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Greenkeeper International

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

Editorial
Editor: Scott MacCallum
Tel: 01347 833800 Fax: 01347 833830
E-mail: scott@bigga.co.uk

Advertising
Sales & Marketing Manager: Steve Hardy
Tel: 01347 833800 Fax: 01347 833830
E-mail: steve@bigga.co.uk

Design
Design & Production Editor: David Emery
Tel: 01347 833800 Fax: 01347 833830
E-mail: david@bigga.co.uk

Printing
Hi Tec Print, Units 9 & 10, Houghton Road, North Anston Trading Estate, North Anston, Sheffield S25 4JJ
Tel: 01909 599533 Fax: 01909 599531

The advertising copy deadlines for inclusion in the August 2000 edition of Greenkeeper International is Wednesday, July 5, 2000

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 ISSN 0961-6977
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BIGGA Chairman, Elliott Small, reports on another busy month, and his recent visit to the Australian Golf Course Superintendents Association's Millennium Turfgrass Conference held in Melbourne
Accidents do happen

Elsewhere in this issue you can read about Dougal Duguid who has just emerged from a six year nightmare which began when a golf ball bounced up and into the face of a lady member causing her to lose an eye. She claimed it was caused by her ball rebounding from a stone negligently left on the golf course and sued.

It was a horrible accident and our heart goes out to the woman, who by cruel fate already had limited sight in her other eye. What could be worse than suffering such a horrific injury playing the game we all love?

But it was an accident, pure and simple, as decided by the Sheriff who heard the case, and said that Dougal had done all that could have been asked of him and could not be held responsible.

Had the decision gone the other way the implications for the game and all greenkeepers were wide ranging. Read some of the comments made by Dougal and then make up your own mind. It would be good to hear from you on the matter.

There is an increasing trend, which appears to be American led, to go to the courts and target someone for blame. And you can see why.

Around the time Dougal’s case was resolved another golfer went through the US courts and successfully sued a golf course after he fell down a hole and broke his leg on some jagged rocks. He claimed the club was negligent for not putting up a guard rail and won his case. He was awarded substantial damages, including £866,000 for “pain and suffering”.

McDonald’s prints the warning - “Beware. These cups contain hot liquid” on its coffee cups to cover it from anyone who feels the company would otherwise be negligent in not ensuring customers were made aware of such a fact.

What really amazed me though was the recent news that a deaf person was suing the American version of “Who Wants to be a Millionaire” because he was, in effect, excluded from the show because he couldn’t phone a friend. Let’s ask the audience. Is that, or is it not, plain daft?

Golf has shown restraint in the past. You may recall Greg Norman, spraining a wrist when he hit a submerged stone and had to pull out of many potentially lucrative tournaments. He accepted it as the “rub of the green” and his own bad luck. He didn’t look for anyone to blame.

Of course we can all understand the Westhill lady member’s desire to go to court, particularly as she can no longer work, but it must be hoped that golf can steer clear of such cases in future.

If golf does become a target for “no win no fee” lawyers and the unfortunate few who do suffer injury on golf courses you can be sure that the game will be worse off for it.

Let’s hope that common sense prevails and we remember that accidents can often be just that - accidents.
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Christopher Yeaman celebrated his 12th birthday last month and as you would expect with any youngster it was an occasion of great joy and happiness. For his mum and dad Carol and Chris, Head Greenkeeper at West Linton Golf Club, near Edinburgh, however, this happiness was multiplied tenfold and joined by equal amounts of sheer relief.

The reason was that Christopher's birthday signalled his departure from hospital after a near six month spell which should bring the curtain down on a four and a half year nightmare for the family. It began on Boxing Day 1995 on a frozen Swanson Golf Club, where Chris was Head Greenkeeper until this January. Only a short distance from Edinburgh's famous dry ski slope in the Pentland Hills Swanson Golf Club is a sledding paradise for the local youngsters and Christopher was hurting down the slope one particularly icy day when his watching mum and dad recognised the danger.

"I rushed to try to stop his sledge but couldn't get to him and he crashed into a fence post," said Chris, who ironically had been the man responsible for planting the post.

Christopher spent six months in Edinburgh Sick Kid's Hospital as a result of his injuries with the first three weeks in intensive care with serious liver damage. "The same injuries had struck three children before Christopher and none of them had survived," revealed Carol, who gave up her job to look after her son full time.

Christopher did recover, and recover well. He returned to school and got back into the sports he loved and everything seemed fine until last October when he became ill again and internal bleeding was diagnosed.

He was assessed for a liver transplant in Edinburgh Sick Kid's Hospital as a result of his injuries with the first three weeks in intensive care with serious liver damage. "The same injuries had struck three children before Christopher and none of them had survived," revealed Carol, who gave up her job to look after her son full time.

Christopher did recover, and recover well. He returned to school and got back into the sports he loved and everything seemed fine until last October when he became ill again and internal bleeding was diagnosed.

He was assessed for a liver transplant at Birmingham Children's Hospital, one of only two in the country able to conduct such procedures, and placed on the waiting list for a suitable liver to become available.

"Christopher went into hospital on December 22nd last year and the transplant was eventually carried out on April 26th. He was in surgery for 14 and a half hours, and all requests for interviews and giving well until he was struck by a serious infection and had to undergo another five hours of surgery to ease the problem," explained Chris.

During Christopher's time in Birmingham Carol stayed in a house provided by a charity for the parents of long-term child patients while Chris started his new job at West Linton and travelled down to Birmingham every couple of weeks. Christopher was finally transferred back to Edinburgh before being allowed home - to a brand new home which he hadn't seen before, right on the golf course - on June 5.

"The support we've received for every- one has been absolutely incredible. Fellow greenkeepers, people in the trade and golfers in general have all been wonderful. While he was in hospital we were able to get a nearby room which was extremely helpful and made his stay as comfortable as possible. In fact, I even got to see him every day before we had to leave," said Carol.

"It is not enough just to carry donor cards but also to inform relatives of a desire to donate organs. "Sandy used to live close to the club and is the club Pro here and his coach is the club pro here and when he learned about Christopher he gave him a signed putter as well as promising him a game when he's recovered."

One plea that Carol makes strongly is to ask people not only to carry donor cards but also to inform relatives of a desire to donate organs.

"It is not enough just to carry donor cards, families must be made aware as well so that they can give permission straight away and save vital time when the organs could be utilised," said Carol, who has written to Tony Blair asking him to change to a system of opting out of donation rather than opting in.

"Because medical procedures have progressed so much in the last few years there are actually fewer organs available for transplant than there was. At Birming- ham the transplant unit is only operating at half capacity because of a lack of organs," explained Carol.

Meanwhile Christopher is settling into his new home, gaining his strength and getting ready to start at his new school in September.

Gordon McKillop: New STRI Chief

Dr Gordon McKillop has been appointed as the new Chief Executive for STRI. He officially takes over the role on July 10.

Dr McKillop joins STRI from the Central Science Laboratories in York. CSL is an agency for the Ministry of Agriculture, Fishery and Food (MAFF). He joined CSL in 1978, where he progressed from the Science Team to Science Manager, to his current position of Commercial Business Strategy Manager, working on strategies to further the commercial development of CSL.

Growing up in Glasgow, he studied at the University of Glasgow before obtaining his PhD from Reading University. In 1997, he was awarded an MBA from Henley Management College.

Dr McKillop is looking forward to the challenges of his new appointment. He brings with him qualifications, skills and experience which will enable him to combine business management skills with science in his role as Chief Executive.

Henry Bechet, a former Turfgrass Agronomist with STRI, has returned to take up the position of Advisory Agronomist for the North East.

Henri, who left to work with VATAX, has spent the last 8 years gaining extensive commercial and field experience of the Turf Industry in Technical Sales. Henri's previous advisory work experience, combined with his knowledge of the Turf Industry and a BASIS registration, has enabled him to commence visits to his client portfolio from his starting date on May 30.

Henry is the second employee to return to STRI this year. In January Tim Coles-Corring was appointed as an additional Advisor for Scotland, having spent a number of years in education.

Newsflash from the South West/South Wales region

The South West and South Wales Course Management Trophy due to be held at the Manor House, Castle Coombe, on August 22 has been changed to Monday August 14.

For further information contact Paula Humphries Tel: 01288 332194
Chinese students graduate at Elmwood

Students from Shenzhen University in the South of China have completed their Professional Development Award for the Advanced Certificate in International Golf Course Management at Elmwood College, Cupar. The 24 week course endorsed by the R&A; China Golf Association and the GTC was set up with the College's link with Shenzhen University in China.

Golf is a growing sport in China and the students who attended the college were very dedicated with a high work ethic. On their return to China they will either work in the Golf Industry or education and training degree programmes being the first people in China to gain a Golf Course Management qualification. However, some of the students have made the decision to stay on at Elmwood College to further their qualifications, working at Golf Courses around the area, applying this to their HNC/HND programme.

Academy's abundant academic accolades

Success was the theme at Huyton Civic Centre on Merseyside when eleven members of the Knowsley Metropolitan District Council Greenkeepers Academy were presented with their NVQ Level 2 Certificates in Sports Turf, by the Mayor of Knowsley, Councillor Bob Maguire. Shaun Guinen was also awarded his prize for outstanding theoretical work and Darren Rickets collected his prize for outstanding practical work. A bonus prize of a computer was given to the Academy by the Whiston Pathways Group.

The picture above shows eleven apprentices, Stephen Ellis, Shaune Gynane, John Lawrenson, Darren Rickets, John Morgan, Shaune Johnston, Charles Johnson, Terry Daintry, Stephen Holmes, Daniel Carney and Lee Begley with their awards, Paul Morton and Paul McGrail from Myerscough College, Terry Hill, Business Manager from Knowsley Contract Services and Councillor Maguire. The twelfth apprentice, Paul Goodman could not attend the presentations.

A bolt from the blue wrecks havoc

This picture ably illustrates the power of the lightning and the caution that should be shown on golf courses when thunder storms are in the area.

This tree was beside the 8th green of the Kingfisher course, at Mannings Heath Golf Club, and Course Manager Billy McMillan witnessed the strike.

"It was about 4.30pm around the middle of May and we were a quarter of a mile away when we saw it happen. "We found debris from the strike 60 feet away some buried six inches into the turf which shows the sheer power," recalled Billy.

"It really does bring home to you the dangers that are around and the need to get somewhere safe during storms," he said, adding that some golfers refused to come off the course during the storm.

In fact that clubhouse was also struck and suffered damage.
Textron put greenkeepers back in classroom

Greenkeeping teams from Clubhaus PLC, owners of 14 golf courses in the UK and six in Europe, visited Textron’s International headquarters in Ipswich for training in the operation of turf maintenance equipment.

The training is integral to the recent agreement between Clubhaus and Textron, who have been appointed as exclusive supplier for turf maintenance equipment to the Clubhaus organisation.

"Following our agreement with Textron we now have one of the most modern fleets of turf maintenance equipment and therefore we must ensure that our greenkeeping teams know how to use the equipment to maximum effect," said Guy Buckley, Chief Operating Officer for Clubhaus.

A total of 80 members of the greenkeeping teams will take part in this training initiative where they will be instructed in all aspects of the equipment including general operation, safe use, routine maintenance and trouble shooting.

"At the completion of the training the two delegates who have attained the highest pass mark in the written test will win an expenses paid trip to the GCSAA conference next year," said Guy.

Berhards get set for demonstrations

Bernhardt's is set to carry out practical demonstrations at leading colleges throughout the country. Worldwide suppliers of specialised maintenance equipment for turf care, Bernhardt is building on the successful programme of educational seminars they ran last year. Demonstrations will be complemented by a theoretical seminar on the range of improvements that can be made to turf, by making sure mower blades are kept really sharp.

Leading colleges throughout the country have shown an interest and seminars will be given at Elmwood College, Merrist Wood College and Writtle College.

"We developed the seminar to be of considerable practical benefit to students as they study turf management," said Stephen Bernhardt, Managing Director of Bernhardt's.

"The knowledge gained is very broad, and links plant physiology to mechanical issues. The financial and practical implications are useful in almost all job applications and will apply when the students become greenkeepers or greensmen."

In response to demand, this year Bernhardt is increasing the number of seminars they are undertaking at colleges.

Royal Inverdivot GC...

by Tony Husband

I didn't know we had a new greenkeeper

We don't.

Well who's that then?

The late Eric Palmer

Eric started at work at Sitwell Golf Club then moved to Abbeydale Park Golf Club where he was Head Greenkeeper for many years. He then moved to Hickleton Golf Club as Head Greenkeeper and he worked there until his retirement in 1992. Eric was a stalwart supporter of BIGGA's Sheffield Section and also for many years was a very active committee member of the Section.

Eric was highly thought of in the greenkeeping fraternity and will sadly be missed.

The Association wish to send their condolences to Eric's wife Margaret and also to Andy, his son and all members of his family.

David Eccles: The man from Advanta

Advanta Seeds has appointed David Eccles as regional amenity seeds specialist, for grass. Based in Forfar, he will be responsible for supporting sales of the Advanta MM and Designer from Advanta' grass seed ranges, to sports and landscaping customers throughout Scotland.

"We are very pleased to welcome David to our team. Having worked in the seed trade for ten years, his experience will prove valuable as we continue to develop the sales of our leading amenity grass seed products. In particular, he will be working closely with Stewarts and Co. at Dalkeith, who distribute the Advanta MM range in Scotland for us," said, Advanta's Amenity Sales and Marketing Manager, Dave Phillips.

David, who has qualifications in management and personnel training and development, has also lectured at the Borders College on horticultural topics. In his leisure time, he plays rugby and golf.

"Is that a roll of turf I see before me?"

Rolawn has received several orders to provide their Miniturf from the Royal Shakespeare Company's Touring Department.

The turf will be used to cover the stage during the performances of the Company's production of 'The Seagull' at various theatres throughout the UK.

The locations range from Stratford, Norwich, Woking, Milton Keynes, Bath, Sheffield, Newcastle and London.

Rolawn have 18 depots situated throughout the UK and are well placed to deliver fresh turf into each of the locations throughout the production period.

