A NEW MAN AT THE HELM

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YOU’VE GOT MAIL!

If you’ve got an email account, and want to keep up to date with the latest news and events from the turfcare industry, drop us an email, and we’ll add you to our ever increasing list of online subscribers. We’ll then inform you of any forthcoming features and events via email.
Simply send an email to: updates@bigga.co.uk quoting your name and Membership number, and we’ll do the rest - it’s that easy!

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Greenkeeper International
The official monthly magazine of the British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association
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ISSN: 01909 565501 Tel: 01909 569353 Fax: 01909 569295

It's hard work, but well worth the effort

The month of July is the highlight for many, with The Open Championship acting as a magnet for golf lovers from all over the world. It is a marvellous event both on and off the course as it’s the perfect opportunity to see the world’s finest exponents of the game up close and also meet friends you perhaps haven’t seen for the entire 12 months.

In this regard BIGGA is extremely fortunate. Not only does the hard working BIGGA Support Team have the chance to play a key role in one of the biggest events in the sporting calendar but the BIGGA marque is a superb base for members to meet and enjoy a bit of refreshment between watching live golf.

Having said that, with television sets in the marquee some people do tend to settle in for an afternoon in front of the box and the delights of Peter Alliss and Alex Hay, rather than seeing the action first hand.

This year, Lytham St Annes plays host to the Championship, and the course has been prepared for a Open for the first time by Paul Smith and his team.

Paul was First Assistant to Jimmy MacDonald MBE last time the Championship was played there in 1992, and that experience, coupled with that acquired since he started out in the profession as a 16 year old apprentice at St Annes Old Links, will stand him in good stead when the media spotlight falls on the course.

You can read about Paul’s preparations for the Open elsewhere in this issue but you can be sure that the conditions which face the 156 competitors, who tee it up on Thursday, July 19, to face Lytham’s daunting opening par-3, will be as good as the weather in the run up to the Championships has allowed.

My first experience of Royal Lytham came in 1988 when Seve Ballesteros went head to head with Nick Price and produced some miraculous golf to win. We can all recall the wonderful chip he caused Saturday’s third round to be washed out as the weather in the run up to the Championships.

An A superb round of 73 around the long and testing Drumoig Hotel Golf Resort in Fife by five handicap player Stuart Raeburn clinched the 2001 Scottish National Championship.

The 22 year-old First Assistant to current National Past Chairman Elliott Small, played near the back of the field and overhauled the scores of Stuart Taylor, from Glasgow Golf Club, and Richard Lowe, of Kilmacolm, who had been out earlier in the day and posted fine scores.

Although windless, the home of the Scottish Golf Centre tested everyone with its succession of long par fours and fives not to mention an array of par-3s in excess of 200 yards.

Beautifully maintained by Ian O’Gaunt Golf Club, the 10 year-old course, just a few miles inland of St Andrews, required proficiency with every club in the bag to achieve a score anywhere close to handicap.

BIGGA survey: An excellent response

As this edition of Greenkeeper International goes to press, Mike Williamson of MW Associates is busy analysing the responses to the market research survey we reported on in March.

“The response to the survey has been excellent,” said Mike.

“We have received completed questionnaires from 570 BIGGA members, and have conducted about 150 telephone interviews with companies and organisations in the golf industry, as well as representatives of golf clubs and greenkeepers who are not currently BIGGA members. A lot of people have applauded BIGGA for having the survey carried out - and are looking forward to hearing the outcome!”

As a first step, Mike Williamson will be reporting key findings from the research to the BIGGA Board at their June meeting. The Board will then decide on the best way of considering, and responding to, the detailed results that will be in the full report.

In the meantime, Mike passes on his thanks to all those who took the time to respond, often very fully, to the questionnaires and interviews. And Mike’s communications to the 579 members who did not win the £100 voucher in the questionnaire prize draw.

The lucky winner was Stephen Curtis, Head Greenkeeper of Richmond Park GC in Norfolk.

Scottish National Championship

Results

Scottish Champion, SGGGA Challenge Cup, Scrath, Stuart Raeburn, Tulliallan, 73.

Friendship Trophy, Best Net, Stephen Brown, Newmarch, 68.

Category One, Ransomes Trophy
1. George Thompson, Goswick, 72.
2. James McCormack, Kinewur, 73(BH);
3. Archie Dunn, Auchterarder, 73.

Category Two, Pattinson Trophy
1. Craig Pennycook, Winterfield, 72.
2. Colin Irvine, Murfield, 74.
3. Alan Russell, Torshin Hill, 76(BH)

Category Three STRI Trophy
1. Andy Wilson, Brechin, 73.
3. Colin Scott, Glasgow, 80.

Best Head GK, Dick Atkin Trophy, Stuart Taylor, Glasgow, 73.

Best Apprentice, Seuter Trophy, Richard Love, Kilmacolm, 74.

Best Veteran, SIGGA Trophy, Duncan Gray, Pines, 75.

Team Trophy (Best four net scores) St Mungo Cup, North - Stephen Brown, James McCormack, Andy Wilson and John Urquhart.

Trade: Pat Allen, Stewarts.

Guest: Scott MacCallum, BIGGA.

Stephen boxes clever at John O’Gaunt

Stephen Thompson, of John O’Gaunt Golf Club who has previously reported on the success of the bird boxes installed on the course has further good news to report.

“So far 11 out of 14 tit boxes have been accepted and we have 84 young blue tits ranging in age from half a day to 14 days. 31 blue tits were ringed and we also had a nest containing three young great tits,” said Stephen.

The majority of the boxes were put up in February and March this year to give the birds time to get used to them and possibly to nest in them.

“Out of six open frontal box es one was used and a complete nest found, presumably used by a wren,” said Stephen.

“This was the first year for these boxes and it was very successful,” said Stephen who works closely with Peter Wilkinson of Bird life International, who was able to ring some of the birds.

Scott MacCallum
Editor
PGA team: A real credit to their Association

Greenkeepers came from Denmark, Scotland, Wales and England to volunteer their services for the Volvo PGA Championship held at The Wentworth Club at the end of May. Their work are much appreciated by the European Tour as by relieving caddies of the bunker raking considerable time is saved on a round, speeding up play to the advantage of all concerned.

They are also a great comfort to Course Manager, Chris Kennedy who was one of the worries that he has during a Championship such as this. Knows that in the event of heavy rain he can call on tremendous support from this team to get the greens playable.

The Championship in the past has been plagued by such weather and was one of the reasons that the Tour asked the Association if Greenkeeper Support could be made available for all four days this year. Thankfully that was not the case this year and the event was blessed with four days of almost continual sunshine. More volunteers would have been useful over the first two days as there were 52 matches to provide for and it was a great effort by those Greenkeepers who covered two rounds in temperatures around the eighties.

There was a great atmosphere in our little office, nobody being unkink to the Regional Administrator when he gave exhibitions of controlled panic and an even better one, especially on the last day in the hospitality suite overlooking the 18th green generously provided for our use by the Tour, for apart from the Support Team we seemed to "pick up" lots of Greenkeepers there just for the golf (including Jack and Rita McMillan!) and who managed to talk their way past security.

On a serious side eventual winner Andrew Oldcorn must feel eternally grateful to Rob Boyce, Newmarket, who was the only person to see his balls here. Called out "Where are you going? The caddie walked towards the green Rob ered in leaves. As Andrew and his grateful to Rob Boyce, Newmarket, still in the trees and finishing up covering a branch while he was playing out of trees and land near him.

balls that he would have incurred without Rob’s help were worth thousands.

The week seemed to run rather smoothly especially with Andrew Oldcorn and Nick Faldo posing for the cameras with the Team. I’m sure that all of the Greenkeepers, including Willy Harder who had made the trip from Denmark to work all four days, will want to return next year, hopefully with a few more volunteers to make those first two days a little easier. A great effort by all concerned.

