Anchors away as divots get heave-ho

Ever since golfers started using iron clubs on turf fairways there has been the problem of divots, their replacement and regrowth.

Birds soon learnt to exploit this new food source as worms, grubs and insects sought refuge under replaced turf.

It is not only birds which disturb divots as machinery, golfers' spikes and drying winds which desicate the turf all contribute to rooting failure.

Attempts were made to fabricate divot anchors 30 years ago but proved prone to failure as the anticipated moulded anchor was intended to be made of clay, seed and fertiliser, designed to eventually break down and improve the soil.

This never got off the ground let alone into it.

Many bio-degradable materials have been investigated in the development of the divot anchor and varying methods of manufacture, such as moulding, pressing and laser cutting have been attempted.

Fairway Number anchored No. disturbed by anchors/ birds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fairway</th>
<th>Number anchored</th>
<th>No. disturbed by anchors/birds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>313</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15th</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18th</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Field trials under normal conditions and divot management were held throughout South Herts Golf Club, Totteridge, during the period November to March.

In the STRI trial adjacent divots were identified and marked. One divot of the pair was then anchored.

Final assessments were given after a period of at least one month when re-rooting of the divot was evaluated visually and scored with appropriate scale methods, the results showed that already over a third of the unanchored divots had been displaced and would therefore not root.

Of those divots which had been anchored 14% had been dislodged, primarily by the aeration work as vertidraining had taken place on the fairways during the trial.

The STRI commented that significant improvement was brought about by the use of anchors in terms of divot retention and recovery.

An informal trial was also conducted when all divots were routinely anchored on three fairways. Only substantial divots with rooting potential were anchored. Thin divots, scuffs and fragmented turf was excluded.

All the anchored divots in the trials, identified by coloured aerosol markings had grown in and were undetectable by mid April when grass growth was under way.

The machinery such as Sweepers, mowers, slitters, scarifiers and overseeders had no major adverse effect on anchored divots. Vertidrainers will, however, pull out an anchored divot.

General thinking now is that the golfers themselves should anchor their own turf. Members and are always demanding that more attention is paid to the welfare of their course.

Encouraging members to anchor their own divots gives the players an input in preserving their club's fairways and can be instrumental in better course care generally.

The Manufacturers of "Tuff Tie" Divot Anchors have now made available a "Lockroom Dispenser" which gives a supply source of anchors for members.

The text on which advises on the reasons for their use. The Dispenser can be located in the Charging Room or alternatively in the area of the 1st tee.

For further information Tel: 0181 275 0018

I'm sorry, could you spray that again?

In a move supported by BIGGA, the suppliers of Blazon Spray Pattern Indicator are offering Course Managers and Head Groundsmen the opportunity of an expenses paid trip to next year's Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Convention in Florida, USA.

Included in the trip will be the registration costs for the Pre-Conference Seminars, Educational Programme and entrance to the trade exhibition. In addition, the winning greenkeeper's club will receive a brand new Harri AMK 300 Tractor Mounted Sprayer.

All Course Managers and Head Groundsmen have to do is order one outer or more of Blazon Spray Pattern Indicator before January 30 complete a Blazon Claim Voucher and their name will go into the national draw. At the end of the campaign, the first name drawn by Gordon Child, BIGGA Chairman, will be invited, together with a representative of the club, to receive the prizes at this year's Saltex. Details are being mailed to every golf club and additional leaflets will be available from Farmura and Blazon Distributor representatives.

This initiative is part of the joint BIGGA/Blazon 'Spray Watch' campaign introduced last year to increase awareness of spraying issues, as they affect safety, and the need for a responsible approach to the practice of spray application within a golf course environment.

Martin procures new job

Johnsons Seeds has appointed Martin Swinnerton as Procurement Group Manager. Based at the company's headquarters in Boston, Lincolnshire, Martin will be responsible for contracting seed crops, systems stock control and purchasing for Kith sons' entire seed range.

Martin is no stranger to Johnsons. After studying agriculture at Reaseheath College, he joined the company as a trainee 12 years ago. Immediately prior to his new appointment, Martin was Sales Administrator.

Martin and his team will be dealing with the entire supply and production chain, from securing deliveries and packaging, to liaising with suppliers throughout Europe, United States, Canada and New Zealand.

Ken's On Course

Ken Barbour, formerly Golf Courses and Estate Manager at East Sussex National, has formed On Course, Golf Course Consultants.

Trained at Penn State University, Martin was Sales Administration Manager. Ken has over 25 years practical experience in all aspects of turfgrass management. He is now offering a full consultancy service to golf clubs throughout Europe.

He can be contacted on Tel: +44 (0) 1825 732031.
Paul’s new appointment is a real Driving Force

Driving Force Leisure has appointed Paul Buxton as Area Sales Manager for Surrey, East Sussex, West Sussex and Middlesex. Paul joins Driving Force Leisure from Parker Hart where he had been employed for the past 16 years. Also joining the company’s new Van Sales Division is Richard Lewis who has two years experience in selling golf Course Equipment in the South East.

