Monster
FROM THE DEEP
The underground life of the Leatherjacket
THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE
The BTME 2001 event combines the National Education Conference - 'The Learning Experience' - sponsored by Textron Turf Care with the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition. The formal conference is supplemented with practical Greenkeeping workshops and a Seminar programme which means there is plenty of interest for all involved in the golf and fine turf industry from Master Greenkeepers to Assistant Greenkeepers.

The event attracts Golf Greenkeepers from all over the world, encouraging learning, debate and an exchange of ideas and experience. The programme is available to both BIGGA members and non-members, although members receive preferential rates. While the technical forums are primarily concerned with Golf Course maintenance and greening issues, many of the sessions are equally relevant to general turf maintenance and groundsman-ship, and would interest those working in other sportsturf sectors. The programme also has a keynote speaker and seminars which will be of particular interest for Chairmen of Green and Golf Club secretaries.

CONFERENCE
22nd and 23rd January 2001, Majestic Hotel, Harrogate Sessions include the following topics and speakers:
Growing
David Lawson, STRI; Dennis Mortram, Reaseheath; Dr. Paul Rieke, Michigan Univ
Human Resource Management
Frank Newberry, Duncan McGilvray, Potters Bar GC; Brin Bendon, Vector Training
Water Management
Graeme Francis, Hydroscape; Junier Brown, NRA; Kneale Diamond, Hanbury Manor GC
Environmental Management
Martin Gunn and Malcolm Peake, Temple GC; Rob Witherspoon, Guelph Turfgrass Institute Canada; Jonathan Smith, Scottish Wildlife Trust

Workshops run concurrently with the Conference sessions and include:
Basic Machinery Maintenance, Computer Skills, Golf Course Design and Grasses/Soil Science

SEMINARS
Wednesday 24 January 2001
Keynote speaker: Richard Noble of Thrust 2 World Landspeed Record fame
The Law and the Golf Club, Health & Safety, Golf and the Environment - the US experience, Erosion Control and Mulching
Thursday 25 January 2001

EXHIBITION
The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition has been held at Harrogate since 1989 and is the biggest indoor show of its kind in Europe. Over 6,000 visitors and more than 200 Turfcare Industry manufacturers and suppliers were present at last year's show, and there will be even more in 2001 with the addition of a new exhibition hall. The exhibition is open from 9.00am to 5.30pm Wednesday and Thursday and from 9.00am to 1.30pm on Friday.

BANQUET
The week's events are rounded off on the Thursday evening with a banquet in the Harrogate International Centre. Cabaret entertainment this year will be provided by 60's pop sensation 'The Searchers' and singer Susan Maughan.

24-26 JANUARY, 2001
EDUCATION PROGRAMME STARTS JANUARY 22
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The Fund provides the key to the future for greenkeepers, golf club head and game. Individuals and companies can join the Golden Key Circle and Silver Key Circle. For details, please contact BIGGA on 01347 833800

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Your next issue of Greenkeeper International will be with you by December 4, 2000

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Dustin Houghton, won the second Charterhouse/Scotts BIGGA National Golf Championship, and achieved the feat despite a damp second day
This old timer can still cut it!

A fully restored and working version of the world's oldest motor mower, a Ransomes 42" built in 1903, has been donated by Cadbury's World in Birmingham to The Hall and Duck Trust. It has been lovingly restored by Michael Duck, curator at the Solheim Cup. He and his team of volunteers have scoured vintage vehicle jumbles across the country sourcing parts to help in the restoration.

"The Hall and Duck Trust is one of those organisations that act as guardians of our heritage and I am particularly delighted that they have chosen to restore such a fine example of British craftsmanship," said Textron Marketing Director Neil Woodfin.

"It really is a testament to the work that the Trust undertakes and it looks quite magnificent."
New role for Peter at Lindum Plant Nutrition

Peter Cotton, has joined Lindum Plant Nutrition as the company's new Northern Sales Manager. Responsible for the area from Birmingham to the Scottish border, Peter, who started working in horticulture in 1969 and moved to the amenity turf sector in the late seventies, brings over twenty years experience of the industry to his new post.

"Having been around for many years, I am excited by the opportunities offered by the Lindum Plant Nutrition system," he says. Fresh from an intensive training course at the Hole Golf Greenkeeping Academy, Peter was keen to talk to golf course superintendents who are using the system, which has given me a whole new perspective. The industry needs a fresh approach to turf science, and Floratine are ten years ahead of us in their thinking. We know the concept is successful in America, the Far East and elsewhere in Europe, and I am looking forward to developing it in the UK."

Hayter bought by private investment company

Hayter, which has been a long time friend to BIGGA and known for the popular Hayter Challenges and Hayter International Cup Matches, has been sold to a private investment company.

The company with the dark green livery was part of the Murray Group which parent company Tomkins Pic sold to Summersong Investments Inc. Wayne G. Smith, President of Summersong, said that they intended to sell the Murray Group in developing strong global alliances in order to bring new products to its customers.

"Additional related acquisitions may be made by the group as well," he said.

The existing management team remains - headed by Managing Director, Tony Bourke, and Sales and Marketing Director, Kim Macfie - and does not envisage any immediate changes in commercial policy or customer relations as a consequence of the change of ownership.

"The sale process has been extended but ultimately we are satisfied with the conclusion. We look forward to working with our new colleagues who are obviously working with our new dealer partners, experienced over the last few years," said Tony Bourke.

Increased staffing levels with latest STRI appointments

Steve Bingell will be joining STRI's agronomy team this month. Working from his home base, Steve will be covering the Thames Valley as a Regional Turfgrass Agronomist.

Steve's previous experience within amenity horticulture ranges from research and education.

As Programme Area Manager for Horticulture at Berkshire College of Agriculture, Steve developed the Six Hole Golf Greenkeeping Academy, which is featured in the November issue of Greenkeeper International, in addition to managing a varied curriculum which included Greenkeeping, Design Management, Conservation, Soil Science and Amenity Horticulture.

Steve will bring additional skills and experience to the agronomy team which will assist in the future development of the STRI Advisory Service.

Additional staff have also been recruited to the STRI's construction team. Jonathan Smith has been appointed as Regional Construction Specialist and will be operating a regional STRI office in Cardiff in order to develop STRI's services in South Wales and the southwest.

Jonathan has considerable experience in soil management and has recently been involved with golf course construction projects. In 1992, he worked with Dr Bill Adams at Aberystwyth to complete a research project on "Physical and Chemical Properties of Rootzones in relation to Black Layer."

David Herronstock has also been recruited as Research Associate Consultant, working from the Midlands. David has many years experience in sportsturf drainage and construction, and, during recent years, in Golf Course Architecture, both in the UK and overseas.

New post for David at Barenbrug

David Linton has joined Barenbrug UK as the company's Area Manager for Northern Ireland and South-west Scotland. This is a newly created position, and David assumes responsibility for sales of both forage and amenity grasses within these areas.

Prior to joining Barenbrug, David, who lives in Northern Ireland, worked as an STRI seed distributor and so is already well known throughout the industry. He aims to increase Barenbrug's presence, particularly in the amenity sphere in Ulster, where the company sees tremendous potential for its purpose-bred varieties and mixtures.

David, who holds a National Diploma in Food Science & Technology, owns a small farm in Kilrea as a spare-time venture.

Richard Noble OBE (right) will deliver the keynote speech during BTME 2001, Europe's largest indoor fine turf exhibition.

Richard, driving Thrust 2, was holder of the World Land Speed Record from 1983 to 1997 reaching a speed of 468 mph then he founded a company aimed at producing the first ever supersonic land speed record. This was achieved in '97 when, driven by Andy Green, Thrust SSC reached a speed of 763.035 mph.

Preparations for the Show are well underway and visitors will be treated to an exciting and fulfilling experience whether they stay for a day or the entire week - Monday January 22 - Friday January 26.

As usual, the Learning Experience, in association with Textron, divides into two parts - the National Education Conference together with the accompanying workshops on the Monday and Tuesday followed by the Seminar Programme which runs in conjunction with the show itself.

The recently opened Hall M will join Halls A, B, C and Q in housing the 180+ stands with a significant number of exhibitors showing for the first time - including Ferr House Marketing Ltd, DGT Volmatic A/S, of Denmark; Aztec Chemicals and Rousseau Equipment Ltd. The added space available through the introduction of Hall M has enabled several companies including Toro, John Deere, Rigby Taylor and Amenity Technology to increase the size of their stands markedly to enable them to show even more of their product to visitors.

Themes for the Education Conference include Growing; Human Resource Management; Water Management; and Environmental Management while - in addition to Richard Noble - the speakers to be enjoyed during the course of the week will be Dr Paul Rieke, Professor Emeritus at Michigan State University; Dr Kimberly Erusha, Director of Education for the USGA; Canadian Superintendent, Dean Piller; Australian Superintendent, Peter Schumacher, and Eddie Adams, Head Greenkeeper of the Old Course, St Andrews. Richard Noble's speech will take place in the Royal Hall on Wednesday, January 24, at 10.45am.

World's fastest visits Europe's biggest
Two more books have arrived at BIGGA HOUSE that may interest some of our readers.

Practical Drainage for Golf, Sports turf and Horticulture by Keith McIntyre and Bent Jakobsen
Published by Ann Arbor Press ISBN 1 57504-139-1

Keith McIntyre, who is based in Canberra, Australia, has 34 years of experience in horticulture and sports turf specialising in sportsground construction, soils and drainage. Bent Jakobsen has spent much of his working life working on soil compaction and particle movement. More recently, Bent worked with Keith on soil and drainage problems.

The two authors have used their knowledge and experience to put together an easy to follow text book on drainage which contains chapters on soil structure and water retention through to subsoil and surface drainage. All units are shown in both metric and imperial measures, key points highlighted in bold print.

Although some theory is included, the authors have attempted to keep definitions simple and at the correct level for practitioners, although some theorists may argue about some of their definitions.

An enlightening chapter on Perched Water Tables gives an insight on what can go wrong and this is followed up in a later section with information on the USGA Recommendations. Written by practitioners for practitioners this book would solve many of the problems and answers most questions that greenkeepers encounter.

The second book is for those greenkeepers who are interested in new grass species and are concerned with the changes that the 21st century may bring to the fine turf industries.

Seashore Paspalum: The environmental Turfgrass by R R Duncan and R N Carrow

Both authors are Professors within the Turfgrass department of the University of Georgia, Griffin, where they have been concerned with the breeding and growing of new cultivars that are resistant to stress.

Although of limited use to greenkeepers in Britain, the book aims to establish a precedent by offering turf grass managers a four pronged approach to growing new cultivars.

This book concentrates on Seashore Paspalum and contains:
- A description and background information
- Environmental tolerance.
- Management practices
- Using alternative water resources

A fairly complex book for most readers, but it does give a useful insight into what is becoming available now and what may become available soon to help greenkeepers in their quest to plant, grow and maintain turf grass when it is under stress.

Top IoH award for Robert

Independent turf consultant and agronomist, Robert Laycock, (right) has been elected a Fellow of the Institute of Horticulture (IoH).

The honour comes in recognition of the high level of distinction achieved within the turf profession by Robert during a 25-year career working with turf growers, golf greenkeepers, groundsman and other turf professionals.

Following his election, Robert Laycock becomes the only Fellow of the IoH who is also an active turf agronomist. He is the first turf specialist to be made a Fellow since Dr Peter Hayes and the late John Shildrick, both of the Sports Turf Research Institute, were elected Fellows.

