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 to interest everyone 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 greenkeeping issues, many of the sessions are equally relevant to 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 McIlvray, 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 includes:
Basic Machinery Maintenance, Computer Skills, Golf Course Design and Grasses/Soil Science

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
HARROGATE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE, HARROGATE, ENGLAND
A guide to who's who at BIGGA

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October 2000

Your next issue of Greenkeeper International will be with you by November 6, 2000

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Greenkeeper Education
and Development Fund

The Fund provides the key to the future for greenkeeper, golf club 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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October 2000 Greenkeeper International 3

WIN A BIGGA SPORTSWATCH
in our Buyers’ Guide quiz

82 As seen in...
Is it essential or desirable?

Although by the time you read this, everything should hopefully be back to normal, as I sit and write, I have no idea where my next gallon of petrol is coming from and I have had to throw myself at the mercy of colleagues to get here to BIGGA HOUSE to complete this month’s magazine.

It does show how modern day living has become so reliant on fuel - I don’t think any of us really conceived just how much chaos could be inflicted on the country in such a short space of time.

Nowadays not many of us live within walking distance of our work and we have become so dependent on out of town shopping centres that a car is a necessity and not a luxury. Having said that we have to be responsible and I’m looking at certain car journeys and wondering whether they are really necessary - walking, or cycling, the mile to the shop for last minute groceries and sharing lifts where possible.

The situation makes me think a bit more about how golf could be affected by being so reliant on modern style living.

In debates about the growth of the game, the comparison about how many cars you find in the club car park, midweek, is often made. Back in the 60s you’d invariably find just a couple of cars, whereas now it’s hard to find a parking space at all most days.

In the past, clubs were often built beside railway stations - or vice versa - because people would use the train to get to their golf clubs, but in reality very few golf clubs are in walking distance of anywhere. I do recall cycling to my club as a youngster with clubs strapped to my back, but it’s not something you would generally see anyone over school age doing. The point is that it highlights how reliant golf is on the car. I’m sure that in the height of the blockades, golf clubs were quieter.

Thinking about it a bit more, it is not just the member who would be struggling if such situations were to become more regular. You would all find it difficult to put your hand on a piece of machinery which didn’t rely on some sort of fuel to make it operational.

You might be forced into a position of deciding what jobs you could do with the amount of fuel in your possession. Do I cut the fairways fewer times a week or let the semi rough grow up a bit? It needn’t necessarily be a bad thing and it would make you think about the real priorities.

It brings to mind a phrase which I heard from a publisher a few years ago when cut backs were to be considered on a magazine I used to work on.

Ask yourself, “Is it essential or is it desirable? We just need to hope that members still consider it essential to drive to the club otherwise golf could be in real trouble.

Scott MacCallum
Editor
New Capricorn®:
A revolution in ultra-low dose fungicides

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  Just 50ml treats an entire green
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THE SCIENCE OF SUCCESS

Perfect Partners
Sad passing of Ian Forbes

Ian Forbes, Links Manager at St Andrews Links Trust, died last month in the St Andrews Memorial Hospital. He was 45 and had been ill for some time.

As Links Manager, Ian had responsibilities for matters relating to the maintenance and running of the golf courses — greenkeepers, starters, rangers, the caddie service, ordneryes, engineering workshops, property management and stores, as well as retaining responsibility for championship competitions.

In addition, he managed all the developments on the Links including the refurbishment of the Links Centre, the Eden and Jubilee Greenkeeping Centres, the Golf Practice Centre, the Caddie Pavilion, the Eden Clubhouse and the installation of the new irrigation system.

During his time as Links Manager, the condition of the courses improved dramatically, as did the facilities and services, enhancing the reputation of the Links throughout the world.

"Ian's contribution to the management and improvement of the Links in recent years cannot be overstated. He was a superbly effective manager, of both people and projects," said Alan McGregor, General Manager at St Andrews Links Trust. "His commitment to making the Links better for golfers was outstanding and he took enormous satisfaction from the improvements in the quality of the courses and the development of the teams of people reporting to him. Ian's achievements will have a lasting impact on the Links.

"The Trust has lost an invaluable member of staff and his colleagues have lost a great friend and person known for his dedication, warmth, and humour. The loss of Ian is a tragedy for his wife, Elaine, and their two children and our deepest sympathy goes out to them."

Ian graduated in business studies from Strathclyde University. A former college lecturer, he joined the Links Trust as Deputy Secretary in 1987 after five years at the Scottish Rugby Union. In the Trust's management reorganisation in 1992, he took on the role of Manager of Championships and Development Manager with responsibility for managing the planned major development programme and became Links Manager in 1994.

The following members were the winners in the various classes.

SCGA Challenge Cup (Scratch) David Leather, St Andrews, 74

Friendship Trophy (Best Nett) Steven Frost, Royal Aberdeen, 67 nett

Ransomes Trophy (Cat 1) 1. James McCormack, Kirnmuir, 70. 2. Neil Kidd, Keith, 74 (BIH); 3. Archie Dunn

The following are the results from the Scottish National Tournament played over the Hawkshill Course, Newmachar, by kind permission of the Board of Newmachar GC, the Scottish National Tournament enjoyed overhead conditions which were extremely kind, with a warm and sunny day and a slight breeze just to make things slightly tricky. Quite a change from the conditions we have had in the last two years.

Newmachar has only been open for 10 years and during this time has progressed to one of the finest tests of golf in the North of Scotland. The condition of the course was superb and this was due to the fine effort and hard work by the greenkeeping staff, led by Dale Robertson. With 26 holes and a full size driving range and 20 bays, the staff at Newmachar have plenty to keep them occupied.

Scores were always going to be very difficult with a course playing its full length of 6,600 yards, but, nevertheless many excellent scores were returned.

This year's Champion, with a fine round of 74, was David Leith, of St. Andrews.

David receives his trophy from the greens convener Mr Peter Thomson

Inturf, the specialist grower of cultivated turf, has promoted Ian Collett to the position of Regional Coordinator dealing with turf installation projects. Ian, (pictured centre), is 36 years old, and was formerly Installation Manager for the York-based company.

Inturf's nationwide installation services means that the company's quality turf can be installed quickly on behalf of clients with limited or unskilled labour.

Inturf reports increasing demand for the service, which ensures the turf is installed to a similarly high standard as when it was grown at the company's dedicated nurseries.
Would the BIGGA Northern Region member spotted in the Greek Island airport of Zante on the afternoon of Sunday September 3 please tuck his 10th anniversary BIGGA-logoed polo shirt into his trousers in future, as it looks so much smarter!

Major accreditation awards for Barenbrug UK

Barenbrug UK, the specialist grass seed breeder, was recently presented with two major awards, recognising the quality of the company's complete operation and its entire staff.

Bert Barenbrug, President of the Holland-based Barenbrug Group, flew over to see the UK company receive an Investors in People award from Mike Box, Managing Director of the Suffolk Training Enterprise Council, and Ann Chittock, Business Improvement Advisor, during a special ceremony held at Barenbrug UK’s headquarters in Bury St. Edmunds. The Investors in People programme recognises the formal commitment made by a company to the training of all staff and their ongoing development.

Barenbrug UK was also presented with ISO 9002 accreditation, an assurance to customers and suppliers of the consistent high quality of all aspects of a company’s operation. Barenbrug’s efforts to gain both awards have been co-ordinated by Financial Director, Neil Loveday.

Paul Johnson, Managing Director of Barenbrug UK said: “These two awards confirm not only the high standards of our staff, but also the quality of Barenbrug UK’s complete operation, from our careful research into new grass varieties to the prompt dispatch of grass seed mixtures to our customers.”

New recruits arrive at BIGGA HOUSE

Two new faces joined the BIGGA HOUSE staff last month. Meredith Foster, as Sales and Marketing Assistant brought the Sales and Marketing team back up to full strength following the departure of Jenny Panton, while Brad Anderson joined the staff as Clerical Assistant.

Meredith, 21, returned to her home in Easingwold, near Aldwark, following the successful completion - with honours - of a three year Business Studies Degree at the City University Business School in London. During her time in London she was lucky enough to undertake a period of work experience and research at the prestigious Saatchi and Saatchi Advertising Agency and two other Covent Garden-based agencies.

Outside of work she enjoys travelling having spent time in Canada and the United States. Her other interests include cross country running and squash while she has recently discovered a talent for snow boarding.

Brad, 17, also comes from Easingwold, and will soon become a familiar voice on the BIGGA switchboard. He is undertaking an NVQ Level 2 in Business Administration on a day release at JHP Training in York having already gained an NVQ in Information Technology. His interests include computers, electronics and music.

Royal Inverdivot GC...

by Tony Husband

Golfplan Europe formed after merger

Mark James, Andrew Mair and Ronald Fream have joined their golfing and golf architectural abilities to form Golfplan Europe providing source golf course planning, design, construction, turfgrass agronomic, operational and golf academy teaching services. Ronald Fream has directed Ronald Fream Design Group in California since 1972.

Golfplan Europe will expand upon the several decades of experience each of these principals contributes. Mark James was the last European Ryder Cup Captain and is Chairman of the European Ryder Cup Tournament Committee. Andrew Mair has a broad golf design and golf club operations and feasibility expertise. Ronald Fream has been a professional golf course architect since 1966 with diverse project experience in about 60 countries.

"Golfplan Europe’s methods are eminently suitable to be put to tender. The developers and owner will know in advance for budgeting purposes what the actual construction works will cost. There will be no open-ended, uncontrolled costs," said Andrew Mair.
Major investment for Scots UK

Scots UK Professional is investing £50,000 in a major new fine turf trials area at Scots Levington Research Station near Ipswich – Europe’s largest independent commercial horticulture and turfcare trials facility.

The new project is the construction of a 2,000 sq m golf green built to full USGA specification. Four times larger than an average course green, the facility will enable Scots to research turf nutrition and chemical treatments under the specific and exacting conditions found on most new courses.

Installed by specialist contractor Ray Chisnall, the new green is built on a 100 mm coarse gravel, fully drained base, covered by a 50 mm binding layer of finer grit to prevent integration of the rooting zone with the base.

The upper rooting zone is a mixture of sand (85%) and Shannon Superfine Peat (15%).

“It is important that we tailor products to meet these particular circumstances, and this huge ‘green’ is ideal for the job. It is big enough to run a sufficient number of trials each year and still leave a large enough area fallow to recover from trials the previous two years,” Trials Officer, Stuart Staples said.

Installation of pop-up irrigation is currently underway on the green, and Stuart anticipates seeding with a Barenbrug Bar 2 seed mixture by mid-September.

CGSA International Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show

Vancouver, 24-27 February 2001

BIGGA’s links with the CGSA grow over stronger as the presence of their members at BTME testifies. Their 2001 Conference and Trade Show will be held at the Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre from 24-27 February. Departure will be from Heathrow Airport on Thursday 22 February at 1635 hours returning from Vancouver on Wednesday 28 February to arrive at Heathrow the following morning. Accommodation will be provided at the Waterfront Centre Hotel which is one of the CGSA official hotels.

Itinerary

Thursday 22 February
Assemble at Heathrow Airport for the 1635 hours British Airways flight direct to Vancouver arriving at 1815 hours. You will be transferred to your hotel for a six night stay on a room only basis inclusive of private facilities.

Wednesday 28 February
You will be transferred to the airport for your return flight departing 2000 hours to arrive in London at 1835 hours on 1st March.

Prices

Prices are £665 per person based on a twin share and £849 per person based on single occupancy plus comprehensive holiday insurance for the duration of £25 per person.

Included in the price are return economy class flights from London Heathrow to Vancouver with inflight refreshments and meals, airport taxes, transfer from the airport to hotel and return; six nights accommodation on a room only basis and Canadian accommodation taxes.

Please note: Registration costs for the Conference and Trade Show are not included in the package and bookings will need to be made directly with the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association. Details are available from BIGGA on request. Please forward full payment of £665 or £849 (plus insurance if required) to BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York, YO61 1UF to arrive not later than Friday 8 & December 2000, together with name, address and contact telephone number. Accommodation is required for the night of 21 February please advise in order for the hotel rooms to be booked. Payment will be made on checking out of the hotel.

Vancouver is most certainly one of the world’s most beautiful cities and the Waterfront Centre Hotel is surrounded by the towering peaks of the majestic Rocky Mountains and located on Vancouver’s spectacular harbour and city parks. From here you will have the opportunity to explore Chinatown, historical Gastown, the exclusive boutiques on Robson Street, Stanley Park surrounded on three sides by the sea with 1000 acres of gardens, lakes and forest, or bask in the view atop Grouse Mountain.

Thanks to Bruce and Brian for their help in making the trip possible.
Financial support for GCSAA exhibitors

The largest trade show in the world for the golf course management industry, the GCSAA Conference and Show in Dallas on February 15-17, 2001 will once again be financially supported by British Trade International under the SEPA programme.

The Agricultural Engineers Association will act as the sponsor and the grant is available to all UK based companies involved in exporting from the UK.

Support for eligible exhibitors: 60% of expenditure on stand space and construction, up to a fixed ceiling of £2,300.

First Time Exhibitors Package: A structured package of information and advice, in addition to the basic grant for those companies exhibiting with support for the first time in any market.

Applications for the grant must be received by the Agricultural Engineers Association before 15th November 2000.

Contact: Debbie Dale, Agricultural Engineers Association Overseas Manager. Tel: 01733 371381 Fax: 01733 370664 Email: export@aea.uk.com

Football Groundsman of the Year Award

Mark Robinson, head groundsman of Premiership Derby County's Pride Park Stadium has been named IOG Professional Football Groundsman of the Year at Saltex.

His award, a silver plate and holiday for two, was presented by IOG director Carl Pass who sits on the playing surfaces committee of the Premier and Football Leagues. The final judging, on groundsman skills including management and maintenance techniques, was carried out by Carl and IOG Director and National Treasurer Alex Miller.

"I am deeply honoured by this award, particularly as it has been given by fellow professionals who know the pressure we are under," said Mark. His pitch was named top in the Premier League earlier in the year by STRI judge Stephen Baker. The other contenders for the top IOG award were:

- Division One: John Deere Territory Manager Richard Charleston with the 3235A mower.
- Division Two: Steve Patrick of Blackburn Rovers.
- Division Three: Mike Heather of Cheltenham Town.

In last month's issue we used a red cross to illustrate the article on the winter health check for golf courses, and in doing so we inadvertently contravened the "Statute ruling" which states that the Red Cross symbol is protected by statute and may only be used by member groups, societies of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent Movement.

We apologise unreservedly for the Red Cross for the breach.

Toro thanks

Can I just say what an enjoyable afternoon I had meeting Jimmy Neilson for the first time and walking my course with him under the premise of his judging our efforts for the Toro Excellence in Greenkeeping Award. I was previously under the mistaken impression that there was nothing for me in an award scheme like this - after all there must be thousands of people nominated - some who will be more, if all your judges have as much less deserving than me and some who will be more. If all your judges have as much enthusiasm and experience as Jimmy Neilson, and are willing to pass that on in the same encouraging and motivating manner then every one of those nominees will have had a worthwhile experience.

Meeting a man willing to share a lifetime of knowledge is worth more to me than any trophy Jimmy, I look forward to meeting to again soon.