Finally, the following conversation was overheard between a greenkeeper inside the ropes, who was accompanying the Lady Official marker during one of the days play ...

GK: What Club are you from?
Lady Official: Wentworth
GK: Do you live on the Estate?
Lady Official: Yes
GK: You don’t live in one of these £3 million houses do you?
Lady Official: No darling. I live in one of these £10 million pound houses!

Derek Farrington

Below: The team poses with new Volvo PGA Champion Andrew Oldcorn

Above: The 2001 Volvo PGA Championship Support Team relaxes with Nick Faldo.

Hi...I’m a Greens Chairman. I love it. It’s a rewarding job

The members are so grateful. Always complimenting, slap on the back, etc...

Psycho is there. Next, that’s me. Nice chatting, bye

Royal Inverdivot GC

Strip Cartoonist of the Year www.tonyhusband.co.uk

The members are so grateful. Always complimenting, slap on the back, etc...

Psycho is there. Next, that’s me. Nice chatting, bye

July 2001 Greengrocer International
Aeration: Throughout the year Tom aerates absolutely necessary. He aerates once in the morning, twice at night. He aerates the greens three times a day - once early in the morning, once midday and once late afternoon.

Grass growth: Greens are cut every day. In the winter they are cut once a day, in the summer they are cut twice a day.

Verticut: Every two weeks until two weeks after The Open with a Buxton Sand Verticutter.

Grass cuts: He cuts in two directions at 90 degrees. During The Open weeks he cuts in three directions.

Turf grooming: He uses Turf Groomers all year round.

Watering: Yes, he uses water, but only if absolutely necessary.

Awards: Walter was awarded the British Empire Medal for his services to turf care and greenkeeping. He has also been awarded the Queen's Birthday Award for his service to the community.

Turf Care Conference: Eamonn Wall and Co has appointed Antony Strawn to its new English office in the Midlands, where the company has now concentrated its English based consultants.

The company now has two offices, at Dollar in Scotland and Retford in Nottinghamshire.

Antony, 30, is an experienced woodland design and management consultant having worked for another company in the East Midlands for the last five years. He is a graduate of Reading and Oxford Universities and is a native of Lincolnshire. He is a keen mountaineer and a member of the Institute of Chartered Foresters.

Rolawn website is a real hit

Rolawn opened its web site just over a year ago and has steadily built up awareness of the site to the extent that in recent months its site has received record numbers of visits, up to 16000 page requests in May alone.

Recent developments have included using the site as a means of recruiting stockists for both turf and the recently launched loam products, helping us to both recruit and provide ongoing support for stockists," said Terry Ryan.

It's all too easy to dismiss technology but we believe that in the future there will be only two kinds of business. Those that develop technology as their servant and those that are going out of business."

Simon and Jim get expanded roles at Advanta

Adanta Seeds has handed Simon Harrison and Jim Fulton expanded roles within the company. Based in Leeds Simon is now responsible for after sales in the north as well as managing Advanta's advertising and PR spend, attendance at shows including BTME and SALTEX and all promotional activities.

Jim, who lives near Grantham, will continue to recruit and service his customers in the east but also manage sales on a nationwide basis.

Section event?

www.bigga.org.uk/events.html

Apologies

Last month we inadvertently described the AEA as the ABE. This was as a result of a scanning error not picked up at a later date and we apologise to the Association for any embarrassment caused.

Latest News?

www.bigga.org.uk/news.html

Management buy out at AF Trenchers

A.F.T. Trenchers has been the subject of a management take-over from its co-owners Bruce and Rodney Fullord. The 35 year old company will be continued to be run by Harry Jurgens and will be renamed A.F.T. Trenchers and will continue to operate in both the domestic and exports markets.

The company has also appointed Angus Macdonald, who will be responsible for marketing in UK and Ireland and to service the company's existing customer base and with developing the plant and agricultural sectors for all A.F.T. Trenchers' attachments.
A dog walk which took in land owned by Rothley Park Golf Club resulted in a Rothley trespasser turned medal winner.

Left to right. The Rothley Team. Jordan Roman, David Helling Paul Falk, Stav Wooding, Sue Antcliffe, Dave Doherty and Nick Smith.

Happy Birthday

Banks Amenity Products is celebrating 40 years in the golf course and landscape industries. Founded in 1961 by Reginald Banks, the company has been owned and managed by Tim Banks since 1981.

"Banks Amenity Products has been providing high quality bulk materials to some of the most prestigious golf courses throughout the UK," said Tim.

Banks Amenity Products was one of the founder members of the BAGCC (British Association of Golf Course Constructors) and the newly formed BRTMA (British Rootzone & Top Dressing Manufacturers Association).

Today the company enjoys the benefits of having an excellent reputation for supplying quality materials to some of the most prestigious golf courses throughout the UK.

Pest and Disease Audit undertaken by the STRI

The number of outbreaks and the severity of pest and diseases on sports turf throughout the UK is currently an unknown factor so the advisory team and research staff at the STRI have vowed to rectify the situation.

Part of a surplus from the STRI’s advisory work is being used to fund an internal research programme into the spread and severity of pests and diseases on sports turf throughout the UK and Ireland. The programme is being co-ordinated by Dr Ruth Mann, the STRI Turf Pathologist.

Initially the research will centre on a comprehensive questionnaire which will determine the major pests and diseases across the country and any hot spots of certain problems.

Questionnaires have been sent to all clubs in the UK and Ireland.

Once the replies have been collated on a database the Research Staff will be able to determine if there are any correlations between disease occurrence and management practices or weather conditions.

The number of outbreaks and the severity of pest and diseases on sports turf throughout the UK is currently an unknown factor so the advisory team and research staff at the STRI have vowed to rectify the situation.

Runner-up showing for East Section

Congratulations and well done to the BIGGA East Section team who were competing for only their second time in the Dispatch Trophy which is played over the Braid Hills Golf Course in Edinburgh for over 100 years at the Braids. Last year, their first, they were beaten in the first round but put up a very good performance against one of the former winners so they did not disgrace themselves. This year they did even better, beating favourites Silverknowes in the semi-final on route to the final where they were narrowly beaten 6 & 5 in the final by the Blythswood Hotel who themselves were playing in only their second time in the competition.

The team consisted of four section members and they were: Tom Murray; Ruth Park; David Drummond, Muirfield; Stevie Nicol, Winterfield; and Iain Ling, Kingsknowe.

Well done lads and we hope you can go one better and lift the trophy next year.

Chris Yeaman

Safety in the sun

If anybody else has suffered the problems of trying to keep a fair skin, or any other skin, protected on a long summer day outdoors, then check out an excellent product which only needs to be applied once and is effective for the whole day.

Despite covering up with hats, it takes the worry out of all that outdoor exposure to dangerous rays. An added bonus is that it is not sticky and all that lovely bunter sand stuck to your skin with normal sun products won't be a problem! It's a Danish sun filter called P20 and it works!... although it needs to be applied well before exposure to allow it to bond with your skin.

James Hall, currently on student placement in a very hot Italy.

PGA thanks

I was privileged to be part of the Support Team at Wentworth for the PGA Championship and I would like to congratulate Derek Farrington for his efforts in making the team work for the entire four days of the Championship as opposed to the final two for which it had operated in previous years. He was ably assisted by all and sundry who couldn’t do enough for the cause.

I personally had a great day and feel certain that everyone else did so as well. A few more volunteers next year I’m sure would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks also to our standby photographer in the shape of Mrs Farrington.

Peter Bisson, Kent

BIGGA keep up the good work

I want to take time to congratulate all of the staff at BIGGA for excellent service, prompt action to my membership enquiry and for putting together a magazine that is informative and well written.

