holes have two fairways and all the par 3s and 5s play in different directions.

Terry comes from a family of golf course superintendents and has grown-in 11 courses. He is also a former assistant agronomist on the US PGA Tour. His job was to set up all 47 tournaments on the regular tour, which meant visiting each course four-eight weeks in advance.

Sixty percent of my job was agronomy where I'd visit with agronomists on the US PGA Tour. His job was to set up all 47 tournaments on the regular tour, which meant visiting each course four-eight weeks in advance.

But it took its toll on his health and he was forced to leave. "I got pneumonia and had to have half my left lung removed. I just wore myself out. I travelled 300,000 miles each year for two years, home 27 days the first year and 33 days the second year. Fortunately I was single in those days."

Anyone who has been to Wisley Golf Club knows that DAVID Whitaker is a master of his craft. After a long apprenticeship at Baiddon Golf Course in Bradford, he went to Rawdon Golf and Tennis Club as head greenkeeper. At 27 he was growing-in a Pete Dye designed American-style course in Switzerland. A great experience for his next project - Wisley.

ROLL OF HONOUR

There are now eight Master Greenkeepers:

- Laurence Pithie was the first Master Greenkeeper.
- Robert Malbusch, Hinsdale Golf Club, Illinois
- Gordon Irvine, Mill Ride Golf Club, Surrey
- Bil Montague, Oakwood Club, Ohio
- Kieran Daly, Saisbury and South Wilts Golf Club
- David Whitaker, Wisley Golf Club, Surrey
- Anthony Davies, Prestbury Golf Club near Macclesfield
- Terry Buchen, Double Eagle Golf Club, Ohio

Anyone who has been to Wisley Golf Club knows that DAVID Whitaker is a master of his craft. After a long apprenticeship at Baiddon Golf Course in Bradford, he went to Rawdon Golf and Tennis Club as head greenkeeper. At 27 he was growing-in a Pete Dye designed American-style course in Switzerland. A great experience for his next project - Wisley.

- Where's Anthony's photo and details? We're doing a big thing on Anthony Davies and Prestbury in a few issues time, so we'll tell you how great he is then.
Over the last five years the type and range of conventional spraying equipment available to greenkeepers has transformed the operator's life. Long gone are the days when application of chemicals could be done by any old sprayer and operator. The Food and Environmental Protection Act (FEPA) has ensured that areas of concern have been highlighted to those people going through the relevant training courses to hopefully make our environment a safer place to work and live.

In this article I shall be briefly dealing with the safe storage of chemicals on golf courses but primarily on the revolution that has recently transformed the older "basic" type sprayers into the types of modern equipment on offer today - with no reference to Controlled Droplet Applicators (CDA equipment).

As a result of the recent legislation, many golf courses have needed to upgrade their storage facilities and possibly reduce their stocks of toxic materials. Along with this the required levels of stock control and application records are needed to ensure the operations comply with the "Good Code of Practice" and are readily available for inspection should they be required.

Permanent buildings are not necessarily required and provided the storage is well ventilated, safe and secure, fire and frost proof and able to contain chemical leakage - a purpose built portable cabinet or store may be an alternative. It is also worthwhile pointing out here that the siting of the store often needs careful consideration to ensure other inflammable materials such as fertilisers, fuels and oil are not located in adjacent areas.

Several manufacturers provide purpose built cabinets for safe lockable storage for up to 200 litres/kg of material which could well be all that is needed - why not let the suppliers keep the larger quantities on their shelves until they are needed? Purpose built cabinets are also available for larger quantities and can range in size from 440-1300 litres. These purpose built stores have the advantage of instant use and can be dropped off on site.

All chemical stores should have clear access not only for delivery vehicles and your sprayers but also for fire tenders should they ever need to be called. The location would also need to be closely sited to a water filling area which ideally needs to have a catchment tank to retain spillage should it occur.

Storage of empty containers must also be provided in a separate...
lockable area ideally adjacent to the chemical store to hold waste packaging prior to correct disposal.

The inside of a chemical store needs to be well lit to provide good visibility for reading labels, etc. Bear in mind here that if windows are used they should ideally be positioned on the north side to prevent sunlight fading the labels.

Should vandalism be a problem, it would necessitate the windows being barred or covered in mesh secured on the inside to prevent easy removal and also allowing opening of the window when required. Security lighting or alarms can also be linked up to nearby premises if required but, with any luck, the lack of advertising signs may simply deter the casual theft. The only recommended external signs now used are "No Smoking" and the triangular black and yellow caution exclamation mark. Fire extinguishers of the correct type need to be readily accessible but current recommendations regarding this are that if a fire cannot be put out easily without risk to the person concerned, simply shut the doors and ring the fire brigade – how far is your telephone from the store and is it clearly marked and accessible?

Design of personal protective equipment (clothing) and the materials now available needs to be covered separately by another article but the correct storage and cleaning also needs to be considered. The PPE operators are required to use needs to be stored nearby the actual store but NOT inside it. This area must also be well ventilated and have adequate hanging space – a separate area from where the operator leaves his personal clothing. Within this same loca-

BIGGA's first turf management training video 'Setting the Standard' has been acclaimed throughout the industry for its informative approach to tackling the ins and outs of spraying on the golf course. Copies are available from BIGGA HQ for £18.75 (members) or £23.75 (non-members) including postage. Call BIGGA for more details on 0347 838581.
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tation, washing and cleaning facilities must be provided with hot water and soap being the bare minimum. A first aid kit of the relevant equipment, washing and cleaning facilities must be provided and its location clearly marked from outside the building.

All of these measures help to provide the operator with a safe place of work but we need to examine how the engineers have produced safer equipment to provide more accurate and efficient chemical application.

If we start with the knapsack sprayer range, the designs of tanks have been changed considerably and because the tanks are now virtually all plastic and are formed by blow moulding, intricate shapes have been used to make them more comfortable to wear. Weight has also been considered and the big companies offer 15 or 20 litre options. To reduce operator contamination, the internals of most tanks will now house the hand operated pumps plus the adjustable reset pressure relief valves. However, these are often still difficult to adjust when the sprayer is full and they only control maximum pressures - not ensuring even pressure and therefore even application.

Overcoming this problem is the recently introduced "Spray Management Valve" which can be found between the nozzle and the on/off trigger control on the handle. This unit acts as a one way valve which will only open when the set pressure is achieved in the spray line. Once open, any excess pressure is managed down to the set pressure - the valve closing if pressure drops below it. Three colour coded units are available, designed to control pressure to one, two or three bar and the unit is also non-drip.

With the addition of a boom kit fitted with 4 nozzles, knapsacks can be used to apply material to wider areas. However, these larger areas may necessitate more water which, rather than carrying, may well be better covered using a lightweight 4m boom on a pedestrian controlled 2-wheeled trolley with a trailing hose - several manufacturers currently offer examples of this size, powered by units at one side of the green to save compaction.

The next stage on would probably lead the way to ATV mounted equipment - either electrically driven roller vane pumps from the bike's 12 volt battery or possibly a trailed unit operated by its own 5 hp donkey engine, driving a diaphragm pump, mounted on a purpose built chassis with break-back booms of widths up to 4 m. These provide relatively cheap units which have accurate forward speed indicators and good manoeuvrability whilst giving minimal compaction - typical tank capacities up to 120 litres. These units will also make better use of an ATV which many golf courses operate for other purposes.

The next slightly larger range of units would now extend into the "de-mount" type units which many golf courses may currently be using. Designed to be quickly and easily attached/detached to the flat bed of 3 or 4 wheeled turf truckster power units, these have been substantially modernised in the last two years to bring them fully up to date with the current legislation. A typical unit uses the trucksters p.t.o. to drive either roller vane or, more commonly now, diaphragm pumps which supply hydraulic agitation to a 300 litre tank and 2 or 3 sectioned 6 or 8m boom fitted with break-back systems.

Many of our local golf clubs combine the use of a "de-mount" for greens and tees with the use of either compact tractor mounted or trailed units for use on fairways and all three of these types of unit could well have special option type builds - the more progressive manufacturers being only too willing to tailor-make units for specialist requirements. Examples of these "options" range from the size of tank, i.e. from 100 litre - 3,500 litre (trailed of course!), to the type of nozzle selected i.e. a single or triplet, snap fit nozzle body, fitted with diaphragm non-drip valves, easy filter rinse and colour coded tips!

Automatic systems are now available to ensure a constant application rate is maintained even when tractor speeds vary on gradients and of course ideal when on older power units with no speedometer or perhaps the hydrostatic drive compact tractor with no "cruse control" override device!

Constant pressure to any of the two or three supplied booms can be maintained with the addition of balance valves to ensure even application when only operating one or two boom sections at any one time and self cleaning main line filters are available to save on operator contamination.

Spray guns and hose reels can easily be added onto the boom outlet supplies for drenching or spot treatments. Colour dyes are sometimes added to the spray material being applied to ensure accurate bout matching but even here foam blobbing kits can be added to a sprayer as an alternative.

When examining the range of tractor mounted sprayers available, the range of pump outputs needs examining but probably the most advantageous changes have taken place in the layout of controls and additional equipment - these being adjustable to ensure they are close to the operator for easy access or you have the additional option of having them remotely controlled allowing the rear window of cabs to be closed. Tank sizes are one of the most important considerations, as although many smaller compact tractors may well have limited hydraulic pump capacities, weight transferred to the rear wheels on large capacity tanks can be a problem with compaction, even with the more modern "flat topped" grassland tyres. It is also important here to mention that correct front end weighting needs checking if the tractor has four wheel drive.

Boom design has now been perfected to provide lightweight easy to handle sectional units all fitted with some kind of break-back device with the option of boom suspension systems on the larger units. Boom widths vary between 12 - 24m and hydraulic folding can also be fitted on many of the larger units - all will be fitted with easy boom height adjustment systems.

The largest trailed units fitted with flotation type tyres are available but will not often be owned by many golf courses. However, there are some purpose built self propelled machines available if you have the money. These high output units will be fitted with all the latest flow meters and automatic monitoring systems which can actually now provide computer print outs showing application rates applied to certain areas - ideally suited to a spray contracting professional - perhaps we shall see more use of contractors being employed for large scale operations!

Obviously the range of options is very extensive. It is pleasing to see that the progressive manufacturers will tailor-make a spraying unit to your specific requirements. The trouble is that this will obviously all be available "at a price" but you must also be aware that "bolt on" additional equipment may be all that is required to bring your spraying units up to current legislation requirements. As a result the manufacturers offer the following components which are readily available and relatively easy to fit:

• Low level suction type filler units. (Many of these will be self cleaning and can also be used for empty container flushing.)
• Protective clothing lockers.
• Storage cages for chemical containers.
• Separate clean water rinsing kits.
• Tripod diaphragm type anti-drip nozzles.
• Calibration kits.

From a personal point of view, I welcome the advances that the manufacturers have provided us with. We all have a duty to ensure that we spray equipment to get regular maintenance, updating and replacement - the same as any other piece of greenkeeping equipment - and although new machines can be extremely expensive, the trend to safer and more efficient sprayer operation can only aid our advancement towards a safer environment for us all to work in and enjoy.

Chris Bishop is Machinery Section Team Leader at Oaksland College, Hertfordshire.

GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL February 1994 15
The sixth BTME was opened by the Rt Hon the Lord Griffiths MC, captain of the R&A and president of the MCC, who called it "a fine investment for golf" and said the Royal and Ancient Golf Club was "proud to be associated with BIGGA's progress." He also recalled his early days in golf, 60 years ago in Wales, when the greenkeeper's main skill was "the ability to keep sheep off greens".

BIGGA's president, Viscount Whitelaw, was unable to attend this year because he was speaking in the House of Lords against the Police Bill. For him and all the other members who were unable to attend, we present our Harrogate photo album and spotlight some of the new products that caught our eyes.

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THAN EVER!
Industry applauds BTME: ‘I don’t think I have seen the halls so full...’ ‘Another success...’ ‘Superb...’

