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JUNE 1994

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Education and training: the future

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Andrew Carnegie would have approved

The philanthropist’s Highlands castle is now in the hands of the de Savary family – and the opening of Britain’s first links course in 40 years is now only weeks away...Pages 31-37

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Cover Turnberry, venue for this year’s Open Championship, plus our man Lynch and a special VIP...
**WE SAY**

**BIGGA’s training programmes forge ahead**

As I write, our new Education Officer, Ken Richardson, is settling in, making contacts and hopefully beginning to see the wood from the trees in terms of greenkeeper education and training. I am sure that with his training background he will have much to contribute to both our own training programmes and to the development of education generally within the profession. Indeed much is happening on the education front and we will read elsewhere in the pages of this issue the re-structuring of our annual management courses.

This is an exciting development providing members with the opportunity whilst pursuing a course at Aldwark Manor to move towards a nationally recognised qualification. As part of our review this year we will be looking at the Master Greenkeeper Certificate to see if any amendments are necessary to the certification scheme after four years of operation. The status of the certificate continues to be enhanced and I remain impressed by the determination of members to obtain the certificate. As in any examination procedure there are referrals but a referral only seems to reinforce the determination of a member to reach his goal and this surely augurs well for his and the profession’s future. Recent comment indicates that those referred are not clearly advised on aspects where they need to show improvement. Ken Richardson is aware of this criticism which will be rectified in future. There will be very real benefits in the years ahead for those recognised as Master Greenkeepers as indeed there will be for their profession and Association.

We will be looking to link the Management Courses with the Training Manual and to examine the feasibility of doing likewise with the Master Greenkeeper Certificate thereby demonstrating a coherent and logical approach to greenkeeper education in broad terms.

**Training initiative**

In discussion with the GTC we have agreed on the need for a local training initiative and greenkeepers will thereby be presented with a choice of educational programmes.

**Ecology debate**

Discussions are ongoing with regard to the production of a practical guide to the ecological management of the golf course and a decision will shortly be taken on the direction in which this will proceed. Again financing will be provided through the Education and Development Fund. Ecological management is very much a current topic and concern and as an Association we must be at the forefront in leading the debate on behalf of the profession.

**Field Guide**

Members will have recently received an on course field guide for the major diseases and pests of fine turf which can be incorporated within their Training Manuals. This is yet another development emanating from the Education and Development Fund and offering practical benefits to greenkeepers. This fund is now in its third year, is firmly established and a vital source in terms of financing future educational projects. Continued support of the fund at all levels is extremely important.

This year will see two further training videos produced. The first will be made commercially with BIGGA backing and advice and will feature moving techniques. The second will be independently produced and financed by the Education and Development Fund and will feature golf course preparation.

**Needs analysis**

There is concern at the lack of knowledge at Headquarters of educational developments at Region and Section level and here I see a key role in future for the regional based Education Conveners. Our Education Officer will be seeking an early meeting with the Conveners essentially to carry out a ‘needs analysis’ exercise. There must be better coordination in future and indeed common standards and structured programmes implemented at Region and Section level. Any observations or comments you have will be welcomed by Ken Richardson who will seek to canvass a broad spectrum of opinion on the way ahead.

**Conference venue**

There has been much debate in recent months on the future timing and location of our National Education Conference. The recent conference at the University of Warwick more than maintained the standards of previous conferences and the enthusiasm of delegates continues to be most marked. Over the last year or so your Board of Management have been aware of pressures from within the membership to hold the Conference during the BTME in Harrogate.

I am equally aware of the views of many regular conference attendees who would prefer the conference to continue to be held separately in a university location. Having given in depth consideration to this matter your Education Sub-Committee has recommended that the 1995 Conference be held during the BTME replacing the Workshop programme over the Monday and Tuesday. This will be on a trial basis for 1995 and the situation will be reviewed thereafter.

The Conference will be held in the Majestic Hotel adjacent to the Exhibition Halls and this hotel will now become the official Headquarters hotel for the BTME. Additionally we will of course be running the usual Seminar Programme during the Exhibition and here the format will remain unchanged. We are currently planning an exciting speaker programme over the five days and volunteers to present a paper at either the Conference or Seminar Programme will be given every consideration – but please hurry up and let us have your name. Look out for early news of BTME ‘95 in the BTME Newsline which will be closely followed in September by a new look programme and booking form.

So there we have it – much is happening in greenkeeper education and with the review underway future initiatives are already being discussed. Members can rest assured that, in accordance with our founding objectives back in 1987, the development of greenkeeper education and training will continue to be our first and foremost consideration.

**BIGGA Staff Profile**

**SAMANTHA COLLINS (Sami)**

Clerk/typist

Maybe it’s because she went to school in Colorado for a year, or maybe it’s just because she likes American rock music, but Samantha Collins (or Sami as she prefers to be known) is a big fan of the US of A. When she’s not handling the subscriptions database for Greenkeeper International, answering the telephone or involved in secretarial duties, you’ll find Sami in a pair of Levi’s dancing to “Sweet home Alabama” in her favourite bar. Sami’s also a computer whiz and before joining BIGGA worked for several computer companies. “Have a positive attitude – it makes life worth living,” she says, philosophically.
Greenkeeper dies in mower accident

A part-time greenkeeper has died in a horrific accident involving a mower.

It is believed that 60 year old Ronnie Mitchell's anorak drawing-string became entangled in the ride-on mower's driveshaft, dragging him into the machine. Although the blades missed him, his head and chest were crushed in the narrow gap between the blade arms and the wheels.

The engine was still running when a colleague at the Bradley Hall Golf Club, Greetland, near Halifax, found him.

A single man, Mr Mitchell had been the head greenkeeper there for 30 years until he retired two years ago.

Taking over

David Halford, a senior lecturer at Myerscough College near Preston, has taken over the late John Shildrick's job as secretary of the British Turf and Landscape Irrigation Association. David says it will be a hard act to follow: “John was, to all intents and purposes, the heart of the Association. I will endeavour to maintain the standards he set but it will be difficult.”

He will administer BTLIA affairs from an office at Myerscough which has its own golf course equipped with virtually every example of sprinklers used on UK golf courses.

Waste not...

Wessex Water is selling bags of dried human sewage to golf courses as fertiliser. The odourless pellets are made from sludge that used to be pumped into the Bristol Channel. The company says that, unlike chemical fertilisers, it can be used quickly while the course is still in use and it does not make the grass grow too fast.

Your magazine, Greenkeeper International, is “superb”. We’re not blowing our own trumpet, it’s official. Judges in the prestigious Editing for Industry Awards, which are organised by the British Association of Industrial Editors, called it “a remarkable magazine”, “which hits the mark spot on”.

Competing against publications backed by mega-rich companies, Greenkeeper International won a Certificate of Merit alongside Esso’s “Update”. The winner was “Aspect” from British Gas.

At a presentation in Edinburgh, former Labour leader Neil Kinnock presented the certificate to BIGGA’s sales and marketing manager Bill Lynch. Mr Kinnock commented that he had seen the magazine before at a golf course in his Welsh constituency – and was able to recall an article in it from three years ago!

The judges took our description of the magazine – “Self-supporting through its advertising content and recognised as an industry leader” – and added: “Therein lies the perfect appraisal of this remarkable magazine. Jam-packed with full colour ads and till-jangling small ad section providing a healthy platform for well-written, informative and genuinely interesting features that guarantee appeal even wider than the captive audience of greenkeepers. It is very difficult to fault such a superb magazine which hits the mark spot on in a specialist market.”
The quick all-in-one solution to water related problems

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A touch of Florida in Sussex

A ‘Florida style’ course has opened in Sussex. The Cathedral course at the new Chichester Golf Centre, Hunston, boasts huge rolling greens, big expanses of water, winding streams, trees and enormous bunkers. There are long holes like the 605-yard 5th and spectacular holes like the par 3 15th with a bank of Portland stone behind the green and a small lake in front.

Consultant Jack McMillan MBE, pictured centre, and owner Brian Langmead, far right, joined the greenkeeping team at the opening for this photograph.

Award-winning Bridie’s ‘brilliant’ time in America

Bridie Redican, the first woman greenkeeper to carry off the coveted Toro-PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award, has returned to Ireland after her sponsored trip to the USA. And she has joined the newly-formed greenkeeping team at the Adare Golf Club, a new 18-hole design being constructed close to Shannon Airport on the south-west coast.

Recalling her recent experiences in America, Bridie, pictured right, says she was “knocked for six” at the size of US greenkeeping budgets – and greenkeeper’s salaries. “They’re about double what they are here.

Describing her six weeks turf management course studies at the University of Massachusetts as “brilliant”, Bridie teamed up with the only other female (an American) attending the residential course “to reduce the odds. There were two of us (women) and over 60 male greenkeepers”.

After completing her studies, Bridie visited the Toro Mower Division’s complex at snowbound Minneapolis, before flying to the Californian sunshine.

In addition to touring the Toro Irrigation Division’s offices and production lines at Riverside, south of Los Angeles, Bridie spent a day looking over golf courses in Palm Springs. “The Toro-PGA scholarship really is the chance of a lifetime – I would urge any young greenkeepers to work hard at their college work to ensure that they are nominated for this year’s (October) finals at Aldwark Manor,” she said.

Organised by BIGGA, the Student Greenkeeper Award is sponsored by Lely (UK) Ltd, Toro mower distributors and the European office of Toro Irrigation – plus the PGA European Tour.
Greenkeeper’s Crossword
Compiled by Mark G Smith, assistant at Frilford Heath GC

1 GÇôGC, Oxfordshire, 1987 English Amateur Championship venue, set to become 54 holes in July 1994 (8,5)
2 Red figures on a scoreboard, indicate what of a player in relation to par (6)
3 Regulate staff or a machine (7)
4 Ping 2, a range of clubs made by Karsten Engineering (3)
5 LiCCa: the Yew tree (5)
6 Surname of the 1973 US Masters (6)
7 The name of the 5th hole on the Old Course, St Andrews (4,6,3)
8 Collective name for the users of a Golf Course (7)
9 Regulate staff or a machine (7)
10 Ping 2, a range of clubs made by Karsten Engineering (3)
11 Lily (Lilium Candidum) (3)
12 To deftly handle, particularly in Match Play (6)
13 Unit of electrical resistance (3)
14 The USA’s opponents in the Ryder Cup (7)
15 Commencement of a round (3)
16 Nationality of 25 Across (7)
17 Plants known as ‘Thrift’ or ‘Sea Pinks’ (5)
18 Nationality of 25 Across (7)
19 Country Club, Columbus, Ohio (6)
20 Collective name for the users of a Golf Course (7)
21 Quench hot metal in oil (5)
22 Court danger by playing close to bunker (5)
23 Surname of the 1984 USPGA Champion (7)
24 Plant (L. Mesembryanthemum Crystallinum) (5)
25 Formulations of different genera and/or cultivars of grass (5)
26 Me care cuts up a type of grass (5)
27 Core surrounded by a solenoid which operates sprinkler valves when current is passed (13)

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CLUES ACROSS

1 CLUES DOWN

1. Usually destination after the thirteenth green (10,3)
2. Alphabetic filling aid (7)
3. Starts a machine (5-2)
4. Mo care cuts up a type of grass inflorescence (anagram) (6)
5. Keenly sharpened edge or skill (5)
6. Of the 1973 US Masters Champion (5)
7. The name of the 5th hole on the Old Course, St Andrews (4,6,3)
8. Unit of electrical resistance (3)
9. Of the 1984 USPGA Champion (7)
10. Me care cuts up a type of grass (5)
11. Lily (L. Lilium Candidum) (3)
12. To deftly handle, particularly in Match Play (6)
13. Collective name for the users of a Golf Course (7)
14. Plants known as ‘Thrift’ or ‘Sea Pinks’ of which (L. Alpina) is one variety (7)
15. Country Club, Columbus, Ohio (6)
16. Nationality of 25 Across (7)
17. Plants known as ‘Thrift’ or ‘Sea Pinks’ of which (L. Alpina) is one variety (7)
18. Nationality of 25 Across (7)
19. Country Club, Columbus, Ohio (6)
20. Collective name for the users of a Golf Course (7)
21. Quench hot metal in oil (5)
22. Court danger by playing close to bunker (5)

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Education and training: the future

BIGGA has the education and training of greenkeepers as its first priority. This, the first of a series of articles, describes the structure of National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs) and Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQs). Subsequent articles will describe the role that NVQs/SVQs are having and will continue to have, on greenkeeper training.

