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Use the post-paid Reader Reply Card facing Page 70 for further information on the products and services advertised in this issue. Just state the companies' Ad Ref numbers, post the card to us and we'll arrange for further information to be sent to you direct.

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Casa de Campo in the Dominican Republic - one of photographer Brian Morgan's favourite courses

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**Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund**

The Fund provides the key to the future for greenkeeper, golf club and game. Individuals and companies can join the Golden Key Circle and Silver Key Circle. For details, contact BIGGA on 01347 838581.

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**WIN**

£50 CASH IN OUR BUYER'S GUIDE COMPETITION: TURN TO PAGE 68
WE SAY

Today's greenkeeper needs BIGGA membership

On April 1 BIGGA will introduce a new membership benefit of considerable importance for its greenkeeper members. Members will now be eligible for representation at all levels of employment disputes including representation at disciplinary hearings. In essence, every greenkeeper member will be able to seek advice and support in relation to their employment at any stage from commencement of their employment all the way through to eventual retirement. There is a necessary proviso that the new service will have been provided a period of six months and, if continued, be subject to annual review thereafter. This will allow us to gauge the use of the service and the costs involved. The value of this service to a member both in monetary and in peace of mind terms is considerable and those greenkeepers still reluctant to join BIGGA should really need no further convincing when a membership benefit of this magnitude is on offer.

Why is this service being introduced? Essentially it is to ensure that each and every member with an employment problem can be assured of appropriate legal advice and support as necessary in any particular situation. It is not a service to be used frivolously. Again it is not a service put in place to protect the incompetent greenkeeper. It is a service which it is hoped will encourage golf club committees to conduct proceedings in relation to their greenkeeping staff in a manner which has regard to the due processes of employment legislation. There are golf clubs who act strictly in accordance with employment law. Many others do not. For some years now our legal services have been provided through Hambro and it is their experience, in dealing with many different professions, that they have never come across a situation where employers, in the form of golf clubs, so consistently, and I quote, "Drive a coach and horses" through the employment legislation. As a result, Hambro's success when representing our members at industrial tribunals is invariably guaranteed. However we do not want cases to reach this stage because by that time another greenkeeper is out of a job. It is very necessary therefore, that our members have recourse to adequate legal backing from the commencement of a dispute which is what the new service will provide.

I would urge members to read carefully the articles in both last month's and this month's issues of Greenkeeper International in order that they gain an understanding of the services which will be available and how it is envisaged they will work. Practically, there will be no change in the initial contact made by a member. Contact will be made as now with Hambro through use of the legal helpline card. Hambro will provide advice and if they feel representation is appropriate will advise the member to contact Kirbys. The operation of the service will be closely monitored and Kirbys will be providing regular feedback to the Association.

One of the most standard questions posed by members is "Where does my subscription go?". Most certainly this new service is going to cost a not inconceivable sum of money. It extends the services already available through the legal helpline, stress management helpline, and personal accident insurance. Without the additional costs of this new service, these three provisions for members cost a total of £12.40 per member per annum. The magazine is provided as a benefit of membership. On individual subscription this costs £34.00 per annum. With the exception of the South East Region, rebates are made by Headquarters to regions and sections to finance their administration. In total these amount to 15% of each subscription. The rebate for a first assistant/assistant greenkeeper rate of £47.00 is therefore £7.05. Again with the exception of the South East Region, honorariums are paid to each Regional Administrator and Section Secretary. In the South East the equivalent amounts are used as contributions towards the costs of employing a part time Regional Administrator. Special member prices apply for education courses and seminars. An example is the recent series of Local Management Courses, which, subsidised through the Education and Development Fund, cost £50.00 to members and £150.00 to non-members. For the golfing greenkeepers when courtesy of the course is granted a very substantial benefit accrues — a benefit which needs to be cherished at a time when there is increasing evidence of its abuse. What value should be placed on the opportunities to meet with other members both on a local and national scale, to participate in such events as the BTME, the National Tournament and the Open Championship and to have willing contacts for advice and guidance when a greenkeeping problem defies solution?

What is abundantly clear is that subscription income would not on its own provide members with the range of services that the majority have come to expect. That is why BIGGA enters into commercial activities to generate additional income. That is why it employs experienced staff, with the appropriate expertise, to run the Association as a business in line with policies set out by a Board of Management elected by the membership. The Association is first and foremost about its members but it can only ultimately succeed with the backing and whole-hearted support of its members. Members need to be active at all levels in support of their Association. BIGGA is a buoyant organisation, growing and progressing with each passing year, but lethargy and complacency at whatever level have no place in this Association and need to be driven out. The more input by members the more successful BIGGA will become. Perhaps the order of the day should be to ask not what the Association can do for you but what can you do for the Association. It works better both ways and most certainly represents the way we should move forward.

Wrong number

The BIGGA Headquarters telephone number is 01347 838851 only.

The 01347 838852 number which appears on some of the BIGGA letter headings does not belong to the Association. There are, in fact, two lines attached to the 838851 number.

Southturf 1996 is cancelled

Following the recent death of BIGGA South East Regional Administrator and Southturf organiser, Geof Hills, Southturf 1996 has been cancelled. It was felt that, at this stage, the event would not be feasible for 1996 with no administrator/organiser in place.

A new administrator is to be appointed in due course, when a decision will be made on staging an event in 1997. The South East region would like to thank all companies for their support at the previous Southturf exhibitions.
Rescue mission for golf lady and a lake

A tale from the lakeside by Roy Hudson, Assistant Greenkeeper, Lambourne GC.

It was on a freezing day of January that a regular playing member had the misfortune of losing grip on her trusty 7-iron only to see it flying towards the middle of the 4th and 10th lake.

To her surprise the club had, somehow, landed vertically and was visible just below the surface of the water but out of reach.

"Who do you call?!..."

Without a single Ghostbuster in sight, one of Lambourne's greenkeepers was soon at the scene and was briefed on the situation.

After assessing the situation Justin Winstlade soon realised that he had only one option.

Tossing his trousers lakeside he entered the cold, murky, trout infested depths of the lake.

It has since been rumoured by colleagues that Mr Winstlade has been approached to appear in a new TV drama based on the infested depths of the lake.

We are now proud to announce that, after recent first aid training, the 7-iron was successfully resuscitated and was recently seen back in play!

Well done Justin!

No. 1 seed

Keith Galley, the new head of Force Limagrain, will take responsibility for all UK developers and business based at the company's UK Headquarters at Fen Drayton, Cambridgeshire.

The company trades exclusively as a supplier of quality seeds to all crops in which we specialize.

Wentworth in £41,000 theft

Thieves have pounced on one of the country's top golf courses and made off with £35,000 worth of computerised weather station equipment and a set of two way radios.

Ironically the equipment, taken from The Wentworth Club in Surrey, will be of no use to the thieves.

"It was specially made for Wentworth four years ago and the information on it will be useless to anyone else," explained Course Manager Chris Kennedy.

A replacement computer is currently being built by IBM for Toro in America and although it is fortunate that it is not as important in the winter it is depriving Chris and his staff of weather information which assists with the maintenance of the three Wentworth courses.

"Fortunately we still have all the master disks required for the computer," added Chris.
So trustworthy, you could call it Fido.

Over the last fifteen years, greenkeepers and groundsmen have come to rely on good old Super Mosstox.

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Super Mosstox contains Dichlorophen. Read the label before you buy: Use pesticides safely. (MAFF 05339)
Tribute to Richard Aitken Senior

It is with a sad heart that I write this obituary to Richard Aitken Senior. Dick, as he was known throughout Scotland, started his long career as a representative for Austin and McAulans. I first remember him back in 1947 when he did his calls by bus, train and walking. None of the reps in these days had cars. Dick though he was lucky if he made more than two calls a day then. He served throughout the war in the Army and saw action in France and Belgium. On returning he again took up with Austin and McAulans.

It was always a pleasure to get a quarterly visit from Dick. We never considered that he was there to sell, it was more like a visit from an old friend who brought with him the news from the other golf clubs. I never remember him pressing for an order and whether or not he got one he never seemed upset. I used to make remarks about his car. He would look aghast and say the price it cost, as if it belonged to someone else. He was never presumptuous. Dick Aitken never changed. He was the same quite man I knew 50 years ago.

In 1963 Dick went into business for himself opening up a place in Waterloo Street in Glasgow. From there he never looked back. He took his son Richard into partnership and they moved to more roomy premises in Stockwell Place. Finally they moved to new purpose-built premises in Harmony Row, Govan, where anyone could see Dick in his office any-time they called – he had time for everyone. His Seeds and Fertilisers and golf course supplies business expanded to the whole of Scotland and the North of England.

I am sure greenkeepers all over Scotland and England will feel that with Dick Aitken’s passing another era in greenkeeping has passed. At this time in his family’s grief our sincere condolences go to all his family especially to his son Richard, his daughter Grace and their families. I know I speak for many when I say “Goodbye old friend, until we meet on that big golf course in the sky”.  

Cecil George

Fundraising efforts pay off for Matthew

Matthew Fell, the son of Tiller’s Turf’s Tim Fell, who was the victim of a horrific brain disorder, is now well on the way to recovery thanks to the success of the £150,000 appeal to send him to Pittsburg for treatment.

Nine year-old Matthew was struck down with Trigeminal Neuralgia – previously virtually unknown in children – and went from being a normal fun loving boy to one unable to sit, stand, read and often eat or drink.

“We spent five weeks in Pittsburg and Matthew had two more operations to go with the one he had in the UK,” explained his mum Lindsay.

“He is now doing really well. He’s completely upright and is even playing tennis. He is also now going to school about half the time,” she explained.

Matthew still can’t touch his head without pain but there are high hopes that he will make a full recovery.

“Our target was £150,000 but thanks to the wonderful response of everyone including a great deal from the greenkeeping industry we raised £180,000,” explained Lindsay. “We shall keep some of the money back until Matthew is fully recovered but the extra will go to Great Ormond Street Hospital to help children with the same condition.

“We have had many calls of support from greenkeepers and thank everyone for their support.”

An eastern promise of floodlit golf

The current popular trend in the Far East would probably cause most greenkeepers to have nightmares – the potential for 24 hours play with wall-to-wall floodlighting!

Pictured here are golfers on the Gary Player-designed Sand River Golf Course in Shenzen, southern China. The course was visited recently by British golf course consultant David Hemstock while he was carrying out a consultancy visit on another new floodlit course nearby, the Shenzhen Noble Merchant Golf Club.

The area is a buffer zone between inland China and the soon to be incorporated Hong Kong, and demand for golf is almost ferocious as the economy booms. The area is a strange mixture of high-tech new buildings and curious workers, the Noble Merchant course having been almost hand-built apart from an ancient bulldozer.

Mission Hills Golf Course, scene of the recent inaugural Chinese international tournament, is a short drive away. Play was interrupted during the event by curious crowds wandering over fairways, and noisily snorting during shot-taking (a socially accepted Chinese trait).

The first Hayter International Cup will be played at West Lancs on September 16.

One of the most exciting preparations for the Hayter Challenge Final is the Hong Kong course designed and built by the Chinese. Both teams will be playing there for the first time.

The event looks certain to become a fixture on the international greenkeeping calendar. The event will be played every two years alternating between the United Kingdom and the United States.

The first Hayter International Cup Final to be played at Fairhaven GC on September 18.

Much deliberation and debate within BIGGA Headquarters has seen a fine array of trophies chosen to present to the victors which should adorn mantelpieces for many years to come.
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Hi-tech parts service begins

Ransomes has invested £600,000 in its new hi-tech parts operation in Ipswich.

Carried out over the last year, each Ransomes dealer is now linked by computer to the parts operation with a direct connection between each dealer and the parts stores.

Another major step forward for the company has been the separation of the replacement parts from those needed for the manufacturer of new machines. This will prevent occasions when the parts department are unable to provide parts when the production department is meeting the demand for a specific machine. It will free the parts department to look after dealers and customers.

The parts department is now housed in one 20,000 sq ft building — half the size of the multi-based department before with the results in this country. ‘We are pleased to be associated with such a reputable research based chemical company,’ said Bernard Hedley, Chairman of Rigby Taylor, ‘and we are sure that the continued development of products tuned to the requirements of the sports turf industry will maintain the success of this fruitful partnership.’

A joint European development team has been established to ensure the continued focus on the development of products most suited to the requirements of greenkeepers and groundsmen.

Picture shows Bernard Hedley, left, and George Skylakakis at the signing of the agreement.

European agreement signed

At the recent launch of Greenoor, the latest DowElanco fine turf selective weed-killer to be added to the Rigby Taylor “Advanced Technology Products” range, a European Co-operation Agreement was signed for the development and marketing of fine turf products throughout Europe.

George Skylakakis, Director, New Products DowElanco Europe, reminded the Rigby Taylor team of the success of the recent introductions, Rimidin, Bas-tion T and Lorsban T in the UK and was confident that the launch of Rimidin in France would mirror the success of this fruitful partnership.

Guidelines published

The Health and Safety Executive has published RIDOR ‘95, the revised and simplified Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1996. The Regulations cover all work activities and come into force on April 1 this year. RIDOR ‘95 will require all deaths, certain injuries resulting for accidents, instances of specified diseases and specified dangerous occurrences, which arise out of or in connection with work activities to be reported. The leaflet contains all the information employers need.

Taking training out to the greenkeepers

This year seems to be flying by. I am still waiting for the “quiet spell”, post BTME, but I am still very busy putting the education and training program together for 96/97.

The 1995/96 series of Regional Supervisory Management Courses draws to a close, this month with courses in Killarney and Hemel Hempstead. From the vast amount of positive feedback received so far, it is obvious that we have made a successful start in taking training out to greenkeepers. We are planning to expand the number of courses for Autumn 96 and Spring 97 and, thanks once again to contributions to the BIGGA Education and Development Fund, we should be able to keep costs reasonable. Watch out for further details in future magazines. Courses will take place, once again, at Aldwark Manor in October/November ‘96 and details will be published in the April magazine.

Massey Ferguson Tractor Appreciation Workshop

The first Massey Ferguson tractor appreciation workshop for selected college students took place at Warwickshire College from February 19 to 23 and was a great success. Further workshops will be held at Oaklands College from March 11 to 15 and at Elmwood College from April 1 to 4. Nominated students will shortly receive joining instructions for each workshop.

Miracle Professional Premier Greenkeeper of the Year

Keep those nominations coming in. Remember, a trip to Las Vegas is only part of prize for winning the competition. See Pages 30-31 for details of previous winners and what they have achieved.

BIGGA Lending Library

The number of titles now exceeds 200 with more books on order. Remember, it costs nothing to borrow books for up to six weeks except the return postage. For more information or for a copy of the book list, contact me at HQ.

National Education Conference, Workshops and BTME

The search for speakers and subjects for the 1997 National Education Conference, Workshops and BTME Seminars has already begun.

If you wish to speak, know of a good speaker or have a subject that you would like to see discussed then please let me know. Video tapes of the 1996 Conference and Seminars have been produced and are available from HQ. Since the last magazine was published, I have negotiated a reduced price for videos ie 40 minute session £7.50 inc VAT, 60 minute session £8.50 inc VAT, 90-120 minutes £10 and 180 minutes or more, £15.

Written transcriptions of each session of the Conference are now available from HQ priced at £2.90 per session + £1.50 postage.
IN AMERICA

The GCSAA Conference and Show in Orlando, Florida is already acknowledged as the biggest event of its kind in the world - and now it's growing bigger. Report and pictures by Michael Bird.

Anyone with a passing interest in statistics would have had a field day at the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's (GCSAA) 67th International Golf Course Conference and Show, held in Orlando, Florida.

Apart from the biggest ever attendance by overseas visitors, including many British greenkeepers and golf course supply companies, the show broke a number of records on other fronts.

With 675 trade exhibitors, the exhibition attracted 35 additional companies over the record 640 who were at San Francisco in 1995. Despite the recent opening of an extension to the massive Orange County Convention Center, this year's record visitor attendance - around 21,500 over three days - produced jostling in the aisles at peak morning periods on both the second and third days.

If the trend continues, the organisers are likely to need more than the 210,000 sq ft (2ha) allocated for this year's exhibition when planning the 1997 event, due to be held in Las Vegas from 10 to 12 February.

One exhibit which attracted a steady stream of interested visitors was the BIGGA stand where Association representatives fielded questions about golf greenkeeping on this side of the Atlantic and generally "flew the flag" for turf maintenance professionals in Britain and mainland Europe. Members of the British team were also received, helping extend our influence still further.

BIGGA's newly-elected Chairman, Dean Cleaver, was put on the spot shortly after arriving on the stand, being filmed for the GCSAA's television programme, 'Par for the Course'. The main thrust of the questioning by presenter Duke Frye concerned the difference between British and American golf greenkeeping and the state of our industry.