Simon Freeman, Machrie Hotel and Golf Links, Isle of Islay

October 2000 Greenkeeper International

Letters

Education matters: Both old and new

I feel that I have to comment on the statement in Steve Isaac's article, in last month's issue, that there has been a slight rethink on the subject of autumn fertilisers, on the part of those with dominantly annual meadow grass greens who see their turf turn a sickly yellow. Surely he and they have heard of the greenkeepers' friend, sulphate of iron, which imparts colour for the benefit of those who equate colour with quality, without all the harmful effects of fertiliser. It also, needless to say, acts as a mild fungicide, hardens the turf, acidifies the root zone (discouraging worms) and blackens moss.

Applying NPK fertilisers as late as the end of August would be regarded by many experienced traditional greenkeepers as too late anyway, but such fertilisers in autumn not only encourage Psa annua to dominate but set up fearsome Fusarium attacks. When students in both turf magazines report through articles a big swing in the States towards traditional (low fertiliser) standards save in the case of resort courses, we should not allow such hesitancies as autumn fertilisers to be given credence here. Needless to say the fertiliser firms are all in favour of the extra sales.

To advise NPK in autumn because greens look sickly (if they are dominantly annual meadow grass) is equivalent to letting a drying-out alcoholic go back on the booze just because he is suffering.

May I also comment on two other articles. First my congratulations to my old friend Duncan Gray in Talking Heads, who is brave enough to say what many think, that over-seeding greens is something invented by the seed trade as a sales ploy.

On the subject of the editorial on education, when will we accept that colleges today are inventing more and more courses not for the benefit of our profession but to serve their own interests? The trend today is for more and more on-course training, supervised by visiting lecturers and under their own head men - far more economic and efficient.

JH Arthur
Budeleigh Salterton
East Devon

address your letters to the Editor, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Aine, York Y061 1UF. You can also fax them to 01347 533801, or email them to reception@bigga.co.uk
As Membership reaches a record breaking 7,100 with a fantastic Greenkeeper membership figure of 6,200, Tracey Maddison, BIGGA’s Membership Services Officer asks “Can you afford not to be a BIGGA member?”

BIGGA welcomes you!

Scottish Region
Jillian Coyle, West
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James Matthews, West
Ceri J. Mawell, West
Brian Ball, East
Fraser Weight, Central

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Agnes Kubanek, Sweden

Student Member
Piotr Maliszewski, Poland

Check out November’s edition for September’s new members!

Watch the web for the latest news

At the risk of being accused of excessive navel gazing - the magazine talking about the magazine - the BIGGA Website is an excellent complement to Greenkeeper International, giving as it does a shortened version of that month’s magazine content.

There is also a database of the last 14 months of Learning Experience - in association with Textron, articles to draw from, while a similar database is shortly to be introduced to include some of the other significant articles which appear each month.

BIGGA wants you!

Why become a Greenkeeping Member of BIGGA?

I had the very same question asked of me recently but with a slightly different edge... what do the Golf Club gain from having Grenekeepers being members of BIGGA?

I started with the obvious, Greenkeeper International. A monthly copy of this award winning magazine drops on the doormat of every member each month. Full of news, views, reviews and updates, section information and editorial features. (Subscription to this magazine alone would normally cost £36 per year). A must for all in the industry.

I then highlighted the new Greenkeeper Training Courses which are designed to meet the needs of all greenkeepers. These courses are heavily subsidised thanks to the introduction of its free CPD scheme for members. Further information can be obtained from the Education and Training Department at HQ, or in your CPD2000 Brochure, which was free with last month’s magazine.

Also, members have the use of the BIGGA Lending Library, containing over 600 books and 250 slides and FREE field guides are available.

All the above Education and Training opportunities are aimed at bringing members up to date with what’s new in the industry, and helping them carry out their jobs more effectively. Golf Clubs can only continue to benefit from their Grenekeepers being members of BIGGA.

Europe’s largest indoor fine turf exhibition and features a showcase of the latest advances in machinery, products and services within the industry. Running alongside BTME, The Learning Experience is perhaps the most comprehensive education programme available to the grenekeeping profession. All BIGGA members are eligible for discounted rates on accommodation, seminars, the National Education Conference and workshops.

Then something new - thanks to contributors to the Education and Training Development Fund, BIGGA is encouraging the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) of greenkeepers by the introduction of its free CPD scheme for members. Further information can be obtained from the Education and Training Department at HQ, or in your CPD2000 Brochure, which was free with last month’s magazine.

Also, members have the use of the BIGGA Lending Library, containing over 600 books and 250 slides and FREE field guides are available.

All the above Education and Training opportunities are aimed at bringing members up to date with what’s new in the industry, and helping them carry out their jobs more effectively. Golf Clubs can only continue to benefit from their Grenekeepers being members of BIGGA.

At the risk of being accused of excessive navel gazing - the magazine talking about the magazine - the BIGGA Website is an excellent complement to Greenkeeper International, giving as it does a shortened version of that month’s magazine content.

There is also a database of the last 14 months of Learning Experience - in association with Textron, articles to draw from, while a similar database is shortly to be introduced to include some of the other significant articles which appear each month.

Greenkeeper International

In more general terms BIGGA Website is becoming an increasingly worthwhile tool for members, as useful Association information can be posted urgently if it has become available after a magazine deadline.

So always make a point of checking the latest news on the Web, it may sometimes be more up to date than the magazine!
Washing turf is a job for experts. Rolawn's expertise in turf washing has been built up over twenty five years. This coupled with a substantial investment in a state of the art turf washing plant has made the company European leader in turf washing technology.

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Things have changed...

...for the better.
This month, Ken Richardson reports on the latest education and training information, after a particularly hectic month...

IMPORTANT GREENKEEPER INFORMATION

Due to the very poor response to this year’s BIGGA HOUSE Training Courses, the following courses are no longer available.

BIGGA HOUSE
9/10 October
Managing Oneself

11/12 October
Managing Information for Action

Further BIGGA House Courses and some Regional Courses are at risk of being cancelled unless further bookings are received. Use them or lose them. Contact Ken or Sami for further information.

EDUCATION UPDATE

Life has been hectic in the Education and Training Department, arranging the final stages of the TORO Student of the Year and Excellence in Greenkeeping Competitions, liaising with Bob Taylor, from STRI, to complete the final stages of the Golf Course Environment Competition, sponsored by Amazone Ground Care and finalising the programme for the Learning Experience 2001 which is, once again, sponsored by Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products.

We have also been busy arranging for additions to be made to the Field Guide on Trees and Shrubs and to the Guide on Grass Identification, producing an environmental booklet, administering the BIGGA CPD scheme, dealing with applications for the BIGGA HOUSE Supervisory and Management Courses and for the Regional Training Courses, finalising details of our next training video on Irrigation and Water Management and judging the BIGGA Essay Competition, which are all provided thanks to the contributors to the BIGGA Education and Development Fund, shown on page 3 of this magazine.

Toro awards

I was very pleased to hear from the judges of the TORO Excellence in Greenkeeping Competition that the standard of entries continues to improve with improved facilities for greenkeepers, including formal training and excellently prepared and presented golf courses. It gets more difficult each year to select the finalists. The Toro Student of the Year Competition continues to attract high quality entries year after year and this year is no exception. Details of the finalists for the Student of the Year Competition and for the Excellence in Greenkeeping Competition appear on page 36 and 37 of this magazine.

Golf Environment Competition

Entries for the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, sponsored by Amazone Ground Care continue to increase each year making judging ever more difficult. Bob Taylor, Jonathan Hart-Woods and Keith Duff have almost finished their judging. The announcement of winners should take place during November.

BIGGA HOUSE Courses

There is still time to book a place on a BIGGA HOUSE Supervisory Management Course and/or on one of this year’s Regional Courses. Presented at very low prices, these courses have something for everyone.

Contact Sami or myself to check on availability.

Education and Training contact information

Post: Education Dept, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Aine, York, Y061 1UF
E-mail: education@bigga.co.uk
Internet: www.bigga.org.uk/edudev.html
Tel: 01347 833800
Fax: 01347 833801

ON COURSE WITH BIGGA EDUCATION

British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Aine, York, Y061 1UF
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Fax: 01347 833801
Email: education@bigga.co.uk

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In the **GOLF** market, the brand is **JACOBSEN**, the colour **ORANGE**.

In the **MUNICIPAL** market, the brand is **RANSOMES**, the colour **GREEN**.

For **JACOBSEN**, for **RANSOMES**, for the largest turf care range in the business call Freephone 0500 026208.
Keith Wiley, General Manager at Moatlands Golf Club in Kent, looks at all aspects of security at the golf club with an emphasis on risk assessment and the appropriate action to mitigate possible losses.

Below: CCTV and security lighting can prove to be an effective deterrent.

Top right: Visible and audible alarm systems are all part of the golf clubs' physical evidence that risk assessment has taken place.

The incidence of break-ins, thefts and vandalism at golf and leisure facilities up and down the country is continuing to conspire to add to the nightmares involved in trying to protect effectively acreage, premises, personal property and course equipment against criminal damage.

The real question facing course and facility managers is just how much protection can be realistically afforded to property before installation and maintenance costs become more of an overriding issue.

It is an accepted fact that general alarm systems have historically been the most effective and economic deterrent to would-be intruders, but the latter day technical advances in other areas of loss prevention such as close circuit television (CCTV) have seen the cost for even quite intricate systems become affordable to the smallest business.

Identifying the risks

The first priority when analysing security both internal and external is to undergo a rigorous risk assessment against what will inevitably be a constantly changing background. The areas most commonly exposed will, of course, be the clubhouse, professional shop, car parks, maintenance compound sites and the course itself.

Clubhouse

In times gone by most clubhouses would consider protection by linked alarm (either to a specialist monitoring service or direct to the police or, more preferably, both these options) to be generally sufficient to deter intruders. However, with the uncertainties in police response time in a modern day environment, it has become logical good practice to think about supplementing existing devices with systems such as CCTV to extend not only the quality, but also the quantity of protection.

From the club's perspective the vital areas of cover are the immediate direct financial risks in stock, money and equipment. Thus the food and beverage areas of bar and restaurant, Pro Shop and the administrative offices are clear targets for the criminal and this is where small TV monitoring cameras can be an effective deterrent. They can provide real time protection and hard evidence of intrusion, theft and/or damage. In most instances
these individual at-risk areas should also be covered by an isolated alarm link within the overall system.

At most clubs, the probability is that the restaurant will only be open within certain limited hours, but the bar and lounge are normally open from start till finish and consequently demand far more rigorous monitoring and surveillance. Point of sale areas therefore are a major risk, so monitoring these coupled with coverage of the actual bar itself, will ensure that managers can feel that they are doing as much to the business as could be expected.

From the member and visitor's point of view the protection of personal effects within the clubhouse, although historically an individual's sole responsibility, can be facilitated by the use of electronic entrance/exit doors governed by swipe cards and also CCTV coverage of public places such as locker rooms and entrance and exit areas. Locker rooms are always a somewhat sensitive issue, as cautionary concerns over personal privacy being invaded have to be balanced with current demands for maximum loss prevention methods. At Moatlands, for example, members have taken a circumspect view of the thinking behind installing cameras in locker and changing rooms and prefer to feel comforted that their property is at least being watched over. The incidence of property loss, since the installation of these internal cameras has been almost entirely eradicated.

From the golf professional's standpoint, he ideally requires the comfort factor of knowing his stock and equipment are adequately protected, not only throughout the operating day, but after as well. It was a major break-in and theft from this area some years ago that was to provide the final provocation for the installation of CCTV at Moatlands and again, the instances of reported theft and damage since installation have been non-existent.

The administration areas or back-room offices tend to handle the bulk of golf club receipts and although visually not the shop window of the operation, are nonetheless crucial areas that demand protection. Insurers would have already required that a safe be an integral part of the securing process and it is again a logical step to cover the entrance and exit areas of these essential parts of the building in some way or other.

The final area needing constant reappraisal is the club's trophy cabinet. Most of the cups, plates and other memorabilia stored therein would have incurred an intrinsic historic value which may on the surface be of little use to thieves, but that still does not deter them from taking everything that is not nailed to the floor. Individual photographs of the various items housed within the cabinet will therefore give added support to the recovery process and, if isolated alarm sensors can be used inexpensively within the same function, then insurers could not ask for more.

Professional Shop

In those facilities where the professional shop is situated externally from the main clubhouse particularly rigorous risk assessment needs to be undertaken, as this area has been traditionally the most vulnerable to intruders. Many clubs would have had the unhappy experience of losing stock due to insufficient monitoring systems and during daytime those criminals who operate in pairs or groups have historically found easy pickings where
Right: Some of any club’s prime assets are bound up in its course machinery. All ignition keys should be stored in a safe or special anti-theft key locker when the equipment is not in use. The introduction of CCTV here though is the next best defence affording the professional at least a little support while his back is turned.

Although initially expensive and time-consuming the individual identification of each saleable item within the shop will add to the chances of recovery while the extra value of external security lighting should offer sufficient deterrent to satisfy insurers and put off the potential criminal.

**Car Parks**

The highest incidence of intruder activity stems from break-ins to cars parked in club car parks and left untended for many hours. The protection of these sometimes remote areas is always difficult and CCTV again proves to be the most commonly used response as the committed thief will tend to be in and out quickly with the extra value of external security lighting should offer sufficient deterrent to satisfy insurers and put off the potential criminal.

Evidence of thefts of greenkeeping machinery en masse have underwritten the necessity to provide cover for both small and large pieces of equipment alike with either a sophisticated radio transmitting device attached to each piece and/or a series of sensors activated by infra-red movement situated within outbuildings adding to the comfort factor. These may be supplemented by a governing control panel, which can report silently or provide an audible warning to scare intruders away. If all these protective devices are also overtly advertised to the casual onlooker, the additional provision of external security lighting and monitoring cameras will serve to underline the message to potential thieves or vandals.

**The Course**

Given the logistics of covering the sheer size of this part of the operation the golf course and the greens in particular are the very hardest areas to defend comprehensively. Recent horror stories from The London Club, locally in Kent, who have over recent years experienced the most serious examples of premeditated and controlled vandalism, are lessons to all course managers. Continued vigilance from both greens staff, members and the public are all necessary for the satisfactory protection of any club’s most valuable asset.

The sheer cost of employing a specific security patrol operator as a last line of defence is normally the overriding conundrum. Most clubs will take the philosophical view that you can only go so far in protecting against what may or may not happen. This is clearly the last, and most expensive option, and if there are repeated or renewed attempts to gain illegal access to the course then this option needs to be given serious consideration.

In the final analysis Club Managers may in due course be driven by insurers’ demands towards the installation of more sophisticated protection systems as premiums increase alongside an ever-growing claims experience. The very best that can be done in the face of such pressure is to provide physical evidence that risk assessment has taken place and that all reasonable actions have been taken to cover exposed areas.
Nothing looks better than a course that's completely green.

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

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

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The three magnificent Woburn courses each have their own greenkeeping team and as Scott MacCallum found out the friendly competition keeps them all on their toes.

**Divide and Conquer**

I'd been to Woburn a number of times over the last ten years but hadn't ever appreciated one important fact about the renowned estate of the Marquess of Tavistock. Golf has only been a feature of it for the past 23 years. Walking around the mature parkland environment you would be forgiven for thinking the Dukes and Duchess courses shared a history with the Sunningdales and Royal Mid Surrey's of this world. But while "historically challenged" no club in the country has done more to catch up its elders and of the most illustrious names in the world of golf, who have won some of the most underestimated courses in the country and could easily host a seniors event. It is tighter and couldn't cope with the spectator numbers for other events but because it is tight I think the seniors would appreciate the course management skills required," revealed Eddie.