Why NVQs/SVQs?

In an attempt to improve the skill levels of British workers and to improve the quality reputation of British manufactured goods, the Government instigated a review of vocational training in 1985. From this review it was apparent that major changes were required in vocational training and the National Council for Vocational Qualifications (NCVQ) was formed to set up the framework for NVQs/SVQs.

What are NVQs/SVQs?

Traditional courses led to academic qualifications by testing candidates on what they knew and not what they could do. NVQs/SVQs measure what a person can do ie. candidates for an award must demonstrate their ability to perform certain work related tasks and have a command of the knowledge underpinning those tasks. There are five levels of NVQ/SVQ. These are:

(a). Level 1 (Craft) Competence in a range of routine or predictable activities.
(b). Level 2 (Craft) Competence in a significant range of work activities, some of which are complex or non-routine. Teamwork may often be a requirement.
(c). Level 3 (Supervisory) Competence in a broad range of work most of which is of a complex or non routine nature. There may be considerable personal control and guidance of others is often required.
(d). Level 4 (Management) Competence in a broad range of complex technical or professional activities with a substantial degree of personal responsibility, responsibility for the work of others and responsibility for the allocation of resources.
(e). Level 5 (Management) Competence involving the application of a significant range of fundamental principles and complex techniques. Very substantial personal autonomy and significant responsibility for others. Planning, design, diagnosis and evaluation are also required.

Each level of NVQ/SVQ is made up of a number of units which set out what the candidate must be able to do and to what standard. Standards are set by Industry Lead Bodies (ILBs). The ILB for Greenkeeping is the Industry Lead Body for Amenity Horticulture. NVQs/SVQs are awarded by awarding bodies such as City & Guilds and SCOTVEC.

Accredited Prior Learning

Accredited prior learning (APL) provides routes for recognition of achievements from all types of learning which may be in the classroom, at the workplace or through experience. Evidence of prior learning, once accepted, can be used towards the award of an NVQ/SVQ. Therefore, experienced greenkeepers could gain NVQs/SVQs without the need to attend college.

Benefits of NVQ/SVQ

The introduction of NVQs/SVQs has already changed greenkeeper training. The key to NVQs/SVQs is that they benefit everyone concerned with greenkeeping: greenkeepers, employers and golfers. Having a better trained workforce means better golf courses.
Supervisory & Management Courses

Following the introduction of the Greenkeepers Training Committee Training Manual, the format of this year's supervisory and management courses has been changed. The supervisory section of the Training Manual is designed to lead to the award of an NVQ/SVQ Level 3 in Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping) and/or the GTC Certificate in Golf Course Supervision.

The 1994 series of BIGGA Supervisory and Management Courses has been designed to meet the underpinning knowledge requirements of Level 3 Units 1001 to 1013. BIGGA courses are open to all greenkeepers who need to improve their supervisory and management skills. The courses cover:

**Week 1, Managing People Module 1**
This week covers units 1005, 1006 and 1007 and deals with team building skills, interpersonal skills, time management and staff appraisal, computers in greenkeeping and a presentation by a top course manager.

**Week 2, Managing People Module 2**
This week covers units 1008, 1009, 1010 and 1011 and deals with assertive communication, influencing skills, grievance and discipline, computers in greenkeeping and a presentation by a top course manager.

**Week 3, Managing Operations and Resources**
This week covers units 1001, 1002, 1003 and 1004 and deals with planning and organising, communicating with others, dealing with accidents, maintaining a safe and healthy environment, suggesting improvements, solving problems and relating costs to employers' objectives and golfers' requirements, computers in greenkeeping and a presentation by a top course manager.

**Week 4, Managing Information**
This week covers units 1012 and 1013 and deals with collecting and recording information, giving advice, presenting information to others, communicating clearly, computers in greenkeeping and a presentation by a top course manager.

Weeks 1 and 2 will include outdoor practical exercises and delegates should bring suitable casual, outdoor clothing. Protective clothing will be provided.

The courses are not cumulative and delegates can choose to attend one or more weeks so that over 1-4 years all the underpinning knowledge requirements of Level 3 could be met. All course delegates and employers will receive an end of course summary. This could be used to provide evidence for NVQ/SVQ assessors.

Attendance at each year's course qualifies for eight credits towards the Master Greenkeeper Certificate.

The cost per week, including accommodation, all meals and tuition fees is £420+VAT for BIGGA members and £475+VAT for non-members.

### GTC GRANTS

As these supervisory and management courses are approved by the Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC), golf clubs with mature head greenkeepers who have never attended a college course, may be eligible to claim a grant of £150 per delegate per week from the GTC. Further details of the grant and an application form may be obtained from the GTC, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Aine, York, Y06 2NE Telephone 0347 838640.

■To reserve your place, complete the postcard in this magazine and return it to BIGGA, together with a deposit of £100+VAT (total £117.50). The balance will be due for payment no later than October 1, 1994. If a delegate cancels his booking prior to the course, he will be liable for the payment of the total cost unless the place can be filled by another delegate. In order to provide a high level of instructor/delegate interaction, each course is limited to 12 delegates — so book early.

If you have any queries or need more information, call Ken Richardson, BIGGA education officer, on 0347 838581.
More than 2,000 visitors gave April's Westurf exhibition at Long Ashton Golf Club, Bristol, the best ever attendance in the event's six year history.

Organised by the South West and South Wales region of BIGGA, this year's Westurf was the best ever attendance since the event was established in 1989.

Region administrator, Gordon Child, commented that the increasing number of national and regional companies wishing to take stand space at Westurf reflected recognition of the quality of the attendance.

Apart from all golf clubs, event secretary Marion Child also invites sports clubs, local authorities and others involved in turf care throughout the area. "The formula appears to work," said Mr Child. "We now have a well established exhibition for the south west of the country which attracts excellent support from greenkeepers, groundstaff and others involved in the turf maintenance industry."

"Furthermore, all trade exhibitors appeared extremely satisfied with the day. And if they are pleased, we have to be pleased also."

All profits resulting from Westurf are used for the benefit of greenkeepers in BIGGA's South West and South Wales region. Areas in which money has been used in the past include helping with visits to the BTME at Harrogate and the organisation of seminars, workshops and other educational events for members.

The importance placed on Westurf by manufacturers and dealers means that a number of products receive their first public airing at the event.

The words and pictures below highlight some of the latest ideas and innovations aiming to attract the attention of machinery buyers at the exhibition:

**Designed for powered grooming and sweeping of turf and other firm, level surfaces, the Pro-Sweep from Pro Seed Equipment Ltd has three independently-floating heads giving a maximum working width of 3.05m (10ft).**

Suitable for both cosmetic and practical purposes, the polypropylene brushes require an oil supply of about 20 litres/min (4.5gal/min) taken from a tractor of 25hp or more. The brushes can be angled to provide a windrow action and have adjustable rear rollers for accurate setting of working height and brushing intensity. Transport width is 2.03m (6ft 8in) and price in the region of £2,500.

**Available in 1.8m and 2.4m (6ft and 8ft) widths, Dowdeswell Engineering's new Titan turf slitter is suitable for use on fairways, approaches, practice grounds and other turf areas requiring regular aeration. Designed for tractors of 35hp or more, the Titan shown here is fitted with 200mm (8in) blades and hydraulic depth control. This uses a tractor linkage lock-out frame and a double-acting hydraulic ram to control depth and help penetration in tough conditions. A ballast version with weight tray is also available as are 2.54m (10in) slitting blades and a rear full-width roller. Price from £1,895.**

**Latest attachment introduced for use with Toro's Workman 3000 turf vehicle is the Top Dresser 1800, distributed by Lely (UK) Ltd.**

The implement has a capacity of 510 litres (18 cu ft) and a spread width of 1.5m (5ft), giving effective coverage across the vehicle's full wheelbase. Drive to the conveyor at the base of the hopper is hydraulic with chain and sprocket connection to the delivery brush. A remote hydraulic control enables the operator to engage or disengage drive instantly.

Price, including remote control, is £4,245.

**Driven by the tractor's power take-off, the unit has a working width of 1.5m (5ft) and is suitable for tractors of 28hp upwards. It requires a single hydraulic flow to operate the hopper tipping mechanism.**

Ideal for working in both open and awkward areas, the F-M 1501 can be fitted with scarifying, heavy-duty twisted or back-to-back flail blades in minutes, enabling cutting, scarifying and leaf collection to be carried out by one compact unit. Updraught is assisted by 18 wind paddles fitted to the heavy-duty rotor. Price is £4,495.

**Replacing the Ransomes Motor 350 is the £13,230 Model 3500DX, a five unit, 3.5m (138in) cut machine designed for all round, high output work on short and longer grass areas according to the cutting units fitted.**

The mower can be specified with Magna 250 (254mm diameter, six knives and rear roller) or Sport 200 cutting units (197mm diameter, eight or 11 knives, front and rear rollers).

**Standard features include a 51hp four cylinder diesel engine, hydrostatic transmission with on-demand two or four wheel drive and articulating wing units. Workrate is 3.2 ha/hour (8 acres) at 7.5mph.**

**The Jacobsen Workhorse System Vehicle's one tonne payload is said to be the best of any turf utility vehicle in its class. A choice of 34hp petrol or 23hp diesel engines can be specified, linked to a four speed transmission driving the rear axle through high and low ranges. The engine is front mounted and there is power steering, hydraulic PTO and quick-pin coupling for a range of Jacobsen attachments including a tipping cargo box, top dresser, sprayers and a fertiliser spreader.**

**Other manufacturer's implements such as aerators and a core harvester can also be accommodated. Price of the petrol model is £13,230.**
### Management of Turfgrass Diseases

**2nd edition**  
*Joseph M Vargas Jr, Michigan State University, East Lansing, USA*

Written by a leading international lecturer on turfgrasses, the 2nd edition of *Management of Turfgrass Diseases* has been completely revised and updated, to include the latest information on maintaining a healthy turf and identifying turf diseases. Other topics include cool and warm season grasses, growing conditions and new diseases. With 72 colour photos and over 100 figures, this is an essential handbook for all greenkeepers and superintendents.

1994 • 336pp • Hb • ISBN 1 56670 046 9 • £52.50

### Golf Course Management and Construction

**Environmental Issues**  
*James C Balogh, Spectrum Research Inc., Minnesota, USA; William J Walker, Walsh & Associates Inc., California, USA*

This book is an excellent introduction to the concepts of 'non-point source' environmental impacts of turfgrass management. Technical and scientific research on the environmental effects of turfgrass maintenance is summarised. In addition to golf courses, there is also a discussion of turfgrass systems for residential and commercial lawns and parks.

1992 • 976pp • HB • ISBN 0 87371 742 2 • £61.00

### Landscape Restoration Handbook

*Donald Harker, The Earth Fund, Kentucky, USA, et al*

Develop a natural landscaping programme for turf as an alternative to intensive management. This book explains how to obtain the following benefits from natural landscaping or ecological restoration:

- Water quality improvement
- Erosion reduction
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1993 • 640pp • Hb • ISBN 0 87371 952 2 • £65.50

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**Seed & Soil Caddie in Green or Black at £30.50 each**

The Shur-Way Ball mark Repair Tool (pictured left) is now better than ever – with a welded handle, thicker arms and precision-extruded spiders! Just position Shur-Way over a ball mark, make a downward thrust, let up on the handle and tap the area with your foot. You’ll be amazed at how quickly you can repair an entire green – without crawling around on your hands and knees!