"I am very proud and deeply honoured to have been made a Fellow of the Institute of Horticulture," commented Robert.

"Very few turf specialists have received this accolade which is made on the recommendation of the Institute before being approved by individual members. The honour reflects the growing status and importance of the turf profession within the horticultural industry."

New aquisition for Charterhouse

Redexim Charterhouse has added to the company portfolio with the acquisition of Pro-Seed Equipment Ltd.

This acquisition was made by Charterhouse Turf Machinery's parent company in Holland, whose strategy is to grow by gaining strength in niche market areas within the turf industry.

The products manufactured by Pro-Seed will complement Redexim Charterhouses' existing range and benefit from their world-wide distribution. Ken Knowles, Managing Director of Pro-Seed Equipment said that he was delighted that several months of negotiations had come to a successful conclusion and that his whole Company would now receive the benefits which flow from being part of a larger group. He himself would continue working in conjunction with the group's Engineering Department which is based in Holland.

Links Manager appointed at The Trust

Former Scottish National Chairman and National Board Member, Gordon Moodie, has been appointed Links Manager at the St Andrews Links Trust following the tragic death of Ian Forbes in September.

Gordon, (right) has worked for the Links Trust for nine years. He joined in 1991 as Head Greenkeeper of the Eden Course from Fraserburgh Golf Club. He then added the management of the nine hole Balgove Course and in 1996 also became responsible for running the newly-opened Eden Greenkeeping Centre.

As Links Manager, he will have responsibility for the greenkeeping squads covering all six courses, property maintenance, stores and engineering workshops – over 60 employees in total. He will also oversee the instigation and future maintenance of the irrigation system.

"I am delighted that the Trust has been able to fill this senior position by internal promotion. This confirms the rising quality of the Trust's staff at all levels. Under Gordon's management the condition of the Eden Course has improved substantially and I am convinced he will make a major contribution to the management of the Links," said Alan McGregor, general manager of St Andrews Links Trust.

Originally from Fraserburgh, Gordon served his greenkeeping apprenticeship at Fraserburgh Golf Club and completed his training at Elmwood College.

A keen golfer, he plays off 6. Married with three children, he lives in St Andrews and is past Chairman of St Andrews Round Table.

Mike Olver passes away

Mike Olver, of Olver Seeds and Suxdries, and a regular attendee at Devon and Cornwall Section events has died after a short illness.

"Mike supported the Section for many years and we are all saddened by his passing. Our condolences go to his family," said Devon and Cornwall Section Secretary, Richard Whyman.

Canadian Awards

Jim Wolfe has been awarded the John B Steel Award for distinguished service and will be presented with the award at the CGSA Canadian International Turfgrass Conference and Show in Vancouver next year.

He will be joined by James Brown, who has been voted the CGSA's 2000 Superintendent of the Year.

The Conference and Show will be held in the Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre on February 24-27, 2001.
A true International feel to Association

In recent editions of ‘Greenkeeper’ we have noticed that you have been mentioning international members more and more, so we thought that it was long overdue that we introduced ourselves as two of probably very few members currently working in Nigeria.

The golf course is an 18 Hole Championship course situated in the new capital Abuja. It has been named IBB Golf and Country Club, named after the former president Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida (IBB), who initiated the idea. The course was opened in 1984 and since then it has developed into a very challenging and beautiful course, which could easily be compared to any of the better courses in the hotter parts of Europe or America. The course also serves as a nature reserve providing a home for many types of tropical wildlife including crocodiles and dangerous snakes (so be careful in the rough).

The greens are 100% Tifdwarf which after several attempts was found to be the most appropriate grass to suit the conditions found in this part of the world, as such extreme temperatures which can reach 40°C coupled with six months of drought and six months of heavy rain. The fairways and tees are made up of native grasses such as Kikoi and common Bermuda, which generally provide a good playing surface.

At present we have a staff of 45 but not all are working on the course. We have four mechanics, storekeeper, timekeeper and cleaners. During the rainy season the remaining staff spend 90% of their 10 hour day just keeping up with the course cutting on this 101 hectare site, bearing in mind that the grass here grows at 21°C so it’s like growing your grass five times the normal rate. Found in a pair of snorts, tee shirt and sunglasses. Yes we can remember that wet and cold February morning huddled together in the shed thinking of the summer months which seem a lifetime away.

Our machinery is made of 95% Textron equipment and the remaining 5% being the Kubota compact tractor range. These machines have proved very reliable in these conditions, although we are forever changing rubber components such as hydraulic hoses and tyres. This is due to the constant exposure to extreme heat and sunlight which softens the rubber, causing it to wear prematurely. We would normally change the tyres on the drive wheels every four weeks, so as you can imagine, with over 100 tyres on the course daily we get through quite a few.

We enjoyed reading a letter from one of your readers in which he complained about waiting 33 days for spare parts for an Iski tractor. As I’m sure you realise we do not have the luxury of a local dealer so everything is shipped in from Europe. The normal delivery time (without expensive air freight charges) is three months. We keep a large stock which probably compares to a small dealer's stock but sometimes we do get caught short - for example, an engine for one of our 15 ton mowers developed a major fault which required a new engine. It was ordered in January 2000 and after shipping and customs problems did not arrive at the golf course until seven months later. A long time to be without such an important machine but as with all greenkeepers we just have to find a way to manage this kind of situation and still present our course in the best possible condition no matter what. We all know excuses do not make any difference when the chairman of the greens committee is stuck in the rough up to his waist on the 18th hole and, as a result, loses the monthly medal by one shot.

On saying that, it’s not a bad job really turning up for work every day in a pair of shorts, tee shirt and sunglasses. Yes we can remember that wet and cold February morning huddled together in the shed thinking of the summer months which seem a lifetime away.

On a final note we hope you enjoyed a look into greenkeeping in Africa. We could go on to tell you about greens disappearing overnight due to insect attack and the problems of filling the accident book after scorpion and mamba bites, but instead would like to thank BIGGA for its splendid publication which brings us a much needed look at what’s going on in Europe every month.

Robert Bell and Paul Evans  
Golf Course Superintendents,  
IBB Golf & Country Club,  
Abuja, Nigeria

Sad passing of Fred Hawtree

BIGGA Honorary Member, Fred Hawtree, has died after a long illness. Fred, a world renowned golf course architect, was presented with his Honorary Membership certificate at his home in Oxfordshire by his long- time friend and then BIGGA Chairman, Gordon Child, last year. Gordon will write his own tribute to Fred in next month’s magazine.

Drainage Seminar

A Sports Turf Drainage Seminar will be held at Newbury Racecourse on November 16. Further details can be obtained from the Land Drainage Contractors Association Tel: 01327 263264 Fax: 01327 263264.

Positive feedback after Deere trip

Alan Sampson, of Wortley Golf Club, reports on the latest John Deere Feedback trip

In September, approximately 90 people from the UK, mainly greenkeepers and sales representatives, travelled to Moline in the US to visit John Deere headquarters. This is the first of what we hope will be a regular series of feedback visits to US equipment manufacturers, with the intention of learning more about the American way of doing things and to improve our own equipment and services. The trip was arranged by BIGGA, who have a close relationship with John Deere, for which we are very grateful.

The trip was launched at our very own BTME show in January 2000 and after shipping and customs problems did not arrive at the golf course until seven months later. A long time to be without such important equipment but as with all greenkeepers we just have to find a way to manage this kind of situation and still present our course in the best possible condition no matter what. We all know excuses do not make any difference when the chairman of the greens committee is stuck in the rough up to his waist on the 18th hole and, as a result, loses the monthly medal by one shot.

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Robert Bell and Paul Evans  
Golf Course Superintendents,  
IBB Golf & Country Club,  
Abuja, Nigeria

Royal Inverdavit GC...  
by Tony Husband

Be careful changing the greens, they're very soft
Praise for Sandy McDivot

Congratulations on continuing to turn out a first class magazine for BIGGA in Greenkeeper International. The article I enjoy and deserves much credit is Sandy McDivot - very humorous with a lovely sting in the tail.

Keep up the good work and regards to all my greenkeeping friends.

John Nudds, Retired Course Manager, Gerrards Cross GC, Now Hunstanton, Norfolk

Retirement thanks from Allan Stow

Yes, it is true, I have retired after over 35 years working for Synch地貌l/Chemicals/Vitax. I have covered, at some time, most of the British Isles and have driven over a million miles. I have met so many greenkeepers and groundsmen over the years and would like to say thank you to you all for making my job so enjoyable. Also a big thank you to all at BIGGA and members of the trade.

Thank you and farewell, Allan Stow, Farnham PS Don't let the golfers get you down!

Chris Yeaman Jnr

I want to thank you all for the money you raised for me after my transplant in April this year. I have put the money into my building society so that I can use it to go to Butch Harmon's Golfing Academy in Portugal next summer with my mum, dad and sister. I'm hoping to be the next Tiger Woods, and a week's tuition at the Academy should hopefully send me on my way.

Once again thank you very much for the money. I'll send photographs of my time there next year.

Christopher Yeaman Junior
West Linton GC

Friendly advice not taken on board

I feel compelled to write this letter in response to the article "Friendly Advice" by Sandy McDivot, in the August 2000, edition of Greenkeeper International. On reading the article I was utterly astonished at the attitude that was being taken by the author and the way in which he encouraged other BIGGA members to adopt his principles. In my view BIGGA is an Association that promotes professionalism and the way in which it has encouraged this along with its members in recent times is to be admired.

In my opinion if members of your golf course are not repairing the damage they cause, they should be told in a courteous manner that it would be beneficial to the overall condition of the course if they replaced their divots and repaired their pitch marts on the greens. After all this is basic etiquette that should be followed while playing a round of golf.

To turn a blind eye to this type of behaviour is the worst thing that anyone can do. If you can get the more prominent members to follow these rules then they themselves do will the work for you. After all this type of person thrives on telling other people that they know best.

I agree that all greenkeepers should strive for good relations with their membership, but never lose sight of the fact that you work long hard hours to produce a good golf course for them and to resort to area licking means you lose your self respect and the respect of your employers.

I believe that it is time Mr Sandy McDivot revealed his true identity - so we can see just who is responsible for this ridiculous feature, because I am pretty sure that he is talking (in his own words) out of the final component of his elementary canal.

I am more than happy to leave my real name and address and I look forward to any response that Mr McDivot has to my comments.

A J Mannion, Deputy Course Manager, Southerndown Golf Club, South Wales

'Sales ploy' defended by seed company

I am writing in response to the 'Talking Heads' article in the September 2000 issue of Greenkeeper International where your panel of greenkeepers debated the pros and cons of overseeding.

As Technical Manager for Amenity Grasses at Advanta Seeds, I feel I must defend the statement that this practice is merely "a sales ploy invented by seed companies".

The life of any particular sward is neither static nor infinite, and eventually some of the species will need replacing with better, healthier plants. We are investing heavily in developing new amenity cultivars, which will make golf course management easier. We understand the increasing pressures that greenkeepers face, and are working hard to produce new varieties that will cope with greater use, but which need less physical and chemical inputs.

For example, we are developing varieties where the speed of regrowth has been reduced, so that in future, greenkeepers won't have to mow the grass so often. Twenty years ago, our breeders made disease resistance a top priority, and varieties coming out of the breeding programme now show very good resistance to diseases like red thread.

