Lasting memory for the BIGGA library

BIGGA's library was further enhanced when Gerry Wilkins, Chairman of the British Turf and Landscape Irrigation Association (BTILIA), presented two copies of the 'Turf Irrigation Manual' to BIGGA Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson, during BTILIA's AGM and award to selected organisations, each year, in memory of John Shiltrick, who had a great influence on the development of the Association, the Turf Industry and on the development of formal education within the Industry.

In thanking Gerry, Ken stated that the books would do much to help in the education and training of greenkeepers, help to develop the links between BIGGA and BTILIA and to ensure that John's name would be long remembered into the future.

Parker Hart acquired by Rigby Taylor

Rigby Taylor has acquired the sales operations of its sister company, Parker Hart of Worcester Park, and willfully integrate the business in the South of England. The combined business will trade as Rigby Taylor with an immediate effect under the direction of David Morgan, Regional Managing Director of Rigby Taylor Limited. Parker Hart will continue its sportsground contracting and turf machinery repair activities from its existing premises at Worcester Park, Surrey.

Various changes in management responsibilities within the Southern region of Rigby Taylor take place as part of this reorganisation. Bernard Tomlin is promoted to the position of Regional Sales Director and Rodger Bowles to Regional Field Sales Manager. Mike Ring and Chris Sharp are promoted to the position of Area Manager Clive Williams, having tendered his resignation, has left the Company to pursue other interests.

Commenting on the moves Bernard Hedley, Chairman of Rigby Taylor said: "We are confident that by combining the sales and distribution operations of Parker Hart with those of Rigby Taylor we can further improve the already excellent service we offer to customers in the South of England and further strengthen our ability to bring innovative products to the market for both amenity turf use and industrial weed control through our relationships with the world's leading chemical companies."

Outstanding efforts rewarded at Hayter Awards dinner

The fifth Hayter Awards dinner was held on Tuesday 20th January, the eve of BTME, at the St George Hotel in Harrogate. This popular event has fast become one of the highlights on the dealer calendar with Hayter dealerships being represented from throughout the world.

Overseas guests were welcomed from Italy, Holland, Sweden and USA and various guests from BIGGA. Executive Director of the Association, Neil Thomas, accompanied by his wife, Elaine, took time out of a busy week to attend, together with Gordon and Marion Child.

Gordon, as incoming Chairman of BIGGA presented the awards. UK Top Dealer of the Year award went, for the second time running, to Gibson Machinery Sales, with Stuart Mercer accepting the award on behalf of his company. Runner up in this category was Steve Lee of Pheonix Shift.

The Overseas Award for 1997 was presented to John O'Flynn and Pat Geaney in recognition of their considerable success in Ireland with the Hayter product. The Outstanding Dealer award is always widely contested, and is presented to dealers whom Hayter feel should be recognised for their work on our behalf over the year. This opens the category up to all sizes of companies and is not judged purely on sales. This year's award went to Geo. Brown & Sons. Other companies being represented included Hume and Hooper, of Leighton Buzzard, with special mention to their representative, Steve Lee.

Further awards were made during the ceremony in recognition of the work and dedication on our behalf by several individuals during 1997. These were Steve George of BS Mowers in Bristol, Michael Smith from Irish Farm & Garden and Ernst Myer based in Germany.

STRi join forces with Robin Hume

STRi Ltd have formed an alliance with Robin Hume Associates to provide a comprehensive irrigation consultancy to complement their existing turf agronomy services. Irrigation has always been an important aspect of managing sports turf but with the droughts and water restrictions in recent years coupled with rising water costs, it has become a major issue for many golf clubs. The new irrigation consultancy service is particularly appropriate for golf clubs contemplating expansion or improvements to their existing systems but it will also be applicable to other sports facilities. STRi Ltd and Robin Hume Associates can provide a full appraisal of irrigation needs and the associated agronomic factors to ensure efficient and cost effective use of the water available.

Dick's Bourne free

Dick Reid, Director of Bourne Amenity, is going it alone. He explained that he has learnt a great deal about the industry over the last seven years and he believes that has enabled him to offer the range of quality products and services that the industry demands.

The trading address for Reid Amenity is: Sherne Cottage, Kilndown, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 2RT. Tel/Fax 01892 890666

Congratulations!