"Rolawn has been approached to provide turf for many municipal sites from the inside of pubs to steps of Town Halls and we are delighted that we can add the Royal Shakespeare Company to the list and that they will be performing on our turf," said Terry Ryan, Rolawn's Sales and Marketing Director.
New Director for Rolawn

Rolawn has promoted Guy Barrett to the post of Farms Director. Guy joined Rolawn in 1980 and has risen "through the ranks" to head the harvesting and production functions which now operate on a large scale supplying millions of square metres of specially cultivated turf throughout the UK. When not tending to the 3000 acres of turf under his care for Rolawn, he enjoys playing golf and cricket.

"It is in recognition of his hard work, dedication and success in his role over many years that this appointment has been made. I am delighted to welcome him on to the board and I am certain that Guy will play a key role in the future development of our business," said Ken Dawson, Chairman of Rolawn.

Address your letters to the Editor, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York Y061 1UF. You can also fax them to 01347 833801, or email them to reception@bigga.co.uk

Students plan Vintage Open at Reaseheath

Golf Course Management students at Reaseheath College, organised the annual Reaseheath Millennium Vintage Open as part of their third year studies. Held on the college’s nine hole golf course, the tournament attracted septuagenarian competitors from all over Cheshire.

Veteran golfer Fred Hallworth, 79, proved age is no handicap by winning the tournament run specially for the over 70s.

Walton Heath Annual Gentleman’s Evening

It has been brought to my attention that BSP Landscapes were inadvertently omitted from the list of sponsors for the recent Annual Gentleman’s Evening at Walton Heath.

Those of you who were there will know that Barry Pace not only sponsored the 6th hole on Walton Heath’s Old Course for the event but also built the very fine bunker that so many of you managed to get into.

Sorry about that Barry.

Derek Farrington
South East Regional Administrator

Moray Golf Club would like to thank the following companies - Headland, Terralift, Amenity Technology and Scottish Grass Machinery for sponsoring the environmental survey that was carried out recently over our two 18-hole championship links courses, and adjacent land. We would also like to thank Scottish Natural Heritage for the award of a 50% grant and the following companies - Sports Turf Research Institute and Scottish Grassland Technology for the harvesting and production function.

"We at Moray Golf Club are committed to improving our courses to the benefit of both the golfer and the environment and now thanks to the generosity of the aforementioned companies we will have an environmental management plan that will enable us to realise our goals.

Neil Ballingall, Courses Manager Moray Golf Club

Pinehurst tested my cutting degree

I was very interested to read the article about Pinehurst and especially G2 turfgrass. When working in the USA, I spent a considerable amount of time at Pinehurst with Richard Yoe, Pinehurst’s machine maintenance director, working on methods of mower set up and sharpening techniques to obtain a better quality cut than was being achieved.

As G2 has such a high shoot density, it is so fast growing and is a very juicy grass obtaining a quality cut was proving very difficult using Pinehurst’s tried and trusted methods. Maintaining a sharp edge and angle on the bottom blade was also a problem due to regular top dressing. Dusting because of the denseness of G2 it is very difficult to mat the dressing in, it tends to lie on the leaf.

I was given four Jacobson walkers to experiment with, the normal angle ground on the bottom blade was 5°, this was not enough relief for grass ejection due to the growth rate of G2 and top dressing problems. After experimenting with different angles and set ups on selected greens on No.8 course I found a top face angle of 9°-10° and front face angle of 3° with the cylinder set with 0.01 clearance from the bottom blade, a quality cut was obtained combined with regular facing of the front free angle a quality cut was maintained.

This regular facing of the bottom blade is a practice that should be used for grasses and is far more beneficial than back lapping, which did not work at Pinehurst using regular sharpening angles on the bottom blade.

The co-operation and friendliness of the staff at Pinehurst was second to none. No wonder the lads enjoyed the experience of working with such great people.

Peter Fletcher, Professional Mobile Grinding, At Austell Cornwall
They've had a tough day at St. Andrews...

Keep your fairways trim with the Jacobsen LF-3400 and LF-3800.
Inbuilt diagnostics and joystick control of cutting unit functions are leading design features for ease of use. The widest cut and highest cutting speed in their class mean maximum productivity and fully interchangeable FlashAttach™ reels produce the legendary Jacobsen cut.

Make short work of the semi rough, in comfort, with the Jacobsen HR-5111.
Rotary decks feature a unique direct drive to each blade by hydraulic motor and the highest productivity from a full 3.4 metre cutting width. With 4-wheel drive it takes undulating terrain in its stride. The operating area and controls are user friendly for driver comfort.

Jacobsen – the choice for the Millennium at St. Andrews.
Contact your Textron dealer for full details or Freephone 0500 026208.
Scott MacCallum visits Dougal Duguid, Head Greenkeeper at Westhill Golf Club, the man at the centre of a civil court case which had major implications for the game...

The end of a nightmare

On Thursday June 1 in Aberdeen Sheriff Court a civil law suit decision was made public which, had it gone the other way, would have had earth shattering implications for the entire game of golf.

While this is a reason for greenkeepers throughout the world to breathe great sighs of relief for one man it spells the end of a long nightmare and the removal of a cloud which had been hanging over himself and his career for almost six years.

Dougal Duguid, Head Greenkeeper at Westhill Golf Club, eight miles west of Aberdeen, was able to celebrate once his lawyer had made the call to tell him that the Sheriff had decided in his favour, eight months after the two day long court case, but since then he has reflected on the outcome and what could have happened if it had gone the other way.

Dougal takes up the story.

"About a year later I learned that the incident was going to lead to a court case," he recalled.

Initially Mrs Milne, who claimed it was caused by her ball rebounding off a stone which had negligently been left on the golf course, sued the golf club and Dougal for £220,000. However, when it was determined that as a member of the club herself it would, in effect, have meant her suing herself she dropped the case against the club and sued Dougal alone for a sum of £107,000.

"The Sheriff said in his judgment that I'd done everything that could possibly have been asked of me and that there was no responsibility on my side whatsoever for what had happened," explained Dougal, as we sat in the attractive clubhouse with views over the hillside course.

"But if the decision had gone the other way I would have jacked in my job. Every time golfers went out on the course I'd have been wondering if they would come in and sue me," revealed Dougal, who ironically lost his own eye while working on a piece of greenkeeping machinery almost 24 years to the day before the decision was announced.

"The last five years have been a nightmare. I've managed to stand up to it fairly well but my wife and daughter have suffered badly. There is no way I'd have put the family through this again. I can tell you. I'd have just had to look for another job," said Dougal, well aware, that as the family lived in a tied house, of the sacrifices that would subsequently have to have been made.

Having said that he is delighted with the support he has received for the golf club he has served for 25 years.

"The club was right behind me from the start. It was the club's solicitor who took on my defence and any damages would have been paid by the club and its insurers," said Dougal.

"They could quite easily have turned round once the case against the club had been dropped and said I was on my own, but they couldn't have been more supportive," said Dougal, a point reinforced by the number of members who came up to him to offer their congratulations as we walked down to the place where the incident had occurred.

Having survived such a career threatening episode Dougal can now take a more relaxed view of what might have happened if the result had gone the other way and why golf need not necessarily feel it is out of the woods.

"If I'd lost the case every greenkeeper in Britain, if not the world, would have had to look again at his course, and you must remember that..."
golf courses tend to be built on fairly poor land. For instance, many courses in Spain and Portugal are built on lava with rocks sticking out of the ground. I genuinely believe it would have finished an awful lot of golf clubs," stressed Dougal.

"What would be classed as an acceptable stone to leave on the course and an unacceptable one which had to be removed if seen?" he asked.

"In future the stone picking on a new course would not just be the fairways but the rough and every other area of the course as well. It would cost an absolute fortune to build a new course properly insured before doing so.

"Even then stones eventually come to the surface and we'd need four or five more staff to go out before any golfer teed off to check every hole for loose stones. Having said that, if a stone was just under the surface there is no way you could know it was there," said Dougal.

"It may have meant that every time a golfer visited a club the greenkeeper, or he was to be held responsible, would have had to have a say in whether he or she was allowed on the golf course. Everyone would have had to have proved they had personal accident insurance, as well as third party in case they hit anyone else," said Dougal, painting a picture which aligns playing a round to golf to driving a car.

"Basically it would finish golf for juniors because many of them wouldn't be able to afford to take out cover."

He does believe that the golf unions and the R&A are going to have to make a note to pick them up as soon as we see them now rather than making a note to pick them up on the way back to the sheds. It has certainly made me think a bit more."

Westhill Golf Club has a dry stone dyke bordering part of the course which sports a sign advising people not to climb it. This raises another interesting point.

"If on a Saturday afternoon, when I'm not on the course, someone does climb the wall - and it does happen - and dislodges a stone and a golfer comes along, fails to see it, and hits it; would I be liable to be sued?" he asked.

He also poses the question of what would have happened if the Sheriff hadn't been quite so impressed by his diligence on the course.

"In my case the Sheriff said I'd done all that could have been asked of me but there might be another case where a Sheriff decides that the greenkeeper hadn't done enough or it might be that a different Sheriff might take a different view... albeit that my case might give a bit of guidance," he said, while also raising the point that a distinction may have been made had he been a Course Manager and not a Head Greenkeeper.

Dougal recalled that the Sheriff had asked why there were no signs on the common bordering part of the course. We pick them up as soon as we see them now rather than making a note to pick them up on the way back to the sheds. It has certainly made me think a bit more."

"What if I lose..."

Dougal Duguid

If I'd lost the case, every greenkeeper in Britain, if not the world, would have had to look again at his course, and you must remember that golf courses tend to be built on fairly poor land. I genuinely believe it would have finished an awful lot of golf clubs.

Dougal Duguid

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Laurence Pithie, Director of Maintenance at American Golf (UK) Ltd, provides an insight into the management philosophy of a major golf course operator...

The business of golf

American Golf (UK) Ltd was established in August 1993 when the parent company American Golf Corporation took the opportunity to buy five clubs in the south of England. This was the first acquisition for the Santa Monica-based company outside the United States.

David Price, who is also the Chief Executive Officer, owns the company. An attorney by profession, his belief that golf clubs could be run on a better business footing is perhaps even more relevant today than back in 1967 when the first club was purchased in Los Angeles for $1.

As we begin the new millennium the company owns or operates around 325 golf courses, all of which are in the United States with the exception of 20 clubs, comprising 26 courses, in the UK. Although the company is based in California, the clubs are spread across many states including Hawaii and consist of Public, Private and Resort clubs. Today over 15,000 people are directly employed by American Golf.

American Golf (UK) Ltd is effectively one of the 10 regional divisions within the company and operates with a certain amount of autonomy being the only region on ‘away’ territory. Each region is similarly structured and operates within a well-defined company structure and strategy, although the UK does have its own finance department and external legal office. Geary Leathers, from Atlanta, Georgia, is the UK Managing Director and has served the company for many years, gaining experience on both sides of the ‘pond’. Geary leads a team of six Regional Directors who have responsibility for Finance, Acquisitions, Sales, Operations and Maintenance. The UK head offices are found at the Blue Mountain Golf Centre in Bracknell, Berkshire and provide a central location for the now considerable UK operation.

Each of the 20 clubs is similarly structured whether they are a 36-hole resort complex such as St. Mellion International with hotel and time-share lodges, or an 18-hole daily fee course such as Paultons Golf Centre near Southampton. At these clubs, a General Manager has overall responsibility for the property and he or she...
liaise very closely with the Superintendent who is responsible for maintaining the golf course, driving range and usually a small number of golf cars. Both the General Manager and Superintendent are responsible to Regional Directors who assist in the smooth running of these facilities. This is a formula inherited from the United States which has stood the test of time, with the benefit that there is good communication, friendliness, effective management and good team spirit where everyone is working for a common goal.

Since 1993 the UK region has expanded considerably, employing over 1000 people, 160 of whom work full time on the golf courses. The objective is for continued growth, acquiring the right product that suits the AG (UK) criteria, which often involves significant investment, both in the clubhouse and on the course or driving range. With regard to the golf course itself, drainage, irrigation, and turf quality issues are usually the main areas where improvement is needed in order to reach the desired standard.

As well as improving the property, much time and investment is made in both people and equipment. Training tends to be on going with the result that the company can offer good career opportunities for those with the right skills, experience and aptitude. An example of this investment in people is that five of the current Superintendents were deputies within the company prior to gaining promotion and one of the Superintendents has been promoted to Regional Superintendent with added responsibilities in the given area.

With regard to maintenance equipment, American Golf has worked closely with Textron Turf Care over the last five years, forming a national agreement that has considerable benefits for both companies. This follows on the heels of a similar agreement to that which operates in the United States between Textron and American Golf Corporation that also includes E-Z-GO golf cars. With over 300 courses within the company’s portfolio this involves a considerable amount of business.

The agreement provides American Golf with the opportunity to purchase a large range of equipment and golf cars at a cost-effective price and ‘tap in’ to a large network of dealers who give valued support and back up when required. As with any major deal there are occasional hiccups along the way. However, it is fair to say that whenever these have occurred, effective communication allied with a genuine desire to help and supported by prompt action have ensured that the wheels stay firmly on track. This has resulted in the attainment of a high level of confidence from both parties since the signing of the initial agreement.

Textron also offers comprehensive parts back up for all equipment and has loaned machines to a number of clubs when the need has arisen. This is especially helpful when grass growth is prolific and unforeseen breakdowns occur. Trialling new machines such as the electric greens mower is also beneficial to both sides and it is here that feedback is so vital. American Golf now has five Ransomes E-Plex II electric greens mowers, the primary reason being the need to operate within closer proximity of residential areas without creating undue noise, especially at weekends when it is essential for staff to prepare the course ahead of play.

At each of the American Golf properties, a mechanic has the responsibility of maintaining and servicing the equipment. Each year Textron provides a training course with the aim of spending time on each of the main items of equipment used in order to run through fault finding, correct servicing procedures and a general hands-on approach to understanding more about each machine. One of the side benefits from these training courses is being able to telephone the appropriate Textron engineer who can then diagnose the problem and offer advice on what form of action to take. Since most clubs have similar equipment, word is soon passed round when common faults develop and these can often be rectified before problems arise. Again feedback to Textron is vital since all equipment can develop faults and it is preventative action which helps to keep maintenance costs to a minimum and machinery working.