**Shur-Way Ball mark Repair Tool at £157.45 each**

Greenskeeper – for easy, affordable ball mark repair. Why pay more to fix ball marks? Greenskeeper (pictured right) helps you fix them fast and easy – without bending over or crawling around. Greenskeeper is designed to meticulously lift dirt and grass back into place. It’s surprisingly affordable too!

**Greenskeeper at £56.65 each**

Ask for our full colour 1994 catalogue, price list and complete details of driving range equipment and mats

Contact Paula or Lisa at: Standard Golf (UK) Limited, The Maxwell Hart Building, 612 Reading Road, Winnersh, Wokingham, Berkshire RG11 5HF.  
Telephone: 0734 788044. Fax: 0734 785805
Last November, nearly 800 people – greenkeepers, golf club committee members, course managers, course designers, county council and corporation parks superintendents, developers, sports groundmen, students, etc. – attended the first ever Irish Turf Maintenance Exhibition. Already half of last year’s exhibitors have asked for space this year, but we want to increase the range of exhibitors so if you are interested in participating, contact us now for further details.

3 and 4 NOVEMBER 1994
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John Crawford’s year as chairman of BIGGA came to a close at the National Conference. He told Greenkeeper International what it’s like being in the hot seat

End of term report

Being chairman of the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association was an honour which I did not set out to achieve, but one which I certainly took great pride in.

I see the chairman’s role outside of board of management meetings as one of being ‘PR’ or ‘front man’, attending the various events which are organised in conjunction with our trade sponsors and any section/region events to which he is invited.

It is my opinion that not enough of the sections/regions extend an invitation to the chairman to attend their events, while appreciating that someone who is working full-time would find it difficult to attend them all during his year in office, at least the invitation should be extended.

What were the highlights?
The highlights of my year were too numerous to mention but obviously being chairman during the most successful BTME so far, attending the numerous functions and events to which I was invited and the GCSAA show in Dallas, even though I was somewhat apprehensive about wearing a kilt for the first (and last?) time in my life, are all events of which I will have many fond memories.

What were the worst moments?
There were one or two low points during the year, which I would rather not go into, but hopefully they were not to the detriment of the Association.

What did you learn during your year?
I certainly learnt there are still too many different views amongst the members as to what the Association is about and what the board of management are attempting to achieve on their behalf. This can be changed with the improved communication which is now taking place through Greenkeeper International and with members of the staff from HQ attending more section and region events.

How much time did it take being chairman?
If the past chairman told the incoming chairman how much time was required during his term of office he would probably resign on the spot! It is something you want to do for the Association and are willing to sacrifice your own time freely. I reckon it took between 60-70 days, not counting section and region events in Scotland.

Did it help being out of work?
Being unemployed for part of my year of office made it easier for me to attend more functions/events than I would have felt comfortable doing if I had still been in employment, but it certainly did nothing for my self-confidence.

How do you see BIGGA’s future?
Although the Association is growing slowly, there are still too many greenkeepers who are not members, which is disappointing as the benefits which can be derived from being a member are numerous. We must also endeavour to get every member to present a more professional image, ie. dress and self presentation.

Improved communication with employers needs to be achieved (a difficult task with some golf clubs) to inform them of what the benefits of their staff being members can mean to the club, ie. better education opportunities. I feel that in the not too distant future the chairman will not come from within the board of management, due to the amount of time involved in dealing with Association matters, perhaps he may well be a well known retired greenkeeper or someone associated with the greenkeeping/golf world.

What will you do now?
Hopefully I can find employment which will allow me to return to greenkeeping and try to continue with life as before - if not, who knows what lies ahead?

Any final messages?
Yes, I would like to say a special thanks to everyone who gave me their support during my year as chairman - the members, fellow board members, Neil Thomas and all the staff at HQ, every company that gives superb support to the Association and last but most of all Ailsa, without whose wholehearted support and encouragement it would certainly have been a totally different year altogether.

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George Brown has been in greenkeeping for 40 years. He started at Princes, Sandwich, straight from school at the age of 15. He was there nine years. "When I went there I was the boy with 11 groundstaff. When I left nine years later I was still the boy...I thought I could do better for myself."

His next job was as the greenkeeper/pro at nine-hole Alton, in Hampshire. "Someone bet I could do it, I didn't think I could, but I applied for the first job that came along, it happened to be Alton and I thoroughly enjoyed it. It was fantastic experience. The members were very kind to me."

He stayed for three years with one tractor and one mower. He'd cut the greens, then go and cut the tees. Then give a lesson. He went back to Princes as the gaffer and stayed for five years. Then in 1979 he joined Broome Park Golf and Country Club near Canterbury to oversee its construction and stayed on as golf manager - which meant running the whole complex, including the bars and restaurants.

In January '86 he moved to Turnberry to prepare for the Open. Eight years later he is still there and preparing for his second Open.

Having been a pro and Kent amateur champion, we wondered if he'd ever thought about going further on the pro side. "No, I made so much money when I was 24 I decided I'd made enough to pull out of it," he jokes. "No, seriously, I had no training as a pro, I did it as a bet." He now plays off 4.

Who can forget the 1977 Open, with two of the sport's all-time greats, Tom Watson and Jack Nicklaus, in peak form deciding the championship on the 18th green? Who can forget the 1986 Open, when Greg Norman battled against the wind and rain to claim his first major title?

Turnberry is hoping for an equally memorable tournament this year when it stages its third Open. And course manager George Brown is hoping for conditions and scores somewhere between the two earlier events.

In 1977 when Tom Watson won with a four-round aggregate of 268, it was hot and dry. In '86, Norman shot his level par 280 amid gale-force winds.

George Brown wants Turnberry to be a fair challenge - a stiff breeze and sunshine would be ideal with the top players shooting 67s and 68s. Without a breeze he reckons they could shoot low 60s, like Mark Hayes in '77 and Norman in '86, or even a 59. With too strong a wind many of them will struggle to break 80. Planning to be fair is going to be a problem.

"It's just like when the mother-in-law comes over for it's just that little bit extra effort. It's just like when the mother-in-law comes over for it's just that little bit extra effort."

Chris Boiling talks to Turnberry course manager George Brown to find out what's in store for contestants in this year's Open Tournament

"It's a question of getting the balance, that's what we're looking for at the moment." That's why there have been a few minor modifications to the course.

"These golfers are so good now, they hit the ball so far, you have to keep making a few changes to keep up with them," explains George, 55, a top amateur player in his younger days.

The main differences from '86 are new bunkers on the opening two holes and 17th and wider fairways.

"After the '86 Open we thought the first fairway was a wee bit too narrow. Some of the top-class players were hitting an iron off the tee, even as low as a 4 iron, which we didn't think was the right way to start a championship. So, after a bit of thought and discussion and professional advice from an architect, we widened the fairway to the left and put two bunkers there to make it a challenging tee shot, and we tightened up the greenside bunkers. You can still lay up short of the bunkers if you have a head wind. If there's no wind or a back wind then you can easily carry them or there's a 20-yard gap if you fancy threading the ball through the middle. So it's a much fairer hole."

There are also two new bunkers on the second. "We thought the second hole was a wee bit weak so we added bunkers left and right to tighten up the tee shot. Again there's about an 18-20-yard gap if you fancy taking a chance. It'll make the players think for the Open, especially if there's a back..."
wind, whether to hit a wood or lay-up with an
iron."

The bunker that was out in the rough on the
par 5 17th - "which no-one ever seemed to go
in" - has been filled in and a new one built on
the edge of the fairway to catch a slightly way-
ward tee shot. "I think this will play a major
role in the eventual winner of the Open Cham-
pionship. Again there's 18-20-yards on the left
if you fancy driving past it.

"Par 5s on links courses in the summer can
play short, but this bunker may make them
think."

Wider fairways
All the fairways are a few paces wider. "The
criticism from the '86 Open was the width of
the fairways. They were too narrow. One of
the most vigorous growing seasons we've ever
had made the rough very dense and to add
salt to the wounds we had horrendous
weather for three out of the four days," recalls
George.

More obvious differences between Turn-
berry when Norman first won a major and
when he returns in July to defend his Royal St
George's triumph are the new £4.5m club-
house (opened by the Duke of York last June),
the new leisure centre annexe to the hotel,
and the fact that the 360-acre site, two courses
and three-storey hotel have been taken over
by a golf-orientated Japanese company.

Preparing for two years
George Brown and his team of 18-20 staff
have been preparing for the Open for the last
couple of years. But because it is attached to a
132-room, five-star hotel, it has to be kept in
tiptop condition 52 weeks of the year anyhow.
They have ongoing maintenance programmes
so that when the Open comes around "we
don't have to do a lot different.

"It's just like when the mother-in-law comes
over for tea on Sunday, it's just that little bit
extra effort."

They have revetted 90 percent of the 66
bunkers over the last two winters (the other
10 percent were done three years ago and do
not need redoing). They will top-dress more
frequently to ensure a smooth surface and step
up their divotting programme (using caddies
and paying them with free rounds on the
Arran course).

"Presentation is the key. We're looking for
perfection. But it doesn't matter how many
hours we work or what jobs we do, at the end
of the day there'll still be a few jobs we'd wish
we'd done or hadn't quite got round to. It's
like a garden, you never actually finish."

But he has had more time to prepare for the
123rd Open than he did for his first one in '86.
He took over as Turnberry's course manager
seven months before the championship follow-
ing the death of Russell Brown. George said he
seemed to spend most of his time trying to
track down underground services and elimi-
nate damage. But now he has detailed plans to
help him.

The condition of the fairways, tees, greens
and bunkers was great in '86. "Hopefully it
will be as good, if not in better, in '94," he says.

But don't expect it to look all green and
lush. George does not believe that green is
necessarily beautiful. "In early summer and
autumn when the fairways and whole golf
course is green and striped it does look rather
beautiful. But when you have a dry spell for a
week or two and the wind gets up off the sea,
it can go very dusty and stragy and looks
unkept at times. There's nothing wrong with
that, links are supposed to be fairly natural
and fiery and supposed to have firm fairways.
But now we have a new watering system,
installed a couple of years ago, and hopefully
with proper management we'll be able to
strike the balance of not making it too lush
and green and not making it too stragy and
dusty and looking unkempt. I see my role here
as trying to keep a balance and keeping it links
condition - firm and fast - but presented
nicely."

In 1988 Turnberry was taken over by the
Japanese company Nitto Kogyo which owns
about 30 courses in Japan and several more in
America and has just opened The Oxforshire
near London. All of their other courses are
green and heavily watered.

"I see my role here as trying to keep Turn-
berry traditional," George reassures us. "This
is the first links course that Nitto Kogyo have
owned and it would be very easy for me with
my irrigation computer to press a few buttons
and step up the water and I have the budget
to pile on the fertiliser to make it green and
lush, but I refrain from doing that. We don't
want a course like '77 where it is a struggle to
keep grasses alive during the drought season,
but then we don't want to be like American
courses where you play target golf on soft,
holding greens. I look at my role as trying to
keep it 'down the middle', if you pardon the
pun - traditional but well presented."