In some situations, tees and fairways will benefit from the introduction of the new strains of fineleaved ryegrasses, which have been specifically bred for golf course use. They offer benefits such as high wear tolerance, rapid establishment and good root development, and produce a dense, disease free and clean cutting turf.

Your contributors displayed a wide range of expectations with regards to germination - which makes me wonder whether some were not confusing this with establishment. All seed sold in the UK is subject to strict regulation concerning germination potential and purity. All Advanta seed sold exceeds the Higher Voluntary Standards set by the EC.

Sward preparation prior to overseeding, and subsequent management will influence establishment considerably. This is particularly true when using mixtures with bentgrass in them because the seed is so small. But if managed correctly it will drop down below mowing height, especially if sown after verticutting.

Finally I would always advise using a mixture of cultivars. We take considerable efforts to formulate mixtures that are right for each particular situation. In mixture trials we started in the UK two years ago, we have already seen dramatic differences. In terms of shoot density, tolerance to close mowing, cleanliness of cut and disease resistance, mixtures out-perform individual cultivars every time.

David Rhodes, Amenity Grass Development Manager, Advanta Seeds UK

Dustin’s thanks after National Championship win

After a fantastic few days golf at Lytham St Annes playing two of the best courses I have had the pleasure of playing, I felt I just had to write to you to express my feelings now that it has sunk in what I have managed to do. I was so very shocked when I was announced the winner and it just all seemed as if I was in a dream. That was first time that I found myself lost for words but I wanted to say so much.

The two days golf were on two courses that were very well presented, and in excellent condition that suited my golf to a tee. The accommodation provided was also very good and the food fantastic, what more could we ask for, everything was so well planned and all seemed to go very smoothly. This event would not have taken place had it not been for the kind sponsorship from Charterhouse and Scotts who provided some lovely prizes and just made the event the success it was. Of course I would also like to thank the good people behind the scenes at BIGGA who have obviously put a lot of time and effort into the championship to allow the competition to go off without a hitch and make it the success it was.

I am sure that I speak for all who attended this Championship when I say thank you for the enjoyment had by all. This was a great experience to meet other Greenkeepers from around the country, and to play some good golf on great courses.

I look forward to playing in future events. Keep up the great work at BIGGA.

Dustin Houghton
Winner The Charterhouse/Scotts National Championship

Address your letters to the Editor, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Aine, York YO61 1UF. You can also fax them to 01347 833801, or email them to reception@bigga.co.uk
Twice the control from one tank

Now your two favourite turf pest products carry a full label recommendation for tank mixing to make your armoury twice as effective.

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- Super-concentrated for rapid control of leatherjackets and frit fly at a dose rate of just 1.5L/ha
- Safe for use on any turf type
Geoff Yelland takes an in depth look at one of greenkeeping's potential nightmares: The Leatherjacket

Under the surface of fine turf at this time of year lurks a voracious feeding machine with an appetite to match jaws – and right now it could be attacking the roots of your turf!

Leatherjacket activity is one of the biggest threats to fine turfgrass through the winter and early spring period, and while damage visible on the surface is often attributed to other factors such as drought and stress, leatherjackets – underground and out of sight – are the real enemy.

The problem is that although leatherjackets are feeding now, the signs of damage will not be obvious until the spring.

The first visible signs of activity are straw-coloured patches of turf which happen when roots are damaged by leatherjackets feeding on the roots. Soon after this the patches become bare and are invaded by weeds.

Leatherjackets are rather like great white sharks – superbly designed eating machines!

Magnified photos give a pretty good clue to the reason for their voracious feeding habits – their extremely large biting mouthparts mean they can easily chew and sever roots and stem bases. That's why what looks like stressed or drought-hit turf on the surface can often be hiding a more serious problem.

The key to effective treatment is a sound understanding of the crane fly’s life cycle.

A closer look at this will help turf managers match insecticide application timing to the more susceptible immature larval stage of the pest.

Leatherjackets are the larvae of the crane fly (Tipula paludosa), or daddy longlegs, and undergo complete metamorphosis through four distinct phases: adult (crane fly), egg, larvae (leatherjacket) and pupae. Each adult crane fly lays 300-400 eggs just below the surface of the soil between late July and early September.

The leatherjackets emerge two to three weeks later and begin feeding on grass roots, which continues until the following June when they pupate.

The adults then begin to emerge again from late July to complete the life cycle. The problem at this time of year is that leatherjackets consume large amounts of plant material and quickly build up their food reserves during the autumn and early spring. Infestation and damage in the spring can be particularly severe if the autumn and winter are mild and moist as they can continue feeding throughout this period. And of course, turfgrass growth has slowed at this time of year, so it cannot compensate for the damage caused.

A well-planned integrated pest management approach can be extremely effective at keeping leatherjacket numbers down – but timing of every process is crucial for good results.

Cultural operations, particularly spiking or slitting to improve turf aeration and reduce excess surface moisture, are the key to creating an adverse environment for the pest. Leatherjackets thrive in a warm, moist environment, but cannot tolerate dry conditions, and a freely draining, aerated sward in the autumn will help ensure that populations surviving through to the spring feeding period are minimised. Of course, the benefits of good aeration are twofold, as it also helps prevent fusarium development.

A combination of these operations and the use of a proven insecticide will give effective control if timing is carefully planned. Aeration reduces the moist turf conditions in which leatherjackets thrive, while the contact, ingestion and vapour action of the insecticide gives a high level of control.

With lower temperatures during the early winter period, leatherjackets tend to move further down the soil profile to avoid the cold turf surface, and will only actively feed when temperatures are greater than 60C. For this reason, it's not advisable to apply pesticide during periods of prolonged frosty weather as the leatherjackets will be too deep within the soil to come into contact with the insecticide.

This is why treatments should ideally take place in the autumn or early spring. Attacks in the spring are often more serious, as the leatherjackets are approaching maturity and are more active, inflicting severe injuries to root systems and stem bases, so it's advisable to treat for leatherjacket infestations sooner rather than later.

Careful monitoring of leatherjacket populations and environmental conditions at this time of year is an important part of integrated pest control.

Keeping a record of signs of activity such as the number of crane fly seen on the wing during the late July to early September period and the feeding activity of birds on turf can be good pointers to the likely leatherjacket populations for the year. And that will give greenkeepers a head start over the eating machines.

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This month, Tracey Maddison, BIGGA's Membership Services Officer, welcomes over 90 new members to the Association, and gives some important renewal information.

Renew your membership for increased benefits!

In September, over 90 new members joined BIGGA and became part of the largest greenkeeping association in Europe. Membership has grown in strength and now boasts almost 7,200 members. If your expiry date is 31 December 2000, your renewal pack will be with you this month. Read it! It contains important information on improvements to your benefits.

Watch out for your renewal envelope dropping through your letterbox later this month.

New benefits for members for 2001 include a health care scheme. You can choose a plan that best suits your lifestyle, you elect to pay a weekly or monthly sum to cover you for the cost of minor medical treatments not normally covered by the NHS. In this way you will always have the funds to pay for dental treatment, glasses or contact lenses, physiotherapy and a whole host of other treatments including consultation by a specialist. By ensuring that you have the funds you can ensure that you have the treatment when you most need it as opposed to when you can afford it.

Be a BIGGA winner!

Also, in your renewal pack will be two yellow application forms, pass them on to your greenkeeping colleagues, who are not already members, and encourage them to become part of BIGGA. Each month, if you introduce one new member, your name will be placed into a draw to win £50 worth of vouchers to spend in a popular high street store.

Watch out for December's Membership Update for details on another exciting new membership benefit.

BIGGA welcomes...

- Scottish Region
  - Steven J. Arnott, Ayrshire
  - Craig Davidson, East
  - Graeme Davidson, East
  - Logan J. Ferguson, East
  - William Fulton, Ayrshire
  - Kevin A. Nelson, East
  - Ian E. Nelson, East
  - Steven W. Ainsworth, Ayrshire

- Northern Region
  - Richard Allen, N West
  - Matthew J. Blemmer, Northern
  - Anthony C. Can, N East
  - Peter L. Cottle, N West
  - Grant Douglas, N West
  - Steven H. Johnson, N West
  - Andrew D. Ellis, Northern
  - John F. T. Evans, N West
  - John Greaves, N West
  - Ewen Mowat, N West
  - Michael Rogers, Northern
  - Andrew W. Stilgher, Northern
  - Tony Smith, N West
  - Richard O. Wilson, N West

- Midlands Region
  - Andrew Sealey, Midland
  - Philly Clowes, BBBO
  - Peter Hoths, Mid Anglia
  - Deiyna Hopkiss, Midland
  - Martin Hutchin, Mid Anglia
  - Michael L. Latarch, Mid Anglia
  - Darren J. Lyme, Mid Anglia
  - Antony P. Rudiger, Midland
  - Adrian Sartori, Midland
  - Robert Setton, Mid Anglia
  - Graeme W. Shinnerman, Midlands
  - Stefan J. Timmerman, East
  - Julian Christopher, N West
  - Yemmel, N West

- South East Region
  - Paul M. I. Batman, Surrey
  - David T. Badham, London
  - David Braden, Essex
  - Jason J. Bradbury, Surrey
  - Steve Brennan, London
  - Peter J. Brookes, Surrey
  - Mark D. Couch, Surrey
  - Tim Delafosse, Sussex
  - Andrew Duffy, Sussex
  - Myreinda J. Field, Surrey
  - Neil Gigden, London
  - Chris Guy, East Anglia
  - Nicholas G. Guy, East Anglia
  - Richard P. Henry, Essex
  - Richard J. Haywood, London
  - Robert J. Kemp, London
  - Michael G. Kyriacou, London
  - Gary Leggett, Sussex
  - Robert J. Sharpe, Essex
  - Matthew Short, Surrey

- Barry J. Smith, Surrey
- Rob S. Thompson, London
- Kevin Wetheram, London
- Michael Wileing, E Anglia
- S. W. S. Wales Region
- Andrew J. Brown, S Coast
- Graham C. Butchard, Devon & Cornwall
- Ryan J. Church, S Coast
- Danny P. Coxon, S Coast
- Matthew O. Drifft, S Wales
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Fueling the economy?

Legislation, pressure groups and technology, not to mention the recent fuel crisis that affected the UK and some parts of mainland Europe, are just some of the factors driving research and development into the use of alternative fuels. Before looking at how alternative fuels will impact upon the golf course, it is perhaps pertinent to look at some of the influences that will affect their use over the next decade.

A recent report by Dr. Peter Harrap, entitled Electric Vehicle Markets, Players and Forecasts, provides a fascinating insight into the predicted growth of various markets up to the year 2010. This report and other factors, such as the commitments from the authorities in Paris to have low or zero emissions for many new delivery vehicles in the French capital by the end of 2001 and London's mayor, Ken Livingstone, pressing for a fleet of electric vehicles in the French capital by the end of 2001 and London's mayor, Ken Livingstone, pressing for a fleet of electric vehicles, illustrates the momentum gathering for alternative fuels.

Below: The ST350 Workhorse proves that LPG can now be used successfully to power smaller, air-cooled engines, ideal for golf course utility vehicles

Dr. Harrap’s report states that the global market for electric vehicles was US$14.02 billion in 1999 and will grow by 11% by the end of 2000 to US$15.5 billion, representing a total of 7 million electric vehicles in use worldwide. In the next decade he predicts that the global market for electric vehicles, including manufacture and aftersales, is expected to exceed US$48.3 billion. So, from these basic statistics and the undoubted pressure that will come from governments to reduce emissions, together with advances in battery technology, we can see that one of the major sources of alternative fuel for vehicles will be electric power.