Not all items of equipment for maintaining a golf course can be supplied by Textron but since the current range includes Jacobsen, Ransomes, Cushman, Ryan and E-Z-GO, there is a considerable choice. The ordering process is fairly comprehensive, with much advanced planning. This begins with the Superintendent trialling certain types of equipment that will be requested the following year. This is then discussed and agreed with the Director of Maintenance who then coordinates the orders from each of the 20 properties. Once provisional agreement is achieved within the UK, usually around November, a provisional list is then sent to Textron who can then plan its production and delivery time-scales. The agreed order is then placed sometime in January and that allows both sides to complete the transactions in time for the new season. Equipment required outside of this schedule enters the urgent order category and this usually applies to new properties that American Golf has recently acquired. Upon delivery the safe operation of each machine is explained and the eventual invoice signed for payment once satisfactory performance is gained. Perhaps the most important aspect of this agreement or any other is that there has to...
be good and effective communication between each company and, in practice, this works very well with regular meetings between both parties.

American Golf will continue to expand within the UK, aiming to acquire several properties each year and expanding and improving existing properties. Inner city courses owned by local authorities tend to be the poorer relation, often requiring major investment, whereas proprietary private clubs are usually better served.

All present unique challenges and it is essential that American Golf has the right people to tackle the job in hand. Interest in other countries is also on the increase and it is only a matter of time before the company spreads its wings even further afield. Irrespective of where a course is there is always the need for equipment and materials and establishing a good working relationship with our key suppliers is of great importance.

Below: Golf cars require regular servicing and Textron's training courses ensure that maintenance technicians have a comprehensive understanding of all equipment
THE BIGGA HOUSE I UPDATE

EDUCATION

BIGGA House Training Courses 2000

The BIGGA HOUSE Training Courses have been revamped for the New Millennium to give all greenkeepers a greater choice of training at very low costs, thanks to a generous subsidy from the Education and Development Fund, with a choice of residential or non residential options. Learn to drive your computer and gain a European Computer Driving Licence, learn to manage yourself, manage your team, manage finance and budgets, manage resources, how to give briefings, reports and presentations and gain evidence towards NVQ. You will find full details of the BIGGA HOUSE Training Courses 2000 in the leaflet enclosed in this magazine and on the BIGGA website (www.bigga.org.uk). If you do not receive a copy of the leaflet or need further information then contact Ken or Sami at BIGGA HOUSE.

Regional Training Courses 2000/2001

We have tried to provide courses and locations requested by previous delegates on our Regional Training Programmes. Full details are given in the leaflet enclosed in this magazine and on our website (www.bigga.org.uk). New for 2000/01, are courses covering Computer Skills which will give the chance to obtain a European Computer Driving Licence, a one day course on general horticulture, a one day course on risk assessment and manual handling. Make sure that you book early to make sure of your place.

OnCourse

BIGGA and Epani Systems have now entered an agreement to sell OnCourse™ Golf Course Management Software in the United Kingdom. OnCourse™ gives golf course managers the tools to organise work schedules, keep track of machinery, calculate time and resources needed and monitor suppliers and suppliers. Presented in modules, OnCourse™ is user friendly and requires only limited hardware resources and is very easy to use. It was developed by Epani after consulting Golf Course Managers all over the world and this British version was written following extensive consultation with BIGGA members. OnCourse™ is constantly being modified to meet the demands of golf course managers and regular updates are issued, free, to licence holders, making OnCourse™ a valuable investment for your club. The OnCourse™ package costs, a very competitive, £800 + VAT which includes all software, documentation, one year telephone support and one year update contract. Installation and training can be arranged and costs £150 +VAT.

With the cost of hardware falling, you could have a state of the art office management system comprising computer, printer, scanner, MS Windows, MS Office and OnCourse™ for under £1600.

To order your copy, or to request further details and/or a demonstration disk contact the Education and Training Department at BIGGA HOUSE.

The BIGGA Essay Competition

There are just four months left to the closing date for the BIGGA Essay Competition 2000.

The subject is 'Managing Without Chemicals: Is it Possible? What are the Consequences? How would you cope?'

The winners in each category ie. Golf Course Managers/Head Greenkeepers, Assistant Greenkeepers aged 25 years and over and Assistant Greenkeepers aged 25 years and under each receive £500 and have their essay published in Greenkeeper International. Two runners up in each category will receive £100.

Get your thinking caps on sharpen those pencils and get writing your 1300 to 2000 word essay and send it to BIGGA HQ before the closing date of October 27, 2000.

Success follows success

Only months after returning from his Toro Student of the Year trip to Massachusetts, New Orleans, Minneapolis and California, Tommy Givnan, Head Greenkeeper at Bowling Municipal Golf Club on Merseyside was present when the twelve members of the Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council Greenkeepers Academy were presented with their NVQ Level 2 certificates by the Mayor of Knowsley, Councilor Bob Maguire.

The Academy is based at Bowling and Tommy and his team have been involved in the job training and assessment.

Academic training has been provided by Myerscough College lecturers Paul Morton and Paul McGrail. Readers of this magazine will remember that the Academy was set up in 1999, using funds obtained from the EC, to offer 12 youngsters the chance to be trained as greenkeepers and hopefully move into full time posts at golf clubs.

Thanks to Myerscough’s links with the Belfry, Academy students have gained valuable work experience on the Brabazon Course, working on the preparations for the Benson and Hedges International Open.

The twelve apprentices now move on to NVQ Level 3 and Knowsley are looking forward to having the Open Champion of the future as they are soon to open a golf academy. At their rate of progress, the Open venue Course Manager could well be a graduate of their Greenkeeping Academy.

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The BIGGA HOUSE I UPDATE

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THE INDEPENDENT LEADER IN TURF CARE FINANCE
In May, Tracey Maddison, BIGGA's Membership Services Officer, welcomed almost 80 new members to the Association. This month, she would like to highlight some valuable money saving benefits for members...

Money, money, money!

Do you pay for your own membership subscription?

If you pay for your own subscriptions, then you can apply to the tax office for a refund of 23% of the subscription amount. For example on a Course Management/Head Greenkeeping office for a refund of 23% of the subscription amount. For example on Money, money, money!

Refund of Education/Training Fees

Don't forget that all greenkeeping members who pay for their own fees are eligible to apply for a refund. In order to apply you must be able to meet the following criteria:

a. You must be a member of BIGGA and have been a member for at least two years.

b. You must have paid your own fees and be able to provide proof of payment eg. receipt/credit card slip or statement.

c. You must have completed a course or component part of a course and be able to provide evidence of completion e.g. certificate/end of course report etc.

d. If you are starting a course in 2000, you may apply for a refund to be paid on course completion as in point c.

e. The course must not be subsidised already by BIGGA.

f. The course must be relevant to your job as a greenkeeper.

Members will be able to claim 80% of fees paid up to a maximum of £250. Contact BIGGA HQ for an application form.

BIGGA welcomes...

And finally...

I would like to thank our Northern Ireland members for making Scott and myself most welcome on our recent visit. Although my third visit to Northern Ireland since I started with BIGGA, this was my first opportunity of seeing some magnificent golf courses and beautiful countryside. And as always it is a pleasure for me to meet our members face to face. So thank you!

A reminder to all members: Unfortunately, the 10% discount on car insurance was withdrawn in December 1999.
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Scott MacCallum travelled to St Andrews to discuss the preparation for the 2000 Open with the man who carries much of the responsibility for a successful week...

The Patron Saint of Opens

In 50 years time or so, casual golf historians may well look back in the record books - or more likely the website - to see which famous names sit beside which year and venue for The Open Championship.

If the number of "hits" per Open were monitored I would guess that those which create the biggest interest might be the very first Open in 1860 when Willie Park won at Prestwick, the 1900 Open when JH Taylor won at St Andrews and the year in which the interested party was born. In my case that would be Arnold Palmer at Troon in 1962. Another would most certainly be the 2000 Open at St Andrews. Yes the Open Championship we are about to enjoy will be one of those few which will attract attention for as long as golf is played, because of its unique time slot.

The man who carries much of the responsibility for ensuring that such a significant Championship is a true celebration of the sport is the St Andrews Links Trust's Old Course Head Greenkeeper, Eddie Adams, a man who is St Andrews through and through and whose experience when it comes to Links preparation is formidable for such a young man.

His first Open Championship was in 1990 when, as an apprentice, he was responsible for cutting the 1st and 17th greens. Five years later he had risen to become Head Greenkeeper at the Old Course working under Links Superintendent Walter Woods.

"It was, as the magazine said that year, 'Walter's Swansong.' He let me do a lot in '95, but it was definitely Walter's course. He was the man at the presentation, just as in 2000 it will be me," said Eddie.

Asked if that responsibility was weighing more this year Eddie said it was quite the reverse.

"It was terrible in '95 because I always had Walter to please and I didn't want to let him down, whereas I don't want to let myself down this year. I have got the rest of the team to think about but I know I've got a really good set of guys who are really good at their jobs. So I don't have much to worry about on that score," said Eddie who added that they work very closely with the R&A Championship Committee.

While this Open is the first of a new millennium a greenkeeper from times past wouldn't see much that would make his hair stand on end if he watched his modern day successors carrying out their work on the famous links.

"My philosophy on greenkeeping for St Andrews is minimalistic. Steve Isaacs, of the STRI, called it anorexic greenkeeping," explained Eddie.

"The tees have only had a minimal application of fertiliser - straight nitrogen with some iron - the greens haven't had any fertiliser and the fairways..."
The Patron Saint of Opens

haven't had any fertiliser for 10 years now:

"Our irrigation system hasn't been used this year. The only time it has been on was when the engineer needed to test it and I don't expect to use it until after The Open to assist the reinstatement," said Eddie, who revealed that despite this a completely new irrigation system is shortly to be installed on the course.

The one thing that might have brought our time travelling greenkeeper up a little short is the use of astroturf mats to protect the fairways.

"We use these from November to April in normal years and to May in Open years and I think we'd have struggled to get this policy through ten years ago. However, it's the only way to protect the Old Course which at the end of the day is an international monument to golf and it should be protected over the winter months when there is zero recovery rate," said Eddie, who added that the Old, New and Eden courses run at virtual 100% capacity with around 41,000 rounds of golf each.

The traditional course management philosophy extends to the course set up where players will certainly be required to play links style golf to succeed.

"We want to get it fast and linksy, although with 92 mm of rain in May and June starting off just as bad we are very much in the hands of the weather when it comes to that," explained Eddie.

However, there are elements within his control that can ensure conditions that can only be found on a links course.

"The fairways will be kept very short - eight mil - so it will be difficult to get underneath the ball properly and hopefully the greens will be stimping about 10.5."

One element of the set-up which could perplex players is the fact that there is no definition between tee and green so that when they stand in the fairway there will be no visual reference to where the green starts or ends.

"It will make clubbing more difficult. The caddie can stand till he's blue in the face saying it's 137 to the pin but it won't look like that," said Eddie, adding that it was also causing the R&A a slight headache because of the difficulty in determining what was on or off the green for ball marking purposes.

The biggest task in advance of the Championship has been a complete bunker rebuild of all 112 on the famous Old Course.

"We did Shell and Hell bunkers last year because they were such big jobs but we did about 100 between the end of the Dunhill Cup and this March. It's the first time we've done the whole lot in the space of 12 months with our own team and the guys did a fantastic job."

The statistics behind some of the bigger bunkers are quite mind blowing. Hell bunker is seven feet tall at one side and 10 feet at the other and is 60 feet wide. To build a 10 feet high face takes 80 pieces of turf and the whole job takes 20,000 turfs in all and it takes two months to build.

"Greenkeepers who revet will know that building above head height is difficult as gravity takes over," said Eddie, who recalled the time in 1990 when some Canadian Superintendents were playing the course.

"My now Deputy, Billy Nicol, and I were just finishing off two month's work on Shell Bunker and Billy was giving the Canadians all the stats. I was on top, just cutting off the final row of turf, and looked down to see the bunker beginning to bulge. I jumped down and stuck my spade in to hold it but eventually had to jump out of the way and the whole face collapsed. Only about 10% was left."

"The Canadians played the loop and..."
been thick and that's a deliberate ploy because we take a huge amount of play and we have to get people round the course.

"From my point of view golf is for everybody regardless of handicap or stature and they should be able to putt from tee to green if they wanted to. Hence the reason we don't have rough such as you see at a US Open venue."

Such is the strategic way the Old Course has been designed the rough adds a degree of difficulty rather than making the next shot impossible. "If you land in the rough left off the tee at 17, although you've got a terrible line to the green, a well struck shot might get you to the front light of the putting surface and you could two putt for par. I don't have any problem with that.

"Like most of the holes, if you go right off the tee the more dangerous line - you have a much easier shot to the green. It's all about risk and reward and that's what makes the Old Course the test it is. We'll be trying to encourage the golfer to play down the right a riskier tee shot but an easier approach."

Pin placements are vital at St Andrews and decisions on these will be taken very early on each morning of the Championship, possibly using an on-site forecaster and done by 4am. "St Andrews is a funny place for weather. It can be pouring everywhere else but sunny here. Forecasting is only about 50-60% accurate when it comes to St Andrews," revealed Eddie.

Pin placements are different for the first two days of the Championship than for the final two because of the famous double greens. "Pins are further apart because of the amount of play on Thursday and Friday then come Saturday and Sunday we can come in a bit tighter."

The huge greens are another unique St Andrews feature. Where else could a slightly misjudged approach lead to an 80 yard putt? "The 5th-13th green is 6,500 square metres and the two guys who will double cut it will walk seven miles in the morning and seven miles at night. It's tough but a guy from England gets that job," smiled Eddie. "They need very good cutters because you need to walk 80 or 90 yards in a straight line and it's obvious if you go wrong because there will be a camera high above that green. Greenkeepers will know just how difficult that job is."

With the Old Course team of 18, plus three Interns from the States and a Wentworth greenkeeper who asked if he could join the team for the week - "We brought him in just in case it rains," joked Eddie - joined by the rest of the Links Trust greenkeeping staff bringing the total team to over 60. Eddie reckons he will be able to get the course prepared each morning in an hour and three quarters.

"Championship preparation is all about being able to do a week's work in three hours. There is no great science. It's all about extra pairs of feet to do the job - that and having enough kit to do the job and Textron have been great in providing us with whatever we need."

