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October 1999
Your next issue of Greenkeeper International will be with you by November 8, 2000

Regulars
News
Pages 7, 9, 10 and 13

Letters

15 The Learning Experience
Looking for Praise
The glorious life of a Golf Course Appraiser

Education
Ken Richardson gives an update on BIGGA's education initiatives

Membership Update

Finance File
Trevor Downing gives some useful advice on pension provision.

Around the Green
Sandy McDivot
A Woman's Place

Features Listing
Helping you track down some of Greenkeeper International's previous articles.

As I see it...
BIGGA Chairman, Gordon Child, gives some details about the GTC's newly formed technical committee
Where will it all end?

As we race towards that date which has been in our diaries for years, but for which most of us have yet to make arrangements, it's perhaps pertinent to look back at just how far we've come since the day's when horse power was provided by real horses.

Progress has been startling and new technology now enables tasks to be performed that were once beyond anyone's comprehension. Or at least allows existing jobs to be done much more easily. It is natural to look back and wonder how people coped in the past. Times must have been hard before the existence of machines which could aerate to 12 inches below the surface, before the days of air conditioned cabs or before mess rooms had hot and cold running water.

It is easy to feel sorry for our predecessors, shorn of such modern day luxury, but there is no need because everyone feels better off than the lot who came before them... and remember there will always be those coming up behind us with even more technology at their fingertips, casting pitiful looks back at those forced to work around the time of the turn of the millennium.

Our grandchildren will no doubt laugh at us having to manage before the introduction of self raking sand.

The point was brought home to me during the summer holidays when my wife and I ventured to Orlando for two week's escapism. In the middle of some magnificent new attractions, including virtual reality, 3-D and high speed roller coasters, was the Carousel of Progress which was one of Walt Disney's own ideas and positively ancient by modern day standards.

You sit in a revolving theatre and stop at different scenes from different decades of the 20th Century. On each occasion a mechanical man in his 40s, dressed in the appropriate garb, enthuses about the latest innovations and how they have made such a difference to their lives.

He raves about how the arrival of electricity has changed their lives; about how the wireless has become the ultimate entertainment; that he's heard that some guys are trying to fly across the Atlantic; that rumour has it that talking pictures are reputed to be right around the corner and how the new washing machine has saved his wife hours.

Each time he's delighted to be living in such a modern age while, sitting in the moving theatre, we know that just around the corner is space travel, key hole surgery, air conditioning and Sony Playstations.

It is true to say that you never know what delights await us but it's also true to say that we are always further forward in technological terms than we ever have been before.

I'm sure the guy who first harnessed a piece of equipment to the back of a horse was seen as some sort of visionary by his colleagues and they were soon looking back at their old days and wondering how they coped.

Where will it all end?
The Association’s high quality colour magazine, Greenkeeper International, is the vital title for golf course maintenance professionals - and anyone involved in any way with the fine turf industry.

The award winning magazine brings you the news and views from experts across the globe, presented in a bright and easy to read format.

We tackle the issues of the moment, whilst keeping an eye on new developments which point the way for the future. A strong education element makes the magazine essential reading for practitioners of the greenkeeping profession.

Greenkeeper International is the natural choice for readers and advertisers alike. BIGGA members receive a copy as a benefit of membership, or you can take out a subscription.

Yes! I want subscription to Greenkeeper International is published 12 times a year. Annual subscription rates: UK £36; Europe £46; Overseas £70

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Ask for a demonstration

Range of gang mowers available
Sir Michael Bonallack accepts his invitation to become BIGGA President

BIGGA's Board of Management is pleased to announce that Sir Michael Bonallack is to be the Association's President.

In doing so he succeeds the late Viscount Whitelaw, the Association's first and only President, who stepped down a short time before his death earlier this year.

Sir Michael, who has just retired after 16 years as Secretary of the R&A and was installed as the Club's Captain for the year of the millennium on September 16, is one of the few people in the game to have been a formidable force on the golf course and then as a golfing administrator.

As a player he was recently listed as one of the top 200 male golfers in history - a rare feat for an amateur player - and few would complain about that assessment. A record of five Amateur Championships and nine Walker Cup appearances, two as playing Captain, speaks for itself. In addition he was twice leading amateur in the Open Championship.

The off course his list of honours is unrivalled culminating in his being Knighted in the Queen's 1998 Birthday Honour's List. He has been Chairman of the PGA and the Golf Foundation, President of the EGU while before his Knighthood he was also the holder of the OBE.

"I am absolutely delighted that Sir Michael has accepted our invitation to be the Association's President," said BIGGA Chairman, Gordon Child.

"No-one in the game is held in higher esteem and for him to agree to become our President is a real honour for the Association and everyone who is involved in greenkeeping," added Gordon.

"I am delighted to accept the invitation to become BIGGA's President and to follow in the footsteps of Viscount Whitelaw, who was such a marvellous President, is a great honour indeed.

"I hope that I can contribute as much to the Association as he did," he added.

The 1999 BIGGA Essay Competition

For those of you who have already put pen to paper in the BIGGA Essay Competition the fact that the deadline is fast approaching will not be too much of a shock. For those of you who have been intending to write an essay but have not quite got round to it, you'd better get your skates on! October 29 is deadline day giving you a good three weeks from when you receive this magazine.

That should be sufficient time to collect your thoughts and put them on paper but it doesn't leave much slack!

The Competition will be judged in three categories: Head Greenkeepers/ Golf Course Managers and deputies; Assistant Greenkeepers and Students aged 25 and over and Assistant Greenkeepers and Students aged under 25.

Entrants have to write an essay of between 1500 and 2000 words long i.e. five to seven typed written pages on the subject of Greenkeeping and Golf Course Management Techniques for the 21st Century. Essays should not confine themselves to 'crystal ball gazing' but should include lessons to be learned from the 20th Century.

All entries should be sent to BIGGA House by 29 October 1999. Essays will be judged on content, accuracy and presentation.

The winners will be announced in the January 2000 edition of Greenkeeper International.

Winners of each category would receive £300 with two runners up in each category receiving £100.

A brochure containing all the winning essays will be published in January 2000, together with a number of the essays from 1912 to 1915.

Andrew nets a top job at Par Aide UK

Par Aide UK has appointed Andrew Lofting as their new Sales Manager. Andrew brings a wealth of experience to the job and will mainly be concentrating on the company's driving range equipment which includes all types of artificial surface and perimeter netting.

Premier honours go to Steve

Steve Baddock, Head Groundsman for Arsenal FC, has been named Groundsman of the Year and the award was presented at Salfect.

Highbury was chosen as the best pitch in the Premier League with Oxford United, York City and Cambridge United winning the other divisional awards.
Martin goes West to Scotts

Scotts turf and amenity sales team has been added to by the recent appointment of Martin Townsend, from Avoncrop, to cover the West of England and South Wales.

Martin brings to Scotts a wealth of expertise from all sides of the turf-care business beginning his career in 1972 as a player on the MCC Young Professionals Staff programme at Lords. Martin subsequently turned his hand to groundsmanship at Lords and greenkeeping at Bishops Stortford Golf Club, where he was appointed Head Greenkeeper.

After a spell with Gloucestershire County Cricket Club as Deputy Head Groundsman, Martin moved to the commercial sector with Monro Amenities Care and Avoncrop, where he was promoted to Technical Sales Manager.

New role for Dave at LasTec

LasTec, manufacturer of the revolutionary Articulator mower, has appointed Dave Bayless to the newly-created position of Product Manager.

The Product Manager is responsible for the development of all LasTec products - complete from the research & development process to the shipping of finished goods. This includes overseeing initial product development, coordinating manufacturing processes, implementing design changes, tracking field service and warranty issues - and assuring quality control and effective customer service throughout these processes.

"We needed someone who was not only very familiar with our complete product line and our manufacturing processes, but was intimately knowledgeable of our parts department for customer service issues," said Mike Eastwood, LasTec President.

Northern Region Golf Tournament

On 25 August teams representing the six Sections in the Northern Region assembled at Macclesfield Golf Club in Cheshire for a golf tournament to fill a gap left by the late lamented Hayter Tournament. The teams of six had been selected following the Spring Tournaments with two qualifiers from each of three handicap ranges.

Most of the members who had qualified to play were present; holiday and work commitments resulting in one or two changes. Unfortunately the North East team was hit by late withdrawals and could only muster a team of three on the day. This put them out of the running, as the result would be decided by the aggregate of the best five medal scores of each team.

Macclesfield Golf Club is real mountain golf country and it would be a definite advantage to have one leg shorter than the other (alternating legs preferably). It was in excellent condition and was a credit to Steve Worthington and his staff. The scoring was very good and it was clear from an early stage that the result would be close and arrangements were quickly made for a sudden death play-off. However, this was not required as the Sheffield Section came through in the end and won by one shot:

Sheffield 348
Cleveland 349
North West 352
North Wales 353
Northern 354

The Sheffield team was: John Darrock, Hirst Priory; Andrew Lornas, Matlock; Colin Hopper, Doncaster Town Moor; Mark Knowles, Rufford Park; Paul Neve, Broagly; Alan Sampson, Wortley.

The best gross scores of 74 were returned by Roger Bieby, Horrissea, from the Northern Section, and Michael Nolan, Haltwhistle, representing the North West. Michael, playing off a handicap of 10 had the best net score of 64.

At the Dinner following the tournament, Bert Cross thanked Richard Campey for his company's sponsorship and his personal interest in the event and Macclesfield Golf Club for the excellent arrangements on the day. It was nice to see Steve Worthington and his Deputy, Mike McGinnis, present taking the deserved plaudits for the condition of the course.

This was Bert Cross's day. He made the original suggestion to the Board, he found the sponsor, and he found the golf course. He purchased the prizes. He negotiated with the caterers, he liaised with the Section Secretaries to ensure that all qualifiers or replacements would be present. He nominated his official BIGGA Starter's bright blue blazer and saw the players off the 1st Tee. He checked the cards and then presided over the Dinner and Presentation. Well done, Bert! It is hoped that the tournament will become an annual event, circulating around the Region.

Doug Bell, Regional Administrator

Knighton Course opened at Canford

A ribbon was cut on the first Tee by Proprietors Bill Riddle and Richard Harding to open officially the Knighton Course, an additional 9 hole course to the Canford Magna Golf Club near Bournemouth. The new 2754 yard course has been designed to complement the existing 6,496 yard, 18 hole Baedland Course and the Riverside Course, again 18 hole and over 6000 yards.

More than £400,000 has been invested by the complex to complete the new 9 hole par 3 to offer a shorter but equally challenging game on unused farmland that remains rich in wildlife.

Landowner and farmer Richard Harding, who with his developer partner Bill Riddle first started landscaping what has become a £15 Million complex in 1994, says that the 1000 strong membership and visitors will greatly appreciate the new addition to the existing Championship level courses.

The new Knighton course was designed and constructed by Trevor Smith, who was recently appointed as Managing Director from his position of Project Manager, and the Club's Greenkeeping team.

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New MD announced at Allen Power

Peter Bateman will succeed Peter Jefferis when he retires as Managing Director of Allen Power Equipment at the end of this year. Peter Jefferis joined the company in 1962. During his 13 years as MD, he was responsible for the continuing development of the company's own brand of British-made products, including hover mowers and ride-ons, plus the acquisition of other established outdoor power equipment companies.

With his background and experience, Peter Bateman is well placed to provide the insight and experience to continue this policy. His career in the industry started in 1986. For the last five years he has been General Manager at Kent-based Godfreys. Under his progressive management style the company has achieved rapid growth through marketing initiative, enthusiasm and staff motivation. This has brought the dealership into the forefront of the areas in which they trade.

Commenting on the appointment, Allen's Chairman, Michael Macarho, said, "The company has grown substantially under Peter Jefferis' leadership and we all wish him a long and happy retirement. In Peter Bateman we have appointed an exceptional young man to take the company forward. We believe firmly that building on our strengths will increase profitability for our dealers."

Peter Bateman joins Allen Power Equipment at the beginning of November.

Abbeydale and Bernhard get to the point

Abbeydale Golf Club now enjoys the benefits of the twin performance of the Bernhard Express Dual and Anglemaster grinding machines, Current Toro Excellence in Greenkeeping Award winner, John Coleman, has seen its maintenance costs fall since the purchase this year of the grinders. Maintenance and stress relief were the important factors which John was required to address, as he sought the correct machinery, earlier this year. The products were identified on the Atterton Bernhard Website and following an initial demonstration, were purchased for immediate maintenance work.

A risk assessment? What do you think?

Marc Haring, Course Manager, at Cumberwell GC in Wiltshire, had a close escape when he got just a little too near to one of the five new lakes on the club's new nine holes.

"Before the new course was opened we took bets on who would be the first to end up in one of them," explained Marc. "Unfortunately, and to great amusement to the rest of the team it was me. Of course there were the usual jokes about falling periscopes to the mower and supplying me with a rubber ring but I was able to inform my team that I was simply carrying out a particularly dedicated and radical form of risk assessment on their behalf," he said.

Royal Inverdivot GC... by Tony Husband
Now available for the Acorn: It's Super Mario Man!

David Bottomley formerly of Trident/Rigby Taylor has a new post with Acorn on Course Equipment as Area Sales Manager, covering the Yorkshire & East Coast areas. Dave was Head Greenkeeper for 10 years at Branshaw Golf Club and has a further five years experience with Rigby Taylor. Dave joined the company at the end of May and has gained a nickname in the company as 'Super Mario Man'.

South East beckons as Ray joins Weed Free

Ray McClatchie, formerly Course Manager at Blackmoor GC in Hampshire, has joined Weed Free as Contracts Manager for the South East of England.

Ray brings 12 years Greenkeeping experience to the post, having begun his career at Sunningdale, before becoming Course Manager at Blue Mountain Golf Club.

"I'm ready to be part of a company that's going places and I think that my years in greenkeeping will help. When you have been in charge of maintaining a golf course yourself, you know what the Course Manager expects and how to behave while the course is in play."

His appointment closely follows that of Mark Anderson who joined the company at the beginning of the Summer moving from an earlier career in Greenkeeping, and continues proprietor Mike Seaton's policy of staffing Weed Free with turf professionals.

St Andrews Head GKs get grassed up

Three of St Andrews Head Greenkeepers recently travelled to Holland to meet a number of fellow grass experts, beginning at the Barenbrug Research Station. Sales and Marketing Manager, Alan Lomas, was the escort.

Eddie Adams, Mark Brunton and David Wilson flew from Edinburgh to Amsterdam and were then whisked off to Wolfheze to meet Gerard van't Klooster, Chief Breeder at Barenbrug Research and begin a tour of the establishment.

On the second day they visited the Amsterdam Arena to meet Head Groundsman, Pierre Joosten, and then onto to the Arnhem Vitesse Gellicome stadium to be greeted by the Head Groundsman, Henk Roosendaal. The final visit was to the Roosendaal Golf & Country Club where the St Andrews team were given an opportunity to swap notes with Chris Wagener, the Head Greenkeeper.

Black Widow gets a new twist

The Black Widow alternative spike is now available to golfers with the Fast Twist locking system.

The Fast Twist system makes changing spikes quicker and easier, without in any way detracting from the traction and comfort that the Black Widow provides. The Fast Twist system is currently available in shoes made by the following manufacturers, Footjoy, Dexter, Lady Fairway and Hi-Tec.

At a recent ELPGA event in France, first round leader Trish Johnson hit out at the spiked greens.

"The greens were quite cut up, I can't believe more players haven't switched to soft spikes. Only a handful of players haven't converted in the States and it has made a big difference to the putting averages. And anyway they're far more comfortable."

BIGGA's South East Northern Ireland Section enjoyed a superb day out and also raised £1,250 for the Heartbeat children's charity at the same time. The Greenkeepers' Charity Open attracted greenkeepers and visitors from as far afield as Sligo and it is hoped that the event will become an annual date on the calendar.
Marlwood Ltd is the latest company to make a donation to BIGGA's Silent Auction with the rear-mounted Model 325ER Articulator valued at £5000.

Have you heard?

Is your club thinking of purchasing a piece of machinery? Why not bid for one, and stand a chance of getting it for half the normal retail price? Make your bid by either:

Phone: 01347 833800
Fax: 01347 833801
E-mail: reception@bigga.co.uk
Post: BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Aline, York Y061 1UF
or in person at BTME2000

With a combined cutting width of 72" the 325ER Articulator easily mounts on to most traction units equipped with a rear-mount 3-point hitch and a minimum of 18HP. Cuttings are mulched and discharged to the side of the machine ensuring a clean finish while high-lift blades help eliminate tractor wheel marks from the mowers path. The Model 325ER has the cut quality of three single pedestrian mowers with the productivity of a wide-area machine.

The Articulator Rotary Mowers from LasTec Inc. are the most versatile on the market. Encompassing a variety of PTO or Ride-on units, each model is based on the principle that each of the cuffing decks articulate independently providing a championship quality cut on undulating ground.

The Articulator family includes the 325 Series of rear-mounted and front-mounted mowers, the four deck Model 425D Ride-on to the seven deck Model 72IX rear-mounted machine.