How will this affect golf course operations here in the UK?

At present the main use of electric vehicles is restricted to golf cars and utility vehicles and here in the UK the split between petrol and electric is 60% and 40% respectively. However, in Europe, the trend is very much the other way with 76% electric and 24% petrol. In America they have embraced the use of electric power and there we see a 62%-38% split in favour of the electric buggy over its petrol driven cousin.

So why is there this disparity as we cross the English Channel and the Atlantic?

In the United States, they believe that the electric golf car offers better efficiency and more flexibility than the petrol-driven version. For example, the electric-powered E-Z-GO TXT golf car with Precision Drive System (PDS) allows course operators to specify a golf car with very specific performance characteristics, optimised to suit the topography of their individual courses. This golf car is now available with three options - All Terrain, Mild Hill and Steep Hill, and can be programmed to ensure optimum efficiency relative to the design of the course.

From an economic standpoint, the electric golf car has added benefits. The solid-state technology of the drive system and high efficiency of the electric drive motor reduces maintenance costs over the lifespan of the vehicle. Improved battery technology means that batteries now have a minimum lifespan of at least three years. And then there’s the fuel storage problem. Ideally, petrol should be stored in underground tanks and although at present some clubs turn a blind eye to this HSE requirement, the laws governing storage are bound to be strengthened and enforced more enthusiastically in the future. In terms of security, petrol can be stolen, whereas electricity is pilfer-proof.

Looking at the comparative running costs of petrol versus electricity for golf cars, it makes interesting reading. The figures given below have taken into consideration that overnight electricity charges can vary between £0.30p and £0.70p depending on the tariff and that a golf car requires an average of 6kW hours of electricity. The petrol figures are based on a golf car using between 0.3 and 1 litre per round. However, it is pertinent to recall that this HSE requirement, the laws governing storage are bound to be strengthened and enforced more enthusiastically in the future. In terms of security, petrol can be stolen, whereas electricity is pilfer-proof.

With the recent fuel crisis now behind us, but only perhaps for the time being, Richard Comely, Product Manager at Textron’s Specialty Products division, looks at the case for alternative fuels for golf course applications

Legislation, pressure groups and technology, not to mention the recent fuel crisis that affected the UK and some parts of mainland Europe, are just some of the factors driving research and development into the use of alternative fuels. Before looking at how alternative fuels will impact upon the golf course, it is perhaps pertinent to look at some of the influences that will affect their use over the next decade.

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Above: Advanced technology allows course operators to specify a golf car with very specific performance characteristics, optimised to suit the topography of their individual courses

machines that we currently operate and these three additional units will be deployed at The Hertfordshire, Addington Court and Sunbury which all have residential properties close by.

I must admit that I had reservations initially, but they have exceeded all our expectations. Battery life is good, giving us a very acceptable operational range, and when it comes to maintenance there’s no oil filters, oil changes and absolutely no question of accidental hydraulic oil leaks onto the greens.

Having looked at golf cars and mowers, what other golf course applications lend themselves to electric power? Textron have recently adapted their E-Z-GO Industrial 875 platform to take a series of alternative body derivatives. The platform model now offers the option of a Chelsea refuse collection tipping body, a tipping litter cage for the collection of refuse sacks or a water bowser complete with lance and 12 volt pumps for watering hanging baskets - all could be adapted for use on tomorrow’s golf course.

However, it’s not just electric power that provides an alternative to petrol and diesel. LPG technology has been around for many years mostly for use in industrial applications, i.e. powering forklift trucks in warehousing and logistic operations. Also, car manufacturers such as Volvo have introduced bi-fuel powered vehicles that can run on LPG, then switch to conventional fuel if the need arises.

At Saltex this September, Textron introduced an LPG conversion kit for their popular ST350 utility vehicle, which is powered by an 1 lhp, 350cc twin cylinder, four-stroke petrol engine.

For many years LPG has not proved popular when used on small, air-cooled engines, the cost of the installation often outweighing the savings to be made in fuel. As petrol prices continue to rise LPG is becoming a viable alternative even in relatively low cost vehicles such as golf cars.

Using LPG results in greatly reduced emissions, the fuel is cleaner and safer to use, the period between oil changes can be increased as less carbon is produced in the combustion cycle and the fuel can be stored in bulk tanks above ground, unlike petrol, and it is unlikely to be a target of pilfering.

LPG will appeal to many golf courses that are not on mains gas and already use this fuel for heating and cooking. When purchased in bulk it can be very cost effective and, like red diesel, taxation is lower for off road use offering further significant savings. These LPG conversion kits are also available for E-Z-GO Workhorse utility vehicles and the petrol-driven TXT golf cars.

Calor Gas has produced some interesting comparative figures for petrol and LPG powered golf carts. In order to provide an accurate comparison the calorific value of LPG has to be taken into account and 10% extra LPG consumption is included in the figures to account for this factor. Also the costs exclude VAT, as most clubs will be VAT registered and claim the tax back.

Using LPG can provide a very acceptable operational range, and when it comes to maintenance there’s no oil filters, oil changes and absolutely no question of accidental hydraulic oil leaks onto the greens.

Although the recent fuel crisis has highlighted our dependence on petrol-powered products, Textron has been researching and developing turf maintenance equipment that runs successfully on alternative fuels. High levels of excise duty, tougher regulations on emissions, stricter environmental laws and greener purchasing policies by multi-national organisations will all ensure that the quest for alternative fuels remains on the political agenda. It is an issue that golf course management will ignore at their peril and, most probably, to their cost.

*Electric Vehicle Markets, Players and Forecasts is written by Dr Peter Harrap and published by Footnote Publications. Tel: 01256 862163
Web-tastic!

The December edition of Greenkeeper International will be introducing a new-look Web page. Included will be editorial on new and interesting web sites to browse within the industry. There will also be a classified Web listing where you can advertise your product, service or golf club.

For advertising details please call Diane, Cheryl or Meredith on: 01347 833800 or Fax: 01347 833802 or email: sales@bigga.co.uk

Rates from £40 for 2cms x 1 column (minimum 3 insertions)
Terry Crawford manages the only inland 36 hole development in Northern Ireland and, as Scott MacCallum found out, he has some interesting views on greenkeeping...

Terry Crawford stands on the balcony of Clandeboye’s imposing modern clubhouse surveying his latest project - the Millennium Putting Green which was due to be opened officially on the upcoming Captain’s Day.

“I suggested a putting green for the area in front of the clubhouse and the Council agreed that I should put a small one in... but everything has to be big with me,” said Terry, with a smile.

“I’ve given them three different characteristics. A links area so you can practice breaking putts, another which is typical Clandeboye with a lot of subtle breaks and then an area which is completely flat,” he explained, at once showing that a greenkeeper who possesses golfing knowledge can be a real asset in so many ways.

Now a 36 hole development, just a few miles from Belfast, the Duffern and Ava courses offer differing challenges to member and visitor alike but Clandeboye was originally an 18 holer with nine coming for each of the present two 18s and was built 20 years ago for the princely sum of £33,000.

The Duffern is more manicured and takes up a greater expanse of ground while the Ava is more heathland and much more rugged.

“We’ve been ranked highly in inland course categories but with so many multi-million pound developments in Ireland we have had to work hard to...
Above: The results of some of the alterations made to the course recently

Far right: One of Clandeboye’s excellent greens and aprons

Below: The team

maintain our standing,” explained Terry, who is a former Chairman of the Northern Ireland Golf Greenkeepers Association, and now an active BIGGA member.

To fulfil this ambition £1.8 million has been spent on the new clubhouse for the 1500 members, £180,000 has been allocated for new maintenance facilities, and Howard Swan was commissioned to make alterations to the Duffern course.

“I met Howard, along with Simon Gidman, on one of BIGGA’s training courses and liked him very much. I brought him over to do a critical analysis of the golf course but it kind of just went mad,” chuckled Terry, as he recalled the occasion.

“The reason I got Howard in was to bring the golf course up to a higher standard by lifting and levelling tees to give better sightings to the fairways and to introduce new bunkering.”

Having done some work on the course, including tightening up the entrance to the 8th hole Howard met with the Council members and his potential brief grew enormously.

“The Council members met him in this very room and before he left he was bringing the 9th hole back to the clubhouse, building new practice facilities and, all but designing new golf courses.”

The meeting ended with Howard drawing up five different options which the members will decide upon in due course.

Terry has been at the club for 10 years and in that time has also used his own methods of improving the courses.

“Golf is becoming easier with the modern day equipment so the cheapest way to improve the course and to make it more difficult is to grow in the rough. The next cheapest option is to put in bunkers and the most expensive way is to redesign and rebuild the greens. We’ve gone down the cheapest route first to try and make the course more difficult,” explained Terry who has also spent around £30,000 on mature trees for the course.

Terry admits he is extremely fortunate to be at a golf club which is so forward thinking.

“I can put my hand on heart and say that in my ten years here they have not refused me one thing. Not too many Head Greenkeepers could say that after 10 years.”

“I feel that I’m probably a very lucky greenkeeper but you must work hard to keep yourself in that position. The one word that I use about management philosophy, and when I’m talking to younger greenkeepers, is consistency. That’s the name of the game.”

“If a golfer is on a green and it’s not in peak condition there is no use me saying to him ‘If you were here last week when we had the Irish Amateur they were brilliant.’ He’d say ‘But, Terry I’m here today and I have guests with me.’ You must be consistent and have no ups and downs. With that in mind everything is done seven days a week at Clandeboye. Bunkers are done seven days a week, greens are cut seven days a week while fairways and tees are cut three times a week.

“We have two teams but with so much golf is it sometimes difficult so sometimes we’ll go out and blitz one course and then blitz the other,” said Terry.

He has noticed that disease has become more apparent in recent years.

“We’re getting more traffic and the climatic conditions are changing. We’re not getting season now or rather we can get all four seasons in one day. We’re not getting frost to kill off disease. In fact, although we’re high up, we’ve had no frost at all this year and we’ve only closed the course perhaps three times this year. It is golf 365 days a year and people will play more competitively for a turkey than they will for an Open strokeplay event.

“I’m using much less fungicide than I was five years ago and 50 times less than when I started - aeration is the name of the game. The preventative approach is better than having to find a cure,” said Terry, who was the youngest Head Greenkeeper in Northern Ireland and the first to go to Elmwood College.

“I never thought I’d be here at Clandeboye. In fact I never thought I’d get out of Newton Stewart (his first job) because in the past people would go to a golf club and stay there but I could see the challenge of a 36 hole club and this is the only 36 hole parkland club in Northern Ireland.”

He is proud of the fact that he has turned out four Head Greenkeepers and is keen to promote the young greenkeeper.

“I’ve only got a couple of guys over...
I'd rather they came to me without experience so that I can train them in the way I want them to do a job and they don't have bad habits.

Terry is very much an inland greenkeeper and enjoys a bit of banter with his links land colleagues.

"I think there is more of a challenge working on a parkland course whereas links courses look after themselves really. Man Strachan (Royal County Down) wouldn't come and work this because he'd think it was too hard," laughed Terry.

"Greenkeeping to me is very basic and the more basic you can think about greenkeeping, the better you will get on. This high tech greenkeeping that you hear about will never last. It gets too advanced and you can't control what is happening."