With the enviable man power and equipment at their finger tips the St Andrews team which will also be joined by the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team for the week have all of the bases covered for the third week in July and you can be sure that the 2000 Open Championship will go down in history and be remembered for all the right reasons.
All greenkeepers will have this seasonal problem: you want to kill off broad-leaved weeds without damaging the turf. The answer is the application of Selective Herbicides. These herbicides are weedkillers which suppress or kill undesired plants without damaging valued plants. Therefore the term also applies to the control of weeds in agricultural crops, in shrub beds, and around trees.

Why do we need selective herbicides?

The use of selective herbicides allows efficient removal of weeds from large areas. To remove weeds by hand from the same area would take very much more time and effort. Selective herbicides are therefore one of the most cost-effective tools in a greenkeeper's armoury. Also, as most selective herbicides kill both the foliage and root system, the removal of the weed is complete - giving a much longer lasting kill than if the foliage only is removed by mechanical means.

How do selective herbicides work?

Inquisitive users of selective herbicides may ask the question: the product is sprayed onto both the turf and target weeds, so why is the grass not killed? Well, the term "selective" means that product has been developed to be active against broad-leaved weeds, but is selective to turf - meaning that the turf is unaffected. This selectivity results from physiological and biochemical differences between grasses and broad-leaved plants. Selective herbicides can be divided into four groups, based on the way in which they act.

1. Contact Acting Selective Herbicides

These act only upon those leaves which are directly sprayed. They cause scorching of treated plant tissue destroying their capability to produce energy for growth. Their main use is against annual weeds. 2,4-D is an example of a contact acting herbicide.

2. Translocated Selective Herbicides

Upon application, translocated herbicides are absorbed by the foliage and move throughout the plant, killing both the leaves and root system. Translocated selective herbicides are therefore more effective and give longer-term treatment than contact selective herbicides.

There are many groups of selective herbicides which are translocated, each group killing the weeds by a variety of modes of action:

* Alkanoic & carboxylic acids: these are also known as "phytotoxic hormones" because they disrupt normal plant hormone activity. Typical symptoms are inhibited and deformed growth and ultimately plant death. Examples of these compounds include MCPA, 2,4-D, mecoprop-p, triclopyr, clopyralid and dicamba.
* Anilides: disrupt the production of chlorophyll (the stuff which makes plants green), giving characteristic bleaching symptoms. The affected leaves cannot photosynthesize (produce energy for growth) and therefore die. Diflufenican is an anilide.
* Diphenyl ethers: inhibit photosynthesis and respiration and cause rupture of cell membranes. These compounds are quite fast-acting and search symptoms appear rapidly on most weeds. Bifenox is a diphenyl ether.

When should you use a selective herbicide?

Application is best carried out during conditions of active growth. This usually happens during the Spring and early Autumn. However broad-leaved weed growth may continue through the summer if conditions remain wet and mild.

Avoiding close mowing three days prior to application ensures maximum leaf area for product uptake. It is advantageous to avoid mowing for three days following application as well, to allow time for uptake and translocation of the active ingredients.

It is important to note that selective herbicides should not be applied if the turf and weeds are under stress, for example during periods of drought, waterlogging or frost, as this may impair herbicide uptake and lead to poor control.

How are selective herbicides applied?

Most are applied as liquids for use through watering cans, knapsack sprayers or tractor mounted sprayers. Every selective herbicide has an approved label giving essential recommendations on protective clothing to be worn and precautions to be followed during application. In addition the label gives detailed use instructions including dose rates, water volumes and weed spectrum. There may be a range of rates on the product label, according to weed species. It is therefore important that you identify the weeds first then select the appropriate application rate and water volume.

The label recommendations are based on many years' research, and must be followed to ensure safe and effective product usage.

Having selected your rate of application, the next essential step is to calibrate your sprayer. Anyone who regularly uses a knapsack or ride-on sprayer should be familiar with the calibration process. Calibration should take into account both the product dose rate, and the volume of water which is stated on the product label.

Applied in the correct dosage and under the correct conditions, selective herbicides represent the most cost-effective solution to weed control in turf.

Getting the best from the products

Six point summary -

Identify The Problem
Select the right product for the job by first identifying the main weeds present. Then compare your list against the weeds mentioned on the product label. As a general rule, the more active ingredients a product contains, the wider the weed spectrum will be. For example, if clovers are predominant, you could use a product containing straight mecoprop-p. If several species are present, e.g. daisies, dandelions, buttercups and thistles, you will need a product containing two active ingredients including 2,4-D or MCPA. Three-way products also exist. These usually have a very wide weed spectrum, including difficult weeds such as speedwells. In addition three-way products can be useful if control of uncommon or unusual weeds is required.

Timing
Best results are achieved when the selective herbicide is applied to actively growing turf and weeds. The application of a fertiliser prior to treatment will improve growth, which in turn will speed up herbicide uptake and give good results.

Mowing
Mowing reduces the leaf area and consequently the weeds' ability to absorb the herbicide. Therefore mowing should be avoided for 3-4 days before application where possible. After spraying, a further period of 3-4 days without mowing will allow complete uptake of the herbicide, resulting in better control. Clippings from the first 2-3 mowings following application will contain traces of herbicide. These should not be used for composting unless allowed to rot down for at least 6 months.

Adverse conditions
If adverse conditions prevail, for example periods of drought, flood, frost or very high temperatures, both grass and weeds are under stress and therefore not actively growing. This will adversely affect the uptake of herbicide and the grass may be scorched.

Spray Drift
Aid drift as much as possible by setting the nozzle at the recommended height and working under conditions of light breeze only. Use the correct nozzle and avoid high pressures which create small droplets that are more likely to drift. Small amounts of selective herbicides may cause damage to adjacent broad-leaved vegetation.

Calibration
Ensure equipment is properly calibrated before use.
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Roland Taylor examines the issue of pest control, and how best to deal with various ‘alien’ elements on your Golf Course...

Have you heard?

Unlike farmers, horticulturists and gardeners, greenkeepers have relatively few pests to deal with, certainly in the insect category. However, those that do occur can cause havoc. To ensure the turf remains strong and healthy throughout the year a pest control management system needs to be in place.

Pests fall into two categories - animals (including humans) and insects. In both cases it is important to know as much as possible about them.

Rabbits

Once upon a time the rabbit was used as a mower. Apart from sheep, cattle or a strong man with a scythe (plus a lot of time!) there was no other way of obtaining a short grassed playing surface. A few centuries ago, St Andrews issued the rights for a warren on their course. Apparently the players soon got fed up with losing balls down burrows and trampling about in unpleasant substances so the powers decided it was not such a good idea.

It is estimated that at present rabbit numbers are between 55-80% of the pre-myxomatosis levels and this figure is going up about 2% each year. As we all know, the rabbit is a prolific breeder. They do reproduce all year round, but the main period is between January and August with up to 24 young being produced in four to six litters. Each youngster is capable of reproducing at three months old, so should in January become 80 by autumn! Young rabbits are vulnerable and 90% will have died during the summer.

An ideal time to reduce the adult is from November to March when the population is at its lowest and before the next main breeding season. There are a number of Acts that need to be taken into consideration when dealing with rabbits.

Under the Wild Mammals (Protection Act) 1986 it is an offence to intentionally inflict unnecessary suffering on any wild mammal as specified in the Act. This legislation may need to be considered where the destruction of occupied warrens and burrow systems is being contemplated.

An Order under Section One of the Pests Act 1954 which declares England and Wales "a rabbit clearance area" states that every occupier of land is responsible for destroying wild rabbits on their land. In cases where it is not practical to destroy them, steps must be taken to prevent damage.

An occupier of land has the limited right under the Ground Act 1888 to kill rabbits using any legal method including gassing, trapping, ferreting, shooting, snaring and netting.

CONTROL METHODS

Gassing

Under the right conditions this will have an 80% success rate. At least two trained personnel must carry out this operation, so for most readers the answer is to call in a specialist.

Some of these companies run training courses in the correct procedures and it may be a good idea to train up some of your staff.

The most commonly used compound is a sodium cyanide (Cymag). When this comes into contact with moisture or soil it produces hydrogen cyanide. It comes in a powder form, which is blown into the burrows or deposited inside the entrance with a spoon.

There are also a number of pellets or tablets now available. These contain metallic phosphides which give off phosphine gas when moistened. Like the powder forms these are introduced to the burrow entrance which is then blocked up.

Moles

Unlike the sociable Mr Mole portrayed in "Wind in the Willows", molehills are very solitary, territorial animals, living most of their lives in total darkness underground. Their tunnel systems can cover an area of up to 1.6ha (4 acres) and consists of a deep permanent network and short-lived surface runs. The complex has one or two chambers within it lined with dry material, these are used as sleeping quarters and for raising the young. Molehills are created as a result of tunnel extensions or repairs and are often due to a shortage of the moles staple diet - worms. They consume large quantities, an 80gram mole requires up to 50worms of earthworms a day. During the summer they will also eat insects that fall into their tunnels. Sometimes special chelated worm products are stored alive for a later feast.

Male and females remain solitary in their own domains only coming together in the spring for breeding. Litter numbers are from three to four babies and these are weaned at four-five weeks. They leave their mother's territory at about six weeks by dispersing above ground. This is the time when they are most at danger.

Control

This is best carried out between October and April and there are two main methods, poisoning and strychnine or trapping. There are other methods although some evidence suggests these are questionable. They include smoke cartridges containing pesticides, which are ignited and placed in the tunnels. This can be very hit and miss as it is difficult to make sure a sufficient toxic level is reached. A mole is no fool and can quickly block off a tunnel if it senses danger.

Where chemical repellents are used
it is often a case of pack the bags and move, not a little distance.

A number of electronic devices, which are said to produce vibrations that make the moles life intolerable, are now available. Current evidence would suggest they have a very limited effect and the offending creatures stay put.

One method that could have the desired results is to eradicate the food supply by getting rid of the worms. A hungry mole is going to move on.

Poisoning
Earthworms are the bait, these are mixed with strychnine and carefully introduced to the run. The bait needs to be distributed evenly throughout the tunnel system. With strychnine a permit must be obtained from the MAFF Regional Service Centre in England and WOAD in Wales.

As with gassing, because of the measures and precautions that have to be taken with poisons it would probably be more economically viable to call in the services of a professional pest control organisation. Staff have to be fully trained before using any of these substances.

Trapping
First find the right tunnels using some form of probe - they are down there somewhere between molehills. The deep ones are what you are looking for, those near the surface are not suitable. Once located a hole is dug into them and the trap carefully lowered in.

Badgers and foxes
They love insect grubs, and will create a battlefield, tearing up the turf in their quest for these delicacies. The answer is to remove these tantalising meals by controlling the insects that create them.

Geese
These can be a problem for some greenkeepers - they graze fine turf and leave a nasty mess behind. Electric fencing or bird-scaring devices are possible solutions. Lead pellets from a 12 bore were suggested but there could be major problems regarding the species of geese involved and the organisations that protect them.

Cattle and sheep
In years past, some courses were built on sites where the locals had (and in some cases still retain) grazing rights. Over the years, regular players will have come to accept that they have to retrieve their balls from their way through grass leaves and roots. Bear in mind how many eggs where laid, the numbers of larvae in a particular area will be high and as a result the devastation their feed has on the turf is very significant.

Another problem is that birds such as rooks and starling have a sixth sense. They know that there is a tasty morsel lurking beneath the surface and have no respect for the turf in trying to get this meal. They are good indicators that there is a leatherjacket problem.

Finally the larvae change into a pupa and work their way to the surface and hatch into adult crane fly ready to produce more offspring to repeat the cycle again. Sandy soils are more to their liking and they prefer a diet of fibrous turf.

Treatment should be carried out when the larvae are relatively small and this is best done about September using a chlorpyrifos based insecticide.

INSECT PESTS

Badging Jackets
During the late summer and early autumn the daddy long legs or crane fly is a common sight. Like a terrorist it is plotting trouble. The female lays about 250 eggs and these become larvae within 14 days. They then spend the next nine-months thewring their way through grass leaves and roots. Bearing in mind how many eggs where laid, the numbers of larvae in a particular area will be high and as a result the devastation their feed has on the turf is very significant.

Other Pests
Most greenkeepers will inevitably encounter pests of the human variety, these come in all shapes and sizes. We have all met the so-called expert - (X an unknown quantity and spats a drip under pressure). Whilst it would be nice to tell them to travel, the treatment has to be diplomacy and tact.

Next time you encounter a pest problem, stop and ponder this for a second: your counterpart in some far distant country could be faced with alligators or snakes all over his course. Is this not a sobering thought!
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Empowering leaders know the value of delegation. It not only benefits the manager by freeing up time so that he or she can lead more effectively, but also benefits the employee by developing them and helping them to feel valued. Brin Bendon explains the art of delegation...

If I delegate responsibility for work to you, it means that I trust you to do a good job. If I never let go and delegate responsibility to you, it sends out a very negative message and you feel that I don’t trust you enough. In turn you feel undervalued and distrustful of me.

So why do managers procrastinate over delegation? Managers are reluctant to delegate for many reasons:

- Fear of letting go and losing control
- Not being organised
- Failure to trust people
- Feeling indispensable
- Intolerant of differences
- Unwilling to let others take over the managers favourite tasks
- Afraid that others might perform tasks better than themselves

Such managers will often make excuses such as ‘I’m the only one who can do this job.’ ‘In the time that I would have to tell someone what to do, I could have done it myself.’ ‘I’ll only end up having to spend time doing it all over again.’ ‘Nothing that I do can be delegated.’

Your unwillingness to delegate any task that is under your control means that others never get a chance to prove they can do it. It may well be that you are the best person to do the job, but doing it prevents you from doing more. The belief that it is quicker to do the job yourself than to teach others is a view that guarantees that you end up doing it all yourself.

It does take time to coach people, but this is a far better use of your time than continually getting involved in activities which detract from your efficiency. Many of the reasons given for not delegating have to do with the perceived lack of time, yet, it is a known fact that if time is considered to be the problem, it is usually the will to delegate that is really lacking.