Derrick Johnstone, of Cardross Golf Club, has been named Student of the Year at Langside College. Derrick, 20, is currently doing his HNC in Golf Course Management at the college.

Back together...

All companies within the Inturf Group have been amalgamated and now trade as Turfgrass Services International Ltd. For more information contact Inturf. Regent Street, Poole, Dorset, BH14 2QN. Tel: 01759 304101.

I use RibFeed because it's tailor-made to suit my needs

Steve Dixon, Kingsknowe GC
Rain won’t stop play

The Duke’s Course at St Andrews has released information about how it improved the drainage on the course.

The site is at an altitude of 200 feet, north-east facing with a South-west prevailing wind. Formerly it improved the drainage on the course.

The challenge posed by the conditions was to create non-travelling surface water and to intercept subsurface water resulting from collapsed original drains.

Involving an investment of £235,000, designer Peter Thomson’s two-stage solution was the installation of perforated drainage and sand-banding. Work was scheduled for the end of the second season of play, to allow time for observation and to prevent contamination of the sand and gravel by clay particles. Only fairways and surrounds of greens and tees required attention: greens and tees are constructed to USGA standards - free draining, sand based.

Stage One intercepted sub-surface water and prevented water travelling into areas of play. The Duke’s received hole by hole analysis and treatment: 100mm pipe was installed at a depth of 350mm, covered by 250mm of pea gravel and 100mm of choker sand. Additional areas were drained with 60mm of pipe at a depth of 300mm with 200mm of pea gravel and 100mm of choker sand.

Stage Two involved the digging of trenches 30mm wide and 225mm deep filled with choker sand. These “Sand-Bands” are positioned between one and two metres apart and have maximum length of 10 metres before they are intercepted by 60 - 100mm perforated drains.

The combined result: 12 month play on a course which previously would have faced significant closures due to rain. Indeed, during Winter 97 (the wettest for many years) not a single day’s play was lost.

AT BTME Allen Power Equipment Ltd was presented with a plaque by the National Mower Company, USA, in recognition of 25 year’s of National/Allen association in the UK.

National design durable grass cutting machines specifically for the golf course market and their range includes National 84 powered by a Briggs & Stratton 16hp twin "Vanguard" engine and National 68DL with a 7.5hp Kawasaki 4 cycle engine.

Peter Jefferis, Managing Director of Allen Power Equipment Ltd (Left), and Lance Bassett, Sales Director (Centre) receive a plaque from Stan Rinkead, General Manager, National Mowers, USA. (Right). The plaque marks 25 years of distribution of National mowers in the UK through Allen’s national network of dealers.

New company launched

A new company name, but with familiar faces, was introduced for the first time to the Amenity industry at BTME, TTS has a strategy to develop and launch a new generation of their specialist sprayers for the Amenity market.

Operating from a central location in the East Midlands, TTS will also be distributing the range of Trowe Amenity products which have built up an enviable reputation over many years.

Commenting on this new venture, Colin Gregory, Managing Director stated, “The Amenity industry demands a better service than it has been given by companies who see it as a ‘Cinderella’ relation of the Agricultural market. TTS has a strategy to develop and introduce, through its network of specialist dealers, an exciting range of new products for the UK and Ireland Amenity industry.”

Training initiative for Wales

A new training initiative from the Welsh College of Horticulture combines training agency skills with the academic excellence provided by the College tutorial staff.

SDA Training limited became an integral part of the College during 1997. This partnership delivers their unparalleled expertise in training, counselling, support and assessment to form a unique link between the Welsh college of horticulture and commercial operators in their NVQ programmes.

Heading the land-based industry section is Phil Davies N.D.T who joins the Company from Monmornsteeg International, where he was Amenity Product Manager.

Phil’s experience spans more than 20 years both as Head Greenkeeper and in the turf management industry. His primary responsibility will be for Greenkeeper training and support, but will also encompass Landscaping, Commercial Horticulture, Floristry and BAGMA Engineering.

Computer controlled?

Merrist Wood Golf Club has just taken delivery of the newly released Qqest Maintenance Management Software for Windows. Installation and system setup was carried out by Wessex Software Systems, the Qqest Authorised UK Dealer.