The Marquess is a stunning new course which will soon feature in the lists of the country's finest. It doesn't look out of place with the other two but it has been built to cope with modern day tournament golf. The greens are 50% larger than the Dukes at 600 square metres and at 7200 yards with a range of tees it can be set up to cope with any eventuality.

As a golf professional and a man steeped in the game Eddie possesses a knowledge of agronomy and greenkeeping which would be beyond most. Managing Directors, while during the week of the tournament he was on site at 6am supporting the work of his greenkeeping staff.

He draws on having played all the major courses throughout the British Isles as well as many in Europe and the States.

"You are always on the look out and comparing things and finding ideas to tuck away for future use," he explained.

Unlike many clubs where there is a natural pecking order for the courses Woburn's triumvirate, although different, don't have an obvious one-two-three.

"My ambition is to get three tournaments here within a year - one on each of the courses and I think that can be achievable with the standard of courses we have. We know the Marquess will have the Victor Chandler next year, and as in previous years, when it's hosted the Westatix British Ladies Open, that the Dukes can host ladies events while the Duchess is one of the most underestimated courses in the country. But while "historically challenging" no club in the country has done more to catch up its elders and of the most illustrious names in the world of golf, who have won some of the most underestimated courses in the country and could easily host a seniors event. It is tighter and couldn't cope with the spectator numbers for other events but because it is tight I think the seniors would appreciate the course management skills required," revealed Eddie.

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"My ambition is to get
delighted to see the pride that people feel from being a member of BIGGA and I support everything the Association does.

With that, and despite a schedule which would have most seeking a premature end to the meeting Eddie took time to drive me around the Marquess course in a buggy.

He was to be rewarded by an excellent tournament with some fabulous golf over the following few days.

OVERLEAF: FIND OUT HOW EACH OF WOBURN’S COURSES HAS ITS OWN INDIVIDUALITY AND HOW THE THREE HEAD GREENKEEPERS DEAL WITH THE VARYING DEMANDS PLACED UPON THEM...

Above and top: Two contrasting views of the magnificent 12th on the new Marquess Course
The Dukes have been involved in over 30 professional events with the recent Victor Chang Hart British Masters making it three as a Head Greenkeeper.

He was certainly thrown in the deep end with the previous two which came within a month of each other, the Weetabix Ladies Open followed by the previous two which included the recent Victor Chang Hart Masters.

"To be honest we kept the course pretty much the same between that four week period but by the Sunday of the Masters you could see the stress the greens were under," said Steve, who said that he was pleased that the events had fallen with the ladies' event first.

"The ladies don't like the greens quite so quick but the rest of the course is much the same," said Steve, who revealed that he expected the greens to be about 10.5 for the event later that week.

He gets a buzz from being involved in competitions and having his work seen by the television cameras, the galleries and the players but has seen a difference tackling them from the position of head man.

"You face all the pressures and everyone is gunning for you during the week while in the weeks leading up you have to work out a different work programme to cater for the extra man power that we take from the Duchesses with so many majestic mature trees and which we can trace the problem back," he said.

He was also able to put forward his own opinions often on the need for areas to be more maintenance friendly.

"The interest in the project was huge, with many people involved other than just the architect - Ross McMurray of European Golf Design and the constructors, Southern Golf, but if I said something they did take note."

The course was cut out of 42 hectares of dense pure woodland so with so many majestic mature trees forming part of the design, it has an established feel to it from the very beginning. As well as the routing the remainder of the woodland has been thinned thus encouraging wildlife to return to an area previously excluded to them because of the unmanaged woods.

"It is great to see deer roaming the course early in the mornings." Unlike the other two courses the Marquess has been built to USGA guidelines and Gary has been on a fast learning curve.

"I've seen dry patch appear within hours and the amount of leaching you get is incredible," said Gary, who is not slow to ask advice of people having had working for USGA guideline constructions.

"It has been an up and down experience for me but there has never been a time when I've regretted taking it on," he revealed.

The tight tree lined nature of the Duchess course has caused a number of long standing problems for Chris and his team.

"In the past a lot of iron has been used on the greens and our iron count is horrific, we're up at 700 parts per million as opposed to the optimum of between 60-100, and we haven't used iron ore and sulphur based fertilisers for two years now," explained Chris, who took over from Gary as the Duchess' Head Greenkeeper two years ago.

"In the winter we have been running over with the big vertdrain, going down a foot with an inch tine and back filling with Leighton Buzzard sand which helps the drainage. It should help the roots to spread and break down the iron content. The grass plant is a lot healthier now so we can live with the high iron count," explained Chris, who worked in Seattle and California before returning to Woburn.

The wealth of trees around the course also causes shade problems with some greens in the winter not shaking their covering of frost while bare patches under the trees are currently being tackled with blinding Buzzard sand which helps the drainage.

In the past the tree work was carried out on an ad-hoc basis but recently a tree surgeon has been employed to conduct a proper programme.

Chris is also an advocate of the policy of having three separate teams to maintain Woburn's courses.

"It's quite playful between the guys and it's good to have that healthy competition. Greens are the main thing we judge each other on and we might just point out that someone's greens are looking a bit sick one week. Having said that we definitely share ideas and solve problems together."

Clockwise from top: A tremendous tree-lined approach to the 2nd on the new Marquess Course at Woburn. Toro kit plays a major part in the daily routines of all three Greenkeeping teams at Woburn. The new halfway house on the Marquess Course. One live-in "chef" required!
Jenny Murphy examines the types of pests in turf, and the treatments available

The management of fine turf will occasionally require the control of turf pest problems. This article aims to provide a working knowledge of the four major pests of turf, and how best to control them. The problem of worm casts is well known and an easy one to identify. However, the presence of insect pests such as leatherjackets, frit fly and chafer grubs are not so readily recognised and requires closer examination of the turf.

Worm casts
Earthworm casts are a mixture of earth and decomposing organic matter. In the UK, there are 25 species of earthworm commonly occurring. However, the majority of worm casting problems are the responsibility of just three species. Earthworms feed on decaying organic matter found either on the surface or in the humus fraction of the soil. Some worms feed exclusively on humus found lower down in the soil profile. These species deposit their casts in their burrows. Other species may be described as 'surface feeders' and it is this group that contains the three species responsible for worm casts which have been deposited on the surface.

Benefits of worms
It is widely recognised that earthworms are beneficial to soil, especially in agricultural and amateur gardening situations. They aerate the soil and assist in drainage by producing deep burrows, which are kept open when worms are active. In addition they are important in the re-cycling of organic matter.

Disadvantages of worms
In the professional turf market, these benefits are out-weighted by the disadvantages and worms unfortunately reach pest status. Worms live in colonies so that their beneficial effects are not evenly spread. They cannot be relied on to produce the standards of drainage and aeration acceptable to the management of fine turf areas such as bowling and golf greens. The disadvantages can be devastating on fine turf:

- Worm casts disrupt the playing surface of a golf or bowls green: a smooth surface with an appropriate speed is essential for both games.
- An unresolved cast problem could create a slip hazard for players.
- Casts form ideal sites for weed establishment and encourage the spread of turf disease.
- The presence of high worm populations in fine turf is likely to attract moles - with devastating effect.

Factors influencing worm populations
Worms are encouraged by the conditions necessary to grow fine turf grasses:

- The right pH (6.5 - 7.5)
- A good soil texture (light, sandy soil/medium loam)
- A regular supply of food (grass clippings)
- Optimum temperature (similar to that for healthy grass growth)

Treatment
Apply a pesticide to moist turf at the first sign of casting activity. Do not apply when earthworms are inactive, such as during periods of drought or when the ground is frozen.

Leatherjackets
Leatherjackets are the larval stage of the cranefly (Tipula spp.) and can cause widespread damage to turf.

Identification
The grubs are legless, brown/grey or earth coloured and 4 cm long when fully grown. The head is black and retractile, with a pair of horny jaws. On the last body segment, there are two dark coloured holes through which air enters the body; these are surrounded by six conical projections.

Life Cycle
Adult flies usually emerge in early September and lay their eggs in the sward. The eggs hatch after a few weeks, and the larvae which emerge start to feed immediately. They may become dormant during cold winter months and may even be killed by severe frosts. If a high population survives the winter, extensive damage is caused in the spring, by which time the larvae have grown up to 3cm long, with a voracious appetite for grass roots and stems.

Damage by leatherjackets is often very severe if the autumn of the previous year was wet (i.e. favourable for growth and feeding of newly hatched larvae).

Symptoms
Both old grassland and newly established swarrows are attacked. The damage to turf is seen as patches of dead or dying grass. Examination of the turf by lifting sections of the affected grass will often reveal the grubs. Large numbers of leatherjackets may also be indicated by the persistent attention of birds feeding on the grubs. The main culprits are rooks, starlings and gulls. These birds often do more damage than the grubs themselves, tearing up sections of turf in search of a meal.

Treatment
Application of pesticides can be made at any time from the beginning of November where high larval populations are detected or damage is first seen. You should not apply during periods of frost, as leatherjacket activity is reduced under these conditions and treatment may not be as effective.

Chafer Grubs
Chafer grubs are the larvae of the chafer beetle family. The most frequently found chafer grub in turf is the garden chafer. Occurrence of these pests appears to be increasing in the UK.

Identification
Chafer grubs are pale, fleshy grubs with brown heads and curved bodies. They have three pairs of legs carried on the front segments of the body. They grow to about 1.2 cm long, although other less common species of chafer grub may grow up to 4 cm in length.
For years people scratched their heads looking for a speedy, efficient and economical way of collecting leaves and grass cuttings. Then, in 1966, the engineers at Trilo came up with the perfect solution – an ingenious vacuum sweeper which they called the Trilo Grass Collector. The idea was a huge success and the company’s reputation for expertise and quality soon spread worldwide. Thirty years on, Trilo is still leading the way with a wide range of machines that will not only vacuum, but also scarify, cut and collect.

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The first name in Vacuum Sweepers

TRILO’S GOT LEAF COLLECTING OFF TO A TEE

The life cycle of the chafer grub is variable (one - three years), depending on the species. For example, the garden chafer (Phyllopertha horticola) completes its life cycle in one year. The adult beetles emerge in late May and early June. Soon afterwards, the female burrows into the ground to lay her eggs, which take about five weeks to hatch. The emerging grubs feed on the grass roots until late autumn, when they burrow deeper to hibernate for the winter. The grubs pupate in the following spring and after about four weeks the adults dig their way out of the soil.

Symptoms
The damage caused to turf by chafer grubs is very much the same as with leatherjackets - i.e. dead / dying grass and blocks of birds - and can be severe. Positive identification of a chafer grub problem relies on finding the grubs under the affected patches.

Treatment
There is currently no pesticide available for the specific treatment of chafer grubs. Aventis is currently meeting this challenge with a new research programme to find a suitable product to control this pest. In the meantime, chlorpyrifos-based products are used. In the case of severe infestations, two applications are required two to three weeks apart, to suppress the problem.

Frit Fly
The frit fly causes problems in the establishment of newly-sown turf.

Identification
The larvae are almost colourless and very small, being just visible to the naked eye.

Life Cycle
Up to three generations of frit fly can occur in one year. However, damage to turf is restricted to those generations which are active at the normal sowing time for grass (spring and autumn). The adult fly lays its eggs on the shoots of young grasses and the emerging maggots burrow into the young shoots, causing withering of the affected plants. When fully grown, the maggots pupate and give rise to adult flies.

Although a fairly rare problem in the UK, the occasional attacks can be phenomenal, particularly in autumn. Populations in excess of three million per hectare have been recorded.

Symptoms
The larvae destroy the central shoots of ryegrass, fescues and bents. They may affect both establishment and development. Serious thinning of newly-sown grass lawns can be seen following an attack. Close examination of the affected plants will often reveal the maggot or the small brown puparia (cases left behind).

Treatment
Application of a pesticide should be made at emergence, where damage is anticipated, or at first signs of attack.

Conclusion
Information from the Aventis Environmental Science Technical Helpline indicates that turf pest problems generally, and chafer grub populations in particular, are on the increase. This could be due to climate change. Milder winters and fewer frosts allow higher populations of leatherjackets to survive the winter, and reduce the period of dormancy, encouraging pests to feed earlier in the year. In addition, warmer summers appear to be causing a trend towards greater occurrence of ants and more unusual species such as mining bees and cutworms (moth larvae).

Until recently, we often commented that the climate of the British Isles restricts turf pests to a manageable few. As indicated above, perhaps we should not be so self-assured...

To combat changing/increasing pest populations, current research and development (at EAS) is looking at new active ingredients and methods of application, with a wider target pest spectrum in mind.

The author, Jenny Murphy is Technical and Registration Manager of Aventis Environmental Science

TRILO

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Golf Course Architect Ronald Fream identifies a problem that may have crept up on you and gives some advice on how to counteract it...

Does your course suffer from green creep?

Golf courses experience evolution, alteration, maturation and aging just as all other living things do. Having the benefit of almost 35 years as a golf architect and observing some courses for 25 years or longer, it is quite easy to notice the incremental, and at times, profound changes that occur.

The alterations I refer to are natural and evolutionary. Golf course maintenance crews cause and enhance alteration. Technological advances have accelerated change. Plant physiology, human genetics, nutrition, television and golf publications have expedited the demand or need for alteration.

The focus of this article is on those alterations that are more or less naturally occurring as distinguished from greens committee action or periodic remodelling for design sake.

Green creep is a catch-all phrase I use to describe the inevitable alterations which emerge on every course. The rate of emergence, the frequency and the extent are variable in response to the type of course, location, climate, turfgrass varieties, soil conditions, original design and construction methods. Intensity of, and quality of maintenance, volume of play and financial strength of the owner or operator of the golf course.

Green creep begins to emerge as soon as maintenance begins on a new course. However, it increases in prominence the older the course is. Green creep is part of the aging process of almost every course, everywhere. There really is no easy way to avoid some component of green creep. That green creep is so prevalent and yet so unnoticed, is due to the almost glacial rate of occurrence.

At its most basic, green creep is altered shapes and sizes of putting surfaces, the repositioning of bunker edges and altered tee surfaces due to insidious, little by little, mowing changes and sand edging practices. These changes can become many feet over time.

Maintenance personnel keep their jobs by not killing the grass. As the person mowing the putting surfaces does the job, each day a little uncut collar is left to prevent scalping. The person mowing tends to cut inside yesterday's cut.

Concurrently, straighter lines or more rounded lines of cut emerge over time. The putting green surface becomes smaller and rounder or oval, more uniform and less visually appealing in shape.

Bunker edging often does not cut back all of the growth that has occurred since the bunker edge was last trimmed. The person doing the edging often overlooks the original outline shape. The grass remaining has grown more onto the sand than before. Continued edging over time tends to cut off or ignore originally designed undulations or irregular outlined shapes. The sand surface area becomes less. What were visible sand surfaces from the tee now are grass. What had been a visible bunker in the fairway is now a slightly visible sand depression or appears from the player's view to be only grass. The aesthetic and strategic reason for the bunker has been lost. Now the sand is blind to the player and has become an unfair hazard.

Excessive adding of sand over time tends to flatten and make shallower what originally was a meaningful hazard. Siltation has clogged the drainage system and the bunker is a pond when it rains. In some environments, the action of blowing wind can cause sand to accumulate at one prevailing edge or side of the bunker. Sand accumulates and the grass continues to grow. Now that portion is substantially higher than before. A mound or ridge now obscures what was once visible sand. This same result occurs from the use of mechanised bunker raking machines.