There are also those who think they are really good at delegating because they give so many tasks away. But they may not have grasped that there is a considerable difference between delegation and abdication. If you give too much away, it means that:

1) People may have responsibility, but not authority, so they have little influence in getting things done should others prove unco-operative,

2) People can be asked to carry out tasks which are outside their skills and abilities, so they are unlikely to be able to complete them satisfactorily, and

3) People may not understand how their given task fits into the overall picture, so they are unable to produce their best work for the circumstance.

The consequence is, that when people do not achieve results, they may become unresponsive and unwilling to take on anything extra. So, despite your attempts to delegate, you end up having to do it all yourself. Even if people do achieve results, they can end up feeling disillusioned because they are doing all the donkey work while you appear to be taking any credit that is going. Giving too much away, is, in fact, just as bad a not giving away anything at all.

There are many good reasons for delegating including making better use of your time, developing the skills of others and being able to get on with other important tasks.

To be effective however, delegation needs clear lines of accountability, clear responsibilities with the authority and adequate resources for people to do the task. It is unfair of managers to make people responsible without giving them the authority or the resources they need. It is also unfair to delegate tasks to people who have not been trained in the execution of such tasks. Hence we only fully delegate responsibilities to people who have been trained and are competent to perform the tasks.

The key to effective delegating is to be able to answer three basic questions:

- What job can I give away?
- What does the job involve?
- What do I need to do to ensure that people know what they are doing?

Deciding which tasks to delegate

It is a mistake to think that you can delegate any task that takes your fancy, possibly because you do not feel like doing it. Or, because you have to keep someone busy. Deciding what to delegate requires you to consider everything you do and to make a list of the tasks you do under four headings:
Responsibility
for performance of physical, mental, and/or social duties commensurate with capabilities and competence

Authority
to exercise the right to take decisions and to have control over the necessary human, material and financial resources

Accountability
is required for the discharge of responsibility and exercise of authority

to do the job

Tasks you must delegate. These are jobs you should not be doing at all. Very often they are jobs you have always done or jobs which you particularly enjoy and are reluctant to give away to anybody else. Delegating these tasks enables you to make better use of your time while minimising the risk involved in handing them over to others.

Tasks you should delegate. These are routine jobs which you may never have considered delegating but which other people are quite capable of carrying out. Not only that, they could also find them both interesting and challenging to take on.

Tasks you can delegate. These are jobs which others could be doing if they were fully capable of doing so. Delegating these tasks provides them with the opportunity to develop their skills, so long as you ensure that necessary coaching or training is forthcoming to enable them to require the requisite skills.

Tasks you must retain. These are the jobs which are your core responsibilities, such as planning ahead for future actions, selecting someone new, monitoring people's performance and effort, supporting, evaluating and rewarding people. This should prompt you to realise that you may still be carrying out some tasks which you really should have delegated years ago. However, this does not mean that you should delegate the dreary tasks while keeping all the attractive ones for yourself. Nor should you delegate work which you find difficult. If you have problems, it is unlikely that other people will do any better than you unless they are specialists.

Delegation is not the same as 'giving out work'. Giving out work is simply allocating jobs which already form part of the duties of subordinates. Delegation consists of charging the subordinate with the authority to take decisions within defined areas of responsibility. It is an effective use of people’s time, talent and resources. We need to differentiate between responsibility, authority and accountability.

Responsibility in this context means the work delegated. The duties of the job itself.

For example, a Deputy could be given the responsibility to maintain the stock of chemicals.

Authority means charging the subordinate with the right to take decisions and the action to enable the responsibility to be successfully discharged.

For example, a Deputy could be charged with the authority of placing orders to replenish stationery.

Accountability means 'carrying the can' for the success or failure of the task. Leaders cannot shrug off their accountability by delegating. They are ultimately held to account.

For example, the Head Greenkeeper retains the accountability for controlling the course budget and should the Deputy over-order the stock, the manager still carries the can.

1) How much risk - what are the consequences of the job being mishandled and what are the chances of that happening?

2) How much responsibility - what obligations which you are relied upon to care about are you handing over?

3) How much authority - what extent of your command and control will you be giving up?

Deciding who can do it

Once you have decided which tasks can, and should, be done by others, you have to decide who could do them. Ideal delegation is that which assigns a task to a person who is competent to do it, and who will find it stimulating and challenging. To get as near as possible to this ideal, you should look at the task, you have decided to delegate and match it against the skills of the people who might best execute it. Not everybody is at the same stage of development in their knowledge and skills.

Considering capabilities. When deciding who might do a particular task, you should start by consulting your list of skills, and then consider the capabilities of the people available. You are likely to find that people tend to fall into three categories when you come to determine their abilities.

1) Star performers - these are your very experienced people. It is essential that they are left alone once the task has been handed over, unless help is requested.

2) Average performers - these are fairly experienced people, but need support from time to time. It is important to check progress intermittently and monitor unobtrusively while giving encouragement.

3) Incompetent performers - these people need to learn how to do the task, so you may not have considered them at all. But, a lack of experience should not be confused with a lack of ability. They ought to be told how to carry out the task and given feedback if they are to gain confidence and learn quickly.

Practice these simple techniques and you will find that not only will you become more effective as a manager, but your people will become more effective, since effective delegation promotes skill development and motivation.

Brin Bendon is the Managing Director of Vector Training Ltd., an approved training provider for BI/EGA and many other corporate and public sector clients. Brin is well known to many Greenkeepers in his role as one of the lead tutors on the BIGGA’s Management Development Programmes. Vector Training can be contacted via telephone on 01904 642464 or by email: enquiries@vector-training.demon.co.uk.
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Lay down some Ground RULES
Six of the country's top men give their views on the effects of disease on their course and how they manage the problem

Disease
Compiled by Malcolm Huntington MBE

1. Which diseases affect your course to the greatest degree?

Paul Murphy
Course: Downfield GC, Dundee
Region: Scotland
Course Type: Parkland
Staff: Course Manager, plus six, plus mechanic

Steve Oultram
Course: Wilmslow GC
Region: Northern
Course Type: Parkland
Staff: Course Manager, plus five

Gerald Bruce
Course: Berkhamstead, Herts
Region: Midland
Course Type: Heathland
Staff: Head Greenkeeper, plus five

David Everitt
Course: Bognor Regis, Dorset
Region: South West and South Wales
Course Type: Mixture of downland, parkland and heathland
Staff: Head Greenkeeper, plus four

Ian Willett
Course: Thorpeness GC, Suffolk
Region: South East
Course Type: Maritime heathland
Staff: Course Manager, plus four

Terry Crawford
Course: Clandeboye GC, Bangor, Co Down
Region: Northern Ireland
Course Type: Parkland/Heathland
Staff: Course Manager, plus 12, plus mechanic (36 holes)

1. Fusarium mainly with a touch of anthracnose now and again.

1. Fusarium, but it has become less of a problem in the last two or three years by adopting a policy of minimal watering, aeration, vertidraining and micro-tining.

1. Fusarium and some anthracnose, but I don't spray for anthracnose.

1. Fusarium. We get it late autumn and early winter and can almost guarantee it as we have moisture caused by heavy mists in September, October and November.

1. Fusarium and anthracnose. I didn't use any fungicide for the anthracnose and put some turf tonic on which which took it away.

1. Fusarium mainly with some anthracnose.
2. Have you noticed any changes in the type of diseases which has affected you in the recent past?

2. Less of a problem over the years. Snow and the fact that we have a lot of trees result in problems, but through good cultural practices we have fewer problems than before.

3. What has been the most surprising disease to hit your course in the recent past?

3. Take-All Patch, which we have only experienced in the last three or four years.

4. What policies do you carry out to alleviate or reduce disease?

4. Over the last five years we have adopted a very heavy vertidraining programme of three times a year. Minimum fertiliser, minimum water, greens are treated separated as certain greens have different conditions. I don’t top dress at the end of the year because it encourages disease. We put on potash at the back end.

5. If you had the ability to wipe out a single disease from existence which would it be and why?

5. Fusarium. It hits you quickly overnight and you go from being perfect to having problems. It’s always a worry. We now clear greens of snow. We used 200 litres of chemicals every month when I was first here but not it’s only 70 litres and we hollow core to get rid of thatch.

2. Have you noticed any changes in the type of diseases which has affected you in the recent past?

2. Not really. It’s been Fusarium most of the time with the odd Take-All Patch affecting us.

2. I haven’t noticed any changes in the time I have been here. Fusarium is the major problem and remains so.

2. No, I can’t say I have. Fusarium is the common factor.

2. No. I can’t say I have. Fusarium is the common factor.

5. If you had the ability to wipe out a single disease from existence which would it be and why?

5. Fusarium, which seems to affect most courses all over the country.

2. Diseases are more frequent although there are more fungicides available than there have ever been. Climatic changes with warmer weather and moist humid conditions are probably the reasons.

2. Fusarium which is so unsightly. If you get it late in the season it is often difficult to get a good covering of grass in the scarred areas.

3. Anthracnose which is caused by compaction and more golf. We treat this with more aeration.

3. Anthracnose which is caused by compaction and more golf. We treat this with more aeration.

4. A lot of aeration and I also believe strongly in the quality of cut. We have our machines set up every day and check the height of cut. I use a preventative fungicide before top dressing.


4. Aeration, hollow tining, vertidraining and iron application. I also use Vitax turf tonic, Rimidin and Revril and I rotate the remedies all the time.

5. Fusarium which seems to affect most courses all over the country.

5. Fusarium which is the most common disease. It spoils fine turf and is difficult to treat.

5. Fusarium which seems to affect most courses all over the country.

5. Fusarium, which is the one disease which affects all our course and gives the most problems so I would gladly see the back of that forever.

5. Fusarium because we are defenceless against it. We have cures for the other diseases. I believe some research is being carried out in America, but I haven’t heard of any progress over here.

5. Fusarium, it hits you quickly overnight and you go from being perfect to having problems. It’s always a worry. We now clear greens of snow. We used 200 litres of chemicals every month when I was first here but not it’s only 70 litres and we hollow core to get rid of thatch.
Central

Joining the Section this month are Ali Macfadyen and Russell Cowan, both from Gifford Hy-Command:-d Golf Course, and rejoining is Richard Hastings from Holland-

bush Golf Club. Welcome to the Section lads! That's 30 members who have joined the section in the first half of this year, so hopefully, if we can keep up the numbers, we can reach the 300 mark this year.

Is anyone interested in being involved on Islay at the Machrie Hotel and Golf Links? Head Greenkeeper, Simon Freeman, has been in touch and if we can get enough members interested, we could arrange accommodation at very competitive rates with as much free golf as you like. Can't be bad can it? This is another bonus of being a member of BIGGA. If anyone is interested in a weekend later in the year, just get in touch with me or fill in one of the forms you will soon be receiving.

It is intended to organise a visit to the trial grounds at Loch Longmond Golf Club later in the year and once again, if you wish to participate in this visit, please return your confirmation slips soon. Numbers will be limited. If numbers fall below 40, the visit will be called off, as numbers may be limited.

The winning number in this month's bonus draw in Club 2000 is 100538 and the lucky holder of this ticket is Alex Robertson from Grangemouth. Well done Alex! A cheque for £100 is on its way to you.

Gavin Jarvis

**Winning the first draw of the 100 team, the steward and finally the Championship.**

For places in the National team, I have been reliably informed that the course was looking well and played well. The results are as follows:

- **Scratch prize** - G.Bruen 74
- First Class-1. J. Smith, Drum- pler, 74-5(69); 2. G.Kerr, Ged- dech, 78-8(70); 3. R.McElish, Vale of Leven, 76-5(71) BIH

**Trophy**

- Scratch, P.Hares. 1st Class winner, P. Hares, 74. T. Allan, 75. Best of the day, C. Pearson.

**National Tournament in September**

- **Trophy**
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The Section Committee had their day out on May 30 to Aberdour GC where the Eddie Holt Memorial Trophy, singles, and Chairman v Vice Chairman’s match, team event. A very fine day was had by all on a day of cloudless skies which, these days, is unusual. We would like to thank the Captain and Council for courtesy of the course, the Clubhouse staff for keeping us happy in the food and liquid refreshment department.

Also the Head Greenkeeper and his staff for the condition of the course which was superb and a pleasure to play on. Well done Dougie, look out Tiger! The results for this were = The Eddie Holt Memorial Trophy, Craig Pennycook, Winterfield GC and if Craig keeps picking up trophies instead of cutting his handicap, we will have to cut off one of his hands. Probably still wouldn’t make a difference though.

The team prize was won by Vice Captain, Dave Goodridge.

North Wales
After last month’s trials I went for a lie down, still didn’t calm down though, I stick by my comments. It’s beyond me how personal vendettas can come before a game of golf, sad! Anyhow the only news item I have this month is that Darren Anderson has achieved NVO level 4. Congratulations go to him for keeping the family tradition, as his father Brian is the chairman of our section, now back in his homeland of Scotland. I bet he’s chuffed too! My email address for any news is: d_goodridge@talk21.com

Dave Goodridge

North East
The spring competition was held at Bamburgh Castle on April 13. Our thanks to the committee for granting us courtesy of their fine course again. Sadly, it was a terrible day for playing golf with no let up in the rain and wind, but 24 people played. The section would like to thank the following companies for their donations: Turf Care, Whitmoors Amenities, Shotts of Whitburn, Greenway, GNS, Atkins, Border Turf, Thorntree Landscapes, Carvers of Hexham, Ruddoff Top Dressing.

The best gross: D. Quince, Amlington C 74.6; Best nett, B. Wilson, Moorfield, 82.8-74; Best Ass. J. Hutton, Whitcham, 81-47; A. Dalby, Warkworth, 85.7-78; G. Wright, Crook, 93.15-78; R. Black, Wisterhope, 88-69-90; R. Froud, Pudhoes, 87-80; S. Haug, Crook, 86-60.

The qualifiers for the National Championships were Steve Macleod and Barry Wilson.

North West
A challenge has being issued by Rigby Taylor to a 5-a-side football match. If you would like to play then give us a buzz.