The 325ER is a three-deck version of the Articulator specifically designed to cut the semi-rough and rough turf on golf courses. The three 25" cutting decks articulate over undulating mounds and valleys, delivering the best quality cut with no scalping and no missed grass.
A journey back in time

Reading Ian Forbes' letter to Walter in the September issue of Greenkeeper International sent my memory flooding back to 1955 when I took over the Head man's position at Lenzie Golf Club. Up until this period I was not very interested in people who came to ply their wares to the courses where I had worked. Then I became a Head Greenkeeper it took me only one season to realise what helpful information I could glean from the travelling Salesman who willingly sought me out whether I was in the sheds or in the furthermost out part of the course. No telephone calls to say they were coming, nor the irritating mobile phone stuck on the belt or inside pocket.

I remember receiving the postcard saying “The Company's Representative would call” on a certain day, at a certain time and if this was not convenient to me, would I be kind enough to give their office a phone call. I always thought it peculiar that the company reps all came in the same week but never the same day. They must have loved wet days when most of the Greenkeepers could be found in the compost sheds, or tending with some mower or other.

I looked forward to a visit from Ian Forbes. He was so interested in nature that I think he enjoyed walking the course to find you, then he would enquire about some wild flower, bird, or the condition of your course and greens which he had noticed in his seeking you out. Selling fertiliser or seed etc. seemed to be the least of his worries.

I became Secretary of the West Section around the late '50s and had the task of arranging Speakers for the Winter Lectures. Speakers were hard to come by, especially those who could impart their knowledge on all subjects concerning greenkeeping. Ian Forbes was such a man. What insight he had on the flora and fauna of our country.

Making the earth move?

I read the above article with great interest and feel that to describe the Vertidrain as “the first anti-compaction machine built anywhere in the world” is a rather sweeping statement. Your article also gives the impression that the only method of aeration available prior to the 1980's was a hand fork.

Compaction can be treated very satisfactorily in many instances by deep slitting or hollow coring and greenkeepers have been doing just that since the 1930s. The first SISIS deep slitter was horse drawn and produced in 1936, by the 1940s we could offer 9in. tines and by the 1980s 12in.

We acknowledge the introduction of the Vertidrain as a major landmark and indeed the SISIS Soil Reliever works on a similar principle, but to claim that it was the first ever anti-compaction machine is not true.

Redexim may have developed an alternative method of deep aeration and incorporated the “heave” factor which can be useful in certain situations but SISIS were the true pioneers of aeration as a means of compaction relief some 45 years earlier.

Finding the right employer

Due to my recent unpleasant experience in employment I wish to bring to the attention of all members seeking work, the importance of vetting any potential employer.

After attending interviews at a club in the South of England, I was politely shown around the grounds, course, plant and sheds, etc. However upon accepting the position of Head Greenkeeper it soon became clear to me that all was not as it should be.

I was not allowed to make any purchase however small without going through the Management who took unnecessarily long periods of time before dealing with same. Use of strongly unacceptable language by Management to ALL staff was a common occurrence. No regular contact was possible due to absence of Management for prolonged unknown periods. There was threat of physical abuse directed at me when I questioned the reasoning behind certain requests.

There was an extremely high turnover of staff on the course and in the clubhouse. This together with the fact that the local residents had nothing good to say about the Management gave out warning signs on the door.

I had taken the trouble to look into these areas, and check my prospective Employer thoroughly. I would have saved myself a lot of inconvenience and stress.

I hope that by writing of my experience I can help others to avoid falling into the same pithole.
TGA field days are a resounding success

The Turf Grass Growers Association held its first ever UK Field Days recently. Final attendance statistics including details of attendees not only from the UK, France, Holland, Greece and Spain, but also from the USA, Saudi Arabia and Israel.

Exhibitors gave important technical information accompanied by working demonstrations and attendees were offered hands on experience of the equipment that they were interested in an experience that has never been offered at this type of event before.

To ensure a blend of business and informal pleasure, turf producers and their suppliers took up the opportunity of attending the TGA Summer Social while at the event and danced the night away at an event which was sold out well in advance of the Field Days. The evening included the presentation of TGA Awards to Members, Affiliates and attendees.

Retirement of Denis Clark

Denis Clark, Managing Director of Links Leisure, the Shropshire-based manufacturer of the PRO-TEE range of golf accessories, has retired.

After being at the helm since the company's formation in 1994, Denis's management replacement is Brenda Baskerville, ex-Marketing Manager of North West Turf, a member of the Institute of Groundsmanship, and one of the people organising this year's IOG Haydock Show alongside the IOG's, Geoff Beretton, and Aintree's, Terry Robinson.

Commenting on the new appointment, John Butler, chairman of Links Leisure, said: "After working successfully with Denis for more than 17 years through both Links Leisure and other group companies, it was fairly obvious that he was going to be a difficult man to replace. Brenda, however, has the qualification and experience to become a valuable member of the team contributing towards the continuing growth of the company. At the same time, I am certain that her many friends in the industry will be looking forward to seeing her when the company exhibits at SALTEX, Harrogate, Haydock, and Scotsturf."
The Learning Experience
The life of a golf writer is often envied. "How exciting," people will say, "wouldn't I just love your job." It's the most well-worn phrase a journalist has to contend with, yet for every day spent in the field (you know the sort of courses we tackle; a muni built over a reclaimed rubbish tip one week, a multi-million dollar, over-the-top designer nightmare in South Carolina the next), there remain several days when the glare of a computer screen is as near as we get to sunlight. So, please, cut out the envy. Remember, like gluttony or sloth, it's a deadly sin.

For real envy, and a task I'd give my eye teeth for, fantasise for a moment and picture yourself in the exotic world of 'The Golf Course Appraiser'. This pastime, (by nature of the reward package it can hardly be called a career), calls for amateur golfers, not necessarily of Walker Cup level, but competent, to play their way around the globe, followed by their filing of a judgmental golf course star rating, each following a set criteria, yet with each Editor setting different criteria for their own readership.

What set me thinking was prompted by a round played recently with an American chum, who'd been gifted one of these assignments by a US publication. After sailing the Atlantic on QE II, he set off around the coast-line, ducking west, then south and east, the midlands, north and over the border, playing and assessing a possible wish-list of courses. Three months and over 60 courses later, not a single track had failed to dent his game or indeed his enthusiasm for what he described as 'our unique Britishness.'

Comparing notes, we considered the interest these so-called 'top' lists generated, while agreeing that one should not put too much stock by them. No surprises either, that we chose to differ on several of those earmarked as greats, grands, or also-rans. As he put it, "the golf hole that makes me quiver might reveal nothing to you, while your favourite may do nothing for me."
Above right: Attention to detail on the course demands that all areas receive attention, including grading rough and, for aesthetic reasons, contouring fairways.

Below: Graded rough, while bringing a degree of parity back into the game, is pleasing to the eye. It can also create a fiendish optical illusion.
But in his book there must be no comparing apples with oranges. His grading makes allowances for environmental factors: links versus heath or parkland, turf composition, the age of a course and the traffic it bears, while he is not above sneaking a look into the maintenance sheds to see what resources are available. Brownie points go to the greenkeeper who presents smooth as opposed to sparse though excessively rapid putting surfaces.

For chipping and pitching to the green he appreciates grass cover, though certainly nothing lush, which produces 'fliers'. On the other hand, bone hard lies bereft of turf, especially where a wedge is called for, will lose a few points. Having said all that, his opinion (shared also by many others involved in the ratings game), suggests that a fine course ought to be bulletproof, so that if the weather has been rotten and the sward isn't up to its usual standards, the course will still remain playable. And as he so succinctly put it, golf isn't meant to be fair, anyway, though it's good to start with a properly aligned tee!

Recovery, the ability to recover or at least have a chance to recover from a bad shot, is rated as very important. Don't take away the strategy of the game by leaving those a little bit off line without any chance. This brings the ratings round to all that grass through the green, as opposed to the putting surfaces, which can be manipulated in just about any manner. On fairways it is accepted that a height of half an inch or less than three quarters of an inch will give the ball just enough support to prevent grass interrupting the contact of club with ball.

Provide grass where the ball settles down and you're making the game more difficult. Nobody likes a flyer. And just as rough is a naazar, a punishment for missing the landing zone, today's thinking leans toward having the penalty fit the crime. No golfer, missing the fairway by a few inches, should be penalised as harshly as one who misses by 60 feet.

In strategic design (and maintenance) off fairway grading is tackling the golfer's error and giving back some element of recovery. Meting out punishment according to crime means three cuts of rough, the so-called friendly rough, cut usually at one and a half to two inches, the intermediate rough at two and a half to three inches, the rest as condemnation for misdemeanours with the driver!

Of course, it's the architect that gets the kudos, yet the real rating, the only one that counts, is the one that says to visitor and local alike, I want to come back! That, we are all in agreement, is so often down to the man at the sharp end; our friend, our ally, our unsung hero, the greenkeeper.

The author, Alexander Omatt, promotes the work of golf course constructors. His all-time favourite course is Tobacco Road, designed by former greenkeeper, turned course shaper, turned architect, Mike Strantz, who is described as Alistair Mackenzie reincarnated.
BIGGA's Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson prepares for an extremely busy month...

EDUCATION UPDATE

October is always a busy month in the Education and Training Department as we prepare for the Finals of the TORO Student of the Year and Excellence in Greenkeeping Competitions, for the Final of the Golf Course Environment Competition, for the BIGGA House Supervisory and Management Courses, for the start of the Regional Training Courses and we begin to take bookings for the Learning Experience.

TORO Competitions

Thanks to TORO's continued sponsorship, the Excellence in Greenkeeping and Student of the Year Competitions continue to attract high quality entries year after year. The Competitions ensure that the prize winners receive top quality education and training opportunities and they also help to improve the quality of golf courses and monitor formal education and training standards. Details of the Finalists for the Student of the Year Competition and for the BIGGA House Supervisory and Management Courses, for the start of the Regional Training Courses and we begin to take bookings for the Learning Experience.

Golf Course Environment Competition

The number of entries for the BIGGA Golf Course Environment Competition in association with Amazone Ground Care and the Grass Roots Trading Company, was the highest ever in 1999. The judges, Bob Taylor and Jonathan Hart-Wood from the STRI and Dr Keith Duff, from English Nature have had a very difficult job selecting the Regional and National Finalists from the large number of high quality entries. Full details of prize winners will appear in the November edition of this magazine.

The Learning Experience 2000

You should have received a copy of the Learning Experience 2000 brochure with the September edition of Greenkeeper International, however, additional copies can be obtained from BIGGA House. There are a number of changes for 2000 as regular visitors will have noticed from their brochures. What does remain constant, however, is the support of Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products which makes the Learning Experience possible.

The National Education Conference, which takes place in the Majestic Hotel, on 17 and 18 January 2000, has a new look for the Millennium, with four in depth tutorials taking the place of the varied, shorter, less intensive talks of previous years. Each session has been designed to be thought provoking, perhaps controversial and, most importantly, audience led.

Monday morning on 17 January sees Jim Snow, Dr Stephen Baker and John Wells lead the session on golf green construction. Jim Snow is the National Director of the United States Golf Association Green Section. He has been involved in the 'USGA Green Specification' for many years and has a wealth of knowledge on greens construction. Dr Stephen Baker is the Head of Soils and Sports Turf Science at the STRI. He has been at Bingley for almost twenty years and he is, currently carrying out research for both the R&A and USGA on aspects of golf green construction. Stephen was also a member of the Advisory Committee responsible for the 1993 revision of the USGA Construction Recommendations. John Wells, who is the Course Manager at Brocket Hall became a Master Greenkeeper in 1995. He is nearing the end of the Project to construct a second course at Brocket Hall which introduces a further 18 holes, 6 par 3 holes and a 3 hole academy. John, who was a speaker at a previous Education Conference has given many lectures on the subject of 'From Soil to Sand Greens'.

This is your chance to get those burning questions answered. What are the advantages/disadvantages of USGA greens, do they cost more to maintain than soil greens, what will happen to the USGA specification in the future, what's wrong with soil anyway? etc etc.

Monday afternoon's session looks at Effective Soil Water Management for Optimum Turf Quality, with Demie Moore and Justin Smith. Both experts in the field of water management, Demie and Justin have presented lectures around the world. Is there a link between sand based greens and water management? Find out on Monday 17 January.

Tuesday 18 January begins with an in depth look at Integrated Pest Management, with Dr Paul Miller, Team Leader Curriculum at Elmwood College, Dr Kate Entwistle, Turfgrass Pathologist, STRI and Steve Jones, Golf Courses Superintendent, The London Golf Club. With a scientist from STRI, an academic from a Greenkeeping Training College and a practising Golf Course Superintendent, this session should answer all of your questions on turfgrass diseases and how to control them. Or will it? Find out by being there and asking those questions that you need answering.

Tuesday afternoon continues the theme of theory and practice, this time looking at Grasses for Golf Courses.

There is still time to book a place on a BIGGA House Supervisory Management Course and/or on one of this year's Regional Courses. Contact Ken or Sami to check on availability.

Full details of the education and training options available at BTME2000 are included in 'The Learning Experience' brochure.

NEED A COPY?

TEL: 01347 833833

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British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alce, York, Y061 1UF Tel: 01347 833800 Fax: 01347 833801 Email: education@bigga.co.uk
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Having just moved house myself I know how stressful it can be, and how important it is to let people know of your change of address. So don’t forget to include BIGGA on your list of people to inform of your change of details. You can contact us in a variety of ways, via the post, telephone or e-mail. All of our contact details can be found below, and on page 3.

Don’t leave it too late to inform us of your change of address, or your copy of Greenkeeper International will be returned to us, rather than delivered to you. And then, how would you be able to read your regular monthly installment of all the latest features, news and up to the minute information from the line turf industry?

Also, this month, together with the October issue of Greenkeeper International you will find a copy of the 1999/2000 BIGGA Golf Directory, with our compliments. This year, the Directory includes a comprehensive greenkeeper membership section, providing an invaluable tool in finding out where those long lost colleagues have gone! (See, someone else forgot to let us know their change of address too!)

So, to make sure you receive your future issues of Greenkeeper International, be sure to inform Tracey or Kirstie of your change of address as soon as possible.

Kevin R Porter, South Wales
Jason Stevens, South West
Darren R Tresise, Devon & Cornwall
Northern Ireland Region
James Harkness, South East
Michael Houghian, South East
Brian Munson, North East
Leslie G Murphy, South East
David J Wilson, North East
Richard Naylor, West
Republic Of Ireland
Stephen O Meara
International Members
Keith Allen, Germany
Alan Walsh, Germany
Associate Members
Danny Tonkyn, North West
Bernard O Garrikin, Midland
Gary Hines, Midland
Martin Harvey, Midland
Paul A Dykes, Sussex
John Fearne, East Anglia
Stuart Ashworth, Devon & Cornwall

Check out November's September's new members

Trevor Downing of J Rothschild Assurance introduces the second in a series of articles on protection, investment, pensions and mortgage planning which we believe will be of much benefit to BIGGA members.

Some of the best things in life are unexciting but essential. To all but the most devoted practitioner, pensions are unexciting but they are essential. A successive governments of pensions are now in the process of moving from inadequate to less than adequate. 

Now the outlook is even more bleak. Perhaps it is time for State benefits to carry their own health warning!

The State Scheme was never meant to provide much more than a subsistence income, choice would come with individuals making private provision. Now the outlook is even more bleak. If we assume the current framework, the impact of relying on the State Scheme is obvious. Perhaps it is time for State benefits to carry their own health warning!

A Double Whammy

What is causing enormous concern amongst commentators now is the “double whammy” effect.

• What has been called “planning bight” by the Association of British Insurers and
• The drop in interest rates (and therefore the cost of buying an income at retirement).

‘Planning bight’ is a consequence of proposals for Stakeholder Pensions. These new savings vehicles will be with us some time in 2001 or later. The danger is that individuals will delay starting or topping up a pension scheme now in order to wait for the new kid on the block. This could be an expensive mistake. In any long term savings plan (particularly in a tax efficient fund), the early contributions are the most valuable, producing the largest proportion of the final fund.

A delay therefore of two years could reduce emerging benefits by 20% over a 25 year savings term. Then there is the problem of interest rates. Most of us can remember paying record high mortgage rates not so long ago. The good news is that mortgage repayment periods have now followed a sustained period of low interest rates. The problem is that this same phenomenon has led to retirement income becoming more expensive.

There are some compensations. Inflation linking need not be so expensive for instance because inflation is now lower. For larger funds, there is a range of options enabling you to postpone purchase of an income.

We will have to save more - with a little help from the Inland Revenue. The only way to forget about retirement is to plan for it. How you live in retirement is up to you. It is important you act now - no one else is looking after your needs.

You have two choices:

• Do nothing and suffer the consequences
• Act now and take control of your future

If you decide on the latter then please feel free to contact Trevor Downing on 01393 300427 for further information.