"Committees and councils used to be full of older guys but now it is the younger members who sit on these and they demand that the course is at its best every day. If it isn't they look to make changes. If you are at the top and you're not producing what they are demanding the next step is out the door. The first person to be targeted is the Head Greenkeeper."

"Golfers used to expect. They don't expect any more. Golfers demand. That is the difference nowadays."

In Terry's case he delivers more than is demanded as with the case of his state-of-the-art putting green in front of the clubhouse.
Another wet September/October and once again drainage is foremost in Head Greenkeepers' / Course Managers' minds. A fact borne out by the number of enquiries for the installation of land drainage systems to golf course fairways says Nigel Wyatt, Director of M J Abbott Ltd.

The benefits of good drainage include the following:

- Removal of excessive moisture and the lowering of the water table.
- Improvements to the quality, firmness and durability of the turf increasing wear tolerance.
- Quicker drying of the ground surface, extending possible playing and maintenance time.
- Subsequent prevention of damage to the soil structure through machinery and pedestrian traffic.
- Prevention of erosion and collection of surface water run off.
- Improvements to the soil structure and air movement within the soil preventing restriction of plant root development.
- Increased root development and improved bacterial action.
- Increased capillary moisture in dry weather promoting improved drought resistance.
- Higher soil temperature earlier and later in the year giving a longer growing season.

The need for good drainage on golf courses cannot be disputed. Courses built upon naturally free draining soils may only require basic drainage systems to carry water from features within the golf course, i.e. golf greens, tees, bunkers and hollows within fairways.

Courses built on heavier soils will require much more work and expenditure to provide satisfactory drainage.

A primary piped system is the basis for all golf course drainage. The introduction of drainage systems incorporating perforated plastic pipe will play an essential role in the part of removal of excess water quickly. The piped systems usually consists of a main drain installed at the edge of a fairway within the semi rough/rough with lateral drains connecting into the main drain at 5-10m spacings in a grid formation depending on the slope of the land. Lateral drains should always cross the natural slope of the land in order to intercept ground water moving naturally through the soil. If ground levels demand it the main drain may be installed within a fairway with lateral drains connecting into the main in a herringbone formation.

Main drains - typically 200mm-100mm diameter depending upon the catchment area should be laid within trenches excavated cleanly to a depth of 900mm-600mm generally. Pipes are laid on a formed trench bed. The pipe is then surrounded and the trench filled to within 150mm of the surface with an approved clean stone. The stone is generally blindered with grit and the trench filled to the surface with an approved coarse sand, ensuring no migration of fines through the gravel. It is common to use a capping mix of rootzone to dress the trenchlines, providing a medium in which grass seed can grow enabling quick establishment.

Lateral drains typically 100mm-60mm diameter depending upon the spacings should be laid within trenches excavated cleanly to a minimum depth of 750mm-450mm generally and backfilled in the same manner as main drains. It is a fact that natural settlement may occur over the trenchlines, providing a medium in which grass seed can grow enabling quick establishment.

There is no doubt that a piped drainage system alone can dramati-
cally improve conditions on very wet sites with heavy soils or where there is a high water table in more permeable soils. Primary piped systems may also provide the infrastructure for any subsequent secondary drainage operations.

Having provided the means for the transportation of soil water, it may be desirable to make provision for the quick removal of surface water. The restricting factor for the removal of surface water is often the impermeability of the subsoil/topsoil compaction and smearing of the surface.

A number of secondary drainage operations are available.

Gravel/sand slitting involves the excavation of narrow trenches typically 65mm-50mm wide to an average depth of 250mm. The slits are installed generally 2m-1m spacings and installed perpendicular to the primary lateral drains. Trenches are filled with gravel to within 50mm of the surface topped off with coarse sand.

Gravel banding involves the installation of narrow bands of grit, typically 20mm wide to an average depth of 200mm. The bands are installed generally at 0.4m spacings, perpendicular to the primary lateral drains.

Each secondary system intercepts surface water conveying it and discharging to the permeable fill within the lateral drains.

Top dressing on very wet sites should form part of an ongoing maintenance programme to ensure the continuing effectiveness of the drainage systems.

A primary piped drainage system should be carried out only when ground and weather conditions are suitable i.e. reasonably dry and firm. Typically the works will affect at least one fairway which will have to be closed during the installation of the system. Clearly timing is crucial, particularly as the works will affect play on the golf course. It is common that a Golf Club’s calendar of events dictates when works may commence.

However, it is risky to expect works carried out later in the season to be completed. If weather and ground conditions deteriorate there is a possibility that the work may not be completed and the benefits of the works will be lost for another year. An old colleague of mine has always said you cannot make an omelette without cracking the egg! Therefore it must be stressed to Managers/Committees that some disruption to play is inevitable for the successful completion of the system.

The installation of a land drainage system within a new or established golf course requires a combination of the correct experience together with the correct installation equipment. Land drainage machinery for use on golf courses is often specialised, developed for its purpose by the contractor together with machinery manufacturers over a number of years.

Trenching machinery, either tracked continuous chain or tractor mounted continuous wheel should be fit for the purpose of excavation on fine turf. Typically, trenchers include the provision of soil loading conveyors, therefore excavated soil is loaded directly into dumpers preventing contamination of the playing surface.
Trenchers should be fitted with an automatic laser levelling device enabling accurate grading of each pipe run. Pipes are laid on a formed trench bed through a chute attached to the trenching machine. Typically, gravel is placed around the pipe and the trench filled to the correct level by the use of a hopper attached to this pipe laying chute in one continuous operation. All wheeled equipment including the soil removing dumpers and gravel fill front/side discharge trailers should be fitted with low ground pressure tyres fit for use on turf to prevent disruption to the playing surface.

It is important then that faced with the problem of poor drainage that the correct steps are taken to solve the problem. Planning is all important. You may already know or have had referred to you a reputable contractor to assist with planning design and costing of the works. Should you require a number of quotations, three would be the norm, then contact the Land Drainage Contractors Association Sports Turf Division. Members of the Association are individually vetted on their ability to carry out such works. Ask your chosen contractor for references of a similar project and take them up.

An alternative route may be to engage the services of a Consultant. You will receive unbiased advice and design from them at a cost. Consultant charges depend upon the size and nature of the project and their level of involvement may vary between 5% and 15% of the contract cost.

Ever increasing standards of maintenance and playability are expected in today’s society. A key factor in the success of any venue is the ability to remove water quickly and efficiently. Contact the experts.

As one of the U.K.’s leading specialised contracting companies, M J Abbott Ltd have a long history of land drainage installations. Established in the 1960’s, the company has grown to become one of the country’s leading specialists in golf course drainage. The company offers a complete land drainage design service comprising feasibility studies, system design, production of plans and cost estimates.

The company operates an extensive range of specially adapted laser controlled trenchers and associated equipment which enable the efficient installation of primary piped and secondary drainage systems.

Nigel Wyatt - Director - M J Abbott Ltd - 01722 716361
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November 2000 Greenkeeper International 23
Roland Taylor gives advice on how to ensure the best results from your cutting units.

Blade runner

As the main cutting season comes to a close, it is a good time to assess the performance of your mowers and determine the necessary maintenance that will be required to ensure they continue to operate at their optimum.

Regardless to whether the mower is a cylinder, rotary or flail there is one fundamental element that all machines have in common - sharpness of the blades.

Prior to the mid 1800's any mowing of turf was done by a man with scythe and he certainly would have been continually sharpening his blade to make the job as easy as possible. Throughout the spring and summer, with so much going on, it is easy to forget some of the principles relating to quality of the cut. Obviously the results of a dulled or badly adjusted cylinder will show very quickly on fine turf, but with rotaries and flats on areas such as fairways or the rough the signs may be less obvious.

Cylinder Mowers

This system relies very heavily on precision - not only in its manufacture but also when it is being set up - a fact that is very often overlooked in the environment the unit is used in. A round cylinder cuts against a straight edge, the slightest distortion will affect the performance. If the gap between the two surfaces is too great then the grass leaves are torn and seriously damaged. A symptom of this is grass folded over the bedknife. Also with this situation sand or top dressing can be scooped between the two surfaces and cause excessive wear. Where the adjustment is too tight, severe stress is placed on the mower's components and fuel consumption drastically increases. Heat builds up, especially on multi-bladed cylinders with a thin bottom blade. This can result in fine turf being scorched.

There are three cutting surfaces that need to be accurate on these machines; the cylinder spirals, the leading front edge and the top cutting surface of the bottom blade. A fault in any one of these will cause a poor finish. Back-lapping can be carried out. This will re-establish a cutting edge but is only a stop-gap measure and the unit will eventually require regrinding if the high standards are to be maintained.

There are other contributing factors to watch out for if a machine is to operate safely. As said before, the system relies heavily on precision so cleanliness is important, a fact often overlooked. Grass deposits can build-up on the spiral blades and these need to be removed. The leading edge of the bottom blade is continually in direct contact with the surface so is liable to get worn or damaged. This can be refaced in-situ in a matter of minutes with a grinder especially designed for this purpose.

Where a mower is not going to be used for a period of time, the cylinder should be adjusted away from the bedknife to avoid any rust building up between the two surfaces. Clean of all dried grass and other debris and spray the metal parts with WD40. Details regarding the engine in this situation are below.

Rotary

While there is less precision involved in the design, the same applies as regards sharpness. A rotary blade works best at around 3000 to 3500 rpm (blade tip travel in the region of between 80 and 100 mph). At this
speed the blunt blade will hack the grass but because of the effort involved, the blade slows down and quality of finish rapidly deteriorates; the cut material builds-up under the deck, and the machine will eventually stall. In this situation the engine consumes more fuel and oil. If the rotary mower is being used with a collector, then the airflow is reduced with a result that the clippings are not ejected correctly so the whole system becomes clogged up.

Considerable stress is placed on all the machine's components and their life can be drastically shortened. Because rotaries are often used in hostile conditions, there is more chance of the cutting system being damaged and the unit become unsafe. In addition to speed, the rotary relies heavily on balance - a broken or badly chipped blade will cause vibration to occur, which if left unchecked will become a major safety hazard and eventually cause considerable damage.

On a pedestrian machine, it will become obvious to the operator that there is a problem due to the amount of vibration being experienced. This is not always the case with a tractor-mounted rotary. Here the driver is not in direct contact with the unit so is less likely to experience the warning signs, therefore it is important always to be vigilant and check the units regularly.

The rotary system cuts material with a relatively short length of the sharpened edge and cutting occurs only in the front half of rotation. For this reason there is usually a built-in forward tilt in the design of the blade assembly. On machines with height adjustment to each wheel, this angle can be altered so the front of the blade becomes higher than the back. The grass is then being cut both at the front and the rear (double cutting) and the system has of twice as much material to eject. Power requirement increases by 50% resulting in high fuel consumption and blockages as the rotor speed is reduced. On mowers with multi-height adjustment, the level should always be the same for each wheel or slightly higher at the rear. If a rotary blade is sharpened it must also be balanced.

Flail Mowers
While the principle is different from a rotary, most of the details regarding maintenance and things to watch out for are the same. The rotor with its swing blades is vulnerable to damage, especially in some of the conditions these mowers are worked in. A careful watch should be kept for damaged or missing blades as this can cause vibration with all its inherent problems.

General
Maintaining a consistent drive to the cutting units is important. If either chains or belts are fitted, these may have automatic tensioning devices but they still need checking for signs of slackness or wear.