Leading the way in Europe

BIGGA’s role as a key player on the international stage was highlighted at the second European Forum held at the Old Swan Hotel, Harrogate, during the BTME. More than 50 delegates attended the meeting and listened to speakers from Sweden, Holland and Norway. We may not share the same language but, it seems, we do share the same sort of problems What also came out of the meeting was that BIGGA is the largest and best organised of the European associations and with 261 international members in 31 countries it has a very important role to play in future developments.

The Agricultural Engineers Association says many people in the turfcare industry would like to see just one exhibition. If the success at Harrogate is anything to go by, the BTME should be that exhibition. As BIGGA’s executive director said at the AGM: “We are committed contractually to Harrogate until after the 1996 exhibition and we intend to go on presenting our case that if there is to be one major show then Harrogate may well prove to be the ideal venue.”

Harrogate looked more like Harrods on sale day when the exhibition opened. Long queues formed at the pre-registration desk, prompting organisers to rethink the system for next year.

One driver was so eager to get in that he crashed his car outside the entrance on the first day.

On the other hand, one well known marketing manager walked in half an hour after the show had closed. It’s only a two and a half day exhibition, you know!

Attendance up at the only show that counts

If you’re a greenkeeper, course manager or are, in some way, connected with golf, there was only one place to be last month – Harrogate and the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition.

We’re not the only ones thinking that. More than 6,000 people visited the show – 1,200 up on last year. And exhibitors were besides themselves with joy at the contacts they had made and the business they had done.

Ransomes’ sales manager, Chris MacGowan, said: “It’s the best show, it’s the only one that counts nationally.”

Kim Macfie, Hayters sales and marketing director, who had the largest stand there, told BIGGA: “It was another success... you must take considerable pride in the knowledge that it was so successful.”

Jonathan Franks, amenity grass seed manager, British Seed Houses, said: “I don’t think I have ever seen the hall so full on the first and second days and we were very impressed that so many delegates came from so far afield.”

One of the busiest men there was BIGGA chairman John Crawford. Everywhere we went, he was there ahead of us shaking someone’s hand or making a speech. Afterwards, when he’d caught his breath, he said: “Everything went smoothly.”

David Smith of Atterton & Ellis Ltd simply put it this way: “It was superb.”

Richard Fry of Marketing Link Associates summed it up by saying: “You now have the best exhibition, the best magazine and the best training videos.”

And it wasn’t just the exhibitors who were pleased. Ian McMillan, course manager at Hankley Common Golf Club, Farnham, said: “The atmosphere was very good amongst the trade and members. The fact that the show has grown in stature through difficult times is a credit to the organisation.”

Two of the winners of our £600 BTME competition are pictured with BIGGA chairman John Crawford. Colin Mackay (left), assistant greenkeeper at Cruden Bay GC near Aberdeen, won return rail travel, three nights’ accommodation and entry to all the education seminar sessions. Nigel Buxton (right) assistant head greenkeeper at Cavendish Golf Club, Buxton, Derbyshire, won a single night’s accommodation and entry to all the seminar sessions. Second prize winner Harvey Tribe, first assistant at Henley Golf Club, couldn’t make it.
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The 15-minute video, entitled 'Keepers of the Green', was released to rave reviews at the BIGGA Career Video. Students and working professionals were delighted with the video. Terry Buchen, a top US golf course manager at Wisley Golf Club near Macclesfield, said: "It was absolutely first class. Very professional." Fellow Master David Whitaker, course manager at Prestbury Golf Club near Prestbury, said: "It's exactly what the industry needs."

The new video, entitled 'Terry Buchen on Greenkeeping', was narrated by Peter Alliss, was filmed at Reaseheath College and features action footage of Nick Faldo and Ian Woosnam. It starts with Old Tom Morris explaining how things have changed since his day. Students and working greenkeepers explain what it's like today and how professional it has become. Terry Buchen, a top US golf course superintendent and Master Greenkeeper, said: "I thought the Old Tom Morris part was great and I thought it was a neat way to promote youngsters to get into greenkeeping. We need something like this in the US."

The video, which cost £27,500 to produce, is available on free loan for careers nights and college/school talks, can be obtained by writing to the Greenkeepers Education Unit, Aldwark Manor, Aline, York Y06 2NF. Tel: 0347 838640/0347 838681.

Fellow Master David Whitaker, course manager at Prestbury Golf Club near Prestbury, said: "It was absolutely first class. Very professional." Fellow Master David Whitaker, course manager at Prestbury Golf Club near Prestbury, said: "It was absolutely first class. Very professional."

The Open at Sandwich; the Westurf, the first show organised by a BIGGA region; the start of the Hayter Challenge Tournament; the Open at Sandwich; the National Tournament at Dunbar; and the success of greenkeepers at the Kubota Challenge at the Bellfry. "Our team presented themselves professionally both on and off the course which is important for the image of the Association when other golfing bodies are participating," said Mr Thomas in his annual report.
NEW PRODUCTS LAUNCHED AT THE 1994 SHOW

- Rhone-Poulenc launched a systemic fungicide called Vitesse (French for 'speed'). It is being promoted as the only systemic which starts working immediately on contact with the turf. Product manager Sion Price said: "It is the only turf fungicide with the powerful double action of two active ingredients — carbendazim, a systemic fungicide which is rapidly taken up by the plant to give protection from within, and iprodione, a contact with the turf. Product starts working immediately on contact with the turf. Price: £1,870. Tel: 0899 271503

- Simon Hannam, a technical adviser with the Inturf Group shows off the company's latest installation machine. The lightweight machine has a synchronised feed which places the turf precisely onto the rootzone irrespective of the forward speed of the machine. The TIM system is operated by Inturf's team of greenkeeping staff as an in-house service. Tel: 0759 304101

Simon Hannam, a technical adviser with the Inturf Group shows off the company's latest installation machine. The lightweight machine has a synchronised feed which places the turf precisely onto the rootzone irrespective of the forward speed of the machine. Tel: 0759 304101

- Worcestershire-based SISIS Equipment showed two new products — the SISIS Autosped for greens and tees and the SupaTurfman, a wider version of the AutoTurfman. The Autosped is powered by a 5hp engine, has a hopper capacity of 0.26m³ (9ft³) and a spreading width of 83cm (33ins). The hopper is plastic coated to resist corrosion and the main wheels are "slicks" to reduce ground marking. The SupaTurfman is a heavy-duty aerator with a working width of 355mm (14ins). A new feature is the incorporation of quick release fasteners permitting the machine to be changed without spanners. The SupaTurfman is powered by a 5hp petrol engine. Tel: 0625 503030

- Kubota's latest compact tractor, the 30.5hp ST-30, took pride of place on its stand. Designed and developed specifically for grass cutting, it weighs 875kg, is 2720mm long and has a 1600mm wheel base. Power comes from a four-cylinder diesel engine. The lift capacity of the £12,200 plus VAT ST-30 is 800kg.

- Turfmech Machinery has added a rear-mounted blower to use with compact tractors. The TM300 is designed for cleaning leaves, litter and other debris. Price: £1,870. Tel: 0899 271503

- Hayter introduced two new hydraulic trailed gangmowers — the five-gang TM529 and the seven-gang TM729. Both are fitted with large specification tyres which allow towing speeds of up to 50mph, although there is a legal limit of 20mph on the larger TM729. These units also have suspended axles which isolate and protect the heavy-duty chassis and all moving parts from ground generated loading. Other features include a separate hydraulic pump for the lift system, an automatic valve which stops the cylinders when a cutterhead is raised. Hayter also introduced a triple ride-on mower, the Beaver T224, and a hydraulic five gangmower, the TM520. Tel: 0279 723444

- John Deere was showing off three new machines — a lightweight fairway mower, a diesel-engined version of the 2243 greensmower and a two-seater utility vehicle. John Deere claims its new 32hp 3235 fairway mower offers twice as much power as the reels as competitive makes, and the highest rate of clip on the market". Height of cut can be adjusted from 3/8 to 1 3/8in or 3in. The new 2243 greensmower is aimed at greenkeepers who have large areas of greens that need to be mown daily. This machine is equipped with three 22in, 5in diameter, nine-blade offset cylinder mowers which cut the tracking wear on greens caused by regular mowing by 50 percent, according to the distributors. This is done by changing the direction of travel on alternate days. Height of cut can be varied from 3/32 to 3/4in. For all load-carrying operations there are the John Deere Gator 10hp 4x2 and 18hp 4x4 utility vehicles. Ground pressure is said to be 7psi at full load. Their respective pay-loads/towing capacities are 408kg/340kg and 544kg/544kg. Both models feature Kawasaki petrol engines.

- Hardi launched the Brush Master, which has been on extensive trials on golf courses in southern England during the past 18 months. It is designed for switching (dew removal) before play commences, brushing in after normal applications of top dressing, and filling in holes after coring and top dressing. Price is £1995 plus VAT. Hardi also exhibited its new range of trailed turfcare sprayers called Uniflex. The Uniflex trailed chasis is designed to suit tank sizes of 200 and 300 litres whilst still providing low ground pressures due to wide wheels. Prices from £2200 plus VAT. Tel: 0455 233811

- Two new Victa products were shown on the EP Barrus stand. The PRO500 is an 18in steel deck push-along mower featuring Victa two-stroke engine and a disc and two swing blades to protect the crankshaft. Price: £287 plus VAT. The VP44P brushcutter has a 40cc engine, Sure-Tap professional head which controls the length of cutting line released when the centre knob is tapped and two-stage anti-vibration handles. Price: £379. Tel: 0869 253355

- Sports Ground Irrigation exhibited the new valve-in-head golf models from Hunter Industries and the full range of PGM lawn sprinklers with colour coded nozzles. Also on show was a new version of the CIC 1 controller. Tel: 0856 463153

- Jacobsen launched a new Autofertil grass cuttings recycling system. This system enables grass cuttings to be reused as fertiliser and nutrient for courses, completing the biomass cycle and doing away with unsightly mounds of grass cuttings. Two sizes of machine are available. Jacobsen also introduced a new systems vehicle available in two models with either a 23hp Kubota diesel engine or 34hp Ford petrol engine, both giving a 2800 lb total rated capacity. Tel: 0536 417777

- Sharps International launched its 1994 booklet featuring two new varieties — Eleagna, a perennial ryegrass, and Miracle, a smooth stalked meadow grass. Tel: 0529 304511

- Symbo showed its new product, Green Circle, which "reduces fertiliser applications and reduces or eliminates the need for fungicides". Symbo uses "Biofixation", a process whereby the bacteria and microscopic fungi found in healthy soils are fixed onto a specially developed natural mineral support. The microbes in Green Circle are claimed to break down fibrous thatchy matter thereby improving drainage through the sward. Consequently the nutrients released by decomposition are fed down into the rootzone, stimulating deeper root growth. Tel: 081 669 0011

- Land and leisure consultants ADAS were offering golf clubs six-monthly course health check-ups. They will examine the course to pinpoint trouble spots and log the results in a report. The project is designed as an early-warning system for club managers. Tel: 0623 846742

- Below: Philip Langdon and Peter Madden on the Watermation stand.
Malcolm Henderson, pictured below, a former golf professional turned head greenkeeper, tells STEVE VERRILL how he transformed Malton and Norton Golf Club from a modest nine hole into a superb 27-hole parkland course.

Photographs by TIM MOAT
Nested in a corner of North Yorkshire more famous for its racehorses than golf courses lies a remarkable greenkeeping success story.

Every greenkeeper worth his salt would leap at the chance to design his own course but sadly few ever get the opportunity. Usually it is the greenkeeper who has to make the best of someone else's baby be it beautiful or otherwise.

So Malcolm Henderson, head greenkeeper at Malton and Norton Golf Club, can – and does – count himself a fortunate man. Malcolm's design skills have turned what started life as a modest nine hole into a superb 27-hole parkland course.