The fact that I’m in Hong Kong and can still find out what is happening in the UK in this industry and keep a little finger on the pulse makes England feel at little closer.

I take my hat off to you all.

Ian Bruton, Seik O Country Club, Hong Kong

July 2001 Greenkeeper International
This month, BIGGA's Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson, congratulates the first group of successful CPD delegates, and invites entries for the forthcoming CPD year.

Congratulations to all of the greenkeepers who successfully achieved the standard required for the BIGGA Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Certificate. The second year of the BIGGA CPD scheme commences on 1 July 2001 and ends on 30 June 2002. The BIGGA CPD Scheme is designed to encourage greenkeepers to:

1. Acquire outdated skills.
2. Keep in touch with changes in legislation.
3. Show employers that greenkeepers are professionals.
4. Accumulate credits towards further National Qualifications eg. N/SVQ, HNC, HND etc.
5.cope with change.
6. Attract higher salaries.

Certificates are awarded to all those BIGGA greenkeepers who accumulate a minimum of 10 CPD credits annually. BIGGA greenkeeper members who have been awarded 5 successive BIGGA Certificates of CPD will be awarded a BIGGA Diploma of Continuous Professional Development.

The Scheme
1. Greenkeepers must be members of BIGGA.
2. Applications must be on a CPD Registration Form.
3. Applicants must hold a minimum qualification of N/SVQ Level 2 or equivalent.
4. CPD credits are awarded for a wide range of education and training courses, eg. an approved 1 day course attracts 3 credits, a two day course 5 credits. Attend the full week of education and training at Harrogate in January 2002 and you would receive your 10 credit requirement.
5. Each greenkeeper must accumulate at least 10 credits per year.
6. All training must be related to National Standards.

Thanks to the contributors to the BIGGA Education and Development Fund, (details in the panel on the right) the Scheme is free to all members.

BTME2002 EDUCATION UPDATE

Wednesday 23 January, 2002
Seminar Session 1
This keynote session will be FREE to all wishing to attend.

Seminar Session 2
Jim Moore
Content TBC

Seminar Session 3
Frank Ainsworth
Alex Vickers
Content TBC

Thursday 24 January, 2002
Seminar Session 4
Paul Crowe
Birt Bandon
David Winterton MG
Content TBC

Seminar Session 5
James Beard
Content TBC

Friday 25 January, 2002
Seminar Session 6
This session will be FREE to all wishing to attend.

Session 1
Paul Crowe
Birt Bandon
David Winterton MG
Content TBC

Session 2
Andy Campbell MG
Mike Canaway
Clive Osgood
Content TBC

Session 3
James Beard
Content TBC


One day learning options at BTME2002:

Monday 21 January, 2002
National Education Conference, Majestic Hotel, Harrogate
Emergency First Aid Workshop
Environmental Management Workshop

Tuesday 22 January, 2002
National Education Conference, Majestic Hotel, Harrogate
Emergency First Aid Workshop
Environmental Management Workshop

Two day learning options at BTME2002:

Monday 21 January, 2002
National Education Conference, Majestic Hotel, Harrogate
Golf Course Design and Construction 1

Tuesday 22 January, 2002
National Education Conference, Majestic Hotel, Harrogate
Golf Course Design and Construction 1

Wednesday 23 January, 2002
National Education Conference, Majestic Hotel, Harrogate
Emergency First Aid Workshop

Thursday 24 January, 2002
National Education Conference, Majestic Hotel, Harrogate
Emergency First Aid Workshop

Friday 25 January, 2002
National Education Conference, Majestic Hotel, Harrogate
Emergency First Aid Workshop

Saturday 26 January, 2002
National Education Conference, Majestic Hotel, Harrogate
Emergency First Aid Workshop

The National Education Conference includes four sessions over two days, including a Master Class from Dr James Beard, sessions on Global Warming and the Golf Course, Redesign and Reconstruction of Golf Course Features and Winter Preparation. Golf Course Design 1 will be presented, by Howard Swan and Simon Godman. Bob Taylor, Jonathan Smith and Fiona McIntyre have agreed to host the Environmental Management Workshop. Seminar speakers will include Frank Ainsworth, James Beard, Birt Bandon, Andy Campbell MG, Mike Canaway, Clive Osgood, Paul Crowe, Jim Moore, Alex Vickers and David Winterton MG.

Watch out in further editions of this magazine and on the BIGGA Website for more details of speakers and how to book your place.

CPD Certificates Points
Jonathan Hamlet 54
Gordon Irvine MG 53
Ian Wallott 48
Andy Campbell MG 29
Stuart Hogg 23
Michael Smith 21
Nigel White 18
John Quinn MG 17
Alex Macleod 15
Mark Broughton MG 13
Nathan Marsh 13
Seve Schmitz MG 13
Lee Strutt 13
Antony Birdley 12
Chris Carpenter MG 11
Iain Macleod 11
Nigel Potter 11
John Wells MG 11
David Winterton MG 11
David Bougen 10
Kevin Hodges 10
Graeme MacDonald 10
Ian MacMillan MG 10
Andy Smith 10
Denis Tweddel 10

YOU’VE GOT $mail!

If you’ve got an email account why not send an email to the education department, where we can place you into our exclusive education email address book. We can then keep you up to date with education news and events as they happen.

Send an email to: education@bigga.co.uk
ken@bigga.co.uk
admin@bigga.co.uk

If you’ve got an email account why not send an email to education@bigga.co.uk? Keep checking the website for the latest news on the various education and training options available at BTME2002.

Gold Key Circle Company Members
Company Tel/Head Office
Amazone Ground Care 01579 351155
Bernhard and Company Ltd 01788 811800
Charlterhouse Turf Machinery Ltd 01460 661222
Garf Professional 01934 369611
John Deere Ltd 01949 880491
Hayler Ltd 01279 734444
Kubota UK Ltd 01944 214900
Massey Ferguson (BGGC) Ltd 01247 801299
PGA European Tour 01344 826881
Rain Bird 01273 812136
Rigby Taylor Ltd 01724 834888
Scotts UK Professional 01473 838492
Stokes Park Club 01953 271713
Tetronics Turf Care 01473 770000
The Toro Company/Lazy UK 01202 391897

Individual Members
Mike Eastwood, J H Fry, J H Greenall, David S Robinson, Stuart Townsend

Silver Key Circle Company Members
Company Tel/Head Office
Ernest Doe & Sons 01254 380309
Heath Lambert Group 0113 246 1313
Ioma Irrigation 01400 219399
Laws Equipment Ltd 01265 800000

Individual Members
Clive A Archer, John Crawford, Bruce Cruickshank, Douglas G Duguid, Alan Holmes, Kenneth Jones, Ian A MacLeod, Robert Macleod MG, Richard G Mullen, Elliot F Small, Steven Tenney, Raymond J Warnande, WU Rogers, C J Warner

The 13th BTME, held in January this year, proved to be the best ever with record attendance figures over 7,800. In our series of countdown articles to BTME2002, Meredith Foster gives some vital information for exhibitors both new and old ...

BTME is an essential event for all those connected to the turf and, in particular, the golf greenkeeping industry. 200 manufacturers and suppliers of turfcare and golf course/club related products and services were present at the 2001 show unveiling new products, services and techniques.

Much more than a trade show, BTME incorporates extensive educational programmes and seminars which have a broad appeal for visitors to the show. The speakers are experts in their particular fields and include international academics and UK greenkeeping professionals with extensive practical knowledge on many of the top golf courses. There are also workshops on a wide variety of subjects from golf course design, plants and soil science to machinery maintenance and computing for greenkeepers.