Representing only the J. Rothschild Assurance Marketing Group (members of which are regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and/or IMRO) which takes responsibility for its representatives only in respect of advice given on, and the sale of, life assurance, pensions and unit trust products of members of the Marketing Group.
Still effective against disease

Amazingly, some species of fungus are hugely beneficial to your turf.

Mycorrhizal fungi develop a mutually beneficial relationship with turf roots for effective nutrient exchange, and increased resistance to drought, insect pests and disease.

As a result, turf associated with Mycorrhiza tends to be healthier.

You'll be pleased to hear then, that Rovral Green leaves these 'friendly' fungi completely unharmed.

You'll also be glad to know that Rovral Green is still as effective as ever at controlling the harmful species like Fusarium, Red Thread and Dollar Spot. No wonder it's still the UK's No 1.

Rovral Green - it thinks for itself.
With the appointment in 1989 of an Education Officer, BIGGA took an important step forward in its commitment to improving the training and education of greenkeepers in the profession and today offers a wide and varied range of opportunities to its members.

All members have access to the National Education Conference, 'in house' supervisory management courses, short regional based specialist and management courses, careers advice, a lending library, the Master Greenkeeper Certificate Scheme as well as videos, books and education related competitions.

Education & Development Fund

Closely linked to BIGGA's education policy is the Education & Development Fund which was established in 1992 with the creation of the Golden and Silver Key sponsorship scheme. The sole aim of this Fund is to enable the promotion and financing of specialist educational programmes and training aids for the benefit of the greenkeeping profession.

Between 1992 and 1997 the Fund helped BIGGA produce three training videos (Golf Green Reconstruction, Golf Course Preparation and Golf Course Ecology) and one book (A Practical Guide to the Ecological Management of the Golf Course), plus several field guides including the identification of grasses, the identification of trees and shrubs and the control of mammals. The Education & Development Fund has also been used to help subsidise regional based management courses for the benefit of members.

For more information about BIGGA's education and training opportunities available to you, contact Ken Richardson, Education and Training Manager, or Sami Collins, Education and Training Assistant on 01347 833800.
Scott MacCallum visited The Manor House at Castle Combe and found a golf course basking in the magnificent setting...

There are some places in this world which obviously managed to be further up the pecking order when good looks and scenery were handed out. One such area is undoubtedly the Cotswolds, and more specifically, Castle Combe, a village that could have single-handedly inspired the American tourist mantra "Ain't it quaint".

While the village is a star in its own right, acting as it did as backdrop to the film Dr Doolittle, the Manor House Hotel and Golf Club at Castle Combe more than adds to the area. The golf course was designed by Peter Alliss and Clive Clark in the early 90s and is now the responsibility of Course Manager Paul Bishop, who is well aware of how lucky he is to earn his living in such an idyllic part of the world.

"It is a wonderful place to work," he explained, as he sat in the clubhouse following a BIGGA day during which the course had impressed everyone... despite a day-long downpour which would have been of more use to the Director of Singing in the Rain than Dr Doolittle.
Paul has been at The Manor House for five years having moved from Hever Castle in Kent, and before that East Sussex National.

"When I was at Hever I wrote to a couple of courses to ask if they had any job vacancies and one of those was Mannings Heath in the Sussex Downs. They wrote back to say that they didn't have anything but that their company, Exclusive Hotels and Country Clubs, had just bought a course in the West Country - The Manor House at Castle Combe," explained Paul.

Since then, and despite the obvious distractions that the stunning scenery provides, Paul and his team, have been hard at work both on the general maintenance of the course but also on some elements of course reconstruction to iron out some of the wrinkles implicit in the original design and build.

With the added complication of the course being built on Cotswold Brash, Paul's first task was to try to improve the make up of the greens which had been constructed on pure fine sand. "It packed down causing compaction and drainage problems so they required lots of aeration," explained Paul. "We did what we could for the first couple of years with soil exchange - taking pure sand out and putting in top dressing - and although we had moderate success we realised that reconstruction was the only way forward."

Having come to that conclusion, a programme was put in place after having identified where the work would be targeted. "There were certain holes on the course which had small greens compounded by the fact that they were also in the shade - in particular the 2nd, 3rd and 4th - and these caused us real problems."

"Other greens, like the 18th, are quite small and offer up limited pin positions which doesn't help to spread the wear."

The first phase involved the three aforementioned holes and in particular the 4th - a par-3 completely encased by trees. "Light was always a problem with old established trees which had been there for a long time so we decided that the best option was to move the green turning it into a par-4."

"The tee stayed where it was but the green, which had been at the bottom of a hill was moved to the top."

"The work was done pretty much in-house with a team consisting of Paul plus six greenkeepers and a mechanic but for the addition of Shaper and Constructor, Will Geddes, who had previously worked for Transcontinental Golf."

"I could not have done all this without the hard work and dedication of my deputy, Chris Jack, along with the rest of the greenkeeping team. I ordered the materials and all the machinery required," explained Paul, who added that the beauty of the plan was that the original par-5 could still be played by the members while the work on the new green was going on.

Having completed the first phase last year the second was undertaken earlier this year, featuring two of the most picturesque holes on the course. Both par-3s, the 11th and 17th, have greens at the bottom of a valley and you would be just as likely to reach for a camera as a short iron when..."
standing on the tee. Indeed the 17th, regarded as the signature hole on the course, drops over 100 feet in the space of 100 yards.

"They were both small greens - the 11th was about 400 square metres and were in frost pockets," explained Paul.

Both greens were totally rebuilt to full USGA spec, with all materials sent away to the European Turfgrass Laboratories, Stirling, Scotland to ascertain full compatibility. Greens were sown down to Providence creeping Bentgrass at 4g/m^2 x 2 directions.

"Providence I believe provides an excellent dense, true putting surface and if managed correctly, does not require excessive maintenance."

The 11th is now around 600 square metres and has been lowered so that people did not have to scramble up the side to get on it while the 17th now has two greens to utilise.

"We built another green for the 17th so we can spread the wear. As you can imagine tee shots were landing from quite a considerable height and the pitch marks were a problem.

The main green has been pushed back so that we can now have a medal position right by the brook which runs behind the hole," said Paul, while the other green has the brook running in front of it bears loose comparison to Augusta National's 12th on Amen Corner.

In addition to the greens several tees were altered and enlarged including the 9th which is now significantly bigger and offering many more tee positions. This hole has been changed from a par-4 blind tee shot to a par-3, which compensates for the change on the 4th to keep the course pretty much the same length.

With the first two reconstruction phases now complete Paul and his team can now return to the regular tasks of maintaining the course and enjoying one of the more pleasant work places in the country.

Indeed, fact could quite easily emulate fiction as "talking to the animals" is a distinct possibility with the amount of wildlife on show and the club were the Western winners of the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition in association with Amazone and Rhone Poulenc, two years ago.

"It is a wonderful course for wildlife, we have two pairs of buzzards nesting and regularly see kestrels, woodpeckers, monk jacks and roe deer while there is also evidence of badgers," said Paul, although unlike the good doctor he didn't admit to having any experience of the rare Pushmepullyu.

"We have got some areas of limestone grassland which is designated SSSI and we manage this in conjunction with the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust.

"We have a complete management strategy and one of the things we do is never spread grass clippings in the rough - we've got specific grass dumping piles to ensure that it does not go into the woods etc. We also have a list of weed killers and pesticides which have been approved by the Trust."

The course is extremely hilly and the majority of golfers use buggies - in fact during the South West and South Wales BIGGA Day when I visited only one team ventured out on foot - congratulations to Jeff Mills and his colleagues from Taunton and Pickernge.

"I know cart paths are much crit-
The undulating course makes a buggy a very good idea.

Machinery Inventory

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Item</th>
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<td>John Deere 2243 Greens Triples with verti-drain units</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jacobsen Greens King IV Tee Mower</td>
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<tr>
<td>Set of True Surfacing Rollers</td>
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<td>John Deere 2335 Fairways Mower with lightweight heads</td>
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<td>Toro 5100-D Fairway Mower</td>
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I completely succeeded in transforming POA greens to Fescue/Bent but I know many that have nearly lost their jobs trying to achieve it. With many young and upcoming greenkeepers this does concern me because above all what ever grass plant you have on your greens it should be strong and healthy not starved of essential nutrients. I also expect to see in the not too distant future new greens being sown down to a variety/mixture of POA reptens. I know this is a very controversial subject, but at least there will be plenty of letters next month!

As well as looking after the golf course Paul and his team look after the Hotel grounds including the croquet lawn.

"The future for the whole place is extremely rosy. The hotel is superb, unusual and incredibly tranquil and the golf course will go from strength to strength" said Paul.
Nothing looks better than a course that’s completely green.

On a growing number of courses, the choice of colour in golf and turf equipment is John Deere green. Here’s why:

**2500**
This new triplex greens mower has a quality of cut that is second to none. Diesel models feature 13.4kW (18 hp) engines and John Deere cutting units.

**220A**
This walk behind greens mower features an operator presence safety system, more power and a precision cut with 11 bladed reel.

**Aercore Aerators**
The first walk behind and tractor mounted aerators that deliver high productivity without sacrificing hole quality.

**2653**
Superior performance on undulating terrain with a precision cut, hydraulic reel drive and 66 cm (26 in) ESP cutting units.

**1200A**
Excellent pulling and pushing power. Opens up a whole new era of bunker rake design. Many attachments available.

**RZI 700**
Effective, efficient and environmentally friendly. This root zone injection system injects liquids directly to the root zone.

**4000 Series**
Our new line of compact utility tractors have hitch lift capacities up 1.134 kg, high torque engines, excellent breakout force and 540 rpm PTOs.

**Turf Gator Utility Vehicle**
A unique combination of toughness and quietness makes this Gator perfect for the golf course. Foot pedal start works just like a golf cart.

The best product support in the business and the best dealers are also green. Talk to us today.

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Roland Taylor looks back at the development of aeration and how machines have improved to tackle the task.

The tines they are a changing

Ever since man began creating and caring for natural playing surfaces, aeration of the underlying soil has been an important issue. Unfortunately in the past, greens committees and players have been more concerned with what happened on the surface than problems underneath. They wanted nothing to hold up their play. This must have left many greenkeepers in a no-win situation. Only limited aeration, if any, was carried out, turf deteriorated and the golfers whinged.
Another down side was that there were only limited funds available to buy equipment. One very small "plus" was that courses were not played at anything like the same level as today, so compaction was less, but it was still prevalent.

Unlike his predecessor, the modern greenkeeper is faced with a far greater problem. Keeping playing surfaces in top condition is becoming increasingly difficult. Changes in climatic conditions have led to excessive rain followed by scorching heat. Heavy use of the course and equipment plays havoc with the soil structure. To maintain some normality under the surface requires a great deal of skilful management.

To understand the problems of compaction it is necessary to look at the soil's structure. It is made up of varying proportions depending on the location of some or all of the following; gravel, sands, silts, clays. Each of these constituents has a particle size and this is significant in respect of the air space. For example, clay is very small at 0002mm - this is so fine that the air space is minute and virtually impenetrable. Not only is the size important but the shape also plays a part - a perfect sphere is the ultimate. Large round particles make big spaces through which air and water can flow freely. In this ideal environment a thriving community of macro and micro organisms will happily beaver away breaking down organic matter so it becomes readily available to the plants. Roots can freely spread out to produce strong healthy leaf growth. Unfortunately, all things in nature are not constant and the balance can quickly change. Pressure from above changes the particle shapes and compresses them against each other. The air spaces are drastically reduced and the flow of water slows down or even stops. Pools of stagnant water can form and the soil turns sour. Root growth is restricted and the absorption of nutrients virtually ceases. The plants fail to develop properly and become weak. Disease, weeds and unwanted grass species appear on the scene.

From this scenario it can be seen that keeping an open soil is vital to the well-being of all turf. It basically consists of particles and the spaces between them. It is the latter that is important to plant growth because through these the water, air and nutrients travel. In addition they allow the roots to spread out. If these are restricted in any way the plants become weak and susceptible to all types of attack. Not a pretty picture.

Aeration will help to alleviate this problem and the first form of this treatment was carried out by hand-forking was carried with immediate results. Tines specifically for the task were introduced at the beginning of this century. These were solid, and even then it was recognised they had a disadvantage. The soil was displaced laterally and roots' development restricted. On clay soils the holes produced were liable to fill up with water.

To overcome this the hollow tine
was developed. While this went some way to eliminate the problems it also introduced new ones. The hole produced was larger in diameter and penetration depth was shallower. This allowed for the invasion of unwanted grasses and weeds.

Mechanisation brought with it the introduction of the slitting tine. Like a knife blade, this cut down opening up the soil and pruning the roots in the process, whilst causing very little surface disturbance.

Manufacturers were busy finding ways of making aeration as easy as possible, but the depth of penetration was limited. New steel manufacturing processes meant stronger tines. For penetrating the soil, crankshaft designs were introduced. These power-punched the tines below the surface. Six inches was about the norm at this stage.

What was needed was a machine that would go deeper and this appeared in 1980 in the form of the Verti-Drain. This piece of equipment operated at a far greater depth than anything previously and in doing so broke through any pan that existed. It also had another advantage, before being withdrawn, a heaving motion was introduced that broke up the compaction by lifting the soil.

This system is still very much at the forefront of aeration today and units are available that will go down 600mm (24”). It is critical that this type of operation is carried out by a trained specialist, as the correct penetration and speed of operation is important to the results both underground and on the surface.

Another method for dealing with areas of major compaction or panning is by driving a probe down into the soil. Then compressed air is pumped in causing an underground mini earthquake.

In recent years another power source has been introduced in the form of high pressure water particles that act like bullets. As they pass through the soil, a shattering effect is created. This is a relatively slow operation, especially if the penetration
required is deep, but the one big advantage is that there is no surface damage, so play is virtually uninterrupted.

Organisations, manufacturers, scientists, agronomists and those involved in the day-to-day management of courses are continually seeking new ways of improving the methods used to maintain playing surfaces. This has led in the last few years to some alternative methods of aeration.

One of these, developed in the USA, uses the drainage system to blow or suck air and water down through the root zone. While this has the desired effect of putting these vital elements where they can be used by the plants, it does not relieve compaction so conventional forms of aeration also have to be employed.

Here in the UK, some courses have taken up this system but the majority of installations are in sports and football stadiums.

Another recent introduction is a polymer solution, which is said to help to solve the problems of poor drainage and compaction.

It is applied as a high volume spray. As the liquid travels down through the soil the coiled molecules unwind and gather the soil and organic matter together into larger particles. This action opens up the air spaces and is claimed to break up compacted layers, thus allowing an increased flow of water and air into the root zone and below.

On modern courses aeration needs to be carried out regularly and at varying depths to avoid a pan developing. Some heavily used areas will need more frequent attention.

Out of sight does not mean out of mind. Soil needs working to keep it open and friable. The results of one’s labours quickly become evident, likewise signs of neglect are very soon obvious and are a lot harder to eliminate. Prevention is better than cure.

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In the three years since the events came together, the Toro's have grown in stature to the extent that the Champions who carry the titles into the new millennium will know that they have achieved something that will make their careers.

Last year’s Excellence Winner, John Coleman aboard the Club’s prize BIGGA HOUSE will be the venue for two of the high spots of the greenkeeping calendar this month with the finals of both the Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping and the Toro Student of the Year Award. Winning these prestigious competitions provides the winners with a passport that will carry them through the rest of their greenkeeping careers while even appearing in the final acts as a considerable boost to a CV.

This is the third year that Toro has sponsored both events and if the judges can identify two Champions as worthy as Iain McMillan, of Hanley Common, and John Coleman, of Abbeydale, in the Excellence Award and Steven Nixon, of Wortley, and Sally Doherty, of The Belfry, in the Student, they will have done an exceptional job.

As always the quality of the prizes at stake heightens the tension with the winner of the Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping again winning an all expenses paid trip to the GCSAA Show in the States - next year in New Orleans - and a trip to Toro’s outstanding facilities. In addition his golf club will win a Toro Greensmaster 3000 triple greens mower and a plaque to display in the clubhouse while each member of the greenkeeping team will receive a set of BIGGA waterproofs.

There has been a record entry for the Excellence Award which has kept the regional judges, some of the most respected figures in the industry - Jimmy Neilson, Barry Heaney, Bill Tawson and Frim - extremely busy.

Each of the finalists was also visited by Walter Woods who examined every aspect of the courses management.

Quality was also up in the Student of the Year competition which augers well for the future of the industry. The winning student will win a six week study course in the States while the two runners-up win all expenses paid trips to BTME.
Toro Awards 1999

Name: Stuart Hogg
GC: Fortrose & Rosemarkie
Age: 27

Stuart has been at the north of Scotland course for seven years, four as Head Greenkeeper, and in that time has produced both a Health and Safety Policy and Management Plan for the club. With a staff of four Stuart is a hands-on greenkeeper and he overhauls and services all greenkeeping machinery himself in the winter. He is a key member of the Greens Committee and in that role recommends what machinery is in need of replacement and when. He also has full control of the working budget. All staff attend BIGGA functions and Stuart is a regular attendee at BTME. He also invests in books and videos for his staff. Should he win he feels it would be a great boost to the profession in the north of Scotland.