As might be expected in a forum attracting all sides of the industry, including environmentalists, there was much heated debate although it was felt generally that golf course staff are as responsible as their farm, industry or domestic neighbours when it comes to environmental issues. As one superintendent pointed out: "Most of the people in this business don't stay around too long if they have dead fish and dead birds on or near their course."

The answer, it was agreed, will come from continuing education and dialogue with all interested parties, and particularly those who are affected by golf course operations or developments.

In addition to the conferences, seminars and workshops which are run along similar lines to those held at BTME under the Learning Experience banner, the GCSAA exhibition had something for everybody involved in golf course design, construction, care and maintenance.

Clever environment-friendlier ideas are not the sole preserve of American companies, yet the sheer size of the US industry (17,000-plus golf courses) means that many new products and techniques tend to appear first on the other side of the Atlantic.

Engine manufacturers, in particular, are being pushed by strict Californian emission regulations
to produce cleaner, quieter power units. Kubota says that the majority of its diesels built since August 1995 exceed the CARB (California Air Resources Board) regulations. Designated the 'E' Series and rated from 6hp to 57.5hp, they cover virtually the complete machinery power range found within the turf maintenance industry.

Specific features which help the engines run cleaner are combustion chamber design, the angle of fuel injection and improvements to the fuel injection pump, nozzle and cam profile to reduce combustion period while restricting rapid pre-mixed combustion.

Briggs and Stratton point out that about half its engineering team and budget is being directed towards emission control testing, research and design. Senior Engineer, Andy Traxel, said that work was underway on improving carburation, combustion chamber design and oil control, the latter to prevent migration into the combustion chamber.

He believes that some form of exhaust after-treatment is on the way for small petrol engines although this may not necessarily be in the form of a catalytic converter. "Post-engine combustion of gases is an alternative and possibly less expensive way of reducing toxic emissions," he commented.

"As far as actual engine design is concerned, I cannot see any major environmental benefit from developments such as overhead cams. We have overhead valve and pushrod units which work extremely efficiently. In my opinion, Briggs and Stratton will move to fuel injection and electronic engine management systems before introducing OHC engines."

Kohler, on the other hand, was making a big play over its new 16hp V-Twin OHC engine, launched at the show. By moving the camshaft out of the crankcase and away from the sump and crankshaft, Kohler claims that the engine offers longer oil change intervals, lower operating temperatures, quieter operation and reduced oil consumption.

Most of the improvements have been achieved, says Kohler, by eliminating much of the housing above the crankshaft used previously to contain the camshaft and pushrods, allowing improved airflow around the cylinders. Furthermore, the use of advanced "lost-foam" casting technology to engineer oil passages and single piece castings has removed the need for internal gears and a number of gaskets. Instead, a rugged cam drive belt is used, guaranteed for the life of the engine.

Split oil is of major concern to all involved with the care of fine turf and there were a number of solutions on show to visitors. Aabaco Industries produce Aab-Sorboil and Bio-Aab-Sorb designed to clean up and neutralise all types of oil, except synthetic.

Aabaco guarantees that the product is non-toxic, non-hazardous and non-corrosive although eye and respiratory protection is recommended during application.

An alternative is Simple Green Golf Cleaner, another biodegradable product which can be sprayed directly onto oil spattered turf. Having "broken up" the oil, it is flushed with water into the soil where it is "safely neutralised by natural biological action without harming the turf". The product can also be used to clean carpets, walls and turf equipment.

Having taken the GCSAA exhibition by storm two years ago with its all-electric E-Plex mower, Ransomes maintained its environmental push with the announcement that all Fairway 250 mowers are now filled with Turf Protector hydraulic fluid as standard. A biodegradable plant seed oil, Turf Protector has been developed over three years to provide...
Stuart Green, the very first winner of the Gleneagles Excellence in Golf Award, used part of his £1,650 bursary prize to visit the GCSAA Conference.

Sponsored by Ransomes and Scottish Grass Machinery, the scheme enabled six students to spend 12 months on The Gleneagles Hotel’s three championship courses to study and carry out all aspects of golf course design, management and maintenance as part of their three year HND golf management course.

Students went through a rigorous selection process and faced written and practical projects at the end of the year. The 1995/96 Gleneagles Excellence in Golf Award scheme now in progress has been extended to include HND students from nine UK colleges as well as one from Australia.

Jimmy Kidd, Director of Turf Grass Management with Gleneagles Golf Developments, announced that Gleneagles will be looking for students to apply also from North America for the next award year, commencing in August.

Many new products and techniques tend to appear first on the other side of the Atlantic.

greatly superior lubricating properties over other vegetable oils, including rapeseed.

Any spills will cause only minimal turf damage and do not harm the roots. As a bonus, it can be mixed with mineral oil without problem in specified machines. Ransomes expects to include Turf Protector as standard on more grass-cutting equipment over the coming months. The principal machine requirements are additional oil cooling and an oil reservoir shaped to prevent possible foaming.

Any method of improving the accuracy of fertiliser, fungicide and pesticide applications must help in reducing potential environmental damage. The Land Pride Material Injection System (MIS) uses water to incorporate dry or liquid materials into the soil, getting down to "the root of the problem" without any surface disruption. As a bonus, the high pressure jets can help alleviate localised dry spots and soil compaction.

The unit has seven nozzles set 3in apart and can be programmed to inject at spacings from 1.5in up to 6in, adjustable in 1.5in increments.

Maximum injection depth is 8in. To eliminate jet wear, all injected materials are pulled into the ground by the vacuum created by the rapid movement of the water and do not pass through the nozzle.

At the show, Landpride announced the appointment of Staffs-based Turfmech Machinery as its UK distributor.

Kubota ‘E’ Series diesel engines are designed to run cleaner and quieter

The unit has seven nozzles set 3in apart and can be programmed to inject at spacings from 1.5in up to 6in, adjustable in 1.5in increments.

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At the show, Landpride announced the appointment of Staffs-based Turfmech Machinery as its UK distributor.
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Or the versatile ST30. It's the lightest compact in its class and, with Kubota's exclusive Bi-Speed Turn, one of the most manoeuvrable – able to turn within 2m with minimal turf damage.

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BIGGA's new National Chairman is the youngest yet but he has all the credentials. He met Scott MacCallum at Gay Hill GC where he is Course Manager.

BIGGA's new Chairman is, at 38, the youngest to rise to the position in the nine years the Association has been in existence. But what Dean Cleaver lacks in years he more than makes up for in his experience of the industry and the Association and the commitment and enthusiasm he will bring to the job makes him ideally suited to the role.

For despite his "tender years" you could say he's been groomed for the job for many years – 21 to be exact.

"I was a committee member of the BGGA at 17 and Chairman of the Section at 21," he explains. "I've also been Treasurer and Secretary of the Section and have been Chairman of Education for the Midland Region."

"Becoming National Chairman is one of the greatest honours I've had in my career," said Dean, as he sat in the clubhouse of the Gay Hill Golf Club for which he is Course Manager.

"Hopefully other young people will look to me as the youngest Chairman and will see that they too can work towards the success of the Association. You don't have to be old to contribute."
groomed for the role

“Even in the first few weeks people have said how nice it is to see someone young as Chairman.

“It’s quite stimulating and if it helps get more young people coming through it would be a big achievement.

Ironically, the man who launched Dean into a career in greenkeeping was Paddy McCar- ron, BIGGA National Chairman in 1989.

“I was quite lucky because Paddy pushed me into doing a lot of things in terms of taking responsibility for a job on the golf course and bearing in mind I was only in my teens it was superb experience.”

Dean has looked up to Paddy ever since and their paths have taken a remarkably similar path. “When he gave up the job of Section Treasurer it was me who took his place, when I came onto the Regional Board 12 years later it was Paddy’s position I took again and when he stepped down as BIGGA representative on the GTC it was me who took his shoes again.

Now I have followed him as National Chair- man.”

The two men still keep in touch and Paddy, who is still at the Leicestershire Golf Club when Dean began his career, is delighted for his protege.

It might have been another career that Dean was making his name in if things had only been slightly different.

“I had a trial for Leicester City in the early ’70s as a left winger but wasn’t quite good enough. That was just after Peter Shilton had left the club but when they had players of the quality of Frank Worthington and Keith Weller at Filbert Street.”

He continued to play Senior League football in the Leicestershire area but much preferred the atmosphere of the pub team he played for and gave up the serious stuff after a season. He was only in his early 20s.

“I was also a decent athlete and finished second and third in the County Champion- ships at the 100 and 200 metres while I also a decent tennis player. I’ve never taken my golf seriously although I’ve been told I could get down to single figures and I have to say that’s still an ambition.

“It’s just time and I already spend a lot of time at the course in any case and on top of what I do for BIGGA with a young family it’s not fair if all my time goes in one direction.”

Wife Linda and sons James, 10, and Daniel, 8, have been used to dad devoting so much time to the Association.

“I got married to Linda at 21 just before I became Head Greenkeeper at Rugby GC so she’s always been involved. It’s just that it’s got more and more.

“I had to do a lot of travelling because Rugby was borderline between Midland and East Midland Sections so in most cases it was at least an hour’s travelling and sometimes nearly two hours. But I did it because it was what I wanted to do and I felt I got great ben- efit from it.”

He first joined the Board of Management three years ago and was designated his pet subject of Education as a responsibility and he was Education Sub Committee Chairman for two years. He spent last year as Vice Chair- man to Barry Heaney.

“Barry has been a great ambassador and really enjoyed his job. He met so many won- derful people and feels that in a small way feels he’s contributed to making the Associa- tion better. That’s what I want to do.”

Dean also enjoys the full support of Gay Hill Golf Club in what will undoubtedly be – and has already been – a demanding year.

“I met with the Captain, the Chairman and Chair of Green and told them I’d been offered the Chairmanship, that I wanted to do it and what it would involve for the club. I stressed that I wanted them to be a part of it. Their attitude was tremendous. They

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Over to you: Dean is congratulated on becoming BIGGA Chairman by his predecessor, Barry Heaney

The formation of the European Greenkeepers Association is another important issue'

congratulated me and we sorted out the time it would involve and they've been agreeable to it. I've also been asked a lot of questions by the members about what I will, and have, been doing."

"Dean's career took him from his early years under the wing of Paddy McCarron at the Leicestershire Golf Club to Rugby where he spent 10 years, eight and a half of them as Head Greenkeeper - "I went there in the knowledge I would take over when the Head Greenkeeper retired 18 months later."

From there and despite what he describes as "among the best times I've had" he decided on a move and was appointed Head Greenkeeper at Stratford-on-Avon GC.

"I told them I wasn't prepared to start immediately and for a three month period I travelled from Rugby to Stratford one day a week. Rugby were appreciative of that and when I left they presented me with a painting."

He was at Stratford for five years before becoming Course Manager at Gay Hill, a lovely parkland course just south of Birmingham.

Since taking over the Chairmanship at BTME in January he has attended the GCSAA Conference in Orlando and had the opportunity to visit Augusta National for a few hours.

"It was always an ambition of mine to visit Augusta. I know it's caused problems for greenkeepers with members seeing the immaculate conditions on television but I've collected information on the course and to visit it was just wonderful."

There are a few things in the BIGGA melting pot which Dean feels require addressing in his year in office.

"I think we have to look seriously at the Headquarters accommodation problem. It's not something we'd like to do, it's something we need to do. It's not fair on the people we employ and it does not help the professional image of the Association that we have to work in the conditions we do."

"The formation of the new European Greenkeepers Association is another important issue as it will give us one voice in Europe. If we get this off the ground it will be tremendous because like it or not it's just not about us, it's about Europe. We're an extended family."

An hour in the company of Dean Cleaver and you are left with the feeling that BIGGA is in safe hands and he will hand over the reins in a year's time with the Association in rude health.

"A lot of people have worked hellishly hard to get where we've got in establishing BIGGA including Walter Woods, Jack McMillan and Paddy."

"I know these people are pleased with the direction the Association is going and we mustn't let them down."
'Intrepid' is a new cost-effective selective weedkiller that can be applied throughout the growing season. It's powerful three-way mixture will control many broad-leaved weeds in turf. And unlike some turf herbicides, repeat applications are possible should new weeds germinate or deep-rooted weeds regrow during the season.

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As a photographer Brian Morgan can be spoken of in the same breath as Bailey and Lichfield. When it comes to golf course photography he’s the top man.

It’s not often you get the opportunity to sit down for an hour with someone who is regarded, almost without fear of contradiction, as the best in his field. When that person is involved in your own industry and is prepared to talk openly and enthusiastically about it it makes the experience all the more valuable.

Brian Morgan is the best golf course photographer in the world. Don’t just take my word for it. He has been the official photographer for all four Major Championships taking the pictures for the souvenir programmes; is the man Jack Nicklaus - another whose claims for world best wouldn’t meet too many detractors - employs to photograph all his golf courses; had courses closed for a week because he is coming to photograph them and had signs up saying “Brian Morgan coming. No carts on the fairways” while his services are in demand everywhere that golf is played.

He has shot over 800 different courses in 43 countries over the last 20 years and has concentrated on golf courses alone for the past 10 years.

He has therefore seen his share of greenkeeping set ups and prides himself of having a good relationship with the greenkeeping staff he meets up with - they’re often the only other people on the course when he’s working.

“I can now go on to a golf course anywhere in the world and within five or ten minutes guess at the standard the course is generally kept at. If I go into the sheds I can tell right away at what standard the course is maintained,” explained Brian from his library in the heart of his native Glasgow overlooking the Clyde.

“The sheds which are the tidiest, the best kept, and where the machinery is kept clean usually turn out to be the same on the golf course.”

He is extremely forthright when highlighting the problems at many golf courses in the United Kingdom.

“To be perfectly honest I haven’t seen much improvement in the condition of golf courses in Britain over the last 20 years. That’s because the budgets greenkeepers have been given to work with haven’t gone up sufficiently in that time.

“We should really be looking at more realistic fees. The subscriptions at a typical British golf club haven’t moved over than 2 or 3% a year over the last 10 years but the cost of labour and specialised equipment have gone up a lot more. There is some superb new equipment on the market but it is expensive and clubs can’t afford it because their fees are so low,” explained Brian.

“The problem is that they still have the yearly subscription system so someone is hit by a bill for £400 in February instead of having a monthly standing order. People don’t notice their electricity bill going up by 14% because they pay monthly but they notice if their golf fees go up by £20.”

Brian also identifies another area of waste he sees at many British clubs.

“Clubs haven’t looked at the changes there have been in the last 20 years. Twenty years ago most people came to the course by bus or four in a car and had their golf clubs at the club. Now most golfers have their clubs in the back of the car because they don’t just play one golf course or they take their clubs home to clean them because they are now so valuable. They don’t need a...
What they need is a club storage area – a secure room where clubs can be locked in cages. Changing rooms could be built for half the price without lockers and the rest of the money spent on the golf course."

Another area which Brian has identified as causing problems is the over-playing of the course. "Clubs haven't looked at the problems of extra traffic yet – a lot of courses don't even operate a tee time system yet so you get the course crowded with a whole bunch of people in a short space of time pushing each other round then space behind them. Spacing helps the greenkeeper so he can work out what he is going to do and when. It is so simple."

Brian’s philosophy is to combine the best of the new advances in the industry but at the same time retain or rediscover the original feelings of the golf course. "Golf courses, in my opinion, should be looking at a 10 to 20 year plan. They should be looking at the new technology grasses, replacing all their greens with USGA spec at £10,000 at time and changing all their bunker sand so that it is more consistent. "Also, they should look at the original design of the course and try to get back to the same feeling it had then. Too many courses have been interfered with by amateurs over the years and as a result the shape of bunkers has changed and others filled in. Clubs need to get hold of old photographs of how the course used to look like and try to get the new things to match it," said Brian, whose 50th birthday this month has signalled an end to his tournament work and the sad retirement from public life of the famous Morgan tartan kilt he always wore on the final day of Majors.

He is a huge fan of British greenkeepers and those in Scotland, in
particular, because they have to cope with the weather but, across the board, feels the standards in America are a lot higher.

"Greens superintendent is a big job in America and you can earn up to $100,000 a year. I know of a public course in Arizona where it is $150 a round and it makes $2 million a year profit. With that sort of situation you get a lot of very well kept courses."

To many of us who are relatively competent with our point and shoot automatic cameras a job where you travel the world photographing golf courses seems idyllic and not particularly taxing but when you're the best the best results are required and expect and Brian's dedication has is what has helped him to the peak of the profession.

"I've been stuck in Japan for eight days just waiting for the conditions to be right to take pictures and between 4am and 6am is often the best time for a picture – just when the sun is coming up.

"I always know if I've got a good picture and when I do I'll often take two rolls of film just changing the angles, the lenses and the style of picture – upright or across. I'm always thinking about how the picture might be used and if a picture is the wrong shape it can't be used."

Look forward to seeing more Brian Morgan photography in Greenkeeper International in the coming months.
The PGA European Tour Courses recommend Greenmaster for golf ...