Where hydraulic systems are used, the main concern is the oil. This must be "squeaky" clean. Contamination from water or even worse dirt will seriously damage the pumps and motors. Hose and their connectors should be regularly inspected for signs of a leakage. Also be on the lookout for chafed or damaged hoses. If one of these bursts hot oil will be sprayed on to the turf and operator - not a pleasant experience. The correct hydraulic oil level has to be maintained if the system is to work correctly.

Greasing points are often fitted these will need regular attention, but be wary how much lubricant is applied. Great dollops of grease clinging to nipples attract abrasive substances such as sand and top dressing. Bearings can also be dislodged.
The engine

The state of the engine is vital to everything else working correctly so it needs to be in tip-top condition. Oil is relatively cheap compared to having to replace an engine because it has seized-up so regular changes should be carried out.

A dirty oil air filter affects performance and increases fuel consumption.

Modern electronic systems are highly reliable, but spark plugs do not last forever.

All grass cutting machinery is designed to run at an optimum level of rpm and the engine governs this, so it is worth regularly checking the engine's speed. The difference a slight drop of just 200-rpm can make is considerable.

At this time of year, machinery may not be used often and the fuel in the tank can become stale and also clog up the carburettor system. For a relatively small investment this problem can be overcome. There are fuel additives available, which will keep it fresh for up to 24 months.

Care of machinery is important not just to ensure it is trouble free and works correctly but also as far as pollution from both emissions and noise are concerned.

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Like his namesake, Mr Hoffman, Dustin Houghton proved himself to be a bit of a Rainman when it came to conquering the difficult wet conditions on the second day of the Scotts/Charterhouse BIGGA National Championship. In successfully doing so he went on to become a deserved winner of the splendid trophy.

The 29-year-old Head Greenkeeper from Seaford Head, in East Sussex, shot a nett 69 over St Annes Old Links and then followed it up with a nett 71 at Fairhaven despite the wet conditions.

"I obviously knew I was in with a chance after the first round but tried to put it out of my mind over night," he explained.

"I had a few drinks and my roommate, Richard Clark, gave me a superb talking to which put me in the right mood for the next day." Halfway round Fairhaven he knew that he only had to keep playing consistently and he would have a great chance.

"I don't use a wood off the tee, only a 3-iron, and this policy served me well. I also holed three or four long putts which made a difference," said the 26-handicapper "I'm absolutely ecstatic to have won. It is like our Olympics and this is by far the biggest golf event I've ever won," added Dustin.

The Competition Scratch Score for each Day of the National Championship was as follows - courtesy of Doug Bell.

1st Day: St Annes Old Links
SSS  72  CSS 73

2nd Day: Fairhaven
SSS  73  CSS 75

Above: Eventual winner Dustin Houghton starts his campaign at St Annes

Photographs by Alan Birch
Above: The four Northern Ireland representatives made a huge impact on proceedings over the two days.

Left: Eventual runner-up, Richard Andrews, produced one of his best shots at St Annes' 9th. His 4-iron to three feet left him a tap in birdie but he was still one more than his Highgate GC colleague James Seisun who holed in one at the same hole five years ago in the National Tournament.

Complete Results Overleaf.

Above: BIGGA Chairman Elliott Small, Bert Cross and Richard Minton, of Scotts, enjoyed a threeball on the opening day.

Above: Graham Wallace, not only won the longest drive but took the nearest the pin with this effort on Fairhaven's 17th.
**THE RAIN MAN**

Right: National Championship winner, Dustin Houghton receives his trophy from Richard Minton, UK Sales Manager of Scotts UK Professional and Philip Threadgold, Sales Director of Charterhouse UK.

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**CHARTERHOUSE/SCOTTS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS ROUNDUP**

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<th>36 HOLES AGGREGATE NETT</th>
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<tr>
<td>1st Dustin Houghton</td>
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<td>2nd Richard Andrews</td>
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<td>3rd Antony Kirwan</td>
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<td>4th Richard Barker</td>
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<td>1st Noel Crawford</td>
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<td>2nd David Leith</td>
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<td>3rd Michael Wilson</td>
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<td>4th John Hutton</td>
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**REGIONAL TEAM CUP**

**Winners** - South East Region

**Runners Up** - Midland Region
- Richard Barker, Barry Holt, Lex Howkins, Mike Smith, Michael Hughes, Simon Austin, Graham Wallace, Dave Leatherland

**2nd Round Prizes - Tuesday**
- 0-9 Eamonn Crawford (on last 9) 72
- 10-17 Richard Mullen 74
- 18-28 Nick Bird 73

**3rd Northern Region**

**4th Scottish Region**

**5th South West & South Wales Region**

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Left: BIGGA Chairman, Elliott Small enjoys a joke from after dinner speaker, John Welch.

Below: The victorious South East team.

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Above: Graham Wallace, longest drive and nearest the pin winner.

Above: Noel Crawford - 36 hole gross winner.

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Greenkeeper International November 2000

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30
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Six of the country's top men give their views on Construction Work

Construction Work
Compiled by Malcolm Huntington MBE

How well ahead of the work itself do you know that you will be tackling a particular job and what can affect the timing?

Six months normally and we also have a five-year rolling programme. Work can be governed by finance, weather, fixtures and the number of visiting parties.

When planning work on the course I ensure that all major jobs are carried out at the end of the season where possible and depending upon weather and course conditions.

A seven-year course improvement plan helps us to prepare well in advance for major course projects. Weather/ground conditions, season and fixtures affect the timing of operations.

Six months. The weather does, of course, affect the timing on some occasions.

We normally plan two to three months ahead and have a general five-year plan. The weather can affect the timing.

We plan six months ahead, but everything then depends on the weather which can obviously cause delays.
Do you use outside contractors and why do you, or don’t you, go down that route?  
We use outside contractors for drainage as they have the specialist machinery which we don’t have. However, we do all the other work ourselves.

Describe the biggest construction job that has been done at the club in your time there.  
Constructing two new greens four years ago. They took sometime to get going but are doing very well now.

How do you go about minimising disruption to the course?  
We normally mark off the areas concerned and have notice boards telling golfers what is happening on the course. Good communication is essential in this respect.

What construction work will you be tackling during this winter programme?  
We are building a new tee at the 6th which will be 500 square metres. Also new bunkers are being built, two reconstructed and also we have drainage plans.

We use outside contractors for drainage as they have the specialist machinery which we don’t have. However, we do all the other work ourselves.

I don’t use outside contractors as I am capable of carrying out the work myself and this reduces the cost to the club.

We use contractors for major construction. Their expertise and specialist equipment ensures a quicker and efficient time scale for work and minimises disruption to members. It also frees the greens staff for other course improvements and maintenance.

We normally mark off the areas concerned and have notice boards telling golfers what is happening on the course. Good communication is essential in this respect.

We are building a new tee at the 6th which will be 500 square metres. Also new bunkers are being built, two reconstructed and also we have drainage plans.

Yes, we use contractors for basically constructing greens because they have the expertise. We finish the job off with root zone etc.

Yes, we use contractors for basically constructing greens because they have the expertise. We finish the job off with root zone etc.

I minimise disruption to the course by starting work early in the morning before golfers arrive. Any areas which are under construction, or having work carried out, are roped off, leaving the rest of the course neat, tidy and playable.

We minimise disruption to members with good communication in the club, working round fixtures and advanced preparation of alternative playing surfaces.

We have a large hedgeline all round the course so can divert players away from areas which are well marked. We also have notices displayed well in advance so that people know exactly what is going on.

Apart from the lake, we have constructed a new 2nd hole green which is a fair way from the old one.

We have a large hedgeline all round the course so can divert players away from areas which are well marked. We also have notices displayed well in advance so that people know exactly what is going on.

We use contractors ten years ago to build a 100ft x 50ft x 20ft deep lake from which we draw water to irrigate the course. We bought our own digger five years ago so now we do most things in-house.

We are extending two tees considerably, doing some drainage work and also constructing new paths. We are also extending backwards a few of the smaller tees.

We are having a new machinery shed built, 70ft x 30ft and the site has to be cleared, doing the digger work ourselves before the specialist firm moves in to erect the building.

We are extending two tees considerably, doing some drainage work and also constructing new paths. We are also extending backwards a few of the smaller tees.

We are extending backwards a few of the smaller tees.

We try to do everything in-house really because then we can do a job when we want to do it, rather than rely on contractors who have a programme and may work when damage to the course results. We had outside contractors ten years ago to do some tee building.

We rope off and have signs up in addition to putting notices on the main notice board and we find this is sufficient to have minimal disruption.

We have got a big drainage programme this winter involving four greens and work on two fairways, this is being carried out in-house and not with contractors.

Apart from the lake, we have constructed a new 2nd hole green which is a fair way from the old one.

Building greens. We have done three complete greens and extended two others.

We are extending two tees considerably, doing some drainage work and also constructing new paths. We are also extending backwards a few of the smaller tees.

We are extending backwards a few of the smaller tees.

The par-4 4th and par-5 13th tees were reconstructed and this involved digging out a hillside with 1,500 square metres of earth moved to create a two-tier tee.

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The Scottish Region is once again offering its members a subsidised package deal for BTME 2001. The package includes coach to Harrogate, entry to all seminars and exhibitions, three nights bed and breakfast in en-suite twin rooms on January 23, 24 and 25 in the Mouat House Hotel, Harrogate. The cost of the package is £173 with partners welcome at a cost of £125 for travel and accommodation. Bookings and full payments are due to December 18 with banquet tickets at an extra cost of £40 per person.

Further information from Peter Boyd, 10 Meadowburn Avenue, Newton Mearns, Glasgow G77 6TA Tel/Fax: 0141 616 3440

North

The Section’s Autumn outing at Peterculter was a great success with a large turnout, great weather and a lovely golf course. Over 90 members, trade and pests, played over David Marnoch’s course which was in superb condition despite all the recent bad weather. This was the first time in my capacity as Chairman of the Section that I got a kiss from the club official who partnered me on the course, but before you start getting ideas, it was the Lady Captain, soon to be Club Captain, I played with. The recent bad weather. Played over David Marnoch’s course, turnout, great weather and a lovely golf course. But before you start getting ideas, it was the Lady Captain, who partnered me on the course, but before you start getting ideas, it was the Lady Captain, about to be Club Captain, I played with.

The score card drive for the BGGA bighouse was won by Mr. Grant, Garmouth. The score card drive for the BGGA bighouse was won by Mr. Grant, Garmouth.

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such a decent summer. By the time you read this, maybe things will have taken a turn for the better. Scotoft will be with you soon, where all the new and established products can be viewed and/or discussed. It’s well worth a visit even just to be hospitable. The Norrie Whyte Trophy was recently played at Auchenader Golf Club where Ayrshire finished a gallant third, beaten on a count-back by Central and only two points adrift of the East Section who secured the trophy for the first time. Thanks go to Archie Dunn and the greenstaff for an excellent golf course, to PA Peter Boyd for the expert administration and, last but not least, to Aventis for continued sponsorship of the trophy.

The Autumn outing was played over my course at Largs on September 21 where we had a disappointingly small turnout. However, apart from some blustery showers later in the afternoon, all those who attended had an enjoyable day and the prizes were much easier to win - see roll of honour later. Chairman Duncan Gray, in his vote of thanks, mentioned Captain George Grant and the committee of Largs Woods International Tournament, where a great day was had by all in attendance. Thanks from the Section go to the Captain and Council for giving us courtesy of the course, the greenstaff for presenting the course, George and Fiona for the excellent catering, Iain and the bar staff for keeping us refreshed and, last but not least, to Aventis for continued sponsorship of the trophy.