Northern
South Wales
North East
North West

Well, that’s it until next month when I will have a report from the summer tournament at Melrose GC. Pictures from opening day at Oatridge GC; R. Ardron, Handley Wood GC; R. Wood, Hardwood GC; R. Lomas, M. Knowles, Res, J. Darroch, Hexham, Rufford Top Dressing. Pictures from opening day at Gleneagles. The course was to learn the National Championships, Best Gross, A. Lomas, Best Nett, M. Crawshaw, Qualifiers for the National Championships to be played and already two low handicappers have bitten the dust leaving Nimbus II and Status II Irrigation.

Cheers on the telly on the Never Try Matches on page 6 of last month’s magazine.

The results were:


New Members: S. Swindell & K.辟er.

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North West
How about the Volvo PGA at Wentworth? The golf was good and Monty showed how good he is at his job but Chris Kennedy and his staff were excellent. The weather certainly put the course and the staff to the ultimate test to get the tournament completed, and this they did. Well done lads, you did a great job and proved how good our greenkeepers really are.

Dave Berry and his staff also deserve applauding for the way they had prepared Bury GC for our spring Tournament on May 3. The weather on the day was dry and fine, but the weather prior to the tournament had been wet and cold for weeks. Apart from this, the growth up there is always a month behind in their courses in our Section, but the course was in great condition on the day.

Many thanks to Bury GC for allowing us courtesy of the course and the catering which was enhanced by the results on the day were: Best Nett, J. Ellison, 69.5-64; Best Gross, John Coar, 77.12-65. Best Vets, Brian Turner, 88-16-72. Trade, Andy Cross, 64-10-74. Longdrive, Tom Wilkinson. Nearest the Pin, Mike Bottomley.

The longest drive and nearest the pin prizes were donated by Ruddoff Body & Soul Ltd. The pin prize was donated to 13th place and this was due to N/W patrons and trade members who donated prizes helping to swell the prize table.

The two members from the N/W Section who qualified for the Charterhouse/Scotts national championship are: Best Gross, Jared Ellis, Manchester GC and Kevin Irving, Brampton GC. The qualifiers for the Regional Final at Fishwick Hall GC on Thursday 10 August are: Cat 0-9 J. Ellison, M. Davic. Cat 10-18, J. Coar, M. Nolan. Cat 19-28, K. Irvine, P. Eddlestone. This Regional Final is sponsored once again by Richard Campey, Maclesfield. I still require a team of 16 to play in the Roses Match at Longridge GC on Wednesday 16 August. A few places remain to be filled, so if you are available call me on 0151 724 5412. I hope you all managed to see our swinging greenkeeper Michael Cears on the telly on the Never Try Matches on page 6 of last month’s magazine. That’s it for now. Any news or views, don’t forget to ring me.

Bert Cross

Cleveland
Matches in this year’s Carrs sponsored Cleveland Shield are starting to get under way. Some greenkeepers have bitten the dust leaving Penmo almost a clear run. The Beast of Bedale, Alex Russell, was beaten by Chris Pouley at Dinsdale Golf Club last month and that’s just the start. Another member was beaten by Martin Woods in the pouring rain at Weasides. Jim said the course was in excellent condition and well worth a visit.

On page 6 of last month’s magazine, two handsome young men, myself and Lewis Meek, Head Greenkeeper at Wynyard can be seen attending the Rainbird Training Day at Cleengates. The course was won by Lewis and myself in that lane. I hope the rainbird days go to plan.

Bert Cross
Conted Systems. A very useful and informative course it was. If anyone gets a chance to go on it, I recommend they do. Thanks to Mark Ganning and Rainbird for their friendly approach and hospitality while we were there. The draw for the second round of the Cleveland Shield will not include Jim Thompson of the Wynyrd Club. He was beaten by Martin Woods of Wearside.

Anthony McGough, first assistant at Richmond Golf Club, returned to work after being off for several weeks with a broken hand which he suffered while white water rafting in the Grand Canyon. He has drawn me in the summer knockout, so things are not getting any better for him. Speaking of the knockout, did I mention Jim Thompson had been knocked out in the first round. Still, mustn’t grumble Jim, there’s always someone worse off than you. Any news, contact me on 07808196558.

Steven Jaques

East Midlands

This year’s spring tournament played on 10 May on a cloudy but dry spring day at the wonderful venue of Chilwell Manor GC was enjoyed by 31 members. In reasonably good weather conditions some good scores were expected, although the rough was quite penalising for those of us who ventured into it.


I would also like to congratulate Ian Brown, of Ramsdale Park GC, who, having entered his first BIGGA tournament, still returned his card despite a nightmare round which meant he beat the eight No Returns. Also, I would like to welcome the following members to their first Section tournament. Lee Hughes, James Tudor, Simon Hedley and Russell Latham.

Hope to see you all again on 20 September at Market Harborough GC.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody at Chilwell Manor GC for their hospitality and the use of their fine course for our tournament. The Steward and his staff served us all with an excellent meal and congratulations should be extended to Terry Porter and his staff for providing us with a good test of golf. It is the first time since at least 1979 that the Section has visited Chilwell. Finally, a special thank you should be extended to our sponsor for the day, E.T. Breakwells Ltd, without the support of which we would not have a prize table.

Please may I remind all members that to attend any Section event your entry form and payment must be returned before the closing date. Finally I would like to thank the following committee members for helping in the smooth running of the day. Richard Barker, prizes. Dave Leatherland and Jeff Dickinson, Starters. Ian Needham, scorecards. Ade Porter, Raffle and our Chairman Gavin Robson.

If any members would like to play in this year’s clash with the East of England section on Tuesday August 14, tee off 3.45 pm, please inform me as soon as possible and I will send you the entry form. A team of ten is required, so it will be based on a first come first served basis. Also, if any Head Greenkeeper member wishes to play in the year’s Scots Golf Management Trophy, please contact our Regional Administrator, Les Emery.

At the Belton Park Open, Alan Roberts, Midland Section and myself, finished in second place in the afternoon better-ball pairs competition with 42 stb points. If any other members have any news they would like to see featured in this article, please let me know.

Antony Bindley

Berks Bucks & Oxon

The regional qualifier for the National Championship was held at Wokefield Park Golf Club on 16 April and the two qualifiers were: Best Gross, Mike Smith, Donnington Valley, 74. Best handicap, Simon Austin, Badgemore Park, 66.

Nearest the pin on the day was won by Pat Whelahan and the longest drive was again Simon Austin. Congratulations to all the winners and good luck at St Annes and Fairhaven in September.

A big thank you to Wokefield for holding the event and to Robert Weir and his staff for the condition of the golf course on a week that brought atrocious weather. No one would have wanted to host a BIGGA event in conditions like that, but the course
was presented admirably. Thanks also to the competition sponsors, Colin White, from Avoncrop. A good entry was received for the Rigby Taylor matches and entrants should now have played their first round matches, any doubts about the rules, please contact either Ray Clarke or myself.

To finish this month, congratulations to John Scoones on the opening of Caversham Heath in late April and also to Mike Smith, Andy and the team at Donnington Valley, who also opened their new holes in April. We are very close neighbours to Donnington Valley and wish them all the best in their new venture. However, to relieve a bit of confusion, ie. arriving at the wrong course etc., Donnington Grove has now changed their name to Parasampia Golf & Country Club.

Section AGM will be held at the Springs, Wallingford, in October and the next outing is at Richings Park on 3 August.

Remember to get those Rigby Taylor matches played early. It is the only way to run the competition successfully.

Ross Wilson

East of England

The second Section golf event of the season took place at Peterborough Milton. The day was sponsored by Peterborough Garden Machinery and thanks to Alister for his great assortment of prizes. The main prize was won by Les Howkins, 31 pts, of Cleethorpes. Second, N Smith, 28 pts of Market Rasen and third went to Kevin Hodges, 23 pts of Ryton Park. Guest prize went to Peter Fell. Longest Drive, Norman Hewson and Nearest the Pin was won by Gary Cooper.

A good turn out for our section at Peterborough Milton considering how busy everybody should be, trying to keep on top of growth. Head Greenkeeper, Brian Taylor, and staff of Milton certainly kept on top and produced an excellent conditioned course for all our members to play around. Although I was unable to play, the comments in the bar were none but praise about the course. Thanks also to all the other sponsors, Barenbrug Seed, Aitken, Boughton Loam, Tower Sports and Rigby Taylor for their generous help towards the prize table.

G A Macdonald.

Mid Anglia

The next golf event within the section is the Summer Tournament on Monday August 7. The venue will be Aspley Guise, a golf club which I believe has never hosted a Mid Anglia BIGGA event before. We can therefore look forward to a new challenge and a great day. Entries to Richard Saunders in good time please, using the usual form.

Paul Lodett

Sussex

Firstly the results of the Spring Meeting which took place on May 4 at Royal Eastbourne Golf Club and was also the qualifier for the National Championship which is to be held at Lytham St Anne’s Old Links Faihaven Golf Club on 25 and 26 September 2000. The morning round was sponsored jointly by Scott's UK Professional and John Shaw Machinery Ltd.

The results were as follows: Best gross, Richard Clark 77, Raymond Day 77, George Barr 93, Rob Hudson 73, Dustin Houghton 73. Best net scores, Richard Clark 77, Raymond Day 77, George Barr 69, Darren Mitchell 69, Rob Hudson 69, Dustin Houghton 69. Hard Clark wins on count back and qualifies for the National Tournament. Best net scores Dustin (Austin Powers) Hudson 73. Dustin Houghton wins on count back and qualifies for the National Tournament. Trade/guest winner was myself, oh well and no, I don’t qualify for the National Tournament.

The afternoon round was sponsored by Rigby Taylor and was a stableford event. The winners were as follows, 0-15 Handicaps, 1. Chris Read, 35 points, 2. Stefan Antolik, 35 points, 16-26 Handicaps, 1. Rob Hudson 37 points, 2. Rose Gould 34 points, Trade/guest winner John Roberts, 35 points.

There were also prizes for nearest the pin and longest drive throughout the day. Nearest the pin on the 15th Rose Gould, on the 18th Rob Hudson, cut him!

Longest drive on the 12th hole was Raymond Day with 130 yards, only person to hit fairway, only joking Ray, with about a 300 yards mammoth drive. Well done to all the winners and thanks to everyone who turned up.

I would also, on behalf of the Sussex Section, like to thank David Harman and all his staff for presenting Royal Eastbourne Golf Club in such fine condition. Thanks again David.

The next event on the Sussex calendar is on July 11 at Copthorne Golf Club and will be a fourball better ball followed by a Tapas Bar.

Please arrive at 1pm for 1.30pm for first tee off time of 2pm.

One last note before I close, I would like to wish all the very best to Bob Moore on his retirement after 50 years in greenkeeping, which were all spent at the one club, Seaford, Blatchington Golf Club. Bob is a keen golfer who plays off 15 handicap an
South West

A good summer so far for some of us working on links courses but may not be for others, will it change I wonder? Unfortunately, little news to report, although hopefully the Wales Open held at the Celtic Manor Resort went well, perhaps we will be able to report on that again next month.

The Section would also like to congratulate Steve Peters on his new appointment which sees him move out of the Section, although he did say to please contact Paula Humphries Tel: 01288 352194. The tournaments are team events, comprising the Captain, Secretary, Head Greenkeeper and Chairman of Green.

Once again, they are being sponsored by Scotts Professional UK. Congratulations to Robert Frater and wife, Ruth on the birth of their baby daughter.

Catch up with more news next month. Please contact me on 01443 204392 or 07932710286 with any news or gossip for your around the green.

Richard Hatcher

South Coast

The spring tournament was played at Alton Golf Club over 27 holes. All credit to Fred and Darren for the excellent conditions. Not many would disagree that the course was set up at its most difficult. Many thanks to Alton for courtesy and hospitality. Also thanks to the sponsors for the day, Avoncrop, Scotts and Huxley Cambell Turf. Rolf’s Open Qualifiers for the Scotts/Charterhouse National Championship were Darren Miller and Mark Green. The Huxley Shield went to Matt Blake, with M Grogan and J Newman second and third. The Avoncrop Trophy was won by Kevin Glass with H Tribe and Neil Davies second and third. The Roffeys Cup was won by Alan Rideout with P Dudgeon and D Hewitt second and third.

The Nita Stimpson Cup for over 50 was won by Alan Rideout and finally the under 25’s cup presented by Christopher Fry went to James Martin. Congratulations to Rob Philips for his hole in one. He went on to record the highest score of the day!

The summer tournament is at High Post on July 19. Remember, this is a guest day but your partner must have a member of your golf club. Entries to Chris Sturgess at 40 Kinsbourne Way, Thornhill, Southampton SO 19 6HB. Tel: 0777 313 8409 before 8pm. Cost of the day is £34 per pair.

David Taylor

Devon & Cornwall

The Section would like to take this opportunity to thank Rigby Taylor for sponsoring our fixture cards once again. The fixture cards are about to go to the printers and will be sent out to you during August. Our meetings for the coming season are as follows:

October 25, Dainton Park, November 15, Launceston. December 6, Okehamp- ton, January 31, RND, March 1, Thursford, March 28, Roserow.

The section would like to congratulate Steve Peters on his new appointment which sees him move out of the Section, although he did say to me that he will be able to see the mighty whites play at Elland Road more often. The Section would also like to congratulate Jim Arthur on receiving his Honorary Membership of BIGGA. Jim has been the guiding light to all greenkeepers, if at times slightly controversial. Richard Whyman

I think that’s it - summer’s over. Three glorious weeks in May when the sun shone strongly and now the first week in June and the greens are being squeezed again. There’s no doubt, get a bunch of greenkeepers together and I assure you the main topic, next to women, will be the weather. I remember a golfer saying to me “Wouldn’t it be great if you could control the weather?” After thinking about it, I concluded that it would probably be in a worse state than it is at present.

Talking about the weather, it wasn’t kind to us yet again when our region played Kilkeel on May 24. We all set off on our round in short sleeves and finished drenched under an almost thunderstorm. Some people wisely walked in, but two guys in our four-ball had a good score going, so we continued to wave a lightning conductor at the golf ball regardless of lightning.

Head Greenkeeper, Jimmy Jones, must be commended and congratulated for the condition of the course. Jimmy has limited staff numbers and limited machinery, but yet produced a very well manicured course. The recent alterations to the course have improved it dramatically, and it is now recognised as a tough course to play, with very strong par 4’s and interesting par 5’s. I’ll not talk about Par 5’s because, let’s just say, I admired the scenery on those holes.