Name: Andy Campbell
GC: Carden Park Resort
Age: 38

This is the second successive year that Andy has won his way to the National Final of the Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping. Andy manages a staff of 33 who maintain Carden Park's two courses - Cheshire and Nicklaus each of which requires different maintenance practices to retain their distinctive styles. He advises on all agronomic, management, training and recruitment matters and sits on the monthly management committee meetings. The club is registered with the EGA Committed to Green Programme and also has close links with the RSPB.

Name: Barrie Lee
GC: Chester le Street GC
Age: 33

Barrie has been at the County Durham club for 11 years and has been Course Manager for five. His role within the golf club covers everything from risk assessment, working policy, all training, machinery maintenance and replacement, planning, instruction while he prides himself on being a working greenkeeper and carries out all the regular chores. In addition he carried out the building of six complete holes on the course. Becoming Toro Excellence in Greenkeeping winner would make his club extremely proud.

Name: Kim Blake
GC: Fulford Heath GC
Age: 40

Kim has been at the club for ten and a half years as Head Greenkeeper and he has control of all expenditure outside the clubhouse and the management of the course is left to him and the Greens Committee which meets every three months. He has been operating on a natural "back to basics" approach for the last two and a half years and last year introduced bacteria on to his greens on a five year programme. They have developed conservation areas and bought machines for the upkeep of these areas. Kim feels that winning the award would be a great way of thanking the club for all the support they have shown him over the last 10 years. He also says the award would belong as much to his Greens Committee of Graham Pilkse and Ivo Cooper as himself as they have been the same for 12 years.

Name: Brian Turner
GC: Sunningdale GC
Age: 53

Brian has been at the prestigious Berkshire club as Head Greenkeeper for three years and manages the 18 staff who maintain the Old and New Courses. He lists his responsibilities as ensuring that the courses, and surrounding areas are kept in a first class condition; maintaining all records, that equipment is maintained correctly and that all staff are familiar with Health and Safety requirements. Part of the club is a SSSI and the management programme involves minimum spraying of chemicals and fertilisers. Brian, who is also an excellent golfer playing to a handicap of 3, says that winning the Award would be a feather in the cap of the club as well as his own.

Name: Matthew Maryon
GC: Yeovil GC
Age: 30

Matt has been at the 27 hole club for just over two years and in that time he has produced a Health and Safety Plan which was used as a template for the rest of the golf club and a five year development plan including irrigation renewal, tree plan, bunker renovation, tee construction, car park improvements and a machinery purchase plan. He is currently working on an Environmental policy for the club but they have already signed up to the EGA's Committed to Green Programme. Winning the Award would, says Matt, show the greenkeeping staff at Yeovil what is achievable in the industry and increase their motivation to do well.

Excellence in Greenkeeping finalists
Simon started work as a greenkeeper at Fota Island in May of this year having previously done work experience at Monkstown Golf Club as well as three months in the States during his college course. He is currently working towards his Greenkeeping NCVE City & Guilds Level 2 but he also holds a BA in History and Geography, an MA in History and a Diploma in Legal Studies. A keen sportsman with a golf handicap of 10 his ambition is to represent Ireland in some sporting capacity.

Kevin began working at Bedale while still at school and he started full time when he left school. He has just completed his NVQ Level II in Sportsurf which he undertook in block release. Another keen sportsman he who his school basketball colours and plays golf and football and turns out for Northallerton Town, rugby union club. He is interested in perhaps working abroad in the future to add to his experience while he has his sights set on becoming a Course Manager.

Kevin is Deputy Course Manager at the Warwickshire, a 45 hole Championship complex, having been Acting Course Manager for four months earlier this year. Prior to that he worked as an Assistant at the 27 hole Seedy Mill GC. He is currently just completing his NVQ Level III. He is a six handicap golfer and won the '98 BIGGA Singles Knockout Championship for the Midlands Region while he enjoys foreign travel. In fact is ambition is to be a Course Manager of a course in Portugal.

Michael is Deputy Superintendent at St Mellion having previously been an Assistant for four years. When he left school he worked for a landscaping company, but having lived in St Mellon all of his life he has seen the club grow and it was always his ambition to work on it. With no vacancies he took a position with St Mellion Leisure a golf construction company to gain experience before a job became available. He has completed SVQ I & II at Elmwood and is currently undertaking Level III at Cannington. He is keen on golf, football and motorsport.

William was promoted to Head Greenkeeper at Falmouth a mere 16 months after starting at the club as a mechanic/greenkeeper. Since then he has introduced cultural and biological practices onto the course which in turn has reduced the spraying budget. He is currently completing his NVQ Level II but has his sights set on Levels III and IV and ultimately the Master Greenkeeper Award. He is a recent convert to golf but also plays football at senior level and is keen on DVI.

Jim has been an assistant at Hamilton for five years having done a further two years on YTS. He has achieved SVQ Level I&II and is currently working towards level III having passed his spraying certificates. A keen sportsman listing golf and keep fit among his interests but he was also voted the Young Player of the Year for his local amateur football club. He is hoping to soon be in a position to apply for First Assistant positions.
BIGGA membership isn't just for greenkeepers. As well as our popular Greenkeeper membership, we also have membership categories which cater for both Student and Associate members. All membership categories are utilised by people seeking to create a greater understanding and awareness of greenkeeping, the skills, knowledge and training involved, and the rewards to be gained from this profession.

Benefits include substantial savings on all BIGGA educational literature and videos. Greenkeepers will receive tax relief on their subscription fees, and all members can benefit from generous savings on health, motor and household insurance. We also provide greenkeeper members with a free legal helpline. With over 6,600 members in over 31 countries worldwide, BIGGA has one of the largest info-networks of its kind.

For members also include a free copy of Greenkeeper International, the Association's award-winning monthly magazine. Packed with up to the minute information and feature articles, this magazine is essential reading for practitioners of the greenkeeping profession. In addition, as part of our on-going programme of education and in conjunction with our Education and Development Fund, BIGGA runs many training courses covering topics such as Supervisory Management, Golf Course Design, Project Management, Health & Safety, Budgeting, and Computing.

Professionals are also invited to attend the annual BTME event in Harrogate. With over 200 exhibitors, and 7,000 delegates, this is Europe's largest indoor fine turf exhibition and features a showcase of the latest advances in machinery, products and services within the industry. Running alongside BTME, 'The Learning Experience' is perhaps the most comprehensive education programme available to the greenkeeping profession.

BIGGA membership is about maximising resources for the benefit of members and ensuring that golf clubs recognise the importance and benefits of education within the profession. Let us look after you, and help train and expand your greenkeeping knowledge, while supporting you at both section, regional, national and international level.

After all, BIGGA MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS GREENKEEPING

For further Membership information, please contact Tracey Maddison, Membership Services Officer, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne Y061 3UF

Tel: 01347 833800 Fax: 01347 833801 E-mail: tracey@bigga.co.uk www.bigga.org.uk
North Section

We've done it again! The Section won the Norrie Whytock Trophy at Craigie Hill GC. The team was slightly changed from the original due to work and holidays so well done to Section members Stevie Sullivan, Stuart Robertson, Craigie Hill, George Atten, Peterculter, and Colin Mackay, Elmwood. Captain Stevie Sullivan led the team to a two-stroke victory over the other Scottish Sections.

New members this month to welcome are David Murdoch, from Buckpool, and rejoining us after a few years in Robert Handie, now working at Crabstone. The two lucky Section members who have won this year's Patrons' Award are Gordon Morton, St Andrews, and John Gelders, McDonald GC, Ellon. Their reward for attending the most BIGGA events over the last year is an expenses paid trip to BTME 2000 on the Scottish Sections.

Congratulations to you both.

This month is also when our AGM will be held, final date and venue is not quite confirmed but will be towards the end of the month in the Aberdeen area and we hope to have a talk as well as the golf prior to the meeting. While I am talking about outings, two dates for your year 2000 diary. First Spring outing at Buckpool GC, Head Greenkeeper David Marnoch, on Thursday September 28. As I go to press we are contacting Downfield GC for more tee times as this year's Autumn outing is oversubscribed.

Jain Macleod

Central

The Inter-Club Tournament should have been completed by now but one team got their dates mixed up, and, at the time of writing, it looks like the final will be delayed slightly. It's amazing how they make such a simple mistake as they take the event so seriously that they carry a mobile phone with them when they are playing and report the result of each hole back to the clubhouse, or some "central" result gathering centre. At some holes they even attempted to send it by "carrier club."

Only joking D.Mc!

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BIGGA's got something to shout about!

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Tickets for "Club 2000" are selling well, with only a few having been returned so far. So if you don't have yours yet you had better hurry as time is running short. An interesting point about those who have returned their allocation of tickets (2) is that they don't support any event which is organised by the Section for their benefit. What do they want from BIGGA?

Mark McHendry has left Thornton GC, where he was assistant greenkeeper, to take up a new career with the Lothian and Borders Police Force. Mark was a member for over eight years and we are sorry that he has left greenkeeping, but we wish him every success in his new career.

Details of the section AGM, which we are hoping to hold at Druimog next month, should be with you shortly, so if there is anything you want to say for or against the way the Section is being run, then you will have your chance. Hopefully numbers will be higher than the eight who turned up last year.

John Crawford

West

Welcome to another round up of Section news. Hopefully by now all of you should have received your entry forms for the Autumn outing taking place at Windyhill GC, Ayr on November 22. Even the final major, the '100' Club and there is £100 up for grabs. The final draw is for £30 and will take place at the AGM later in the year.

Tuesday August 24 was the day of the challenge match, Greenkeepers v Scottish Clubmasters, venue Lenzie GC. The day was most enjoyable with a close result for the Greenkeepers winning the day by one match up. Thanks go to Scottish Clubmasters for providing the trophy on the day, but would you enjoy the day and would we hope we can have a return match next year? Thanks to Lenzie GC for use of their course and facilities and also to the Steward Alan and Morag for their super efforts. The chicken was great. I must say the course was in great condition and I can only recommend the Lenzie GC Committee that the greens staff deserve a huge wage rise. Well done chaps!

Two days later, August 26, and the Norrie Whytock Trophy was played for at Craigie Hill GC sponsored by Rhone-Poulenc. The North Section won the Trophy with 97 pts and the West Section was runner up with 95 pts. Well played guys, that was close. The West Section was represented by Douglas McIntosh, Cathkin Braes; Joe Bell, Kilmacolm GC; Iain Smith, Drumplerger GC, and John Scott, Kirkhill GC. Thanks go to McKenzie Munro the Scottish Area Managing Director of Rhone-Poulenc.

One final piece of news I heard from Peter Boyd today is that congratulations are in order for Robbie Bunting as Kilmacolm Golf Club's policy of care for wildlife on the course has been recognised with the National Crystal Trophy in the Green Apple awards for environmental best practice. The club was chosen out of 120 businesses and organisations throughout the British Isles which had been nominated for the award. I am sure that an article will be published in the 'Greengrass'

North West

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Congratulations to you both.

This month is the Charterhouse/Scotts National Championship at Carden Park, near Chester, where BIGGA members from all over will be competing for the BIGGA Challenge Cup and I will be there to report on any Section successes. I hope this month is also when our AGM will be held, final date and venue is not quite confirmed but will be towards the end of the month in the Aberdeen area and we hope to have a talk as well as the golf prior to the meeting. While I am talking about outings, two dates for your year 2000 diary. First Spring outing at Buckpool GC, Head Greenkeeper David Marnoch, on Thursday September 28. As I go to press we are contacting Downfield GC for more tee times as this year's Autumn outing is oversubscribed.

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John Crawford
half a team, but at least the three who turned up enjoyed themselves and played well. The final was sponsored by Richard Campey Ltd of Macclesfield, who presented the winners with a shield and each member of the team received a medal. Many thanks to Richard Campey for sponsoring the day and also thanks to Macclesfield Golf Club for allowing courtesy of the course.

The next golf will be the President’s Cup and AGM at Whimslow Golf Club on Thursday November 25. The tournament will be available from 10am and everyone will need to bring a bottle in order for all competitors to take away a prize. All entries to be sent to Bill Merritt, 225 Utting Avenue, Clubmore, Liverpool L4 9RR. Tel: 0151 284 4416. Please include a cheque for £15 made out to BIGGA NW.

That’s it for now. Any news or views, ring me on 0151 724 3412.

Bert Cross

North East

On 22 July we held, for the first time, our summer competition at Garesfield Golf Club. Our thanks to the committee for giving us courtesy of their course. Sadly a very poor turn out, only 15 bothered to play, but everyone enjoyed themselves.

Let’s hope next week we get a better response as it is going to be played most likely the last Monday of July, 3pm to 5pm.


A final thank you to Head Greenkeeper, Ian Hutton, on the excellent condition of the course in the short time he has been there.

On 5 August at Beamish Golf Club, the reinstated match against the Cleveland section was played. The North East overcame our neighbours in a close game by 3-2. Looking forward to the replay next year.

At a recent Section meeting, it was agreed to have a repeat of winter lectures in January, February and March. Members will be notified in due course.

Jimmy Richardson

North Wales

A committee meeting was held on 24 August. We discussed, amongst other things, the autumn golf match and the autumn/winter lectures. By the time you read this you should have received your entry forms and refreshment costs.

The lectures will all take place at the college, mostly afternoons. We felt that, the dress code etc., wouldn’t be a problem and you could literally finish work and attend. There will be a nominal charge to non-members of £1 to cover refreshment costs.

The Match Secretary would appreciate it if you could provide official handicaps otherwise the max will be 18 medal, 21 Stableford. Please also remember golf related guests only, i.e. Captain, Green Chairman, Secretary etc.

Marc Brute who is 17 years old and a MA at Old Colwyn Golf Club is now Denbighshire County Champion. A superb achievement, so we’ll need your handicap certificate Marc and no, we won’t accept a 24 provisional OK.

Our Section’s only Life Member, Bill Lawson, has donated a shield to the Section which we decided will be awarded to the best gross score from a member under the age of 21 at our Christmas competition. I’ve got an idea who might win!

Rigby Taylor’s Mike Whitehouse is organising a North vs South Wales match. I will keep you informed about date and venue.

Finally, welcome new members Stephen Jones, Vicars Cross; Wendy O’Brien, Parkfield Park; Paul Davies, The Pleaze; Gareth Jones, Henlys Hall and a very belated welcome to Jamie Williams, Vale of Llanoylan and Lee Edwards of Hawarden.

Dave Goodridge

Cleveland

The Section had a very busy time this month. First the Cleveland Section played the North East Section at Beamish Park GC. The weather was great and the course was in excellent condition.

Keith Lough, Course Manager at Beamish had the greens tip top. The sponsors for the match were Ritefed and Alan Cordingly, Ritefed Rep gave out some very nice prizes. Cleveland got beat 3-2.

The Cleveland Shield Knock Out competition was held here at Brancpeth GC. Both semi-finals and finals were played the same day.

Results: Barry Walker bt Ian Holoran, Alux Russell bt Tony Burge.

In the alix Russell kicked Barry Walker’s **- Barry’s words not mine. A good day was had by all. Thanks to Brancpeth GC, Deputy Head and greens staff for the way the course was turned out.

Then Cleveland Warriors went down to Macclesfield in the National Finals. The Cleveland Section came second, lost by one point.

Other news. Martin Woods has been nominated by GLC for Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year at Hough College. Both lads work at Weardale GC.

Well, the Autumn tournament is on us again. This year it will be held at Weynard GC on October 12. Any further info call Barry Walker on 0191 514 3263.

Kevin(Scoop)Heslop

Shelfield

Yet again I have to apologise for the lack of notes in the September edition. Once again we have the Royal Mail to thank for this.

On 12th July we held our annual competition at Abbeydale Golf Club. The weather was absolutely glorious and very warm which made the golf very tiring but there was still plenty of excellent golf played. Abbeydale was in excellent condition and our thanks go to John Coleman and his staff. Well done John.

Our thanks also go to Abbeydale Golf Club for giving us courtesy of their course and facilities.

Thanks also to Mansfield Sand for being the main sponsors of the day and to all the other trade members who provided prizes.

There was some excellent golf played but the eventual winner was Mick Coltas, with a net 68. Well played Mick!

Results 1. Mick Coltas 68 net. 2. J. Darach, 70 net. 3. W. Manning, 71 net.

The gross prize went to M. Hayward with a 72.

By the time you read this we will have played our Autumn tournament at Hallamshire on September 15, so I hope you all enjoyed the day again.

John Lax

Northern

This year’s Invitation Day Tournament was held at Shipley (Beckfoot) Golf club. The weather was excellent, matched by a course produced by Pat Murphy and his team. I am sure the comments from the players justified the hard work getting the course set up for us on the day.

Midland Region

Peter Larter

Tel: 01460 437567

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The Model 721 Articulator features seven individual 21" cutting decks which deliver a cut-path over ten feet wide. Lastec’s revolutionary patented belt drive system allows all seven cutting decks to articulate independently. This produces a quality cut which is not achievable with any mower of its quality and capacity. The Model 721 Articulator is the finest wide-area rotary available.

