The scale of the recent flooding can be illustrated by the affect it had on Aldwark Manor Golf Club, home of Championships while the depth can be seen by how little of the 4th pin is visible. If you have any similar photographs of the extent of the flooding on your course, or the damage which was left after it went down please feel free to send them to the magazine to share with your fellow greenkeepers.

Flooding causes havoc at Aldwark Manor

The scale of the recent flooding can be illustrated by the affect it had on Aldwark Manor Golf Club, home of BIGGA HOUSE. The joint 4th and 14th fairways looked like a potential venue for the World Angling Championships while the depth can be seen by how little of the 4th pin is visible. If you have any similar photographs of the extent of the flooding on your course, or the damage which was left after it went down please feel free to send them to the magazine to share with your fellow greenkeepers.

Royal Inverdivot GC

Although we like to see you showing initiative... we think your idea to keep water off the greens... by sandbagging in that helpful...
New appointments at Rolawn

Paul Dawson has been appointed Operations Director of Rolawn, working for the past year as Corporate Development Manager. Prior to that he spent the previous five years with the Shropshire Group.

He now turns his attention to developing and expanding Rolawn's 3000 acres of turf production. He will use his skills and experience to further the expansion and development of Rolawn's business. Already the main instigator of the new bulk products recently added to the Rolawn product range (Topsoil and Soil Conditioner) Paul will now focus the overall provision of bulk product deliveries, national accounts and development of a foodservice business.

New premises are just the Tonick

Tonyc Watering, established in Worthing in 1995 is moving to spacious new factory and offices in South Wales. Having outgrown the existing 1200 square feet premises, the company is moving to a 4000 square feet factory on a 1 acre site.

Hayter founder passes away

Douglas Hayter, founder of the renowned lawnmower manufacturing company which bears his name, has died at his home in Old Harlow at the age of 86.

After the Second World War, during which he had been a member of the Home Guard he directed his energies into timber built, temporary buildings and agricultural machinery both of which were treated at the time as priority occupations. Almost by chance, to clear the unwanted growth before his timber drying sheds, he developed the product that was to be his lasting monument - the rotary lawnmower.

Among his proudest personal achievements was the granting of a Royal Warrant in his name for the supply of agricultural machinery to HM the Queen.

He retired from business when he sold his company in 1985 to FH Tomkiss plc. It is a fitting legacy to the foundations he laid that the company continues to prosper, offering employment to over 200 people locally and having a sphere of influence in many parts of the world. It is ironic that, only three weeks before his death, the company was sold into foreign ownership.

He is survived by his wife, Susan and by his daughter from his first marriage, Janet.

Northern Ireland Conference success

The Inaugural Northern Ireland Education Conference proved to be a major success. Following a strong Section for the new millennium, this Conference was very much a yardstick for measuring the progress of BIGGA in Northern Ireland.

The occasion was a sell-out at a renowned lawnmower manufacturer's factory and offices. The speakers provided a broad spectrum of interest and interest across the greenkeeping profession. Each session was stimulating and often controversial providing for excellent questions and subsequent debate. The speakers gave freely of their time despite heavy professional commitments and our appreciation is due to David Garland, Chris Kennedy, David McInroe, John O'Neil, Bob Sivalls, Jim Arthur, Gordon Child and Peter Jones for ensuring a conference which delegates will look back upon as a milestone experience.

Not everything goes according to plan at such conferences. Triumph and disaster can go hand in hand. On this occasion two of our illustrious speakers were flying into Belfast on the morning of the Conference only to arrive at the local airport and find that their tickets were dated for the previous day. Fortunately our intrepid travellers stood their ground and cancellations enabled them to board a flight. Had they failed, a decimated programme would hardly have been ideal for our Northern Ireland section in terms of adverse reaction and publicity gained.

These problems can so easily arise and it does no harm to be reminded now and again of how vital the checking procedures are to the successful outcome of an event. BTME draws near the organisation of which is both complex and demanding. No doubt there will be problems along the way but if the week runs smoothly then the planning and organisation will have achieved its ends and staff will breathe freely once more!

In Northern Ireland our thanks are particularly due to Graham Wylie and Frank Ainsworth for their input to the Conference and provision of excellent facilities, to Greenmount College for hosting the event and not least to the sponsors Evergreen Lawns, Golfing Union of Ireland, Graham Prosser - Talcit, Hortasols Ltd, John Lindsay Professional Sports Turf, Lord Grass Machinery, Lely Ireland Ltd and Turf Care Irrigation Ltd. I am reliably informed that plans are underway to make this a biennial event. If so, I strongly recommend early booking of places next time around.

Neil Thomas

Avoncrop play host to distributors

Avoncrop hosted the 6th annual European Golf Distributors Conference in Bristol over four days at the end of October.

Members gathered from all over Europe including delegates from Holland, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Denmark, Spain and Sweden.

The group consists of distributor principals who all service the turf and amenity markets within their respective countries. The objectives of the group are to exchange information and ideas.

This millennium meeting proved very successful and areas of discussion included the dynamic market trends that are occurring across Europe. New products and technologies were also discussed, presentations from members on new developments proved very interesting, each of the group may well have potential new products to take back to their own markets.

Commitment to continue this useful exchange of ideas and market trends was made and next year's conference is to be hosted by Portugal.

Can you help?

Waterbridge Golf Course, near Crediton, in Devon, is currently looking for spare parts for a SISIS Hydromain 17 and 20 models. If you have a machine surplus to your requirements please contact Martin Petherick, Tel: 01363 85711 or golf@waterbridge.fobusiness.co.uk

New online venture for Sovereign Turf

Sovereign Turf has launched its new website www.sovereign turf.com which includes webpages in English, French and Spanish.

"These pages should be of particular interest to European golf greenkeepers and Course Managers," said Steve Williams, Sales Manager at Sovereign, because they have an overview of the turf operation in their own language.

Turf currently available is listed and the quality section posts up the turf declaration. This shows the results of the TGA quality assessment for the fields being harvested.

Sad passing of Mike Upton

Mike Upton, who recently joined Green Pride to cover the East Midlands, has died after a short illness.

"Ever cheerful and conscientious he will be greatly missed by customers and colleagues alike. Our sincere condolences go out to his family," said Duncan Bell, of Green Pride.