Malcolm must rate as one of BIGGA's more unusual members because he is also a qualified professional golfer and until three years ago was employed as both club professional and head greenkeeper.

Yet despite his playing talents, Malcolm's first love has always been greenkeeping, a vocation which gives him immense satisfaction.

Job satisfaction can manifest itself in a variety of ways but for Malcolm it comes from seeing golfers out enjoying the fruits of his labours.

Malcolm, 51, learned his greenkeeping trade as an eager 15-year-old at the illustrious and exclusive championship course at Ganton near Scarborough. But tending...
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Now and then: looking towards the new nine

‘He has carved out a layout for the thinking golfer’

greens and playing on them ran hand-in-hand in Malcolm’s youth and after passing his PGA examination at Lilleshall he was appointed as professional/head greenkeeper at Malton and Norton.

Among his first tasks was to design and build a new nine holes, which are now the front nine, aided by the late Malcolm Roberts, chairman of the greens committee.

That this first venture was a success is there for all to see and the fact that the club is attracting record numbers of visitors is a testament to this modest greenkeeper’s artistry.

He has carved out a layout for the thinking golfer from the heavy Yorkshire meadowland constructing a course that many a famous designer would be proud to put his name to.

It kicks off with a marvellous 564 yard par five and sweeps up and over the rolling countryside providing not only challenging golf but a panoramic vista across Malton and along the Vale of York. Greens are big and slick, despite having to work with some of the coarser meadowland grass varieties, and the course is studded with impressive mature chestnut and oak trees.

Such has been the popularity of the course that Malcolm was called upon three years ago to design a further nine holes with the assistance of greens committee chairman Bob Mansell.

The brief for the new nine was to match the class and excellence of the existing 18 with a budget of around £8,000 a hole. The job was duly completed to budget and the new course opened for three months last

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Although ‘Highland’ browntop bent is generally acceptable for most UK situations, for very fine turf such as golf and bowling greens the STRI now advises finer and denser cultivars like Heriot and Bardot.

**HERIOT 7.7**

**BARDOT 6.5**

**HIGHLAND 4.8**

* The STRI 1994 list shoots density figures.
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• Holes offer a way of introducing fresh media to the soil
• Healing time of three to four days
• Drills through dry patch.

BENEFITS WITHOUT SIDE EFFECTS FOR GOLF FAIRWAYS, GOLF TEES, GOLF GREENS, RUGBY PITCHES, BOWLING GREENS, HOCKEY PITCHES, CRICKET SQUARES, CROQUET LAWNS, AND FOOTBALL PITCHES

summer and will go full time this spring.
The course was hewn from an unappetising piece of land – part agricultural, part jungle. It now bears Malcolm's trademark of large undulating greens and big impressive tees with plenty of space for the daily repositioning of tee markers.
The new nine involved the improvement of two ponds and provided the opportunity to bring about Malcolm’s favourite innovation – a superb Watermation system. The whole course is kitted out with the computerised watering system which incorporates Malcolm’s pride and joy – a pump and filtration system which automatically draws water out

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'Tree planting programme is now paying dividends'

of a naturally supplied pond and replenishes storage tanks some 1000 metres away. "It really is a fabulous system. It allows me to programme all the various stations, either greens or tees, to come on at whatever time I want for a duration of up to 99 minutes," said Malcolm.

"My usual set-up is for the system to start at 1am for five or six minutes at each station and because the pump starts two minutes before the start time the water pressure is the same for each green or tee.

"The system was installed by T and G Installation Services of Ripon at a total cost of £40,000 but it has proved to be a great investment and has certainly paid for itself over the last couple of years."

While on the topic of good investments, the club's tree planting programme has also started to pay dividends. About 60 trees which were planted more than 10 years ago have recently been transplanted throughout the new course giving a mature feel which belies its infancy. In the best Yorkshire traditions the exercise also saved the club at least £12,000 with trees costing less than £2 at planting now worth more £200 each.

"It has worked a treat and is such a simple operation. We used a contractor to transplant the trees and the whole operation took just four days in total," said Malcolm.

"Three hydraulic spades are slipped underneath each tree, it is then lifted out and dropped into a pre-dug hole. So far it looks to have been 100 per cent successful."

One tip is to make sure you incorporate a water feeder pipe down to the roots. Malcolm gives each tree about 40 gallons of water once a fortnight during drier conditions.

"I can certainly recommend transplanting. It allows you to do the impossible and actually buy in time to give the course maturity."
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‘Investment in drainage has made my life easier’

Shortly Malcolm and his four strong team will begin their spring maintenance programme in earnest, the biggest job being the spreading of about 80 tons of Rufford top dressing on the greens.

The Malton course is built on a heavy sub soil which can cause drainage difficulties so the greens get a good dose of sand.

“We slit the greens every month in winter to about seven or eight inches to aerate and aid against compaction and every other year we vertidrain but that was carried out last year. Once the greens have been deep slitted we shall spread up to four tons of dressing made up of 50 per cent sand and 50 per cent soil on each green.

“We use a Sisis green slitter on the back of a compact tractor and then once the dressing dries we brush it in. Usually the whole process takes about four hours per green.

“The greens are principally meadow grass because they were cut out of the fields at the turn of the century and we have just kept on with them. It is rougher grass than we would like. We haven’t the finer grass that new courses have but we use turf groomers on the back of Jacobsen machines every time we cut which helps the grass grow finer.”

Once the growing season starts, usually mid-April, Malcolm will treat the greens and approaches with a mixture of lawn sand and moss killer. Tees will be repaired where necessary and those on the short holes will be top dressed.

Fairways will get a little pick-me-up in April from an outfield fertiliser and any bare patches will be turfed over.

Malcolm explained that an investment in drainage had made his task easier. “Flooding of fairways was quite a problem until about eight years ago when we installed plastic drainage system backfilled with stone on the 9th, 10th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th fair-
Equipment at Malton and Norton Golf Club

1 x Ford Compact tractor 1910 4WD
2 x Massey Ferguson tractors, one with power loader
1 x Massey Ferguson Compact 1010
2 x Jacobsen Greensking with turf groomers
1 x Ransomes 171 Greensystem
1 x Ransomes 180
2 x Allen Nationals
1 x Jacobsen motor bunker rake
1 x Lloyds gang mowers for fairways
1 x Ransomes gang mowers for semi rough

Worms have never been a problem on the original course but Malcolm will be spraying greens, tees and fairways on the new nine in May using Castaway Plus through a Hardi sprayer.

Moles have also made their unwelcome presence felt on the new course but a few poisoned worms dropped into their underground runs should take care of them – but don’t tell the lady members.

"I am quite looking forward to playing with a handicap – about eight or nine will do nicely," said Malcolm with a gleam in his eye.

NEW for 1994

Contact Paula or Lisa at:
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EGU attacks BIGGA

The English Golf Union has launched a surprising attack on your organisation. In the January/February edition of Amateur Golf it implies that it has grown too quickly and that the magazine is losing money. It is wrong on both counts. There are other veiled criticisms which we have answered below, but the big question is ‘Why have they done it?’

1. What problems? BIGGA’s showcase, the BTME, gets better and better each year, the magazine is a market leader and membership keeps growing.

2. There have been no direct grants from the Home Unions to BIGGA.

3. The GTC is not entirely separate as there is a great deal of collaboration between BIGGA’s education unit and the GTC, as was seen with the new career video premiered at the BTME. BIGGA’s in-house training programme continues to develop.

4. Not just successful, hugely successful (see this month’s letters page).

5. Amateur Golf, what do you mean? No doubt the companies within the industry who support BIGGA would welcome an explanation of these ‘strings’.

6. Well, we dispute it. Figures presented to members at the AGM showed that the magazine made a substantial profit and made a significant contribution to the growth of the Association.

7. Yes, it has grow’d and grow’d. Membership has grow’d 404 percent from 1278 in ‘87 to 5,162 in October ’93, BTME has grow’d by 74 percent from ’93 to ’94 and 30 percent from ’92 to ’93, and the Association’s turnover has grow’d from £61,258 in 1987 to £707,733 in the first nine months of 1993. Of course such growth can’t be handled by a one-man band, so the staff has grow’d to 11.

8. Yes, David White chose to resign for his own reasons but we are surprised to hear of a highly publicised dispute.

9. The AGM was exceptionally well attended, highly constructive and ended with a wholehearted endorsement of current direction and plans for the future.

Neil Thomas, BIGGA’s executive director, commented:

“I find it extremely disturbing that ‘Amateur Golf’, the official journal of the English Golf Union, is prepared to publish so-called information on BIGGA’s affairs which is untrue, lacking in fact, misleading and contains innuendo. The unwillingness to quote sources or follow basic journalistic principles of checking material must force the question as to the motivation for this article. At a time when BIGGA is seeking to work closely with Home Union representatives through the Greenkeepers Training Committee it must be a cause of deep regret that ‘Amateur Golf’ has printed material which can only be interpreted as designed to undermine the stability of an association whose dramatic progress over the last seven years is a credit to the partnership of members, officials and officers working for the betterment of the greenkeeping profession as well as to the support received from the R&A and companies working within the industry.”
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NEW 3235 Turf System Mower
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The standard cutting units are 5 inches (13 cm) in diameter and are the logical choice for slow growing grasses. The larger ESP cutting units are 7 inches (18 cm) in diameter and are the perfect choice for work in long grass and wet conditions.

2653 Professional Utility Mower
The 2653 Professional Utility Mower brings the unique combination of superior climbing ability, hydraulic reel drive, and 26-inch (66-cm) cutting units to trim mowing. Important 2653 features include a liquid-cooled 18-hp (13.4-kW) petrol engine, hydrostatic 3-wheel drive, and weight transfer system.

3365 Professional Turf Mower
The 3365 is designed for wide-area mowing where quality of cut is still a priority. John Deere designed and manufactured ESP (Extra Strength and Precision) cutting units provide exceptional performance. Their 30-inch (76-cm) width and 5-gang design combine to deliver a 3.5-metre cut on every pass.
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### NEW

#### Gator Utility Vehicles

Here are two utility vehicles for both on-turf and off-road work. The Gator 6x4 with six wheels and 4-wheel drive has an 18-hp (13.4-kW) liquid-cooled engine for quiet operation and long life. The 4x2 has four wheels, 2-wheel drive, and features a high-torque, 10-hp (7.5-kW) air-cooled engine. Total payload capacities, including 200-lb. (90-kg) operator and passenger are 900 lbs. (408 kg) for the 4x2 and 1,200 lbs. (544 kg) for the 6x4.

#### 1200 Bunker and Field Rake

The 1200's combination of a 10-hp (7.5-kW) high-torque engine and 164-to-1 gear reduction allows it to do as much or more work than expensive hydrostatic alternatives. With its exceptional traction and pulling power, the John Deere 1200 efficiently handles varying conditions and applications. A full range of implements include ground-hugging, 3-section rake with hydraulic lift option, cultivator and front blade. Also ideal for sports fields maintenance.

---

**2243 Professional Greens Mower**

A new diesel option highlights the 2243 Professional Greens Mower this year. This new 3-cylinder, 18-hp (13.4-kW) liquid-cooled Yanmar diesel engine was designed to reduce emissions, reduce noise and increase fuel efficiency. Patented offset design of the 2243 cutting units means 50 percent less tracking wear around the perimeter of your greens. Long-life features include hydrostatic transaxle with enclosed hydraulics, full-length steel frame, simple service access, and O-ring hydraulic fittings.

---

**Gator Utility Vehicles**

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Our immediate customers are the, more than 5,100, John Deere dealers and distributors worldwide. Our ultimate customer is you – the person who depends on our equipment to make a living. Whether you're a farmer, contractor, or golf course green-keeper.

