The official monthly magazine of the British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association

Editorial: Editor: Scott MacCallum
Tel: 01347 833800 Fax: 01347 833801 E-mail: scott@bigga.co.uk

Advertising:
Sales & Marketing Manager: James McEvoy
E-mail: james@bigga.co.uk
Sales & Marketing Assistants:
Jenny Panon, Cheryl Broomhead
Tel: 01347 833800 Fax: 01347 833802 E-mail: sales@bigga.co.uk

Design:
Design & Production Editor: David Emery
Tel 01347 833800 EDDN: 01347 830020
E-mail: david@bigga.co.uk

Printing:
Hi Tec Print, Units 9-10, Houghton Road, North Anston Trading Estate, North Anston, Sheffield S25 4LZ
Tel: 01909 568206 Fax: 01909 568206
ISSDN: 01909 550561

Greenkeeper International:
Contents may not be reprinted or otherwise reproduced without written permission. Return package must accompany all materials submitted if return is requested.
No responsibility can be assumed for loss of manuscripts, photographs or artwork.
No responsibility can be accepted for loss of manuscripts, photographs or artwork. The right is reserved to edit submissions before publication.
Although every care will be taken, no responsibility is accepted for loss of manuscripts, photographs or artwork.
Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Association, and no responsibility is accepted for such content, advertising or product information that may appear.
Circulation is by subscription. Subscription rate: UK £36 per year, Europe and Eire £46. The magazine is also distributed to libraries and central government.

British Seed Houses 87 42
Blee 98 64
Biotal 614 22
Bernhard + Co 535 31
Bill Head 617 32
Banks Amenity 168 10

Ad Ref numbers « post the card and we’ll arrange for further information to be sent to us. Just state the company’s name and services advertised in this issue. Call Jenny new, on 01347 833800

April 1999

Your next issue of Greenkeeper International will be with you by May 7, 1999

Regulars

News
Pages 7, 8, 9, 10

12 New products

15 The Learning Experience
Can you hear me mother? Bruce Stanley looks at the best ways for greenkeepers to communicate while out on the golf course

20 Letters

32 Education
Ken Richardson covers the up-coming Carden Park seminar, groundwater regulations, national competitions, Learning Experience 2000 and the Millennium Bug

45-50 Around the Green

64 New products

80 Drawing a line in the sand
Sandy McDovt responds to the torrent of letters on his “Sand Green Destruction” article

82 Features Listing
Helping you track down some of Greenkeeper International’s previous articles

82 As I see it...
Gordon Child looks back at another busy month

Contact us
You can contact The British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association in any number of ways:

Post: BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Aine, York, YO61 1UF
Tel: 01347 833800
Fax: 01347 833801
E-mail: reception@bigga.co.uk
Internet: www.bigga.org.uk

Reader Reply Card
Use our post-paid reader reply card to obtain further information on the products and services advertised in this issue. Just state the company’s Ad Ref numbers, post the card to us, and we’ll arrange for further information to be sent direct to you.

Advertiser Ad Ref Page
AF Trenchers 203 54
Amenity Land Services 436 54
Amenity Technology 431 63, 84
Barba Amenity 108 10
Barfield Silk Sand 543 36
Bernard’s Co 535 31
Bill Head 617 32
Birt 614 22
Blyth 98 64
British Seed Houses 97 40
Canplas 506 7
Cleveleys Shingles 16 12
Club Car 593 31
Eagle Promotions 949 57
Eric Hunter Grinders Ltd 73 28
Even Products 609 54
Firbank Turf 18 39
Firbank Recycling 511 81
Fornom 619 19
GreatRouted Trading Company 479 6 62-63
Green Link International 618 66
Green Rider® 563 5
Greenwood 372 50
Groundsmen Industries 602 61
John Deere 103 51
Kawasaki 544 19, 61
Lely 61 48-49
Levington 102 11

Silver Key Circle Company Members
Avamone Amenity Products, Ernest Doe & Sons, Lambert/Fenchurch UK Group Ltd, Sioux Equipment Ltd, Weed Free

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, please contact BIGGA on

01347 833800

Golden Key Circle Company Members

Silver Key Circle Company Members
Avamone Amenity Products, Ernest Doe & Sons, Lambert/Fenchurch UK Group Ltd, Sioux Equipment Ltd, Weed Free

BTME2000
Call Jenny now, on 01347 833800 to reserve your stand at BTME2000!
Has anyone else got webbed feet?

There have been times over the last few weeks that I found myself thinking that I had JR Ewing for a brother.

No, bear with me, there is a degree of logic to what at first glance might seem to be an outrageous suggestion. After all the only time I've been to Dallas I got no where South Fork but was stuck in the airport for a mind numbing four hours. But no. Who was JR's brother? Bobby. And who was Bobby? Patrick Duffy. And who was Patrick Duffy? The Man from Atlantis!

Yes, over the last couple of weeks I'm sure that, if I look closely, I can see the gaps in my toes joining up. You wouldn't believe it but I'm getting webbed feet.

Well, you should believe it because I live in the part of North Yorkshire which was badly hit by the flooding of the River Derwent. Fortunately our house was unaffected but my route to work was cut off and I had to set off in the wrong direction some time earlier than usual to get to BIGGA HOUSE.

It hadn't even been raining particularly heavily but the water table has been so high it didn't take too much to tip it over the edge.

With similar problems, if perhaps to lesser degrees, occurring all over the country it must be causing you all sorts of problems. I know here at Aldwark the golf course was closed for a while and it did result in some disconsolate golfers. Multiply that around the country and there is an army of club golfers, who have brought clubs down from the attic, dusted them off and like coiled springs are ready to start their season. But they can't. They've got no outlet for their frustration... unless at the man who is "stopping them from playing".

Yes, unless you have a particularly enlightened membership, or work in one of the few areas to avoid record rainfall, you have no doubt been getting it in the neck.

It just brings it all home that you can be the best greenkeeper in the world but you are only as good as nature lets you be. Let's face it, it wasn't two years ago that I produced a Drought Special for the magazine and looked at the best ways to save and store rainfall. Since then, and I do accept the blame, it has barely stopped tipping it down. The new garden furniture we bought last year is damp, rusting and barely used.

All you can do is arm yourself with facts and statistics about rainfall levels to bombard the Green Committee, or anyone who traps you in the bar. They needn't be delivered in a defensive way but a "You will just not believe how much rain we've had..." may be enough to nip any potential criticism in the bud.

In the meantime I've got to remember just what happened while I was in that shower. And who was it again who shot JR?