Happy landings for Dug

Dug Gooch, Harvest Manager at Sovereign Turf, made a safe landing in a sand pit, following a 1,500 ft parachute jump in aid of Cancer Research. Taking off from Peterborough Parachute Centre, the intrepid parachutist was given an accuracy field of 17 acres within which to land. In one corner of this was a sand pit, forming a 20m circle, and this was Dug’s chosen landing spot. "This charity jump is something I have always wanted to do and I had planned to undertake on my stag night," reports Dug. "However family members did not like the thought that I could end up with my leg in plaster so I delayed the event for four years. It was well worth the wait and I found parachuting a truly exhilarating experience.”

Dug paid thanks to colleagues at Sovereign Turf, who lent both moral and monetary support, and other sponsorship over £600 has been forwarded to Cancer Research.

Pastures new for Janet and Amanda

Membership Services Officer, Janet Adamson, and Sales and Marketing Assistant Amanda Mayo, have left the Association to take up new posts with London-based charity, the Oasis Trust, and Cambridge-based software company, i2, respectively. Janet, who has been with BIGGA for two and a half years, will be involved in fund raising for the charity, which assists homeless people both in the UK and abroad.

"I’m really looking forward to the challenge of my new role and feel that the experience I’ve gained from my time with BIGGA will stand me in good stead,” explained Janet.

"Janet’s contribution to the development of membership services has been greatly valued and I am sure that I speak for all of our membership, as well as the rest of the staff, when I wish her every success in the future,” said Executive Director Neil Thomas.

Amanda, who did much to make BTME’98 such a success, will also be involved in the running of exhibitions in her new position.

"I have enjoyed my time at Aldwark Manor and will miss the many friends I’ve made in the industry,” said Amanda, whose husband, Dan, has also recently moved to a new job in the Cambridge area.

"Amanda has made a big impression since her time with the Association and we wish her and Dan all the very best in their new jobs and home,” said Neil.
Top acolade chimes sweetly for Peter

Peter Bell, Managing Director of Jacobsen E-Z-GO, has been named Jacobsen Branch Manager of the Year for 1997 at a presentation held during the GCSAA Conference and Show in Anaheim, California.

The Award recognises outstanding business development and sales performance by a Jacobsen branch. David Withers, the National Accounts Manager received the Jacobsen European Sales Manager of the Year Award at the same presentation.

Pictures show Peter Bell (top) and David Withers receiving their Awards from Jacobsen President, Phil Tralies, (left) and the Vice President of Sales and Marketing, Harold Pinto.

Rolawn to aid campaign

Rolawn has thrown its weight behind BIGGA's Buy a Brick Raffle to raise money for the Association's new Headquarters and training facility currently under construction at Aldwark Manor.

Each of Rolawn's 16 Depot Managers has been issued with five books of raffle tickets and each depot will have a poster on display publicising the raffle and the attractive prizes. Many of Rolawn's landscaper customers are keen golfers and the company feels that they will be keen to win some of the prizes on offer.

"As Silver Key members of BIGGA and founder exhibitors at BTME in Harrogate we are keen to play our part and do all that we can to help boost this important project," said Rolawn Sales and Marketing Director, Terry Ryan.

Rene named as Kubota Deputy MD

Rene Orban has been appointed Deputy Managing Director of Kubota (UK) Ltd.

Retaining his existing position as Director of Agricultural and Grass Machinery Sales, Rene has now taken on the overall responsibility for the company's spare parts, assembly and warehouse departments. He will also deputise for Managing Director, Mr Masakazu Miyake, during his absence from Kubota (UK) Ltd's headquarters at Thame, Oxfordshire.

Rene joined Kubota in March '96 having spent over 25 years working within the industry.

"Our aim is to provide customers with a comprehensive range of hard working, cost effective and reliable tractors, implements and mowers backed by the best possible parts and service support," said Rene.

"We will be working extremely hard to build on the company's undisputed strength within the amenity, horticultural, landscaping estate and grounds maintenance sectors," he added.

Greencare from Twose

Twose Turf & Spray Limited (TTS) has acquired the UK & Ireland distributorship for the Greencare range of turf aerators.

The Coremaster ECO is the first Turf Aerator specially developed as an ecologically friendly machine offering low noise levels, reduced fuel consumption, controlled emissions and longer intervals between maintenance and servicing.

While environmental considerations have been in the forefront of the ECO's design, performance and productivity has not been compromised. At a steady 2 mph, operators will be able to aerate up to 2,000 square metres of turf per hour providing a hole pattern of 50mm x 100mm (2" x 4").

For further information Tel: Twose Turf and Spray Limited on 01536 511243 or contact the company head office, 6 Torridge Close, Henson Way, Telford Way Industrial Estate, Kettering, Northants, NN16 8PY Tel: 01536 511243 Fax: 01536 511675

Royal Inverdivot GC

by Tony Husband

The members are moaning about molehills on the 7th Green

No problem Captain I'll go and check it now

Thanks!

I use RiberFeed because

It's the right feed for my course

Chris Yeaman, Swanston GC

April 1998 Greenkeeper International 13