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NOTHING RUNS LIKE A DEERE
Financial advice for greenkeepers

There are different categories of authorisation and not all IFA's are able to advise in all areas, so it is essential to ensure that your particular IFA is fully authorised to conduct the type of business that you are interested in. Extra safeguards have been built into the system to protect the public. All clients of IFA's are now covered by compensation schemes run by the regulatory bodies. Additionally, IFA's are required by law to carry Professional Indemnity Insurance giving extra protection to both the company and to the client.

To do their job properly an IFA will want full details of a client's individual situation. They are required to conduct a complete 'fact find' asking questions about age, family circumstances, health, tax status and existing savings, investments and pension arrangements.

The IFA will need to know about your particular requirements. Are you happy for your money to be tied up for a number of years earning higher interest, or will you need ready access? What is your attitude to risk? Do you plan to retire early? If your adviser does not request this sort of information, then you should be concerned. If there is something you do not understand, ask questions. If you still do not understand, back away. Take as much time as you want to think things over. You should never be pressurised into taking on a commitment that you are not 100% happy with or fully understand.

The relationship with an IFA is potentially a long term one. The individual must therefore, be totally happy with the adviser ultimately selected. Trust is an essential ingredient. We suggest five questions you should ask yourself before choosing an IFA.

• First, is the adviser technically competent and able to demonstrate experience in his field. If he is a specialist in a particular area, make sure his specialisation fits your requirements?

• Second, do you think your adviser is enthusiastic and you feel you are able to get on with?

• Third, are you sure you feel comfortable with him, as it is in your interests to build a rapport with your adviser?

• Fourth, will you have continuity of contact with the same person and ask what back-up services he provides?

• Finally, the adviser will take his remuneration by either commission or by a fee. This should be disclosed at the outset. Do you understand the basis of your adviser's remuneration as this will avoid any misunderstandings arising later on?

Much has been made of the commission versus fees argument, but as long as the question is discussed openly, the client should be able to find an IFA operating a remuneration system that is suitable for you. The real issues for the client are an understanding of the product purchased, the status of the adviser and having the confidence to deal with that adviser.

Today's advisers are regulated, and their clients protected, to a greater degree than at any time in the past. While better trained and more qualified than ever before, new training and competence procedures being brought in will ensure that tomorrow's advisers will be raised to an even higher professional level.

The field of personal finance is complex. Decisions made today could well determine the future financial prosperity and security of both yourself and that of your dependants. Remember, it pays to take an independent view!

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Consider for a minute how much we have all come to rely on the internal combustion engine in our work and personal lives. Not until something goes wrong do we realise just how difficult it would be without it.

Over the last three decades virtually every operation carried out in golf course maintenance has been mechanised. An engine's function is often taken for granted - turn a key or pull a rope and it starts. That is until the day when nothing happens and the odds are this will occur when that particular piece of equipment is most needed. The petrol or diesel engine has become of paramount importance in enabling course managers and greenkeepers to fulfil their duties to the satisfaction of the golfing fraternities.

In this article we are looking at a number of aspects relating to the engine. These include engine emissions and the environment, replacing the power unit as an alternative to buying a complete new machine, plus tips on how to care for this important part of your equipment.

A cleaner environment
Engine technology has increased in leaps and bounds over the last decade, largely due to outside influences. Governments throughout the world have been pressurised into doing something about the way they protect the planet. As a result the pollution created from burning fossil fuels is very much under the spotlight. Proposed legislation on this issue is being continually introduced. Engine manufacturers recognising this and their responsibilities have assigned vast amounts of money to research and development to produce cleaner and more economical power units.

Here in the United Kingdom every car owner knows unleaded petrol is cheaper. This is because of a government initiative to encourage us to use it instead of leaded fuel. As part of the policy for cleaner air the MOT now entails stricter tests on exhaust emissions, these are only the tip of the iceberg. Research carried out by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) in America has given engine manufacturers their biggest challenge to date. Stringent controls on the emissions from industrial engines fitted to all types of amenity equipment are on the way. To understand what is involved it is necessary to look at the cause. Tests in the States revealed that pollutants from these units were pumping into the atmosphere at far higher levels than originally thought and action was needed to reduce it.

There are three main culprits produced by the combustion process that are harmful to health, carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons and nitric oxide.

Carbon Monoxide
This is generally considered to be the greatest health hazard. It is produced as a result of incomplete fuel combustion due to a lack of oxygen. The critical factor in avoiding production of carbon monoxide is the fuel and air ratio. The temperature of an engine can be lowered by retarding the ignition timing and re-circulating the exhaust gases. Unfortunately this action also tends to reduce the power output.

Catalytic converters
These are increasingly being included in car exhaust systems, but they are still expensive to produce. The breakdown process entails oxidising the hydrocarbons and carbon monoxide at high temperatures. On small engines there is no oxygen in the exhaust system for the action to take place, this has to be introduced into the converter. Another problem at present is the amount of heat created. It is far greater than that produced from a standard exhaust
Fitting a diesel engine will, in the long term, represent a considerable reduction in fuel bills.

Vast amounts of money have been used throughout the world to find solutions to these problems. The result of all this research is the introduction of engines that conserve fuel and oil, run quieter and issue less pollution. In addition, a better power to weight ratio is common place, plus use of the latest materials has contributed to a reduction in maintenance requirements.

All this would be fine except that the workload placed on equipment has also changed. Workforces have been reduced to a minimum, tight budgets restrict the purchase of new machinery, so the life of existing equipment has to be extended. In addition, it is now working for longer periods. In some instances it is not until it finally gives up the ghost that any decision is made on what to do with it. In these situations economical ways of keeping equipment going have to be sought.

Replacement engines

There comes a time when even the most cared for engine shows signs of wear and a decision has to be made whether to repair, replace or trade-in the complete machine for a new one. If repairing the old power unit looks like being expensive and expensive then replacing the engine may be a solution. Another possible reason for this course of action is the savings in fuel. The modern petrol power unit is less thirsty and more economical to run than its predecessor. Alternatively, fitting a diesel engine will, in the long term, represent a considerable reduction in the fuel bills.

Before deciding to replace the existing power source there are several points that require consideration. Carry out a full assessment of the condition of the whole machine.

Has it been maintained on a regular basis? Have any major parts or components been replaced in the last year?

In the case of mowers, what is the present state of the cylinders and bedknives? Have they been ground regularly, if so, how much life is left in them? Will all the components such as transmissions and drives withstand the increase in power a new engine produces? Components could have been under pressure and stress if the engine has not be operating effectively. These too may need replacing. Is the mounting frame sound, not rust eaten? This point is also particularly important if a heavier power unit is being considered as the replacement.

It is strongly recommended that this full assessment is carried out thoroughly either by your own workshops or a recognised service specialist, otherwise you may find within a short period of time other parts of the machine start breaking down.

Once all these aspects have been taken into account and fitting a new power unit is a viable proposition, a choice of which one has to be decided. Now is the time to seek help from the spare parts manager at your local specialist dealer. He will be able to supply prices and specifications and tell you whether an engine replacement kit is required.

Competition between engine manufacturers is keen, so it could be an advantage to consult more than one supplier. It is also worth having a chat with the service manager, especially when a different power unit to the original one is being considered. It is common for the manufacturers of the original equipment to approve replacement engines that can be fitted satisfactorily to their machines. If there is any doubt a telephone call to their service department can put ones mind at rest.

Where the existing engine is being replaced with the latest model it is generally just a case of removing the old unit and dropping the new one in place. Sometimes the dimensions may be slightly different to the older version so minor adjustments are necessary. If a complete change of engine is being carried out modification to mountings and change of pulleys could be required. These are supplied in a kit with the new replacement unit. In a majority of cases the changeover can be carried out by your own workshops. For those without this facility an authorised engine supplier will be only too happy to carry out the work.

Engine care

An engine requires three things to run efficiently: lubrication, air and fuel.

Oil

This forms the protective film between all internal metal surfaces and dissipates the heat that is built up from friction created by the moving parts. Over a relatively short period of time oil will become contaminated and its lubricating properties diminished. As a result the engine begins to overheat. If oil levels are allowed to drop, the temperature rises. If nothing is done about this the engine eventually seize-ups which can be an expensive lesson to learn. Dipsticks require inspecting at least once a day. The manufacturer’s recommendation regarding oil changes should be followed and a top quality lubricant used.

Air

Air is critical to the efficient running of the engine and it must be clean. This is achieved through an air filtration system. These are generally found in the form of a foam pad, impregnated with oil. Periodic cleaning, especially in relation to the weather conditions, is a requirement. If they become blocked through neglect then the engine runs erratically and starting becomes difficult. Dirt is drawn into the engine causing damage to internal components.

Air has another function, that of maintaining the correct engine temperature. This is achieved by a flow of air over cooling fins. If these become blocked with dirt and dried grass the flow is obstructed and the engine gets hot. In extreme cases it will catch fire. By keeping cooling fins clean and free of grass clippings, especially under cowlings, this will eliminate the problem.

Fuel

Clean fuel is important. How many readers actually use a filter funnel when filling a tank? Fuel should be stored in the correct type of labelled container and in a cool place with good ventilation. Any spillage must be dealt with immediately not just from the safety aspect, but to avoid hydrocarbon pollution of the environment.

A weekly programme of maintenance requirements based on the manufacturers’ recommendations is essential for equipment that is being worked for long periods of time.

Engine design has come a long way since they were first fitted to grass cutting machinery at the turn of the century. By the beginning of the next millennium they will be even quieter, lighter and more fuel efficient. It is very likely a computer will ensure optimum performance and diagnose any faults that occur. Technology does not stand still, so tomorrow’s equipment will be better and more efficient than today’s. It may not be possible for you to buy new machinery, but by fitting an up to date replacement engine you are going a long way to keeping your equipment operating at its peak performance.
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Becker-Underwood, Inc.
We deserve a fair wage

As a qualified greenkeeper and a BIGGA member I feel I must express my concern over the wage scales that a lot of golf clubs are applying in Scotland.

The fact that many clubs won’t even look at the BIGGA recommendations, let alone consider them, sums up the situation perfectly. Throughout my nine years as a greenkeeper I have yet to be given a straight answer to the question, why?

Surely in this day and age when the role of the greenkeeper has come a long way from the ‘old farm worker’ or the ‘glorified grass cutter’, golf clubs could listen and appreciate how much more complicated the job has become.

I feel that communications between the club house and the greenkeepers’ shed could be greatly improved by not only involving the ‘committees’ but also the ordinary members. This can easily be achieved by holding regular open nights where the members would be invited to put any questions to the greenkeepers regarding the course. This would not only improve relationships, the image of the greenkeeper, but also supply the answers that golfers frequently require after many a good or bad round.

Only when more people are aware of the job of the greenkeeper will they realise that we do deserve a fair wage and that we could possibly catch up with other skilled tradesmen.

Name withheld

It’s all about teamwork

To the Executive Director

Further to the topic of your welcome article on communication, I’d like to contribute a viewpoint, extend the debate a little further, and possibly assist those seeking improved communication channels. The ability to project a professional image, in our industry as in any other, relies heavily upon effective communication.

As you rightly observe “communication, to a greater or lesser degree is a problem in all large organisations” (and, sadly in a great many small ones). But the criticism “poor communication” is in itself a negative critique, and all too easily aimed.

So, how effective are we all at our respective methods of communication? This is addressed not only to fellow Head Greenkeepers/Course Managers, but also to Golf Club Managers, Secretaries and Committees.

The stress occasioned by “poor communication” is largely brought about by ambiguity – direction is unclear, the message or information to be conveyed is unclear, and often the messenger is even more unclear.

I doubt I’m alone in believing that the most effective communication method is still the spoken word followed by a written factual account of discussion and events. Yes, the perennial, much maligned and misunderstood communication medium – the staff meeting. Be it weekly, bi-weekly or monthly it is a system I have long adhered to.

For the formulation and acceptance of course maintenance and development programmes; the introduction of quality initiatives, and determining clear collective goals and objectives, this “getting the team together” format is paramount in achieving success.