The Greenmaster range of fine turf fertilisers has been accorded the unique distinction of being recommended by the PGA European Tour Course. This recognition is the result of the product's quality and constant performance when used on PGA European Tour Courses over several years. They recognise that the free flowing, lightweight granules ensure uniform turf coverage and quickly penetrate the sward leaving a clean finish, balanced turf growth and vibrant colour.

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Pattissons have been instrumental in producing some of the most fundamental pieces of golf equipment. They have now become BIGGA Golden Key Sponsors.

There is a saying that goes something along the lines of “a golf green without a hole is a lawn”. It had not been for Arthur Harold Pattisson Cole, the founder of Pattissons, there would have been a great many lawns on the world’s golf courses and not too many greens.

That is because Arthur Pattisson’s second golf invention was the first ever hole cutter – the Bogey Hole Cup Cutter. Mr Pattisson, who owned his own engineering company, had watched the green staff at his own Streatham Golf Club toiling with the Heath Robinson knife and spoon method for digging out a hole. He found an old Aga stove removed the steel pipe, which happened to conform to R&A guidelines on hole size, added a wooden handle through the top – the teeth in the top of the pipe helped pull the earth up and Voila! The Bogey Hole Cup Cutter is still around today and the general design has changed very little in that time – pedals have been added.

“Pattissons were the original innovators on the golf course,” said Mike Hinch, along with his brother Jonathan, joint Managing Director of the Luton-based company – Mike is MD – Sales and Marketing with Jonathan MD – Finance and Administration. Pattissons were formed in 1896 and in their centenary year they have become a BIGGA Golden Key sponsor.

What was that? You want to know what was the first invention Arthur Pattisson came up with?

Well there is not much chance of seeing it of a golf course these days but in 1896 it was a God send. The Pattissons Horse Shoe enabled horses to drag mowers over the fairways and greens without leaving dirty great indentations in the playing surface.

For many years Pattissons were the leaders in the field producing golf equipment as varied as it was excellent.

“I have an original 1912 brochure and it really had a full complement of handy tools, equipment and furniture for the golf market,” explained Mike. “It was the only company in the market at the time.”

They even had a hold on the motorised market, producing tractors until the 60s.

“At the time I feel the company should have capitalised when they were the market leader and done more to protect their position as the whole development of golf was happening,” said Mike, a 32 year old prop forward with the London Welsh National League rugby team High Wycombe and the Public School Wanderers.

The Hinch involvement with Pattissons began in July ’93 when they bought the company which at that stage was being run by the second generation of Pattisson family.

“The name was fantastically marketable but it had acquired a bad reputation and it takes you twice as long to get rid of a reputation like that than it does to build a name in the first place,” said Mike, of the firm which had previously been European Finance Manager for a large US multi national.

He significantly worked on tightening internal systems, stock control and production planning.

“These are now all in place and we plan our production anything from six months to a year in advance and can adapt to change if needed.”

The Hinch offensive was two pronged. Not only had they to convince the market that Pattissons were back they had to shake up their suppliers as well.

“When we took over we spent six months gearing the company up to relaunch at BTME 94 with a new brochure, new image and new logo. We sharpened up the product range which was looking very staid. Pattisson’s had a blue image and I could never understand what blue had to do with golf. So we changed to green and the cosmetic changes we made to our products helped us immediately.”

The first thing I did was a whistle stop tour of the UK distributors we used and spoke to a lot of greenkeepers. What I learned was that they liked our products but that they just couldn’t get hold of them.

“I visited David Roffey in Bournemouth and he put down a red carpet saying that in 40 years dealing with Pattissons no-one from the company had ever crossed his door step!”

Mike spent eight years working for Phillips rising to UK Sales Manager, controlling around £22 million worth of business. He then joined a small company distributing BT mobile phones as Operations Director before taking on the challenge which was Pattissons.

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"To many of our suppliers we were just another customer. Suddenly we were shouting about wanting three times more from them and wanting to be higher up their list of priorities. We had to change a lot of our suppliers because they couldn’t adapt."

Mike and Jonathan are, by their own admission, business people and not manufacturing orientated, so one of the first appointments was Mike Buckholt as Operations Manager. "He has been a fantastic asset to the company. His enthusiasm, attention to quality and health and safety knowledge are quite superb. We needed someone good in that area and he’s got carte blanche control over the factory. He also gets involved in research and development and enjoys interacting with customers."

On of the many products which put the company back on the road to success was a deluxe golf ball tee marker, a solid resin model with the colour impregnated all the way through. "We had the company who made them geared up to seven day a week three shift 24 hour a day working and it took us two months to get on top of the demand," said Mike with a degree of pride.

The product range is always been added to and currently stands at around 100 with a basic range of around 50. Coincidentally, the Hinch brother's father is the Chairman of a company known for exactly 57 varieties – Heinz. "Lots of our ideas come from greenkeepers and our brochure carries the statement, 'our huge and vast R&D Department – you the customer'.

"An example of this came in France when one of the greenkeepers asked if we could come up with a small soil sampler so Mike Buckholt came up with one which is three inches in diameter and hand held. It is now a well known and used tool in the greenkeeper fraternity. Ah yes, France. Not only has the company bounced back in the United Kingdom it’s launched itself into Europe in a big way. "We now have distributor networks in every single European country and our business in Europe has gone up 300%.

"We looked to Europe immediately and I spent a great deal of time visiting people in Europe and found they were as receptive as they were in the UK."

Mike judges their European progress by the impact at the Munich trade show. "In ’93 our name didn’t even appear in the brochure. In ’94 our name was in and where to buy our products. In ’95 you could see our products pictured," said Mike, who also describes the French company whose turnover of Pattison's product has risen from £4000 to £100,000 in two years.

As part of the BIGGA Golden Key sponsorship and to commemorate the company's centenary they have launched a 100-100-100 Club. Pattissons are helping to fund greenkeepers attending BTME '97 and details are available from Pattisson's or BIGGA Headquarters.

Listening to Mike you come away convinced that the way ahead for Pattissons has been cleared and that it will again be the force it was when Arthur Pattisson first launched it into the market with his horse shoes and hole cutter.

"We get faxes in for orders from Fiji, Japan and the Moscow Golf and Country Club and they know about this little company in Luton. It never ceases to amaze me. There is probably a Pattisson's product in every golf club in the country."

The renewed vigour of the company should ensure that more products will be appearing in each of those clubs.
The new SISIS 321 tractor has been designed specifically for the maintenance of turf and artificial playing surfaces and is ideal for golf clubs, local authorities and sports complexes.

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Making a CLAIM

Industrial Tribunals were first created in 1973 and over the years their jurisdiction and corresponding workload has mushroomed so that today there are many different types of claims that can be brought before the Tribunals. The most common being claims for unfair dismissal.

Industrial Tribunals have always tried very hard to be accessible to anyone who feels that they have a genuine grievance, the service is absolutely free and indeed claimants and witnesses can recover expense for travelling to and attending at Tribunal hearings. Although it is becoming increasingly common for one or either parties to be represented either by a lawyer or some other skilled representative there is absolutely no requirement for this to happen - there are very few procedural formalities to be followed and it is the duty of the Tribunal and of the Tribunal chairman to guide unrepresented parties through the procedure both before and during the hearing.

Tribunals also try to avoid becoming unnecessarily legalistic despite the horrendously complex nature of modern employment law. To ensure that common sense continues to be applied in addition to a legally qualified Chairman the Tribunal consists of two other lay members, one of whom is nominated by the TUC and the other by the CBI. The lay members usually have extensive industrial experience and they have an equal say to that of the Chairman.

Although there have been recent plans to reduce the use and significance of lay members, and indeed some types of hearing are usually conducted by a Chairman sitting alone, all who have experience of using Industrial Tribunals have little doubt that the existence of lay members maintains a modern and practical approach to the application of employment law.

Tribunals endeavour to maintain a balance between the right of a manager to run his business as he thinks he should with the right of an employee not to suffer the catastrophe of dismissal without good and proper cause.

Currently an employee must have two years continuous employment before he can claim for unfair dismissal although there are a few exceptions to this rule. Many people believe that this qualifying period is unnecessarily long and indeed the Court of Appeal has recently concluded that such a long qualifying period discriminated against women who, statistically, can be shown not to remain in fixed employment for as long as men. It is highly probable that a change of government would lead to a reduction in this qualifying period perhaps to one of six months.

A protected employee has the basic right not to be unfairly dismissed. It is for the employer to show that the dismissal was for a potentially fair reason the most common of which are conduct, capability or redundancy. In addition the Tribunal then has to be satisfied that the employer behaved reasonably in using that reason as a reason for dismissal.

An employee cannot therefore be dismissed simply at his employer's whim. The employer must show either that the employee has behaved improperly, cannot do his job either because of illness or insufficient skill or that the employer no longer requires somebody to do that job.

Whether an employer has behaved reasonably is very much a matter within the discretion of the Tribunal. If the employee has been dismissed for misconduct Tribunal will normally want to make sure that before coming to that conclusion the employer had pursued all proper enquiries, including most importantly a detailed discussion with the employee involved at which the employee is made aware of the allegation being made against him, knows the nature of the evidence available to his employer and is given a full and proper opportunity to tender his own explanation. Only then should a reasonable employer arrive at a decision as to whether or not the employee has been guilty of misconduct and as to whether to dismiss that employee.

Provided the Tribunal is satisfied that the employer had a genuine belief in misconduct based upon reasonable grounds, all reasonable investigations having been pursued, it is not for the Tribunal to substitute its own view as to the employee's guilt. Equally a Tribunal cannot substitute its own view that dismissal was too severe.

If an employer wants to reduce his work force and make somebody redundant he must use reasonable and objective criteria to enable him to choose who to make redundant. He must then consult with the employees concerned and receive and consider their views. Once again he must consider whether there are other means available to avoid a compulsory redundancy and only then will he be regarded as being in a position to fairly arrive at a decision that somebody should be dismissed.

The fundamental premise is that you have a right to express your view about whether you should lose your job. Do not forget that as from the April 1 all UK BIGGA members can take advantage of the new service available to allow you legal representation to enable those views to be forcefully and effectively expressed (see the article on Page 10 of last month's edition).

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Fact No. 7. Watermation has a large warehouse and stores Department and friendly helpful staff, who make sure you have your equipment quickly.

Fact No. 8. Watermation have their own installation crews under the direction of the Contracts Department and don’t have to rely solely on sub contractors, as do most installers.

Fact No. 9. Watermation not only offer you professional design, experienced installation and high quality equipment, but the MOST ECONOMICAL SCHEME POSSIBLE.

Fact No. 10. Watermation always uphold and encourage the highest standards in the industry – we are founder members of the BTIA (British Turf & Landscape Irrigation Association) and as such we helped to write the rules!

Last, but probably the most important fact of all – Watermation are nice people to do business with for 25 years.

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Water quantity is not everything when it comes to golf course irrigation. Water quality is of equal importance.

What is water quality and how is it classified? Water quality is determined by its intended use. For instance, a pure source with no mineral or organic contaminants would be ideal for drinking purposes, but a poor choice for golf course irrigation. Alternatively, a water source high in calcium magnesium, potassium, nitrate and liberally laced with microbes might be a great irrigation source but completely unsuitable for drinking purposes.

Generally, water is evaluated in terms of its mineral and biological components and classified based on intended application. There are numerous sources which classify plants with respect to their tolerance of, or sensitivity to, salinity and specific mineral toxicities. Unfortunately many superintendents do not have a choice of quality of water available for their course and, to an increasing extent, are being forced to accept water that may not be fit for other domestic uses eg effluent water. The growing trend in mandating the use of recycled water on golf courses if further reducing the choices of water quality.

The simple fact is, that if a given soil is irrigated with a given water quality over an extended period of time the soil will assume the characteristics of that irrigation source. Most of the problems encountered with irrigation water are associated with the direct and indirect effects of excess total salts (TDS), excesses of specific mineral ions, sodium, boron, chloride etc and in excesses of bicarbonate and associated elevated (alkaline) pH.

What To Look Out For
How do I know when poor water quality may be affecting my turfgrass growth? Certainly poor water quality has many disguises. It has been diagnosed as soil borne Pythium, nutrient imbalances, heat stress, black layer, bad seed, improper greens construction, too much shade, too much water, bad physical sand mix, nematode stress, too much play, etc etc etc...and these diagnoses are all correct! Poor water quality manifests itself as many different things and sets the stage for secondary problems. We can spray the chemicals to kill the disease, correct the nutrient imbalances, rebuild the poorly constructed greens and trim the trees around the greens. The turf responds... for a limited time. Without removing or correcting the primary problem, the secondary problems will continue to return. Many times, water quality is the last area to be identified. If these visual symptoms sound familiar you may want to look further into the water quality issue.

Where Do I Start?
The first step should be an irrigation suitability test. There are well over 50 different types of "water tests" available from analytical laboratories. The irrigation
Several problems may occur to turfgrasses growing in situations where high levels of soil salinity and irrigation with the saline water source are common.

1. Salt Concentration - TDS (Total Dissolved Salts) EC (Electrical Conductivity)
2. Sodium Hazard - SAR (Sodium Absorption Ratio), sodium in ppm or meq/L
3. Bicarbonate Content - Adj SAR (Adjusted Sodium Absorption Ratio) and pH Ratio
4. Toxic Ion Concentration - In turfgrass the main ones are boron and chlorides.
5. Water pH - pH scale is from 0-14 with 7 being neutral. For ideal turfgrass growth pH should be between 6.5 and 8.4.

Several problems may occur to turfgrasses growing in situations where high levels of soil salinity and irrigation with the saline water source are common. These problems are usually not uniform across the site but many occur sporadically. A high level of soil salinity can reduce or delay seed germination and seedling development. On establishing turf the first sign of a salinity effect is a blue-green colour of turf similar to drought. Salinity problems are most often encountered during periods of heat and/or drought stress. This occurs because the demand for water by the turfgrass plants is high at this time. Water availability to the plants is reduced because of the high salt content of the soil solution. High demand by the turfgrass coupled with reduced water availability due to salts causing drought-like conditions. This is compounded by the fact that it is very hard to leach excess salts from soil during periods of high temperatures and limited rainfall.

What Can I Do?
Following are some suggestions to help fight a poor irrigation source.

Remember, a solution to the problem may not be found in just one of the suggestions. Your problem may require a combination of several (or all) of the following suggestions.

- Plant Salt Tolerant Grasses - Not all grasses perform equally under the same conditions. When selected grasses play close attention to the electric conductivity of the irrigation water.
- Improve Drainage - Any additional tools that can be utilised to add aeration, reduce soil compaction and improve percolation may be beneficial in the removal of harmful salt concentrations.
- Leach Excessive Salt - Leaching salts through the plant root zone by exceeding the leaching fraction will carry dissolved salts with it through the zone.
- Acidification of Irrigation Water - The addition of acidification agents will cause the soil sodium to be more easily leached from the soil profile and neutralise the bicarbonates from the water and soil, freeing up available calcium forming better soil structures and increased water percolation.
- Additional Soil Amendment - Careful consideration should be given to the base saturation of exchangeable portions of the soil test. In poor quality water, the reduction of available calcium and magnesium is critical and must be replenished as required.

Summary
Use of poor water quality for irrigation of golf courses presents a unique set of advantages and disadvantages.

They potentially affect every decision the greenkeeper must make.

However, despite increased problems, concerns and cost, these impacts are not necessarily unsurmountable. Rather, they present a challenge which demands attention to every agronomic and management detail.


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A select band of greenkeepers came claim the title Miracle Professional Premier Greenkeeper and the six strong group have nothing but praise for the Award and what it has done for their careers.

Anthony Davies, David Whitaker, Ian Harrison, Gordon Irvine, David Walden and, current Champion, Mike Goodhind each have fond memories of the Award.

"Deniers' Question Time" I answer questions on lawn care and I don't think for one moment they would have asked me if I didn't have the award. So you see it's also an honour to have the Award. It's not just yourself you are helping but others as well.

Name: Anthony Davies
Club: Prestbury
Year of Win: 1990
There was no nomination procedure in 1990. You had to submit an article "A Year in the Life of My Course" and I entered because I wanted to learn of other courses and other ways of greenkeeping. I also wanted to meet other greenkeepers and being able to say I was voted Greenkeeper of the Year was to be a personal ambition.

The club reacted totally different to what I expected. They invited me into the club, presented me with a bottle of whisky and a cut glass rose bowl with my name inscribed on it and I have had more respect as a result. Since the win the plaque which hangs in the club is polished as much as the valuable silverware. The club is proud and so am I.

The Award makes you feel like somebody. I feel very similar to a person who has been knighted. On your CV you are able to put down Premier Greenkeeper 1990 is surely an added bonus, a bonus which cannot be bought but has to be earned. I feel, if no-one else does, that I earned it.