Exhibitor benefits and details of stand bookings

Once you have booked your stand, the extra benefits you will receive are:
- Free 100 words entry into the BTME catalogue with optional company logo
- Free 100 words entry on the BTME website with a hyperlink to your website
- Preferential advertising rates in BTME catalogue
- Free 100 words entry into the BTME address book. I can then place you into our exclusive BTME address database.

Don’t miss out!

Why exhibit?
The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition (BTME) is the largest indoor show of its kind in Europe attracting thousands of key decision makers from the turfcare and golf course industry every year.

Attendance figures increase dramatically year on year with a record 25% increase achieved for the 2001 show.

A comprehensive education programme and series of interesting seminars is always in place to attract visitors to their stands, and with BIGGA membership always on the increase, the show is certainly set to grow year on year.

For the very latest BTME2002 news and event information visit: www.bigga.org.uk

Don’t miss me an email, and I’ll place you into our exclusive BTME address book. I can then keep you up-to-date with the very latest BTME news and events.

Send your email to: meredith@bigga.co.uk

For the very latest BTME2002 news and event information visit: www.bigga.org.uk
BIGGA's Membership Services Officer, Tracey Maddison, welcomes almost 80 new members to the Association and highlights some interesting facts regarding Direct Debit

Do you do it by Direct Debit?

BIGGA now operate a Direct Debit scheme, offering members the opportunity to spread their payments over 10 months rather than having to find their membership fee in one lump sum. This facility is available for all members, and extra application forms are always available from the membership department, here at BIGGA HOUSE.

Did you know...

• Usage of Direct Debit has grown fourfold over the last ten years.
• Almost 32 million people in the UK now use Direct Debit.
• People pay an average of six bills by Direct Debit.
• Almost 32 million people in the UK now use Direct Debit.
• To use the Direct Debit Scheme, a customer must usually hold a current account with one of the UK's Banks or Building Societies.

What is Direct Debit?

Direct Debit is a simple, safe and speedy way to pay regular bills and subscriptions automatically from your bank account.

How do I set up a Direct Debit with BIGGA to pay my membership fees?

You will need to obtain from BIGGA, and then complete, a Direct Debit Instruction and return it to BIGGA together with your membership form. BIGGA currently works with a company called Premium Credit and will send your completed Direct Debit Instruction to them to forward onto your bank. If your payments will be spread over a 10 month period and will commence on the 1st of the following month from your membership start date e.g. Membership expiry date 31st May, therefore membership start date is 1st June, Direct Debit will commence 1st July.

STOP PRESS

BIGGA now have a brand new supply of waterproof suits in stock. Sizes available are Medium, Large, Extra Large and Extra Extra Large and they are in navy and consist of a jacket with matching trousers with a drawstring waistband. Contact the Membership Department for more details or to make an order.

Tel: 01347 833800 Email: membership@bigga.co.uk

The Direct Debit mandate form is very easy to complete, as you can see from the example below:

What do I do if I already pay by Direct Debit?

Your payments will continue. However, BIGGA will send out a renewal pack with a renewal form approximately one month prior to your expiry date. Your renewal form will be stamped as an "Existing D/D Account" and you will need to check all your details are correct and make any changes necessary; complete the reverse part of the form regarding payment, ticking the box indicating that you wish to continue with this method of payment, obtain a Golf Club stamp or some other form of authorisation that you are a working greenkeeper at the Club, sign and return to BIGGA.

Can I cancel a Direct Debit?

If you need to cancel the Direct Debit, simply write to your Bank or Building Society, but don’t forget to send BIGGA a copy so they can update their files. However, if you do cancel your membership halfway through your membership year please contact BIGGA to advise them of this.

BIGGA welcomes ...

Scottish Region

Ian Flint, North
William C Hudson, East
Michael A Mann, North
Robert McCulloch, Ayrshire
Christopher Pryde, West
Martin R Smith, North
David Merrick, East

Northern Region

Philip T Bowler, N Wales
Chris Bryan, N Wales
Phil Collins, N West
William Hudson, East
Stephen Reed, Cleveland

South East Region

Ronald K Ansell, Sussex

Kathleen A Bagnold, Surrey
Tony Bruce, Surrey
Richard A Constable, Surrey
Alan Elliott, Surrey
Kenneth A Herbert, Surrey
Simon P Lambert, Sussex
Jon Linson, Sussex
Mark Logan, Sussex
Gary A Rose, Surrey
Jamie Stewart, Surrey
Graham R Thornton, Surrey
Luke Thompson, Surrey
Darren Wales, Surrey

S West & S Wales Region

John Botelho, S West
David Brough, S Coast
Martin Finst, S West
Robert W Hughes, S Wales
Richard M Newton, S Wales
William Owen, Devon & Cornwall
Derek A Ross, S Coast
Wyn Seby, S Wales

Northern Ireland

Gary Johnston
Andrew Wray

Republic of Ireland

Christopher Griffiths, N West
James Liverstake, Sheffield
David McCaffey, N Wales
Ross J Sullivan, Northern
David Sullivan, Sheffield
Ben Boucher, Midlands
Andrew J Turner, Midlands
Matthew N Chatterton, Devon & Cornwall
Christopher Mann, N Ireland

Student Members

Charles E Worsfold, Kent

Trevor Norris

International Members

Willy Hordur, Denmark

Golden Key Members

Christine Hogg, Republic

6. Who has been the biggest influence on your career?

Ronnie Bunting

5. What job other than greenkeeping might you have ended up doing?

Professional golfer

4. Which one task do you most dislike doing?

Dwelling fairways

3. Which one task do you most enjoy doing?

Cutting approaches

2. What education are you currently undertaking?

Finished Level 2 and 3 at GOSTA over the winter

1. How long have you been a greenkeeper?

Two and a half years

10. What do you hope to be doing in 10 years time?

Working abroad, maybe on a golf course

8. What are your hobbies?

Golf and socialising

7. What would you do to improve the life of a greenkeeper?

Better working conditions, pay and education

9. What do you get out of BIGGA?

Interesting magazine and golf days

What are your interests?

Reading, exercise, family

1. What are you doing in 10 years time?

I have no idea, probably moving around different clubs

2. What are your long term career aspirations?

I would like to stay in the greenkeeping industry and get a management role

3. What motivates you as a greenkeeper?

I love the outdoors and working with nature

4. What is your Greenkeeper Hero?

Lands End GCB

5. Why did you choose Greenkeeping as a career?

I have always loved the outdoors and working with nature

6. Where do you work?
BTME2002 will be upon us all too soon, and here at BIGGA we’re aiming to provide the most up-to-date information to both visitors and exhibitors with a brand new BTME microsite...

btme.org.uk: What a site for an exhibition!

Each January in Harrogate, BIGGA hold their annual Turf Management Exhibition (BTME). With an extremely diverse range of visitor, ranging from the fine turf professional right through to the golf shop pro, we must always ensure that the information produced for such an all-encompassing event will encapsulate every aspect of the show, whilst holding the attentions of each specialised visitor group.

With that in mind, we are currently developing a brand new BTME microsite within the already familiar BIGGA website. Accessible for both exhibitors and visitors alike, the new microsite will contain specific information for both categories of website visitor, which will make for an informative and enriching web experience, containing updated exhibition news 24 hours a day.

Organising the largest and most successful fine turf exhibition and education conference in Europe, has galvanised our commitment to providing both visitors and exhibitors with the most up-to-date information possible, and the new BTME microsite will be a breeding ground of information about next year’s event, and with the power of the internet, can, and will be updated as soon as news becomes available.

Already a successful feature on the microsite’s parent site, a customisable email request form will be available for all BTME web-visitors to fill in.

By using this facility, visitors can ask to be kept informed of the very latest exhibition news and event information via email. An extremely useful feature if you don’t have the spare time to surf the microsite everyday, and with the power of the internet, can, and will be updated as soon as news becomes available.