We begin with an agenda, all staff attend and the meeting is controlled and managed within two hours, each item or job is given a completion date and we all assign ourselves to the appropriate tasks. Next month we follow up, monitor progress, celebrate success (?) and set further milestones to reach, and new objectives to accomplish together!

This instrument of communication, involving all, builds team spirit, motivates, measures progress, shows tangible results and finds solutions ahead of problems. This also demonstrates a level of professionalism both in attitude to ones role as a manager – to colleagues and superiors – but also as an effective communicator.

The format will vary according to the priority of the agenda, i.e. short, medium and long term objectives. The ultimate aim being that of involving all, in following a clear direction – by the same route. Thus avoiding our old enemy, ambiguity.

However, this process has not always been met with approval. One prospective employer listened to my rationale and agreed the principal but suggested that any such meeting including greenstaff should take place when it rained – because (obviously…) we had nothing better to do!

This of course was only one misguided opinion, and as we all know, opinions are like poa annua – we’ve all got some!

Anthony Black,
Golf Course Manager
(Formerly Golf Euro-Disney)

Not all and sundry

During the Christmas break I have had time to catch up with my workload, reading nominated publications advised by my tutors at Myrescough College where I am studying for a National Diploma in turf science. I have been a member of BIGGA since leaving school and starting in the industry in 1989.

One of the books I have read is ‘The Way Forward’. Considerable space has been given to greenkeepers and the BIGGA organisation has been awarded both bouquets and barbed wire. One of the points that I would like to raise and feel quite strongly about is the morale of trainee greenkeepers.

Throughout my time at work and latterly at college it has always been instilled to us the importance of our professional nature, how we must strive to become the best. To quote the editorial: how ‘There is now great opportunity for greenkeepers to make a concerted effort to project themselves as technically competent, qualified individuals in a skilled profession.’ To feel part of this profession we are encouraged to join BIGGA and feel part of the team.

Now I find all sorts applying to join. Get in favour with a greenkeeper and he will give you an application form, once you are a member you can play most courses in the country for free.

Please can we stop this practice before it takes too tight a hold. By all means encourage membership but be sure we have members who have the profession at heart, those who are willing to help us establish our professional status and are willing to work for that end. Not golf club members who are in the right place at the right time wanting to take advantage of one of the only ‘perks’ of our trade.

You are doing a grand job. BIGGA is killing off the peak cap and string belt greenkeeper and the new image is gradually coming to the fore. Our profession knows BIGGA is there, we must now get the message across to clubs and golfers that we know what we are doing.

Tom Smith,
Myrescough College, Preston

Editor’s note: ‘All sorts” can’t join. Each application is vetted at national and local level. And at least two applications have been turned down during November because the applicants didn’t work where they said they did.

A FROSTY DAY AT ST ANDREWS

by WALTER WOODS

When winter comes and frosts appear
the grass turns white and the air is clear,
Greenkeepers arrive at their work each day,
Then decide – early – if golfers can play.

Damage to greens is caused by walking
and not by playing (if you hear them talking)
The leaves are broken all over the place
and the roots can’t cope in keeping pace.

So, when spring comes and the greens should be good,
the ball starts bouncing – and golfers are rude.
"Why are the greens not smooth?“ their song.
Just keep off the greens when the frost comes along!

Little Jack Frost can go and get lost
and give the greenkeeper some peace.
The golfers moan, jump up and groan
and invariably ad The Beast.

No matter how you try – or effort apply
to protect the course for the season,
They will go and play – rick hell and make hay
and ruin the course for no reason.

At first break of dawn, bedcovers are drawn
and out of the windows they peep.
They arrive at the tee – all cheerful and free
and stand in a crowd – just like sheep.

"Why does he do it?", they’ll holler and shout
Especially loud when the greenkeeper’s about.
He’s doing it for you, to save the course.
They would argue all day – even use physical force.

So think of one thing at the onset of spring
with the course all pretty and nice.
If we’d played on the frost, all would have been lost.
And the greenkeeper taking mental advice!

Walter Woods BEM, is course manager at St Andrews
come the views of other members as it is essential that a wide consensus of opinion is sought before the Board of Management reaches a decision after this April's conference.

To the Executive Director
I felt I must write formally and congratulate you and all your staff on the success of the BTME. The whole exhibition was run with smooth efficiency and calm authority.

The atmosphere within the exhibition halls throughout the three days was one of professional purpose coupled with an enthusiastic expectancy, an exhibition atmosphere rarely experienced throughout the last few years.

Quality of the visitors was the highlight of the exhibition with delegates coming to the stand to seek out information which may assist them in their work rather than just browsing around collecting leaflets. For our part we had a constant stream of decision-makers to our stand eager to learn how Blazon could improve the uniformity and quality of their spraying operation.

You now have the best exhibition, the best magazine and the best training videos - what next?

Richard Fry, Marketing Link Associates, Basildon, Essex

To the Executive Director
Thank you for all your help and support during last week's exhibition in Harrogate. From our viewpoint, it was another success and I appreciate the effort put in by you and your staff in making it so. They are all a great credit to the Association.

Kim Macfie, sales and marketing director, Hayters PLC, Bishops Stortford

To the Executive Director
Just a brief note to thank you and your team for all your efforts in making the BTME a tremendous success.

I have been at HIREX in Wembley and the word is certainly buzzing between those exhibitors who were at Harrogate and those who weren't that BTME and Harrogate was the place to be.

The vibes are definitely that we have a very successful show aimed at the right market, at the right time and in the right location. Whilst we should cooperate with any plans within the industry, at the present time we should concentrate on maintaining the steady growth of BTME.

Michael Coleman, Fuchsia Exhibition Services, Great Dunmow, Essex

I write to congratulate the Association on holding an excellent exhibition at Harrogate. I don't think I have ever seen the hall so full and we were very impressed that so many delegates came from so far afield.

Jonathan Franks, Amenity Grass Seed Manager, British Seed Houses, Warrington
No other mower
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TORO have pleasure in introducing the Reelmaster 5100-D designed specifically for lightweight fairway mowing. The design, performance and quality of cut has to be seen to be believed and this together with 'ACE' Automated Control Electronics, provides additional 'unique' features to increase reliability ease of operation and servicing.

Reel speeds are automatically adjusted to mowing requirements regardless of turf conditions. It's all so easy, but practical and typical of TORO's continuous development to design and manufacture machinery that has no equals in the highly demanding world of turf management equipment.

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TORO
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Strimmer, brushcutter and clearing saws are amongst the most useful power tools available to the greenkeeper for keeping things tidy. Fitted with a suitable head they can trim grass from the edges of bunkers, tees or greens, mow banks, clear around trees and shrubs or cut scrub and small trees. Call them what you will, and there are subtle differences between these names which depend on their designed use, there cannot be a golf course without at least one. The cutting head or blade, which mainly defines use and name, are in large measure interchangeable, thus the most important difference between grassstrimmer, brushcutter or clearing saw will be in power unit output or capacity, the larger more powerful motors generally being found on machines for clearing or thinning. Apart from price the main drawback from buying a larger machine than is necessary is weight - if you work for any length of time this will become apparent as the day wears on - a well balanced machine and good properly adjusted harness will alleviate a lot of fatigue.

The normal brushcutter consists of a two stroke engine driving the cutter through a long shaft and bevel gear but there are alternatives which may be worth looking at for specific situations, especially if you have a large volume of such work. There is a remarkable degree of interchangeability in brushcutters with many UK distributors using similar or even identical power units, drives or heads, nor should there be any reason other than cost and availability for not selecting whatever harness you prefer.

Knapsack brushcutters, while more expensive, offer greater versatility with the ability to cut high and a wider range of attachments available, such as hedgetrimmer, cultivator and hover mower. Several designs of edge trimmers are on the market and these may (but only may) be easier to use around bunkers. Large wheeled self-propelled rotary mowers should tackle larger clearing tasks faster and perhaps more easily. Chainsaws are often used at greater danger for scrub clearance. Little less dangerous is the use of hover mowers on ropes to cut steep banks. Hydraulic or electric trimmers are options which are severely limited by their leads.

Engine sizes on brushcutters range from about 20cc to 50cc, however cubic capacity only tells part of the story, as power output is also determined by other factors such as combustion efficiency and speed. Engines in the 25cc to 35cc range will probably be the most suitable for most trimming on most golf courses. The use of knapsack machines on golf courses has been growing rapidly in recent years - and there are now several suppliers of these. One of the reasons attributed to this is the fact that the engine air intake on a knapsack machine is up and well shielded from the blade, thus significantly protecting it from flying sand when trimming bunkers - sand being a very effective abrasive when ingested by an engine. Another important reason is that by carrying most of the weight of the machine on the back the user has better balance and can operate the cutter head more freely and effectively, nor is he as restricted over cutting angles or positions. This allows safer and less restricted use on banks and around bunkers.

Selection of trimmer heads or blades is one of the most critical factors in effective operation in any situation. Monofilament line has been hailed as akin to sliced bread - the greatest of inventions, and it has the outstanding advantage of intrinsic safety of operation, nevertheless it will skin bark from trees or shrubs, nor is it pleasant to feet if they are not protected by substantial boots. Professional trimmer heads have two or four lines usually of 2.4mm diameter, but there is dissension over the best method of extending this line. The most usual semi-automatic method is 'tap and go' - the operator bangs the head down on the ground to release more string, however this does not work well if the line is worn or used too short - and many people like to use a short string for working around shrubs and in intricate areas. Screw or push button release mechanisms offer simplicity with reliability. Where grass cutting is the main requirement a nylon bladed head will prove to be most effective. Obviously with these blades there is minimal protection against cutting trees, shrubs or fences etc., however stone, metal and other materials will damage the blade, even to the extent of breaking it.
Where the main target is scrub the ideal blades have three, four or up to about twenty teeth, the thicker or heavier the growth the more teeth needed. These slasher blades, often with back curving teeth can also be used for hedge trimming and most can be sharpened on-site with a file. Minimum maintenance is available - at greater cost - from tungsten tipped blades. For exceptionally overgrown hedges, for pruning, thinning and similar operations when thick woody growth has to be cut saw tooth blades are available which will cut timber up to 6" thick. Hardwoods require blades with greater numbers of teeth than softwood. Circular chainsaw blades are a fast and effective option for thinning and pruning in plantations, as they are sharpened on-site with a chainsaw file.

Control of the tool is a vital factor in use, and while precise control may not be critical for grass trimming, it is for hedge trimming or pruning. At the ‘home owner end of the market handle arrangements are fairly rudimentary, a grip on or around the motor with throttle and an adjustable stirrup or ‘C handle on the shaft. For the professional the more usual arrangements are handlebars or a ‘bullhorn’ with the cable controlled throttle on one or other end. Most will have a ‘harness’ designed to carry the weight of the machine and provide a pivot point around which it is swung, the design of this is critical to prolonged effective use especially when trimming heavy grass. All elements in this harness, handle and operator relationship must be adjustable to cater for all individuals. Because adjustment is so important especially when trimming/mowing grass it may be advisable to have separate harnesses for every operator who regularly uses the machine. Most machines are intended for the right handed, however they should be adjustable for the left hander, but beware of the exhaust which may not be.

Various options may be available to make operations easier or safer. A cup or dish under a grass blade to keep the head at a constant height off the ground can be useful, if may be an integral part of the design while various guards are available to protect the operator or plants and the design while various guards are available to protect the operator or plants and define the cutting circle. Not directly connected to the trimmer but nevertheless extremely useful is a non-spill fuel can. These are normally sold for chainsaw use with a second compartment for the chain oil, nevertheless they are invaluable to the greenkeeper and make filling a doodle.

Protective clothing should be thought of as integral to brushcutter or trimmer operation, and while it is not such a head to toe concept as with chainsaws both heads and toes do need protection. Steel capped boots are strongly recommended especially with slasher or saw type blades, shoes leave ankles vulnerable, but waxed cloth leggings should be sufficient protection for legs and keep mulched rubbish and water off clothing and out of your boots. Head protection must include eye and ear protection, and it is convenient to mount these on the hard hat which is essential if you are pruning or thinning trees. Goggles are often advised, however a mesh visor, if a few pounds more expensive, won’t steam up, furthermore it protects the entire face.