The Model 721X Articulator features seven individual 21" cutting decks which deliver a cut-path over ten feet wide. Lastec’s revolutionary patented belt drive system allows all seven cutting decks to articulate independently. This produces a quality cut which is not achievable with any mower of its quality and capacity. The Model 721 Articulator is the finest wide-area rotary available.

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Many thanks to Rigby Taylor for sponsoring the main prize table and to Mike Brear for presenting the prizes on their behalf. Thanks to Acorn Equipment for sponsoring the longest drive and nearest the pin prizes and to Lindum Turf for setting up and sponsoring the prizes for the putting competition.


Congratulations to Phil Mitchell, of Shipley Golf Club and his wife on the recent arrival of their newborn baby. I was surprised to see how much hair he had lost due to the extra stress after only a week!

If anyone has any news from within the section, please contact me on 01484 317813 or 07788 442755 or at 1 Crockley Meadows, Kirkheaton, Huddersfield HD5 0LA.

Simon Heppenstall

East Midlands

This year's East Midlands v East of England Golf Match was hosted by Ramsdale Park Golf Centre on August 18. Despite a very heavy shower and some persistent rain to begin with, we were still able to play the match. All members from the East Midlands team were in fine form, winning four of the five matches by big margins and sharing the point in the fifth.

The team was represented by the following members: Jeff Dickinson, Peter Billings, Pete Larter, Steve Baxter, Dave Mitchell, Ian Needham, Steve Levers, Antony Bindley, Gavin Robson and Steve Tolley. The result means that the Section has now regained the Toro shield. The East of England Section did, however, win the Longest Drive, Phil Wilkinson, and the Fin, Graeme Macdonald. Thanks to all those members who represented the Section at short notice.

I would also like to thank Ramsdale Park Golf Club for offering courtesy of their course and the catering staff for an excellent meal. Also thanks should go to Steve Levers and his staff for providing a first-class of golf for the tournament. Not forgetting our generous sponsors, Chandlers, for their support.

Unfortunately, our Pairs Tournament, which was to be held on 23 August had to be cancelled due to lack of support. Only six members entered, with ten members for the evening lecture.

This year's Autumn tournament at Erewash Valley Golf Club on 6 September has only attracted 24 members. Scores and results will appear next month.

On a brighter note, I would like to congratulate Anthony Foulon and Thomas on winning the Best Gross prize in the Telford Golf and Country Club Open. This year's AGM will take place at Radcliffe-on-Trent Golf Club at 4.30pm on November 3. If you have not received your entry form, please give me a ring and remember to send your form back before the closing date. Also, this year's Regional Seminar will take place at Mentmore Golf Club on 17 November. For further details contact our Regional Administrator for what promises to be a great day.

Antony Bindley

Midland

There has been a trip arranged to the newly-formed Advantage Seed Houses at Sleaford, formerly Sharps, Momersteg, at the end of October. ALS have sponsored the visit and will be providing transport and lunch.

The day will consist of a tour of the warehouses and laboratories and a look at the extensive trial plots. This will be interesting to see how cultivars, chosen from a brochure, finally look. Numbers are limited, therefore a first come first served basis will operate. Contact Andi Smith on 01666 330114.

The results from the Autumn Tournament will be in next month's report along with a full report on the Trafford Stonebridge Golf Day to be held at Maestoke Park. Jonathan Wood

BB&O

First of all I would like to thank everyone who took time to visit us at Donnington Grove in July for the summer meeting. The results were as follows: 1. Nigel Elg, 36 pts. 2. Geoff Wheeler, 36 pts. 3. Lindsay Anderson, 35 pts.

I had the pleasure of playing with Lindsay and his fears about the length of the course never showed in his scoring. Thanks to Phil Sharp, from Pattisons, who sponsored the day and ETI and Richard Fonneuller who donated the raffle prizes.

A welcome from the Section to Carl Small and Charles Wright. We hope to see you at the rest of the season's events.

Finally, the Autumn Meeting was held at The Springs Golf Club, Wallingford, on 21 September and the results will be in the next article.

Numbers for the golfing events appear to be steady but we appeal to those still not taking part. Please come along, it really is a good day out.

Any information within the Section would be gratefully accepted. You can contact me on 01635 821333.

Ross Wilson

Mid Anglia

Demonstration of the Juno and Jupiter grinders by Eric Hunter Grinders Limited is to be held at John O'Gaunt Golf Club, Sutton Park, Sandy, Bedfordshire on 24 November 1999 at 10am.

Please ring Colin Robinson, Course Manager, on 01767 261416 regarding numbers or catering.

Colin Robinson

South East

Firstly I would like to draw your attention to the Regional Seminar due to be held at Wittle College, Chelmsford on 16th November. You should have, together with your copy of "Greenkeeper International," a programme for the day which includes an application form for reservations.

This year's seminar has been carefully put together by the Essex Section and promises to be a great day, and at £13 to include lunch and coffee, incredible value as well. This is due entirely to the generosity of our Sponsors (please see programme for the full list).

Should you have not received the programme with your magazine then please give me a ring on the above number.

Secondly on a personal basis, I would like to thank all of those Members, (Greenkeepers and Trade) who enquired after my health when I was "laid up for most of the summer. I am now on the road to recovery and hope to make up for all that lost golf, by attending the Turkey Trot! But thanks for your thoughts, it meant a lot to me, at a time when I felt very low."

Derek Farrington

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Derek Farrington
TRILO’S
GOT LEAF
COLLECTING
OFF TO
A TEE

Essex
Well gentlemen, after last month’s feast of golfing reports, October has given us the chance to cover other items.

First of all, on behalf of all Essex members, I would like to welcome to the Section two new members from the London Club, Geoff Smith and from Manor of Groves, Adrian Blockley. Hope to see both Geoff and Adrian at one of our events in the near future.

On to the South East Regional Conference to be held on Tuesday 16 November at Writtle College, Chelmsford. Please give your support for this event. We have a great line up of speakers some you will know, others will be new names but we will guarantee you they will be names, once heard, never forgotten!

Alan Gange, Biostimulants; Tim Lodge, Top Dressing & Root zones; David Kidd, Architect, Mark Hunt, Fertilisers; Brian Robinson, Grass Seed Technology, and Giles Wardle, Irrigation.

Further information and costs will be sent through the post shortly.

During November, the first of a two day management course (second day in March 2000) with Uncle Frank Newberry and a two day computer course with Ken Richardson, Middle of February 2000, will all be held at the Burested Golf Club. Members who applied for these courses will be contacted. Any problems please telephone Martin Forrester 01245 603131.

Those who enjoyed the Go-Karting will be given the chance to challenge present champions Stapleford Abbotts GC on November 26. Details to follow.

By the time you read this report both Steve Cox and Chris Ward will have attended the National Championship at Carden Park. Let’s keep our fingers crossed that they both bring home plenty of prizes.

Our next meeting is at Wanstead G.C. 19th October sponsored by GEM. Hope to see you there.

Dave Wells PS. When was the last time there were two West Ham players in the Full England squad? September 1999.

Kent

Sorry guys.

Before I go any further I would like to thank Geoff Rolstone for his hospitality and the trophy June Clark, the Secretary and David Rolstone and his staff for the preparation of the course. A big thank you also to the catering staff, bar and restaurant staff and the pro-shop staff and starters. Many thanks to our main sponsor, Barefields, and all of our other sponsors who made this day possible.

During the last week or so we would have held our golf event at Tandridge GC on October 4. Hopefully everybody who attended this event enjoyed themselves and the results will be in the November issue along with any points of interest that arise from the next committee meeting which was held on 15 September at Wildermeadow GC.

Any news or comments, please pass them on to me on 01474 579200 or 0402 573994. I have received a total of two calls asking to receive the magazine, so if you would like to continue to read this then give me a call.

Kneale Diamond

South West & South Wales
The 1999 South West & South Wales Regional Seminar will be held at Cannington College on 24th November and the theme will be RESEARCH. We have some tremendous speakers including Dr Mike Canterbury of STRI, Dr Danny Thorogood of IGER, Prof Bill Attenborough, Stephen Bernhard, Dr Bob Daniels and Steve Jones of the London Club.

The speakers will be talking about genetically modified grasses, short-cuts, new rootzone formulations, impact of sharpening blades etc.

Do make the effort to come, it will be well worth it. Cost £15 members £22.50 non-members. Apply to Paula Humphries 01288 352194.

Devon & Cornwall
The Devon Garden Machinery meeting and Section AGM will be held at Manor House Golf & Country Club on Wednesday November 17. The morning’s golf will be of foursome format for the Toro Trophy with the prizes being kindly donated by Devon Garden Machinery and Lely.

As usual the non golfers course walk will leave the club house at approximately 10.30 am, lunch will be from 1 pm onwards followed by the golf presentation by Devon Garden Machinery, our sponsor for the day. The Section’s AGM will conclude the day.

I’d like to remind you that the Region’s annual seminar will be held at Cannington College on Wednesday November 24. Also you should all have received details of the Region’s package to Harrogate for the BTME show and seminar at the very low price of £95 per member. If you haven’t already booked your place apply to Paula Humphries, 01288 352194 to reserve any places remaining.

Richard Whyman
South Coast
On the 10th November 1999 a trip to Hankley Common Golf Club has been organised. A coach is provided and the day has been sponsored by Rigby Taylor. The programme for the day is as follows. Coach to Hankley Common. On arrival Ian MacMillan, the Course Manager, will give an informal talk on his impressive heathland course. This will be followed by a tour of the greenkeeper's complexes. A light lunch is then provided. After lunch Ian will be taking us on a grand tour of the course. Having heard all the conservation work that has gone on I am really looking forward to the trip. This is definitely a visit not to be missed. All of you wishing to attend should contact Jef Drake our secretary on 01635 846575 as soon as possible. He can then book the coach, the route pick-up points and times.

By now you should have all received the information on the "Regatta" Seminar. This is to be held at Cumnor College on November 24 1999. Looking through the list of speakers that Paula has got together we are in for a real treat. All the seminars to be done is for you to get your cheeses and forms in and put the date in your diaries. See you all at Cumnor.

Our Section AGM and turkey trot will be held at Hockley Golf Club on Wednesday December 8. Hockley always used to be known for its long rough. However, I have been told it has been cut down to a reasonable height. There will be 18 holes of golf (first tee off at 9am). This will be followed by the Section AGM. On completion of the AGM we will sit down to our Christmas dinner and prize giving.

At the time of going to print I do not know what the cost of the day's proceedings will be. I've no doubt Fred will be finding out shortly. I will make sure that it is in the November Around Green report.

Your programme for 1999-2000 should be with you shortly. They are in the process of being printed. One date you may like to put in your diary is the Seminar to be held at Spasholt on the February 8 2000. Jef has got one or two speakers who are good and all the conservators who would like to hear, get in touch with Jef, he would love to hear from you.

As some of you may know, Paula has not been too well of late and has had to go into hospital. I am sure that the whole of the Section would like to wish her a speedy recovery. We all hope all goes well for you Paula.

Ken Lodge

South Wales
This year's summer tournament was held at Whitechurch GC Cardiff, on July 8. Match results, Best Gross A. Reach with a 75, Best Net P. Wildly with a 69 and over 18's Net G. Evans with a 73.

The Match v Golf Club Secretaries held at Pontadawe GC on August 12 was successfully retained by returning three matches out of five. Match results as follows: A. Panks/A. Richards &J. Probert/B. Smith lost their matches with P. Lacey/B. Harford; D. Don/R. Patterson winning their matches. The longest drive and nearest the flag was sponsored by Alan Able of Complete Weed Control. Thank you, with the prizes going to A. Panks - Longest Drive and Nearest the Pin - D. Fellows, H. Probert & K. Vin Hopkins.

A fantastic day was had by all and those that went to the secretaries for their continued support during the day. Thanks to J. Probert and his team for the superb condition of the course and not forgetting the kind words from the captain of Pontadawe Mr Norman Hopkins.

Our sincere apologies to St. Mellion GC for the lack of support from the Section and the PGA for postponing the match on August 17.

On August 25 the Golf Management Trophy was held again at the Celtic Manor GC. Although this time we played the new Wentwood Hills course which held up superbly to the volume of rain that fell during the day. 25 teams had taken part with Llanwern GC coming up trumps to repeat their win last year. Thanks to Scopit for sponsoring the day and to Jim McKenzie and his staff for the condition of the course in such horrendous weather.


Up and coming events; Match v Golf Club Secretaries held at Pyle & Kenfig GC 8:30 am on December 8th. Just a reminder that you might like to start thinking of planning your visit to the BTME 2000 at the Harrogate International Centre from the 19th to the 21st January 2000.

Congratulations to Julian Bartlett and who has taken up the position of Course Manager at Dinas Powys GC, Cardiff.

Some unfortunate news. Our Regional Administrator, Paula Humphries, has been unwell. Paula we all hope you get well soon.

Richard Hatcher
Weed Free Mini Profile

What is the nature of your business?
Contract spraying of all turf areas including golf courses, football pitches, racetracks, parks, private estates and any other expanse of amenity turf. The company provides the complete service incorporating the application and supply of pesticides and turf care products, the disposal of empty chemical containers and all paper work to comply with current spraying regulations. We also provide training courses on amenity spraying. E.E.P.A. modules PA1, PA2 and PA6 are available, plus others on request.

What Major Changes have you seen in your sector of the industry over the last 10 years?
The single most significant change has been the introduction of shrouded booms into the UK three years ago. The importance in terms of safety can not be over estimated. Not only do the booms ensure that the chemical remains within the target area but the potential hazard of drift during high winds has been minimised. With the addition of Baby Mantis and Mini Mantis to join the Spraying Mantis, the company’s spraying fleet all employs shrouded booms.

How do you believe the industry as a whole has changed over the same period?
Compared with 10 years ago, there is now general recognition and compliance with health and safety requirements and legislation, spreading from the Golf Course Secretary downwards. Increased media coverage has resulted in greenkeepers losing their cloth cap image, and in 90% of cases they are now seen as professionals.

Looking into your crystal ball what major developments do you envisage over the next 10 years in your sector?
As an ex groundsman, I can see an urgent need over the next ten years to educate the public on the importance of pesticides as a vital management tool. With more and more people playing, the pressures on greens staff are enormous, and although I personally applaud the health and safety legislation to date, we must guard against measures from the EC in particular which could lower the standards of maintenance, currently achieved on our amenity turf. Pesticides used with moderation at the appropriate time by qualified operators should not be seen in the future as hazardous, but more as a cost effective and safe means of achieving the desired results.

And in the industry as a whole?
I can see fewer big companies at the top of the industry as the current trend towards large monopolies continues. I predict a greater demand for British greenkeepers abroad, as the popularity of golf grows worldwide and more control for those at home, as respect for the profession grows. The emergence of corporate owned golf clubs, look likely to point the way to the future development of the sport, with many more companies following suit.

What contribution do you believe BIGGA has made to the industry since the Association was formed?
By raising the profile of the greenskeeping profession and placing the emphasis on training, the industry has become more sophisticated. There is an ever increasing demand for higher quality products and services, as greens committees become more inclined to act on the recommendations of their Head Greenkeeper or Course Manager. Many Greenkeepers now have overall control of maintenance budgets, and some are almost treated as board members.

Why are you pleased to be associated with BIGGA?
I have seen BIGGA grow and improve over the years to reach a point where the Association is in a very strong position to represent greenkeepers. Weed Free’s Silver Key membership shows our commitment to furthering the cause of greenkeeping.

What do you believe to have been your company’s greatest contribution to the fine turf industry?
Weed Free was one of the first contract spraying companies to employ shrouded booms and the first to commission specialised spraying units to carry them. We have led the industry in the concept of applying pesticides safely in windy conditions. We are one of the few companies to pass on our knowledge through our training courses.

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Free phone: 0800 068 0878.
Fax: 07000 481022
email: weedfree@btinternet.com
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Traditional drainage methods still have their place in sports turf maintenance but our system takes the removal of water into a new age.

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01785 812706
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Ronnie Bunting, Head Greenkeeper of Kilmacolm Golf Club, gives the story behind his success in the recent Green Apple Awards

The apple of Kilmacolm's eye

On a cold wet Saturday in February I was sitting doing the wife's crossword. The letter box rattles and it's the local free newspaper. The wife reads out the requirements to enter what was described as the prestigious Green Apple Awards Competition etc. "Why don't you send some of that gibberish you've been typing for the last month," she says. "Anything for a bit of peace."

I had just completed my Environmental Summary for the club in the hope it would be a start for the club to get enrolled on to the European Golf Ecology's new programme 'Committed to Green'. I typed out the reason behind my submission, addressed an A4 brown envelope and set off to post it. I'm tapping one of the enquirers on the shoulder and proceed to explain that... I have produced a Course Management Policy Document, and an Environmental Management Plan, but that the submission I put forward was an Environmental Summary of Good Environmental Practice. This consisted of mission statements concerning, Planning, Nature Conservation, Natural and Cultural Heritage, Water Resource Management; Sound Turfgrass Management; Energy Efficiency; Education Within the Working Environment; Communication and Public Awareness, and Waste Management. Also under these headings we have highlighted actions that have been implemented, and identified projects we are investigating for their environmental value and how cost effective they are. There were more than a few impressed glances amid the number of listeners. More waves than a re-surfaced pond.