Another feature planned for the BTME site is a mini-exhibition directory which will contain:
- Company names
- Contact names
- Contact numbers
- Email links
- Web hyperlinks
- Hall location
- Stand location
- Company profile and product details for each exhibitor

The brand new site is set to be launched later this month, and will be accessible from the familiar hyper-link on the BIGGA parent website (www.bigga.org.uk), but will now also have its own website address of www.btme.org.uk

This will enable faster access of specific BTME information for both visitors and exhibitors alike, but will help maintain the inherent links under the umbrella of the BIGGA parent website.

Every year, we are continually encouraged by the positive feedback and comments we receive from BTME delegates, visitors and exhibitors, and firmly believe that the spread of information by traditional print methods can continue to be enhanced by digital means through the internet and email.

If you are interested in receiving details when the new BTME microsite launches, please send an email to btme@bigga.co.uk and include the word ‘update’ in the subject field.

Email Roundup

Got a question to ask or have some information or comments to pass on? Contact us via email at the relevant address below.

- Membership Services membership@bigga.co.uk
- Education & Training education@bigga.co.uk
- Editorial/PR scott@bigga.co.uk
- Sales & Marketing sales@bigga.co.uk
- Finance/Accounts admin@bigga.co.uk
- Media Services david@bigga.co.uk
- Website webmaster@bigga.co.uk
- General enquiries reception@bigga.co.uk

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Above: Paul Smith prepares to welcome Tiger and his colleagues
Left: The familiar Royal Lytham Clubhouse taken by Philip Medcalf
Right: A commemorative plaque in honour Bobby Jones
Royal Lytham and St Annes Golf Club is a Rolls Royce among Championship venues. There is barely a significant event in golf which hasn't visited the north west coast course and it can always be guaranteed to produce a worthy winner – Tony Jacklin, Gary Player and Seve Ballesteros spring readily to mind.

So when the Open Championship returns later this month we can expect more of the same. Nothing much changes at Royal Lytham, certainly not for the worse.

There is one difference this year, however. A significant one, but one which to many may only become apparent when they see a young man standing a few yards from the soon-to-be-crowned Open Champion at the presentation table on the 18th green around 6pm on Open Sunday...no play-off permitting.

For the Open Champion it will be a thrilling moment, the culmination of a lifetime's endeavour ... or perhaps even the sixth consecutive Major Championship and the third leg of the mythical Grand Slam, while for new Head Greenkeeper, Paul Smith, it will signal the end of months of preparation and hard work and confirmation that he is the worthy successor to one of greenkeeping's own legendary figures.

Paul's predecessor Jimmy MacDonald MBE, had been there and done that in greenkeeping over the 26 years he was Head Greenkeeper. Not only had he prepared Lytham for some of the biggest Championships at home and abroad, including the Ryder Cup and a Curtis Cup, four British Senior Opens, a Women's British Open and both British Amateur 'ladies' and men's Championships - but he had presided over a finishing school whose Old Boys are now Head Greenkeepers at some of the biggest and best clubs in the area.

Paul was one of these, being Jimmy's First Assistant when the Open was last played at Lytham in '96, before he left to add management to his greenkeeping credentials with a spell as Course Manager at Furness Golf Club.

Incidentally, many of those Old Boys return during Open week to add their considerable expertise and experience to Lytham's own team.

"They will be rolling, cutting and cutting and I'm certainly looking forward to having them with me for the week," said Paul.

So what thoughts will be going through his head when he walks out onto the 18th green with the new Open Champion?

"Ideally I'd like all my staff to be with me but I know that's not possible. I know I shall be very proud of my own achievements and very proud of the staff's achievements," mused Paul, as we talked in his office, some six weeks before Open week.

"It will be a tremendous highlight and I'm sure I'll feel quite emotional when it happens. I'll definitely have to pinch myself.

"I always set myself high, but achievable, targets so I always thought that one day I might be in the position."

The pride will also, no doubt, be tinged with relief after preparations for the Championship were complicated by a couple of nerve testing episodes of near Biblical proportions - flooding which would have had Noah's ancestors dusting off their work tools and the Foot and Mouth Epidemic, which would have had Paul seriously questioning what he'd done to deserve such a headache, but which ultimately remained a safe distance away.

The flooding caused the course to be closed for a total of 40 days because of it - in addition to the 16 days for which it was closed because of frost and snow.

"The Fylde plane is relatively flat anyway and typically the water table comes close to the surface but this winter it was quite literally at the surface.

"We were continually pumping water, in vain really, but we felt we had to make the effort," explained Paul, who added that he was also aware of the need for a "tread softly" approach to using machinery on the course when it was closed.

"To have the course closed for such a long time is unheard of and this was just my second winter here," he added ruefully.

The complications this introduced to the Open planning meant Paul had to be adaptable, a skill he honed while at Furness where he had to learn how
Above: Spectators won’t miss a putt, thanks to the high vantage point the seating affords
Below: Lowering in the specialised seating units is a precise business
Right: A green surrounded by some of Royal Lytham’s formidable bunkers

best to maximise his resources, both human and financial.
"I had laid down schedules but those went out the window and it was a case of prioritising what I thought were the essential jobs to do and undertake them when possible as well as targeting the drier areas of the course."

Surprisingly, considering the amount of standing water on the course, there were no lasting problems, at least not on the main playing areas. "There are some areas which we had to turf late on in the spring which haven’t quite recovered but these haven’t been in play."

The golf course will not be presented markedly differently from the ‘96 Open. "I don’t have any particular style ideas for presentation and conditioning other than those based on sound links philosophy. I’d like to think that the general condition of the golf course will be the mark that I leave on the 2001 Open - although that’s not to say there won’t be room for improvement.

"I’m my own worst critic and there are a million and one things that I see every day that I’d like to act upon but it’s a job of prioritising. There are only so many hours in the day."

Indeed the golf course itself will also not be significantly different from the one which faced Tom Lehman five years ago although remarkably the course which boasts the most bunkers on the Open Championship rota has added to its armoury. "We now have 197 bunkers and in my time here we have added one to the left hand side of the 15th. Stan Eby of European Golf Design, undertakes course architectural alterations," explained Paul. The last Lytham Open
featured 185 of the blighters and they were found by a total of 1618 balls during the four days of the Championship, a record which kept the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team busy!

"Apart from that there are very few changes to the course, although it may be a little more forgiving in places in terms of set-up."

Following in the footsteps of someone like Jimmy MacDonald could have been a daunting experience but Paul takes nothing but positives for the fact that he has someone of Jimmy’s experience to call upon.

"We speak a lot on the phone and he says it will be a proud moment from him when he’s sitting up in the stand watching the golf this time. I know it was a massive wrench for Jimmy when he retired and I’m sure he must miss the place but he popped in for the Lytham Trophy when we were changing holes and he pointed out a few spots which I hadn’t considered. I’ve always tried to switch on to his, and other, knowledge and way of thinking. I do selectively utilise other people’s ideas and this, allied to my own academic achievements and experience, is the key to success."

Jimmy told Paul that he was aware that whoever got the job would make changes and, while saying that the hand over was seamless, there are differences in their approaches to the job. "Jimmy was very much a people’s person and I’d like to think I am as well. I like to encourage active, constructive opinions from the people I work with. I think that’s important because, in a positive way, it means that all potential angles are covered."

While accepting that the pace of life in general and stresses in work have increased greatly, Paul is thankful that he has an innate ability to switch off when he gets home of a night.

"I think I’m fortunate because it’s a genetic thing. I also try to keep myself on the one level all the time not getting too negative or too positive about things. I don’t think you’d be too successful in this profession if you were thin skinned."

Having said that, he hasn’t particularly needed a thick skin during his recent spell at the Club.