The Qqest system, which can be found at a significant number of golf clubs throughout North America and other parts of the world, was developed as a computer based system to simplify and speed up many of the facets of maintaining both equipment and facilities on a golf course.

Managing and scheduling regular maintenance tasks one of the benefits afforded by the programme. Integral with the system is the control of inventories of spare parts and consumables and also labour costs. Other features include chemical application tracking, departmental budget management and access to electronic parts imaging systems such as Powercom, PartSmart and Plus.

“We intend to use the Qqest system not only for running our maintenance operations at the club, but also for supporting the College’s greenkeeping students, by using the Qqest programme, will gain greater exposure to the necessary administrative aspects of greenkeeping” say Tom Smith, Head Greenkeeper at Merrist Wood.

Guy Coleman of Wessex reports that Wessex is developing a special educational establishment pricing package for Qqest Maintenance Management Software.
Are you over the limit?

Paul Bishop, Course Manager at Manor House GC, in Castle Combe, telephoned the magazine when he returned to the course after filling 10 jerrycans with petrol.

"I was told that the maximum amount of petrol you are legally allowed to carry, without having 'Hazchem' signs at the front and back of the vehicle, is one gallon," said Paul. "And these signs have to be removed when you are not carrying petrol.

"You also have to carry a fire extinguisher in the cab and have another larger one fixed to the back of the truck," he added.

Paul was allowed to carry on with no more than a warning but he has since been on a course in Petrol and Handling Petrol, while his mechanic has built a special frame for the truck which will safely hold up to 10 jerrycans and which allows them to be strapped down securely.

"We have 40 buggies at our club which all require fuel but at most golf clubs the staff often have to fill three or four jerrycans," said Paul.

"If they have been unaware of the regulations I hope that my tale will be of interest to them."

All change at Hardi UK

Nick Tremlett has been appointed as Managing Director of Hardi Limited.

"Nick will have responsibility for our UK operation and has been appointed to Hardi's Strategic Planning Executive to continue to ensure that all our UK customer requirements are integrated into our current and future product development plans, strategies and initiatives - we could not have wished for a better start for 1998," said Sten Kjelstrup, Sales and Marketing Director for Hardi International A/S.

Nick worked for Massey Ferguson for 11 years where he held Sales and Marketing positions both in the UK and overseas. Prior to leaving he was their Business Operations Manager responsible for AGCO's interests in Southern Africa.

For the past two years Nick has been working for UFB Humberclyde (the French based European Financier UFB Lacabail's subsidiary), developing their manufacturing relationships in the UK.

Summing up his reasons for joining Hardi, he said, "The opportunity of heading up Hardi Ltd is an exciting and challenging prospect, the company has established an enviable global reputation with its products and its commitment to meet customers' requirements."

Multi-core aerator opens up the market

Multi-core has added a two metre wide model to its range of tractor-mounted aerators.

Developed to enable greenkeepers, grounds staff and contractors to carry out fast, effective aeration of large, open turf areas, the British-built MC 20 aerator complements the existing one metre and one and a half metre wide machines in the Multi Core range.

All three aerators can be equipped with a choice of solid, coring, slicing or chisel tines to suit specific turf needs and seasonal aeration requirements.

Aeration pattern is variable depending on the specific tine head and forward speed selected.

The MC 20 is able to aerate from 125mm deep, quickly and easily and without tools on a large diameter fill width front roller. Indicator markings on the machine assist with accurate depth setting.

For further information Tel: 01937 843281

Go West this April

Westurf '98, on April 29, at Long Ashton Golf Club is offering the opportunity to meet and chat with experts in many industry fields. The "Meet the Experts" Marquee will have representatives from Syngenta, Astara, Scots, Supafert, EBA STRI, Avencore, Breton Precast, BIGGA as well as Sparsholt, Hartpury, Pencoed and Cannington colleges.

The show, will also boast a wide range of machinery and equipment, a pitch and putt competition while for the first time there will be full catering and a licensed bar.

Jim Arthur will also be at the show to sign copies of his book "Practical Greenkeeping" to be sold at a special exhibition price.

The show starts at 10am and runs until 4pm.

Make mine a Bailey's!