If any other greenkeeper feels he or she would like the award then earn it...Go for it..Try for it and you will be Miracle Professional Premier Greenkeeper 1996. But whoever enters is an achiever, nobody loses. Someone may get a higher prize than you but you're the winner. The one's who didn't enter are the one's who lost.

Since the win I sit in on various charities. When they have Open Days to raise money I'm like "Gardeners' Question Time" I answer questions on lawn care and I don't think for one moment they would have asked me if I didn't have the award.

So you see it's also an honour to have the Award. It's not just yourself you are helping but others as well.

Name: David Whitaker
Club: The Wisley
Year of Win: 1991
The Club was delighted and the membership were also quite proud of the achievement of their greenkeeper.

I have received greater recognition and appreciation within my club and within the greenkeeping industry as a whole. The visit to the GCSAA Conference was also very educational and quite an "eye opener".

Winning the award was helped give me the confidence to take Master Greenkeeper Certification.

Name: Ian Harrison
Club: Formerly Darlington GC. Currently Mendip Spring GC.
Year of Win: 1992
I was asked by my peers to represent the Cleveland Section – to

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A select band of greenkeepers came claim the title Miracle Professional Premier Greenkeeper and the six strong group have nothing but praise for the Award and what it has done for their careers.

Anthony Davies, David Whitaker, Ian Harrison, Gordon Irvine, David Walden and, current Champion, Mike Goodhind each have fond memories of the Award.
my staff and I that was an honour in itself. Having always strived to produce good standards I saw it as a challenge to revel in.

Professionally it has meant an extra line, or two or three on my CV. A better career move, a fair wage, pension scheme, health care, company car and most of all I've been left to manage as a manager.

Having moved to Mendip Spring GC six months after winning the award and, nearly three years on, I asked my present employer if winning the Premier Greenkeeper Award had influenced their decision. He said that without question winning the Award was the most influential factor as they know that I'd been assessed by the industry which was more than good enough for them. The basis of the interview as a course walk about discussing ideas and exchanging views - working computability - then sitting down agreeing terms and conditions.

On a final note, I would like to thank the greens staff at Darlington GC for their hard work and dedication. I would also like to thank Miracle Professional for making it all possible.

To anyone out there thinking of going for this Award my advice to you is go for it. It can make a difference!

Name: Gordon Irvine
Club: Mill Ride GC
Year of Win: 1993
I agreed to be nominated to gain recognition for the high standards of golf greenkeeping which I had gained through many years of college education and training for some of the country's finest Course Managers. These standards are demonstrated on a daily basis by the greenkeeping staff at Mill Ride ensuring that principles of sound greenkeeping are maintained.

The Club was very proud of the win and have displayed the plaque for everyone to see. As Mill Ride is a new club involved in selling memberships there was an opportunity to involve some marketing in connection with the Award and the recognition of high standards that it highlights.

The Award was one which I had followed with interest and the year before I had achieved Master Greenkeeper status. That award within the Club strengthened my position as Course Manager and I became more involved in the daily management of the complete facility. I view the Premier Greenkeeper Award as a further advancement which could only serve to secure my management position. This has proved to be the case and I currently hold the position of General/Course Manager. This new role allows me to manage the complete facility of Mill Ride Golf Club while retaining my speciality of Golf Course Management.

I still actively pursues development of my greenkeeping knowledge both in this country and overseas and I retain a broad spectrum of clients whom I advise on areas of turf culture and Golf Club Management. Being able to understand the full picture of golf club management has been a major asset in securing my advisory work. However none of this would have been possible without achieving recognition by winning such Awards as the Miracle Professional Premier Greenkeeper.

Name: Mike Goodhind
Club: The Tytherington Club
Year of Win: 1995 (Reigning Champion)
I didn't hesitate when it was proposed that I be nominated. It was a great honour and I saw it as a "high profile" Award. Let's face it the prize offered by Miracle Professional is certainly worth winning.

The Club's reaction was one of great delight and the y have used the Award to the full in the very extensive PR campaign. My name has appeared in almost all of the golfing press highlighting my achievement and I feel the whole club has shared in my success. They were so delighted they even paid for my wife to accompany me on the trip to the GCSAA Conference in Florida.

To date I feel it has enhanced my professional image and standing not just within my own club but in the greenkeeping industry in general. I have received many telephone calls not only congratulating me on my success but also offering encouragement to me. The Award has given me great incentive to do well.

I am sure long term this accolade will do my future career prospects no harm at all and will be a superb attribute to add to my CV.

Name: David Walden
Club: Thorpe Wood GC,
Year of Win: 1994
I decided to take part as a result of a poor response from others in our Section.

The Club was very pleased for me and have used the fact a lot in this year's advertising - "Home of 1994 Greenkeeper of the Year".

There has been less questioning of my judgments made on course policy. I had the congratulations of many people both in and outside of the trade.

It was also a final achievement of a career that I have enjoyed and have worked hard at both at work and in college.

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Most of the complaints of those who feel that there is too much legislation revolve around the belief that people should have sufficient common sense to avoid dangerous situations. The problem is that one can never plan for the unexpected or unpredictable.

Considered on its own, a golf course is not an unsafe place. However, put a few golfers on it, scatter some machines around and introduce a wide range of weather and turf conditions and one has raised the risk factors considerably.

We all appreciate that a driven golf ball can cause serious injury, taking extra care when crossing a known flight path. Yet how many of us have had a ball whizz past our ears from a completely unexpected direction followed by an embarrassed cry of "sorry" from the undergrowth.

One may think that there is little that could have been done to avoid such a situation. However, being aware of the dangers means that we are in a position to take additional care wherever there may be potential hazards.

Look out for groups of golfers and observe where they are standing. If one of the party has driven into the rough or trees, the others will be watching for the flight of the ball, providing an early and clear warning to green-staff that a shot is being played from a hidden position.

Machinery can also behave unpredictably, yet not through any direct fault of the machine or conscious irresponsibility by its operator.

A tractor and mower may have been driven a thousand times across a banked green surround without any problem or thought of danger. Yet remove the mower or introduce a patch of moisture and a safe situation can become a slippery slope to a serious accident.

The same applies to the use of pedestrian rotary mowers, and particularly hover-type machines used on banks around bunkers, tees and plateau greens.

If there is no safer alternative to this method of cutting, then ensure that the manufacturer's instructions are followed closely regarding the machine's safe and proper use.

Ideally, the mower should be fitted with plastic or free-swinging blades rather than the rigid metal type and the operator should be equipped with suitable protective clothing such as eye protectors and steel toe-capped boots.

On steep slopes, many users prefer to tie a length of rope to the handle of a hover mower, pulling it across the grass while they stand on firm, level ground. While this might be preferable to operating the machine at an acute angle while physically holding the handles, it still has to be regarded as inherently unsafe because one is not in full control of the mower. If the practice has to be followed, it is vital to ensure that no one will be affected if the mower should tip over or run away.

As a last resort, always release the rope if you slip. It is far better that the mower is damaged rather than have an operator sliding out-of-control beneath the hood of the machine.

The advice in all cases is to treat all machinery with respect. There is no substitute for experience, but no one in their right mind would want to have an accident in order to learn the safest way to carry out a particular task or operation.

Health and safety legislation demands that proper training must be given to everyone who operates machinery. Indeed, accident statistics show that the majority of accidents occur when employees use machines without proper training or supervision.

All manufacturers should provide sound instruction in the safe
Power take-off guards should be in place, in good condition and regularly maintained. Ensure that their restraining chains are securely fastened in work often neglected safety component. Apart from checking on condition and fit, it is important that the guard is greased regularly to ensure that the drive shaft within can rotate smoothly and that the restraining chains at either end are in place and securely attached to non-moving parts of the power unit and the machine. This will prevent the guard from rotating with the shaft, minimising the risk of clothing or any other loose material being caught by the guard.

Turf machinery manufacturers go to great lengths to ensure that their machines are safe for the purposes for which they are intended. Never by-pass or ‘short circuit’ a safety measure in an attempt to speed up a job or “make life easier”. Always look for the safest method of carrying out a task, keep the operator’s manual at hand and, if in any doubt, call the supplying dealer or the manufacturer for advice.

It is in their interest that end users get the maximum out of their machines - but that must never be at the expense of safety.

and correct operation of a piece of machinery. This may be carried out on a factory training course, at a dealer’s premises or out on the turf where the equipment is to be used.

But it’s not just those who use the machines who need training. Regular and proper maintenance by a competent mechanic not only keeps the machine working at peak efficiency, it also helps prevent a drop in safety levels.

Very few mowers built 10 years ago had safety switches to shut down the engine should the operator leave the seat with the cutting units or transmission engaged. It is therefore important that hydraulic valves and their actuating linkages receive regular maintenance to ensure that they do what they are supposed to, particularly those controlling power to moving parts.

It is not unknown for a valve to stick, releasing itself without warning while adjustments are being made to the cutting units. For safety’s sake and whenever practicable, always switch off the engine when servicing or adjusting any moving component. This advice applies to all powered machines.

If one needs to be close to moving parts in work, always wear proper safety protective clothing and ensure that all appropriate safety requirements are observed. There are also additional, specific rules for those using grinding wheels.

Although most modern hydraulic ride-on mowers incorporate seat safety switches, it is important that these are kept in good condition and are properly adjusted. They have been incorporated within the machine for a specific purpose and should be checked for proper function as part of the regular service and maintenance routine.

A similar proviso applies to power take-off guards, a vital, but often neglected safety component. Apart from checking on condition and fit, it is important that the guard is greased regularly to ensure that the drive shaft within can rotate smoothly and that the restraining chains at either end are in place and securely attached to non-moving parts of the power unit and the machine. This will prevent the guard from rotating with the shaft, minimising the risk of clothing or any other loose material being caught by the guard.

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A similar proviso applies to power take-off guards, a vital, but often neglected safety component. Apart from checking on condition and fit, it is important that the guard is greased regularly to ensure that the drive shaft within can rotate smoothly and that the restraining chains at either end are in place and securely attached to non-moving parts of the power unit and the machine. This will prevent the guard from rotating with the shaft, minimising the risk of clothing or any other loose material being caught by the guard.

Turf machinery manufacturers go to great lengths to ensure that their machines are safe for the purposes for which they are intended.

Never by-pass or ‘short circuit’ a safety measure in an attempt to speed up a job or “make life easier”. Always look for the safest method of carrying out a task, keep the operator’s manual at hand and, if in any doubt, call the supplying dealer or the manufacturer for advice.

It is in their interest that end users get the maximum out of their machines - but that must never be at the expense of safety.
Surrey
It is with regret that I have to report that Geoff Hills, our South East Administrator has passed away, May 1, on behalf of the Surrey Section, convey our sympathies to his family. He will be sadly missed.
A big thank you to Driving Force Leisure and Andy Lofting for providing and organising the transport to Harrogate this year. For this we are most grateful. Thanks again.
A venue for this year's Turkey Trot is still required. Any club wishing to host this popular event should contact me on 01737 832015.

South West and South Wales Region
For the sixth year this Region's trip to the BTME at Harrogate was a great success, but my how things change. Just as in 1991 we encountered below zero conditions, this time, however, the coach did not break down and the heater was working well. The numbers have changed also from 29 in '91 to 62 in '96. We hope to top that in '97.
The exhibition and seminars were tremendous, and just as you think it cannot be improved upon it steps up into another gear – great credit to the organisers at HQ. I did receive a complaint about the BIGGA stand from one member of our party who went to buy a £14 training video. The girls hard selling, tailing and flattering of eye lashes cost him £56. His comment was "they should have bogs over their heads". All in good fun of course. Janet and Vickie, both relatively new to the Association, worked like beavers and still came up smiling, as did all the staff. Walking around the halls, the smile seemed to be the theme of the week. Which says it all.
The Region's hotel base, where we receive such a warm welcome each year, becomes a second home for us all, and is the scene of much camaraderie and laughter, along with discussions of the day's events.
South West and South Wales Region
It was great sadness we learn of the sudden death of Geoff Hills in Harrogate. Our sympathies go out to his family.
The Committee is producing a fix-ture list for all events. These will be circulated as soon as all dates are confirmed.
Good luck to Robert Lucas of Deangete Ridge who has been appointed Course Manager at Royal Blackheath GC.
Congratulations to Alan Page of Holtye GC, whose wife Sue gave birth to a boy, Alexander on January 31.
Congratulations also to Derek Gould, formerly of Langley Park. Derek was heavily involved in the old Associations and last year retired to Norfolk, At the AGM in Harrogate he was made a life member of BIGGA.
We wish Derek and his wife well in their retirement.
For those who attended the First Aid courses held at the Weald of Kent GC your certificates have now run out. The committee is arranging some dates for more courses. If you are interested in doing the course again, or need to do it, contact Steve Johnstone Tel: 01795 427034.
Gent Professional are hoping to organise a trip to visit their quarry and factory for Head Greenkeepers/ Course Managers. If interested contact Steve Johnstone.
David Wood

Kent
It was with great sadness we learn of the sudden death of Geoff Hills in Harrogate. Our sympathies go out to his family.
The Committee is producing a fix-ture list for all events. These will be circulated as soon as all dates are confirmed.
Good luck to Robert Lucas of Deangete Ridge who has been appointed Course Manager at Royal Blackheath GC.
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Gent Professional are hoping to organise a trip to visit their quarry and factory for Head Greenkeepers/ Course Managers. If interested contact Steve Johnstone.
David Wood

South Coast
Our Spring tournament will be held at Crane Valley GC on Monday April 15. This competition will consist of a 27 hole Medal.
The cost for the day will be £21.50, all cheques to be made payable to BIGGA South Coast Section and forwarded along with entry forms stating current handicap to Mark Webb, 12 Line Road, Alresford, Hampshire S02 49LID Tel: 01962 730366. The closing date for entries is April 5.
Will all members holding trophies please ensure they are on the prize table at the end of the competition. This competition will be the Hayter qualifier for the regional final to be held at the Salisbury and South Wits GC on June 12.
Please gentlemen, if you qualify, make every effort to attend the Regional Final. If you are not available let Mark know straight away so that he can find replacements in good time. This is to ensure that we do not have to make last minute telephone calls to say sorry we can't make it.
As the regional final is being played in our own area this year it is important that we field a strong team, even more important that we field a complete team.
Westerf is on May 1 and not April 24 which was the date given on the Section Programme. Now that we all know the correct date let us have a big turn out this year. Any problems with transport please give me a ring on 01329 282362.
There are a number of improvements to the Show this year among them: a public address system; a free prize draw for all members who attend for a very worthwhile prize; instead of rows of stands this year they are being repositioned and the demonstration area will be in the middle making everything much more accessible.
Westerf this year has the makings of being better and larger than ever. I hope to see you all there on the day.
There is still time to book your seat for the South Coast Seminar to be held at Sparsholt College on March 20. We have some very good speakers lined up: Billy McMillan and David Winterton, both Course Managers; Ken Richardson, our own Edu-cation Officer; John Bradley, Bob Taylor, and Peter Jones a former Head Greenkeeper who now runs his own Consultancy Business.
By now you should have received your programme. For those who have not yet booked their seat send your booking form and cheque to: Jeff Drake, 10 Coldharbour Lane, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP2 7PW. For members the fee is £12 and non members £15.
I have just returned from the BTME at Harrogate. "What a Show", everything gets better each year. The Education Programme was good, there were more Trade Stands, more people and more space. I am told the consumption of Tetleys and John Smiths Ales were greatly increased on previous years. I must thank Mark Webb, Ian Bohle, Jeff Drake, John York and Kerran Daly for giving up their late nights and early mornings to contribute to this "great achieve ment".
It was pleasing to see so many of the South Coast Members at the Exhibition. I look forward to having the pleasure of seeing even more of you next year.
For this event next year it is hoped to alter the transport arrangements. To do this, it is important that those of you wishing to take advantage of the marvellous deals available ring me as soon as possible.
Arrangements can then be made to make hotel bookings and stipulate size of coach. So far I have 11 people who are interested. The more we get the cheaper it will be. Last minute bookings could mean disappointment on a good deal.
Lastly I must thank all those who had anything to do with the organisation of BTME this year. It was a marvellous show and we all look forward forward to BTME '97.
Thanks must also go to Gordon and Marion for the endless work they put into organising the hotel and transport and also the work they put into Westurf which makes the BTME such a good deal.
Ken Lodge

Devon and Cornwall
Fingle Glen was the venue for the section's seminar on Wednesday January 17. To try and increase the numbers from last year we decided to change the agenda from previous years and make it an all day seminar.
Numbers for the day did increase but still fell short of expectation as we had invited the STRI to provide the speakers for the day at great expense to the Section.
As usual the trade supported the Section by taking up trade stands in the reception area and without their support the event could not have taken place. Our thanks to all our trade friends who once again supported the Section, namely Avoncrop, Devon Garden Machinery, Levingtons, P. J. Flett, MST, Rigby Taylor, Rolley's, Willcocks and to our confer-ence room sponsor Barenbrug.
The day started at 9.30am with the introduction by Richard Whyman, Section Secretary, and John Bradley of Barenbrug. The morning pro-gramme of speakers all from the STRI included John Tucker, Golf Course Architect; Steve Baker, Senior Research Officer and Manager of Laboratory and Dr Kate York, Plant Pathologist. The morning session finish ed after question time at noon which allowed delegates time to look around the trade stands before lunch.
Unfortunately lunch ran over time which left delegates little time to have a second look at the trade stands before returning for the after noon session which included Neil Hayward, of the EGU; Bob Taylor,
When you’re selecting a sand make sure you’re asking the right questions:

- Does the sand consist of rounded grains to provide plenty of pore space and maximum hydraulic conductivity?
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- Is the sand correctly graded so that the sand is neither too compact nor too open and unstable?
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With Dunlop Sports Sand the answer to all of these questions is YES!