The other vital dimension in brushcutters is dealer support, and while the reliability of most machines is good, most greenkeepers require spares from time to time as well as someone who can clean or readjust the power unit as necessary. Buying cheap may not buy you this essential support, and a machine which is not working or not working properly is a pain which far outweighs savings made by going for a purchase of least cost.

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GI 2.94
Seventeen fascinating talks are lined up for the National Education Conference at the University of Warwick, April 8-10.

Speakers include top greenkeepers from both sides of the Atlantic as well as leading consultants.

Subjects to be covered include 'Top Dressing Successfully' (by Professor Paul E Rieke of Michigan State University), 'Everything You Will Ever Need to Know About Annual Meadow Grass Control' (by Kevin Munt, course manager at Buckinghamshire Golf Club) and the 'Restoration and Conservation of a Links Golf Course' (by Philip Baldock, head greenkeeper at Royal Portrush).

Joseph Baidy, president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, will present a paper entitled 'Golf Course Management Now and In The Future'.

Other speakers include Master Greenkeepers Gordon Irvine and David Whitaker, soil expert Dr Bill Adams, and David Oatis, director of the USGA's north-eastern region's green section.

Entertainment includes a quiz night and a banquet with an after-dinner speech by Stan Taylor, a former submariner and Life President of the Comedians' Golf Society.

The price for BIGGA greenkeeper members is £188 including VAT, £164.50 for spouses. This includes accommodation and meals.

For further information call Samantha Flint at BIGGA HQ on 0347 838581.
Where a Gator goes is your business

How you choose to use a John Deere Gator utility vehicle is entirely up to you.

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For more on the most versatile utility vehicle made today, see your local John Deere dealer.
**EVENTS DIARY**

**March 5-8:** Canadian Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show, Calgary, Alberta

**March 8:** Scottish Region Annual Conference, Elmwood College, Cupar

**April 27:** Westurf, Turf Care Trade Exhibition, Long Ashton Golf Club

**June 29:** Southurf, Turf Care Trade Exhibition, Motspur Park

**September 6-8:** Saltex (previously lOG) Trade Exhibition, Royal Windsor Racecourse, Berkshire.

**SOUTH WALES**

On Wednesday December 15, the Pyle & Kenfig Golf Club played host to our Christmas Competition and Annual General Meeting. The whole day was well attended, but some 36 hardy golfers endured the freezing cold and gale force winds to “do battle” for the Vitax Shield. The course was in as excellent condition as ever, with the weather making for an even harsher test of berms in attendance, which was good to see. Vice Chairman Tim Wharton was in fine form, proving that football referees are human and that they do have a sense of humour.

The dinner was followed by a disco, which was enjoyed by everyone into the early hours of Saturday morning.

Our sincere thanks go to the committee, members and staff of Alloa Golf Club, for granting us the use of their facilities. Here’s looking forward to this year’s dinner and another great night’s entertainment. Section Chairman, Jim Easton, has even promised to learn some new jokes, so this will be an event not to be missed.

For those of you who wish to gain points towards your Master Greenkeeper Certificate, remember that they can be gained by attending section educational events, so make it a dual gain by giving your committee some support for their efforts in organising lectures etc., and gain yourself those vital points.

A list of some of the section events should be in your possession by now, but just in case you have not received it yet, here is note of the earliest ones: Tuesday February 8, visit to Scottish Grass Machinery premises in Edinburgh; Tuesday March 25, re-visit the Monarch’s Course at Clineagles and Tuesday April 26, Spring Tournament/Hayter Challenge qualifying event. Where entry forms are required please ensure that they are returned in plenty of time prior to the event.

To end this month’s report on a disappointing note, 85 members have failed to return their allocation of prize draw tickets, valued at some £6,500, which is quite a loss to section funds.

JOHN CRAWFORD

**SOUTH COAST**

At last the winter is well along but there are still some 36 hardy golfers endured the freezing cold and gale force winds to “do battle” for the Vitax Shield. The course was in as excellent condition as ever, with the weather making for an even harsher test of berms in attendance, which was good to see. Vice Chairman Edwell Morris chaired the hour-long meeting and fine job he did, standing in for the Chairman Tony King.

The four course Christmas dinner that followed was an absolute feast, this was a unanimous decision passed by the 51 present who indulged themselves — and why not!

So to the finale, an hour-long, non-stop, laugh-a-minute, by the ever-funny, Bryn Philips. Bryn returning from last year by popular demand and who again kept us thoroughly entertained for a full 60 minutes.

Our thanks to Don Booth, Chairman of the green at Pyle & Kenfig who represented the club and presented the prizes, the Captain who in his absence, fueled the top table with wine, the caterers and everybody associated with the golf club. Thanks also to all those individuals and trade members who furnished the prize table, namely, those here: Alan Stowe, Colin Murphy, Rigby Taylor, Tacit, Liquid Turf, Sisis, Peter Hampton, Birds, Avoncrop, Hayters, Ted Hopkins and Pro Turf. There were so many I apologise if your name’s not mentioned.

To finish on a sombre note it is with great sadness that I must inform you of a sudden, untimely death of Mrs Pam Murphy, wife of Colin Murphy, who passed away on Sunday, December 19.

Both in the church service at Penventon and at Thornhill Grematorium, Cardiff, many friends and family gathered to pay their last respects. Pam’s kindness and popularity was plain for all to see, by the sheer numbers that were in attendance. Our sincere condolences go out to Colin and his family at this sad time.

PETER LACEY

**GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL** February 1994 43
Around the Green

which was of great educational value to all who attended. Our thanks to Peter Winter and Richard Newman for presenting excellent papers and to Bill Pile, Course Manager and all the Fingle Glen staff who made our day so successful.

Our gratitude to Mr E Pugh and his management team for once again allowing our section use of their facilities, also to Richard Minton of ICI and to the trade companies who had sponsored the day.

On behalf of all the members who took advantage of this year’s regional package to BTME and Harrogate, I would like to thank Gordon and Marion Child for once again organising a superb educational trip.

Members please note: Our next meeting will be held at Padbrook Park Golf Club on Wednesday March 23, this will also be our Hayter qualifier, please make sure your entries are returned to me with correct monies by the closing date.

Your help is needed to promote this year’s WESTURF trade show to be held on Wednesday April 27 at Long Ashton Golf Club, Bristol. Many of you will know groundsmen and committee members of your local sports club, so why not invite them to the show, anyone in the turf care industry will be most welcome.

We also need your support at WESTURF so I look forward to meeting you all on our stand.

RICHARD WHYMEN

CLEVELAND

David Cook now has City & Guilds Phase 2 and is now on Phase 3. Shaun Carnell has passed Phase 3 and is studying Phase 4. Nicky Dawson attended BIGGA management course Year 2.

Eaglescliffe Golf Club staff are thinning out trees in copies to aid cutting equipment, keep grass under control. The object is to keep major hardwoods ie. oak, ash beech with some Scots pine. After 10 years progress is satisfactory.

Spraying greens with soluble iron during winter months is beneficial. The grass leaves as strengthened against disease attack and greener colour is welcome. Frost seems to stop disease activity.

Stimpmeters would be more accurate if the 20°, was built in with a support at one end of to 20°, otherwise one is not consistent. Everyone can have a different reading.

Tony Mears, finalist in ICI/Premier Greenkeeper of the Year deserves our congratulations for doing so well. He is also a qualifier for Master Greenkeeper Certificate.

A quiz – Cleveland versus IoG Teeside sponsored by Turf Care Products (ie. Terry Charlton and Barry Clemwell) – was a great success and entertaining winners were IoG by a short head.

Gary Munro is confirmed as new secretary, Keith Lough is treasurer, Ian Holoran, regional rep.

Outings pending, the Gem Professional new compost depot South Yorks, also to Jacobsen HQ at Kettering.

Spring golf to be at Dinsdale on May 12.

Ian Harrison says he is holding his own against Take All Patch disease on his greens. He used a holecutter to remove diseased areas and brought in plugs of bents for surrounds. Alkaline soils encourage this disease. Nitrin Doyer installed, hope to hear more in 1 year.

Divoting of tees commences this month and aeration and top dressing of greens. April here is off to a different reading.

Players watch Augusta on TV and expect similar conditions. We have low soil temperature in April. I believe all we can do is very light verti cutting to remove coarse grass, ie. Yorkshire Fog. Short cutting is disastrous.
when too early. We need to be patient, good tryers and hard skinned. Good results arrive in May. Alternative is returf the greens and golfers object to providing us with a very enjoyable day. Winners thanks to all at Llangollen and to the committee for and I hope you will bear with me whilst I attempt It's many years since I last wrote the Section notes - Andy Campbell (Carden Park).

Year are as follows: Chairman - Brian Anderson Hill), Golf Admin - Terry Adamson, Administrator (Abergele), Treasurer - David Proctor (Barron

33pts, Lee Hinks-Edwards (Wawarden) 33pts. This man does on behalf of the section should never somehow managed to ensure that everyone present went home with at least one bottle. The work that

work on greens but keep complaining. Club houses or would they? When we are closed we should be open and visa versa. If in doubt keep the course closed. This is a business and should be run so. Decisions regarding closure of open of the course should be by one man and respected by all. BRUCE BURNELL

NORTH WALES
It's many years since I last wrote the Section notes and I hope you will bear with me whilst I attempt to rediscover the skills of successful scribe!

On December 6 the Christmas competition was held at the Vale of Llangollen Golf Club. Many thanks to all at Llangollen and to the committee for providing us with a very enjoyable day. Winners were: 1st - Aled Hughes (Portmadog) 33pts Brucra to, obstacles and obstructions. Enhanced by Four Wheel Steer and Bi-Speed Turn for tighter turns round bunkers, and drain, spread and spray. With one of the strongest customer support resources in the country and an extensive dealer network you'll be better equipped and better off.

Andy Campbell (Carden Park).

AYRSHIRE
In this first report of 1994 from Ayrshire I wish all our section members a happy, prosperous New Year, and hope to find the celebrations have loosened a few tongues and writing arms to send a few bits and pieces for the monthly report. It is meant to be your column, with your local news, so let's hear a little more from you in future. Congratulations go to Ian McNab, Head Greenkeeper at Dumfries and Galloway Golf Club and Section Vice Chairman, on winning this year's award which will be given annually, so let's see some fierce competition in '94.

Looking back over '93, one trend that many in our profession are becoming more and more disturbed about is that of these advisory bodies springing up all over the country, many giving greatly conflicting advice, particularly the construction specifications, this year which will most certainly result in serious long term problems. It is time BIGGA got involved in this area! I am also concerned about the fact certain golf course architects are running our profession down by advising their clients that greenkeepers are overpaid.

In Ayrshire we are looking forward to the Open at Tumberry this year which I am sure will be one of the courses in excellent order. We hope to meet you all in the tent as usual.

Please phone me with anything for next month on 0292 70929.

DUNCAN GRAY

SURREY
In the absence of Roger Tydeman who stood down from the Committee at the AGM I am writing this month's article.

May I take this opportunity of thanking Roger and other members of the committee who also stood down at the last AGM, Robert Brewer for his work as Treasurer and Terry Huntley who has been Chairman for the past two years and was on the committee prior to that.

Our Turkey Trot and AGM were held at Ashford Manor Golf Club. Both were well attended.

I would like to thank the Captain, Committee and Secretary of Ashford Manor for allowing us to use the facilities. Many thanks also to Terry and his staff, for the fine conditions of the course. A good time was had by all.

All Surrey members will shortly receive a list of this year's golfing fixtures and other events. I hope these will be well attended and hopefully we will see a few new faces.