George says his new bosses have been very
supportive. They have renewed most of his
machinery and provided a new 10,000 sq ft
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Sand blow
One of the biggest problems in recent years has been sand blow. For four or five years running in January or February ferocious winds from the Atlantic blew sand from the beach up over the 30-40ft dunes protecting the course and up to 50 yards inland. “You couldn’t stand anywhere near the sixth green or 7th tees, the sand would almost cut your face to pieces. We’ve had as much as 2-3ft of sand on the 7th tees.” Which, as you can imagine, destroyed the tees, and didn’t do much to enhance the 6th and sometimes 5th greens. The green staff have wasted a lot of time shovelling and sweeping sand off the course. “Two years ago the whole squad spent two weeks pushing sand, got it all cleared up, then three weeks later it was back again, which is rather soul destroying.” One year they even resorted to using a helicopter which hovered over the 6th green to dry the sand, making it easier to brush off without damaging the greens.

They tried planting marram grasses, but they disappeared with high tides. Then last year they installed snow fences (500 yards worth) in short sections pointing out to sea like groynes. It seems to have done the trick. “This is the first year in six years that we haven’t had any sand blow, so we’re pleased with that. And we’re going into the summer with the 6th green and 7th tees looking quite good for a change. That was my only concern...”

Shaping up
The contractors moved in at the beginning of April and started laying the cables for the tented village which will be sited on the practice area between the two courses. This means the second hole of the Arran course becomes the practice ground with a grandstand and the 18th green on the Arran is used for additional putting practice. Grassy hollows near it are to be turned into practice bunkers and the green extended.

The course closes at the end of June for final preparations – divotting, seeding, top-dressing etc.

Between now and then George will be involved in many meetings with the R&A, BBC and various contractors. He will be working closely with the contractors in planning the sites for about 39 static cameras, the routes for the grandstand, the water and electricity pipes and the digging of big holes for septic tanks.

“It makes the day go round and it keeps us all occupied. Greenkeeping is just one part of it,” he says in his usual laid-back manner.

During Open week he will be getting up at 3.30am to phone the Met Office at 3.40 – and plan his cutting regime accordingly. If it is going to be hot and windy he may leave the grass on the greens slightly longer, “otherwise it will be like putting on glass.”

The week after the Open is more of a problem for George. “When the Open's finished, all the contractors etc want to do is get their material away from here onto the next site. Obviously they're not so careful taking it down as they were putting it up. That's when most of the damage can be done to the ground, especially if we turn away.”

Once the Open is over, George can start planning the other big jobs that need doing, like additional landscaping around the clubhouse and upgrading the Arran course in readiness for the 1996 British Amateur event which will be played over both courses – qualifying on the Arran and the finals on Ailsa.

“It’s one big merry-go-round,” says a contented George, who also has a big personal golfing date to look forward to – his debut in the British Seniors in August, along with St Andrews’ Walter Woods.
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Constructor is given golf course in settlement of six-figure debt

Golf course constructor Brian D Pierson has opened his own course. Run by eldest son Mark, Hamptworth Golf and Country Club, on the edge of the New Forest, was given to the Piersons to settle a six-figure debt by the original developers, Hamptworth Park Leisure, who had a 125-year lease on the land.

The Piersons started building the course in 1991, then stopped halfway through when the developers' money ran out. Eighteen months of negotiations later the company which has built more than 180 golf courses worldwide took over the whole project, scaling down the plan for a grandiose clubhouse.

Laid out over 175 acres, running in and out of the 700-acre English Nature-managed Langley Wood, Hamptworth has the potential to become one of the best courses in the south-west.

Newly-appointed head greenkeeper Keith Hill-Jones says he wants to make it the best course in the area in the next couple of years.

Based on a Philip Sanders design, it measures 6,500 yards off the back tees and features several intimidating, tree-lined tee shots, some monster bunkers and a par 5 of 582 yards.

Water hazards are provided by the River Blackwater as it meanders through the course, which was opened last month by Salisbury MP Robert Key. Other hazards are natural too - plenty of trees and hedges and only 19 bunkers.

Greens are built to Jim Arthur specifications. The 9th and 18th holes finish on a double green guarded by a massive bunker which one over-enthusiastic writer described as being "as big as the Isle of Wight".

One of the most daunting holes is the 360-yard 14th which doglegs slightly to the right once you have driven through an avenue of trees that may make even the best players consider using a 4 iron.

Construction of a 6,500 sq ft clubhouse is planned for next year.

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- More than 220 companies are booked in at the Landscape Industries show June 8/9 at the National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire.

- The Greenkeeping Supply Company has been set up by Liam Galway. He will be supplying course furniture from Tacit, Pattissons and Standard Golf, as well as clothing and tools. Tel/fax: 0245-248880.
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Grass seed shortage is on the cards, warns supplier

There could be a shortage of some types of amenity grass seed and a firmer price pattern during the next few months, warns Derek Whelbourn, wholesale director of Johnsons Seeds.

The situation, he claims, has arisen through a combination of factors. "The weather has meant that this year's spring trade has been later, causing trading over a longer period," he says. "This has helped to clear what initially was an apparent surplus and now replacement stocks of seed are urgently needed for filling empty spaces in merchants' premises."

Additional factors which have contributed to the stock shortage are: considerable exports of seed from Europe to the USA; and lower seed production acreage in Europe and the UK than in previous years.

"The combination of factors has occurred at a time of the year when replacement stocks are not easily available," said Mr Whelbourn. "New crop seed will not be available until the autumn trading is well underway, meaning that the balance of the spring trade and the coming autumn trade will have to be supplied out of current stock. During the late spring and early summer it is almost certain there will be a shortage of certain types of grass seed, leading to an inevitable hardening of prices."

New courses to open near Gatwick Airport

Two new golf courses are being built near Gatwick Airport. The 18-hole Duxhurst Estate course, on a mature parkland site south of Reigate, is to be laid out as a 6,250-yard par 71 course with comprehensive practice and teaching facilities.

Architect Howard Swan says it will feature modest remodelling of the natural terrain and have some water features on the lower parts of the land. Work began mid-May with full play scheduled for late spring '96.

The Horne Park Golf Academy at nearby Horley, also designed by Swan, is a 2,700-yard nine-hole par 34 course with range, chipping and bunker areas. Continental Landscapes are constructing the academy and ISS are supplying the Toro irrigation equipment. Horne Park is likely to open its doors later this year, with the course in play mid-'95.

Castle Combe bought

Castle Combe Golf Club in Wiltshire has been bought by the son of a local hotelier. Danny Pecorelli, whose father Guiseppe owns the nearby Manor House Hotel, is believed to have paid £2.5 million for the course which cost £8 million to build in 1991. Pecorelli plans to run the Peter Alliss/Clive Clark-designed course in the same way as his other club - Mannings Heath in West Sussex where a second 18 holes is under construction.

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**EVENTS DIARY**

**June 8-9: BALI Trade Show, Stoneleigh**

**June 29: Southturf, Turf Care Trade Exhibition, Motspur Park, south west London**

**July 14-17: Open Championship, Turnberry**

**August 1-3: National Tournament, Dartmouth Golf Club, Devon**

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

**September 22: Hayter Challenge Final, Pannal Golf Club, Harrogate**

**November 8-10: Scotsurf, Ingleston, Edinburgh**

**December 11: Scottish Region North Section one-day conference at Craibstone Estate, Bucksburn, Aberdeen**

**January 25-27, 1995: BTME '95, Harrogate International Centre**

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**Southturf on course for successful debut**

Southturf is set to make its mark on the trade show calendar when it makes its debut on Wednesday June 29, 10am-5pm at Motspur Park in south west London.

Organised by the South-East region of BIGGA, more than 35 companies have already booked space with many more promising to be there.

But this event is going to be more than just an exhibition. As well as being able to view the latest machinery and products, there is an education marquee where the colleges will be available to discuss courses, and a turf clinic where leading agronomists and greenkeepers will analyse your hole plugs (so bring a sample with you). The Greenkeepers’ Training Committee will be on hand to answer questions regarding greenkeeper training. There will be a special exhibit of weather recording equipment. Outside a charity golf clinic is to be staged. Greenkeepers will be able to have their swings analysed by a PGA professional in exchange for a small donation. The pavilion will be open all day for refreshments. But best of all, parking, entrance and the golf itself were of the required 16, but competitively nothing was lacking. The course and range, as new members. They are Liam Appleby, Martin Corner and Terry Hepplesall.

Teesside GC is hoping to build a new greenkeepers’ shed.

BIGGA’s vice-chairman Barry Heaney was among the guests who turned up at Eaglescliffe GC for my 30-year service dinner. A trophy has been named in honour of long service, and Cleveland BIGGA presented four engraved wine glasses. I thank you all sincerely for your good wishes and I shall continue as your section chairman with pleasure. The next section meeting is at Murro on July 24.

---

**Ayrshire**

Our thanks go to Thorhill GC for allowing us to use their facilities for the first day of the Firecracker. Our thanks go to the trade and your staff for preparing a test golf, and to the catering staff for first-class fare.

The golf itself was of the mixed variety, the early season scuffs, shanks and missed puts being interspersed with the odd good (or lucky) shot, but overall the scores were good, and the excellent turnout of over 40 members had a great time.

Results: scratch - Keith McCalltart, Dumfries Galloway, 73; 1st class - 1, William McMeikam, Turnberry, 75-9-66; 2, Ian McNab, Dumfries County, 75-4-71; 3, Bob McKay, Prestwick St Nicholas, 82-9-73; 2nd class - 1, Duncan Gray, Mitchell and Struther, 83-10-73; 2, Paul Rae, Brunston Castle, 91-7-74; 3, Jimmy Johnston, North Berwick, 93-7-80. Prize winner: Billy Disbey, 1, Steven Knagg, Dumfries County, 97-25-72; 2, Jim Paton, West Kilbride, 94-19-75; 3, Gary Crosbie, Dumfries County, 98-34-64. Prize winners: Alan Wilson, 1, Steven Knagg, Dumfries County, 97-25-72; 2, Jim Paton, West Kilbride, 94-19-75; 3, Gary Crosbie, Dumfries County, 98-34-64. Prize winner: Billy Disbey, 1, Steven Knagg, Dumfries County, 97-25-72; 2, Jim Paton, West Kilbride, 94-19-75; 3, Gary Crosbie, Dumfries County, 98-34-64. Prize winners: Alan Wilson, 1, Steven Knagg, Dumfries County, 97-25-72; 2, Jim Paton, West Kilbride, 94-19-75; 3, Gary Crosbie, Dumfries County, 98-34-64. Prize winners: Alan Wilson, 1, Steven Knagg, Dumfries County, 97-25-72; 2, Jim Paton, West Kilbride, 94-19-75; 3, Gary Crosbie, Dumfries County, 98-34-64. Prize winner: Billy Disbey, 1, Steven Knagg, Dumfries County, 97-25-72; 2, Jim Paton, West Kilbride, 94-19-75; 3, Gary Crosbie, Dumfries County, 98-34-64. Prize winner: Billy Disbey, 1, Steven Knagg, Dumfries County, 97-25-72; 2, Jim Paton, West Kilbride, 94-19-75; 3, Gary Crosbie, Dumfries County, 98-34-64. Prize winners: Alan Wilson, 1, Steven Knagg, Dumfries County, 97-25-72; 2, Jim Paton, West Kilbride, 94-19-75; 3, Gary Crosbie, Dumfries County, 98-34-64. Prize winners: Alan Wilson, 1, Steven Knagg, Dumfries County, 97-25-72; 2, Jim Paton, West Kilbride, 94-19-75; 3, Gary Crosbie, Dumfries County, 98-34-64.
section and hope you will come along to the events arranged during the year and meet your fellow green keepers. A number of members of the NW section have not renewed their membership this year, and I am interested to know the reason why. Is it too expensive? Has your golf club failed to pay your subscriptions? Or are your membership cards not renewed? Your views may help the section in March. By all accounts he gave a detailed insight into where BIGGA is going, including its annual dance. We hope to see the same crowd and more involved in the loan of machinery which enabled the course to continue working.