"The Chairman is the model Chairman and the Secretary has been very helpful to me, while the members, in general, have been very appreciative of the course condition over the last few months."

Unlike the last two Opens at Carnoustie and St Andrews Paul hasn’t introduced artificial aids to protect the fairways.

"I think one of the benefits of the winter we have suffered is that we’ve not had the amount of play we’d normally have and we’ve come into spring with pretty good sward coverage."

While in a bizarre way the weather helped in this regard, Paul is looking for help over the next few weeks to ensure the world’s finest players face typical links conditions when they arrive at the course. "Firm to hard and hard in places," he says in a manner which suggests its a links land mantra that he has been hearing ever since his greenkeeping career began.

If that is achieved he will be a proud man indeed as he stands at that presentation table.
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Pound to a penny, a golfer will have some excuse relating to the tee's surface for a poorly played shot. The object of the exercise is to make sure that tee presentation is top rate. Roland Taylor takes a look at the many ways in which a greenkeeper can achieve this ...

Time for tees

The dictionary definition of a tee is - a cleared spot from which the ball is struck at the beginning of each hole. It is the words 'cleared spot' that sound a discord when it comes to modern greenkeeping. However, this statement becomes clearer when taken in the context of the history of the game. Originally there were no actual tees and the rules stated that the ball be struck from a given number of club lengths from the previous hole. Evidence indicates that formal tees first appeared in the records in the last years of the 1800s.

On many of the older courses, tees were down the list when it came to priorities and today this has resulted in a number of problems. They were not designed to accommodate today’s increase in players and demand for all-year-round facilities. Heavy traffic on a relatively small area plays havoc with compaction and this, combined with poor drainage, does not bode well for a resilient turf cover. It takes a lot of abuse. The design required a tee to be elevated and often no account was taken of mowing the banking which results in labour-intensive methods having to
When it comes to mowing there are a number of choices, the most favoured system being cylinder mowing and collecting the clippings. A mower with a fairly high rate of cuts per metre is ideal and there are plenty of different cutting widths available to suit specific requirements.

In recent years there have been a number of units introduced that use a basic power source to which either cassettes or attachments can be added. They’re usually a choice of cylinder mower units with various numbers of blades plus the advantage of being able to fit other turf care equipment such as verticutters, scarifiers and aerators. These machines be used to keep them looking good.
are ideal for tee maintenance as they can be easily transported with a range of attachments by trailer or utility vehicle. When considering this type of system, the important feature to look out for is the time taken and tools required changing from one piece of kit to another. Some only take less than a minute.

Dare one suggest that the roller propelled rotary mowers that are now available could be considered for use as an alternative mower for some tees? These have the added advantage that they also pick up any leaves or other debris. It should be pointed out that if this cutting system is used the blade needs to be kept very sharp. The rotary principle is suitable for banking, either in the form of a hover mower or wheeled model. For very awkward areas it may be necessary to use a hand-held strimmer and the backpack versions are especially worth considering for these types of locations.

On large tees the fairway style of unit can be used, especially if they have collection facilities. There are a number of smaller triple ride-on mowers now available using either cylinder or rotary cutting units and some of these have been specifically designed with tees in mind, especially where banking is involved.

If new tees are being considered, how they are going to be cost effectively mown needs to be addressed at
Give your tees a clean edge with a variety of products on offer

The point of planning. This will avoid a lot of problems that could occur after they have become established.

Cutting heights on tees is important, bearing in mind the volume and concentration of traffic using them.

The leaf cover needs to be kept high so the plants can gain as much nutrient as possible through photosynthesis. Somewhere between 6-13mm is the suggested scale.

Bunker surrounds are another area that will need special attention when it comes to mowing. Rotaries have already been mentioned in respect of any banking but often there is a lip or edge that will need to be kept trimmed. This could be done with a pair of edging shears but this is likely to be a long labour-intensive operation if there are several bunker surrounds to be trimmed.

A number of edging machines are now available that would be ideal for this job. These generally use a vertical-mounted blade that operates in conjunction with an edging guide, either the wheels or rollers set to the depth of cut. As they are not self-propelled the operator can gauge his walking speed to obtain the best finish. This method of edging certainly speeds up the operation considerably.

It is easy to dismiss the role of tees. Generally they are the first sight the players have of a course, so their upkeep and general appearance are important as they say a lot about the rest of the course and how it is maintained.

From a golfer’s point-of-view, the tee is the starting point of a trip into the unknown, certainly mentally and often physically. It is his introduction to a particular hole, one that he hopes he will not fall into - his action can make or break what follows out on the course. Certainly on the first tee there can be an element of fear and trepidation plus there is often an audience of other players waiting to tee off. The tee is the one point where golfers cannot blame the results of their play on the condition of the playing surface. Why? Because the ball is on top of a plastic or wooden peg a few centimetres above the turf and the only time in the game when it is not in direct contact with the turf. Pound to a penny there will be some excuse relating to the tee’s surface for a poorly played shot, so the object of the exercise is to make sure the presentation is top rate. There is plenty of equipment on the market to help achieve this, plus save time.
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Steve Gingell undertakes a review of the range of grasses commonly found on golf greens.

**Grasses for greens**

Never before has there been such a range of different grass species and cultivars available to the Greenkeeper. This article seeks to clarify the usage of different grasses on greens and evaluates a number of new developments.

**Traditionally speaking (bents and fescues)**

Traditionally, greens have been sown with 80% fescue, 20% bentgrasses (by weight) with the aim of eventually producing comparable amounts of these species in the sward. The seeding mixture ratio is due to the differences in seed weight between the tiny bentgrass and the much larger fescue. An even mix of the sown grasses is, however, unlikely for a variety of reasons — not the least of which are climatic influences. It is also worth noting that the fescue component initially dominates the sward although the slower establishing bentgrass soon catches up. Throughout the whole establishment process, the risk of invading rogue grasses will prevail, particularly if early excessive wear or inappropriate management prevails.

**Poa annua**

Poa annua is a serious problem for many Greenkeepers. The reasons for the domination of Poa annua are complex, but are usually related to open swarms during the main flowering season of May-July (although flowering occurs throughout the year). Undoubtedly excess inputs of water and fertiliser also encourage Poa annua. It would be a brave person to suggest that good maintenance practices alone will reduce Poa annua as it is one of nature colonisers in the annual form and a survivor in the perennial form "reptans".

It is important to note that the desirable bent and fescue grasses dominate in the wild where one finds dryish soils, conditions of low nutrient availability and sometimes extremes of pH. So why don't bents and fescues survive as well as Poa annua in a golf green? Probably because Poa thrives in the conditions we provide and the wear the turf is subject to — it is an opportunist grass. Certainly the conditions which ideally suit our quality grasses can be difficult to manage and do not always respond well to wear. Links courses like St Andrews Old Course are testament to those desired, sandier, less fertile conditions and provide stunning greens of quality grasses as a consequence of appropriate management.

To combat Poa annua the answer is to carefully control fertiliser and water inputs to greens and reduce to a minimum where cover is maintained for the wear experienced. The waterlogged areas where Poa proliferates in contrast to bents found in the drier regions indicate to a Greenkeeper the preferred conditions for bentgrass. Actions should always be taken to reduce winter water-logging by reconstruction, drainage etc. if you are ever
ately after the bentgrass seeding if poor soil temperatures prevail. This often means that the best time to ensure success from bentgrass seeding is between June and August. Certainly the key is to establish a very dense cover of bentgrass in the shortest possible time. If a little Poa invades, this can be hand weeded. If take-all is avoided and sufficient water is available during germination, an excellent sward can soon be developed.

Creeping bentgrass can provide a superb putting surface with some of the new modern cultivars which are also better able to deal with lower mowing heights. However, it will require significantly different management practices than native greens. This includes a higher fertiliser input, strict control of thatch, disease control and management. The use of this species should be considered only with sand rich greens.