My good Lady and I sit at one of the 20 or so enormous round tables with floral displays that covered 50% of the table surface. The palatial effects are matched by the buffet served with more excellent wine. The awards are introduced and the method of presentation described in detail.

There are three categories small business, medium business, and large business. We are in the small business class and there are four awards in each class - the highest being crystal would be announced last.

As the ceremony progresses and all trophies are presented except the crystal, the wife and I look at each other and I whisper. "We have either won the big one or our name isn't in the hat."

Then the compere announces that the Crystal Award of Excellence in the small business category goes to Kilmacolm Golf Club. We get the biggest cheer of the ceremony.

I remember leaving my seat and going up to receive the Green Crystal Trophy. Some pictures are taken. I return to my seat totally over awed.

Later when we are sitting on the train we could only stare at each other: "It all seemed like a dream."

Needless to say Kilmacolm Golf Club is very pleased with all the good publicity. As for Jonathan Smith and the Scottish Golf Course Wildlife group, without his enthusiasm and encouragement the experience would never have happened.

As it turns out it is not over yet for the press release is just being given out and the recognition by the buffet will go on for a wee while yet.

It was a day neither of us will ever forget.
BIGGA

BIGGA will once again be exhibiting at Scotsturf giving visitors the chance to find out more about all aspects of the Association and its activities.

Should you wish information about becoming a member there will be someone on hand to answer all your questions and provide literature highlighting the benefits of membership.

If you are already a member information can be obtained about the prestigious Master Greenkeeper scheme, education and training courses, as well as about that highlight of the greenkeeper’s year - BTME at Harrogate.

From a company perspective, stand space is filling up quickly and from an individual’s, spaces on the workshops and Education Conference need to be booked early to avoid disappointment.

Executive Director, Neil Thomas
E-mail: neil@bigga.co.uk

Administration Manager, John Pemberton
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Geo Henderson Ltd

We will be exhibiting several exciting new products. There are over ten new products being launched by Kubota (UK) Ltd all of which will be on display. Dennis will be launching there new pedestrian Green’s mower, along with several other new mowers in their range. We again will be exhibiting a selection of clothing from our range of work wear that we stock. If you cannot make the show please feel free to contact us on 0131 443-2472 for further details.

Eric Hunter Grinders Ltd

Eric Hunter Grinders Limited are exhibiting two new machines at Scotsturf for the first time.

The Jupiter 2000 has been developed from the well established range of Jupiter models in order to meet an increasing demand to be able to grind pedestrian hand mowers fully ‘in-situ’.

An integral hoist has been incorporated into the design of the Jupiter 2000 with capacity of 200kg, allowing it to handle the largest hand mowers.

The Jupiter 2000 retains all the advantages of the Jupiter range with the capability of being able to handle ‘relief’ grinding, ‘spin’ grinding and bottom blade grinding all on the one machine.

In addition, spin grinding can be carried out fully automatically and bottom blade grinding can traverse automatically.

The Orion bottom blade grinder has been uprated to be fully automatic on both traverse and ‘in-feed’. Again developed from the well proven Orion bottom blade grinder.

Both machines have liquid coolant systems.
November 10-11, 1999

Ocmis

Ocmis irrigation are experts with a referral driven reputation in irrigation system designed, manufacture, supply, installation and service for all types of sports turf and landscape areas. We are also specialists in the refurbishment and upgrading of existing systems. Ocmis are distributors for Reif Blaur, Buchner, and Hunter sprinklers and can supply and service other makes of equipment.

The Livingston depot stocks MDPE and UPVC pressure pipe, associated fittings, manufactured pump units, electric panels, electric cables and mobile irrigators. Ocmis’s unique in-house design capabilities ensure that the requirements of each client are individually met and that each project is given independent attention. All installations are completed by Ocmis trained staff and in accordance with G3M and health and safety regulations.

Ocmis were British Turf and Landscape Irrigation Association Award of Excellence winners in 1997 and 1998. For more information and a free no obligation survey and design contact Ocmis Irrigation Scotland on 01312202102.

Weidenmann

Weidenmann UK Ltd. have secured a prime stand in the new hall on which the company will display a cross section of their popular machinery range.

Having its UK base in Paisley, Weidenmann values Scotsturf highly and the company’s staff look forward to meeting existing and new customers who visit the show.

On display will be the versatile Terra Spike deep aerator which will be fitted with a range of tines. A range of terra Spikes are available from 1.35m wide to 2.6m wide providing machines for a wide variety of applications from golf to playing fields. Terra spikes have unique features such as quick set heave control and power pack which make the machine easy to use and reliable.

Other machines on display will include the new Terra Top tractor mounted Top dresser which is particularly efficient at spreading wet top dressings and tractor mounted Triplex 4.2 finishing rotary mower with bat wings.

Weidenmann invite all to visit the stand to view their latest products and enjoy the usual hospitality.

Weidenmann UK Ltd.,
Stoney Brae, Potterhill, Paisley PA2 7TG
Tel: 0141 884 2552 Fax: 0141 884 6252

Groundsman Industries

Groundsman Industries, Europe’s leading manufacturer of Turf Aerators will be at Scotsturf with their very latest range of equipment. This range spans through 5 models of pedestrian machines from the low budget model 345MD 18” swath vertical action aerator priced below £3,000 to the 46” and 72” swath tractor mounting units.

New launches include the Flexplate Surface Iron attachment to smooth out the playing surface behind the aerator. This implement may well become as essential to aerator as the extremely successful Flexblade Core Collector which enables aeration and core collection in one pass rendering the old windrow attachment redundant.

The other new launch from the Groundsman camp is a 4ft and an 8ft swath Disc Slitter. These units incorporate groups of sprung discs with follow-up rollers. Pictured from top (a) Model 345HD coring with windrow. (b) Model 4602SR aerator with Flexblade Core Collector attached. (d) Model 12180TM 6ft swath tractor mounting aerator needle tining to 5” depth with Flexblade Surface Iron attached.

Sportsgrounds Limited

Now that Sportsgrounds are Scottish Stockists and distributors for EPIC driving range equipment the company will be using Scotsturf to display a cross section of the extensive EPIC range including tee mats, ball dispensers, ball washers, ball collectors, synthetic range surfaces and accessories.

The company’s large stand in the new hall will also illustrate the comprehensive range of services available which include design and construction of playing fields, golf courses, bowling greens and tennis courts in either natural or synthetic grass. Sportsgrounds continue to specialise in drainage, sand sifting and groundcare maintenance.

1999 has proved to be a very successful year with the completion of many prestige projects including the construction of new playing fields for Glasgow University, the design and build of a new bowling green at Mount Vernon and the construction of a synthetic multi sports pitch at HMP Glenochil. Earlier in the year Sportsgrounds completed the construction of a multi pitch 5-a-side complex near Wembley and have received an order to build a similar complex at Dagenham. Everyone will receive a warm welcome when visiting the stand.

Sportsgrounds Ltd.,
Stoney Brae, Potterhill, Paisley PA2 7TG
Tel: 0141 884 2552 Fax: 0141 944 6252

Marlwood/Double A Trading Co

The Articulator rotary Mowers from LasTec Inc. cut the most challenging semi-rough and rough turf with ease and precision. The 821ER, launched at Saltex ’99, has a combined cutting width of 10’ 6” and is a simple, tough, wide area finish mower suited to customers with less extreme terrain. Also exhibiting at Scotsturf is the 42SD ride-on, the 721X, rear-mounted mower and the 325 series. Articulators contour undulating turf without sculp!
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- Kubota diesel engines.
- Dynatrol motion control foot pedal with dynamic breaking (patent pending).
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- Effortless steering with total machine control/power steering (optional).
- 2 or 3 wheel drive.
- Many stainless and galvanised steel parts for long life and durability.
- Deluxe seat.
- Wide beam headlight.

— Versa-Trac system not only controls wheel spin, it allows the operator to change from 2 wheel drive to 3 wheel drive at the flick of a switch.
— Wide range of attachments for greens maintenance, bunker grooming and construction work.

For further information, or a demonstration of Allett or Diamond equipment, please contact

Allett Mowers Limited
Badon Powell Road • Kirkton Industrial Estate
Arbroath • Scotland DD11 3LS
Telephone 01241 873841 Fax 01241 877419
Email: sales@allett.co.uk http://www.allett.co.uk

— Nothing Kuts Like A Diamond —
The word ‘mycorrhiza’ is beginning to enter the language of greenkeeping. It now appears in several advertisements for companies selling biostimulant products. Here, I explain just what a mycorrhiza is, what it does, and what my research group at Royal Holloway is doing with it.

**Definition**

The word ‘mycorrhiza’ (pronounced mike- o- riza) comes from the Greek and literally means ‘fungus root’. It is a generic term, given to any intimate association between a fungus and the roots of a plant. It is important to realise that use of the word on its own means little; it as specific as using the word ‘grass’ to describe the species of plant growing in a golf green. Now, plenty of disease-causing fungi could also be said to form intimate associations with plant roots, yet they do not fall under the description of mycorrhiza. The thing that sets this fungus-plant association apart from all others is that both fungus and plant gain from the relationship. The scientific term used to describe such a relationship is mutualism. Clearly, in a plant-pathogen situation, there is no benefit for the plant and so it is not a mycorrhiza.

Orchids are totally dependent on their mycorrhiza for survival.

**Myco what?**
Types of mycorrhiza

A common misconception is that there is only one type of fungus forming the roots of plant with virtually any old plant. Nothing could be farther from the truth. In fact there are seven distinct types of mycorrhiza. Only four of these are at all common and of much relevance ecologically, and they are briefly outlined below. Another important point to realise is that the fungus which forms any one type of mycorrhiza are taxonomically very different from those which form another type.

Ericoid mycorrhizas

As its name suggests, this type of mycorrhiza only associates with members of the Ericaceae, or heather family. The fungi grow in soils and when they encounter the roots of a plant of this family, they form an enveloping sheath over the tips. Some elements of the fungus from this sheath penetrate the roots of the plant. Inside there is an exchange of nutrients, with mineral nutrients moving only from plant to fungus. Some fungi do not form a coat or sheath, instead many individual strands of fungus extend the roots and inside the cells form structures which under a powerful microscope look like small Christmas trees. This was brought home to me quite recently when I was walking a golf course with the greenkeeper. "Look", he said, pointing to some fly agaric toadstools growing in the rough. "I've got mycorrhizal fungi - they're beneficial to the grass, aren't they?" I replied that the only thing they were benefitting was the silver birch tree we were walking past minutes earlier, he had been complaining was growing too quickly! Arbuscular mycorrhizas

From the turfgrass point of view, these are the important ones. On encountering the roots of a plant, these fungi do not form a coat or sheath, instead many individual strands of fungus (known as hyphae) penetrate the roots. These hyphae grow within the roots and inside the cells form structures which under a powerful microscope look like small Christmas trees, called arbuscules. These are the sites of nutrient exchange, with nitrogen and phosphorus moving to the plant and carbon compounds moving to the fungus. Unlike all the previous types of mycorrhiza, the fungus which form this association cannot obtain their carbon by decomposition. They are utterly dependent on the plant and so cannot be cultured in the laboratory. Most of the toadstools that you see in a woodland in autumn are the fruiting bodies of these fungi. A few produce the fruiting bodies below ground - these are the famous truffles. In autumn, turn over some leaf mould and you will see the strands of fungal mycelium (the 'roots' of the fungus) within. If some of this mycelium encounters the roots of a tree, then it forms the ectomycorrhiza, in which strands of the fungi penetrate the cells of the root. As with the Ericoid mycorrhiza, there is then an exchange of nutrients, with mineral nutrients (mainly nitrogen and phosphorus) moving from fungus to plant and carbon compounds moving the other way. Clearly, it is beneficial for the fungus to do this; it involves much less energy to obtain carbon from a host plant than it does to secrete enzymes which decompose leaves. It is important to realise that these mushroom- or toadstool-forming fungi do not form mycorrhizal associations with turfgrass. This was brought home to me quite recently when I was walking a golf course with the greenkeeper. "Look", he said, pointing to some fly agaric toadstools growing in the rough. "I've got mycorrhizal fungi - they're beneficial to the grass, aren't they?" I replied that the only thing they were benefitting was the silver birch tree we were standing beneath, and which, five concentrations of essential nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus and if the fungus was absent, the plant root system is simply too inefficient at taking up sufficient quantities of these ions from the soil solution. However, the fungus is remarkably good at doing so, and the passing of these to the plant enables the plant to grow. There is a further added benefit of the fungus which is that it also has a remarkable ability to take up metal ions which would normally be toxic to the plant. Examples are aluminium and iron which become very soluble at low pH and could occur at levels high enough to kill the plant. The fungus takes up these metals and stores them, thus reducing their toxic effect on the plant.

Ectomycorrhizas

Ectomycorrhizas are very common. In fact virtually every woody plant forms an ectomycorrhizal association. As with the Ericoid association, the fungus envelops the mycorrhizal fungi in their roots, which supplies the plant with its entire carbohydrate need at this time. For most orchid species, the fungus continues to supply carbon and mineral nutrients to the plant, throughout its life.

As with the Ericoid association, the fungi penetrate the cells of the root. As with the Ericoid mycorrhiza, there is then an exchange of nutrients, with mineral nutrients moving only from plant to fungus. These minerals are decomposing organisms. This means it is possible to culture them in the laboratory. Examples are aluminium and iron which become very soluble at low pH and could occur at levels high enough to kill the plant. The fungus takes up these metals and stores them, thus reducing their toxic effect on the plant.

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the fungi appear to be able to reduce the growth of annual meadow grass. This grass happens to be one of the 30% of non-mycorrhizal species. If one grows Poa annua with a mycorrhiza then the growth of the plant is reduced. One of the major parts of our research programme is to find out the mechanism for this. However, this does add another unique benefit to mycorrhizas in turf - they have the potential to control the growth of this weed.

found that the levels of AM fungi in turfgrass are much lower than in natural grasslands. An often cited reason for this is the amount of fungicide applied. However, in recent experiments, we could detect no short term effect of fungicides on the mycorrhiza in a golf green. There was a detrimental effect in a football pitch, though. The reason? The putting green had a well developed thatch layer, which was lacking in the football pitch. Thatch is a remarkably good biological filter and bacteria within it rapidly degrade the fungicide before it reaches the mycorrhiza in the root. Probably the main reason why mycorrhizal fungi are rare in fine turf is the amount of compaction this environment receives. We are continually being told that aeration is of the utmost importance for the health of the grass. It is also of importance for the health of the fungus. I and my students continually perform surveys of AM fungi in golf greens, to elucidate the factors which determine the occurrence of the mycorrhiza.

Our research has also revealed that the fungi appear to be able to reduce the growth of annual meadow grass. This grass happens to be one of the 30% of non-mycorrhizal species. If one grows Poa annua with a mycorrhiza then the growth of the plant is reduced. One of the major parts of our research programme is to find out the mechanism for this. However, this does add another unique benefit to mycorrhizas in turf - they have the potential to control the growth of this weed.

The current situation is that we know that AM fungi are rare and sporadic in turf. We also have found that they can be inoculated into turf, resulting in better seedling establishment of bentgrass and reduced growth of Poa. We are currently investigating how effective they are in enhancing the disease resistance of grasses. There is much we need to learn about these strange fungi, but my prediction is that they will become one of the standard biostimulant products in years to come.
BIGGA has over 200 international members situated throughout the world. Here, we welcome our members from the USA, and give some interesting facts about their country.

**Focus on the USA**

- **Location:** Bordering both the North Atlantic Ocean and the North Pacific Ocean
- **Capital:** Washington DC
- **Currency:** US Dollar ($)
- **Population:** 267,954,764 (est)
- **Official Languages:** English, Spanish
- **Time Zone:** GMT -5 -11

**Chief tourist attractions:**
- Many cities of interest including New York with its skyscrapers, Washington DC with its monuments, Boston, San Francisco and New Orleans: enormous diversity of geographical features - the Rocky Mountains, the Everglades of Florida, the Grand Canyon; hundreds of national parks, historical parks and reserves including Redwood, Yosemite and Death Valley (all in California); Disneyland (California) and Walt Disney World (Florida).

**Did you know...?**
- There are 50 states and one district?
- The 50 small white five-pointed stars on the flag represent the 50 states?
- The 13 stripes on the flag represent the 13 original colonies; known as Old Glory?