After the success of last year's golf competitions Bailey's of Norfolk have decided to hold two competitions this year. Both to be played at Royal Cromer G.C. on April 21 & August 11. Entry is free and includes a carvery meal at the evening prize giving. Each competition will be divided into 0-14 and 15-28 handicap categories. Prizes for each event will be worth in excess of £500.

For further information call Bailey's on 01463 754607

New Midland Help Line

The Midland Region has set up a support group on a six month trial basis. Because of the many factors involved in forming such a project, it was thought advisable to begin with a trial which would serve as a learning time, allowing us to assess demand and costs before embarking upon further training for support group (members) for other regions.

"The formation of this project comes from the many concerns we have about the high percentage of greenkeepers who are suffering from stress as a result of pressure at work. This often has a knock-on effect, leading to more serious illness, thus affecting families and also places of work," said BIGGA Past Chairman Paddy McCarron.

"We are also aware that the demands on today's greenkeepers are many and varied and are increasing with all-year-round golf. People's expectations at times are too high for the greenkeeper to deal with and any breach of the guidelines or standards may be a cause of concern to our members."

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Seaweed success for Maxicrop

Maxicrop launched ProGreen Spi, a formulation of Seaweed Extract, iron (6%), nitrogen (2%) and a Spray Pattern Indicator at BTME. This new product is recommended for use prior to tournaments to provide a rapid green-up response, or when long-term in-season greening is required.

Containing a non-staining Spray Pattern Indicator, ProGreen Spi ensures that the spray operator can apply an easily seen, uniform and consistent spray pattern on the turf.

As a Plant Growth Stimulant, Maxicrop ProGreen Spi will assist in restoring the natural microbial population balance in the soil and, when applied as part of a Plant Growth Management programme, will 'kick start' turf growth, boosting health and vigour, additionally, applications of ProGreen Spi will impart a natural 'green-up' appearance to the turf and promote the growth hardening process.

For further information Tel: 01536 402182

Early bird set to fly down under

Ten years of unfailing service to Turfland was recognised on the retirement of George Slobon from the company.

Having never had a day of sick in his time at the company time cards prove that he clocked in at 7.02am every morning for his 7.30am start and he took a genuine pride in his work.

With daughter about to give birth to twins in New Zealand the retirement present of two return tickets Down Under, for himself and his wife Joan, could not have been more welcome.

The tickets along with other gifts were presented to George by Janet Watmore of Turfland.

I use Rittered because

It's the right feed for my course

Chris Yeaman, Swanston GC

New soil reliever from Huxley

Huxley's new Soil Reliever 72 makes vertical deep tine aeration a much faster and easier and more economical operation.

Like the successful Soil Reliever 60, the Model 72 requires a 35hp tractor, and yet its maximum output is 20,000 square foot per hour - almost 50% more than the Model 60.

The 72" operating width covers most tractor tyre tracks, and makes the Soil Reliever 72 an ideal aerator for larger areas such as sportsfields and golf course fairways - but without the need for a large tractor.

Although a heavy duty machine, the Soil Reliever 72 is also gentle enough to aerate grass, where a clean, immaculate finish can be achieved.

Easy adjustments and low maintenance requirements are important features of the machine. Even the tine operating depth is simple to adjust by control of the optional hydraulic top link from the driver's seat.

For further information Tel: 01962 735222.

The pressure point

Amazone Ground Care marked its return to BTME with the unveiling of the pre-production models of two of its new four-model range of slitter/aerators. They incorporate a unique blade configuration that ensures high point pressure across the full width of the implement at high operating speeds, while exerting 91kg/point pressure for entry into the thickest thatch.

Designated the Amazone SL, SLC and SLS series, all are three-point linkage mounted and will be available in working widths of 1.2 metres and 2.4 metres. SLS models also feature a new contour following system.

The SL forms the base of the new range and is intended for working on flat ground.

Its fully enclosed 1.2m-wide ground-driven rotor is fitted with 40 blades, each of which, uniquely, is mounted with a 10 degree offset. With that pattern all the points in contact with the surface penetrate the ground to an equal depth when the slitter is driven forward - so eliminating the 'walking' effect associated with some blade layouts - and ensuring the implement remains level at high forward speeds.

For further information Tel: 01579 351155.
Saxon's launch floats away

Saxon Industries launched its new top of the range, 'Floating Head' greens mower at BTME.