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Tel: (01797) 252298

BOURNE AMENITY
Agronomist. Question time wasn't any golf didn't have a bearing that their clubs wouldn't let them disappoint them. Only 72 members of the day which was only £10 per year's regional package to BTME at Harrogate, I would like to thank Gordon and Marion Child for once again allowing the section use of the facilities.

On behalf of all the Section members who took advantage of this year's regional package to BTME at Harrogate, I would like to thank Gordon and Marion Child for once again allowing the section use of their facilities.

Members please note. Our last meeting of the season will be held at Churston GC on Wednesday March 27, this will also be our Hayler qualifier.

Everybody will be receiving application forms for the team matches this year but due to the difficulties experienced last year in obtaining teams from lists of people originally indicating that they would play, you could please ensure that you will definitely play on the dates of your choice if you are selected.

The final request is that if you are not receiving correspondence from the Section then please contact me as this may be due to several things including your affiliation with the wrong section or recent change of address.

The Westurf Exhibition on May 1 at Ashgrove GC is fast approaching.

This year will see many changes to this regional event including reorganisation of the show ground; representation on the day of the Association by Headquarters in the form of an open forum; a demonstration ground in the middle of the arena and a prize draw for those people who hand in their entry slips on the day. The success of this show and its subsequent continuation depends on your support so please make every effort to attend.

Finally, the Section's silverware has now been valued and insured so enabling the winner of each golfing fixture throughout the season to receive the appropriate trophy and retain it for the forthcoming year.

Kevin Green

South Wales

Our winter competition, Christmas dinner and AGM was held recently at Pyle and Kenfig GC near Porthcawl.

Although numbers were down slightly on previous years, 38 hardy golfers took to the course to remind themselves of the testing challenge that Pyle and Kenfig has in store for the unprepared.

The weather, albeit cold and windy, remained dry and bright - the making of good golf, especially no faults could be found with the course. The greens were running firm and true and were a credit to Paul Robinson and his staff.

Our thanks to Allan Stow and Vitax Ltd for their continued sponsorship of the Christmas golf day, the cut glass crystal prizes that were on offer were exceptional.

Thanks also to Kim Davies and Celtic Mowers for their continued sponsorship of the longest drive and nearest the pin competitions.

Results: Winner of the day and the Vitax Shield, Ian Crichton, Kingstong GC, 40 pts; 2. Andrew Cosh, Creigiau, 37 pts (Back six); 3. Peter Lacey, Burnham, 37 pts (Front nine). The pin was Doug Sonne, of Inco's, while Robert Frater, Creigiau, won the longest drive (by the narrowest of margins, beating the young at heart 76 year-old Ted Thompson).

The AGM followed on from the golf with some 50 or so members in attendance. With only four apologies having been received and a membership total of nearly 170, this really should be much more. A minute's silence was given in remembrance of two former Southerndown greenkeepers namely John Walsh and Chris Thomas.

The remainder of the meeting went relatively smoothly and was rounded off with a note being made that we are indebted to the trade for their support and also to the Principal of Penpro Institute Mr J.D.B. Thomas for allowing us the use of the college as our educational base. For the smooth running of the AGM we have our Chairman Iwal Morris to thank.

Our sincere thanks to Mr Roger Thomas and the committee of the Pyle and Kenfig GC for the kind courtesy of their facilities for this annual event. Their warmth and hospitality is second to none and always makes for an enjoyable day. To the Steward and catering staff for an excellent Christmas dinner thanks once again.

At our last education evening Gordon Jaackaback made a presentation "Dispelling myths in golf course drainage and overcoming problems". Gordon, a South African consultant in agronomy and soil science who has worked all around the world, now lives in Tonbridge in Kent.

Gordon attracted an audience of well over 300 and his hour and a half presentation was based on his opinion that there are six major myths relating to drainage and its principals and how, in his opinion, he would rectify these problems. An interesting and topical evening. Thank you Gordon.

Congratulations are in order to the staff at our HQ at Aldwark Manor for their organisation of the recent BTME exhibition. By far the biggest show to date and I expect to hear that numbers are well up on last year. I won't dwell on the show but it would not be right if I did not take this opportunity to thank Gordon, and Marion Child for their superb organisation of the Region's coach trip. We thank you both.

Former "Birds" representative Huw Thomas has taken a similar position with John Deere agent power Cut of Carmarthens. We wish him well.

Our good wishes to Colin Murphy. Colin recently underwent surgery to remove varicose veins. He should be back on his feet now and we look forward to seeing him up and about soon.

Our latest winter evening lecture was presented by John Mosedale, a water resource manager for the National Rivers Authority. John, a local Whitchurch man, gave an interesting talk, albeit to a rather small audience and covered such topics as measuring water flow, borehole drainage, water storage and the process of applying for an abstraction licence.

An interesting evening with many tips along the lines of water to do, what not to do and when to do it.

Our thanks to John for making the effort, unlike most of our members, to the NRA and also to Pencoed College.

Dates for the diary. April 17, South Wales Seminar at Pencoed College entitled "The management of weeds, pests and diseases. Details/Application forms will be with you soon. May 1 Westurf Trade Exhibition at Long Ashton, Hrisol.

Peter Lacey

Bucks, Berks and Oxon

Once again the golfing season is upon us with spring just around the corner (I hope so because I'm freezing...).

For those of you who read last month's article you will be pleased to know that Russell is still speaking to me (Phew)

I have a good feeling about this coming year – Let's be honest it can't be any worse than last year with the summer golf day having to be cancelled because of lack of support.

There is a real positive buzz within the committee so let's hope it rubs off on the 300 members within the section (yes that's right 300). For those of you who don't know already Ray Clark from Harleyford is our new Chairman. If you haven't had the pleasure of meeting Ray then don't worry you soon will because he is planning to visit each golf club in our area – "Ray's Road show" (A bit like the Radio 1 Road show without the music.) The reason for this is to get feedback from all members, especially the invisible ones. What do you want from your section? We are at present putting together a questionnaire which should help with the gathering of information. Hopefully this will be posted with the first golf entries.

Speaking of golf days. The first is to be held on April 30 at Southfield, nr Oxford. This will be an afternoon event over 18 holes. This is also the Hayler Qualifier so lots to play for it this is to get feedback from all members, especially the invisible ones. What do you want from your section? We are at present putting together a questionnaire which should help with the gathering of information. Hopefully this will be posted with the first golf entries.

Note: Please remember that all golf days are to be subsidised this year to keep costs down. Remember
to return all entry forms as soon as possible to avoid being balloted out.
I would like to leave you with this thought: Why does it always rain West of Scotland
Lindsay Anderson 01491 578147
In the last issue mention was made of President. The Section wishes them a successful
Chairman and John Scott as the past Chairman and for all efforts as past Chairman and for all
steering given to two clubs, Greenock and Ralston. Both have raised the matter
sentiment of office bearers - that of the June 1997: President. This will be a popular
tee has been held and the office bearers - that of the
Hogg, Drumpellier; Vice Chairman, Sandy Bulloch, Ferenze; Match and
glen, Fraser Ross, Renfrew, and Sandy Bulloch, Ferenze; Match and
given to two clubs, Greenock and
Royal Lytham and St Annes should
have joined by now, Shaun
missed with the entertainment laid
have some work to do on your
Amalin for next year.
I took four days break from being
with my son Christopher who had a
have some work to do on your
time for all the well
• Unique patent adjustable

THE UNIQUE VERTI-DRAIN: Redexim®

- Unique patent adjustable parallelogram forced heave
- Simple tine design
- Leaves playing surface in superb condition

THE CHOICE OF CHAMPIONSHIP COURSE
ITS EFFECT IS SHATTERING

Charterhouse

Deep aeration on an intensively used golf course is vital if the grasses which we require are to survive.

We purchased our first Verti-Drain back in 1983 and very quickly bought a second. Both these machines have been working on a continuous basis providing excellent results and utilising only a minimum of spare parts.

Comment From Walter Woods
St. Andrews Links Golf Course supervisor

COURSES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

Trotters on the Thursday night but says he will not go next year unless he gets two lollipops and a bag of sticky marshmallows. Stevie, they’re in the post as we speak. Harrogate must be the cheapest place for drink as it cost us £9.20 for four bottles of Chinese beer when having a meal. I would like to thank Richard Webb from Tactic who was at the next table with his wife who also bought us four of these costly items. Also thanks for the prawn crackers.

Our February afternoon lecture at Swanston GC was one of the best we have had for a long time. I found it very interesting but sad to say we had only 20 people in attendance including the four speakers and one company representative. Apologies to Mike Dennis and Rigby Taylor, our hosts for the day, for the small turnout. Also thanks for the buffet they provided for us. Also to Swanston GC for use of the club and Dave/Irene for keeping us fed/watered.

So come on lads support your local companies when they go to the trou-
ble of setting up these days for you and support your committee who are working hard for all our members.

Up and coming events in ’96:
Russells Toro Visit, March 27, 11am; Quiz Night, Swanston GC, March 27; Spring Outing, Longnid-
dry, April; Annual Dance, Kilspindie House Hotel, Dec 7. Details will be with your shortly of all these Section events.

Anything I have missed will be in the April report so if you have any-
thing to let me know give me a call: Home 01875 870485 or Mobile 0802 623005. Anything about anything or any ideas about Section activities.

Congratulations to David. (First Assistant at Kingsknowe GC) and Jackie on the birth of baby Amy (8lb 12oz) who was the first baby to be born in Scotland in 1996. Mother and baby are doing well.

Chris Yeaman

Scottish Region

All members of the Scottish Region were saddened to hear of the death of Dick Aitken, probably the last of the original trade members of his era who were wholehearted supporters of greenkeepers and the respective associations throughout the years.

The Region extends its sincerest condolences to Richard and Grace and all their family.

Elliott Small

North Wales

Once again I find myself penning the Section notes – what goes around comes around! Anyway, I would like to wish you all a Happy and Prosper-
our New Year.

The Section recently held a one day Turfgrass & Seed Identification Seminar which was well attended and prove very popular. Our thanks go to Phil Davies of Mommersteg and the Welsh College of Horticultu-
re for all their help.

Future Events: March 14-17 Trip to Holland (Places still available); April 11, North Wales v North West Match; May 14, Spring Competition Bull Bay GC Anglesey. Members will be circulated with details shortly.

Paully, as most of you are now aware the purchase of Carden Park by St David’s Hotels Ltd has now been completed. All of the existing greenstaff including myself as Course Manager will be remaining and look forward to the exciting times ahead. Hopefully this should “put to bed” the numerous – some damaging, some ridiculous and some downright amusing rumours that have sur-
rounded both myself and others dur-
ing what has been a difficult period.

Should any members have news or need advice on any matters, please contact on the following numbers: Home 01352 786042; Office 01829 731176; Mobile 0802 310576 or at 7 Caef Helyg, Pentre Halllyn, Holywell, Chwyd CH8 8AJ.

Andy Campbell

Sheffield

Firstly, on behalf of the Sheffield Section I would like to thank Barry Heany for representing the Section in a successful year as BIGGA Chair-
man. Barry even finished his year in office on one leg for a month as he broke his leg on New Year’s Day. That was a good start to the year.

Wasn’t it Barry?

I asked Barry to sum up his year as Chairman and he said. “The friendli-
ness I received everywhere and from everyone was amazing. The past year has been the quickest year of my life. When I came my final speech at Har-
rogate I just couldn’t believe it was the end of my year in office. I couldn’t have done the job as well without the support of Wortley Golf Club and my staff which have both been behind me 100%”

On February 1 we held our winter lecture at Rotherham GC which was attended by 68 of our members which was a record for our Section.

Our thanks go to Duncan McGilvray, Course Manager at Letch-
worth GC for a very interesting talk on communications within the golf club.

Congratulations go to Kevin Kell-
sall on his appointment as Head Greenkeeper at Doncaster GC. Kevin returns to the Section after working at Burnham on Crouch in Essex. Good luck Kevin.

Our next lecture will be on April 4 and will be a machinery demonstra-
tion given by Annazone at Rotherham GC at 2.30pm.

A few dates to note. Our annual competition will be held at Abbey-
dale GC on July 9 at 10.30am. Appar-
ently the last time we held a section competition at Abbeydale was July 1978.

Our Autumn competition will be held at Hickleton GC on September 2 at 1.30pm.

New members this month include Mark Dresser and Tony Spencer, For-
est Pines GC; Timothy Gittans and Andrew May, Notts GC; Stephen Wheeler, Brough GC; Ian Rathbone, Fore and Totley; Billy Cooke, Wheat-
ley GC; Gary Marsh, Hickleton GC; Roger Naylor, Phoenix GC; Martin Liversedge, Sickleton GC; Pat Duff, Sherwood GC and Trade member George Brown, Tamrac.

John Lax

North West

Nine inches of snow outside and Bert Cross is in sunny Zambia for a

...
Northern
First of all I would like to welcome the following new members to our Section; Christopher Hill, Leeds Council; Craig Norford, Temple Newsam GC; Richard Hartas, Aldwark Manor GC; Adam Bannett, Woodsmoor Hall GC; Edward Nutt, the Oaks GC; Kevin Lee, Crownest Park GC; Neil Burnley, Beverley GC; David Chadwick, Garforth GC; David Nottle, Bridlington Links; Alastair Cobbett, Mid Yorkshire GC; Brian Carr (recognise this chap from somewhere?), Chapel Allerton Lawn Tennis Club; Steven Kitchen, Elland GC; Dan Lindley, Hanging Heaton GC; Derek Chennells, Garforth GC; David Kirk, Moorview Golf Centre; Richard Hollingworth, Rudding Park GC and Sam Wardill, Outlane GC. I hope you will participate in the golf and social events in the area.

On the education front, the first of the European Tour Management Courses were held in the last month. I attended one in Chester and found it to be interesting, informative and also great fun. It was also an opportunity to meet many members of the Association attending this type of event and delegates ranged from the more mature to the up and coming whiz kids. I understand the course in York had been just as successful and it is hoped to develop these further next year.

For those of you interested in the NVQs, Pat Murphy is drawing up a list of people who wish to be involved. This is appropriately.

NVQs, Pat Murphy is drawing up a list of people who wish to be involved. This is appropriately.

East Midlands
While you are all reading this month’s article I shall be sunning myself in the Sates and playing plenty of golf – hopefully Bindleying the Americans.

Congratulations to Carl Charlberian on his appointment as Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Scraptoft GC. I’m sure all members would like to wish Carl all the best in his new position.

All congratulations are extended to Gavin Robson for the addition of a baby son to his family. I’m sure all members must have enjoyed this year’s BTME. It was nice to see a few more Section members there. It just goes to show that things get BIGGA and better every year.

By the end of this month all members should have received their entry forms for the forthcoming Spring Tournament and the annual singles and pairs K/O competitions. Please try to support your section by entering these as you possibly can. Also enclosed is this year’s fixture card, which has again been kindly sponsored by Amenity Land Services and Scots UK. Any member who has not received their form can give me a ring and I will gladly forward a copy.

Antony Bindley

East of England
I have just returned from BTME at Harrogate and the exhibition seems to be getting better every year.

It is the ideal showcase for the products of the manufacturers and to talk at first hand with product representatives. For myself it was the bumping into so many friends that makes the show. Then there are the seminars, at one of which our East of England Chairman, David Walden, took stage with the experience of winning the Miracle Professional of the Year competition and what differences winning had made to his career. I asked him what the differences were and he said, “I was on cloud nine for two to three months, there was lots of fuss which died off. The US trip was the best experience and it been good for my career.”

The total membership for our section now stands at an all time high of 119 due to a recent influx of students from Riseholme. May I welcome all the new members to our Section who are:- R. Cresswell, S. White, D. Anderson, A. Wire, R. Heapworth, J. Molland, D. Reeves, M. Gamble, L. Bradwell, D. Garffit, D. Glee, M. Anderson, C. French and A. Eaton.

Any more information on job moves, promotions or etc if I can help with anything call me on 01773 260297.