As the green surfaces become smaller and rounder, day by day and year by year, the area for pin placement is reduced. The distance relationship between pin position and adjacent sand bunker is expanded. The golfer's visibility of the sand basin often is...
reduced. Topdressing of greens as a normal process of maintenance will, over time smooth out a green surface, remove some original contour and perhaps not make it easier for most golfers, but make the putting surface flatter, less contoured.

Progressively smaller greens, greater distance between pin and sand, less pre shot awareness of bunker locations, all contribute to substantially different playing conditions than the original design possessed.

Changing putting surface shapes do alter what were originally designed-in approach play strategic factors, often lessening the challenge and diversity. Smaller green sites that are more flat and round begin to all look the same. Reductions of 25% or more in playable green surface is common after 10 or 15 years.

Smaller putting surfaces reduce pin placement options. The original variety in pin placement variation now has become lost. Smaller putting surfaces concentrate golfer wear and tear, increase compaction, turf wear and tear. Deteriorating putting surfaces are the result. Increased maintenance costs are a result. Missed puts are also a result.

Similar slow motion changes occur on tees. Day by day mowing can change the shape, reduce the usable surface, alter the outline edge and adversely impact play and wear and tear. Smaller teeing area is the result. Incorrect or inattentive divot repair and inadequate or incorrect tee surface topdressing will, over time, turn a flat comfortable surface into one more crowned, bumpy, or with a surface sloping in several directions. Traffic induced compaction problems increase. Turf quality often deteriorates. Any of these creeping changes can alter how the player addresses the ball. Inattentive mowing can lead to tee surface alignments not focused on the centre of the fairway or par 3 green site. The person setting the tee blocks often then does not orient the markers correctly and perpendicular to the desired line of play. Inattentive golfers often line up their shot on this incorrect orientation hitting inaccurate shots, wasting time, and raising scores. Miss-hit shots result, through no fault of the golfer.

Changes such as these are incremental and very slow. Ten to 15 years after opening is a good time to really begin to see the difference. However, some green and bunker shape changes can often be noted by year five. When visiting older courses, the extent of change can be remarkable. These changes are so glacial that to the Green Committee or Course Manager, the changes may not even be apparent. The players hardly notice, unless turf deterioration becomes obvious.

A new Course Manager, a new pro or General Manager taking over 10 or 20 years after opening, or a first time player, seldom will even be aware of what might have been the original design intent. The golf architect's name may have been lost. The original design drawings often have been lost or discarded. Unfortunately, these creeping changes tend to soften the course and will remove much of the original playing strategy.

Tree growth also creeps upon a course. Too often, greenkeepers budget little for annual tree care, particularly proper pruning. Players seldom notice the annual growth of a tree, yet overplanting of new courses in originally open areas, and too gentle a clearing on wooded sites, leave ample tree growth over time. Ongoing general thinning and reshaping of trees is lacking, so excessive growth results. Creeping tree expansion directly influences golf shots on the same hole differently over time if left untouched. Fairways become narrower. The strategy of play around a tree can be significantly altered.

An alert greenkeeper can regularly overcut the green or tee edge apron by a few inches. A yellowish discolouration will be visible for a few days. However, this repositioning of the putting or teeing surface can help retain the original outline shape and surface area.

Fairway mowing patterns and fairway outline shapes often have crept over time. New machinery at least can provide visually attractive patterns even if the width or outline shape of the fairway has changed over the years. Fairways often become narrower.

Maintained or semi-maintained rough closer to the preferred lie. Rough areas tend to creep inward as well.

Bunker creep and technology have overtaken the irrigation system too. A new more versatile and efficient pumping plant may be necessary. Upgrading the irrigation system controls to computer operation may save labour, improve turf quality and help conserve water and electricity.

Reshaping of green sites, or repositioning of fairway bunkers can also require sprinkler head replacement, repositioning or the addition of heads to assure uniform coverage. Recent improvements in sprinkler head operation, water distribution and water efficiency may encourage sprinkler head replacement. Adapting to the use of sewage effluent irrigation water may be a necessity of the times in some areas.

Few old and older courses are today
Does your course suffer from green creep?

as they were when they first opened. Noted examples, such as Augusta National, Pine Valley and Pebble Beach, bear little resemblance to their early years of operation, even though current owners or members believe they are holders of the original design or original product. Some changes are committee induced, not green creep however, and still result in substantial alteration from the original design.

Green creep makes courses more homogeneous, more similar in visual and playing appearance and certainly decreases the playing challenge of the original design. Few professional golf architects of the last half of the 20th century would have designed every green round, every fairway flat and every bunker in the image of a peanut. When I am doing bunker and green creep corrections, I feel just like a plastic surgeon. I am doing nip and tuck, wrinkle removal, a little middle-age facelift and enhancement, and a few hair grafts. Pouty lips on a bunker are preferable to thin ones.

Correcting green creep really becomes a remodelling and modernisation programme, even if some effort is devoted to recapturing a long lost glory. Modern volumes of play, enhanced expectations for turfgrass quality, a focus on visual dynamics and who has the toughest course will influence some remodelling efforts. Remodelling to a budget, to meet user market green fees or membership capability is certainly feasible. Revitalising an older course to join today's standards and meet today's expectations while accommodating more play is attainable and can occur in an affordable way. Often corrections can involve only mowing pattern changes or bunker edge re-cutting. A comprehensive master plan should guide more involved elaborate directives. The master plan for a hole or a course should be precise and comprehensive. Accurate working drawings should be utilised. Not only golf design, but also ornamental horticulture and turfgrass agronomics are part of the solution. The corrective effort can occur over an extended period of time, be sequential or priority phased or occur quite quickly over an entire course. Bunker edge corrective changes can occur quickly and have a clear obvious and beneficial result.

To do nothing, and continue with the status quo, is a continuing downward slide. From a competitive viewpoint, the slowly deteriorating course that does nothing in response certainly loses market share to newer courses in the area. Golfers today are highly attuned to the visually dynamic style of golf. Countering years of evolutionary change will have direct and positive economic benefit. To see the problem, to understand there is a problem, is not for everyone to do. Being too close, being there too long, being too new to the situation and not being attuned to the action shields the viewer from the knowledge of what had been and often also what can be. An impartial, experienced eye brings great value.

Much of this article's focus is on easy to implement, relatively inexpensive actions to reclaim what once was there. This must not be confused with the more extensive makeover or upgrade and repositioning that can be very elaborate, involved, costly and very beneficial. An assessment of existing playing conditions, the members desires, analysis of current market competition, user demographics, operational goals, economics, agronomics, local competition and other factors become part of any renovation or modernisation programme.

The restoration or modernisation programme must be carefully planned and correctly implemented. The results can be spectacular, the cost of implementation need not be excessive. Green creep is here to stay and we must deal with it, sooner or later.

Above and right: Extensive planning goes into redesigning existing greens

Ronald Fream has recently joined with Mark James and Andrew Mair to form Golfplan Europe providing source golf course planning, design, construction, turfgrass agronomic, operational and golf academy teaching services.
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Roland Taylor takes time to meet with the irrigation specialists and find out what is afoot.

From the moment man started growing plants for food he discovered that they needed sufficient quantities of the elixir of life - water, to flourish. When it failed to descend from the heavens he had to provide it from another source.

Over the centuries this need has lead to some highly innovative systems. In the quest to provide water for crops animal power and counter-weighted devices were used in early Middle Eastern countries. The portable Archimedes screw was invented in Syracuse for lifting river water into irrigation ditches and the Romans built aqueducts that transported water from the snow melts in the mountains to their cities on the plains. With the advent of steam power and followed by the combustion engine, plus electricity, irrigation became mechanised.

In today's world the word "irrigation" conjures up complex systems with pumps, electronics and computers. Strip away all the razz, flashing lights, gizmos and bells and in its crudest form the principle is no different to that of early man carrying water in a pig skin from a river to his vegetable plot. It is simply the transporting of this vital liquid in sufficient quantities from A to B, plus controlling the timing of when this happens.

Here in the UK "timing" is the operative word because unlike other parts of the globe Mother Nature frequently takes over and provides much more water than is needed. Only when she fails to come up with the goods does man have to act. This reason alone raises the question of whether it is necessary to go to the expense of installing a system. In the eventuality of a drought setting in, the chances are that severe and expensive damage can occur very quickly. This alone says that irrigation needs to be given serious consideration.

During a dry summer transpiration can account for an average loss of moisture of up to 75mm (3 inches) per month in some areas. If there is no rain the grass roots are unable to obtain sufficient water to make up for transpiration losses and problems start to occur. Artificial watering in this situation is needed to adjust the balance.

The installation of an irrigation system is a big project and requires expert advice and planning. There are plenty of consultants and specialist irrigation companies to choose from and it is worth talking to other greenkeepers who have used their services before deciding who to call in. A number of quotes should be obtained based on a standard specification, which needs to lay out the most important points, including performance requirements.

One of the main items that will have to be considered is where the water is to come from, because an 18-hole course will require a large quantity. Whatever the source, be it purpose-built reservoir, natural lake, river, stream or bore holes an extraction licence from the Environmental Agency will be required.

Changes are continually being made and those courses that already have irrigation systems may want to use the services of a specialist and update their existing units with the latest introductions.
**WATER OF LIFE**

Ocmis

When it comes to designing and putting in a system, Ocmis has installed over 3,000 here in the UK - so they clearly know what is needed. Once a decision has been reached to either install a system or upgrade the existing one, their qualified course surveyor will visit and draw up a detailed survey that shows what will be required to achieve optimum performance. If some form of irrigation is already in place this will be tested to determine whether it can be integrated into the new proposals.

A detailed plan of the course, plus costings, will then be submitted. This will illustrate what can be achieved within a certain budget. Also included are recommendations regarding the necessary installations to meet all the needs. The latest stage of the art computer-aided design (CAD) is used to come up with a suitable system for specific course requirements. Once an agreement has been reached, the company carries out the installation.

Greenkeepers and their staff are trained to ensure they get the best out of their installation.

York & Martin

With over 30 years experience in irrigation, York & Martin say they have the expertise and knowledge to provide independent advice and project management when it comes to fine turf irrigation.

Their services include feasibility studies, site surveys, water sourcing, abstraction licenses, existing system evaluations, design and installation, minimum maintenance, plus savings in energy and water.

Some courses that have older irrigation systems may not be able to meet today’s requirements. This is especially the case where changes in the course have taken place, such as lengthening or shortening holes by moving tees or enlarging putting areas. All these affect the irrigation requirements and, according to York & Martin, their experience over the last three decades enables them to provide sound advice on the most economical and best possible action for obtaining satisfactory results.

Rain Bird

When it comes to sprinklers, the range offered by Rain Bird is extensive. As you would expect from one of the market leaders, their rotors incorporate a host of features to ensure optimum performance, minimum maintenance, plus savings in energy and water.

They have been designed to prevent algae and debris blocking the unit and on the electric Impact rotors there is a pressure regulator to adjust variation in the supply, thus saving water, eliminating puddling and erosion around the head. Their low angle of trajectory minimises wind drift and the arm is kept out of the water stream to give increased coverage.

The Eagle series of gear-driven rotors have a closed case for protecting the motor and are claimed to be the only units available with self-flushing when they pop up or down. The gear driven rotors are designed to work with water so no lubrication is required. Maintenance has been kept as simple as possible with patented features that enable clearance of debris and removal of the valve seat to be carried out quickly.

The development of computers and the use of satellites in recent years have led to the introduction of software programmes that allow you to monitor and control the flow of water over the entire course without leaving your chair. Rain Bird’s Nibbus II provides a map of the course and enables the user to constantly monitor irrigation activities. The efficiency of each pump is monitored and watering can be controlled to prevent over application on areas such as slopes, or where there is poor drainage. There is the option of a Virtual Weather programme that enables transpiration rates to be created from either user-defined values or an optional Weather Station, which collects data on wind, temperature, solar radiation and rainfall.

Rain Bird’s Nimbus II provides a map of the course and enables the user to constantly monitor irrigation activities. The efficiency of each pump is monitored and watering can be controlled to prevent over application on areas such as slopes, or where there is poor drainage. There is the option of a Virtual Weather programme that enables transpiration rates to be created from either user-defined values or an optional Weather Station, which collects data on wind, temperature, solar radiation and rainfall.

The Cirrus programme graphically creates the course, including irrigation layout and showing each individual rotor. This enables the user to click on a specific sprinkler and instantly obtain a status report.

Using Rain Bird’s advanced line weather stations the programme is able to monitor and respond to climate changes. By tracking transpiration and using data from other sensory inputs it can alter watering schedules. This helps conserve water and reduce costs. The Phenology Models will send out a warning when conditions are favourable for disease and insect infestations.

All Rain Bird programmes use the latest Microsoft® Windows™ format.

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**Toro**

The Gemini and Trident are the latest in a series of Toro FC based Controllers from Hydroscape.

The Gemini is a two-wire decoder, which has been designed to allow upgrading from Watermation’s TWI Controller. Toro’s SC1000 and 3000 controllers can be upgraded using Trident. Both can be used as a complete stand-alone control for a new irrigation system of up to 6000 individual stations. Ease of programming is said to be a main feature of these packages and station operating times and application rates are quickly set up using pull-down menus.

Digital pictures of the course allow for status checks and the programming and manual operation of individual sprinklers, stations or complete greens. Up to 60 different irrigation programmes can be stored. There is a logbook for recording all the activities and a flow gauge is displayed on the screen for the whole time that irrigation is taking place.

In addition to water flow management, the programme also includes data on the electrical supply - these combine to make savings on both power and water. Each time the programme is used, a full station test takes place. In the case of a problem occurring there is technical support service available. Hydroscape’s Waterworld Helpline is on 01423 476261.

**Tonick Watering**

This UK company was formed six years ago to design and manufacture decoders. Their latest introductions are the Rainmaker RM1 and the Demi-Rain.

The Rainmaker RM1 wall-mounted irrigation controller is claimed to do 90% of the job of a PC based system. It is compatible with most existing decoders. The unit has flow and electrical balancing and adjustable order of watering. It is said to have the unique feature of being able to split the programme into 2 or 3 applications, thus reducing water run-off.

Records of each station are kept including water used, running time and precipitation applied. A log is available for any station which remains un-watered during the last programme and the reason why this happened. For those readers looking for a budget-priced decoder, there is the Demi-Rain. This unit controls up to 100 two-wire decoders and each watering budget from 20% to 250% can be given six starting times per day. This allows the irrigation to be varied without changing the programme in addition the watering sequence can be split to run three times consecutively (each a third of the time allocated) to help prevent run off.

Comprehensive diagnostics have been included to help identify field wiring, decoder or solenoid problems. There is the option of a wall-mounted version which includes pump-start relay and two inputs for sensors.

Tonick Watering recognises the importance of providing help when it is needed and the company provide technical support on 01243 554060.

**Flowtronex**

At the heart of any irrigation system are the pumps and a company that specialises in this field is Hampshire-based, Flowtronex. Their involvement in irrigation spans over 20 years during which time the company has installed over ten thousand packaged pump sets throughout the world.

Flowtronex’s standard and bespoke packages include optimum pump selections combined with in-house control systems incorporating ABB variable speed drive and Allen Bradley switchgear. Total control is achieved by selection of in-house design software – Smoothflow, Oasis and Pumplog. To avoid having to completely shut down the units for servicing, captive suction and discharge isolating valves plus a pump check valve are included in the design. Other features include: a pilot operated pressure relief valve for emergency back-up pressure control, auto-alternation from 10% to 150% and independent day scheduling options. There is a facility for linking rain, moisture, temperature and wind sensors. The unit will retain the programmes should power be lost.