Velvet bentgrass (Agrostis canina)
Velvet bent provides an extremely dense and fine sward with outstanding year-round colour. A possible disadvantage is that it can produce excessive thatch and thus regular verticuting is required. It is expensive to purchase and often Greenkeepers will dilute it with a more traditional bent or bent/fescue mix.

Ryegrass (Lolium perenne)
An interesting trial at the Berkshire College of Agriculture Greenkeeping Academy has produced a very good golf green surface of ryegrass and red fescue. The new cultivars of ryegrass can tend to look a little like fescue at certain times of the year and seem to be able to tolerate mowing heights of 4.5-5 mm. They are less susceptible to disease, recover well from wear and have good year-round colour. Some Greenkeepers would not be able to tell the difference between some very fine ryegrass cultivars and the fescue in a closely mown sward. While not a current recommendation for greens, we may have to eventually reconsider the use of ryegrass in certain situations, particularly if there are further significant improvements in future cultivars.

Seed mixes
In a given seed mixture, each species and cultivar will provide a set of features to produce a sward that meets the intended usage. For example, a dense sward with all-year-round greenness or a wide-ranging resistance to many turf grass diseases. The use of the STRI Turfgrass Seed Booklet to check the variety of characteristics in a seeds mixture is an invaluable tool in trying to develop anticipated turf performance.

Single species swards can be risky. If, for example, the species is particularly susceptible to certain turfgrass diseases, then extensive damage could be caused or the need for excessive application of fungicides. The inclusion of a mixture of cultivars or even a small amount of another species may create a more robust green.

Overseeding
There is a current popular approach of overseeding Poa rich greens with bent only mixtures. The effect of this strategy can be slow and in some instances a waste of time and money. Many factors come into play in the development and sustain the desirable bents and maybe fescue grasses. Just as important will be aeration and thatch control practices at appropriate times.

Sand dominated greens
Heathland, links and modern sand dominated greens invariably have the advantage of good drainage and less excesses of nutrients allowing swards rich in the favourable grasses to be grown. Nevertheless the sward must be kept dense and any operations which will open up the sward, such as hollow tine aeration, should be timed with overseeding and top dressing definitely outside of the main Poa flowering season.

The risks with sand dominated greens invariably come from constructing one or two such greens amongst the remaining soil based greens - in such scenarios the contrast in management requirement will test even the best Greenkeepers. Furthermore such “new” isolated sandy greens often prove a disappointment, certainly from the grass composition viewpoint.

Creeping bentgrass (Agrostis stolonifera)
Invariably creeping bent greens succumb to Poa annua ingress. The Poa problem sometimes starts immediately after the bentgrass seeding if poor soil temperatures prevail. This often means that the best time to ensure success from bentgrass seeding is between June and August. Certainly the key is to establish a very dense cover of bentgrass in the shortest possible time. If a little Poa invades, this can be hand weeded. If take-all is avoided and sufficient water is available during germination, an excellent sward can soon be developed.

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Sand dominated greens
Heathland, links and modern sand dominated greens invariably have the advantage of good drainage and less excesses of nutrients allowing swards rich in the favourable grasses to be grown. Nevertheless the sward must be kept dense and any operations which will open up the sward, such as hollow tine aeration, should be timed with overseeding and top dressing definitely outside of the main Poa flowering season.

The risks with sand dominated greens invariably come from constructing one or two such greens amongst the remaining soil based greens - in such scenarios the contrast in management requirement will test even the best Greenkeepers. Furthermore such “new” isolated sandy greens often prove a disappointment, certainly from the grass composition viewpoint.

Creeping bentgrass (Agrostis stolonifera)
Invariably creeping bent greens succumb to Poa annua ingress. The Poa problem sometimes starts immediately after the bentgrass seeding if poor soil temperatures prevail. This often means that the best time to ensure success from bentgrass seeding is between June and August. Certainly the key is to establish a very dense cover of bentgrass in the shortest possible time. If a little Poa invades, this can be hand weeded. If take-all is avoided and sufficient water is available during germination, an excellent sward can soon be developed.

Creeping bentgrass can provide a superb putting surface with some of the new modern cultivars which are also better able to deal with lower mowing heights. However, it will require significantly different management practices than native greens. This includes a higher fertiliser input, strict control of thatch, disease control and management. The use of this species should be considered only with sand rich greens.

Velvet bentgrass (Agrostis canina)
Velvet bent provides an extremely dense and fine sward with outstanding year-round colour. A possible disadvantage is that it can produce excessive thatch and thus regular verticuting is required. It is expensive to purchase and often Greenkeepers will dilute it with a more traditional bent or bent/fescue mix.

Ryegrass (Lolium perenne)
An interesting trial at the Berkshire College of Agriculture Greenkeeping Academy has produced a very good golf green surface of ryegrass and red fescue. The new cultivars of ryegrass can tend to look a little like fescue at certain times of the year and seem to be able to tolerate mowing heights of 4.5-5 mm. They are less susceptible to disease, recover well from wear and have good year-round colour. Some Greenkeepers would not be able to tell the difference between some very fine ryegrass cultivars and the fescue in a closely mown sward. While not a current recommendation for greens, we may have to eventually reconsider the use of ryegrass in certain situations, particularly if there are further significant improvements in future cultivars.

Seed mixes
In a given seed mixture, each species and cultivar will provide a set of features to produce a sward that meets the intended usage. For example, a dense sward with all-year-round greenness or a wide-ranging resistance to many turf grass diseases. The use of the STRI Turfgrass Seed Booklet to check the variety of characteristics in a seeds mixture is an invaluable tool in trying to develop anticipated turf performance.

Single species swards can be risky. If, for example, the species is particularly susceptible to certain turfgrass diseases, then extensive damage could be caused or the need for excessive application of fungicides. The inclusion of a mixture of cultivars or even a small amount of another species may create a more robust green.

Overseeding
There is a current popular approach of overseeding Poa rich greens with bent only mixtures. The effect of this strategy can be slow and in some instances a waste of time and money. Many factors come into play in the development and sustain the desirable bents and maybe fescue grasses. Just as important will be aeration and thatch control practices at appropriate times.

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A long established Poa-rich green showing bent overseeding success

determining success, not the least of which is the subsequent management after overseeding. To stand any chance of success, the seed must be sown when the soil temperatures are high, i.e. late spring to summer, with good water availability and a reasonable time period before inclement weather sets in. Appropriate maintenance favouring the over-sown grasses cannot be over-emphasised - it is simply a waste of money to oversow Poa annua with fine grasses and subsequently manage it to sustain the Poa annua.

Sometimes the inclusion of fescue, which is relatively quick to germinate, fine-leaved and more resistant to many diseases common to both bent and annual meadow-grass, may, in certain cases, help the green adapt to a wider range of influences.

Grass identification

It is important to be able to identify the grasses in your greens. This should be at least genus level, e.g. Agrostis, but preferably being able to separate Agrostis tenuis from stolonifera and canina (browntop from creeping and velvet). The most straightforward identification (once it is established) is via the ligule. A. tenuis is collar shaped, A. stolonifera is broad peaked and A. canina very pointed.

Fescues can be more difficult to identify but there is less need to know the differences between the various red fescues such as Chewings and slender creeping red fescue which form part of some golf greens. Poa needs to be distinguished between annua and pratensis (annual and smooth-stalked) as the latter sometimes colonises greens and is a key ingredient of some seed mixtures for tees. Poa pratensis has a broad, blunt leaf with a distinctive "blue" bloom giving its occasionally used common American name, Kentucky blue-grass.