"The height of cut of the nine blade, 22-inch cutting cylinder of this top spec machine is continuously variable from as short as 2.5 millimetres up to 10 millimetres," claimed Richard Horn, Saxon's Horticulture Division Director.

"But the fully floating head provides the ultimate finesse, accurately following the contours of the slightest undulation to give a consistent height of cut over every green," including McKenzies."

"It is easily transported on quick release pneumatic tyres, the Floating Head mower is powered by a 3.5 hp Robin petrol engine, linked to an all gear drive transmission, which gives a speed of 3-5 mph."

"Electronic ignition and hand operated drum brakes make control simple and a Light plastic, quick fit and release grass box handles cuttings."

For further information Tel: 01488 684545

Pumped up!

Recently introduced into Spalding's range of workshop equipment is a high performance 30cc petrol driven 7-stroke clean water pump.

The unit says Spaldings, is ideal for the fast movement of water around many farm applications including emptying tanks and supplying emergency water supplies to stock.

The high performance electronic ignition petrol engine has a forged steel crankshaft and control for strength and reliability. The pump has a 1501/min capacity and is capable of pumping water up to a maximum head of 35 metres and drawing water a maximum of seven metres.

The pump unit features a large plastic base with rubber shock absorbers for maximum stability whilst still maintaining the pumps lightweight and compact design.

For further information Tel: 01322 500600

College gets boost from NTC

The National Turfgrass Council is donating £16,000 to Myerscough College to enhance its comprehensive library of turfgrass resources. The money will be used to supplement the John Shidrick Memorial Collection of books and slides, already held at the college.

The Memorial Collection was donated to the college following the death of Mr Shidrick, the first NTC Chief Executive, in 1994. This new bequest will enable the college to further develop the collection, providing sportsturf students, researchers and academics with one of the most comprehensive turfgrass reference points in Europe.

Myerscough was selected ahead of a number of other colleges and research institutions, because of its high standards of education and the excellent facilities it possesses to support the turfgrass industry.

Going up?

The London Golf Club has installed a new 'FREEZE' maintenance equipment lift, designed for service and maintenance work on grass cutting and golf cart equipment.

"The Rotair 'FREEZE' is extremely easy to load and operate - wheels are automatically chocked and engaged for safety. Twin hydraulic cylinders with minimum moving parts give smooth lifting operation. Robust 'double S'-shaped columns provide a smooth bearing surface for extended column life. It has a lifting capacity of 1,100kg for three wheel machines and 2300kg for four-wheel plant.

A key benefit is the baseless construction which affords excellent access and a floor area clear of hazards. Checking and adjusting roller height for optimum efficiency is quick and simple. Clear access to the mowers' facing front plates on the bottom blades means they can be cleaned, sharpened, adjusted and measurably improves grass cutting performance. Access to areas such as linkages, hoses and previously inaccessible grease nipples, means planned maintenance is more comprehensive.

For further information Tel: 01322 294949.

Movement at Rhône-Poulenc

Following the promotion of Jonathan Hill to the European Zone Headquarters in Dusseldorf Rhône-Poulenc Amenity is pleased to announce the appointment of David Agar to the post of Market Development Manager.

David has been promoted from the Rhône-Poulenc Agriculture team where he managed a group of herbicide products that included Asulox. Having joined the company eight years ago as a graduate entrant, David has held several positions including a successful period in Customer Services.

"I HAVE USED PRIMER 604 SINCE IT CAME ON THE MARKET - WITH GREAT RESULTS. IT WILL BE INCLUDED IN MY PROGRAMME FOR 1998."

March 1998 Greenkeeper International 11
Kubota event gets a new look

Kubota is sponsoring a new knockout golf tournament for teams of two players representing golf clubs from throughout the United Kingdom, known as the Kubota Golf Club Challenge. The event succeeds the Kubota Golf Challenge which had been sponsored by the Thame based company over the past 15 years.

Organised by Sporting Concepts Ltd, the Kubota Golf Club Challenge is open to the first 500 clubs to accept the entry invitation by the closing date of 31 March 1998. Ideally, the team representing the invited golf clubs will comprise the Secretary and the Head Greenkeeper to provide continuity to Kubota’s long-term relationship with the Association of Golf Club Secretaries and BIGGA. The Kubota Golf Club Challenge is to be staged in two parts. First will be a series of carded match play rounds played between pairs of randomly drawn clubs on a knockout basis from April through to August. Following the knockout stage, the 15 remaining clubs will contest a Grand Final at Woodhall Spa Golf Club in Lincolnshire.