Graeme Macdonald

Mid Anglia
A Health and Safety update was given by John Allibutt to the Section in January which was very useful to members. He gave information with regards to the use of carbaryl which has been restricted in certain aspects. If anyone needs more information on this please phone John’s company, I’m sure they’ll fill you in fully on the changes.

Harrogate was once again successful and if was good once again to see so many members in attendance and to hear John Wells speaking at the conference. John was also presented with his Master Greenkeeper Certifi cate and I’m sure all you saw the picture in last month’s magazine.

You should have all received now an entry form for the fourball tournament which must be completed by March 15, and a separate form for the usual tournaments. Please photo copy this second form so you have enough for the Spring, Summer and Autumn Tournaments should wish to enter. If you have not received the necessary forms please check with BIGGA HQ to make sure you are included in the Mid Anglia Section. Gerald Bruce, our Secretary, can only send the appropriate details to those members who are actually registered on the computer printout from headquarters.

Our first golf event is on March 29 at John O’Gaunt GC. Entry forms should be sent to Richard Saunders in the usual way enclosing a cheque for £20.

The Texas Scramble this year has been arranged for December 3 at Dunstable Downs GC.

A match against the Midland Section has been scheduled for September 2 and will take place at Whittingham Heath GC, Lichfield, Staffs – the format being 10 a side. Lectures/Course Visits are currently being arranged for 1997 as are golf fixtures.

I would like, on behalf of the Section, to wish Jim Burton, every success in his new position with Kings Horticulture and Kevin Todd, good luck in his new position at Beds & County Golf Club as Deputy Course Manager.

Finally I would like to welcome the following new members from Mentmore GC to the Section. They are:- Daniel Gilbert, Daniel James, David Edwards and Eamon Slattery.

Paul Lockett

THE ONE THING WHICH WOULD MAKE THE JOB SO MUCH EASIER IS

"If it only rained at night" — Alan Rowney, Gay Hill GC
What people are saying about the BIGGA Supervisory Management Courses – to find out more contact Ken Richardson on 01347 838581. More information in next month’s Greenkeeper International

“Very enjoyable and beneficial”
“Brilliant – enjoyed every minute”
“Extremely worthwhile”

“An excellent introduction”
“200 greenkeepers can’t be wrong”
“What a confidence booster”

“Excellent value”
“Fast, punchy, entertaining, fun, informative”

“Let’s have more”

Best course yet

The purpose of this letter is to pass on my feelings regarding the Supervisory Management Course which I attended last October at Elmwood College in Fife. My immediate response to reading the application notice in Greenkeeper International was that it seemed such good value for money – £50 for a two-day course – which included meals and accommodation (£150 for non-members who find it difficult to justify their membership fee!).

The subjects covered during the course related to the abilities necessary to create enthusiasm, leadership and motivation (read any advertisement in Greenkeeper International and you will find these immortal words). On arriving and meeting the rest of the class, which mainly consisted of assistants (the gaffers presumably know it all already!) I found everybody to be very pleasant and friendly.

Enter our lecturer, Rod Clark, warm and cheerful, and in no time at all he had set a comfortable pace that was appreciated by the entire class. The learning process had begun and, indeed, it continued over the course of the next two days. From the presentation of the hand-outs, to the plentiful supply of note pads and even the sharpened pencils everything was considered to be very professional and was appreciated by all.

I found the whole experience to be extremely worthwhile and I would like to thank the BIGGA Education Department and the Golden and Silver patrons for what I feel was one of the best courses I have ever attended.

Ronald Bunting, Head Greenkeeper, Kilmacolm GC

PS Why is there no Scottish venues arranged for 1996?

Editor’s Note: The Scottish Region asked for their courses to be held in October ’95. Further courses planned in October ’96/Spring ’97.

I’ve been Franked

Two days in February I was given the opportunity to become Franked.

You may well say what is he on about being Franked. Well for you people out there who do not have a clue what I am on about I will let you into a secret.

Frank Newberry runs a training and consultancy business and one of his contracts is with BIGGA.

Just recently I was on one of his management courses held in Brighton. It was spread over two very full but highly informative days.

At 9am, after we checked into our rooms at the superb Old Ship Hotel we gathered into our group of 14 pupils and found our seats in the conference room (class room). Frank then introduced himself and we were away.

Over the next 48 hours I found out more about myself as a manager than I have in the last three years. Not only do you learn about management but you also get a small insight into body language and public speaking. The majority of the time is taken up learning new techniques to make you a more confident manager.

Team work features very highly throughout the course as does the art of conversation. As part of the course you finish up by making a presentation which includes putting together a 30 second video which everybody found immense fun to do.

At the end of the two days everyone had got something out of the course so this can only be a good thing. What also makes it a better deal is that it only cost my club around £50. This can only come about with generous support that BIGGA receives from its Golden and Silver Key members.

Frank runs a variety of courses for BIGGA so don’t miss out on an opportunity to get yourself Franked.

Jonathan Budd
Deputy Head Greenkeeper, Ham Golf Club

Stimulating

Having recently attended the Regional Supervisory Management Course at Brighton I feel I must write and congratulate you on the interesting and stimulating two days.

As well as introducing new management techniques Frank Newberry’s infectious enthusiasm ensures that all participants left the sessions with increased confidence in their own management ability.

Running these courses locally and at such low cost (thanks to Golden Key contributors) speaks volumes for the Association’s Education Initiative.

Roger Tydeman
Selsdon, Surrey
Sowing the seeds for

What does it take for new grass seed to reach the stage where it is ready to be launched on to market place? Gerard Van 't Klooster, pictured right, reports.

The development of a new grass variety takes 15 years and can take the breeder around the world in the search for the perfect species for certain conditions. In breeding groups of plants of the same species are used in order to achieve as great an amount of variation as possible – variation is the most important element in breeding.

Plants living in natural conditions are affected by a large number of stress factors such as climate and environment. The origin for the genus Lolium has not been precisely pinpointed. It is thought to have come from the Mediterranean but another possibility is that it came to the UK from West Asia.

Lolium perenne (Perennial ryegrass) is an especially important species in developing lawn grasses and knowledge about the best possible growing area for individual species and biotypes, as well as the borders within which these grasses occur, provides the breeder with information for targeted breeding. It is up to the breeder to achieve the best combination in the new varieties and you can find grass species growing naturally all over the world.

The most important species in breeding cool season grasses like perennial ryegrass (Lolium perenne), smooth stalked meadow grass (Poa pratensis), fine fescue (Festuca rubra spp) and Bent grass (Agrostis) it is ideal to learn more about, and collect, the good plants with a winter hardiness found in Scandinavia and Eastern Europe.

Likewise those with a good drought tolerance which are found in Italy and France or good wear tolerance which are found on paths etc.

The collection of plants occurs at one spot where between 30 and 50 ecotypes of a species are collected to ensure that all possible combinations and specialities from that site.

This is the initial selection. The big difference between this and collecting for a gene bank is that gene bank officials like to collect all the genes from a site while the breeder looks for specific genes.

The entire plant is considered and not just its seed production – the speed of growth, the amount of tillers on a plant and the speed of spread are all important.

Once at the nursery of the breeding station the various types are selected and divided into three plants and a clone is planted out in the greenhouse. This constitutes the second selection. In the early spring we select the fast growers from the greenhouse and plant outside. The plants are harvested in groups of half-sibling families – mother is known, father is not – or as total populations. This decision depends on such factors as the amount of seed and the breeding schedule.

The next year the seed comes up for variety testing and is assessed as half-sibling family. After undergoing one or two years of variety testing in turf tri-

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Buying time is a whole new ball game

Force Limagrain introduce Fortiva – a new and unique concept in applied seed technology. Three fungicides and a biostimulant have been locked into a unique polymer coating to give fast, disease free establishment.

More turf, quicker turf Fortiva significantly increases the rate of grass establishment. Fusarium and Pythium control increase plant survival, producing longer-lasting turf.

Extended renovation period Fortiva has a unique blend of ingredients that increases the grass seeds ability to produce plants. This allows earlier and later renovation, and improves success from ‘in-season’ over-seeding.

Technically proven Extensive independent disease and establishment trials over 4 years have shown significant benefits, even where disease has not occurred.

Versatile Fortiva has been trialled on perennial ryegrass, red fescue, smooth-stalked meadow grass and bent grass.
als, a selection is made and the best plants of one group are placed with the best group of another in turf plots around a foot square in size. In every trial there are some control varieties and there are three plots of every sample. The same tests are carried out in the Netherlands, Germany and France whenever possible.

In these turf tests the breeder gets data for shoot density, wear tolerance, winter hardiness, spring performance and the general turf impression. By making comparisons from the trials it is possible to decide upon the best sample for different climates or on which samples are best on all trial sites.

After these have been selected we bring the best together in a new isolation. This is to prevent pollin from other samples corrupting these elite samples. We use rye for isolations as during the flowering period of May and June it is two metres tall, much higher than the grass culms and it therefore acts as a barrier for the pollen and prevents it from blowing about.

The best populations are harvested that year and the seed will be used on more trial sites in bigger plots. By now the elite populations have proved that they are better than the control varieties which are existing varieties. For a seed company the new variety must be better than the best variety the company already has.

Seed yield is also very important and this is also tested on the new varieties while disease resistance is another important consideration.

For some diseases – brown patch, Pythium, Dollar Spot – there are laboratory tests or for others – Crownrust – there are greenhouse tests but the best way to find out the disease resistance is from the data of the trials. The only problem then is that the breeder never knows when a disease will strike. Therefore you need more trial sites. There is the same problem testing for winter hardiness but you can solve it by a trial in a mountain area.

For specialised uses we use a machine that “plays football” for sports fields and when golf use is the main goal we use a green mower and cut back to four or five millimetres. This is even possible for some strains of perennial ryegrass and looking into the future we see a place for perennial ryegrass on the golf course.

In the USA and Germany it is already quite normal to use perennial in the mixtures but in the United Kingdom we are afraid to use the words perennial ryegrass. People there think of the 5-23 types of perennial ryegrass and forget that there have been real amenity types of this species in existence for 25 years now – see the STRI Turf Grass Seed List. Some of the better varieties can exist under close mowing, therefore are suitable for fairways, tees and even the greens. Perennial ryegrass is excellent for overseeding so it can rival annual meadowgrass.

What about a good equal green with perennial against a patchy green with bent and Poa annua? It would be nice to use the best grass but not just because our father and our father’s father used it but because under the circumstances the species is the best.

After three years of testing the breeder can make a decision. If a new variety is better than the existing variety the first multiplication can start up – a planted multiplication for a small harvest of about 30-70kg or seed. Part of this will be used for the next generation of the variety, a part for applications in the different countries of interest and a part for storage. In a controlled storage room the seed can be stored for 15-25 years. From planting to harvesting of the variety it takes 16 months.

The official application takes two to six years and in that time the multiplication to certified seed takes place.

Gerard Van ‘t Klooster is Head of Breeding for Barenbrug in Holland.
A new method of anchoring divots to aid rapid root recovery was shown at BTME for the first time.

**Turf Tie Divot Anchors** were designed primarily for fairways but can also be used on tees to promote recovery of mature turf.

One of the discussion points raised at Harrogate was that golfers could anchor the turf themselves after taking a substantial divot after loading up. They're designed primarily for fairways and can also be used on tees to promote recovery of mature turf.

Anchors in the locker room. Their use during the winter/spring period will help to reduce reseeding. The results of STRI tests using this technique will be released later.

Damage caused by moles and rabbits can be reduced thanks to Rentokil's applicator which can apply Phostoxin tablets quicker and more safely. The applicator is lightweight and made of clear plastic so the tablets can be seen being dispensed with a push button action.

After placing the tablet in the hole, the tablet will react with atmospheric moisture to produce the lethal gas that will spread through the runs and burrows.

For further information contact John Dickson, Rentokil Industrial Products, Rentokil Ltd, Fencourt, East Grinstead, West Sussex Tel: 01342 833022.

**Tildenet Ltd** has produced a portable green which can be assembled in an hour, relocated in half an hour and doesn't need mowing.

The Epic is a six metre by 10 metre structure covered in a green netting simulating a green. With bunkers, contours and a flag it has all the features of a green and is ideal for practice. It doesn't cause damage to the grass as its net covering allows air and light to penetrate.

**Force Limagrain** has introduced Fortiva, a new seed coating which it claims will cut the time needed to renovate greens and tees by at least two to three weeks.

In independent tests by the STRI Fortiva improved new grass cover by an average of 30% after six weeks.

In a second, on-going, test it kept turf seedling disease down to a minimum. Fortiva contains three fungicides each having a different way of attacking seedling disease. It also contains a biostimulant to help improve natural early season grass growth.

**Rentokil** has introduced a new soil-less top dressing – Fendress Greentop on to the market. It is a new top dressing for fine turf which offers greenkeepers the benefits of "state of the art" green technology. The humus content is neither peat nor soil but a specially selected composted greenwaste thoroughly cleaned and screened by a screening system for which a patent is pending. This is then blended with a selected Leighton Buzzard sand and lightweight sand.

Anyone seeking further information should contact Rentokil Dressings Ltd, Market Harborough Tel: 01858 464346.

**John Deere** celebrated the 10th anniversary of its grounds care equipment business in the UK and Ireland with the launch of a new Roberine mower.

Aimed at the golf course and local authority user the self-propelled 1510 wide-area mower has a 2.85m cutting width and a mowing capacity of around 3ha/hr.

The five rear-discharge rotary cutting discs are split across a front-mounted three disc deck and a twin-disc unit offset to the right of the machine. This allows the mower to reach difficult sites more easily, for example under bushes, alongside ditches and streams.

The 1510 features at 41hp Peugeot diesel engine, power steering and hydraulic mower drive. Options include a comfort cab and four-wheel drive. Basic price of a new 1510 mower is £28,151.

**Fen Turf Dressings Ltd** has introduced a new soil-less top dressing – Fendress Greentop to on the market. It is a new top dressing for fine turf which offers greenkeepers the benefits of "state of the art" green technology. The humus content is neither peat nor soil but a specially selected composted greenwaste thoroughly cleaned and screened by a screening system for which a patent is pending. This is then blended with a selected Leighton Buzzard sand and lightweight sand.

Anyone seeking further information should contact Rentokil Dressings Ltd, Market Harborough Tel: 01858 464346.
Both offer high levels of control of a wide range of problem weeds including clover but Bas-tion T shows particular strength on Slender Speedwell and Plantains while Greenor is outstanding on Daisy and Buttercup. "Product trials show that both herbicides are highly selective and have excellent grass safety," said Clive Williams of Rigby Taylor. "With recommendations for use on new grass as early as two months after sow- ing, either product can be used over the entire area of turf even on worn patches that have recently been renovated."

Rigby Taylor has also launched Mascot Breaker, an advanced wetting agent for use on sports and amenity turfgrass situations. It has been formulated using the latest generation of surfac-tant technology and has been designed to provide a rapid and long lasting effect on Dry Patch, drought stressed turf and water repellent soils. Independent trials have proved significant increases in both the speed and depth of infiltration of water through thatch and compacted soils giving excellent re-wetting of the treated turf.

It is available in liquid, granular and tablet forms.

Echo has introduced The Arc for the 96 season. A 51 inch shaft gives extra reach and together with the 90 degree articulated gearbox reduces the need for standing on ladders.

The 20 inch double reciprocating blades can be set through 15 different angles from 0-90 degrees to allow the tops of hedges to be cut from ground level.

It is powered by a 23.6cc dual piston ring Echo engine with a commercial air filtration system, electronic ignition and diaphragm carburettor. Cost is £595 plus VAT.

Gannon has introduced the AE-40 Aera-Vator as an addition to the Aera-Vator range for the smaller compact tractor of 13-20hp. The principal of operation is as

The Grainskeeper is an excellent tool for maintaining artificial play-surfacing in top condition. The Grainskeeper is hydrau-lically driven and can be mounted on the front on Huxley, Toro, Jacobsen and John Deere greensmowers as well as on the rear or suitable compact trac-tors, Cushman Trucksters, Toro Workman trucks and Huxtruk Turf Vehicles.
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Aussie rules The Duke's Course

Australian Owen Browne is the Course Manager at St Andrews latest course the inland Dukes Course.

There are two things unusual about the latest St Andrews golf course to join the most illustrious stable in golf. The first is that, whisper it, The Duke's Course is not a links. It's not even particularly close to the sea being at least four or five miles from the famous piece of land shared by the Old, the New, the Jubilee, the Eden and the Strathryan courses and the second is that the Course Manager, Owen Browne, is not Scottish. He's not even British, but an Australian who until a couple of years ago was an assistant greenkeeper in his native Melbourne.

It may appear to be the greenkeeping equivalent of Coals to Newcastle but Owen has earned his chance having worked his way up from picking up stones when construction was in its early stages through the growing in period and was Head Greenkeeper by the time the Duke of York performed the opening ceremony just before The Open Championship at its more famous near neighbour – why do we always end up mentioning Neighbours in anything to do with Australia?