**Next month:** Germany

Meet the members

- Peter Bacon, Wyontenuck GC
- Terry Buchen
- Stephen Cadejelli, Cape Cod National GC
- Stuart Cagle, Old Oakland GC
- Steven Cook, Oakland Hills GC
- David P Davies, Tiaro Rado GC
- Mark L Esposto, Hendley Hills GC
- Jean L Esposito, Hendley Hills GC
- Alan G Fitzgerald, Pine Valley GC
- Deon M Groves, Bethesda CC
- Gary Grigg, Royal Poinciana GC
- William Hamilton, Manor Creek GC
- James Hillier, Pine Grove Springs CC
- Jonathan Jennings, The Patterson Club
- Mark Kuhns, Oakmont CC
- Robert Mailbooch, Hinckley Hills GC
- Richard Matteson, Pendleton CC
- Eamonn Mccarthy, Southward Ho CC
- Neil Mcleughlin, Southward Ho CC
- Richard Menaib, Palmetto GC
- William P Montague, Oakwood Club
- Walter C Monrose, Westwood CC
- Patrick M O’Brien, Wolverine GC
- David A Oatis, USGA
- Simon W Parkin
- Paul Pitchard, Wilmslow GC
- Kevin Ross, Rockies CC
- Troy Russell, Bandon Dunes Resort
- John A Scott, Pinehurst Resort & CC
- Gordon Seigia, Lake View CC
- Richard J J Smith, Muirfield Village GC
- Brian A Sullivan, Bel Air CC
- Todd Voss, Double Eagle Club
- Bruce W Williams, Los Angeles CC
- John Yakubisin, Rolling Rock Club

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Saltex '99, the outdoor, summer, southern relation of BTME drew many familiar faces to Windsor Racecourse and served up the usual array of new products, machinery demonstrations, press launches and gossip.

BIGGA’s new improved 1999-2000 Golf Directory was launched at the Show and received rave reviews from everyone who saw it. For the first time, the Directory lists the names of BIGGA members and their golf clubs, and as a result it will be invaluable for people looking to track down old friends or acquaintances. Coupled with the company listings it is sure to become recognised as the yellow pages for golf... except it’s green!

Please accept your own copy, free, this month, with our compliments.

As is tradition the BIGGA Chairman is invited to be a stand judge on the first morning of the Show. Gordon Child is seen admiring the Town and County Turf stand which went on to win a Gold Medal in category 3.

From record entries throughout the UK and Ireland, The RAC Golf & Country Club, Epson, was drawn as this year’s winner of the annual Blazon “Spray Watch” campaign and received the first prize of a brand new Gambetti Barre AMK 300 Tractor Mounted Sprayer. Presentation of the prize to the winning club’s Course Manager Bob Wiles, was made by Neil Thomas, BIGGA’s Executive Director.

Attending the ceremony also was Chris Rudkin of Avoncrop Amenity Products whose company supplied the Blazon and entered the RAC Club into the draw. “We have been using Blazon since it was first launched and it continues to be an essential part of our spraying programme,” said Bob Wiles.

Pictured left to right are Chris Rudkin, Bob Wiles, Neil Thomas and Richard Fry, Blazon Europe.
Textrion launch new stablemates at Saltex

Textronics launched the Jacobsen HR-4600 Turbo triplex rotary mower which incorporates many design features already proven on the HR-Si 11 and HR-901 6 Turbo.

An adjustable, high backed suspension seat, gauges that are easy to see and fully-enclosed wheels within reach. Three hydraulically powered cutting decks, each with two blades, provide a 92° cutting width with a cutting height. The front decks can be raised and lowered independently.

A single pedal controls speed and direction, with dynamic braking through the traction circuit when in operating mode and front disc brakes for parking. An adjustable weight transport system improves traction when and where it's needed and optional 4-wheel drive.

Adding to their range of turf care equipment, Textronics launched the Turfco SP-1 330 trailed top dresser. It has a spreading width of up to 9.14 metres and can achieve a top dressing output of 2.8 acres per hour. The distribution pattern is adjustable from 15-30 feet.

A large six cubic metre capacity hopper ensures fast loading using a front tip loader and the low centre of gravity together with large floatating tyres make it light on the turf.

Textronics also recently launched Jacobsen HR-9016 Turbo rotary mower.

Highly manoeuvrable with a 16 foot cutting width, the HR-9016 Turbo can mow up to 16.3 acres per hour. Automatic four-wheel drive when mowing protects the turf in tight turns and on wet and hilly terrain and there are two-wheel and four-wheel reverse options.

The cutting decks consist of a 92 inch, 3-blade, out front multi-flex front deck and two 59 inch, 3-blade, wing decks, providing cutting heights from 1 inch to 6.5 inches.

The Greens King V has also been improved and is now built at in Ipswich, specifically for the European market.

Designed with operator comfort in mind, the control console provides clear sight lines in all directions and all controls are within easy reach. The one-touch lift and lower foot pedals make raising and lowering the cutting units a simple operation.

Fully floating cutting reels available with 11 or 7 blades and with Jacobsen's Flash/Attach system they can be changed in minutes, without tools.

A fully enclosed fibre-glass hood helps keep noise to a minimum and lifts to reveal all major components which are easily accessible.

Building on the Parkway 2250, the new PLUS derivative offers a choice of either Magna 250 6-knife, fixed head cutting units or Sport 200 8 or 11-knife. Floating head units, both with direct hydraulic drive and variable reel speed control.

Powered by a Kubota 38hp liquid-cooled diesel engine the Parkway 2250 Plus has a mowing speed of 7.5 mph and a transport speed of 15.5 mph. Hydrostatic fail-safe disc brakes are used for parking and automatically engage when the ignition is switched off.

Turfcare professionals with large areas to maintain could find that Textronics provides the solution with the factory-fitted combination of the HR-Si 11 and Ransomes Hydraulic 5/7 gang mower. The pair are CE approved as one unit.

The seven cutting units of the Hydraulic 5/7 provide a maximum working width of 4.65m reducing to 2.5m in transport mode. Available with either Magna 4 or 6-knife fixed head cutting units or Sportcutter 6-Knife floating head cutting units, the Hydraulic 5/7 features individual control over the four outer units enabling variations in working width to be achieved.

The Iseki TR63 provides the ideal partner generating 63 hp from a Perkins direct injection diesel engine that gives a cleaner burn and low exhaust and noise emissions. The air-conditioned cab with wide opening doors for easy access offers superb comfort and excellent visibility especially for trailed equipment. PTO and four-wheel drive are electro-hydraulically engaged with push button control.

**Toro's new signing becomes a part of the team**

Toro applied its 'Red Iron' livery to its newly-acquired range of Multi-Core aerators, and showed the machines in public for the first time at Saltex. The move to swap Multi-Core aerators' familiar blue clothes for Toro's traditional red-and-black look follows the purchase by The Toro Company, of Minneapolis, USA, of the machine's British company.

The acquisition has brought the product into the full range of Toro turf maintenance machinery and greatly enhanced the company's aeration range with equipment.

All of the large turf aerator units in the Multi-Core range are mounted to a compact tractor by the three-point linkage for fast, optimum core aeration. They are lightweight for mobility and can be adapted to turf areas such as sports pitches as well as fairways, tees and greens and come in working widths of 40, 60 and 80in respectively.

The new Toro Topdresser 1800 offers greater application control with a new belt design and improved brush performance. A redesigned, easy-to-change V belt improves performance even when handling wet sand or delivering fine applications. The faster-spinning brush and improved metering gate ensure that precisely the desired amount of sand is applied.

The 1800 topdresser is designed and built for use with the Toro Workman utility vehicle. It utilises the Workman's hydraulic system and is controlled with console-mounted levers. The unit has an 18cu ft hopper and can operate at speeds up to 8mph.

Another Toro product on show which is currently receiving a lot of interest is the Contour 82 Deck. This deck is fitted to the company's Groundsmaster 3000-D out-front rotary mower and is designed to produce an even cut without scalping on heavily-contoured ground. The special deck comprises four independent, 22 inch-wide cutting chambers that are linked together to form a complete deck. Each section can flex up and down by 20 degrees to 'float' over bumps and drop into hollows to hug the ground contours for a smooth, consistent cut.
John Deere’s new utility vehicles unveiled at Saltex

John Deere’s new E-Gator utility vehicle is powered by a whisper-quiet electric motor. For anyone concerned about noise levels and exhaust emissions in the workplace, the E-Gator provides a clean, quiet, durable and efficient option for a variety of turf and golf course applications.

This four wheel, two seater electric utility vehicle offers the same advantages as the established petrol and diesel Gator models: low ground pressure to help prevent ground compaction; simple, smooth and reliable operation; and easy access to all service points for convenient maintenance.

Designed for quick acceleration and steady performance between charges, the E-Gator offers numerous safety features, including overspeed and roll-away control. This prevents the vehicle from freewheeling down a slope when either carrying a light load or left unattended with the parking brake off; an anti-rollback function also prevents it from freewheeling in the opposite direction.

Dynamic braking allows the motor to brake as the driver lifts a foot off the accelerator. The speed control governs the vehicle at a top forward speed of 15.5mph, or 8 to 10mph in reverse, and helps maintain a constant speed when travelling up or down slopes. In addition, a directional change control slows the vehicle to a stop when moving from forward to reverse.

The vehicle’s charger plugs into a 240V ac, 60Hz wall unit and draws the maximum amount of current allowed, to reduce charging time; the charger senses when the charge cycle is complete and shuts down automatically.

It runs on Hi-Flotation turf tyres and can tow up to 272kg, with a total payload capacity of 408kg. It will be available from spring 2000.

John Deere’s new Pro Gator utility vehicle was officially launched in the UK and Ireland at the Show. It can be used as a general materials transporter or with specialist turf maintenance equipment for a wide range of applications in the golf & turf and commercial grounds care markets.

Designed as a heavy duty addition to the Gator range, this four wheel, two seater vehicle is available with a 24hp diesel engine and a choice of two or optional four wheel drive.

The Pro Gator has a five forward, one reverse speed synchronized transmission, with full front and rear suspension, hydraulic drum brakes on all four wheels plus differential lock, hydrostatic power steering and a maximum speed of nearly 20mph. The tilting steering wheel has a choice of five positions for maximum driver comfort, and there is a large eight gallon fuel tank.

The standard tipping cargo box has a capacity of 676kg, and towing capacity at the rear hitch is 680kg.

In addition to the cargo box, it can be fitted with a range of different attachments utilising the vehicle’s hydraulic services and mechanical pto. These include sprayers, spreaders, top dressers, materials collection systems and adapter kits for other turf maintenance equipment.

An optional cab can also be fitted in place of the standard ROPS frame.
Sisis drift along with Ecospray

The new single unit SISIS ECOSPRAY has been designed for use on small areas of natural or synthetic turf, sites with restricted access and hard surfaces such as pavements, car parks etc.

One of the major problems of carrying out selective weed control is waiting for exactly the right weather conditions, particularly wind velocity. Spray drift can damage neighbouring properties, pollute water courses or affect ornamental flower beds. New MAFF codes of practice state that "all pesticides must be contained within the area intended for application" - in other words no drift.

The single-unit "no-drift" ECOSPRAY incorporates the same shrouded spraying unit as those used on the well established tractor models. The patented mesh shroud was developed following extensive research at Cranfield University and scientifically designed to allow the correct amount of air flow to reduce drift to a minimum, while maintaining the correct spray pattern. Bubble jet nozzles are fitted to give a hollow droplet which bursts to give a more uniform droplet size. The shrouded spraying head can be offset to left or right to ensure spray goes right to the edge.

All controls are on the handle which is spring loaded to ensure operator comfort. The spraying head lifts and locks for ease of transport, calibration, change of nozzles etc.

Fertiliser range expanded at Headland

Headland Amenity has expanded their range of fertilisers based on Multi-K potassium nitrate.

"Multi-K potassium nitrate has many advantages as a turf fertiliser and is ideally suited for use in our climatic conditions," said Mark Hunt, Headland's Fertiliser Product Manager.

Headland has added a mini-prill formulation of Multi-K potassium nitrate, to its existing water soluble and coated products. Multi-K Mini Prill is 1.2mm prill suitable for application to all fine and close mown turf.

The prill breaks down quickly on contact with moisture and provides a rapid response even at low soil temperatures.

"Turf managers now have a choice when applying Multi-K," said Hunt, "they can select the spray using the water-soluble formulation or apply the mini prill through a spreader as conditions dictate."

With an analysis of 13+0+46, Multi-K Mini Prill is ideally suited as an autumn/winter or spring starter fertiliser.

All Multi-K products are sulphur free, and this linked with their oxidising nature, can help counteract the formation of 'black layer'.

Stihl launch their new scrub cutter

The introduction of a new scrub cutter from STIHL, allows tidy cutting alongside roads, paths, planted and play areas, as the cutting blades operate like a mower beam and material literally falls where it is cut.

The FH75 scrub cutter is operated in the same way as a brushcutter, with the cutter bar mounted on a long, loop-handled shaft which is swung in an arcing action close to the ground. The cutter bar can be set to nine different angles between zero and 90 degrees, enhancing the tool's versatility as it can be instantly adapted to suit different cutting situations.

An additional benefit of the FH75 scrub cutter is the user's ability to see the tip of the cutting head during operation enabling a more accurate cut around tender and static objects.

The FH75 is highly versatile and clearly suited to a wide range of applications from road, rail and highway maintenance to park, nursery and garden care.
Kubota go for the triple at Saltex

Kubota has extended its range of professional grass-care products with the G18 GlideCut - the world's first triple-bladed through-cut mower with integral rear-mounted grass collector.

Equipped with a 1.2m wide, three-bladed rotary cutter deck and rear collector which can be emptied hydraulically from the driving seat, the Kubota G18 GlideCut has a low noise, low emissions 18hp diesel engine, single pedal hydrostatic transmission and power steering.

The G18 GlideCut's low centre of gravity, clean cut and high workrate make it equally suited to maintaining most areas of amenity grass where clipping needs to be collected and disposed of neatly, quickly and efficiently. Features of the G18 GlideCut which will be of particular benefit to users are its:

- Quick-attach 1.2m wide triple-bladed cutter deck
- Narrow overall working width of just 1.26m
- Low noise, low emissions Kubota 18hp water-cooled E-TVCS diesel engine
- Comfortable and easily accessible flat floor operator's platform
- Shaft-driven transmission and mower deck, with hydraulic deck lift
- Simple dial-type cutting height adjustment from 25mm - 102mm
- Large 22 litre diesel tank
- Large tyres all-round: 16 x 6.8 - 8 front, 23 x 10.5 - 12 rear
- Single pedal hydrostatic drive giving a maximum travelling speed of 9.5mph
- 500 litre capacity rear grass collector

Safety features on the Kubota G18 GlideCut include a neutral start switch, a seat cut-out switch to the mower drive, a blade-brake clutch and a mower cut-out switch when the rear grass collector is tipped for emptying.

Etesia's Attila battles the toughest rough

Following on from its Attila ride-on brushcutter, Etesia launched the Attila AV3 - a heavy-duty pedestrian-controlled machine.

This 3.1cm brushcutter is ideal for sites where access is restricted and for taming wild areas such as woodland rides, fire breaks plus weed control in plantations.

Powered by the latest Kawasaki FC 180 6hp OHV engine this machine is capable of taking on the roughest and toughest of conditions. Extra large diameter rear wheels have wide tread tyres for traction grip and all four wheels are mounted on ball bearings for long life.

The chassis is manufactured from box steel and three forward gears and one reverse transmission enable the operator to match the machine's travel to suit prevailing conditions. There is a differential lock for extra traction when it is needed on difficult terrain.

All the controls have been designed for ease of use and two central levers adjust the cutting height. These can be removed to avoid snagging on undergrowth.
Scottish Grass Machinery distributing Ransomes, E-Z-GO, Iseki, Ryan, Cushman and Jacobsen throughout Scotland under the TEXTRON Turf Care and Specialty Products banner

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Amenity Spraying

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Tel: 01372 456101

Aeration

Boreholes

Do you 'Know Your Numbers' well enough to win £50?

Simply look through all the products and services in our guide and name the companies which the following telephone numbers refer to:

a. 01273 564015  
b. 01705 592390  
c. 0181 8909172

Write down your three answers on a postcard and send your entries to:
Know Your Numbers, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Aline, York Y061 1UF

Entries to reach us no later than Thursday, October 14, 1999. The first correct entry drawn will receive a cheque for £50!

The judges decision is final. No correspondence will be entered into.

This competition is not open to BIGGA staff or non-members.

Last month, lain Turnbull of John O'Gaunt Golf Club, certainly knew his numbers when he correctly identified all three telephone numbers.

Our congratulations and a cheque for £50 are on their way to you!
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numbers are
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Keep looking!

1. Knees on the ground
2. Natural surface
3. Level
4. All weather

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Keep looking!