RICHARD WHYMAN

MID ANGLIA

A number of members of the NW section have not renewed their membership this year, and I would be interested to know the reason why. Is it too expensive? Has your golf club failed to pay your subscriptions? Or are your membership cards not renewed? Your views may help the section in March. By all accounts he gave a detailed insight into where BIGGA is going, including its

MID ANGLIA

Scottish

The section's Spring Tournament took place over Gul- lane No2 on April 12. Glorious sunshine greeted the 60+ competitors who recorded some fine scores in an attempt to qualify for the Hayter finals. The course was in its usual great condition, and our grateful thanks to the professionals and our main sponsor - M Franklin. The match committee, at the end of a long day, had some work to do separating the leaders, which eventu- ally went to countback. See the list of qualifiers below.

PAUL LOCKETT

SCOTTISH EAST

As is usual in a medal event, low handicap golfers can be drafted in. As a guide I would suggest that members shouldn't use their card for courtesy golf more than five times in the year. We wish Harpenden a successful centenary year.

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MID ANGLIA
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PARKER HART

Around the Green

We are hoping to organise an inter-club five-a-side football tournament later in the year, so if anyone has any budding stars on their staff, fill in the form when it arrives - another training for the big day. Fuller details will be circulated soon.

JOHN CRAWFORD

NORTH WALES

110 members and guests played in our Spring Tournament over the new layout at Carden Park near Chester. The winners were as follows: Lesco Cup for best nett, donated by Richard Carney - Terry Adamson, 76; runners-up, decided by countback - Pat Valentine, Ian Buckdon. Chris Davies, Alan Gillies, all with nett 77; guest winners 1, JC Harris, 76; 2, G Perkins, 77; 3, D Poskies, 78; High-speed Rose Bowl for best gross - Ian Farrall, 83; nearest the pin - Val Wickson.

During the day John Garner, the ex-Ryder Cup player, entertained visitors with his very humorous golf show. We extend our grateful thanks to John whose efforts helped raise £455 for the Fight Leukaemia in Chester Charity. On a personal note I would like to wish John and Melanie all the best in their new venture at St Mellion plc.

The event was also the section qualifier for the Hayter Challenge, with the top three in each handicap section going forward to the regional finals at Worsley GC on July 20.

Prizes were donated by the following companies and once again we would thank the trade for their continuing support: Richard Carney, Highspeed Oils, Gem professional, Mannersteeg, Bathgate Silica Sands, Walker Brothers, Acorn, Carden Park and last but not least Hayter's pic.

In closing I would like to thank all my greenstaff for their efforts, yet another incredible effort - well done lads.

ANDY CAMPBELL

NORTH SCOTLAND

Another batch of new members as the recruitment drive continues. First up is Hugh Melatchie's newly qualified assistant Alieen Snowden, followed by Kevin Halley, apprentice at Ballater; and E J Auldhouse, an assistant Strachan from Aberdeen and Elmwood students Peter Hayters pic. EJ Auldhouse is yet another incredible effort - well done lads.

We are hoping to organise an inter-club five-a-side football tournament later in the year, so if anyone has any budding stars on their staff, fill in the form when it arrives - another training for the big day. Fuller details will be circulated soon.

ALAN MITCHELL

SOUTH WALES

The South Wales section's Hayter Qualifier and Spring Tournament was held at Newport GC, Rogerstone. The course was in superb condition, presented to an extremely high standard by Robert Johnston and his team, the weather couldn't have been better and the evening meal was excellent. What more could you ask for? A better attendance perhaps!

Robert Boyes of Hayter's presented each category winner (results below) with a superb set of cut-glass crystal brandy glasses. Winner of the Cartuff Cup was Andrew Jenkins, nett 70. Robert Johnston took the Waycott Shield with a 73 gross and Ted Thompson won the John O'Gorman Cup with a nett 71. Trade winner with a nett 68 was Terry Adamson.

Our sincere thanks to the trade again for their wonderful support, namely Avoncrop, Farmura, Hayters, Gem Professional, Ted's Chris Hopkins and Colin Murphy. Thanks also go to Norman Sheddon (Aitkens) for looking after the cards, Roger and Jeff Bird for the Waycott Shield and Daren Price of Grange Park.

It's this kind of backing that will allow the region to continue to develop and mature fast. Laid out on the lines of the great old links courses of Scotland and Ireland (Ballybunion was what Rev. J. M. Crouch was out of catalogues and by 11am we needed extra car parking space, so I'd say that numbers were definitely up on last year. It was good to see so many faces from the South Wales section supporting this regional event, something that has been lacking in the past - well done! It's this kind of backing that will allow the region to continue to develop and mature fast. Laid out on the lines of the great old links courses of Scotland and Ireland (Ballybunion was what Rev. J. M. Crouch said), Avoncrop, Jenman Engineering, Romsey Garden Machinery and Sta-Brite. My apologies if I have left anyone out.

One say? The show that remains firmly attached to this long-standing event is the 'Birds' annual golf and demonstration day was held at Royal Porthcawl GC for allowing us the use of their course and their beautiful new clubhouse, which had only been open three weeks.

The 'Birds' annual golf and demonstration day was held at Royal Porthcawl GC, 2, Dennis Cockburn, Silsden GC; 3, Les Kirkbright. My apologies if I have left anyone out.

Third prize - 9-hole stableford - 1, David Collins, Pontefract GC; 18-hole medal - Div 1: Garry Potter, Skippen GC; 2, David Spurden, Ganton GC; 3, Mick Hannan, Moortown GC, Div 2: 1, John Waite, Temple Newcas; 2, Arthur Baxter, Bingley St Ives GC; 3, Graham Oxley, Scarcroft GC; Div 3: 1, Alan Gamble, Pannal GC; 2, John Bateman, Sibden GC; 3, Les Kirkbright.

Once again big thanks to all the donors, namely Norman Sheddon (Aitkens) for looking after the cards for us and for donating a prize table, also to Andy Low (Martin & Robinson) and Tea Crouch for donating the Railway Cup. I must also thank St Ives GC for allowing us their course and having a truly magnificent exhibition.

Robert Gee, who was on the committee of the North section, has left us and Yorkshire to take up the position of course manager at Faithlegg GC in Eire. The course is a 72 charm with everyone that took part in the Porthcawl demonstration day was a real treat.

I have also heard that Larry Murcott, formerly of Macclesfield GC has now joined Mid-Yorkshire GC. New members to welcome include Graham Green of Gunstede Park, John Mullany of Bradley Hall and Ray May of Grange Park.

On a personal note I would like to wish Bob Cully and Mark Webb. Well done to both of them. It's a good sign to see us growing. It goes from strength to strength. By 10.30am we'd run out of catalogues and by 11am we needed extra car parking space, so I'd say that numbers were definitely up on last year. It was good to see so many faces from the South Wales section supporting this regional event, something that has been lacking in the past - well done! It's this kind of backing that will allow the region to continue to develop and mature fast. Laid out on the lines of the great old links courses of Scotland and Ireland (Ballybunion was what Rev. J. M. Crouch said), Avoncrop, Jenman Engineering, Romsey Garden Machinery and Sta-Brite. My apologies if I have left anyone out.

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Come and join the band!

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Our '94 season started with the superb venue of Willingdon GC down on the south coast at Eastbourne. Peter Negus and his staff as usual presented the course in superb condition.

The day started at 7.30 for breakfast in the club-house, and it seems strange how everybody turns up on time when there's food about! Being such a good turnout, two tees were utilised and the first pair of triples went off from the 1st and 10th at about 8.15am.

The sun finally shone at around midday, and what a turnout, two tees were utilised and the first pair of triples went off from the 1st and 10th at about 8.15am. The sponsors for the day were John Shaw Machinery (morning medal) and Rigby Taylor (afternoon stableford) with the beer at lunchtime and another 18 holes of hillwalking, the course was originally built. The sun finally shone at around midday, and what a turnout, two tees were utilised and the first pair of triples went off from the 1st and 10th at about 8.15am.

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- Sovereign Turf
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- Standard Golf
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“Turf Clinic” plus
- Hadlow College
- Plumpton College
- Oaklands College
- GTC
- Writtle College
- Sparsholt College
- NESCOT

Companies wishing to exhibit can do so from only £75 – but the deadline is June 18, so don’t leave it too late!

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How does an architect go about creating a course, especially in an environmentally sensitive area? Chris Boiling talked to leading golf course designer Donald Steel about the Carnegie course on Peter de Savary's Skibo Castle estate, near Dornoch, Scotland.

"Heaven on earth," was how Andrew Carnegie described Skibo, his Highland castle which is now being turned into a golf and sporting club by Peter de Savary. "Heaven", "Mecca", "paradise" are over-used terms in golf magazines, but the Carnegie course, which is due to open in July, is certainly special. It's the first links course built in Britain in the last 40 years; ➥ 33
The new 27-hole golf course being built at Ramside Hall Hotel is being built by "the project management method". This is a fancy way of saying that the developer - Michael Adamson in this case - pays for each aspect of the construction work directly instead of paying through the main contractor.

But the key to using the project management method successfully is picking the right managers.

Mr Adamson and course manager Roger Shaw, who has been in charge of this project from day one, have gone for Ian Martin and Bob Horneold, who have both been working in the industry for more than 20 years.

Work started at Ramside Hall in early March and, as we went to press, Ian Martin told us they had constructed 17 greens, 16 tee complexes, seven lakes (ranging in size from 500 to almost 8000m sq), and 55 bunkers (greenside and fairway).

To have got these features 'constructed' basically means they are shaped up and ready for a hermit's drain. Once the green has been approved by the architect, Jonathan Gaunt, the drainage carpet can be spread (between 150mm and 200mm depth, 19-14mm whinstone aggregate supplied by Hargreaves) and blinded off with grit (50-75mm depth, 3-6mm whinstone aggregate, again supplied by Hargreaves). Tees will not be having a drainage carpet but will still have a herring-bone drainage system and 150mm depth of rootzone.

The drainage of greens and tees is carried out by mini-trencher and linked into the fairway drainage system on the approach. MJ Abbott are the contractors for this major scheme which involves the installation of over 50,000m of pipework, and they have been on site since mid-March. Nine fairways have now been drained (including bunkers) ready for mole-ploughing, so cultivation works have begun over the top - two passes of the shakerator to relieve compaction, encourage vertical water percolation and aerate the soil, followed by power harrowing and stone picking/burying, where necessary.

The drain game

Robert Donald of MJ Abbott explains what he did at Ramside Hall:

"Standing side by side with course manager Roger Shaw and looking over what was to be the 5th fairway on a cold and horridly wet October morning, I first realised the importance that the drainage system would play in the success of this venture. The client, whom I had met earlier, had given me a verbal brief: "Robert," he said, "I want the water to flee off the land!" Here I was ankle deep in an emulsion of the new 27-hole golf course. The topsoil, however, was initially good over most of the site and consequently a great deal of emphasis was put on this fact. There was to be no contamination of the topsoil with the clay subsoil.

Another important feature of the golf course was the large and frequent areas of water in the form of lakes with occasional streams between them. Lakes only look attractive when they are full of water, however these features were also to supply irrigation to greens, tees and approaches over 27 holes. Careful liaison with the course architect, Jonathan Gaunt, ensured that the water, once removed from the land, was stored in a manner that enhanced the general aspect of the course.

The design finally proposed and accepted consisted of an intensive piped drainage system that incorporated a network of rigid twinwall pipework between the lakes. The fairway drainage was typically 60mm laterals at 10m spacings connecting into 150mm laterals at 100m spacings. The drainage mains were reduced in areas requiring intensification. The pipe depth is another critical factor, too deep and the cost of stone fill makes the job expensive, too shallow and the effectiveness of the drain diminishes as the hydraulic conductivity is reduced.