"It is something I could just dream about. It has exceeded my expectations I mean two years ago I was still an assistant greenkeeper and now I've leapt up to one of the top jobs and it's very exciting," says 29 year-old Owen. "I came over originally for a cousin's wedding in Ireland not intending to get a job on a golf course but I'd heard about the work of Thomson Woolveridge at St Andrews, came over and asked about a job."

The course is the first in the United Kingdom to be designed by five times Open Champion Peter Thomson, whose Australian link was carried on by Owen. Built on parkland a few miles inland of St Andrews at Craigtown The Duke's proffers many views of the famous old town from its high vantage points and is a course which gives the most accomplished of player an exacting test as well as an
I'm a big fan of the greenkeeper education system in Australia. It is all done in great depth'

alternative to traditionalist Andrews links golf. "I came to work as a labourer and picked up stones for the first three or four weeks," said Owen.

"I was later put in charge or growing in and worked closely with the construction supervisor who directed me in how to work in the Thomson Woolveridge style of construction," he explained.

In the next phase Owen worked with the landscaping team using knowledge acquired as a gardener in Melbourne to carry out work. "I became Head Greenkeeper in November '94 but they didn't just hand me the job. It was advertised in Greenkeeper International and I believe a good set of candidates applied. When the course was handed over to the Old Course Hotel my title was changed to Course Manager."

A look at Owen's career takes us to the other side of the world and Melbourne where he first got an apprenticeship as a gardener with a local authority. "I was awarded a scholarship to go over to New Zealand and spent a year working for another authority doing everything from tree surgery to nursery and forestry work and turf management.

"When I got back I was more interested in getting involved in turf management and got a job as Employee in Charge (Head Greenkeeper) at City of Northcote nine hole municipal course. After four and a half years I realised I didn't really know enough to go anywhere or have the experience to manage a course so I decided to take a step back and go to Kingston Heath which is ranked highly in Australia as an assistant."

"I spent two years there and studied under Graeme Rand, recognised as one of the leading Course Superintendents in Australia and did a two year course in Course Management...

"I'm a big fan of the greenkeeper education system in Australia. It is all done in great depth. You'll concentrate on nutrition and only nutrition and are not distracted by anything else at the same time," he explains.

The new Duke's Course is typical of the Thomson Woolveridge style of design. "Their courses are noted for their fairway mounding and the mounding off to the sides of the fairways. It is links style in a parkland setting and we have the pot style bunkering set into the mounds. The bunkers don't stand out but just sit in the mounds like you would find on a links."

Owen has a staff of seven including a mechanic and they will be heavily involved in putting in the drainage system as the course settles down.

"The principle is based on the run-off system of drainage. The water sheds off from the fairway and is then collected or spread out into the rough. We do have a lot more drainage to put into the course over the next few years. You can't do it on a clay course effectively and properly without mixing in clay with the drainage material. It just clogs the system after a while."

"You need to have the course there and then put your drains into the worst spots when you know where they are otherwise you might be putting in drains you don't need," said Owen.

Surprisingly the drought which might have conspired to help make the course miss it's official opening, on the Sunday prior to the Open, didn't slow the final stages of the course's construction. "The drought didn't cause particular problems but a headache was caused by the fact we couldn't transfer enough water from our bottom dam to our top dam quickly enough. We were worried we might run out because for every days water we used we needed two and a half days to pump it to that dam. We do have our own bores and a wall to wall Water-ration irrigation system." Owen's work at The Duke's has brought him into contact with one of Australia's sporting icons. "Peter Thomson was a legend a hero to me and the first time I met him he knew me - he'd obviously asked someone who I was. He came into the room and said is anyone here I haven't met yet and there was a dozen guys from the construction crew and I stuck my hand up a bit sheepishly. He said 'ah yes you're Owen aren't you?' That's the sort of style he's got. He makes you feel very comfortable."

"On a work front, he tells you what he wants and if it doesn't fit into the maintenance practices or is not possible to implement he will agree to change it. He's a great listener." He even helps prevent Owen for becoming too homesick.

"When he comes over from Australia he always brings an Aussie Rules football magazine for me and sometimes a video as well."

One of the highlights of Owen's career so far was the opening of the course by HRH Duke of York just prior to The Open last year. "I was very nervous that morning and I don't normally get nervous. There was nothing which could have gone wrong but I was really tense. It went well though and I was standing on a grassy mound clutching my girlfriend's hand and I was almost squeezing the life out of it." Owen has integrated into the local community so well his girlfriend, Sandra, is the sister of Mark Brunton, Course Manager of the New Course at St Andrews.

He also does his bit for the education of young British greenkeepers. "Ian Bishop from Elmwood brings a bus load of students to look over the course and it's great for me because it means I can improve my public speaking a bit."
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Temple Golf Club has many progressive ideas of management both on and off the golf course.

Temple Golf Club sits high above the River Thames between Henley, Marlow and Maidenhead and when it comes to progressive management and consideration of conservation is also head and shoulders above most other golf clubs. Head Greenkeeper Martin Gunn and his Chairman of Green, Malcolm Peake, have produced a blueprint which should provide the continuity to ensure the club's continuing and sustained improvement.

Among their work has been the introduction of a “natural” course management technique, a sustained commitment to conservation and the environment, the production of a regular newsletter, the division of responsibility among the greenkeeping team and reconstruction work on the course itself while they also provide input to the R&A Turf Advisory and Research Working party chaired by Nick Park.

Martin took over in '91 having been First Assistant before that while Malcolm, who owns a retail business in nearby Maidenhead and was asked to join the club's Board of Management with a view to being Chairman of Green.
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A report had been done by the STRI in 1987 but little action was taken on the strength of it and when another report was commissioned Jeff Perris of the STRI said things had got worst since the first report.

"I knew things weren't right," said Malcolm by way of explanation as to why he sought out a job most self respecting golf club member wouldn't touch with a bunker rake.

"I've learned a lot since then and the Board invited me to serve a second term," he explained.

"The issues that Malcolm was shouting about gave me the carrot which I needed to grab. He was right in his concerns about the golf course but didn't know why, and I knew we could work together to improve things," said Martin.

Temple Golf Club had always been well presented but there had been very little hollow tining or aeration done on the course.

"We were well aware that the course would have to become a lot worst before it got better while at the same time it would require more investment," said Martin.

The new team would therefore be in the uncomfortable position of having a course not looking good but costing more money to get it to that state. Questions were asked.

"I use a very natural management technique with no overseeding and the greens have become stronger and stronger with bents coming back up to about 60%," explained Martin.

"The initial response was so negative it was unbelievable – 'this is not a nature park, it's a golf course' – but once they started to see species like orchids increase in number the same people who had been complaining at the beginning were ringing me up in the evening and saying that they had seen people walking about where the orchids were."

They are involved with conservation groups including the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Naturalist Trust and the Windsor and Maidenhead Urban Wildlife Group which produced...
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DRIVE IT TO WORK

a comprehensive report of the course in 1992 while they are also involved with David Stubbs and his European Ecology Unit.

“We have a tree, well out of the way of play, which is dead but has some wonderful fungi growing on it and woodpecker holes. There is absolutely no reason to cut it down and to me is a good example of golf and conservation working together. I’ve taken a group of 30 students from Hungary round the course. The conservation work has helped us to receive numerous grants over the years.”

Martin also encourages students to visit the course to experience a working golf club and learn from the management techniques he employs.

He and Malcolm also produce a regular report for the members which keeps everyone informed as to work on the golf course as well as giving more general information about greenkeeping matters.

“The idea is to improve communication because if members know when something is being done and why it is being done they are more likely to accept it,” said Malcolm.

The pair work extremely well together and make a point of visiting other golf clubs every three or four months just to talk to the Head Greenkeeper or Course Manager and find out how they see things and how they manage elements of their job.

“We’ve had a day at Woodhall Spa, a day at Sunningdale and, of course, Lindrick while at Royal County Down I organised a short visit to their Head Greenkeeper who was a marvellous man,” said Malcolm.

Nick Park also fixed me up with a day at Valderrama while I was in Spain. I had the opportunity to play but frankly it was too interesting and I used up two rolls of film just taking in how they operate there. You can learn from every course you visit.”

Another scheme which Martin employs at Temple involves each of his five man team are trained and have designated area of responsibility on the course over and above their normal duties.

Deputy Head Greenkeeper

‘Improving communication: If members know when something is being done and why, they are more likely to accept it’

Gareth Austin is responsible for Woodlands, Boundaries and Amenity Horticulture; First Assistant Ian Hewitt for Equipment Repairs, Servicing and Maintenance, Data Recording and Spares; Assistant Russell Clark Irrigation, Installation, Repairs, Servicing and Maintenance; Assistant Saunders yet to be confirmed but possibly First Aid, Health and Safety while Trainee Tony Taylor is already interested in Engine Maintenance.

Having developed the staff and course management structures Martin and Malcolm turned their attention to the layout of the course itself.

“Raymond Oppenheimer
They won’t wriggle out of this one...

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A Temple to excellence

I'm getting comments from members that they are now able to play chip and run shots and going back to playing shots they haven't done for many years. It is much more exciting.

All the construction work has been carried out in-house and at every phase, in fact, for all the significant work carried out on the course it is photographed and put in an album.

"This is very useful. We found never allowed any change at Temple without prior consultation with a golf course architect among them Henry Cotton, a former professional of Temple GC, Frank Fennick and Donald Steel. It was only natural for us to contact Donald when we had reached this stage of our development.

I rang him not just to talk about architecture but also because he has been Chairman of Green at Denham for many years," explained Malcolm.

"He came and asked what we wanted to do and we said that we wanted him to review the course generally. We decided to walk round the course and he would ask us on the tee what we thought and he would either agree or not as the case may be.

"Then he did us a report hole-by-hole which is now our long term plan of what we want to achieve.

"The more I talked to Donald the more I came to realise that we had some superb short par fours. We wanted to extend the course where possible, but not if it might be to the detriment of a hole.

"Much of the work involved changing the shapes of the greens or, more accurately, returning them to how Willie Park Jnr had designed them in the first place.

"We are trying to return to Willie Park Jnr's design, and particularly the bunkering, and that is where Donald helped us," said Martin.

"It’s quite exciting as we are getting quite close to it now. Reshaping the greens have given us an immense variety of new pin placements which some of the members haven't even seen yet," added Malcolm.

"Very few courses reach their true potential because they are prevented by the very people who misguided seek to improve them.

Very few courses reach their true potential because they are prevented by the very people who misguided seek to improve them. After the first two years that we need comparisons. People would conveniently forget how bad something once was and by showing them the photographs they could actually see the improvement which had been made. I was getting bored with people saying 'I'm sure that was better before,'" said Malcolm.

The album and the monthly report to the Board will give the people who follow Martin and Malcolm a total history of what has gone on at the Club and they way it has developed and provide the continuity which is missing at many golf clubs.

"Very few courses reach their true potential because they are prevented from doing so by the very people who misguided seek to improve them. It is a damming indictment of the golfing population when you consider that many of these people, in the form of committees, are responsible for the day to day running of the nation's golf courses.

It is hardly surprising that a lot of courses, many of them high profile, are in a state of decline," said Malcolm.

Martin adds a cautionary note to his colleagues not fortunate enough to have the continuity he enjoys.

"I believe that a lot of Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers are not going to survive this period unless the problems of continuity are solved. People are setting objectives almost on a year to year basis and you can't survive like that. You need direction which stretches for a period of time."

Martin has nothing but praise for his own Board of Management which has backed him to the hilt.

"I have seen a marked increase in my budgets in machinery and labour and we now have a different set of objectives. When I first took over the objective was 'To Maintain the Golf Course' now it is 'To Maintain, Improve and Take Forward the Golf Course' which is a very different concept."

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**Equipment list**

- John Deere 1950 Tractor
- Iseki 537 Tractor
- Iseki 4270 Tractor
- Charterhouse 2m Level Spiker
- Jacobsen 5 Ram lifts with Charterhouse 2m Level
- Jacobsen Hydraulic Rangers Spiker
- Chiltern MX 4055 Front End Loader
- Chiltern RA 90 Front Linkage Kit
- Lewis Lugger 22 Front End Loader
- Lewis Landlord 400 Backhoe
- Lewis Landlord 400 Backhoe Weeks 2.5 Tonne Hydraulic Tip Trailer
- Fraser FC 68.5 Tonne Hydraulic Tip Trailer
- Fairway Brush
- Cushman Utility Truckster
- Jacobsen 2310 Utility Truckster
- Cushman Sitter
- Saral Roller
- Cushman Brush
- Smithco Low Profile Sprayer
- Jacobsen Hydraulic Top Dresser
- Cushman Low Transfer Trailer
- Toro 3100
- Toro 3000
- Toro GM3
- John Deere 2653
- Beaver T12
- Jacobsen Turf Cat
- Toro Greensair
- Two Etesia PSE 2 Stoke Mowers
- Honda IIRB 275 QXE Rotary Mower
- Gravelly Pro Rotary Mower
- Two Knapsack Blowers
- Assorted Chainsaws
- Assorted Strimmers and Reciprocators
- Cylinder Grinder
- Welder
- Post Drill
- Workshop Tools and Tool Kit

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**A Temple to excellence**

- "Very few courses reach their true potential because they are prevented by the very people who misguided seek to improve them."

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**The one thing which would make the job so much easier is**

"If rabbits had to cross a road to get here" - Martin Gunn, Temple GC

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56 GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL March 1996
An all new model from the ground up to keep your greens down.

19 HP Kubota Diesel engine.

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Lightweight construction and wider tyres mean one of the lightest footprints in its class. Combine this with increased ground clearance and the Greens King V is not just user friendly but 'greens friendly' as well.

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It's nice to know somethings stay the same.

To find out why the all new Greens King V is THE PROFESSIONAL'S CHOICE ON TURF contact your local dealer or telephone: 01536 417777
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"Costs are reasonable and we'll be able to keep on top with the grass cutting – the members will benefit and the GREEN ISSUE will be a thing of the past!"
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Roland Taylor takes a look at developments in grass cutting equipment.

The increasing popularity of golf over the last decade has brought with it many changes, especially in the way courses are now maintained. The higher the profile any sport receives, the greater the demand for improved facilities.

The UK golfer who watches televised matches from the USA now expects his home course to look as good the one his counterpart plays on across the pond. For the local club, the nett result is a demand for manicured fairways and neatly trimmed rough.

This metamorphosis has brought about a fast-moving development in grass cutting equipment. While Budding’s original principle has changed very little, a technological revolution has taken place in the design of engines, drives and components. The grass machinery market is highly competitive and today’s manufacturers have had to invest in computer-aided-design and control systems throughout
We first started using John Deere equipment when we purchased 22 Greens Mower before we hosted the Irish Open in 1991 and 1992. One of the big considerations for us was parts support. With a major tournament there is no time to wait. I can easily say that anytime a John Deere machine has gone down since then we've had it up and running again in 24 hours – which is marvellous.

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Nick Faldo won both the 1991 and 1992 Irish Opens held at Killarney.

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their factories in order to keep up with the race. The result of all this activity is a range of hi-tech mowers with new concepts and innovations aimed at giving the greenkeeper equipment that will produce the style of course his greens committee expects.

The self-contained grass cutting unit is gradually supersed- ing the tractor on many courses. These state-of-the-art machines incorporate a host of benefits designed to be user friendly and give high output. Electronics and computers now monitor cutting performance; built-in systems diagnose faults; and engine management is on the brink of becoming the norm.

With all the emphasis placed on higher reel-mowing speeds it is easy to overlook the basics. To produce the optimum performance the reels must be correctly adjusted. If travel speed and cutting reel revolutions are not in the correct ratio the quality of finish is affected. Gauging this accurately with a hydrostatic drive can be difficult, so one inventive company has come up with an answer. Their fairway mower uses a computer system to monitor performance and automatically makes the necessary adjustments. Setting this up is simple – the number of blades in the cylinder plus the height of cut are fed into the control unit. The computer then sets the cylinder revolutions to match the ground speed and the result is a consistent quality finish. If the operator drives too fast then the standard of cut begins to deteriorate and he or she is warned to reduce speed.

Aiming for high productivity plus a quality finish can put the greenkeeper in a “Catch 22” situation. Fast work rates often results in bouncing mowers. A number of factors contribute to this including length of grass, its moisture content and changes in the terrain. Manufacturers have introduced hydraulics and spring systems to prevent bounce happening, but so far none of these have been found to be the complete answer.

One company, which carried out a comprehensive study of this problem, has found what is claimed to be the solution. The mowing unit is mounted on a frame which has pivot points at the front and rear. The linkage arms adjust independently to any forces that are placed on either the mower’s front or rear rollers. While this system controls the cutting unit’s rocking motion it does not counteract any up or down movement of the lift arm. To control this, a damper that adjusts to any vertical movement has been incorporated into the tractor unit and the mower’s lift arms. It compensates for upward movement and keeps the cutting unit on the turf. There is no restriction to downward motion so the mowers can fol-
Higher standards — yet more **SPEED**

low the ground contours.
This system puts positive downward pressure on the reel units, yet allows them to float free.