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Golf Mats

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Recruitment

SANDFORD SPRINGS GOLF CLUB
require a
DEPUTY COURSE MANAGER
Sandford Springs, which is under new ownership, requires an experienced greenkeeper to assist in managing this exciting 27 hole complex.
Applicants should have the following skills:
• Qualified to NVQ Level 3 • PA1, 2A and 6A Spraying qualifications
• Able to manage and motivate staff • Experience with irrigation systems
There is no accommodation
Please apply in confidence with full CV in writing to:
Mr A Crowley, Sandford Springs Limited, Waverley, Tidley, Hants RG26 5RT

DORKING GOLF CLUB
Require a
HEAD GREENKEEPER
Applicants should be experienced and qualified in all aspects of greenkeeping including PA1 and PA2 spraying certificates.
Must have good man management skills, practical knowledge of machinery and water irrigation systems an advantage.
Accommodation may be available.
Applications in writing enclosing full CV to:
The Manager, Dorking golf Club, Chart Park, Dorking Surrey, RH5 4BX

CATHCART CASTLE GOLF CLUB
invites applications for the position of
HEAD GREENKEEPER/Course Manager
for established undulating parkland course situated in the South Side of Glasgow.
Applicants must be fully qualified, experienced and self-motivated with proven ability in organising and carrying out work programmes along with the ability to lead, motivate and manage existing staff, and maintain budgetary controls.
A sound and practical knowledge of maintenance and use of greenkeeping machinery is also required.
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Application in writing with full CV including current salary to:
The Secretary, Cathcart Castle Golf Club, Meers Road, Clarkston, Glasgow G76 7YL

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Recruitment

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This exclusive and historic parkland course, designed by Donald Steel, now requires a

COURSE MANAGER

Responsible to the Executive Operations Director for the management and maintenance of the course, the successful applicant will be qualified to minimum C & G Level 3 and have held a similar post for the last 3 years.

Sound inter-personal skills together with relevant experience in all aspects of modern greenkeeping, leadership, man management and statutory regulations (COSHH, H & S etc) are essential.

A competitive remuneration package is available.

Accommodation is negotiable.

Please apply with full C.V. and details of current salary, to:

Executive Operations Director, Harleyford Golf Plc.,
Harleyford Estate, Henley Road, Marlow, Buckinghamshire SL7 2SP

Closing Date October 15, 1999
Applications should be marked: "Course Manager - Strictly Private & Confidential"

Hindley Hall Golf Club

Applications are invited for the position of

HEAD GREENKEEPER

The Club has a well established moorland course celebrating its' centenary in 2005.

We require a competent, experienced person who is both progressive and self motivated. A practical knowledge of greenkeeping machinery, irrigation systems and current Health & Safety at Work Regulations will be required together with excellent man-management skills.

Salary and Conditions Negotiable

(Commensurate with experience and qualifications)

Accommodation is not provided.

Applications in writing enclosing full CV to:

The Secretary, Hindley Hall Golf Club,
Hall Lane, Hindley, Wigan, Greater Manchester WN2 2SQ

Closing date for applications 15 October 1999

Cardiff Golf Club

COURSE MANAGER/HEAD GREENKEEPER

A parkland course established in 1922, Cardiff Golf Club is a private members club, situated in the suburbs of the Capital City.

The successful applicant will report to the Club Secretary in close liaison with the Chairman of Green.

This demanding role includes responsibility for the management of experienced green staff, the maintenance and development of a mature tree lined course, the effective deployment and care of modern machinery, equipment and a computerised irrigation system.

The Club complies with all Health & Safety and Environmental Regulations.

Cardiff Golf Club is one of only two in the Principality involved in a 5yr Ecology Study, supported by the Welsh golfing Union and has won the Regional Award in the 1999 BIGGA Golf Environment competition.

The successful applicant will be expected to demonstrate relevant skills, knowledge and experience, coupled with a determination to achieve excellence in a team-working environment.

The remuneration package available will reflect the Club's desire to appoint an applicant of the highest calibre.

Written applications with a comprehensive curriculum vitae (to include details of current salary), should be sent in strict confidence to:

The Secretary, Cardiff Golf Club, Sherborne Avenue, Cyncoed, Cardiff CF23 6SJ
**HEAD GREENKEEPER**

Applications are invited for the above position.

The primary responsibilities of this position are as follows:
- Maintenance of the golf course to a consistent and high standard.
- Management and development of all greenkeeping staff.
- Administration of project and maintenance programmes. Input and control regarding course financial budgets.

The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate:
- A good working knowledge of modern golf course management practices and techniques, including the appropriate use and basic servicing of, turf maintenance machinery.
- A recognised qualification in the appropriate field of horticulture and greenkeeping, as well as a positive approach to further training and professional enhancement.
- The ability to play golf and to empathise with the requirements of a diversified playing membership.

Salary negotiable depending on qualifications and experience.

Conceal CV and hand written letter of application in the first instance to:

The Secretary/Manager, Ilford Golf Club, 291 Wanstead Park Road, Ilford, IG1 3TR

Closing date for applications Wednesday 20th October 1999

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**BLACKMOOR GOLF CLUB**

**FIRST ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER**

Minimum qualification of NVQ Level 2 with PA1, PA2A and PA6A spraying certificates.

Must have at least 3 years experience and knowledge of all modern greenkeeping methods.

Should be pro-active with the ability to organise work programmes and motivate staff.

Applications in writing with full CV to:

Head Greenkeeper, Blackmoor Golf Club, Firgrove Road, Bordon, Hants GU35 9EH

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**LEISURE SERVICES DEPARTMENT - GROUNDS MAINTENANCE DSO**

**HEAD GREENKEEPER**

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Hours: 36½ per week, flexible according to the demands of the service with the need for evening and weekend working.

Base: Haigh Hall and Country Park - Golf Course Development

A Head Greenkeeper is required for the exciting redevelopment of the Haigh Hall Golf Course in Wigan, Lancashire. The redevelopment, which is now underway following a grant award of £2.2m from the Sports Lottery Unit, includes:
- The reconstruction and upgrading of the existing 18 hole course.
- The construction of a new 9 hole starter course and a purpose built golf practice and training area - the "academy" - designed to identify and foster young talent.
- The construction of a large "Himalayan" putting green.
- The renovation and construction of a golf visitor centre and extension to the Haigh golf shop and administration office.
- You will ideally have a minimum of three years' experience in golf or grounds maintenance, be qualified to NVQ 3 in Amenity Horticulture - Sports Turf Maintenance including spraying and have a practical knowledge of machinery and irrigation systems.
- The Head Greenkeeper will be responsible for the maintenance of the golf facilities and estate grounds, with the following principal duties:
  - Presentation of the golf facilities and estate grounds to a high and consistent standard.
  - Effective utilisation of plant and equipment.
  - Effective utilisation of plant and equipment.
  - Management of human resources.
  - Budget management and control.
  - Management of human resources.
  - Effective utilisation of plant and equipment.
  - You will be self motivated with a "hands-on" approach to practical work, as well as having the ability to communicate with a wide range of people, including the development contractor, throughout the redevelopment period.
- For an informal discussion contact Paul Barton, Finance and Development Manager, on 01942 731401.

Application forms, job descriptions and person specifications are available from the Grounds Maintenance DSO, The Depot House, Frog Lane, Wigan WN6 7LB. Tel: 01942 731406. PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO THIS ADDRESS.

Closing date: 29th October 1999.

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**METROPOLITAN WIGAN**

The Council is committed to Equal Opportunities in employment and welcomes applications from all sections of the community.
Welcome to part two of the BTME 2000 competition, and your chance to win an all-expenses trip to Harrogate!

BTME 2000 has more exhibitors than ever before, providing a kaleidoscope of new and exciting products and equipment available to the fine turf professional.

On January 17, the National Education Conference will kickstart the week of events, followed by the BTME Exhibition. In keeping with tradition, The Learning Experience will run alongside the show with its usual selection of high quality workshops, providing invaluable training for its delegates. New additions for 2000 include 'Computing for Greenkeepers' and Golf Course Preparation, places of which are expected to be of high demand. Contact Sami Collins on 01347 833800 for further details.

SO, YOU WANT TO BE PART OF BTME2000?

Well here's your chance....

All you have to do to stand a chance of winning one of our three fantastic BTME package prizes is to answer six simple questions. There were two last month, two in this issue, shown below, and the final two will appear in next month's Greenkeeper International. When you have completed all the answers, fill in the entry form, printed in the November edition of Greenkeeper International and you could be on your way to Harrogate on an all expenses paid mini-break to BTME 2000.

OCTOBER QUESTIONS:

1. Name one of the new workshops introduced for BTME2000
2. Which Hall makes its debut at BTME2000?

Remember, Don't send in your answers yet, keep them safe until you receive the entry form, printed in next month's Greenkeeper International.

First Prize: Return rail travel from anywhere in the UK plus three nights accommodation at a top hotel in Harrogate with entry into the exhibition and all the education seminar sessions.

Second prize: Return rail travel from anywhere in the UK plus two nights accommodation at a top hotel in Harrogate with entry into the exhibition and all the education seminar sessions.

Third prize: Return rail travel from anywhere in the UK plus one night's accommodation at a top hotel in Harrogate with entry into the exhibition and all the education seminar sessions.
People have been asking me recently if I have taken up the very kind offer from Stephen Okula when he invited me in the March issue to his Tenerife home for a chat on the maintenance of USGA spec greens.

Well, despite his generosity, I have decided to decline on the grounds that it is impossible to walk down a beach at any of the Canary Islands without being visually assaulted on a regular basis by a series of out of condition Bavarians wearing nothing more than a back-pack. Quite a traumatic experience for us Brits, especially after that most traditional of Canarian meals, the Full English Breakfast.

But before our Editor receives a mass of complaints from the greenkeepers wing of the Naturists Association of Deutschland, may I point out that my comments are not to be taken too seriously, as has been the unfortunate case in the past.

However the following anecdote, I can assure you is entirely factual and was recounted to me by my Brother the celebrated portrait artist, Leonardo McDivot.

My brother has a long-standing female friend who confided to him a story that had been an acute embarrassment to her for a long time. With her resolve severely diluted by a cheap bottle of wine she recounted this horrific tale in the strictest confidence. This he then told to me in not quite such strict confidence and with a total and blatant lack of confidentiality I will now faithfully relate it to a few thousand greenkeepers in the hope that she is not a regular reader of this publication.

She was seeing a young man who was to become her future hubby and the time had arrived when she was...
required to meet the family. As we are all aware this can be the most stressful of duties at the best of times but in this case the family was of English nobility, back round and the house a stately affair complete with gazebos, orangeries, servants quarters, lodges and such like.

So the day arrived and she pulled them in the dining room. They were dining room.

In telling of this girl’s painful experience I wish to highlight the difference between the cerebral workings of men and women. Placed in a similar situation most men would not become overly worried and would either:

a) Forget about it, reasoning that the butler would probably sort the problem out.  
b) Especially if he is a greenkeeper, take the top off the cistern and relish the prospect of carrying out some on the spot adjustments with the ball valve to effect a permanent cure to the problem.  

That is not to say that we men are in some way superior to our female counterparts. Far from it. It is just that we have a different way of viewing things.

For instance, I am of the opinion that if most men were left to their own devices it would not be long before a deep rooted basal instinct would kick in and we would degenerate into a life of concentrated drunken sloberly. I myself have found this particular desire difficult to control on many occasions. But as we have our female brethren to guard over us, they manage by way of a superior strength of will and prolonged verbal persuasion to discourage these genetic urges and instead lead us down the path of domestic duties.

Some may argue that their brains are incorrectly wired leading to a series of illogical conclusions based on nothing more than women’s intuition. This is clearly untrue. For example, when my dearly beloved moved into a previous abode of mine that had resisted all my attempts to sell, she drew my myopic attention to the fact that the sparse black and white furnishings and stark empty spaces devoid of all feelings of hospitality were not helping me in my quest to attract the punters.

I was also made aware, in a brutal frank manner of the fact that vacuuming the carpets on a quarterly basis was generally considered insufficient. It was also pointed out to me that my theory of living in conditions of total squalor would help me build up long term resistance to disease was not necessarily conducive to a quick sale.

Having made a few simple refinements such as the addition of cushions, flowers and what I considered the most tasteless of all, little cherub type ornaments, a path was beaten to my door by eager buyers with full asking price bundles of cash in hand. So in this instance it was I, a fairly typical male who was unable to reach a conclusion based on simple logic.

Intelligence can and should not be rated on the ability one has in tackling an IQ test.

For example, ask me who came second in the 1973 British Open and I could relay such information of unmitigated boredom to my heart’s content. Ask me what colour would look good with magenta and I would tumble about hopelessly for an inept answer. Given my position of Head Greenkeeper in charge of not only a golf course but also several areas of flowers and assorted shrubbery, what ability do you think would be most appropriate?

My amazing talent to recall in detail the picture of Neil Coles striding down the last fairway at Tiron, complete with ill fitting trousers and hideous jumper, several shots behind Tom Weiskopf or my equally amazing lack of talent at deciding what shrubs would look most impressive adjacent to the Captain’s parking spot. With all due respect to Neil Coles, the ability to visualise horticultural artistry would win every time. Put the wife in a similar situation and she would notice those little details that are completely invisible to us males. The Captain’s River, she would observe, always seems to come in a colour that matches his hearing aids and planting would be appropriately harmonious.

Which finally brings me to my long-winded conclusion. The current trend of encouraging women into the world of greenkeeping is long overdue and should be encouraged at every opportunity.

Of course it is not only for a woman’s ability to design planting schemes that we should employ and promote. It is also for all the subtle touches that can be so lacking in the male of the species and simply because a different perspective on problems can often be the key in which to solve them. But it doesn’t stop there. Have we not all noticed how supply companies are depleting that most fads of sales tactics, the female rep. Well maybe it is time the table was turned. My wife can haggle with a man to the point where agreeing her terms is the only viable alternative to a nervous breakdown. Her powers of persuasion are incredible. I still spend many hours awake at night trying to comprehend how she managed to get the mortgage in my name yet the house in hers. She, like many of her associates, can go on a shopping spree of frightening proportions and yet still convince me by some obscure logic that she has saved me a fortune.

Employ women to do your purchasing and that 10% discount you were so chuffed at getting will be a thing of the past. 20% or 30% will be the norm.

So I say to all my macho colleagues out there Go Forth! Remove those tacky calendars given to you each year by the tractor spare’s company and employ the fair sex. You have the word of Sandy McDivot (and proud of it), I promise, you will not regret it.

Sandy McDivot.
Head Greenkeeper: Sludgecombe Play and Play.
I am pleased to report that at the last GTC meeting things seem to have settled down with a more positive move to go forward. It may be early to be sure, but the signs are that everyone at the meeting were there to make a fresh start on the back of the Lantra Report. A new Technical Committee was appointed, and its responsibility is to assist the Education Director and propose to the Management Committee the way forward in its educational objectives, to prepare and maintain a three year on-going plan of GTC activities as well as identifying training priorities. The Technical Committee consists of the following personnel and the bodies they represent:

Dr Mike Caraway STRI, of whose qualifications I am sure you are all aware.

Kerran Daly BIGGA, Course Manager at Gog Magog Golf Club, a Master Greenkeeper and also a GTC Assessor. Kerran holds a Certificate of Education along with Phases 3 & 4 and Diplomas in Golf Management and Turf Culture.

John Davies represents education. John has too many qualifications to mention here but to give you a sample he holds certificates in agriculture, engineering, health and safety, pesticides and education. He is an Internal Verifier with D32-33 and 34. John has been in education for over 30 years.

As well as its five members, The Technical Committee can call upon other experts in specialist fields as they see fit. Our job on the management must be to support and try to implement their ideas as far as possible. Personally I feel this is a good and positive move in the right direction.

On September 7th I joined our team at Saltee. The weather was good for all three days, and although I feel the numbers were down on some years past, the BIGGA stand was very busy. The staff made many new contacts and took in lots of new members.

For myself, I was kept busy standing and attending meetings, so I'm sorry if I missed some of you when you visited the BIGGA stand. However, it was nice to meet so many of you, both greenkeepers and trade members. I would like to express my thanks and those of our staff to Chris Kennedy who kindly arranged for us to have dinner at Wentworth Golf Club on Wednesday evening. We were all three days, and although I feel the numbers were down on some years past, the BIGGA stand was very busy. The staff made many new contacts and took in lots of new members.

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Finally I would like to thank the girls and not so good for others, depending where you live and work. Down south, it started off wet with a dry June, very wet July and a dry August, but in the north and more so in Scotland, they have had more than their fair share of rain, but one thing has remained constant and that is the pressure put on greenkeepers, sometimes unfairly, but sometimes by our own stubbornness to accept change. I get many calls and letters from members who have got problems, some you can help and others which are far and away outside my or any other greenkeepers' ability to help.

This is where legal advice comes in though your membership. Countless members have been grateful for this part of their package deal, but for many there seems to be a reluctance to use what is their right as a BIGGA member. The advice you can get is invaluable, not just for work related problems, but for home and personal difficulties as well. Don't care how many of you make contact with me, I will always try to point you in the right direction, and I'm happy to do so, but take a piece of advice, when your membership renewal drops through your door, don't just put it on one side, take a good careful read and make sure you know what's in it for you. It is an excellent package and one we should be proud of.

Finally the seminar season is coming round again and I look forward to the chance of meeting lots of you again, if not at the regional ones, then at BTME in January. There is still lots to learn by us all. We will never know it all, so let's take every opportunity that's on offer.
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