Our next winter lecture is at NESCOT college on March 2 at 7.30pm. Hope to see you there.

DAVID ANDREWS

EAST MIDLANDS
May I take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new secretary for our Section, and to say thanks to our retiring secretary, Tony Howorth for all the hard work he did whilst in office.

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AD REF 80
Our Section AGM was held at Glen Gorse Golf Club in Leicester on 18 November with the winner in our bogey competition being P Forshaw in the 0-9 and B Gostinski in the 10-18 stableford competition. Thank you again for all your hard work.

Finally congratulations to Willie McConville as he presents the 'Kingston House Cup' to Jon Moor.

December 16 saw our AGM and Turkey Trot at Darenth Valley Golf Course. The course was in fine fettle and we were blessed with bright, although cold blustery conditions. I must admit that this is not the most enjoyable conditions to play in, as it is the only one at which I ever win a prize, but first pick of the prize table went to that bandit from Haynes, Chris Dale with 38 points (more points than he scored runs)! Theotis, pinch hit on his heels, was second on 36 points, with David Wood, John Millen, Peter Biscoe, Gary Ogilvie and Paul Copsey. The catering staff did us proud once more by serving us a superb Christmas dinner. I hope that Nigel Stapley will pass on our thanks to them once more and to his Green Staff for their sterling efforts on what is a very busy course in what has become one of the wettest winters for years. I suppose we could give Nigel some credit as well. The only disappointing part of the day not only for the golf, but also the AGM that followed was the poor turnout, bearing in mind that we have some 170 members. Two reasons immediately spring to mind, one, that they are all wimps and two, not many are in near freezing conditions from the Poralakabin housing the shower to the one containing the changing room with no more than a smile, or two, that they are so pleased and happy with the way our Section and Association are run they feel no need to voice their opinion on any subject whatsoever. Apologies for absence were gratefully received for the meeting by Tenterden's Jim Cameron. We wonder what happened to the other 150 or so.

Anyway, the long story short of it, for those of you interested, is that two new members have been press-ganged onto the Kent Committee, namely Peter Biscoe and Chris Sharp, with Andy Arther and Bunless being our other Regional Representatives. Nigel Stapley will pass on our thanks to him and his wife all the best result over the Spring, Summer and Autumn tournaments, combined. Congratulations

BCCGA visits our Section on March 8 at the Family Golf Centre, Graveley, Stevenage. This is one of our day trips to the BTME and I hope you enjoyed your visit. I would also like to thank Rpk Supplies for the recent presentation by Dr Neil Baldwin on Service Chemical Products and for providing the go-kart entertainment that followed. Everybody that attended enjoyed the day, well done.

Please remember to call me with any questions or ideas on 081 559 5629.

TONY S BAIN

LONDON

It is with regret that I inform members of the recent death of Hugh MacGillivray. He will be remembered for his many efforts not only for the club but for all of BIGGA's affairs and his condolences are passed onto his family.

The winter seminar was held at Oaklands College in December and 132 delegates attended. The day proved to be a great success and I would like to thank all the speakers for presenting excellent papers. Various subjects were covered and the response from the delegates afterwards was encouraging. I would like to congratulate Donal Penn-Howard for winning the day trip to the BTME and I hope you enjoyed your visit. I would also like to thank Oaklands College for all the support and especially Ian Merrick for his help in the organisation. The trade as always supported us and we thank G Browns, CMG, Gems, Parker Hart, Rpk, Rightline Taylor and Turftech Systems for digging deep and helping the day run so well.

The first chainsaw course was held in December and Oaklands College was the venue. Over two consecutive Saturdays, four local lads trained for a two-way day ticket, maintenance and cross cutting modules and it proved to be extremely beneficial. Finally, I would like to thank Rpk Supplies for the recent presentation by Dr Neil Baldwin on Service Chemical Products and for providing the go-kart entertainment that followed. Everybody that attended enjoyed the day, well done.

Please remember to call me with any questions or ideas on 081 559 5629.

TONY S BAIN

MID-ANGLE

Our last golf fixture of the year took place on March 1st at Ashridge Golf Club. The format was the same as a Texas Scramble, but the venue was changed after seven consecutive years at South Beds Golf Club. The weather was kind to us, so we could enjoy the full the superb setting at Ashridge. Jim Cassidy and his team must be congratulated on the condition of the course and our thanks go to Ashridge for their courtesy and hospitality. A great day was had by all. The results were as follows; 1st, B Wright, J Wright, T Lucas, M Bird; 2nd, R Saunders, J Burton, N Stewart, C Hardwick; 3rd, C Brook, J Wells, R Archer, G Snell.

Our thanks once again to our main sponsors of the day Kingston House Mowers, and to all the other trade members who donated prizes and supported the occasion.

John Gly-Davies of Kingston House Mowers presented the 'Bigg House Cup' to Jon Moorhouse of Brocket Hall Golf Club. The cup was donated last year, to be awarded to the player with the best result over the Spring, Summer and Autumn tournaments, combined. Congratulations Jon.

Finally, Neil Thomas, the Executive Director of BCCGA visits our Section on March 8 at the Family Golf Centre, Graveley, Stevenage. This is one of our day trips to the BTME and I hope you enjoyed your visit. I would turn out for Neil, as I'm sure you all have questions about BCCGA and where it is going in the future.

PAUL LOCKETT

NORTH SCOTLAND

The first new members to welcome to the Section for 1994 are Alexander James Reid from Pitlochry - a full time student at Elmwood College, the first of...
many I feel judging by their enthusiasm at Inglisston last November. Also we welcome Fraserburgh Apprentice Mark Maclean and Grantown’s Deputy Head Greenkeeper, Alexander Fowler. I hope to see them at some future events this year.

Anyone venturing onto the Links at Dornoch or Nairn this year had better be hitting the ball true and straight. Major bunker revetting has taken place over the winter at both courses. I have witnessed some of the finished articles at Royal Dornoch and superb they look, especially as you walk past to your ball safely on the green! I may be biassed but there is no finer sight than a revetted bunker. The revetting programme at Nairn is in its second year and the club is writing a recommendation for this year’s British Amateur Championship to be held there in June. We wish Ian Carson and his staff all the best for the tournament on a course which I’m sure will be firm and fast being pleasant to all who enter.

I recently went to the North Aick Macdougall Memorial at the Carnegie Course, Skibo Estate. The course is setting in well and should be opening this summer. It looks likely that the 1995 Scottish Greenkeepers Championships will be held at Skibo so everyone will get the opportunity to play there next year.

It is February now and members will be thinking of spring and the opening of the golf seasons. It has certainly been the worst winter up here I can remember. As I write we have more snow, and this grass here for a fortnight and the snow is showing no signs of thawing. Let us just hope for a good early spring and some warmth to get the grass growing.

IAN MACLEOD

NORTH WEST

Not a lot to report this month but I would like to welcome any new members to the North-West Section and remind all members that membership fees should now be paid for 1994. If your fees are paid by your golf club you must pass your invoice into your Secretary, as the golf club is not invoiced. On 8 March the Section held a seminar at Mere Golf Club in conjunction with the AITKENS’ Machinery Open Seminar. The programme for the day is:

9am Coffee
10am The Reconstruction of the Greens at Royal Birkdale, by Martin Hawtree, Course Architect, John Greasley, Course Construction; 11.20am: Construction of Water Features, by Mike Sheehan, Course Manager, Mere Golf Club; 12.30pm: Lunch at the Belfry Five Year Plan, by Derek Ganning, Course Manager, The Belfry 2.45pm: Through the Green Management, by Bob Taylor, Sports Turf Research Institute; 3.20pm: Greenkeeper Training, by David Golding, Education Committee, Greenkeepers Training Committee; 4pm: Question Panel; 4.30pm: Close.

Cost for the day is £20 and due to a limited number of places being available, you are advised to apply early. All applications to Bert Cross, Harthill Lodge, Harthill Road, Liverpool, L18 3HU, telephone 051 724 5412. I am at the moment in the process of completing the golfing calendar for 1994 and this, when competed, will be in your March newsletter.

Please remember the Section needs your support for the seminar and any other organised events.

BERT CROSS

SHEFFIELD

On December 1 our Christmas golf competition was held at Wortley Golf Club. A fine day was had by all and the weather wasn’t so cruel. 1st place went to P Lyons, W Bagshaw was second and M and Lake third. Our thanks go first to B Heaney, our Competition Secretary for organising the day and with his staff preparing the course. Also our thanks go to Wortley Golf Club for allowing us courtesy of the course. Our thanks go to Brian Booth of Rigby Taylor who was our main sponsor. Other contributions were made by Peter Dell of Aitkens, Steve Burroughs of the Yorkshire Western Counties and Roffey Brothers. A good attendance saw first place in at Extended Foursomes Stableford competition go to Peter Connett (Lyne Regis Golf Club) and Derek Eves – a prize winner again! (Painewick Golf Club) with 41 points. Second place to David Neale (Henbury Golf Club) and Peter Baynton (Long Ashton Golf Club) with 38 points. Third place to Ron Barrett (Minehead and West Somerset Golf Club) and Steve Gallier with 35 points. Myself and Peter Hannah were fourth with 34 points. As previously mentioned Roffeyes were this year’s sponsors providing trophies, the main prizes and wine for the meal. Their participation is much appreciated along with other trade members who donated prizes.

Many appreciative comments were made about the excellent quality of the course and thanks are extended to Kevin Wroe and his staff in its preparation and also to the catering staff.

Last but by no means least congratulations to Neil Turner from Yeveli Golf Club and his wife on the birth of their son Larry – many disturbed nights’ sleep await, I am sure! On a final note, if you have any queries you wish to discuss please do not hesitate to contact me on 0722 362127.

KEVIN GREEN

EAST SCOTLAND

On January 9 I had the honour of returning to Dunbar Golf Club, the scene of the 1993 National Tournament. This invitation, from the Captain of the club, was extended to John Crawford, chairman of BIGGA, Alisa, and myself, to attend their annual dinner and social evening.

After meeting with Graham Wood, the Head Greenkeeper, and his charming wife Helen, we took our places at the top table. Our Chairman made a presentation to Dunbar on behalf of BIGGA to commemorate their staging of the National Tournament.

Next stop was BTME where I and many others spent a great week. I was one of the lucky ones who took in the Health & Safety workshops and COSHH regulations – Jon Albert certainly made me sit up and think. The show itself was its usual well-organised event and yes, we have a great deal to thank Neil Thomas and his staff for. The speakers were simply excellent and this is a show which I for one would never miss.

Not a great deal going on from the Section’s point of view, although this will change shortly. Our annual spring tournament and Hazler qualifying will take place on April 12 over Guillame number 2 Notre will be out in plenty of time for this event so don’t miss out – make sure your subs are paid and we’ll keep you up to date.

As I have said in past reports – let’s make a big effort this year to attract new members. There are many clubs in the East who have staff who are not members – let them know what they’re missing. If they wish me to come along and explain this to them, just give me a call.

My number is 031 443 3214 and I’ll be delighted to give the reasons why all greenkeepers should become members.

WILLIE BLAIR

SOUTH EAST

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*Judge's decision is final. Not open to BIGGA staff."

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You’re at the end of the Buyers’ Guide section – if you haven’t found the ad with the 3 symbols in yet, TRY AGAIN! IT COULD BE WORTH £50

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Building For Sale

TEMPORARY CLUBHOUSE FOR SALE

80’ by 30’, flat roof with administration block, ladies and gents cloakroom, kitchen and lounge.

New roof laid last month. Mounted in 10 foot sections.

Offers in the region of £15,000.

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We are a progressive company looking to expand our current sales force. The successful applicant will be a self motivated individual who would be required to sell our well-established range of horticultural products into sportsgrounds, golf courses, bowling clubs and to the local authority market. A knowledge of the sportsturf industry would be an advantage, however not essential, as in house training would be provided. Conditions of employment are excellent.