Genesis is a computerised management application for the programming and control of Genesis radio or hard-wire field controllers, data retrieval units and weather stations. Up to 999 field controllers are available which can be expanded to meet future needs. Automatic ET matches the water usage to weather conditions.

The programme uses Windows® for all controller configurations.

**Hunter Irrigation**

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A future course is under development to include Queenwood GC, Wychwood Park, Rookery Park, St Andrews Bay Development, St George’s Hill, Doonbeg GC, and The Addington due for installation this year.
The culmination of many months of searching will come to fruition on Monday October 30th when the fourth winner of the Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping and the Toro Student of the Year will be discovered.

Judging at regional level has been on-going for some time for both awards and the prestigious nature of the Toros has ensured a quality line-up for the finals.

The winner of the Excellence in Greenkeeping Award will follow in the illustrious footsteps of Iain McMillan, of Hankley Common; John Coleman, of Abbeydale GC, and last year's winner, Brian Turner, of Sunningdale.

This year the competition follows a different format with a Home International flavour to it. Instead of each Region sending a representative plus one wild card each country within the home nations will have a representative. Walter Woods and Bruce Jamieson, of Toro, have visited each of the finalists to assess the quality of the golf course and maintenance regime and the visit to BIGGA HOUSE for the final stage will involve an interview by an expert panel comprising representatives from both BIGGA and Toro.

The eventual winner's golf club will receive a Toro Workman 2100 utility vehicle and a trophy, while the runner-up will win a two week trip to the United States to visit the GCSAA Conference and Show in Dallas, Texas as well as a trip to the headquarters of the Toro Company in Minneapolis and its factory in California. The winner's team will also receive £250.

As England has more golf courses than the other three home countries four semi-finalists have been selected from whom the English finalist will be drawn and each semi-finalist will win a Reelmaster 1000 pedestrian mower for his club and a plaque.

The person who succeeds Tommy Givnan, of Bowring Golf Course, in Knowsley, near Liverpool, will win the Toro Scholarship - an eight week trip including a six week residential turf management study course at the University of Massachusetts, USA and a trip to the Toro sites and the GCSAA Show in Dallas. The winner's Senior Greenkeeping Tutor will earn a place on the BIGGA trip to the GCSAA Conference and Show while two runners-up will be invited to attend the Learning Experience, in association with Textron, in Harrogate next January.
Excellence in Greenkeeping

Finalists:

Ireland

This edition of Greenkeeper International went to press before the Irish finalist was announced. Full details of all finalists will appear on the BIGGA website as soon as they are released. Point your browser to www.bigga.org.uk for the latest news and events from the Toro Awards and the greenkeeping industry in general. SMc

Scotland

Ronnie Bunting, Kilmacolm GC

Ronnie is 46 and has been Course Manager at Kilmacolm GC, near Glasgow, for the last 14 years having been a greenkeeper for 32 years and a Head Greenkeeper for 24. A staunch BIGGA supporter he regularly attends BIGGA Regional training courses while he has been Chairman and Secretary of three BIGGA and before that SIGGA Sections. A keen advocate of good environmental practice under Ronnie’s management Kilmacolm has received awards from the Scottish Wildlife Charter, the BIGGA Environmental Competition, in association with Amazone and Grass Roots and the National Green Apple Award scheme. He is qualified to D32-D33-D34 and acts as an internal verifier for the GTC while he gives talks to local SVQ level 2 students.

Wales

Gary Johnstone - Southerndown GC

Gary is 29 years-old and arrived in Wales eight years ago from his native Scotland. Born in Aberdeen he began his career at Aberdeen Kings Links before spending three and a half years at Carnoustie. He moved to Southerndown as Deputy Head Greenkeeper in ’92 and was promoted to Head Greenkeeper just over a year later. His greenkeeping education began at Elmwood College where he achieved his Scotvec levels 1,2 and 3 in sports turf maintenance while he is currently completing his HNC in Golf Course Management at Pencoed College. He still finds time to play golf to a handicap of 4.

English Semi Finalists:

Due to the large number of entrants and size of the country, four semi-finalists were selected. The English finalist was not possible to announce before this edition of Greenkeeper International went to press. SMc

Graham Waller - Henley G&CC

Graham is 30 year’s old and a Yorkshireman. He moved into greenkeeping after initially training as a nurse. The change of direction occurred when he took a short term job at Moortoke Park GC in 1986 and his potential was spotted by Trafford Stonebridge who encouraged him to go to college. He moved to Henley in ’94 to gain experience in the growing-in and maintaining of a new 27 hole development.

Richard Barker - Kirby Muxloe GC

Richard is 36 and has been Head Greenkeeper at Kirby Muxloe, near Leicester, for a number of years. A staunch BIGGA supporter he is a current National Board Member and a regular attendee at many BIGGA functions on a Sectional, Regional and National basis. He plays to a handicap of 2 and is the current Leicestershire County Second Team Captain.

Terry Farkins - Dartmouth G&CC

Terry is 35 and has been Course Manager at Dartmouth for the past nine years, taking over at the growing-in stage. He states that his ambition is to win the Toro award and then to achieve Master Greenkeeper status. He is keen golfer and cricketer having played Minor County Cricket for Devon.

Gerald Bruce - Berkhamsted GC

Gerald is 38 and has been at Berkhamsted for 14 years having previously been a trainee at Hunsfarton GC. He plays golf to a handicap of 2 and is married with two children Hannah (6) and Freddy (3).
Name: Mark Farragher  
Age: 22  
Golf Club: Portmarnock Hotel & Golf Links  
College: Elmwood College
Mark has been a greenkeeper for five years and in that time has worked at some fine golf clubs including Gleneagles, Lahinch and the K Club and he has worked at a number of prestigious events including the WPGA Championship at Gleneagles, and the Smurfit European Open. He is currently undertaking an HND in Golf Course Management. He is a keen footballer and also enjoys golf and snooker.

Name: Christopher Williams  
Age: 25  
Golf Club: Astbury GC  
College: Reaseheath College
Christopher returned to the golf industry after a break of five years during which time he worked in the motor industry. Initially he spent nearly three years as assistant to the golf professional at Astbury GC. He returned to the club as an Assistant Greenkeeper and is currently taking his NVQ level 2 at Reaseheath. He plays golf to a handicap of 8 and is also interested in motorcycling, keep fit and travel.

Name: William Fulton  
Age: 32  
Golf Club: Turnberry GC  
College: Langside College
William has been an Assistant at Turnberry for 10 years having moved into the profession following a spell working in a garage. During the past decade he has worked on the Open Championship and the British Seniors Championship. He is currently working towards his HNC in Golf Course Management. His main interest outside work is wildlife while he is also keen on football, walking and swimming.

Name: Jonathan Cleland  
Age: 24  
Golf Club: Helensburgh GC  
College: GOSTA Training
Jonathan is Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Helensburgh having started his career at the club. He returned in '98 having spent four years as Greenkeeper/Groundsman at Cameron House Hotel's nine hole course. He is currently working towards his N/SVQ Level 3. He is a keen golfer and is also interested in boating and other watersports. He has ambitions to become a Course Manager and to take on the challenge of being fully responsible for his own course while his tutor at GOSTA Training expects great things from him. "He has wide practical experience and a thirst for knowledge," said Chris Bothwell.

Name: Michael Sawicki  
Age: 27  
Golf Club: The Richmond Golf Club  
College: NESCOT
Michael joined the Richmond staff earlier this year after two stints at Coombe Hill GC, an apprenticeship at Rhuddlan GC in Wales and being in charge of the growing-in of Woodcroy Manor GC. At Richmond he is responsible for the recently installed irrigation system and is working towards NVQ Level 3. A fine footballer he is captain of Kingston Academicals FC and a previous footballer of the year for the club. He is also a holder of a Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award while he is currently considering learning Spanish or Portuguese to improve future career prospects.

Name: Tony Vokes  
Age: 27  
Golf Club: St Austell GC  
College: Cannington College
Tony has spent two years at his present club where he also finds time to assist and advise on the maintenance of three rugby pitches at St Austell RFC. Prior to that he spent three years at Mid Dorset GC through its construction and playing in. Before that he worked for Merlin Landscapes. He has just completed his NVQ Level 2 on Cannington's "Fast Track" system.
He represented St Austell at rugby, tennis and managed the St Austell third team for season 99-00. His other interests include golf, tennis, cycling, motorcycling and cottage/house restoration.

Name: Vince Harrison  
Age: 30  
Golf Club: Enderby Golf Course  
College: Brooksby College
Vince worked in a bank for 10 years before he decided to move into greenkeeping. Initially he reduced his banking hours and enrolled at college, spending his holiday entitlement working on the college grounds to improve his knowledge before he resigned from the bank last summer and started on the nine-hole council course at Enderby where he is First Assistant. He is currently undertaking NVQ Level 2 and is delighted to say he is working in a job which he thoroughly enjoys. His interests include golf, football, reading and gardening.

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Age: 24  
Golf Club: Helensburgh GC  
College: GOSTA Training

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Age: 27  
Golf Club: The Richmond Golf Club  
College: NESCOT

Name: Tony Vokes  
Age: 27  
Golf Club: St Austell GC  
College: Cannington College

Name: Vince Harrison  
Age: 30  
Golf Club: Enderby Golf Course  
College: Brooksby College
North

Rejoining the Section this month are Stuart Griffiths, and Letham Grange. Stuart started his greenkeeping at Tain and has been at Letham Grange for several years now. Let your say to Bob McClennan at the Majestic Hotel in Harrogate, my prize from the raffle at BTME in January. It was funny being there and none forward for committee, please get in touch with Secretary Dougal Duguid on 01224 740329 for details.

The same guys have been running the Section for a while now and it is only fair that others come forward to either share the load or take over. This is your chance to do your bit and have your say. See you there.

I have just attended one of my training days for my SVQ Level 3 fast track through Elmwood College. It is hard work for someone who hasn’t been in college for many years, but will be worth it in the end.

I really think this is the way forward for Senior greenkeepers who don’t have the time to attend block release but wish to keep up with things educationally, which is essential in our business.

We are still working out the two lucky winners of this year’s Patrons’ Award as the system has proved to be a popular venue. We let go of the Norrie Whytock Trophy at Auchterarder recently. The Section team of Stewart McBain, Hugh Maclatchie, Steven Mclnroy, General Manager of SGM, has kindly agreed to support us prior to the meeting and has arranged a visit to the Old Course at St Andrews with transport provided from Inverkeithing and back, lunch and a presentation by SGM followed by the AGM and all this for free! Can’t be bad! So please try and give your Section a committee some support, you never know, you might even end up as one of us!

On the committee that is.

Full details of the above event along with your allocation of ‘Club 2000’ tickets, I can hear most of you saying “Oh! not again”, should have reached you by now, if not just get in touch and I will send everything out to you.

This month’s winning number in ‘Club 2000’ is 00299 and the lucky person is Brian Lawrie, from Fife Golf Club. Well done Brian!

The Annual Inter Section match for the Norrie Whytock Trophy was played at Auchterarder Golf Club recently and the Central Section were runners-up for the second year running, but I have it on good authority that they are determined to improve on this result next year. Well done to team members Archie Dunn, Andy O’Hara, Derek Scott and James Sen Group Secretary.

A message for David at Liphook, David I will get around to answering your letter shortly, Honest! John Crawford

Central

Another new member joins us this month and he is John Wright from Auchterarder Golf Club, in Fife, and we extend a warm welcome to him from everyone in the Section.

The Section AGM will be held on Tuesday, October 31 in the premises of Scottish Grass Machinery at Inverkeithing. Secretary Dougal Duguid, General Manager of SGM, has kindly agreed to support us prior to the start of some dry weather giving us the chance to get a good start to the winter work programme. Royal Birkdale was the venue for the ladies “Open” this month, Chris Whittle and his staff had the course in lovely condition, although it is unusual to see a links course looking so good in the summer months. Well done to the Birkdale staff, who have turned the course into a true links course.

Two golf matches were played this month. The Regional Final at Fishwick Hall Golf Club. The six Sections in the Northern Region provided six players, who had qualified from their respective Sections, to play in the Northern notes? but I would imagine how the rest of the Section committee by the time it is only fair that others come forward to either share the load or take over. This is your chance to do your bit and have your say. See you there.

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A message for David at Liphook, David I will get around to answering your letter shortly, Honest! John Crawford

North East

Recently the Northern Regional Final was held. The letter is for the benefit of the two players who failed to turn up on the day. Not only did they let the Section down, but the sponsors and their fellow Section members. Can they imagine how the rest of the team felt when they had travelled so far to find out they were disqualified before they hit a ball. There is no excuse for this behaviour as they had four weeks notice to prepare an excellent course on the day and to Jim and Linda Adams for their splendid catering and finally thanks to Tom Hindmarch and his staff for all their efforts on the day.

Any news or views, contact me on any of the following: H 0141 776 1532 / M 07050 173080 email Ryrug@lineone.net

Gavin Jarvis

North West

The last day of August and the sun is cracking the flags. Perhaps September will start of some dry weather giving us the chance to get a good start to the winter work programme. Royal Birkdale was the venue for the ladies "Open" this month, Chris Whittle and his staff had the course in lovely condition, although it is unusual to see a links course looking so good in the summer months. Well done to the Birkdale staff, who have turned the course into a true links course.

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allowing us the courtesy of the course, the caterers for a lovely lunch, and all the Hospitality staff for their efforts. The 1st tee was ready to accept the golfers on Thursday November 30. We have the tee from 10am and once the golf is completed we will have the AGM before the evening meal, and prize presentation. All entries to be in by Friday, November 24, including a cheque for £15 made out to BIGGA North West. Send entries to Bill Merritt, 225 Utting Avenue, Liverpool L4 9RB. Telephone 0151 2844416. If you do not play golf you can still attend the AGM and have a meal. That seems to be for now but any news or views please contact me on 0151 7245412.

Bert Cross

North Wales

Well it has been a long time hasn't it, enjoyed your summer lads and lasses I think not. No-one has it, enjoyed your summer North Wales still attend the AGM and have a meal. That seems to be for now but any news or views please contact me on 0151 7245412.

Dave Goodridge

East Midlands

This year's East Midlands V East of England golf match was played at the excellent venue of Burghley Park G.C. on August 15. The format for the day being a ten-a-side Fourball Better-Ball Matchplay. On a fine warm afternoon and evening in near perfect conditions some excellent golf was played by both teams, with the East Midlands being pushed very close, a little too strong for their opponents. I think that Royal Cromer members will have come to expect. The golf was excellent, as was the course and the staff once again produced a course to be proud of. Apart from some dodgy monsoon-like rain a great day was had by all, and it was Section Secretary, Lindsay Anderson, who turned on the style to win with 40pts. Not bad going one win in ten years!

Anyway the results are as follows: 1. L. Anderson 41pts; 2. G. Wheeler 38pts; 3. C. Small 38pts; 4. D. Goodchild 38pts; 5. C. Evans 36pts. Longest drive, C. McMillan, nearest pin, Matthew Stomart. The trade prize was won by Mark Stidwill, of Rigby Taylor, with 26pts. Many thanks to our hosts Richings Park GC and to Tacit and IGT for donating the prizes.