Our winners at Kilkeel were 1. Noel Crawford, Royal County Down. 2. Iain...
Martin, Ormeau. 3. Ken Henderson, Allen Park, and the Visitor's prize went to David Irwin, from Benburb. Once again, many thanks to Kilkeel GC for having us there and also the catering staff for setting up another fine meal that was promptly wolfed down by all.

Our sponsors for the day were J E Coulter Ltd. Unfortunately other commitments and short notice meant no J E Coulter's representatives were there, but they put up some fine crystal for the winners. Many thanks for your continued support at these events and we'll try to give you more notice next year.

At the Kilkeel event we were privileged to have the company of Scott MacCallum, Editor of the BIGGA magazine, and Tracey Maddison, Membership Services Officer. Scott and Tracey were in the province visiting a few of our finest golf clubs like Malone, Clandeboye and Royal County Down. The Course Managers were each interviewed about their course, on what they have done to improve it and how they perceive greenkeeping and the future of greenkeeping. Hopefully over the coming months we will see these articles printed in the magazine. I believe it was Scott's first time in the province. I hope you enjoyed your stay and will hurry back. Maybe next time we'll introduce you to the delights of the Guinness family.

Congratulations to Eamon Farrell, who moves from First Assistant at Stakis to Course Manager at Masserene GC. Also congratulations to Mark Farrell, also from Stakis, on his appointment to City of Derry GC as Course Manager.

Our next event will be held at Castlerock GC on 2nd August. Tee off times and arrangements will be posted to you nearer the time. See you all at Castlerock.

Iain Harrison.

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It can drive its 6" tines, solid or hollow, at a faster rate than any other aerator, which makes it the perfect machine for high speed runs down the fairway and for even shorter work on the greens.

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Web Site: http://www.redexim.com
Aventis, formerly Rhône Poulenc, is the only amenity company in the UK involved in research and development of new compounds to protect the nation's sports turf. Scott MacCallum investigated...

It's a fact of life that many people suffer from nightmares. For me it's on the recurring theme of being chased for miles and miles by an unidentified assailant who I can't quite shake but never actually get to see. For others it can be stuck in a confined space with walls that slowly close in on them... or being stuck in a pit of snakes, spiders or rats depending upon which dishes up the greatest blood pressure boost.

I would imagine for those in the greenkeeping profession the thought of an overnight outbreak of a rare grass eating fungus or plague of casting worms would be enough to cause otherwise sane men to wake up covered in freezing perspiration and ready to rush into work before day break to make sure what appeared a nightmare was not in fact a premonition of gruesome reality.

But thankfully there is a company which is doing its best to ensure that the country's greenkeepers are able to sleep soundly safe in the knowledge that even if some horrible disease or pest is attacking his beloved turf there is something available with which to fight back.

Aventis, formerly Rhône Poulenc, is the only amenity company in the UK involved in research and development of new compounds to protect the nation's sports turf, and at the company's Ongar site in Essex - recently designated the European headquarters of a truly worldwide operation - a staff of 500 work towards producing antidotes to some of the problems which give fine turf managers the greatest nightmares.

"We are developing new fungicides to attack the diseases which are now hitting this country, things like Take-All Patch," revealed John Hall, Market Development Manager for Northern Europe.

"Ants have become a major problem while this year we've also got a big problem with chafer grubs and we're developing chemicals to try to control these at the moment. In fact we're constantly looking at different chemicals to control different diseases, pests, weeds etc. It's a long process but the work should ultimately benefit the customer," he added.

One issue which is currently exercising the fine minds at Aventis is worm control bearing in mind some of the extremely effective methods of old have been banned.

"There are environmental issues which have been brought in and the industry may have only a couple of years left with Carbendazim. We are looking at different methods of control at the moment, although we prefer to use the term suppression to control," said John.

"What the chemicals do is suppress the casting worms - which amount to only three of the 25 species which commonly operate in the UK - and leave the others alone. The older compounds used to be extremely effective but killed rather than suppressed a wide range of worm species."

"It would be fair to say that greenkeepers form one of Aventis more demanding customer sectors. They do have specific problems because of the high aesthetic value placed on a course and the need to maintain high presentation standards. He is very concerned about any disease he gets on fairways and greens whereas local authorities perhaps wouldn't be quite so worried if they had a bit of fusarium or worm casts. The demands of greenkeepers ensure that we work hard to meet their specifications," said John.

"The origins of the company go back to the early days of May and Baker who..."
worked out of a factory in Wandsworth, London, producing products like Bismuth Salts, ethers and collidions.

French company, Rhône Poulenc, became involved in 1927 when the companies began working jointly, however, they continued to trade as May and Baker for many years. A move to Dagenham preceded the move to Ongar which was made in 1953. In 1989 the May and Baker name was replaced by that of Rhône Poulenc before the recent change to Aventis which came about by the "marriage" of the French, Rhône Poulenc, to Hoechst Schering, of Germany, (and in the UK Rhône Poulenc merged with Agrevo) which produced a global total $20 billion company boasting a total of 95,000 staff, from which the European arm of the Environmental Science Sector is now run from Ongar.

Aventis Environmental Science is a sector within the main Aventis group and consists of Turf and Amenity, Household Insecticides, Public Hygiene and Vermin Control. The Turf and Amenity business for Europe is run from the offices at Ongar.

"On the whole we are still associated with the name Rhône Poulenc but some people still remember us as May and Baker but we are working towards making the Aventis name familiar. That process started at Harrogate this year. "It is making people realise that that all the same products, like Rovral Green, are there but under the Aventis name. The labelling is different but the products are the same," explained John. Ongar was actually a farm in a previous life. On site, as well as a 150 strong commercial team, is the research and development teams who carry through the painstaking process of bringing a new product to market.

Much of the process is now done by robots - such as producing the rows and rows of mini test plots and the spraying of these with chemicals and potential new products.

"We spray up to 30,000 plots a week and of these 0.1% are considered worthy of moving forward to the next stage in the process to see if they are effective against specific species," explained Caroline Rutherford, Research Biologist, adding that this process alone, as well as glass house trials, can take three years.

The next stage involves field trials on a well appointed site to the rear of the office buildings.

This allows the researchers to assess potential new products under more realistic conditions.

It all adds up to a costly process with the expense involved in developing a new active ingredient come in at a cool £60 million.

"Even then we have to make our return over a remarkably short space of time," explained John.

After the initial three years of screening the patent is registered and three years after that the first registration is sought from the relevant bodies: in years four to six factory construction takes place with the first sales taking place in the fifth year. Break even from a financial standpoint is not reached until year 13 is reached and the final chance to reap any rewards from a successful product disappears when the patent expires in year 20.

"We continue to work with the Regulatory Bodies in a long term investment programme, in order that we can gain approvals for new compounds and adhere to environmental regulations.

However, strange as it may seem Aventis is right behind the tighter legislation. "At the end of the day it makes the products we produce much safer so it is of benefit to the customer. We are certainly pro it because we are keen to protect our end user as well as the environment."

Another part of this safety conscious approach is the BAGS scheme which Aventis has introduced in conjunction with the BASIS and the Crop Protection Association, formerly the BAA.

"This is an advanced contractor certification scheme which encourages contractors to meet certain criteria before becoming accredited. Hopefully it may mean that when jobs are put out to tender it is not the cheapest option which is chosen but a person who has been adjudged capable and qualified to do the task," explained John.

Further details can be obtained from Alan Horgan, Contractor and Utilities Customer Manager.

It's all part of Aventis' on-going policy of development both in providing new and exciting products with safety and conscientious environmental stewardship at the hub.

This all helps a greenkeeper's ability to sleep soundly at night... but doesn't exactly help me with my recurring nightmare!
Greenkeeper International takes a look at some of the latest products and services available to the greenkeeping professional

**Saxon add two new Baroness models**

Two new Baroness mowers have been added to Saxon's range of mowers.

Cable-driven cylinders coupled with hydrostatic transmission give the Baroness Greens Triple many advantages. The cutting width, from three, nine-blade cutting cylinders is 152 cm. Cut height can be precisely set between 3.5 - 10 mm.

Cable drive has the advantage of allowing a consistent and precise clip-rate and because there are no complicated linkages to cope with, the cutters can quickly be removed and replaced for maintenance without tools or accessories - and without the risk of oil leakage.

The benefit of hydrostatic transmission is also apparent on the foot platform where just two pedals control travel and mowers raise and lower functions.

The Baroness Greens Triple Mower's versatility can be increased by the addition of grommer units and there is the option of a brush unit and thatching reel.

Available as a two or three-wheel-drive the Heavy Duty Triple gives manoeuvrability and its low centre of gravity provides stability on slopes.

Hydrostatic transmission provides single pedal travel control and the cutter-unit mounting allows the multi-directional movement essential for accurate contour following. Three 162 mm diameter, seven-blade cutting cylinders give a cutting width of 152 cm.

For further information: Tel 01488 689400.

**Latest spraying developments from Hardi**

The new Groundwater Directive is now fully in force, and to ensure that operators fully comply with this the standard specification for Hardi Jazz, Maxx, Boss and Heron - Amenity sprayers have been uprated.

One aspect of the new Groundwater regulations that particularly affect amenity sprayer operators is the disposal of tank washings. To fill the sprayer tank with up to 800 litres of water and then spray this back out over the fairway or other areas previously sprayed is time consuming at the very least.

For this reason, all Hardi Jazz and Maxx mounted, Boss demount and Heron trailed sprayer models are now fitted with a tank flushing nozzle. Where this is fitted, only 10% of tank capacity is needed for flushing, which not only saves a considerable amount of time and water, but also means that less area is needed for flushing out the tank.

Where, for instance on smaller amenity sprayers, chemical induction hoppers are not fitted then the direct filling hole on the top of the sprayer must be no more than 1500mm from the ground or a step.

The benefit of hydrostatic transmission is also apparent on the foot platform where just two pedals control travel and mowers raise and lower functions.

The 52hp to 76hp Renault Pales Groundsmen has been subject to a number of cab improvements. The gear lever, range selector and mechanical splitter, in addition to the hydraulic spool valve controls, have all been moved to the right of the operators seat, so that they fall conveniently to hand.

Certain operations, such as when using a hydraulically driven topdresser, require a consistent hydraulic flow to ensure that accuracy and evenness of spread is maintained. For this reason Renault Groundsman models can now be fitted with a dual hydraulic system. This provides a dedicated hydraulic circuit through which such equipment can be operated, which is independent from the steering and other hydraulic functions.

Where the tractor is being used to ensure that accuracy and evenness of spread is maintained. For this reason Renault Groundsman Models are now also available with a 40m/hr transmission as an option. Where this is fitted, when braking the front axle is automatically engaged to provide full four-wheel braking and to achieve this road speed, the number of gears have been increased via a mechanical doubler to 24 forward and 24 reverse speeds.

The standard price for the Renault Pales Groundsman range starts at £16,360 for the 52hp Pales Groundsman 210 and rises to £22,415 for the 72hp Pales Groundsman 240. The factory fitted fast travel speed option adds £895 to the standard price of the Pales Groundsman and the dual hydraulic circuit option costs £900.

For further information Tel: 01608 662727.

**Turn of speed given to new Renaults**

A number of product specification changes have been made to the Renault Groundsman range to provide users with increased comfort, greater output and accuracy of operation.

The 52hp to 76hp Renault Pales Groundsmen has been subject to a number of cab improvements. The gear lever, range selector and mechanical splitter, in addition to the hydraulic spool valve controls, have all been moved to the right of the operators seat, so that they fall conveniently to hand.

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For further information Tel: 01608 662727.

**Golf industry gets a host of new caddies, thanks to Trojan**

Trojan Trailers have expanded their range of industrial trailers. They have introduced a "no frills" model of the Greenkeeper's Caddy called the Greenkeeper's Caddy Cadet. In addition there will also be a new comprehensive range of tandem Axle Beaver Tail trailers. Sizes will be from 10ft. x 6ft. to 16ft x 7ft. Weights from 2000Kg to 3500 Kg gvw. These will have a choice of different loading methods, ie: Ramps, Spring Assisted Mesh Loading Tailgates etc.

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The Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC) are continually reviewing the approved status of colleges offering greenkeeper training courses. This guide shows colleges offering courses to craft, supervisory and management levels, but it must be stated that until the GTC review is completed only the green coded colleges are approved to train greenkeepers beyond craft level. The introduction of vocational qualifications into the golf greenkeeping industry as to which colleges employers and their staff should be supporting. Anyone with a query regarding greenkeeper training should contact the Greenkeeper Training Committee at Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alcester, Warwickshire, WR10 2RE. Tel: 01386 836460 or visit their website at http://www.co.uk/gtc/uk.

ELMWOOD COLLEGE Copse, Fishey, Wiltshire, SN14 0UB. Contact: Martin Marshall. Tel: 01225 862015. Fax: 01225 862013. Email: m_marshall@elmwood.ac.uk. Craft Level courses. Full time National Certificate, Block release, following SVQ Level II and the GTC Training Manual. Six week specialist modular programme (January - February), including Golf Course Construction, Pest Control and Plant Protection Procedures. SVQ Level III Block Release and SVQ Level IV coming soon. HNC/HND Golf Course Management available as full time, block day release and distance learning. FEPA, COSHH and Health & Safety short courses also.

GOSTA TRAINING LTD: Unit 5E Clydeway Centre, 45 Finnieston Street, Glasgow, G3 8LU. Contact Chris Bothwell. Tel: 0141 248 2772. Fax: 0141 248 2463. SVQ 1, 2, 3 and 4 also Modern Apprenticeship in all Amenity Horticulture including Sports Turf and GTC Manual. Attendance day/ block release from November to March. Short courses include Pesticides, Chainsaw, First Aid, Abrasive Wheels, Manual Handling and Assessing training. Consulting covering Noise Assessment. Site Risk Audits, Machinery Permit to Use. COSHH, Health & Safety Policy.