The final depths depended on the contours of the land but could be generalised by laterals at 650mm and mains at 900mm deep. A very suitable carboniferous limestone quarried locally was used as the permeable backfill medium, 20mm single size to 150mm of the surface and 5mm grit as a blinding layer.

The installation of the coil pipework - some 40km! - was facilitated using a 180hp continuous chain trenching machine, especially equipped for golf courses with low ground pressure tracks and a spoil conveyor, the digging boom depth is automatically controlled via a series of rams responding to a laser grading device which maintains pipe falls regardless of surface undulations. The pipe is fed into the trench as it is excavated and immediately covered with stone which is discharged from a gravel cart running parallel to the trenching machine. The spoil generated is loaded directly onto a dump truck preventing topsoil contamination.

All the greens, tees and bunkers were connected to the fairway mains using a mini excavator, this method coping well with the inherent mounding associated with such features. Following pipe laying, the area of the fairways were mole ploughed prior to final cultivations in order to assist water movement through subsoil whilst the pipe drains were "bedding in".

To close a course for any reason is undesirable, but to close because of poor drainage is intolerable as it can lead to huge losses in revenue. Addressing the drainage question in the early stages of planning will reap benefits many years after the initial cost of installation has been forgotten."
Carnegie was a Scot who emigrated to America with his family when he was 13. There he rose from a bobbin boy in a cotton factory to become a steel magnate, and returned to his homeland as one of the richest and most successful men of his generation. He bought Skibo (a shortened version of its Celtic name, Schytharbollie, which means ‘fairyland of peace’) in 1898 and spent a fortune rebuilding it to entertain the likes of King Edward VII, Rudyard Kipling and Lloyd George.

It is believed that the local golf club, Royal Dornoch, invited him to become a member but because he couldn't play he built himself a nine-hole golf course where he could learn the game. He invited five-times Open champion JH Taylor to stay at the castle - and coach him. Carnegie later became vice-president of Royal Dornoch and, today, the impressive-looking Carnegie Shield is one of the big competitions on the club’s calendar.

Peter de Savary is a non-golfer too, but he’s not building the new 18-hole course for himself. He is turning the 7,000 acre estate into a private residential golf and sporting club with an invited international membership of about 500.

The Carnegie course at Skibo Castle will be de Savary's first golfing venture. And what a venture. The first links course built in Britain since Southerness and the restoration of Turnberry after World War II. It’s not long – just 6,650 off the championship tees and 6,400 off the white tees - but there are many tough and memorable holes.

Despite some of the publicity for the club and boards outside proclaiming its “reopening”, the new course, designed by Donald Steel, is nothing like the original. The only visible evidence of the original course is the grassy hollow near the 12th which was probably a bunker near the original 9th green.

When the castle was put on the market in 1989, Steel was commissioned to provide a golf course as a selling feature. When de Savary bought Skibo in 1990 he saw Steel’s name on the plans and asked him to design a course for him.

When Steel and his assistants, Martin Ebert and Tom MacKenzie, are designing a new course they walk the new site as many times as possible. For Tom, who comes from Dornoch, this meant driving 11 hours home a few weeks after starting work at Steel’s offices near Chichester, West Sussex.

The first two things they have to find out before they start creating a course are the boundaries and the site of the clubhouse. With the Carnegie course they also had to plot the areas of scientific interest.

The site of an old steadying was to be used to build the new clubhouse. Standing there, Steel envisaged a spectacular final hole, a par 5 dogleg with a drive across a bay. So, to some extent, they worked backwards on the design of this course. Once they realised they could get three holes to the west of the clubhouse, the first hole became obvious.

They also knew they wanted to use some land on the other side of Ferry Road because it gave a third view of the Firth and linked the course with the beach. Another hole, the 8th, alongside River Evelix, was also obvious, according to Steel.

Before they went too far down the design road, they employed an ecologist to plot the areas of importance and grade them: prime importance, importance, and potential importance, so they knew where they could go and where they most certainly couldn’t go. They also started consultations with Scottish Natural Heritage and began communicating with planners, ecologists, environmentalists etc.

They told them they wouldn’t go into any areas of importance or prime importance and they would do their best to avoid areas of potential importance. They also struck a deal allowing the conservationists to come in and manage the heathland areas, which they hadn’t been allowed to do for the previous 30 years and as a consequence some of the areas of good heathland had started to disappear. The conservationists jumped at the chance to stop the decline of valuable sites.

The most sensitive area was the land south of Ferry Road. Steel wanted to take the course there to add to the scenic variety, but also because he needed the space. Although the estate is on more than 7,000 acres, the golf course is on a plot of about 120 acres (200 if you include the areas of scientific interest).

Once they had received approval in principle from Scottish Natural Heritage, Steel’s ecologist had to do a detailed environmental appraisal showing why the site was valuable, what plants were there, what effect the work would have on them and how the course would be built – hole by hole with particular attention to holes in SI territory. He also had to say how...
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Looking back from the 5th green. The SI area on the right is marked as GUR but requires a compulsory drop.

33 • these holes would be managed – what fertiliser would be used, how it would be applied, and what the irrigation regime would be. This is important because the lichens in these areas are very sensitive: “One application of fertiliser and they’re gone, and they’ve been there since the Ice Age,” said Tom.

Fortunately, Steel had been involved in the rebuilding of some new greens at Royal Dornoch, so they were able to take SNH there to show them how it’s possible to work in very tight areas, without damaging heather and gorse bushes around the backs of greens.

The new plan for the Carnegie course showed it would only go into SI areas with the first green, second tee, fourth and fifth holes, and sixth tee.

So with the 18th, 17th, 16th, 1st, two holes near the beach and a hole near the river in mind, the rest fell into place.

Steel doesn’t believe a good course has to be over 7,000 yards. “You pick nice tee and green positions and whatever they measure, they measure and whatever they add up to, they add up to. The belief that unless it’s 7,000 yards it’s no good is a load of poppycock.

“Carnegie is not long, but it’s long enough for the majority of golfers. And the penalties for missing the fairway on a number of holes are quite grave.”

With this par 71 (70 off the championship tees) course, Steel wants to make golfers think. Cutting off the right amount of dog-leg is rewarded with a much easier line to the green.

Mainly turfed

Work started late August/September 1992, later than desired because of all the planning involved. Most of the fairways, greens and tees were turfed because of the difficulties of getting seed established in light sandy soil on a windy site.

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Donald Steel was a golf writer before he became a designer. A scratch golfer, he joined the Sunday Telegraph after leaving Cambridge University. Five years into his 30-year stint there, Ken Cotton invited him down to see his new courses at St Pierre and Ross-on-Wye, among the first courses to be built in Britain after World War II. After that they kept in touch.

When a new wave of courses was built in the 60s, Donald was asked if wanted to help out. He did, and eventually he became a partner in the firm of Cotton, Pennick, Lawrie and Partners. In 1987 he started his own firm and in 1989 he left the Telegraph, although he still contributes articles (including a new series on his 18 favourite holes) and has written several books.

Over the last five years he has built about 60 courses in 15 countries. One of the courses he is most proud of is Redtail in Ontario, Canada. Built for just over £1million it has been voted the second best course in Canada one year after opening. And Canadian journalist Lorne Rubenstein has said: “Developers should ask English architect Donald Steel to work in Canada more often. This is the only course he’s designed in Canada. It’s a peach.” He believes it could become Canada’s Pine Valley.

In this country Steel, who now plays off 6, is best known for his work at St Andrews, where he redesigned the Jubilee and Eden courses and designed the Strathtyrum course. Other courses of his which have received widespread acclaim are Mill Ride and Portal in the UK and Vila Sol in Portugal.

His assistants, Tom Mackenzie and Martin Ebert (pictured above with Donald – Tom is on the left), are also university graduates and low-handicap golfers. Tom has a degree in landscape architecture and plays off 5. Martin graduated in engineering and plays off 4.

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Course manager Alick Mackay, 39, reckons his greenkeeping staff form the best golfing team in the country. Five of the seven staff play off single figures!

MAJOR ROLLERMOWERS

CONSTRUCTION

The bases of the greens and tees were shaped from local material. The growing medium is a 70%-30% sand to fen soil mix. On the greens it is 250-300mm deep and on the tees it’s about 150mm deep. The greens, surrounds, approaches, tees and their surrounds are turfed with a Festuca/Agrostis grass mix.
The Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC) are continually reviewing the approved status of colleges offering greenkeeper training courses. The directory shows colleges offering courses to craft, supervisory and management levels, but it must be stated that until the GTC review is completed only the green-coded colleges are approved to train greenkeepers beyond craft level.

The introduction of vocational qualifications into industries, has caused the colleges to re-think their training policies and the GTC will be issuing guidelines for the golf greenkeeping industry as to which colleges employers and their staff should be supporting.

Until the report is complete, anyone with a query regarding greenkeeper training should contact the Greenkeepers Training Committee at Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Aine, York Y06 2NF; telephone 0437 838640.

**ASKHAM BRYAN COLLEGE**
Ashkham Bryan, York Y02 3PR. Contact Christine Biggin, registrar. Tel: 0904 702123
Part time courses: NVQ Level 2, City & Guilds Phase III and IV Greenkeeping.

**HOUGHALL COLLEGE**
Houghall College of Agriculture and Horticulture, Houghall, Durham DH1 3SG. Contact Tony Milan. Tel: 091 386 1383.
Full time courses: National Certificate in Greenkeeping and Grounds maintenance – 1 year; National Diploma in Horticulture and Golf Management – 2 years.
Short course: Health & Safety Legislation, Turfcare, Machinery and Mechanisation. All courses contribute towards NVQ Levels I and II.

**KIRKLEY HALL COLLEGE**
Pentland, Northumberland NE20 1AQ. Contact Dr Ron McParlin. Tel: 0664 86508.08.
NVQ Level II with greenkeeping option. Day release or block release – one to two years.

**MYERSCOUGH COLLEGE**
Myerscough Hall, Bispham, Preston, Lancashire PR3 0RY. Contact Martin Jones. Tel: 0995 640611.

**REASEHEATH COLLEGE**
Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 6DF. Contact Dennis Mortman. Tel: 0270 625131 Fax: 0270 625665.

**BROOKSBY COLLEGE**
Brooksbury, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire LE14 2LJ. Contact Paul Greene. Tel: 0664 854291.
Full time courses: National Certificate in Horticulture, Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Management. Part time courses: Day release training to NVQ Level II in Amenity Horticulture – Greenkeeping option. The course is based around the GTC Training Manual. Short courses also available in Horticultural Machinery and Arboriculture.

**BROOMFIELD COLLEGE**
Morley, Ilston, Derby DE7 6DN. Contact Admissions Officer. Tel: 0332 831345.

**CAMBRIDGESHIRE COLLEGE**
Milton Centre, Landbeach Road, Milton, Cambridge CB4 6DB. Contact David Haigh. Tel: 0223 860701. Part time – Day Release over two years leading to NVQ Level II (Greenkeeping Options), including the GTC Training Manual. Autumn term commences September/October 1994.

**LINCOLNSHIRE COLLEGE**

**MOULTON COLLEGE**
Moulton, Northampton NN3 1RR. Contact Stuart Phillips. Tel: 0604 491131.
Full time courses: BTEC National Diploma in Horticulture, Greenkeeping and Turf Management. Part time courses: BTEC Extended Diploma in Horticulture and Turf Technology with Turf Culture Option – 1 year; BTEC National Diploma in Horticulture and Turf Technology with Turf Culture Option – 2 years; Part time courses: NVQ Level II Amenity Horticulture (Options include Turfcare; including GTC requirements); Hard landscaping; Inclined landscaping and Arboriculture – Day Release or Block Release; NVQ Level II Turfcare – Day Release.
Short course: Safe Lifting and Handling. Claim SW 280 and M280 and Off Road Vehicle Driving. F.I.P.A.