An on-going competition has been the Rigby Taylor Paris. We are now at the final stage with Gordon Anderson, Peter Gregory, beating Brett Moggeridge and Paul Young. Also Ian Robins and Carl Small beating Lindsay Anderson and Simon Austin. The final will be played at Caversham Health GC although a date has not yet been set. Also good luck to Cameron McMillan who will be leaving Grass Roots Trading to join Queenwood GC and to Geoff Wheeler who is leaving Lambourne GC. Both have been regular attendances to our Section events and we wish them the best in their new ventures.

One final note is that if anyone has any information about anyone or anything concerning the section that they would like printing in the section news please ring me on 01189 723334

Jon Scoones

East of England

The annual match between E.O.E. and the East Midlands Sections took place at Burghley Park Golf Club and the visitors took home the Shield with a victory of 5-1. The only winners on the day for the E.O.E. Section were Daniel Wells and Graeme BarenDonald. Other results were Simon Lidgard and Les lost, George Venable and Bill Watkin lost, Andy Thomas and Kevin Hodges lost, Roger Plummer and Adi Kitchener also lost.

Many thanks to Les and Simon from Cleethorpes for making the long journey to Stonelaw Park.

As usual the course was in excellent condition and we thank David Salisbury and all his staff. This years new sponsor was Rigby Taylor and many thanks to Ben Petitjean who brought along some great prizes. Ben himself had a prize recently, his wife Agnes gave birth to their second daughter on Saturday, August 19.

The first of the winter seminars takes place in November North East Section, and the evening is on machinery talks from Textrom and Supreme Grinders and a practical demonstration which is sponsored by Lawn Mower Services. Any news contact me on 0880 502464 - 01836 - 626564 Graeme Macdonald.

East Anglia

A bright sunny day greeted us when our happy band of wanderers descended on Royal Cromer Golf Club for our third Section meeting of the season. The course was exceptional, as was the staff who had worked hard all season to keep the very high standards that Royal Cromer members have come to expect. The golf course was exceptionally well cut, the meal. The Club Captain, Kevin Taylor, made us feel very welcome as did the staff in the Club House. I would like, on behalf of this section, to thank all at Royal Cromer for making our day special.


Guest & Trade 1. Kevin Taylor, Royal Cromer Club Captain, 38 points; 2. Richard Barney 36 points; 3. David Ingles, 36 points. Next up is the Autumn meet at the Presidents Cup and AGM at Utting Avenue, Liverpool L4 9RB. Telephone 0151 2844416. If you do not play golf you can still attend the AGM and have a meal. That seems to be for now but any news or views please contact me on 0151 7245412.

Derek Farrington

The seminar on machinery talks from Textrom and Supreme Grinders will be held at Thorpeness Golf Club on November 14. The Seminar is titled 'Future Developments in the Greenkeeping Industry’ and promises an interesting day, hopefully giving Greenkeepers an insight into the future.

I appreciate that Thorpeness would be a long journey for some members of the South East Region, but the East Anglia Committee have done a great job in pulling this Seminar together and deserve your support. The cost for members is a very reasonable £10, £15 for non-members, to include a buffet lunch. Please don’t hesitate to contact me should you not receive your application form in the next few days or with any other query.

Derek Farrington

South East Regional Seminar

You should have all received your invitation by now, if you haven’t you will in the next day or so, details and a reservation form for a place at the Regional Seminar. This year it has been organised by the East Anglia Section and is to be held at Thorpeness Golf and Country Hotel on Tuesday, November 14. The Seminar is titled ‘Future Developments in the Greenkeeping Industry’ and promises an interesting day, hopefully giving Greenkeepers an insight into the future.

I appreciate that Thorpeness would be a long journey for some members of the South East Region, but the East Anglia Committee have done a great job in pulling this Seminar together and deserve your support. The cost for members is a very reasonable £10, £15 for non-members, to include a buffet lunch. Please don’t hesitate to contact me should you not receive your application form in the next few days or with any other query.

Derek Farrington

October 2000 Greenkeeper International 39
Longest Drive 18th, Andrew Gibbins.

Thank you to our main sponsors of the day Aventis and Ben Burgess and thank you to all our other sponsors, Tomlinson Groundcare, Atterton and Ellis, Consultant Clarkson, Lely UK, SISIS, Sheriffs, Stalham Engineering, for their continual support.

The loo seat went to Graham Paul, from Sheriffs, for hitting his drive from the 1st tee on to the roof of the Pro Shop. A feat that had never been done in the history of the club as the ball had travelled at an angle of 90 degrees from the tee. We had two new members join in the fun at this meeting. Andrew Gibbins, from Aldeburgh GC, and Roger Nicholson, from Stalham Engineering.

Our next meeting will be held at Walderingfield Heath Golf Club on October 10. I hope to see you all there. This year the Section is responsible for running the South Eastern Regional Seminar. It will be held at Thorpeness Country Club on November 14. Derek Farrington, the Regional Administrator will be posting the information in the magazine. Dates for all next year's events have been finalised so put these in your diary. Felixstowe Ferry GC, 24 April. Richmond Park GC, 13 June. Eaton GC, 1 August. Purdis Heath, 10 October. See you all at the next meeting and remember the Regional Seminar. Ian Willett.

Sussex

There are two golf days to report about this month. Firstly, there was golf followed by a Tapas Bar at Copthorne Golf Club on July 11. I would like to thank Mike Gould and his staff for all their hard work and presenting the course in excellent condition. The main sponsors for the day were Grass Roots in conjunction with Symbio. Other sponsors for the raffle etc. were, Avoncrop Amenity Products, Driving Force Leisure, CMW, E & S Sportsground and Tacit. The format for the day was Four Ball Better Ball. On to the winners.


Nearest the pin winners were Alastair Cale, Rose Gould, Shaun Sturrock, Alan Bartup. Longest drive winner was Peter Gibbs.

Well done to all the winners and I am sure everybody enjoyed the Tapas Bar that followed.

On to the next event, which was played at Cooden Beach Golf Club on 16 August. Once again the course was in excellent condition and I am sure everybody who played will join me in thanking Stefan and his staff for all their hard work. The format for this event was a Three Man Team Stableford Competition with all three scores counting.

The sponsor for the day was CMW. The prizes were presented by Mark Day, thanks for the fiver Mark! The winners of the team challenge shield are as follows:


Nearest the pin at the 14th, Brian Morrison. Nearest the pin at the 16th, Giles Johnson. Best Individual with 37 points was Mike Gould.

The golf was followed by a superb barbeque. Thanks to everybody who turned up to the last two events.

The numbers were slightly down, so let's hope by the time this appears that the next event at Worthing Golf Club on 27 September has enjoyed a good turnout.

Gary Ogilvie.

Surrey

Our annual pilgrimage to Sunningdale Golf Club for the McMillan Tankard was on August 23 and from the comments I overheard and the congratulations bestowed on Brian Turner and his staff it was once again a venue that should never be missed. The weather was excellent and with the sun shining down on the new course. Surrey Section members did battle playing from the
white tees. The result was that Nigel Colley won the Coveted Tankard but only by the skin of his teeth and on countback with 39 points. James Partridge was second and Ian Morrisson was third also with 39 points. Darren Lee was fourth with 37 points.

The August tournament took place just over a week later at Addington Palace Golf Club and although these events were so close together the turnout proved to be very high with 50 members booked to tee off from midday. Many thanks to Ron Christie the course manager and his team for presenting Addington Palace in such superb condition. Many who played the course for the first time stated their intention of returning ASAP to try again now that they have more knowledge of the complexities and subtle layout of the course especially the front nine holes. The winner was Dave Goddard with 40 points, runner up was Merrick Field 39 points and third place was filled by Mick Mclean, 38 points.

To both Sunningdale and Addington Palace we thank them for the courtesy of their courses. We thank the artisans at Sunningdale for a fine buffet and the catering staff at Addington for a delicious three course meal.

Finally, Cameron McMillan has confirmed that the rumour floating around Surrey Section is true, he is joining his brother Ian at Queenwood and therefore we all wish them both every success for the future.

Brian Willmott

Essex

One bridge definitely not too far is Abridge Golf & Country Club, nestled in the hills of Stapleford Tawney in Essex. This club is worth paying a visit to wherever you are located. Since taking over the reigns Head Greenkeeper, Jon Selwood, and Deputy Head, Steve Cox, have transformed what used to be a good course with potential to one with greens which most greenkeepers would give their eye teeth to have. Jon admits to being pleased with the course at the moment and puts a lot of his success down to the greenstaff at the club, they are:- Steve Cox (Deputy), Chris Ward, Paul Aylett, Geoff Smith, Paul Bannock and Mark Singleton. Well done lads keep it up.

The Essex Section of BIGGA were at Abridge for the Driving Force Leisure and Adyanta Seeds sponsored Autumn Trophy way back in August, we must try and get golf days closer to the publication of the magazine. Overall winner for the day was Chris Ward, Abridge, 36 points, with yes you guessed it, Andy Sheehan, Bentley, a close second on 35 points. Nearest the pin and Longest drive was sponsored by Greenkeeper Supply Company, both prizes went to guests, P. Swan nearest the pin and P. Brackley longest drive. The handicap categories were divided into two divisions, 0 - 16 and 17 - 28. First place in the 0 - 16 went to Ray Clark, Channels, followed by Jon Selwood, Abridge, Tony I.Cirwin, Colchester, and Steve Crosdale, Gt. Hadham. Geoff Smith, Abridge, won the 17 - 28 group with Martin Guy, Paul Aylett, Abridge, and Sonny Willis completing the 1-2-3-4. The scores have been left out to save embarrassment to one of the eight named above.

Trade winners were 1. Richard Fortmuller, 35pts, 2. Matt Gresty, 34pts, with the guest prizes going to Paul Bambley 34pts and Gerry Goldstein 31pts. Congrats to all those who came away with a prize.

Other companies deserving a mention are:- Tuckwells who sponsored the halfway house, (what a great idea!), Sherriffs, for the flyers, and Grass Roots, Banks Gem and Bishops Brothers for the raffle prizes.

Above all on behalf of the Essex Section I would like to extend my thanks to Abridge Golf and Country Club and all it's staff, catering and greens.

New Members: Grant Warner, from Harwich and Dovercourt and Sonny Willis, of Stapleford Abbots, join us this month, Sonny has already picked up a prize coming fourth at Abridge.

Fit-bits; The Go-Karting scheduled for the end of November has had to be cancelled.

Toro’s Workman® utility vehicle is so adaptable, you’ll always have the right tool for the job.

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Simply telephone 01480 226800 and we’ll arrange for a local dealer to contact you.
Ian Willett (01728) 452759 is looking for D32/D33 assessors to help him out on the Essex/Suffolk Border.

Support is required for the South East Regional Seminar held at Thorpness GC on Tuesday November 14. Finally our next golf day is to be held at Bishops Stortford, playing for the winter trophy, details should be with you by now as the event is held on Thursday October 19. See you there.

Steve Crosdale

My apologies for not publishing a report in last month's magazine. Unfortunately I was just too late getting my article in.

The summer Tournament was kindly sponsored by Ocmis and hosted by Erlestoke Sands Golf Club. As I was unable to attend, reports that have come back to me say that the course was superbly set up for the event, so congratulations to Don Southey and his greensstaff. The overall results of the competition were:

- Best score by a Head Greenkeeper, A. Akerman
- Best score by an Assistant, K. May

The golf was followed by an interesting talk from Cannington College. Thanks once again to Ocmis for providing some excellent prizes and Erlestoke for allowing us courtesy of the course and providing the food afterwards.

The next event is only just around the corner. This will be the Autumn Tournament and AGM taking place on Thursday, November 2 at Weston Golf Club. For anyone interested in taking one of those highly sought after places on the BIGGA South West, here's your chance.

A few days later on November 22, Cannington College will be hosting the Regional Seminar. Included in this year's event is a line up of speakers that are bound to get tongues wagging. Jim Arthur will kick off the seminar followed by the highly entertaining Frank Newberry. Finally, Amenity Technology will round off the day.

I am still enquiring about an educational day out to one of the top courses in the country. Hopefully the day would comprise of a question and answer session, tour of the club's facilities and a round of golf.

The only remaining course I have planned for this year is a beginners' computer course in December at Liley Brook Golf Club in mid December. The course will be taken by Ken Richardson from BIGGA HQ. Half the places are already filled, so for more information, telephone me on 01249 783382.

Paul Cunningham

South West

South West and South Wales
Paula Humphries
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Devon and Cornwall

The Devon Garden Machinery Section meeting and AGM will be held at Launceston Golf Club on Wednesday 15 November. 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 club house at approximately 10.30am. Lunch will be from 1pm onwards followed by the golf presentation and a short company presentation by Devon Garden Machinery, our sponsor for the day. The section's AGM will conclude the day.

It's now time to book your place on the region's Amenity Technology sponsored package to the BTME show and seminars which will be held in Harrogate next January. The trip departs on January 23 and returns on January 26, 2001, with the cost of £110 members, £150 non members.

The Regional Conference and Workshop will take place on Wednesday, November 22, at Cannington College. Details of this event have been sent to you through Greenkeeper International. The cost of the day will be £15 members, £22.50 non-members. The morning seminar speakers 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 353438. For more information please contact me on 01288 353438.

Richard Whyman

South Coast

Very little to report this month. The annual match against the South West was held at Marlborough Golf Club on September 5. The result was a 3/2 win for the South West. The annual match against the Surrey Section could be arranged. I will keep you posted.

The Turkey Trot and AGM will be at Hockley Golf Club for the second year. Entries to Chris Sturgess please. Costs will be in next month’s issue.

Anyone interested in the committee please contact either myself or Fred Deamen. Tony Gauld

BIGGA Regional Network

For any information regarding BIGGA activities, please contact your local Regional Administrator and/or Section Secretary, who will be pleased to offer help and advice on any of the areas in which the Association operates. A complete list is printed, here, on the right.

See you all next month!
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Scotsturf has been an annual fixture on Scotland's turf calendar for almost two decades now and in that time many deals have been done and stories told in the famous old Hall. The 2000 exhibition will be no exception and the familiar faces of Scotland's BIGGA members will be making their annual visit to the Show. BIGGA itself will have a strong presence with the Membership and Sales and Marketing Departments represented as well as Peter Boyd, the Scottish Regional Administrator. The team will be able to handle any queries you may have regarding the Association. We look forward to seeing you there!
Geo Henderson Ltd

We will be exhibiting some exciting new products from various manufacturers this year. Kubota have launched several new products during the course of the year; of which the G18 Glide Cut and the BX 2200 Mini-compact tractor have both proved very popular. Also new to our product range will be the Great Dane professional mower range, and the new pedestrian greensmower from Dennis. If you would like anymore information please visit our stand or call 0131 443 2474 for prompt service.

We will be exhibiting some exciting new products throughout Scotland from various manufacturers this year. Kubota have launched several new products during the course of the year; of which the G18 Glide Cut and the BX 2200 Mini-compact tractor have both proved very popular. Also new to our product range will be the Great Dane professional mower range, and the new pedestrian greensmower from Dennis. If you would like anymore information please visit our stand or call 0131 443 2474 for prompt service.

Weidemann

Weidemann UK Ltd have secured a prime stand in the new hall, B, on which the company will display a cross section of their popular machinery range. Having its UK base in Paisley, Weidemann values Scotsturf highly and the company’s staff look forward to meeting existing and new customers who visit the show.

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

Other machines on display will include the new Terra Top tractor mounted Top Dresser which is particularly efficient at spreading wet top dressings and tractor mounted Triplex 4.2 finishing rotary motor with bat wings. Weidemann invite all to visit the stand to view their latest products and enjoy the usual hospitality.