The Building Fund needs you!
Bigga is looking for volunteers to build on the magnificent launch given to the “Buy a Brick” raffle in aid of the Association’s new Headquarters and Training facility at BTME. During Harrogate week Board of Management Members proved themselves to be superb salesmen when it came to selling raffle tickets and the number of Gold Brick Badges on lapels showed just how many people had bought £50 worth of tickets. Silver and bronze badges, at £25 and £5 respectively, also found their way on to various items of clothing and the money raised during this one event alone reached many thousands.

Since then Regional Administrators and Section Secretaries have been issued with packs of tickets and badges to sell at various events throughout the next few months but if anyone would wish to lend their support to the Building Fund by selling tickets and badges we would be delighted to hear from you. The campaign will end at Bigga’s annual golf day in June with the drawing of the raffle prizes. Please contact Tony Cocker at BIGGA Headquarters Tel: 01347 838581.

NORTH STAFFS IRRIGATION
Ivy Mill, Longton Road, Stone 5115 81B

“The important aspect in choosing the specialist equipment is to choose the right sprinkler and controller rather than the make” Greenkeeper International, March 1997

With 30 years experience of providing sports turf irrigation systems our specialist company is completely independent of a brand manufacturer. Each bespoke system is designed by our qualified engineers to the highest specification and according to the individual requirements of the course, and with a thorough knowledge of the products produced by the top manufacturers we are in the best position to provide top of the range service care.

Our current portfolio includes: Woodsome Hall, Werneth Low and Royal Lytham & St Annes.

At the end of the day the system has to work Ours do – Beautifully
Call us to arrange a free consultation on 01785 812706

We have only changed our name

KING'S HORTICULTURE

Willmot Pertwee
AMENITY & GROWER

New Telephone No: 01787 226100
Facsimile: 01787 226126

ISO
14001
You can hang your label on
Willmot Pertwee
Environmental Management
Management lead buy-out at Rolawn

Rolawn has been the subject of a successful £3.35 million management buy-out following a complex agreement with the company's 475 shareholders.

The buy-out was led by the company's Managing Director, Ken Dawson, and Finance Director, Paul Hopewell and was funded by Lloyd's Development Capital.

"We can now concentrate on the business 100% without any of the distractions that a diverse shareholder base brings," explained Ken Dawson, who co-founded the company 23 years ago.

The chance to represent your Region at Gleneagles is incentive enough to spend more time on the practice range in preparation for the Ritefeed Classic Sectional and Regional Qualifiers.

As was the case with the previous Hayter Challenges three qualifiers from each of the three handicap sections 0-9, 10-18 and 19-28 will win a place in the Regional Finals which are also being played at superb venues with the same three groups of three making up the team for the final.

Design enhancements to one of Sill Lighting’s most popular floodlights, have resulted in a luminaire of even greater efficiency.

The precision engineered Sill 400 series floodlight, made in high pressure diecast aluminium and has a computer calculated and designed reflector, which is made of super-purified aluminium, produces a 66 degree beam and makes for an outstanding 87% efficiency.

The lighting technology allows the floodlight to be mounted parallel to the illuminated area - with no upward tilt commonplace with other luminaires - so completely eliminating glare and lightspill.

For further information Tel: 01844 260006.

Amenity Technology has launched a new digital rain gauge which can be easily fastened outside and has a digital display which is mounted inside which displays daily and cumulative rainfall.

The gauge does not require to be emptied and provides precise rainfall information at a glance with the minimum of effort.

For further information Tel: 0118 951 0033.

Finance for golf clubs with no handicap.

When it comes to golf club finance for both private member clubs and proprietary businesses, FAF are one step ahead. As a market leader we offer a range of innovative finance options for the lease and purchase of equipment to help you keep your course in top condition. We also offer low cost secured finance for course expansion, purchase of freehold, new club houses, major capital projects or refurbishment.

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Flexible finance for golf clubs

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Even when it pours...