**STAFFORDSHIRE COLLEGE**
Rodbaston, Penkridge, Stafford ST19 5HG. Contact Nigel Fossett. Tel: 0785 712209. Courses offered: Craft Level NVQ Level I, II and III. Day Release. Duration: Over two years, each of two weeks duration (September – June). Registration Date: Please contact the College.

**WARRICKSHIRE COLLEGE**
Moreton Morrell, Warwick CV35 9BL. Contact Chris Gray. Tel: 0926 651367.

**BRINSBURY COLLEGE**
North Heath, Pulborough, West Sussex RH20 1DL. Contact Keith Harrison. Tel: 0798 8738332.
Full time course: New Forest to Groundsthe Greenkeeping Course – 18 months. NVQ Level II Greenkeeping option plus core. Approximately a third of the course is delivered on college sites and local golf courses. Part time: Day Release to NVQ Level II. Both full time and part time students with units both in the NVQ Extended Unit and the Greenkeeping manual. NVQ Level II (Operational Technical Certificate) with both of Greenkeeping manual may be achieved as an evening course. At present NVQ III is offered in Greenkeeping Supervision and Enterprise Management. At this qualification is phased out, NVQ III and IV will be offered. NVQ Level II Landscape Studies (Option – Sportsturf Management). New courses and qualifications: NVQ Level II Horticulture; NVQ Level II Golf Management; NVQ Level III Horticulture; NVQ Level III Turfcare; NVQ Level III Garden Maintenance. Developed courses: NVQ Level III Horticulture with Sportsturf Management.

**HADLOW COLLEGE**
Hadlow College of Agriculture and Horticulture, Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 0AL. Contact Keith Backhouse.

**MERRIST WOOD COLLEGE**
Worplesdon, Guildford, Surrey GU3 3PE. Contact the Academic Registrar. Tel: 0483 232424.
NVQ Levels I, II and III Amenity Horticulture, Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Specialism. Part time… one day per week for 35 weeks commencing in September.

**NESCOT**
North East Surrey College of Technology, Reigate Road, Ewell, Epsom, Surrey KT17 3DS. Contact Dr S Shewan. Tel: 081 394 3099/3111. NVQ Levels I, II and III in Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping options) Training and assessment for the Greenkeepers Training Manual. Part time, Day Release. Duration: Two years to Level II. FEPA Spraying Courses.
MAPPING COURSES AVAILABLE

Currently GTC approved as Regional Training Centres, offering courses at Craft, Supervisor and Management levels

KEY TO COLOURS

Currently GTC approved for training courses up to Craft level only

Pending GTC approval for all courses

Please note that all college details on these pages were provided by the colleges themselves. Greenkeeper International takes no responsibility for accuracy of information provided. Contact the colleges direct for prospectuses and comprehensive information.

OAKLANDS COLLEGE

OAKLANDS COLLEGE, Oaklands Campus, Hasfield Road, St Albans, Herts AL4 OJA. Contact Ian Merrick. Tel: 0727 850651. Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management. Two year part time, one day per week. Level II. One leading to NVQ Level II. Level II Year Two leading to City & Guilds G02-4. Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management or NVQ Level III. Amenity Horticulture and Greenkeeping Business Management. Part time, one day per week. National Certificate in Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management. One year – full time. All courses commence September 1994.

OTLEY COLLEGE


PLUMPTON COLLEGE

PLUMPTON COLLEGE Leaves, East Sussex BN7 3AE. Contact David Blackmur. Tel: 0273 890454. Full time courses. BTEC First Diploma (Greenkeeping Option). Part time courses. NVQ Level II – Amenity Horticulture Greenkeeping Sports turf and Sportsground Maintenance – Block and Day Release; City & Guilds Phase II – Enterprise Management, Greenkeepers Supervision – Block and Day Release; City & Guilds Phase IV – Business Management – Day Release. NCH Full time with a greenkeeping bias. (Subject to approval).

WITTLE COLLEGE

WITTLE COLLEGE Chelmsford, Essex CM1 3R8. Contact Dai Edwards. Tel: 0245 420705. City & Guilds Golf Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management. (Day Release). NVQ Level II Greenkeeping, Sports Turf, Sports Ground Maintenance to include BSSG Manual (Day Release); Courses leading to NVQ III and IV available (GTC Manual); A Golf Course Management option is also included in full time course three year HND landscape and Amenity Management Course. Courses for next academic year commence 4th October 1994.

CANNINGTON COLLEGE


HARTPURY COLLEGE

HARTPURY COLLEGE Hartpury House, Nr Gloucester GL19 3BE. Contact D. Kirkham. Tel: 0452 700283. Fax: 0452 700629. Courses: NVQ Level II and III in Amenity Horticulture, NVQ Level II Greenkeeping and Sports turf Management, Six Dip Horticulture, NC Horticulture (Amenity & Decorative), HND Supervisory Management, ND Horticulture (Amenity & Decorative), HND Land Use (Amenity Horticulture), HND Land Use (Greenkeeping & Sports Turf Management), WELSH COLLEGE GM Welsh College of Horticulture, Northrop, Mold, Clwyd CH7 6AA. Contact GM Wright. Tel: 0352 840 861. Fax: 0352 840 7311. Full time courses: NV – Golf Course Construction Option – equivalent to NVQ Level III. NEBEM – equivalent to NVQ Level III. BTEC First in Landscape Golf Greenkeeping NVQ Level II. Part time course: Phase 3 Greenkeeping Management – equivalent to NVQ Level III. NVQ Level IV from Autumn 1993 (if available). NVQ Level I and II Greenkeeping. Short courses: Pesticide PA1, PA2, PA6, 1-3 day courses (training and testing); COSHH Assessments; Safe lifting and carrying; PICKUP courses.

SPARSHOLT COLLEGE

SPARSHOLT COLLEGE Sparsholt College Hampshire, Sparsholt, Winchester, Hants SO21 2NF. Contact Bob Young. Tel: 0962 776441. NVQ Level II Amenity Horticulture. NVQ Level 3 Greenkeeping and Sports turf Management. Six Dip Horticulture, NC Horticulture (Amenity & Decorative) Dip Supervisory Management, ND Horticulture, NVQ Level II Greenkeeping, Sports Turf, Sports Ground Maintenance to include BSSG Manual (Day Release); Courses leading to NVQ III and IV available (GTC Manual); A Golf Course Management option is also included in full time course three year HND landscape and Amenity Management Course. Courses for next academic year commence 4th October 1994.

DUNDEE COLLEGE

DUNDEE COLLEGE Old Glamis Road, Dundee DD3 8LE. Contact Graham Carr. Tel: 0382 815021. Fax: 0382 858117. Courses offered: NVQ Units at Level I and II linked with GTC Training Manual; SCOTVEC National Certificate Modules for Greenkeeping; SCOTVEC HNC units in Horticulture; HNC Units on Golf Course Management (available as Distance Learning/Flexible Learning from October 1994). Duration of courses: 36 weeks from September/October each year; Attendance full time, block release and day release. Short courses including "Use of Pesticides" available on demand. Registration June and August.

ELMWOOD COLLEGE

ELMWOOD COLLEGE Cupar, Fife KY 15 4JB. Contact Carol Borthwick. Tel: 0334 52781. Craft level courses. Block release and full-time, following SVQ Level II and the GTC Training Manual. Six week specialist modular programme (January-February), including Golf Course Construction, Pesticide Application and Fertiliser Protection Procedures. Distance Learning supervisory course, with one week in College. HNC in Golf Course Management; available as full time, day release and distance learning, leading to final part of HND in Golf Course Management from September 1994. FEPA, COSHH and Health and Safety short courses.

KYLE AND CARRICK DISTRICT COUNCIL

KYLE AND CARRICK DISTRICT COUNCIL Burns House, Burns Statue Square, Ayr KA7 1UT. Contact J Duddegon. Tel: 0292 285115. SCOTVEC National Certificate in Greenkeeping – Day Release up to three years. Students can enrol at any time.

LANGSIDE COLLEGE GLASGOW

LANGSIDE COLLEGE GLASGOW Langside College Glasgow School of Horticulture, Woodburn House, Buchanan Drive, Rutherglen G73 3PF. Contact Colin S Urquhart. Tel: 041 547 6000. SCOTVEC National Certificate – 3 year day release at 1 year full time. Higher National Certificate in Golf Course Management – 2 years day release. SVQ Level II Amenity Horticulture with Greenkeeping options plus a range of NC and HNC Horticulture programmes including G SVQ Level III. Short courses on a range of subjects including Tractor Operations and the Safe Use of Pesticides can be negotiated.

OATRIDGE COLLEGE


GREENMOUNT COLLEGE

GREENMOUNT COLLEGE Greenmount College of Agriculture and Horticulture, Antrim, BT14 4PU. Contact Geoff Jenkins. Tel: 0849 462114. Day Release course in Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management. Two year course leading to NVQ – and a Certificate in Greenkeeping for those completing additional working practices/tasks as specified by the Greenkeepers Training Manual. Courses run from September–May.

TEAGASC COLLEGE

TEAGASC COLLEGE Teagasc College of Amenity Horticulture. National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin 9. Contact Pat Sullite. Tel: 010351 271 636. Phase II Greenkeeping – Block Release two weeks, three times per year. Phase III Greenkeeping – Block Release, one week, three times per year.

PENCÖED COLLEGE


WELSH COLLEGE

WELSH COLLEGE Welsh College of Horticulture, Northrop, Mold, Clwyd CH7 6AA. Contact GM Wright. Tel: 0352 840 861. Fax: 0352 840 7311. Full time courses: NV – Golf Course Construction Option – equivalent to NVQ Level III. NEBEM – equivalent to NVQ Level III. BTEC First in Landscape Golf Greenkeeping NVQ Level II. Part time course: Phase 3 Greenkeeping Management – equivalent to NVQ Level III. NVQ Level IV from Autumn 1993 (if available). NVQ Level I and II Greenkeeping. Short courses: Pesticide PA1, PA2, PA6, 1-3 day courses (training and testing); COSHH Assessments; Safe lifting and carrying; PICKUP courses.
And not a drop to

Cedric Johns explores the sometimes murky depths of golf course lakes and ponds

Modern day golf course architects – especially our cousins from over the Atlantic – love water, it seems. Give 'em half a chance and they'll come up with at least one spectacular hole designed to force players into making choices. A safety shot for the timid; an arm chancing drive for the bold, tempting them to smash the ball beyond the watery clutches of an in-play lake. And, as we so often see, beyond the back of the green as well...

Water hazards can intimidate club golfers and hardened pros alike. Just think back to that menacing 15th which featured so dramatically in last month's US Masters, staged at the 'garden course', Augusta National.

Apart from Olazabal, whose 30-foot, final day putt killed-off the opposition – at the 15th – and ultimately secured that prized green jacket, most of his rivals were in big trouble. How many shots did Payne Stewart drop attempting to clear those limped waters...?

But it is not only the players who have to be aware of the dangers of still waters these days. The increasing numbers of feature lakes and off-course reservoirs appearing on our golf courses form the basis for hazards of another type: natural pollution. Greenkeepers beware...!

The relatively new concept of digging holes in the ground for in or out-of-play water storage purposes is linked directly with the use of irrigation systems.

Why? Because legislation imposed by the National Rivers Authority (NRA) insists that abstraction licences are largely conditional on the system's design being self-sufficient in terms of water consumed. This is particularly true of golf courses located in the south and south-east of the country, where water is most often at a premium in the summer months.

This is the reason why we see so many developers and golf clubs – never mind architects – investing in the construction of in-ground storage facilities.

By comparison, the more conventional, above-ground storage tanks – usually used as overnight holding points – are fast going out of fashion. They are simply not large enough to hold the vast volumes of water involved. Even built in multiples, the cost of a number of tanks would far outstrip that of a reservoir.