Weidemann UK Ltd.
Stoney Brae, Potterhill, Paisley PA2 7TG
Tel: 01418 846252
Fax: 01418 846252

Scottish Grass Machinery

Top dealer Scottish Grass Machinery, part of the SGM Group, will fly the flag for Textron at Scotsturf as its top UK dealer.

The latest product innovations from Textron including the new Jacobson orange for the golf market and Ransomes green for the municipal market will be on show at the stand.

Company representative’s from Scottish Grass Machinery and the Group’s other two divisions SGM Finance and SGM Industrial, will be on hand to advise on a full range of manufacturers’ products displayed on screen in business booths.

Also on display SGM Industrial will launch the new Ransomes Pathfinder Ride-On Sweeper and there will be product information on the latest innovations from Renault, Spearhead and Greenmech.

Customers will have the opportunity to talk to finance experts about spreading out the cost of hiring and servicing quality ground maintenance equipment with the Group’s new Bank of Scotland backed finance arm, SGM Finance.
Marlwood/Double A Trading Co

The Articulator rotary Mowers from LasTec Inc. cut the most challenging semi-rough and rough turf with ease and precision. The 621TER, launched at Saltex’99, has a combined cutting width of 10’ 6’’ and is a simple, tough, wide area finish mower suited to customers with less extreme terrain. Also exhibiting at Scotsturf is the 42SD ride-on, the 721X rear-mounted mower and the 325 series. Articulators contour undulating turf without scalping!

See us at Scotsturf

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Fax: 01501 740564
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See us at Scotsturf

British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association

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Tel: 01347 833800
Fax: 01347 833831
Email: reception@bigga.co.uk
Web: www.bigga.org.uk

BIGGA

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

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

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

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

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Diane Bray. Email: diane@bigga.co.uk
Meredith Foster. Email: meredith@bigga.co.uk

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BTME’s southern outdoor cousin, SALTEX, unveiled a new layout this year, colour coded to assist navigation, and although often in different locations the familiar companies were on-hand to display what’s new in the world of fine turf.

The amended layout saw a change to the traditional entrance of the Show with a larger number of companies, together with the Education Pavilion, housed in the centre of the race course.

As in the previous two years BIGGA took the opportunity to launch its annual Golf Directory and the new look publication found many admirers among those lucky enough to see early copies.

Above: Tracey Maddison, BIGGA Membership Services Officer gave a warm welcome to visitors to the BIGGA stand, and answered questions about Membership and the Association in general.

Left: Saltex’s new layout ensured a plentiful turnout of exhibitors and visitors.

Alan Stow retires from Vitax

Saltex was also the venue for the final event in Vitax’s Alan Stow’s extended round of retirement functions.

Having been honoured at several BIGGA functions over the last few months he enjoyed his official send-off at Vitax’s headquarters the Friday before SALTEX only for Clive Williams to arrange a surprise party for Alan with all his friends from the industry on the Wednesday of SALTEX. Alan was presented with a brand new spade and fork by Derek Walker, of the IOG.

Spray Watch competition won by Drift GC

Seven successful years and seven sprayers, the annual Blazon ‘Spray Watch’ campaign continues to educate golf clubs and spray operators to the benefits of including a spray pattern indicator each and every time they spray. This year’s lucky winner, selected from a record entry, was The Drift Golf Club, East Horsley, Surrey, who received the first prize of a brand new Gambetti Barre AMK 300 Tractor Mounted Sprayer.

Presentation of the prize to the winning club’s Head Greenkeeper Mark Bellamy, was made by Elliott Small and Neil Thomas. Also attending the ceremony were The Drift Golf Club’s Course Manager, Paul Weston, and General Manager, Gail Backett.

Commenting on the award, Mark Bellamy stated, “Blazon has become an essential part of our spraying programme. It does not stain and the easily seen spray pattern ensures that all our applications are applied with a high degree of accuracy and uniformity”.

Above: Chris Byrd (Marketing Manager Blazon), Mark Bellamy (Head Greenkeeper, the Drift Golf Club), Elliott Small (Chairman BIGGA), Paul Weston (Course Manager, The Drift), Gail Backett (General Manager, The Drift), Neil Thomas (Executive Director BIGGA), Ian Sellers (GEM Professional)
Advanta range on display at Saltex

Amenity grass seed breeder Advanta Seeds UK, displayed five of the company's most popular branded mixtures at the show including, from the Advanta MM range, MM 10, MM 30, and MM 60. The first is a variation of the traditional fescue/bent greens mixture. It incorporates Mocassin, a new variety of slender creeping red fescue, which adds extra resilience to the turf. MM350 is a hard-wearing perennial ryegrass mixture, ideal for repairing worn ends of cricket squares and hard-dyed golf tees. The mix offers high wear tolerance, rapid establishment and strong root development. MM60 is a 100 per cent ryegrass mixture for oversowing winter games pitches. The blend of cultivars gives quick strength, fescue, smooth stalked meadowgrass and browntop bent cultivars, and is ideal for all heavy-duty winter sports areas, including football and rugby pitches.

Vitax extends Organic range

Vitax extended its organic range by launching three, new, seaweed based products at Saltex 2000. A natural high strength seaweed, a 12:1:6 seaweed based liquid feed for turf, and a high strength seaweed based iron tonic, which are the result of research carried out on the seaweed variety Laminaria digitata. Harvested from renewable sources in the Atlantic Ocean, this particular variety is rich in trace elements, growth hormones and cytokynins. These three, new products, which come in 10 litre containers, follow the success of Vitax Vitaliser, the 100 per cent organic controlled release fertiliser which was launched at BTME.

Headland additions

Headland Amenity launched a new addition to their successful range of Greentec granular fertilisers. Homogenous, with rapid breakdown qualities and an average size of 25-35 grams per square metre. It incorporates Mocassin, a new variety of slender creeping red fescue, which adds extra resilience to the turf. Greentec granular fertilisers include golf and bowling greens, and carries a recommended application rate of 25-35 grams per square metre.

Saltex 2000 saw the launch, by Aventis Environmental Science, of an ultra-low dose fungicide, Capricorn, which will treat an entire average size golf green with just 50 ml. The product went on to win the award for Best New Sportsurf Product at the show. This equates to one litre per hectare and compares with a typical requirement of 30-40 litres per hectare with other fungicides.

The chemistry of the product (which contains epoxiconazole and carbendazim) enables far greater absorption into the turf, thereby requiring a greatly reduced concentration in application and thus less environmental impact. Capricorn has also been shown to have a positive effect on the rhizome, particularly to turf grass.

The product is supplied in 250 ml packs with a measuring cap to ensure the correct dosage is applied. The low, accurately measured dosage means greater accuracy in usage of the product, thereby making it a more cost efficient solution for fungicide treatment.

The lower volume required will also result in reduced transport, storage and disposal costs with the attendant environmental benefits.

Latest Shibaura tractors available from Farm and Garden Machinery

Farm and Garden Machinery showed the Shibaura ST 321 and 324 compact tractors with power assisted steering and four wheel drive. The diesel engine has been designed to provide extreme efficiency with better combustion, cleaner emissions and reduced fuel consumption. Model ST321 has a 21hp engine and the ST324 a 24hp.

For operator comfort there are low noise and low vibration features and this tractor has been designed to balance rigidity and strength with light weight and easy maintenance.

True versatility is offered by the ST tractor models. They are compatible with a whole range of attachments which can be rear-mounted. If required, as an option there is also a hydraulic outlet on the side for out front implements. From flail mowers, rotary tillers, harrows, cultivators through to snow blowers - all can be harnessed to operate with this compact tractor.

Lloyd's & Co Letchworth Ltd has launched the multi-purpose Greenline combi-trailer.

The machine can be used for a variety of tasks, from the maintenance of grass areas, including cutting and scarifying, to the collection of grass, leaves and wood chippings taking advantage of the high tipping and various size high capacity trailer available, thus saving the necessity and expense of having a dedicated machines for each task.

The unique design is based on the "building block principle" in that you decide which blocks and configuration you need to perform a specific task knowing that it will be carried out to a standard you would expect from a dedicated machine.

The combi-trailer is constructed from high quality, hardwearing materials and this together with it’s low centre of gravity and variable track width, means it can be used on difficult terrains and in all weather conditions. Bad weather will no longer be an excuse for work not being carried out!
Tigarakse removes thatch with a real roar

The new Sisis Tigarakse, hydraulic scarifier, has been designed for fast, effective thatch removal on bowling greens, lawn tennis courts, cricket squares, golf greens/tees/approaches, football pitches. The twin scarifying units have a working width of just over a metre.

The entire machine floats on a front roller, and each individual unit floats independently across the width of the machine. It therefore follows undulations maintaining depth of cut and eliminating scalping.

The Tigarakse incorporates the Sisis Rotorak contra-rotation principle, whereby the blades rotate at high speed in the opposite direction to that of the conventional cylinder mower. The blades therefore cut upwards, continuously taking fibre away from the surface and leaving a clean finish.

There is a high speed hydraulic motor on each unit while there are four interchangeable reels available: thatch removal reel; verticutting reel comprising close-pitched triangular blades for light scarification during the growing season; brush reel to remove light surface debris and lift grasses prior to mowing; combined reel with thatch removal blades interspersed with brushes to remove thatch.

New Toro innovations revealed at Saltex

The new Groundsmaster 3500-D

Sidewinder unveiled by Toro at SALTEX is an innovative rotary mower with cutting units that can be shifted to either side of the machine to provide an overhang for trimming grass edges such as bunker rims and fringes.

The GM 3500-Ds innovative cutting system comprises three individual, 27in floating rotary decks with front and rear rollers which follow ground contours to virtually eliminate scalping. The deck overlap configuration prevents grass streaks in turns and on banks. Versatility is provided by an adjustable width of cut, which allows the machine to be set up for three different cutting widths - 68in, 70in and 72in - by simply changing a bolted assembly.

The Sidewinder system enables the decks to slide 12in left and right of centre. This provides a 12in overhang on either side of the mower at a 68in width of cut.

The Toro GM 3500-D is fitted with a Kubota 35hp turbo diesel engine and has permanent three-wheel drive for both mowing and transport. Mowing speed is factory set at 6mph, but is adjustable, and the unit can travel at up to 9mph in transport.

The Toro Groundsmaster 4000-D is a lift rotary mower that is manoeuvrable and produces a high-quality cut.

On cutting performance, the focus is on the quality of cut, mowing capacity, ground following and after-cut dispersion of the clippings. Rear discharge decks are fitted for even dispersion of cuttings for a clean after-cut finish.

For cleaner cutting management and added safety, these can be converted by customers to Toro's Guardian Recycler design simply by bolting on baffles and kickers.

Excellent manoeuvrability has been achieved by Toro engineers through a combination of wheel tread width, wheel base and the positioning of the two wing decks.

Finally, to meet today's requirements for high operator comfort, ease of use and safety, the lift rotary utilises much of the driver's platform and controls of Toro's Groundsmaster 3000. This provides workers with excellent visibility for both cutting and transport operations.

The Toro Groundsmaster 4000-D is expected to be available in the UK next spring.

Richard Campney shows latest Koro developments

The latest developments from the Koro Design and Manufacturing Centre in Holland were shown for the first time, on the Richard Campney stand.

The Field Top Maker has given birth to a 'Mini' version for specific surface management work in tight areas. The Koro 120 FTM is a 1.2mtr version of the original FTm for use with compact tractors.

The working depth is easily adjusted by four micro screw jacks, enabling the machine to raise mow removing surface irregularities. Thin thatch layer and weak shallow rooted grasses can also be removed by further adjustment, leaving the roots of any good grass cultivars to quickly re-establish.

Material is removed by specially designed blades, direct onto a cross conveyor and elevator into a trailer running alongside the machine. The result is a level playing surface.

Home-grown success for BSH

A new UK-bred perennial ryegrass - the second home-produced cultivar to emerge from the British Seed Houses' turfgrass breeding programme at the Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research (IGER) - tops the 2001 STRI ryegrass listings for fine turf situations.

AberElf is a sister variety to AberElf - the first IGER-bred perennial ryegrass that still heads the STRI listings for winter sports pitches two years after its launch. AberElf has since become a firm favourite with UK turf producers and groundsmen and is firmly established on many pitches in the Carling Premiership.

AberElf also forms part of the sward alongside the machine. The result is a level playing surface.

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Visit our website at: www.turfmech.co.uk

October 2000 Greenkeeper International 51
Tough jobs are no problem for E-Z-GO

Appearing for the first time at SALTEX the Workhorse LX series from Textron is a range of dependable, multi-purpose E-Z-GO utility vehicles designed to handle the toughest jobs. Each vehicle in the range includes an array of standard features including heavy duty bed liner with tailgate cover, differential protection guard, engine skid plate, fuel gauge or state of charge meter, halogen headlights, hour meter, trailer hitch and tubular steel bumpers. The Workhorse 800 LX features a 9hp, 293cc twin cylinder, air cooled overhead cam, petrol engine and a payload of 344.8kg. The E-Z-GO Workhorse LX series provides the versatility required for a host of applications on golf courses, parks, leisure complexes, smallholdings, farms, woodland and amenity areas.

New Knife Rite from Bernhard & Co

The latest addition to Bernhard & Co's professional range of precision grinding equipment, is the Knife Rite 1000 bottom blade grinder with powerful 11 hp motor. This bench-mounted grind machine is highly accurate and sharpens with speed, safety and simplicity. Capable of grinding bottom blades up to 40 inches long, the machine has a unique angle indicator device. Extremely easy to operate, it provides the convenience of an in-house grinding facility at a very affordable price.

Golf and sports clubs, local authorities, landscape contractors and schools with restricted resources can now undertake sharping programmes of blade sharpening using Knife Rite 1000. Used in tandem with the Express Dual 1000 cylinder grinder, turf can be maintained to higher standards with a cleaner cut.

Rolawn expansion

Rolawn Screened Topsoil is now available in full motor loads for delivery direct to site. Also available in 600 litre boxes, containing approximately one tonne of topsoil, from selected depots. The soil meets the criteria for spreading and can be used in domestic gardens and playing fields. Rolawn Soil Conditioner is 100% peat free, screened wood chip compost. Available in full 60 cubic metre loads. It is easy to load into lorries and cars with its innovative incorporation into soil when planting shrubs and trees. Both products join Rolawn's GroRight pre turfing/speeding fertiliser which came on to the market last year and has proved to be very successful.

John Deere range gets new additions

John Deere's FI45 front mower is now available with a 1.8m articulating rotary mower deck.

The new deck comprises three 63cm front rotary mowers. Wheels under each section ensure a constant deck weight. Cutting height is adjustable from 25 to 12/7mm in 6mm stages, and the mower can be set to side discharge or mulch as required.

The traction unit retains its heavy duty 27hp diesel engine and hydrostatic transmission, which are similar to those used in John Deere's compact utility tractor range. Dual pedal foot controls and power steering are standard, with cruise control available as an option.

In addition, a choice of two four wheel drive functions offers the operator increased traction for improved mowing performance. The new FI 145 front mower with articulating deck costs £17,289.

The new John Deere 4700 compact tractor also had its UK launch at SALTEX 2000. Powered by a 48 gross hp diesel engine, the 4700 compact tractor provides the highest horsepower with hydrostatic transmission in its class. In addition to this transmission, developing 40hp at the pto, there is a standard hydraulic PowrReverser transmission with 24 forward and reverse gears, including creep speeds, which develops 41.5 pto hp.

The reverse transmission allows the operator to change direction by flipping a lever without using the clutch, speeding up repetitive loader and front blade work for increased productivity. Twin Touch foot pedals on the hydrostatic version provide simple forward and reverse operation.