In November, Chris Yeaman, the editor of Scotsturf, paid a visit to Auchenader and discussed the magazine. It’s well worth a visit even just to see what is inside.

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November 2000 Greenkeeper International
Andrews to a new position at a course in
with his first involvement, ie. picking the
knot last month is Kenny Stirling from
the ball out of the net and then pulling a mus-
cher when attempting to lock the ball away
in disgust!

The tournament was run as a league
with all teams playing each other once,
which is a special mention for Wasps goal-
keeper Dune who injured himself
during the course prepared for the day National
Chairman Elliott: Small joined us for the
presentation of prizes following flying vis-
to other Sections during a very busy
day. Perhaps you will get time to play in
next year’s tournaments Elliott!

Our two section qualifiers in the National
Championship at Lytham, David Leith
and Scott produced the best results in the prize
list, so it’s congratulations to them both for
doing the Section proud. Exact details can
be found on pages 28-30.

The visit to the Scottish STRI’Reklam has
been postponed for the time being, due to
the lack of support, three. Obviously there
are an awful lot of very knowledgeable
greenkeepers in the Central Section. Our
thanks go to Richard Walton, contact of Scotts,
who put in a great deal of time and effort
in organising this visit on our behalf.

The football tournament held on
September 24 was very successful, despite
the Ellers deciding to change the date to
the 24 August. Why, I don’t know.
(Apologies. Put it down to mistyping - Ed)

To provide an historical perspective on
everything that has gone wrong with the NAV sec-
tion to mark this important date, well,
I think it’s important. But, due to lack of
response, your committee are going to cel-
brate it on their own.

At the time of writing I have had two
replies from members, outwith the com-
mitee, who have indicated that they will be
attending the visit to Scottish Grass
Machine, St Andrews and the AGM, so
I will give you an update next month on
what happened. In the meantime I am
away to find something else to moan about
and upset some of you with, or perhaps
some of you with, or perhaps some of you
will have attended the AGM and I won’t
be doing this next time. You can always
live in hope.

John Cranford

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support system and fewer working parts.
delegates, 31 greenkeepers, and the
remainder being golf club secretaries, greens
chairman, and members of the trade, a
group just 50 percent of our 600 members.
Team events such as the Roses match,
the annual match against North Wales,
and the match against the Golf Club
Stewards, all sponsored, with no cost to
the competitors, can be a nightmare get-
ing a team together. The regional final at
Fishwick Hall, even though the qualifiers
had all been informed with their starting
times, we finished with one man short,
which made almost impossible for us to win. The
autumn tournament at Denton Golf Club,
was attended by only 17 members and two
guests, and to top it all, the National
Championship played at St. Annes Old
Links and Fairhaven G.C., which are both
in the Northwest Section, was attended,
except for the two qualifiers, by only
myself and Peter Hogan. As Secretary, and
with a good section committee, we try our
best to satisfy the members needs, but we
do need the support of you guys out there,
and if you feel if something is lacking in
the Section, or the Association, put pen to
paper, or give me a ring.
Now that I have that off my chest I would
like to thank Tim Nolan and his staff for
a great day at Denton Golf Club on
September 7. The few days previous to the
match day had been rain, rain, rain, and I
feel sure that Tim and his staff must have
had many soakings working in the rain,
because the course was in great condition,
and a great credit to them.
The results on the day were: Best Gross
- Tim Nolan, Best Net - Mike Llogge, Vets
- Arthur Moorey, Guest prize - Andrew
Cornes, Aggregate Winner - Arthur
Moorey. I would like to thank Denton Golf
Club for allowing us the courtesy of the
course, the caterers for a great meal, and
Tim and his staff for an excellent course,
also our sponsors for the prize table. Don't
forget we have the Presidents Cup and the
AGM on the 30th November at Wilmslow
Golf Club. Get your entries in with your
cheque for £15 to Bill Merritt, 225 Utting
Avenue, Liverpool, L4 9RB, not later than
Friday, November 24. Everybody must
bring a bottle of something on the day, so
that we can all go home with a prize. I will
close now but please remember you have
a good Section, and a good Association so
please support them.
The Northern Region is organising a
seminar to be held at Penrith Golf Club
on Thursday, December 7. Full details will
be sent to all members in Cumbria and
surrounding areas. For further information
contact Doug Bell.
Bert Cross, (Tel: 0151 724 5412)

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Cleveland

Three new members joined the Section this month. Stephen Taggart and Gary Heap have joined the Section and Urban Dalling, who has just retired at the Wynyard Club for over a year and Liam McGough, older and better looking brother of Anthony - Titch - McGough, has taken the job of greenkeeper mechanic at Richmond Golf Club after Mark Blugman left for a career change. Also leaving Richmond is Olly Sheppard who is going to University. The Beast of Bedale, Alex Russell, is now the Beast of Billingham moving to join Bob Luxton and his team.

The Cleveland Section won the National Team Final at Fishwick Hall Golf Club in Preston recently. Well done to all those who were involved.

Congratulations to Chris Pawley, of Dirsdale Spa GC, who won the Carrs sponsored Cleveland Shield, beating Tony Beige in the Final at Durham City GC.

Any news contact me on 0780 8196558.

Steven Jaques

North Wales

I write these notes on the day of our cancelled autumn meet and the weather is again a concern. It's been a testing year and the only positive thing is we are all in the same boat - put intended. We shall try to rearrange the meet - you will know by the time you read this - if not, any of you who can't make the Xmas meet, please get in touch for a refund. The winter lectures start at the college on November 15 with Derek Green, Banker Construction and Chris Clarke, Equipment Maintenance starts at 2:30. All welcome. A small charge for non-members.

I don't suppose any of you need reminding the Xmas meeting is at Royal Liverpool on December 6, that's if the Winal still exists and the course is open. I don't remember to bring your beach coster boat rods just in case, maybe Derek should give us a lecture on how to land a sea bass.

Our Match Secretary, Jeremy Hughes, helped us to arrange an Embnghshire county team to win the Welsh inter-counties final in the first time in the county's history. His rounds of 71 and 73 were instrumental in securing the win over second placed Flintshire, who also had one of our Section members in their team - Lee Hinks- Edwards, assistant greenkeeper at Hawarden, well done lady, it shows greenkeepers can play the game as well. The final was played at North-yr-Dafaf which was apparently in excellent condition for the tournament.

Finally, belated congratulations to my old mate Peter Sproston on the 10th anniversary of his new job in Mississippi, hope it continues to be successful.

Jeff Dickinson, Leen Valley

Our thanks to to Market Harborough GC for hosting our Tournament and to the Steved and Stephens for an excellent old course, one of the best we have ever had. A special thanks should go to our sponsors Banks Amenity Products for not only providing a great prize table, but to put on a sponsored bar and provide a sponsored golf ball each.

Unfortunately the day was only supported by 17 greenkeepers and we really do need to increase these numbers if we are to go at all. Finally, can I once again remind all members that your entry forms and payment must be made before the closing date of any Section event you wish to attend. Next year's Autumn Tournament will be held on 14 September at Lingdale GC.

This year's Scots/Charterhouse National Championship was supported by three of our Section members, Richard Barber, Ian Needham and Dave Leatherland.

The best Gross and Net score on the first day was won by Richard who also finished with the 4th Best Nett score over the two days. Also in attendance was the Section Chairman, Gavin Robson who was Dave Leatherland's caddy for the two days. (I only saw him carry Dave's bag for one of his balls - Ed)

Antony Bindley

Berks Bucks and Oxon

The autumn invitation was held at East Berks Golf on October 24th. The courses was very well attended with some 48 players taking part. Myself and my partner were very lucky to be paired with Adrian Cooper and Andy Church, from Roknan, during the first round. Both our groups had the only 2 good scores that were posted.

The best Gross and Nett score on the day was won by Richard who also finished with the 4th Best Nett score over the two days. Also in attendance was the Section Chairman, Gavin Robson who was Dave Leatherland's caddy for the two days. (I only saw him carry Dave's bag for one of his balls - Ed)

Antony Bindley

Surrey

It was with eager anticipation that those members who had entered the autumn tournament journeyed to Lelaham. Many had not been there before, but it's reputation had ensured a really large turnout. We were not disappointed. The weather remained dry and the rides at Thorpe Theme Park were as thrilling as we had expected. Afterwards we all played golf at Lelaham Golf Club. The Head Greenkeeper, John Ross, received us with his usual kindness and after we had explained that it was the norm for greenkeepers to be given the courtesy of the course, his threat to have us physically removed for not paying green fees was recorded.

Enough of this nonsense. We all thank John and his team for ensuring that our autumn meeting was a great success. The course was in excellent condition and although the recent rainfall had been extremely heavy, the course played fairer than expected.

A Laham greenkeeper, using local knowledge, came first. Bob Rogers scored 45 points but his position was filled by Roger Ryderman 42 points. M. McClaren, after countback, was third with 40 points with Gordon Bell fourth, John Whitefifth, and Darren Lee sixth. Nearest the pin was captured by G. Rogers. The longest drive had John White deciding that a 3-iron was his most favourite club. Sponsors for the day were Biscos.

Hambley Common Golf Club played a great match. The course was in excellent condition and the rain that day had been an advantage rather than a disadvantage. The score by the time we were recording was 38 and 40

Brian Willmott

Midland

On November 22 there is a trip to Hard Sprayers organised and sponsored by Sports world. If you are interested please contact Mike Whitehouse on 07971 940148.

Fareham GC Lane Cove sponsored by Chris Roberts. Chandlers is the usual sponsor and after a few deflections and a few lucky breaks, my feeble attempts ended up with the ball travelling further sideways than forwards, so it is not that called a snap-hook?

Our results are as follows. 1. N. Ely & M. Ely. 44 pts. 2. J. Bevan & D. Emery. 42 pts. 3. T. Webb & R. Webb. 42 pts. Longest Drive. D. Emery. Nearest the Pin. M. Patt. Many thanks to Mark and his staff for producing a superb course and also to the other club staff for making us feel very welcome. Also many thanks to Roknan who sponsored the event.

One last thing and that is to watch out for the rules, especially the turn of the tee. These will be out in November and a quick response would be greatly appreciated. Jon Scoones.

Midlands

This year's Autumn Tournament was played at Market Harborough GC on September 20, a dry pleasant Autumn day. The course was in excellent condition and after all the heavy rain of the previous week, which is a credit to Tim Harris and all the greenkeeping staff. This also reflected in the good scores that were posted.


Jonathan Wood
South West & South Wales

Three highly successful Course Management Trophies have again been held in the South West and South Wales Region and the Regional Board would like to thank Scotts Professional for sponsoring the prizes for these competitions.

A team event in its second year, comprising a Greenkeeper, Club Secretary, Captain and Chairman of Greenmax - the Local representative from each section. The competitions were played in excellent weather and everyone who took part thoroughly enjoyed the day. It was nice to welcome Ken Richardson from Head Office, to the South Coast event at Salisbury. Results: Section A played at Salisbury & S Wilts. Freshwater Bay. South West played at the Manor Castle Clubhouse, Bristol and Clifton; South Wales played at Celtic Manor, Pontypool. The Region would like to thank Scotts Professional for sponsoring Christmas meeting which will be held at Okehampton Golf Club on Wednesday, December 6. As in previous years numbers will be limited to the first 80 members, so to avoid disappointment please return your entry with correct money as soon as possible and before the closing date.