Based on the broad principle that only winter water, abstracted between October and March, is utilised, man-made feature lakes and off-course reservoirs are today's answer to the problem of sourcing enough water for months of high-season irrigation. A classic example of this trend is the total water management scheme implemented at The Belfry a couple of years ago. Then, a lake, capable of holding ten million gallons of water – 40 million litres for the benefit of thrusting young 'keepers clutching HNC's – was constructed behind the Derby course.

Filled and subsequently topped-up from a nearby stream, the lake actually fulfils two roles – as course manager Derek Ganning explained when I visited him prior to the '93 Ryder Cup.

Not only does this vast tract of water feed irrigation systems watering both the Brabazon and Derby courses, it is also used to overcome evaporation losses by maintaining levels of the in-play lakes dotted around the championship course.

On the club circuit, the lake featuring an island green built during the reconstruction of the Barton-on-Sea course, featured on these pages (April issue) was designed to provide...
similar benefits, albeit on a smaller scale.

So, having dug a hole and filled it, what next? A very good question. Life being what it is, the answer to one problem quite often begets another. Right! All that water adds yet another demand to the day-to-day business of golf course management...

That demand comes in the guise of water management — the important task of ensuring that the quality of water stored in-ground does not deteriorate to the point where it can represent a distinct environmental hazard.

Reservoirs and lakes are, after all, living ecological systems in which the control of algae and weed is an important factor in maintaining a natural balance between what is good and that which can be harmful — to man, wildlife and turf.

As a simple example, think of algae ‘bloom’. That thick green stuff which covers the surface of many a village pond. Viewed from a distance, some may feel that it looks attractive but the truth is that its very existence causes trouble down below.

By preventing natural light from penetrating into the depths of the water, algae deprives other oxygen giving plants from thriving deeper down.

Since plantlife is an essential and natural method of releasing life-providing oxygen into the water the lack of light begins a process which, if left unchecked, will upset the balance of nature.

As oxygen levels fall, the ‘bloom’ dies off and sinks to the bottom of the pond. More oxygen is needed to combat the effects of decomposing plantlife yet, in reality, the reverse is happening. Allowed to develop further, the water becomes anaerobic — deprived of oxygen. At this stage all natural life in the water including fish is seriously at risk. So too is the quality of water intended for irrigation purposes.

As anaerobic bacteria begins to thrive on waste materials — dying plants, fish and even grass cuttings blown into the water from nearby fairways or greens are digested anaerobically rather than by natural means. (Fertiliser entering the water through run-off doesn’t help either).

You’ll soon know when this stage has been reached because noxious odours are released as a by-product. Yes, the water on your course smells!

Apart from the obvious; murky water clogging filters, valves and sprinklers, the bacteria present in the water also threatens both soil and turf.

Algae present in the water will build-up on soil surfaces to create a perched water table. Anaerobic bacteria can, as at least one well-known head greenkeeper in this country will testify, play havoc with fine turf...

In days of yore, many a lake or pond was left to its own devices until the stinking, slimy contents forced those responsible to take action. Then, it was mostly a question of disposing of the water and dredging the glutinous mess off the bottom and carting it away. Phew!

Latterly, chemicals have been used to control the imbalance created by neglected water. Repetitively expensive, time and labour consuming, this method has obvious limitations.

Today’s answer? Aeration, the method of adding oxygen — and movement — into the water, a natural process aided by man-made equipment which helps rid reservoirs and lakes of the pernicious effects of algae, plant death, suffocating sludge and anaerobic bacteria, automatically.

Aeration, in the form of high-profile fountains, like those at The Belfry, represent one answer to the business of water management. Used as a visual feature in ornamental and in-play lakes, the effect of a single fountain is helpful but conditional on the volume of water it is attempting to re-cycle.

The larger the lake, the more fountains are required to handle the sheer expanse of water involved effectively.

Parallel to introduction of fountains, floating and submersible aspirating and diffused air systems have been developed to increase the below-surface movement of water and add high levels of oxygen on a continuous basis.

Where a breakdown in the quality of water has already taken place, air stripping systems provide an efficient method of dissolving gases, chlorine hydrogen sulphide and other bacteria at the rate of 150 gallons per minute.

In essence, all these systems work on the basis that air pumped into a reservoir or lake assists the natural aquatic rejuvenation processes by increasing dissolved oxygen levels, providing much needed circulation and maintaining aerobic conditions.

What does that mean? Simply this; aerated water gives you the means whereby irrigation can be carried out without the fear of bacteria and the like affecting the quality of your prized turf, the balance of nature can be maintained in and around the water and irate telephone calls from the secretary’s office, complaining about ‘that smell’ will never reach your ears.

Postscript: As this article was going to press the Daily Telegraph published a story featuring scuba diver, 23-year-old Emma Elliott-Pyle, who has obtained a contract (with a dozen golf clubs) to retrieve balls from in-play lakes. Commenting on her task, Emma was quoted as saying; “The lakes are usually pretty disgusting. I have to shut my eyes and feel about in the dark.” Enough said.

Details of Otterbine fountains are available from Golf Course Services; 0858 463153. Readers wishing to learn more about AquaScape fountains, aspirating aerators and air stripping systems should call TIL Irrigation Limited; 0425 476162.
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Peter Creary, course manager at Hatfield London Country Club, Essendon, Hertfordshire, was the winner of our May competition. A few minutes searching through these pages paid off for him — will you be next month's winner?
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Accommodation available.

Apply in confidence with C.V. to:
The Secretary, Brickendon Grange Golf & Country Club, Brickendon, near Hertford, Herts. SG13 8PD.

THE WATERTON PARK GOLF COURSE WAKEFIELD

require a Head Greenkeeper

This is an excellent opportunity for a fully qualified greenkeeper to develop and manage a newly constructed 18 hole golf course, due for opening in September 1995. The appointed Head Greenkeeper must be fully conversant with all matters relating to turf culture, machinery purchase and man management as he will be expected to develop his own team of greenkeepers to a high standard to maintain this very attractive golf course. The course has been built to U.S.G.A. specification.

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Swinley Forest Golf Club

invite applications for the position of

HEAD GREENKEEPER

For an 18 hole golf course situated in heather and pine surroundings west of London.

Applicants must be fully experienced in all aspects of modern course management and maintenance techniques.

The ability to manage, control and motivate staff is essential.

The salary and benefits are commensurate with this responsible position, family accommodation is provided.

Please reply in writing with full CV to:
The Secretary, Swinley Forest Golf Club, Coronation Road, Ascot, Berks SL5 9LE

Head Greenkeepers

The Grounds Maintenance Service of BRETS has secured a five year contract for the maintenance of three Golf Courses within the London Borough of Ealing. As a consequence, we now require two Head Greenkeepers for the nine hole courses at Horsenden and Perivale.

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For further information contact Robert Cox (Grounds Maintenance Manager) on 0831 850091

Alternatively contact the BRETS Personnel Department for further details and an application form at 24 Uxbridge Road, Ealing, London W5 2BP. Tel: 081 758 5565. Please quote reference no. BR010
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The successful applicant for this prestigious appointment must have a sound knowledge of all aspects of greenkeeping, with particular emphasis on links turf management. A practical knowledge of the use and maintenance of greenkeeping machinery and the ability to lead and motivate staff is essential. The Course Manager will have responsibility for the maintenance and presentation of the golf course under the direction of the Captain and Committee.

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Written application with details of age, qualifications and experience to:

The Secretary,  
The Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers,  
Muirfield, Gullane, East Lothian, EH31 2EG

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**Billingham Golf Club**

invites applications for the post of

**HEAD GREENKEEPER**

Applicants must be fully qualified and be able to show a proven record of achievement.

The ability to lead and motivate staff, organise work programmes and an awareness of all relevant Health and Safety legislation is essential.

The successful applicant will also be expected to have a sound knowledge of budgetary control.

Salary negotiable. No accommodation.

Replies in writing together with full CV to  
Secretary/Manager, Billingham Golf Club Ltd,  
Sandy Lane, Billingham, Cleveland TS22 5NA.  
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**Newark Golf Club**

requires an

**ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER**

For an 18 hole heathland golf course. Applicants must be suitably qualified in all aspects of course maintenance. Wage is negotiable dependent upon age and experience. Accommodation is available.

Apply in writing, enclosing a CV to:

Mr JDF Cressey, Chairman of Green, Newark Golf Club,  
Coddington, Newark, Notts NG24 2QX

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**Meltham Golf Club**

invites applications for the post of

**HEAD GREENKEEPER**

This parkland course requires applicants who are suitably qualified and experienced in all aspects of course management. The ability to motivate and lead an established team and organise work programmes is regarded as essential. A practical knowledge of modern greenkeeping machinery and current Health & Safety regulations is also required.

Salary negotiable. No accommodation.

Apply in writing, with full CV to:  
The Secretary, Meltham Golf Club, Thick Hollins Hall,  
Meltham, Huddersfield HD7 3DQ

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**Settle Golf Club**

require a

**GREENKEEPER**

Applicants must be experienced in all aspects of greenkeeping and have a practical knowledge of modern machinery. Accommodation is not available. Salary negotiable according to experience.

Apply in first instance with full particulars to:  
The Secretary, Settle Golf Club, 9 South Parade,  
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I t is my belief that the vast majority of our present problems are due to the lack of communication and presentation of ourselves and our staff. If, as we have proved at Letchworth, this can be largely overcome, everybody - including member, committee member and secretary - is much happier and, dare I say, the greenstaff are better paid.

Giving a presentation such as the one outlined below may seem a daunting task but, if successful, makes all our other tasks much easier.

Following five years of annual course manager presentations in the clubhouse giving updates on progress, describing problems, with the assistance of invited speakers, and answering sometimes difficult questions, I believed that there was something more that could be done to get the message across regarding what the job of the greenkeeper was all about.

Then in 1992 I attended an EGU seminar on policy documents and there was the answer - Ed McCabe and Arthur King from Brockethurst Manor Golf Club had given their committee and membership a presentation of the greenstaff and their equipment.

With great enthusiasm I returned to work the next day and planned our own presentation at Letchworth.

Firstly I asked the greenstaff what they thought. All agreed it was a good idea and suggested different set-ups to get the most from the day - even though it was scheduled for a Friday evening in the middle of summer.

With that sort of backing from our staff I knew it would work. Permission from the club? No problems. Huge encouragement from our liaison officer. The treasurer even advised me to think about before a place is selected - the characteristics against in getting some of those tasks completed with golfers on the course.

The machinery
How much it cost. I explained that they are not just lawnmowers in the same way as greenkeepers are not just grasscutters. How much the machinery costs to maintain and more importantly the costs and problems which would occur if it was not maintained.

The staff
I spoke about each of them in turn, probably embarrassed some, named them, went through their service history, explained about training and some of the tasks they had to carry out and the difficulties they were up against in getting some of those tasks completed with golfers on the course.

The workshop visit
The members were generally left on their own to look at whatever they liked with the staff on hand to answer questions - they were kept very busy and a very good atmosphere was created.

Some of the attractions were bench set-ups of vertical cutting units and back-lapping machinery. We especially took time out to show some of the behind-the-scenes administration involved, ie. yearly planners for competitions, holidays, maintenance schedules etc, diaries, day books, forward planners, machinery records and health and safety requirements.

When I look back, the good that was done on that one evening in June 1993 will last a very long time - the membership know much more about the work that we do, and that is no bad thing.

Much more importantly they now see the staff as highly trained, respectable, professional people.

The staff themselves got a great deal from the evening as well - they now look at our membership in a different light, not just aloof golfers who get in the way of their work.

It is a fact that the membership pay subscriptions which ultimately pay our salaries and if they know that the course is managed by trained professionals they will not argue at any time in the future regarding additional finance to maintain and improve golf course conditions.

We made the effort - I would urge my colleagues everywhere to do likewise. Believe me, it is certainly worth the hassle.

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