Call for help 1

I am writing to you in the hope that some of the readers of "Greenkeeper International" may be able to help me. I have been the Course Manager of Manchester Golf Club for the past five years, undertaking in that time several changes to the working practices of the club, and doing quite a lot of course improvements. During the past five years I have become very interested in the original layout of the course, original teeing grounds, bunkers and of course drains.

I have gained valuable information from some octogenarian members of the club and I have some fairly old maps, but this is not enough.

I need to find out more information on the course which was designed and built by the late, great, Harry Shapland Colt. I have searched the BIGGA for someone to contact remotely to Colt but to no avail. Would it be possible for you to print this letter as a request for information from any reader of the magazine to enable me to continue, and hopefully be successful in my quest for more knowledge about Manchester Golf Club and Harry Shapland Colt.

I can be reached by good old fashioned pen and paper at Hogwood Cottage, Rochdale Road, Middleton, Manchester M24 2QP, by mobile telephone on 0777 3056268 or via email at peter@peter@intertec.net.

Thank you in anticipation.

Peter Thomas, Course Manager, MGC.

Call for help 2

I have a question that perhaps someone could answer. A reader of ours has been seeking information about a Short-Cut brand greens mower which apparently is of British manufacture. He needs a part to make a repair, but cannot find any information about this mower manufacturer.

If you have any information, I would greatly appreciate your help. It is possible that this Q&A could be written up and published, in which case I will be happy to quote/quote/cite someone from your organisation. Thanks very much.

By the way, we enjoy receiving your magazine!

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Ordering of iseki spares causes frustration

What have you been doing in the last five weeks? It has been a busy time for us greenkeepers. (When is it not?)

Why the last five weeks, you ask? Well, my Toro Greensmaster 1000 had broken down, I wouldn't be able to mow my greens. Just imagine how long the grass would be? BUT it hasn't.

What if my top dressing or fertiliser hadn't been delivered on time and it was now five weeks late? I would not be able to improve my course to the standard I am looking for. Not top dressing and fertilising in time. How would my course look? BUT it hasn't happened.

I know that while any of my machinery is out of action, the jobs it was set to do are falling behind. In some cases this time window will have gone and we will not be able to do these vital tasks. The course will not be presented to the members as well as it can. OK so I have other machinery capable of cutting the semi-rough etc. which, considering the long wait we are enduring, is just as well. If your car broke down and the mechanic said 'Don't worry guvnor, I will have it fixed in five weeks or more' would you put up with that? No you would not.

When prospective buyers of an iseki machine make enquiries they should be made aware of the time it can take to get some spare parts. On some machinery some parts seem to be as rare as rocking horses... We are all professionals, but we need help from the manufacturers of turf grass machinery to prove this to the people who can judge us very harshly at times. We therefore need them to be professional too and supply parts as soon as they are needed.

If this were not so serious it would be funny!

Cedric Gough, Course Manager Broadway Golf Club
Tommy's Toro thanks

I would like to take this opportunity to thank TORO and BIGGA for the generous hospitality that I received on what was truly a trip of a lifetime to the USA. The whole experience exceeded all expectations that I had beforehand, and I was fortunate to meet up with so many friendly people whose contribution to the experience will not be forgotten.

I have learned many things while I was stateside, not only from the University course, but also about the culture and nature of our international friends. I also made a great friend of Gerry Mulvihill from Ballybunion Ireland, whom I believe will go far.

To any future entrants to the TORO competition, I would have to say try your best, and with a bit of luck on your side you will find that the trip is unbelievable.

Finally, I would like to thank my wife, Dawn, as she soldiered on with the kids and her job while I had all the fun. I missed her very much and it's nice to be home with my feet back on the ground.

Tommy Givnan, Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year, Bowring Park Municipal, Merseyside

Praise for Telegraph article

I agree completely with your comment "No news is bad news". The Telegraph article in question was held up aloft by the President of the WGU, Mike Cole, at the greenkeeping seminar held at the Welsh College of Horticulture on the very day it was published, I know there are unsubstantiated claims made, but that's journalists for you!

The article has been on our noticeboard ever since, alongside BIGGA's "The need for aeration" poster. Guess what? There hasn't been any comment.

Statement from Textron

Textron has carried out a thorough investigation into Cedric's missing part and followed the order from the time it was originally ordered by Abbey Mowers on his behalf to Japan and back.

"Abbey Mowers are free to source parts from any Textron dealer and in this instance selected Burrows (GM) Ltd," said Mark Poppleton, Textron's Part's Marketing Manager. "The part, for which there had only been two orders in the past three years, was then ordered on an emergency basis by Burrows through Textron to Japan and it took 13-15 days to get from Japan back to Burrows then on to Abbey Mowers and then finally back to Mr Gough," he explained. Subsequently Mark has met with Cedric to discuss the matter in greater depth and ensure an amicable conclusion.

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