With the new John Deere 1620 wide area mower, large areas of grass with inclines, dips and other hard to reach places can be tackled.

It is based on the same traction unit as its stablemate, the 1600 wide area mower launched at BTME 2000. The 1620 has a 2.4m articulating rotary mower deck with 76cm wings that can mow undulating areas at a consistent height of cut. Operating at a speed of 6.5mph, the 1620 can easily cover over six acres per hour.

Envirosafe a boom for Gambetti UK

Keeping the spray away from the environment and all on the target was Gambetti UK's aim this year. The launch of the new ENVIROSAFE covered boom, with many extra safety features added as standard proved very successful not just for the UK but around Europe too.

Calibration and maintenance is made easy with the addition of a hydraulic ram, which enables the entire boom to be tilted forward in order to provide open access to the nozzles. The operator can work safely on the undertap of the boom. This ram also allows the boom to be reversed up into tight corners and up sloping ground without risk of damage to the canopies.

Triple jet nozzle bodies allow safe and quick changing of application rates. Underneath the canopy there are no wheels or bracing bars that could interfere with the spray pattern or become rusted with chemical water fertiliser contamination.

The extra height in the canopy allows 110 deg fan angle jets to be used which give a more even coverage and eliminates the risk of stripping Billeteray bubble jets can be fitted which carry the LERAP 3 star rating. Gambetti hopes to have full production available in November.
Immaculate greens are the product of sheer hard work, which is why the new Mule Diesel 2510 is the envy of the fairways.

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The judges decision is final. No

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We are a fairly new small turf nursery which is intent on maintaining and growing our
reputation as producing the best greens turf in the country. The nursery is attached to
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Turf & Estate Manager
Excellent Salary Package

Minimum qualifications NVQ Level II plus PA1, PA2 and PA6 and may suit someone who is
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A good working knowledge of drainage, irrigation and equipment maintenance is needed.
This is a ‘hands on’ position which requires a meticulous and thorough approach to achieve
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The applicant must also be able to transact business with customers and suppliers. Some
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software.

Apply in writing with CV to
Agates Nursery Farm, Fleet Hill, Finchampstead, Berks, RG40 4LB

October 2000 Greenkeeper International 57
Recruitment

LECTURER/TEACHER (GREENKEEPING)

This could be your career move to directly involve you in a combination of practical work, technical teaching and skills development.

You will help to ensure that future generations of greenkeepers maintain high standards and understand the basics, through to the new technologies of their craft.

Our unique and extensive Greenkeeping Academy provides the right environment for both traditional and ‘state of the art’ experience.

If you are interested in this position, we offer continuing professional development and an attractive salary with Occupational Pension Scheme.

Please contact us at the address below for further details and an application form.

Closing date: 13 October 2000

Apply to Personnel Department, Berkshire College of Agriculture, Hall Place, Burchetts Green, Maidenhead SL6 6QR.
Tel: 01628 824444 Fax: 01628 824695 enquiries@berks-coll-ag.ac.uk www.berks-coll-ag.ac.uk

HORTON PARK GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Horton Park Golf and Country Club is a 27 hole golf complex with driving range. The facilities include an 18 hole 6,300 yard course and a 9 hole academy course.

The Club is currently planning to undertake a phased plan of golf course alterations which include the rebuilding and relocation of tees and greens.

Applicants should be qualified to PA1 or 2 level and be able to demonstrate experience of course construction or upgrade.

A competitive salary will be offered.

To apply, send your CV to:
Matthew Staveley, General Manager, Horton Park Golf and Country Club, Hook Road, Epsom, Surrey KT19 8QG

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Attractive + benefits + accommodation

Gloucester Golf Club has two vacancies for enthusiastic individuals looking to develop their skills and further their careers.

Experience and relevant qualifications would be an advantage but we can offer training to NVQ level 3 and you will have a paid day off every week to attend the training course.

You will also benefit from membership of our excellent health club, including indoor pool, gym, sauna, dry ski slopes, squash & tennis courts.

Please write, enclosing your CV to include salary expectations, to Jonathan Squire, General Manager, Jarvis Gloucester Hotel & Country Club, Matson Lane, Robinswood Hill, Gloucester GL4 6EA.

KNIGHTON HEATH GOLF CLUB

Are seeking to appoint a COURSE MANAGER

This is a hands on position with full responsibility for the day to day running of this well established 18 hole heathland course, reporting to the club manager and green committee.

The successful applicant must possess all relevant qualifications and have the ability to motivate staff and promote their interest in a career.

Applications in writing enclosing CV to:

Club Manager, Knighton Heath Golf Club, Francis Avenue, Bournemouth BH11 8NX

LEYLAND GOLF CLUB

requires an ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Applicants should be ambitious, enthusiastic, hard working and reliable. The successful candidate will be qualified to at least NVQ Level 2 standard or equivalent.

PA1, PA2 and PA6 would be an advantage.

No accommodation.

Apply in writing with full CV to:
The Manager, Leyland Golf Club, Wigan Road, Leyland, Lancs PR5 2JD

GILLINGHAM GOLF COURSE

QUALIFIED GREENKEEPER

Due to retirement the club are now looking for a qualified greenkeeper to join a team of five. This position would suit a newly qualified applicant (NVQ II) who wishes to gain experience and knowledge on a busy golf course.

The applicant will be self motivated and able to work as part of a team.

Salary will be negotiable according to qualifications.

Please submit your application and CV in writing to:
The Club Secretary, Mrs M Scott, Gillingham Golf Course, Woodlands Road, Gillingham, Kent ME7 2AP

Applications by 27 October 2000
WELWYN GARDEN CITY GOLF CLUB LIMITED
Mannicotts, High Oaks Road, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire AL5 7BP
Telephone 01707 325243 (Office) 01707 322722 (Clubhouse) 01707 325525 (Pro Shop) Fax 01707 393212

WELWYN GARDEN CITY GOLF CLUB
Require
DEPUTY COURSE MANAGER

Enthusiastic, hard working, competent greenkeeper to join our existing team in maintaining our 18 hole busy, private members club to a high standard.

To work closely with the course manager in managing and motivating staff as well as training.

Six years experience, qualified to NVQ 3 spraying certificates.

Salary negotiable.

Apply in writing with current CV to:-
Mr B Cox, Course Manager, Mannicotts,
High Oaks Road, Welwyn Garden City, Herts, AL8 7BP

GOLF DE JOYENVAL
PARIS - FRANCE

Invites applications for the position of
HEAD GREENKEEPER

Joyenval opened in 1992 and is the mistrecond R Trent Jones Snr course in the Paris area.

With a maximum of 675 members for 36 holes, Joyenval is one of the most prestigious private clubs in France.

We are seeking a top quality Head Greenerkeeper who has all the necessary qualifications and can show a track record in golf course management at a senior level. Highest standards of course maintenance and presentation are expected.

He will report to the Club General Manager, with regular contacts with the Greens Committee.

He will be responsible for all aspects of man management and recruitment, must have sound knowledge of irrigation systems (Rainbird Maxi V) and course machinery.

Working knowledge of French will be necessary.

The remuneration package will be attractive and competitive.

Please send your applications in writing, together will full CV and salary expectations to:

Mr Antoine Ferran, General Manager, Golf de Joyenval,
Chemin de la Tuilerie, 78240 Chambourcy, France

OPEN GOLF CENTRES
HOME OF THE MONTY GOLF SCHOOLS

Christchurch, Dorset

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Open Golf Centres are building 10+ high quality golf centres throughout the country; they are seeking a "hands on" Head Greenkeeper for their flagship Centre in the Bournemouth area. Open Golf Centres, Christchurch comprises a state-of-the-art triple aspect practice range, a Colin Montgomerie Golf School, a full 18 hole course and 9 hole par 3 course. Presentation and upkeep of all fields of play will be exemplary.

The successful applicant will be able to demonstrate a proven track record in the following key areas:

- an ability to recruit, train, motivate, appraise and manage a successful team
- good communication skills
- in depth technical knowledge of modern greenkeeping practices
- experience in budgeting, irrigation and machinery maintenance
- a previous senior position at a recognised quality course is preferred

A good remuneration package is available and the real potential to develop and expand a career within an innovative and developing company. Accommodation is not provided.

Start date: 2 January 2001

Applications in writing with full CV and references to:-

The Managing Director, Open Golf Centres Ltd,
Gordon House, Littlemead, Cranleigh, Surrey GU6 8ND

We are also inviting applications for:-

ASSISTANT HEAD GREENKEEPER

5 FULL TIME GREENKEEPERS
Quality is a highly subjective issue. What is it, who decides it, what factors determine it? One man's quality can be the epitome of bad taste to another.

Sandy McDivot examines the issue of quality, and finds that one man's quality can be the epitome of bad taste to another...
to my credentials I am able to argue with complete authority that my version of a golf green in Utopia was correct while his was entirely erroneous.

Unfortunately though, and in common with many golfers, he was not offering an opinion on the greens but making what he considered to be a statement of fact. Based on the dual principal that he could occasionally hit a golf ball in the rough vicinity of the target and that he was playing a golf course acknowledged to be of exceptional quality he concluded that he was fully qualified to make such a statement. To him the greens in question were of a quality that was highly desirable and he wanted to know when my greens would be of a comparable standard. I however took the stance of the art critic talking to the philistine and was able to point out the gross error of his ways. The greens I suggested, far from being admirable, were in fact artificial, bumpy, diseased and unplayable for most of the winter, inordinately expensive to maintain, environmentally unsound and teetering on total demise whenever hotter than average weather was encountered. I also pointed out that their softness would negate all strategic elements painstakingly designed into the golf course. After all, there is no point in having a shrewdly placed greenside bunker if the green has all the characteristics of a green blancmange. Anyone can lob a mid iron over the offending object from heavy rough and still get it to stop within a couple of feet so what is the point in having the bunker there in the first place. It ceases to have any influence on how to play the preceding shot.

You might as well have that deranged individual from "Home Front in the Garden" design the course for all the subtlety you would need with greens like that. I ask you, would Tiger Woods with his supreme golfing brain have so dominated our Open Championship at St Andrews if Eddie Adams' greens had the receptive qualities of a plum duff? Well yes, he probably would have, but you get my point don't you?

However, to be fair, I do believe that most golfers do appreciate true quality when they finally encounter it. Just recently a popular golf magazine ran a piece on courses that they considered were in possession of the finest greens in the country. Listed were several leading courses and I am delighted to report that all of them were maintained in that traditional British way that produces a golf green we, the greenkeeper, so admire. Yes, all of the courses mentioned had greens that were firm, true, fast and consistent whatever the time of year and surprise, surprise not a USGA spec among them. But we don't want to dig that old chestnut up again, do we?

So I say to all my fellow greenkeepers out there, if you are getting some serious abuse of the acoustic nerve then remember, you are the expert and they the layman. You are the respected art critic, they the student. You are the connoisseur while they are the apprentice. So argue your case from the position of complete authority that your knowledge bestows upon you ... in the nicest possible way of course.

Sandy McDivot,
Head Greenkeeper,
Sludgecombe Pay and Play
Well it was nice to have a bit of a respite in August, not so much going on in the ‘BIGGA’ world.

One event I did attend, along with John Crawford (Past Chairman) who was representing the Scottish Region, was a forum held by the Scottish Golf Union under the title ‘Scottish Golf Development Initiative’. The aim of the event was to bring together all the bodies involved in golf in Scotland to look at and discuss ways of developing the game of golf in Scotland. There were so many ideas put forward that if even a percentage of them came to fruition it would help the development of the game. Golf in Scotland, family memberships in clubs, better facilities for practise, especially for Juniors, more 9-hole courses, short game courses for children, assist clubs to run themselves as businesses, promote clubs in a better light and in conjunction with tourism sell ourselves. These were just some of the ideas that came from a wide spectrum of the golf fraternity in Scotland.

One of the interesting points about this forum was that BIGGA was invited to send a representative as one of the main bodies interested in golf. Until recently a forum like this would have been held with no representation from greenskeepers, even though greenskeepers are probably more affected by the growth of golf and the popularity of clubs than anyone else. After all it is our livelihood and usually the largest number of employees at any club are the greenstaff.

One little aside at the forum was when, at a break, I was asked what BIGGA stood for. This was from a senior representative who knew what their Association was all about why didn’t they know us. This brought home to me how insular we can be at times and also how much work we still have to do at BIGGA to be recognised on a par with them.

However, that aside, this was a positive and interesting two days, bringing together of views on how to expand and develop golf into the new century and I congratulate the Scottish Golf Union for this and I look forward to BIGGA being involved in future meetings.

It was annoying reading Tracey’s report in the August issue about the abuse of membership cards for courtesy golf. I know it’s a very small minority, but there are always some rotten eggs in the basket who are only looking to take advantage for purely selfish reasons. So don’t hold back if you know of any abuse of our card, report them it could be you who can’t get a game at a club because they have refused courtesy to greenskeepers.

I have just returned from Saltex where we were lucky with the weather. One heavy shower on Wednesday was the only glitch in the show. I was asked to be one of the stand judges on the Tuesday morning and what a hard job that was. I have to do at BIGGA to be recognised on a par with them. However, that aside, this was well done to all the staff there for their hard work. By the time this is published most of us will probably have finished our autumn renovation work or at least be well enough to start going back to some turf management, micro coring, verti draining, top dressing, Overseeding – we will all be doing all or some of these tasks. Hopefully we will have had some reasonable weather to get them done and with the spring temperatures we will go into the winter season in good health.

This is how I see it now, no longer can we talk about the ‘Playing Season’, meaning April to September. The demands of the play of these courses mean that this is no longer something that I have to think of two seasons - Summer and Winter - and we have to prepare for both. It has been interesting recently to talk to more and more who have been able to hold on to greens in August. Usually during a quiet two weeks when their members are on holiday, they have raved about their greens recovery rate, and are now going into the winter season in fine condition.

This is something which we should all consider and start working towards. I know your club will never wear it well. I can assure you that is what these other clubs said, “If you don’t ask, you’ll never get”. Find out if someone near you has done it, and use them as an example and make your request as professional as possible.

All you need to do is convince your green committee, not the whole club. If they won’t go for it as a whole ask to try nine greens or three or even one (always start high) next year. Once they have seen the recovery rate as compared with late September or October and the ensuing benefits they will be convinced for the next year.

Finally I would like to extend a warm welcome to Meredith Foster who has joined the Sales and Marketing team in place of Jenny, and also to Brad Anderson, who is taking Janice’s place as Telemarketing/Trainer/Clerical Assistant. I am sure they will both enjoy their time with us.

In the July issue I did not finish with a quote. I’d like to thank those people who asked me why as it made me realise that someone does read this article. This month I have to thank one of my assistants, Mark Gardner, for the following quote:

"I don’t back in yesterday’s glory"
"I WISH WE HAD..."

"...a set of **THATCH-AWAY** verticutters. I've never seen anything work like they did, when we had them on demonstration!"

"Next, I'd get an **EASY-LOAD** trailer. It would save hours of back ache when we're top dressing..."

"...and the **GREENS GROOMER** is incredible for rubbing it in. We had one of those on demo too."

"Then the **TRUE-SURFACE** vibratory rollers are ideal for finishing off after aerating and top dressing. They keep the greens true through the winter as well."

"Plus, if we had a **MAXI-BRUSH**, its' 18' width would quickly brush the fairways, then we could fold it down to 6' to do the greens. Better book a demo of this one quick!"

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