Another area that has undergone extensive research is the bedknife angle. This is especially important when mowing in a low setting. If a bedknife's lip is too high or its angle too flat in relation to the ground, then there is a possibility that the unit will ride on it and not the rollers. This can affect the reel adjustment and also cause possible damage to the turf.

The thickness or profile of a bedknife may vary on each mower unit fitted to the same machine, so the finished cut can vary across the full cutting width. For this reason it is important that bedknives are changed in sets and always bought from the original equipment manufacturer.

In tests carried out by one manufacturer it was shown that a mower was most efficient when the cutting edge of the bedknife rotates up and back, especially when the height of cut is increased. This is achieved by adjusting the cutting height only at the rear of the mower.

Faster operating speeds have made it necessary to take a look at all the possible structural stress levels throughout the machine. Steering systems; tyres; general layouts, driving seats and consoles have also come under the spotlight, and now play a very important part in modern ergonomic design.

The addition of a cab can make a much more pleasant working environment but greenkeepers appear to be a hardy lot and so these are not seen very much on UK courses.

### Rotary mowers

The basic rotary principle has remained similar to the original concept. Pictures of those early rather crude models reveal a machine that sends shivers down the spine. They consisted of a flat deck with a wheel at each corner and something to drive the cutter. There were no guards to restrict the cut grass flow, so these early monsters could mow down virtually anything.

From a safety aspect this could not continue and the introduction of guards bought with it new cutting deck designs. Aerodynamics and airflow were taken into account to ensure the cut material could clear the machine quickly, otherwise blocking and balling-up occurred. That is now all in the past and the modern rotary mower is a far cry from its predecessor.

On the golf course this type of machine is usually used for mowing the semi- and deep rough, or for trimming banks around bunkers and tees.

A rotary blade spins in a horizontal plane so the width of cut on undulating surfaces is restricted due to the possibility of damaging both the

---

**INTRODUCING THE NEW GREENSMASTER 3200-D.**
turf and the machine. In the past this has often tended to restrict their use. One manufacturer has introduced a tractor-trailed unit with a series of individual small rotary heads which float independently and closely follow the ground contours. They claim this overcomes scalping. Following the American trend, recycling is becoming very much in vogue. Not surprisingly, therefore, recycling and mulching mowers are gaining in popularity. This sys-

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tem of grass cutting is being heralded as the way forward, but the idea is far from new. On fairways and sports areas in this country we have been recycling our grass clippings since the first gang mowers were introduced well over a hundred years ago!

There has always been criticism that the rotary mower when used without a collector, leaves the cut grass too long. The over all appearance is unsightly and clippings take a long time to disperse. For over three decades small mulching systems have been available to eliminate this problem, but it is only in the last two years that there has been any significant development. With the mulching principal, grass clippings are retained inside the cutting deck and chopped into fine particles before being blown back into the turf.

Research has shown that there are a number of environmental advantages in using this system. Nitrogen and water contained in the grass are returned to the turf to provide nutrients and moisture. For it to be effective the mown grass has to be left fairly long which is ideal for the rough.

Greenkeepers are beginning to recognise the benefits of out-front rotaries with recycling decks and they can now be found in an increasing number of courses. When walking round BTME this year the visitor could not fail to see the wide range of grass mowing equipment that is available. In fact, today's Course Managers and greenkeepers are spoilt for choice. Interestingly, a closer inspection often reveals that most machines have the same engine, hydraulic system and general layout. The only difference between these is all those extra features, so its worth finding out exactly what these are before making a final decision. With ride on mower technology advancing a cracking pace you are likely to discover additions that will make your job easier and produce the high standards of finish you are now being asked to attain. Time spent thoroughly investigating just what is now being offered will put you at the forefront of today's technology and pay dividends in the long run.

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**RECRUITMENT**

**Golf Club Darmstadt Traisa/Germany**

requires

**HEAD GREENKEEPER**

Picturesque 9 hole course 20 miles south of Frankfurt in Central Germany.

We require a qualified greenkeeper experienced in all aspects of turf and machinery maintenance with the ability to manage, control and motivate staff.

Salary and conditions negotiable.

Apply in writing with full CV to:

The Secretary
Golf-Club Darmstadt Traisa
Am Dippelshof 1 A
64367 Mühltal/Germany

Fax: 01049 6151 148521

**Stockwood Vale Golf Club**

**GREENKEEPER**

wanted due to expansion to 18 holes at Stockwood Vale Golf Club on the outskirts of Bristol.

The successful applicant will work under the direction of our Head Greenkeeper.

Applicants must be experienced and competent machinery drivers, with basic greenkeeping skills. Start date: mid-April.

Write with full details and CV to:

Mr M Ramsay, Stockwood Vale Golf Club, Stockwood Lane, Keynsham, Bristol BS18 2ER

**Stock Brook Manor Golf Club**

invites applications for the position of

**FIRST ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER**

at this 27 hole golf complex.

The successful applicant will work under the Course Manager and Deputy Course Manager and will be experienced in all aspects of greenkeeping and golf course management.

Salary will be commensurate with age and experience. No accommodation provided.

Please apply in writing with full CV to:

Mick Fance (Course Manager), Stock Brook Manor Golf Club, Queens Park Avenue, Billericay, Essex CM12 2SP
Sudbury Golf Club Ltd

We are looking for a first class

COURSE MANAGER
to carry forward plans to upgrade and improve our golf course.

Sudbury has invested heavily in the course and machinery in the past two years and now requires a qualified, experienced and committed course manager to ensure this investment is properly utilised. Preparing and monitoring budgets will be an important part of the job and computer skills would be a distinct advantage.

For the right person, we would be prepared to offer a package in the order of £31,000.00. Previous applicants need not apply.

Please apply in writing with CV to:
The General Manager, Sudbury Golf Club Ltd, Bridgewater Road, Wembley, Middlesex HA0 1AL

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Thorpeness Golf Club & Hotel
Nr Aldeburgh, Suffolk
invites applications for the position of

HEAD GREENKEEPER

One of East Anglia's finest courses, laid in 1925 by James Braid, requires a fully qualified and experienced individual with sound managerial skills to maintain and develop the high standards achieved by our current head greenkeeper who retires in December 1996.

The ideal candidate will demonstrate a sound knowledge and have practical experience of all aspects of greenkeeping and course maintenance and should have the ability to manage, supervise and motivate staff. Experience of greenkeeping machinery and automatic irrigation systems is also required.

This position comes with a house located near to the course and a competitive salary.

Applications in writing with full CV should be sent to:
Mr Neville Griffin,
Secretary & General Manager,
Thorpeness Golf Club & Hotel,
Lakeside Avenue, Thorpeness, Suffolk IP16 4NH

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TECHNICAL SALES REPRESENTATIVE
SCOTLAND

We are a leading company in the professional amenity and grower market, with a well established and comprehensive range of products.

Applications are invited from candidates who have sales or advisory experience in the above market.

Applicants must be Basis qualified and reside in Scotland.

A competitive salary will be offered, together with a company car and other benefits.

To apply, please write enclosing full career, CV and salary details to:
Box No. R/9/96, BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF

__________________________

Headland Amenity

Invites applications for the newly appointed position of:

Northern Area Sales Representative

Headland Amenity Products is a rapidly expanding division of Headland Agrochemicals, a highly successful privately owned company, specialising in fertilisers, micronutrients, adjuvants and pesticides aimed at agriculture, horticulture and amenity markets in the UK and overseas.

Rapid expansion has created the need for this new appointment, which will entail servicing both the distributor and the end user in the Northern half of England & Scotland.

Reporting to the National Amenity Manager, the successful applicant will have knowledge of the amenity fertiliser/pesticide market, ideally BASIS qualified.

Headland offers a competitive salary, commission, non-contributory pension, private health insurance and a company car.

Please apply in writing with full CV and career details marked private and confidential to:
Wendy Osborne
Headland Agrochemicals Ltd., Norfolk House, Great Chesterford Court, Great Chesterford, Essex CB10 1PF.
RECRUITMENT

English Golf Union
National Golf Centre – Woodhall Spa Golf Club

The English Golf Union are looking to appoint an overall COURSE MANAGER for its 36-hole golf course, short game academy and driving range complex at Woodhall Spa.

Excellent terms and conditions as befits the position as Manager to the National Centre of English mens amateur golf are offered.

Applicants must be well qualified and be able to demonstrate a high degree of experience and competence in all aspects of course management.

An ability for 'hands on' management, combined with motivation and leadership skills, is a high priority.

Only written applications, enclosing a full CV, will be considered.

Applications to:
The Secretary, English Golf Union,
1/3 Upper King Street, Leicester LE1 6XF

Goodwood Golf Club Ltd.
Established 1892

Applications are invited for the position of HEAD GREENKEEPER on this free draining, rolling downland course.

Applicants must possess recognised qualifications and be experienced in all aspects of modern greenkeeping, budgetary control and course management, including maintenance of machinery.

The ability to lead and motivate staff, organise work programmes and maintain health and safety requirements is essential.

Family accommodation is available.

Applicants should send their applications, together with CV, to:
The Secretary, Goodwood Golf Club Ltd., Goodwood, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 0PN

Closing date: 31 March 1996

Lee Park Golf Club Limited
Due to retirement, after 23 years of excellent service, applications are invited for the position of HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicants must possess recognised qualifications and be experienced in all aspects of course management, including maintenance of machinery.

Accommodation is available.

Applicants should send their applications, together with CV, to:
Chairman of Green, Lee Park Golf Club Ltd., Childwall Valley Road, Liverpool L27 3YA

Tredegar Park Golf Club invite applications for the post of HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicants must possess recognised qualifications and be experienced in all aspects of modern greenkeeping management, including machinery maintenance.

Applications, in writing, with full CV to:
The Secretary, Tredegar Park Golf Club, Bassaleg Road, NEWPORT

Dean Wood Golf Club invite applications for the position of HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicants will need to have comprehensive greenkeeping experience with the relevant qualifications. The pursuit of high standards through competent management will be dominant in our considerations.

Applications in writing with full CV to:
The Secretary, Dean Wood Golf Club, Lafford Lane, Upholland, Wigan WN8 0QZ

SERC9 Limited
AN EXPERIENCED GREENKEEPER is required by Serco Ltd to lead a small team maintaining facilities at a North Kent Leisure Park; including a 9 hole golf course.

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require
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and ASSISTANT
GREENKEEPERS
for long and short term contracts for the UK, Europe and
The Pacific Rim.
Applicants, ideally college trained, should possess formal
qualifications, a working knowledge of modern
greenkeeping machinery and automatic irrigation systems.
The ability to lead and organise staff is essential as is
experience in preparing and working to a budget.
We also require personnel who have previous experience
in golf course construction for contracts throughout the
UK and Europe.
Applications in writing to:
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8 Tom Amey Court, St Philips Road,
Cambridge CB1 3UX Fax: 01223 576893
e-mail: m ninety nine@dial.pipex.com
(Agency)

Brora Golf Club
require a
WORKING HEAD
GREENKEEPER
for its James Braid designed Links Golf Course.
The successful applicant must have greenkeeping qualifications and be
experienced in all aspects of turf establishment and maintenance. A sound and
practical knowledge in staff relations, training, equipment repair, irrigation
systems and pest control is required.
Applications in writing with full CV to:
The Secretary, Brora Golf Club, Golf Road, Brora, Sutherland KW9 6QS

British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association
is looking to appoint a
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR
(part-time)
in the MIDLANDS REGION
The successful candidate will cover the Midland Region with responsibilities for the
East Midland, Midland, East of England, Berks/Bucks/Oxon and Mid-Anglia
Sections where there are currently 1,059 members.
Applicants should possess sound administration and communication skills whilst
computer literacy would be an advantage. In addition to serving the needs of the
Regional Board, a positive contribution to promoting the Association and the welfare
of greenkeepers will be required.
The post holder will be expected to display initiative and enthusiasm particularly in
a drive to introduce new members. Regular contact with golf clubs and greenkeeping
staff will be an essential element of the post. Ideally applicants should be able to
display an affinity with the greenkeeping profession and the game of golf.
It is envisaged that the average working week will be 27.5 hours and the post will be
home based. A job description and further details are available from the
Executive Director, BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York Y06 2NF.
Telephone 01347 838581 Fax 01347 838864.

SCOTLAND
SALES PERSON
- AMENITY MARKET
We are a very large professional company expanding further into the
Scottish amenity and turf markets.
Ideally you should have a background in the amenity, turf or
horticultural markets but we will be equally influenced by sales ability,
enthusiasm and ambition.
Apply by letter and CV to:
Box No. R/10/96, BIGGA,
Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York Y06 2NF
I became interested in greenkeeping late in life — I was serving Queen and country at the time but I became so interested that I used to work part-time to learn as much as I could. Being an Associate Member of BIGGA at that time I read in Greenkeeper International that education was the way forward for greenkeepers so prior to leaving the Armed Forces I took and passed City and Guilds Phase 2 Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management plus PA1 and PA2A to go with the experience and knowledge I had gained.

On returning to “Civvy Street” I worked as an Assistant Greenkeeper at a golf club for almost two years and, despite several requests was never given proper written terms and conditions of employment. The golf club ran into financial difficulties and had to be sold, and, as I understand it, all greenstaff had to be made redundant before buyers would complete the purchase. Course Maintenance was then contracted out to the owner of another club who would interview the existing greenstaff for the vacancies that now existed, plus I found out later, outside applicants. On the day of the interviews I was unfortunately sick and sent my apologies and to say that I would contact them when I recovered. I rang to arrange a new date for the following week to be told that they had selected the personnel required and that an interview would be a waste of time for both parties! Is this what is known as Equal Opportunities?

I am actively seeking employment in greenkeeping but can’t help wondering if it is worth it? From my experience the wages offered are below BIGGA’s recommendations, terms and conditions aren’t offered as per the article on July’s Greenkeeper International and if people are treated as I have been how do clubs expect to get the best staff from?

Surely golf clubs have a duty to give their members the best course conditions possible and they should realise that they will only achieve this by employing dedicated qualified, well treated, happy staff. Mine may be a “one off” case but I’m curious to know if any other members have experienced similar problems or treatment.

Michael Kimber, Oundle, Peterborough

Many thanks

Through the pages of your magazine I would like to thank all those concerned who have helped and supported me over the past two years as Chairman of the Scottish Region on the four years I have served on the Board of Management.

Although perhaps it may be inappropriate to mention some people in particular and not others, special thanks must go to my wife, Pauline, and my family who have been more than understanding with all the time it has taken up. Also my employers, St Andrews Links Trust and Management for their encouragement, Elliott Small in the Scottish Region and Neil Thomas and all the staff at Aldwark.

The list is endless, there are so many others throughout BIGGA, too numerous to mention individually but I offer my sincere thanks for all they have done and their friendship.

Some of the time has been hard work and difficult but this was more than compensated for by the good times I’ve had and friends I have made, things I hope to continue at many different events in the future as our Association grows from strength to strength.

Gordon Moir, St Andrews

A great honour

May I through you express my sincere thanks to all concerned who made my trip to the GCSAA conference in Orlando, such a memorable one.

I was absolutely delighted when my husband Mike won the 1995 Miracle Professional Greenkeeper of the Year Award. Having seen his total dedication to his profession, I felt at last he had been suitably rewarded for all his efforts.

I did begin to wonder as to whether I personally would have preferred for him to have been second or third in the competition when I realised that these prizes were for two people whereas the first prize was, in fact, just for Mike! I needn’t have worried though as The Tylherington Club which is owned by Club Partners International where Mike is Course Manager decided to reward Mike’s efforts by sending me on the trip to Orlando. To them I am eternally grateful.

I feel extremely privileged to have been a part of the conference in Orlando as it has given me a far greater insight into the greenkeeping profession.

I must commend the BIGGA team Neil Thomas, John Pemberston and Sami Collins who were all great ambassadors for British greenkeeping and who worked extremely hard throughout. Also to the BIGGA Chairman Dean Cleaver and not forgetting last year’s Chairman Barry Heaney and his charming wife Joann. Barry is a great inspiration to us all.

There were so many other people who made the trip a huge success including Nick Bissett, Senior Lecturer at Askham Bryan College; Craig and Mhari Stewart from Germany; Mr and Mrs Bott, from Portugal; Lawrence Pithie and Mark from the American Golf Corp; Peter Todd, the London Club; James Braithwaite, who deservedly is the current Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year and not forgetting BIGGA’s great supporting gentleman Jim Fry.

My thanks to each and every one of you and to Miracle Professional for supporting this excellent award and to the Tylherington Club without whom it would not have been possible to share in Mike’s success. This was a trip of a lifetime which I shall never forget.

Karen Goodhind, Macclesfield, Cheshire
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