Apply in writing enclosing a full CV to:
Souter of Stirling (Sportsturf) Ltd - for the attention of K A Brunton, Sales and Technical Manager, Cunningham Road, Springkerse Industrial Estate, Stirling SK7 7SL

Braxted Park Golf Course

invites applications for the position of

Working HEAD GREENKEEPER/ COURSE MANAGER

The Course is a 9-hole parkland course of 3000 yards, established in 1955.

The successful applicant will be expected to draw up and work to an annual budget and will be motivated to perform to it. Must be experienced in all aspects of greenkeeping with appropriate qualifications and have a broad working knowledge of modern machinery and irrigation systems. Good organisational and management skills required.

This is an unique opportunity to use your initiative and imagination to improve the course in every way possible.

Accommodation is not available.

The salary and bonus will be negotiable according to experience and performance.

Please apply in writing with full CV to:
Mrs Amanda Fitzpatrick,
Braxted Park Estate, Witham CM8 3EN

Carnoustie Golf Links

invite applications for the position of

DEPUTY LINKS SUPERINTENDENT

Applicants must have wide greenkeeping experience, proven man management capability, and relevant qualifications.

The 54 hole complex at Carnoustie includes the world famous Championship Course currently rated the number 1 course in the British Isles together with the Burnside and more recent Buddon Links Courses.

The responsibility of the position is reflected in the salary — c £18,000.

A Contributory Pension Scheme is operated and re-location assistance will be given.

All applications in writing enclosing full CV to:
The Secretary, Carnoustie Golf Links
Links Parade, Carnoustie, Angus DD7 7JE
John O’Gaunt Golf Club

COURSE MANAGER

Applications are invited for the position of Course Manager for this prestigious 36 hole private members golf club.

Both the John O’Gaunt course and Carthagena course are parkland golf courses attracting considerable usage from members and visitors.

The present Course Manager retires in December 1994 after a lengthy period of service.

Applicants must be fully experienced in all aspects of greenkeeping, including course management, machinery maintenance, irrigation systems etc., and must be capable of organising, motivating and managing a large staff.

The salary will reflect the importance of the post. Applications from suitable qualified persons should be submitted, in writing, by 30th April 1994 with detailed CV.

There is no accommodation available.

A full job description will be issued to interested parties on request.

Applications to:
The General Manager, John O’Gaunt Golf Club, Sutton Park, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2LY

FULWELL GOLF CLUB

require a

COURSE MANAGER

Due to the sudden death of Hugh MacGillivray, Fulwell Golf Club are looking for a first-class Course Manager to replace him.

Fulwell is a long established Club with a progressive membership. Excellent facilities and equipment already exist.

The successful applicant must have the ability to develop the skills of the existing staff and to present an attractive and well groomed course.

In return, we offer an excellent salary. Accommodation could be available.

Please apply in writing with full CV, to
The Secretary, Fulwell Golf Club, Wellington Road, Hampton Hill, Middlesex TW12 1JY

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SALES MAN

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A Company car is supplied, 4 weeks holiday, expenses and pension.

Please apply in writing with CV to the:
Sales Manager,
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Elmwood College Greenkeeping Section

LECTURER IN GREENKEEPING

Salary Scale up to £20,529

Applicants must have been in a responsible position within the greenkeeping industry for a minimum of three years.

A qualification in craft level greenkeeping is essential with a supervisory and/or management qualification being preferred.

The successful candidate will be teaching a wide range of greenkeeping theories and skills in the main to craft level students, but also some teaching of higher level courses will be likely, particularly with regard to practical skills in course design and construction.

Application forms and further information are available from the Principal, Elmwood College, Cupar, Fife KY15 4JB, telephone (0334) 52781.

The closing date for applications is Friday 11th March 1994.
Ely City Golf Club
require a
HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicants should be fully qualified and conversant with modern techniques and machinery maintenance. Apply in first instance with full particulars to:
The Secretary, Ely City Golf Course Ltd, Cambridge Road, Ely, Cambridgeshire CBY 4HX. Telephone: 0353 662751.
Accommodation is not available.

Newbury & Crookham Golf Club
require a
DEPUTY COURSE MANAGER

Applicants must have suitable qualifications and experience in all aspects of course management. A thorough knowledge of machinery and maintenance is essential together with the ability to motivate and direct staff. Salary negotiable depending on experience. Accommodation available. Applications in writing to include full CV to:
The Secretary, Newbury & Crookham Golf Club, Bury’s Bank Road, Greenham, Newbury, Berks RG15 8BZ

Abbaydale Golf Club
require a
DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicants must have suitable qualifications and be experienced in all aspects of course management. The ability to motivate and direct staff together with a practical knowledge of modern greenkeeping practices and equipment maintenance is essential. Accommodation is not available. Salary negotiable. Please reply in writing with full CV to:
Mr Jack Copeland, Chairman of Green, Abbaydale Golf Club Limited, Twentywell Lane, Dore, Sheffield S17 4QA

Royal West Norfolk Golf Club
require an
ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Applicants should be experienced in Links Golf Courses, and modern machinery. Please apply in writing with CV to:
Secretary, Royal West Norfolk Golf Club, Brancaster, near Kings Lynn, Norfolk PE31 8AX

Horsham Golf Park
require an ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

This busy 9 hole parkland golf course are looking for an ambitious assistant greenkeeper (qualified or nearly qualified) to help further his/her career. No accommodation - Salary negotiable. Excellent opportunity for young, ambitious person. Please apply in writing with CV to:
Neil Burke, Horsham Golf Park, Worthing Road, Horsham, West Sussex RH13 4AX

Abridge Golf & Country Club
Applications are invited for the position of ASSISTANT HEAD GREENKEEPER

The successful applicant should have at least five years experience in modern greenkeeping and a thorough knowledge of machinery maintenance. No accommodation, salary negotiable. Written applications in strictest confidence, including CV to:
Secretary/Manager, Abridge Golf and Country Club, Epping Lane, Stapleford Tawney, Essex RM4 1ST

Hamilton Golf Club
HEAD GREENKEEPER

An experienced Head Greenkeeper is required for the above position. Applicants must be fully experienced in all aspects of greenkeeping with appropriate qualifications and have knowledge of modern equipment and the ability to direct and motivate staff. Accommodation is not available. Salary negotiable according to experience. For further particulars and application form apply in writing to:
P. Eliot Soutter, Secretary, Hamilton Golf Club, 63 Almada Street, Hamilton ML3 OHH

Greenkeeper

An exciting opportunity has arisen for a fully qualified greenkeeper to join a team of staff caring for the prestigious 18 hole Wike Ridge Course, 9 hole Oaks Course, driving range and David Leadbetter Golf Academy practice areas. Must have practical knowledge of computerised irrigation systems, modern machinery and the latest developments within the industry. Competitive salary. Apply in confidence with full CV to:
Mr R E D Bailey Leeds Golf Centre Wike Ridge Lane, Shadwell, Leeds LS17 9JW
Cambridge Meridian/Abbotsley Golf Club require a
HEAD GREENKEEPER
and
DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER
For two of their top class golf courses in Cambridgeshire. Both courses enjoy an exceptional reputation in the area. Applications are invited from dedicated, highly qualified and experienced staff with a sound knowledge of modern greenkeeping techniques, including machinery maintenance and irrigation systems. Must be able to motivate staff.

Send CVs in confidence to:
Jenny Wisson, Managing Director,
Abbotsley Golf & Squash Club Ltd, Eynesbury Hardwicke, St. Neots, Cambs. Tel: (0480) 474000 Fax: (0480) 471018

Chirk Golf & Country Club
HEAD GREENKEEPER
A vacancy will occur from 28 February 1994 for an experienced Head Greenkeeper on a 27 hole golf course now in its third year since opening.

Full time greens staff employed including a qualified First Assistant and fitter.
No club-owned accommodation available but plentiful local housing is for rent or sale.

Please apply in writing with CV to:
The Proprietors, Chirk Golf and Country Club, Chirk, Wrexham, Clwyd LL14 5AD

The Ridge Golf Club require a
DEPUTY COURSE MANAGER
Applicants should be qualified and have sound practical experience and the ability to motivate staff.

Excellent prospects with modern machinery for enthusiastic applicants seeking career progression.

Apply with CV to:
The Course Manager, The Ridge Golf Club, Chartway Street, East Sutton, Maidstone, Kent ME17 3DL

YOUNG AMBITIOUS GREENKEEPER to become Head Greenkeeper sought for new 9 hole P.A.Y.P. golf course being constructed during this year together with twelve bay driving range and Clubhouse at Kinsale Hall Hotel and Country Club Ltd., Llanerch-y-mor, Nr. Holywell, Clwyd CH8 9DT.

Experience of course construction ideally required, particularly seeding and bringing into play of greens and tees, forming and finishing bunkers. Sound knowledge also of irrigation and machinery required. Salary is negotiable according to qualifications and experience.

All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Apply in writing enclosing CV to GK Smith at the above.

Heyrose Golf Club
HEAD GREENKEEPER REQUIRED
For this recently constructed 18 hole, potentially 27 hole, course set in beautiful Cheshire countryside.

Applicants must have recognised relevant qualifications and have proven ability in all aspects of course management. It is essential that they have the ability to lead and motivate staff and organise work programmes. They will have a full knowledge of modern maintenance and irrigation equipment.

No accommodation.

Apply in writing with full CV and salary expectation to:
Mr C N Bridge BSc (Hons), General Manager, Heyrose Golf Club, Budworth Road, Tabley, Knutsford, Cheshire WA16 0HY

Heyrose Golf Club
HEAD GREENKEEPER REQUIRED
For this recently constructed 18 hole, potentially 27 hole, course set in beautiful Cheshire countryside.

Applicants must have recognised relevant qualifications and have proven ability in all aspects of course management. It is essential that they have the ability to lead and motivate staff and organise work programmes. They will have a full knowledge of modern maintenance and irrigation equipment.

No accommodation.

Apply in writing with full CV and salary expectation to:
Mr C N Bridge BSc (Hons), General Manager, Heyrose Golf Club, Budworth Road, Tabley, Knutsford, Cheshire WA16 0HY

Coombe Wood Golf Club Ltd invite applications for the position of WORKING HEAD GREENKEEPER/COURSE MANAGER

The Club is an 18 hole parkland course 5296 yards par 66 established 1904. Applicants must be fully experienced in all aspects of greenkeeping with appropriate qualifications and have a practical knowledge of modern machinery and irrigation systems and good organisational and management skills.

Salary negotiable according to experience.

Apply in writing, stating whether accommodation is required, with full CV to:
Secretary/Manager, Coombe Wood Golf Club Ltd, George Road, Kingston Hill, Surrey KT2 7NS.

Rustington Golf Centre
HEAD GREENKEEPER required
● 30 bay floodlit driving range opened August 1992
● Newly constructed par 3 golf course August 1993
● Proposed new 9 hole course to be constructed April 1994

The successful applicant must be young, fit and keen to look after our golf development. Must have had at least five years experience in golf course maintenance.

Apply in writing with CV to:
S. P. Langmead, c/o Rustington Golf Centre, Golfers Lane, Rustington, Nr Littlehampton, West Sussex BN16 4NB

Telephone (0903) Shop: 850790 Office: 850786
高尔夫俱乐部今天正是许多体育爱好者聚集的地方，跨越社会阶层并能吸引不同背景的人群。然而，不管高尔夫爱好者和社会地位背景如何，高尔夫俱乐部的会员资格仍然是一个有争议的问题。我认为，高尔夫俱乐部应该接受所有愿意支付所需费用的人而无需挑剔。当然，这可能需要更深入的讨论和研究。
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Truly way out in front, the T44 is the self-propelled gang mower. The only choice you need to make is 10" fixed or 8" floating heads with 6, 8 or 10 knives. Ample power, advanced controls, weight transfer, four-wheel drive and differential lock combine to make this machine your perfect playing partner. To proceed further in your quest for perfection, call your dealer today for full details and a demonstration.
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