The day will start with golfing morning for the P J Flegg Trophy with the format being greensomes for 4. 5 of you not wishing to play golf the course walk will start from the clubhouse at approximately 10.30am. Following lunch our AGM will commence and buffet tables will conclude the day.

It’s now time to book your place on the Region’s Amenity Technology sponsored package to the BTME show & seminars which will be held in Harrogate during January. The trip departs on January 23 and returns on the January 26 2001 with the cost of £110 for members, £150 for non members. The Regional Conference & Workshop will take place on Tuesday December 5 at Cannington College. Details of this event have been sent to you through Greenkeeper International, the cost of the day will be £15 members, non members £22.50. The morning seminar will be Frank Newbury, Stuart Ashworth and Jim Arthur with the afternoon workshop being presented by Frank Newbury.

For more information regarding the Conference and BTME contact Paula Humphries on 01288 552194.

Richard Whymann

Devon & Cornwall

Once again this year members have had the opportunity to enter the Toro Section Greenkeeper of the Year and the Toro Excellence in Greenkeeping awards. This year the Section has two members in the awards and congratulations and good luck to Anthony Vokes, of Astell GC, in the Student award and Terry Farkins, of Dartmouth GC, in the Excellence in Greenkeeping award. Also, the Section has elected its new Chairman Jim Arthur on reaching his 50th birthday.

Unfortunately our representatives for the Cheltenham/Scotts National Championship had to pull out, due to reservations, then getting injured, time run out to find replacements. The Section would like to take this opportunity to apologise to the sponsors Scotts & Charterhouse for not being able to field any representatives at this excellent event. The Section would like to thank the Championship went well and look forward to the Sectional qualifier next year.

The Devon Garden Machinery Section meeting for the 2001 AGM will be held at Launceston Golf Club on Wednesday November 15. The morning’s golf will be of foursome format for the Toro Trophy with the prizes being kindly donated by Devon Garden Machinery and Lely. As usual the non golfer’s course walk will leave the clubhouse at approximately 10.30am, the section’s AGM will conclude the day. Once again Christmas is fast approaching, so what better way to start the festive season than by attending our P J Flegg sponsored Christmas meeting which will be held at Exeter Golf Club on Wednesday, December 6. As in previous years numbers will be limited to the first 80 members, so to avoid disappointment please return your entry with correct money as soon as possible and before the closing date.

South Wales

I begin firstly apologising for missing Around the Green last month. I faltered after being praised for previous notes in the last committee meeting, perhaps they should never have been mentioned. On the serious side the match against the golf club secretaries at Tidewater Park GC on August 11 was extremely friendly & the match was halved although lacking support from our side. The next time the opportunity presented itself we must ensure to return, although to a complete new course in excellent condition. Also Thanks to Alan Able, of Complete Weed Control, for providing such excellent catering.

South Coast

The Autumn Tournament took place at Came Down Golf Club. Our thanks go to the club and committee for allowing us to use their course. The day was a great success with a very good turnout. There were Michael O’Neill and Nick Webber. I would probably have been too much to ask for a full report in next month’s issue. However, to the winners, congratulations and good wishes for the future of your business.

The Autumn Competition was to be held at Newport GC on September 27 but unfortunately call of the day was given by the lack of petrol and the fuel crisis. St Pierre GC hosted our match versus the West Coast in appalling weather condition, only one match completed the whole course. Andy Roddy and I were determined to carry it off by putting 20 2 to which enabled us to house the competition at the 18th green. Thanks to St Pierre for their hospitality, to Scotts for theProfessor for closest to the pin and longest drive and especially to all from the course for each of these events and for providing such excellent catering.

Northern Ireland

Apologies for no ATG notes last month but any sort of news was really scarce and when I try to ramble on for 500 words would probably have been too much to bear. By the time you read these notes we will have had a bumper year. This year I was very lucky to have been able to visit Malone and our seminar will have passed at Greenvale. I know how disappointing it will have been an excellent year and I’ll give you a full report in next month’s issue.

We have had a bumper month for people joining our section, a nice round number of 13 which really is encouraging to see and if you’re reading these notes you’re a greenkeeper of any description, please join.

The names of our new members are, forgive me if I spell your name incorrectly, but it has been a long time since I left school. Sydney Houston, Silverwood GC. Mark Cusick, First Assistant at Laraghe GC. Adam Kelly, Ballymena GC. Lee Cartmull, Cartwheel as I mentioned in a previous issue, sorry Lee, Malone GC, Thomas Orley and Damien Doherty; also at Malone. Mark Lowry, Shankill; very young but very keen First Assistant, Irwin Robinson; Jeff Lamb, Course Manager at Shandon GC has signed up his whole staff and they are as follows, First Assistant Rob Morgan, Chris Simpson, Alistair Smyth and Michael Kennedy. Many thanks to all the above and I’ll be looking forward to seeing all of you at our next event, Congratulations to Noel and Earnon Crawford who played in the South West region’s AGM. Entries and payment in early please. E15 to Chris Stingus on 07773 139409.

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November 2000 Greenkeeper International 43
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**DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER**

Our Deputy Head Greenkeeper left our employment this Summer to take up a Course Manager’s position overseas.

The Deputy appointed should be qualified to a minimum NVQ Level 3 and hold spraying certificates and written references. He will have had several years experience as an Assistant Greenkeeper or Deputy Head Greenkeeper.

Salary and conditions are commensurate with experience.

Maxstoke Park is a 700 private members club, playing on a 18 hole, 6442yd parkland course and is in the charge of an experienced Course Manager with a staff of 3 assistants.

Please apply in writing with CV to:

The Secretary, Maxstoke Park Golf Club, Castle Lane, Coleshill, Birmingham B46 3RD

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**PENWORTHAM GOLF CLUB**

**EST 1908**

Invites applications for the position of

**COURSE MANAGER**

The key responsibilities of this position are as follows:

- To contribute to the formulation of policy and oversee the short, medium and long term maintenance of the golf course as dictated by Club policy.
- To formulate, present and control agreed budgets including making reasoned decisions when buying materials and equipment.
- To lead, supervise, motivate, delegate as appropriate, develop, train and assist in the recruitment of staff.
- To present and implement work schedules, machinery replacement and machinery maintenance programmes, keep accurate records and be aware of modern methods, materials and equipment.
- To ensure safety of the staff and environment

Minimum qualifications for this position are NVQ level 4 or equivalent. (Applicants with Level 3 and working towards level 4 or equivalent will be considered.)

Minimum 5 years greenkeeping experience also required.

Salary is negotiable and will reflect the importance of the role.

Accommodation is not provided.

Apply in writing with full CV to:

The Club Manager, Penwortham Golf Club, Blundell Lane, Penwortham, Preston PR1 0AX

Application Closing Date: Monday 20 November 2000

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**DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER**

To join a team creating and bringing in a new 18 hole golf course in the Edinburgh area.

Experience and qualifications to NVQ/SVQ Level 2 or 3 along with good mechanical skills would be an advantage. Training to this level or further training may be provided. Salary negotiable, depending on experience.

Please apply in writing, including full CV to:

Box No. 01/11, BIGGA, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Aine York YO61 1UF

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**VITAX**

**Sales Representative South West/Wales Amenity & Sportsturf Division**

Vitax is an old established privately owned company supplying quality products to the sports turf and local authority markets. Our well known brands include Tecto, Estermone and the Key Range of sports turf fertilisers.

A vacancy exists for a Representative to take over an established distributor and end user customer base throughout the South West & Wales. Proven success in a sales role or an in-depth knowledge of the sports turf industry is essential. Sound interpersonal skills will also be necessary to communicate effectively at all levels and build strong relationships with both distributor and end user customers. Drive and ambition will ensure success in an interesting commercial environment.

If you feel you have the necessary skills, experience and enthusiasm to succeed in this role, please send your CV to:-

Clive Williams, Product Development Manager, Vitax Ltd, Owen Street, Coalville, Leics LE67 3DE

Tel: 01530 510600 Fax: 01530 510299 Email: clivewilliams@vitax.co.uk

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**Greenkeepers required in Salzburg, Austria**

Jack Nicklaus Designed Golf Course

6 month contract starting either mid March until mid September or mid April until mid October.

Would suit trainee or assistant greenkeepers wishing to gain experience abroad.

Accommodation, lights and good competitive salary

Applicants should apply in writing with full CV, photograph and contact telephone number to:

Gary Moseley, GC Gut Altenmann, Hof 54, 5302 Henndorf, Austria

Tel: (43) 676 546 0058 Fax: (43) 621 461 0561 E-mail: gary.moseley@eunet.at

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**November 2000 Greenkeeper International**
September, rain and the two have been inseparable in 2000 and the old saying that the weather will change with the month is definitely not right this year. As I write this Monday October 9, it has been non-stop heavy rain since 8am. It is now 8pm and the forecast says same again tomorrow. Anyone trying to get hollow coring done has my sympathy. It’s a case of trying to catch a dry day between all the wet ones. I was lucky to catch one of those days on September 21 when I had lunch with the East Section at their autumn outing. Thank you to both Sections, it was a grand day, which I thoroughly enjoyed. Thank you also to the Central Section, also at their autumn outing. A dry day between all the wet ones. I was lucky to catch one of those days on September 21 when I had lunch with the East Section at their autumn outing. Thank you to both Sections, it was a grand day, which I thoroughly enjoyed. Thank you also to the Central Section, also at their autumn outing. A dry day between all the wet ones. I was lucky to catch one of those days on September 21 when I had lunch with the East Section at their autumn outing. Thank you to both Sections, it was a grand day, which I thoroughly enjoyed. Thank you also to the Central Section, also at their autumn outing. A dry day between all the wet ones. I was lucky to catch one of those days on September 21 when I had lunch with the East Section at their autumn outing. Thank you to both Sections, it was a grand day, which I thoroughly enjoyed.
COMPANY WEBSITE PROFILES FROM THE TURFCARE INDUSTRY

If you would like to promote your company website on this page to a readership of over 9,000 contact: Sales Department at BIGGA on Tel: 01347 833800 or Fax us on: 01347 833802 alternatively email: sales@bigga.co.uk

The Toro Company, from Minneapolis, in Minnesota, sees itself as a provider of "total solutions for outdoor landscapes" - and so it is when it comes to meeting the needs of the modern greenkeeper.

Established as the proven industry leader in producing the highest quality cut and manufacture, Toro turf maintenance expertise extends to irrigation systems too. This means that today's course managers and greenkeepers receive a complete solution suited to their own individual requirements, plus the training, back-up and service they need to meet the heaviest demands.

Toro Commercial Products are distributed in the UK by Lely UK, in St Neots and in The Republic of Ireland by Lely Ireland, in Dublin. For further information contact Lely UK on 01480 226800 or Lely Ireland on 00 353 (0) 1459 3314.

Website: www.toro.com

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For over 70 years Toro has had a reputation for superior performance in golf course turf maintenance. Today, there's a Toro precision-engineered tool whatever your turf management needs - from the classic Greensmaster® ride-on and pedestrian greensmowers to the Reelmaster® fairway mowers and the innovative triple mowers with optional Sidewinder™ side shift cutting units.

Or the revolutionary Groundsmaster® series rotary mowers with flexible contour deck. But our range doesn't stop there, we have aerators, sand rakes and multi-purpose vehicles too, all giving unrivalled performance. So, telephone 01480 226800 today and bring quality to your surface.