OATRIDGE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, Broxbourne, West Lothian, near Edinburgh, EH52 0NH. Contact Steve Miller - Tel: 01506 563372, Fax: 01506 563373. HNC in Golf Course Management: Full time Certificate in Greenkeeping, Block and Day Release. SVQ Level II and III (GTC Manuals) and Modern Apprenticeship. SVQ in Ground Care Machinery, full range of Amenity Horticulture and Landscaping courses at HNC, Certificate and SVQ Level II. Short courses: GTC, Chairsaw, Forklift. E-mail: OATRIDGE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE EDU@msn.com


CITY COLLEGE MANCHESTER, Mosley Road, Baguley, Manchester M23 9QO. Contact Martin Webb. Tel: 0161 957 1627. College website: http://www.city.ac.uk. Part time courses leading to NVQ Level 2 and 3 in Sports Turf Maintenance and Decorative Horticulture. Also RHS General Diploma and Cert. Arboriculture and FEPA Spraying courses.

MYERSCROUGH COLLEGE, Bilsborrow, Preston, Lancashire PR5 6RP. Tel: 01772 620041, Fax: 01772 620042. Email: mail@myerscough.ac.uk, website: www.myerscough.ac.uk. Full time First Diploma Horticulture (Sports Turf Option) - 1 year. National Diploma Horticulture (Sports Turf Option) - 2 years. BTEC Higher National Diploma Golf Course Management - 3 years. Part time: HNC Golf Course Management with Open Learning, NVQ Levels 1-4 Greenkeeping with First Task options. IOG courses available. Short courses: FEPA, Chemical Safety, Site Management. Chainsaw, Off-Road Vehicle Driving, First Aid.

SHIPLEY COLLEGE, Saltaire, BD18 3JW. Tel: 01274 757222. Email: enquiries@shipley.ac.uk. Courses offered: NVQ Levels I, II, III and IV in Greenkeeping by Day Release. Also Pesticide Spraying (FEPA) and Chainsaw operation short courses available.


BROOMFIELD COLLEGE Morley, Ilkeston, Derby DE1 2SN. Contact: Central Admissions Tel: 01332 836600. NVQ Level I and II Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping) Block release course. Two years duration presented in 12 one-week blocks following guidelines of GTC Training Manual. NVQ Level III gained by 9 x 3 day blocks or day release or APL, service. Also available D1B, Pesticides, Chainsaw and First Aid training.

BROOMFIELD UNIVERSITY, School of Agriculture, Caythorpe Court, Caythorpe, Grantham, Lincs, NG32 2EP. Contact: Student Admissions. Tel: 01400 272521, Fax: 01400 272272. NVQ Level 3 and 3 Sports Turf Management. National Diploma in Horticulture. GNVQ Advanced Leisure and Recreation (Golf). Higher National Diploma in Golf and Leisure Management. HNC (Hons) Recreation Management (Golf pathway). FEPA short courses. Full residential facilities available. All courses are run at the Riseholme Campus, Lincoln.


BERKSHIRE COLLEGE Hall Place, Bunchetts Green, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 6QH. Tel: 01628 82444. Fax: 01628 82499. E-mail: enquiries@berks-col.ac.uk, website: www.berks-coll-ag.ac.uk. Full time courses: BTEC National Diploma Landscape Studies (Greenkeeping option), BTEC First Diploma New Entrant Horticulture (Greenkeeping option). City & Guilds National Certificate Horticulture (Greenkeeping & Sportsground Management). Part time courses: NVQ Level 3 Sports Turf Maintenance (block or day release). NVQ Level 2 Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Maintenance option). Institute of Groundsmanship Intermediate Diploma; plus various short courses, including Chainsaw, Brushcutter/Strimmer, RA1/RAD/RPA/F, etc.
A GUIDE TO THE COLLEGES AND COURSES AVAILABLE

EASTON COLLEGE Norfolk’s College of the Countryside. Sportsturf qualifications, Amenity Horticulture and Rural Resource Management. For details contact the registry on 01603 731200. Easton College, Easton, Norwich, Norfolk NR9 5DX Tel: 01603 731200 Fax: 01603 744136


MERRISTWOOD COLLEGE, Wokingham, Guildford, Surrey GU3 3PE. Contact D J Rhodes Tel: 01483 846003 Fax: 01483 846001. E-mail info@merrist-wood.ac.uk. Full time courses: Certificate in Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management. Further Education Programme available. NQV Level II Amenity Horticulture Level 2 and 3 in the work place - we come to you. Institute of Groundsmanship NRG national class, NQV Amenity Horticulture Sports Turf Maintenance Level 2, NQV Amenity Horticulture Sports Turf Maintenance Level 2 11 a.m. (afternoon, evening released). NQV Level IV Amenity Horticulture Horticulture class. HNC Turf Science (afternoon, evening released) Various short courses throughout the year. Please contact us for up-to-date dates and information.

NESCOT North East Surrey College of Technology, Reigate Road, Ewell, Epsom, Surrey KT17 3DS. Contact Dr S Shaw. Tel: 020 8394 3038 or email info@nescot.co.uk NQV Levels II, III and III in Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping options) Training and assessment for the Greenkeepers Training Manual. Part time, Day Release. Duration: Two years to Level II. FEPA Spraying Courses.


SPARSHOLT COLLEGE Sparsholt, Winchester, Hants SO21 2RF. Contact Ray Broughton. Tel: 01962 776441 NQV Level II Greenkeeping Practice. NQV Level II Greenkeeping Supervision, City & Guilds Phase IV in Horticulture Management Studies. National Diploma in Golf Course Management and Golf Studies. GTC: Greenkeeping, GTC Certificate in Golf Course Supervision, EPA Short courses. chainers. All courses Phase IV are offered on block release. Full residential facilities available. Sparsholt college provides education and training in the land-based industries.

The College of West Anglia offers a range of programmes for Greenkeepers including NQV Levels I, II and III.

Warren Farm Centre is the base for West Oxfordshire College’s education and training in Green Keeping, Sportsturf, Amenity Horticulture and allied land based courses for the whole of Oxfordshire. Courses include: NQV Levels 2 & 3 in Sportsturf Decorative Horticulture and Hard Landscape. We also offer a range of short courses for the industry including Health & Safety, pesticide training and chainsaw operation. For more information contact either Alan Brown or John Rees Tel: 01 695 351794 Fax: No 01695 360831.

Writtle College, Chalfont, Essex, CM1 3RF. Tel: 01245 420705 Fax: 01245 420856 SPORTSTURF PROGRAMMES (Contact - Stewart Brown) NQV Levels 2 and 3 in Sportsturf. Other Programmes: First Diploma, National Certificate. NQV Levels 2 and 3 Service Engineering. EPA Chainsaw, Tractor Driving.


Welsh College of Horticulture Cymru and Wales College of Horticulture Cymru Coleg Gwentnahrnith Cymru Coleg y Brenin. Contact the Registrar Tel 01332 841000 Email admin@wcoh.ac.uk website www.wcoh.ac.uk. NQV: NQV Amenity Horticulture Levels 1-4 (Sports Turf options). New this year, learning on the Net – NQV Level 3 FULL-TIME. NQV Level 4: Amenity Horticulture in Landscape Science (Turf Management option) in conjunction with the University of Glamorgan. PART TIME / DAY RELEASE: Higher National Certificate in Landscape Science (Turf Management Options) SHORT COURSES/FERR Chainsaw Technique and Maintenance, First aid, Health & Safety, ATV’s and TDLB assessor courses.


Greenmount College Easton College, Amery Hall, Oakford Southend, Oxfordshire OX8 5LW. Contact Darren Nunn Tel: 01608 550755 Fax: 01608 550666. Full time Level III Certificate in Golf Course Management, Level II Certificate in Groundsmanship. Further Education Programme also available.

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July 2000 Greenkeeper International 51
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ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

REQUSTED

APPLICANTS SHOULD POSSESS NVQ IN SPORTS TURF MAINTENANCE (OR EQUIVALENT) AND EXPERIENCED IN THE USE AND MAINTENANCE OF MODERN GOLF COURSE EQUIPMENT.

APPLICATIONS IN WRITING TO:

THE SECRETARY, NORTH OXFORD GOLF CLUB,
BANBURY ROAD, OXFORD OX2 8EZ

SLEAFORD GOLF CLUB

Invites applications for the post of

HEAD GREENKEEPER

We are seeking a fully qualified and experienced person with good management skills as well as an enthusiastic approach and the ability to motivate staff.

£££ SALARY NEGOTIABLE £££

For application form and information pack contact:

The Manager, Sleaford Golf Club, Wilsought Road, South Rauceby, Sleaford, Lincolnshire PE25 1DN

Closing date for completed applications: 14 August 2000

SURREY

Due to the exciting development plans incorporating our second new 18 hole course due to open in May 2001 we are now looking for the following persons:
ABRIDGE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

Requires an
Experienced Assistant Greenkeeper

To join our enthusiastic team at this mature parkland course.

Applicants should have a minimum of 2 years experience and have NVQ Level 2 or equivalent. Spraying certificates an advantage.

Please apply in writing with full CV to:
The Manager, Abridge Golf & Country Club,
Epping Lane, Stapleford Tawney, Essex RM4 1ST

FORHILLS IS A LITTLE LIKE HEAVEN, ALL OF US KNOW ABOUT IT, BUT ONLY A FEW WILL EVER GO THERE. GOLF MONTHLY

GREENKEEPER

THES ARE EXCITING TIMES. WE ARE BUILDING A NEW TEAM AROUND TWO EXPERIENCED YOUNG COURSE MANAGERS AND THREE CHAMPIONSHIP COURSES. OUR-STATE-OF-THE ART IRRIGATION SYSTEM GOES LIVE THIS MONTH AND THE CLUB HAS JUST ENJOYED ITS BUSIEST MONTH EVER. THERE IS JUST ONE VACANCY FOR THE RIGHT PERSON WITH NVQ, LEVEL 2, PA2 AND 6 QUALIFICATIONS, ENTHUSIASM AND STAMINA.

IF YOU WANT TO JOIN US, CALL SUE ALGAR FOR AN APPOINTMENT AND A COPY OF THE FOXHILLS BENEFITS BROCHURE.

Ottershaw, Surrey, KT16 0EL
www.foxhills.co.uk
01932 87 20 50

Applications are invited for the following positions

Deputy Head Greenkeeper

Assistant Greenkeeper

The successful applicants will possess the relevant experience and qualifications necessitated for the positions as well as a positive approach to further training and professional enhancement. Both positions provide ideal opportunities for career enhancement. The ability to play golf would be an advantage.

Full 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 19 July 2000

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At last I have had my first full game of golf this year. - 25 May at Buckpool Golf Club, the North Section Spring outing. While my golf left a lot to be desired the weather was okay with just a couple of showers and the company was excellent. My thanks to the North Section for a grand day.

The North Section Secretary is Dougal Daguid, Head Greenkeeper at Westhill Golf Club near Aberdeen and it was great to get the news last week that the court in Aberdeen had found in his favour in the case brought against him by a lady member (see story on page 12). She was struck in the eye by a ball, which ricocheted off a stone in the rough. The case has been going on for months and I hope Dougal can relax of golf this year.

I have been in (only looking, honest!) at Westhill Golf Club near Aberdeen over the long weekend with a skit on greenkeeping, which was excellent. My thanks to everyone concerned, including dancing girls. It is certainly a city on the up if all the new buildings and expensive shopping malls are a barometer of wealth. It also has the biggest casino in the Southern Hemisphere, Rialto Towers, its crowning glory. Many times during the season greens staff, at courses all over the country, will be out clearing water away to allow their Captain’s Prizes, Ladies’ Open, Club Championships, etc to play to a finish. To all you guys, I say well done, you also do a marvellous job.

Unfortunately it was winter-time and the weather was reminiscent of Britain in spring. However Melbourne is a lovely city with a marvellous skyline with the tallest building in the Southern Hemisphere, Rialto Towers, its crowning glory. It is certainly a city on the up if all the new buildings and expensive shopping malls are a barometer of wealth. It also has the biggest casino in the country, which was excellent. My thanks to everyone concerned, including dancing girls.

As always the weather is part of our every day lives especially greenkeepers. The green staff at both Sunningdale and Wentworth must have wondered what they had done to deserve the rain that they had for much of the month and I hope Dougal could have been mind boggling.

I have been at this year is how they have expected both events to be forestalled, but fantastic work by both sets of greenkeepers meant that both tournaments not only went the full distance but the courses were highly praised for their condition.

Well that certainly woke everyone up. It was an excellent week conference, trade show workshops all well attended and even on the last day there were still a large number listening to the closing speaker at 5.30pm. One of the most noticeable aspects of the entire overseas conferences etc I have been at this year is how they often have seminars or workshops on early in the morning and sometimes in the evening. Now Ken and Sam what about a 7am start and 7pm finish at Harrogate next year?

I was most impressed with the great thirst for knowledge most of the delegates showed in Melbourne. No matter a person’s title it is Head Greenkeeper, Course Manager, Superintendent we are all doing the same job and the principles of greenkeeping are the same all over the world.

I believe the contacts and communications we are making with all the greenkeepers’ associations around the world is important and hopefully I would like to see the day when we have exchange systems set up to allow greenkeepers to spend a few months in other countries extending their experience.

You think there are problems in this country with pests? At Anglesea Golf Club, near Geelong, they have a resident population of wild kangaroos. Now they are a lot bigger than rabbits and I can assure you. When I think about courses in Canada with bears, moose, deer and gree and America with alligators and other creatures, well Britain’s not such a bad place to work on a golf course after all.

Working on a golf course has its ups and downs and sometimes you are asked to do things you do not agree with, however when that happens remember this:

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**Survey Marker 750ml**

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Spot Marker 275ml
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- Industrial - to colour code products, marking of words or numbers.
- Forestry - to clearly indicate work to be done.

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Temporary Survey/Linemarker can be used on most surfaces where a temporary mark is required. The product utilises the innovative spray through nozzle cap for ease of use and is ideal for indicating areas of excavation, construction work and accident scene marking. To remove any applied product simply wash away with water using a stiff brush or allow to deteriorate naturally in wet weather. (Blue Diamond Detergents are available for stubborn areas).

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BD2  2 wheel applicator when manoeuvrability is critical.
BD3  4 wheel applicator - for increased accuracy particularly for straight lines.

Other applicators are available for specialist uses such as pitch lining Contact Blue Diamond for further information.
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- Spot Marker 275ml
- Temporary Marker 500ml
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average Joe 0.7 kg/cm² (10 psi)</td>
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