Ryegrasses and Yorkshire fog (Holcus lanatus, which is often a weed grass in greens) are relatively straightforward to identify. However, the new cultivars of ryegrass can be confused with some fescues at the juvenile stage as both species can have a red base. Certainly Yorkshire fog can look like bentgrass but check the leaf sheath which will have fine purple or red stripes. It is also more hairy than bentgrass.

There are many good grass identification books available, but your Agronomist should be able to help you identify the above grasses.

Weed grasses

Apart from Poa annua there are a number of grasses able to withstand close cutting. The two worst weed grasses are perennial ryegrass (particularly coarse forms) and Yorkshire fog. Ryegrass may spread from the fairways and surrounds and quickly form coarse clumps of flattened grass. These invariably seem to grow faster than the surrounding green and can cause some unevenness on the surface. Control is often difficult ranging from some hand weeding where there are small patches to extensive verticutting on larger areas. Yorkshire fog is a particular problem if it successfully miniaturises and forms large spreading patches seemingly smothering all in its wake. Again, verticutting is the best way to reduce this problem.

In conclusion

The management of successful greens means the cultivation of the correct grasses. Undoubtedly it is easier to work with nature rather than against it. This means choosing a select number of species appropriate to the green construction profile, subsequent management and environmental effects. The complete management of a green needs to question all operations and modify those which fail to encourage the desirable grasses.

Steve Gingell is the STRI Regional Agronomist for the Thames Valley Region. His knowledge of turf grasses comes from experience in the field and through managing the construction of the Greenkeeping Academy at Berkshire College. He can be contacted on 01344 884167. The rest of the STRI Agronomy team can be contacted on 01274 565131. E-mail: info@stri.co.uk or visit the website www.stri.co.uk.
As a member of the Greenkeepers Training Committee, BIGGA is actively involved in raising the Standard of Greenkeeper Training. The range and quality of training now available means that there is a training course for every greenkeeper which should improve the quality of greenkeeping and help to produce quality golf courses.

Golf Course Managers should ensure that their staff are trained to the highest standards, beginning by selecting a training provider that meets the criteria laid down by the GTC. There is a clear link between education, training and economic success and if you think that training is expensive then try ignorance.

Ken Richardson
Education and Training Manager,
British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association
Tel: 01347 833800
Email: education@bigga.co.uk
Website: www.bigga.org.uk

The Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC) is continually striving to raise the standards of Golf Course Maintenance and Management and they are totally committed to ensuring that the range of qualifications are relevant to the Sportsturf sector and used by Employers for recruitment and by trainees for their own personal development.

The Government endorsed awards range from National/Scottish Vocational Qualifications (N/SVQ's) to the more academic Higher National Certificate (HNC)/National Diploma (ND)/Higher National Diploma (HND) in Golf Course Management and the Degree in Sportsturf Science.

The qualifications are continually under review by the National Training Organisation (NTO) in association with the GTC. The quality of the delivery of these awards by the network of GTC Approved Training Providers is also constantly monitored by the GTC.

For up to date independent advice on qualifications, education and training courses contact the GTC on:-
Tel: 01347 838640
Email: golf@the-gtc.co.uk
Website: www.the-gtc.co.uk

Tel: 01347 838640
Email: education@bigga.co.uk
Website: www.bigga.org.uk
GREENKEEPER TRAINING

ABINGDON AND WITNEY COLLEGE, Warren Farm Campus, Horton-cum-Studley, Oxford, Oxfordshire OX3 1BY Contact: Alan Brown or John Revis Tel: 01865 351794 Fax: 01865 359193 Email: alan.brown@abingdon-witney.ac.uk Website: www.abingdon-witney.ac.uk Information: Warren Farm Campus is the base for Abingdon and Witney Colleges education and training in Greenkeeping, Sport Turf, Amenity Horticulture and allied land based courses for the whole of Oxfordshire. Courses include: NVQ Level 2 & 3 in Sportsturf, Decorative Horticulture and Hard Landscape. We also offer a range of short courses for the industry including Health & Safety, pesticide training and chain saw operation.

ASHKHAM BRYAN COLLEGE, Ashkham Bryan, York, North Yorkshire Y023 3RD Contact: Central Admissions Tel: 01944 772211 Fax: 01944 772288 Email: info@ashkham-bryan.ac.uk Website: www.ashkham-bryan.ac.uk Information: National Certificate in Horticulture, National Diploma in Horticulture (Turf Option), Higher National Diploma in Horticulture (Golf Management Option) all available full or part time. Block release courses: NVQ Level 2 Greenkeeping; NVQ Level 3 Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Maintenance; NVQ Level 4 Amenity Horticulturist. Short courses: FEPA, spraying and chain saw courses.

BERKSHIRE COLLEGE of Agriculture, Hall Place, Burchett's Green, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 6GU Tel: 01628 824444 Fax: 01628 824955 Email: enquiries@bca.ac.uk Website: www.bca.ac.uk Information: Full-time programmes - BTEC First & National Diploma. Part-time programmes - NVQ 2 & 3 Amenity Horticulture, Sports Turf (day and block release). Short courses: Greenkeeping for golfers, NPTC Chain Saw Competence Certificates, Spray Operators Training Courses.

BRINKNELL COLLEGE, Fullbrook, Winklesmere, Abramsbury, Suffolk RY9 9VJ Tel: 01795 875400 Fax: 01795 875222 Email: student.services@brinknell.ac.uk Website: www.brinknell.ac.uk Information: Full-time programmes: BTEC National Diploma Horticulture (Greenkeeping option). BTEC First Diploma in New Entrant Horticulture (Greenkeeping option). City & Guilds National Certificate Horticulture (Greenkeeping & Sportsturf option). Part-time programmes: NVQ Sport Turf Maintenance (Day release or work based). NVQ Level 2 Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping & Sports Turf option), plus varied short courses including Chainsaw, Brushcutter/Sprayer, PASLAQ/PAN/PVT etc.

BROOKSBY MELTON COLLEGE, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire LE14 2JQ Contact: Ann Hunt/Ann Jones Tel: 01664 855088 Fax: 01664 855555 Email: enquires@brooksbymelton.ac.uk Website: www.brooksbymelton.ac.uk Information: Situated on the A607 between Leicestershire and Rutland. Brooksbys Programme includes NVQ Level I, II, III and IV in Greenkeeping. Work based emphasis for all of these programmes. Short courses available in Articiculture/Chainsaw work, Toolbox training and Pesticide application training.

CANNINGTON College, Canning Bridgwater Somerset TA5 5TS Contact: Terry Home Tel: 01278 650083 Email: home@cannington.ac.uk Website: www.cannington.ac.uk Information: BTEC Higher National Diploma in Sports Science (equivalent to 2 years degree). Helps Sports Science students develop training and assessment for the Greenkeepers Training Manual. FEPA, First Aid in Sport, NVQ 2 and 3 Horticultural Management. NVQ Level 4 Golf Greenkeeping in conjunction with the Long Ashton Centre for Applied Science. Also available are NVQ levels in Horticulture and Golf Management.

CANNINGTON College, Cannington Bridgwater Somerset TA5 5TS Contact: Terry Home Tel: 01278 650083 Email: home@cannington.ac.uk Website: www.cannington.ac.uk Information: Full-time courses: National Certificate in Horticulture/Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship; 3 year National Diploma in Horticulture. Courses are in Greenkeeping, Sportsturf Option - 2/3 years. Part time courses: Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Maintenance NVQ Level 2 Day Release. NVQ Level 3 Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Maintenance Day Release. Short courses: FEPA Modules, Chainsaw certification, first aid, Horticultural Machinery, Safe Lifting and First Aid.

EAST DURHAM and HOWNALL COMMUNITY COLLEGE, Hownall, Durham, County Durham DH1 3QG Contact: Tony Milne Tel: 0191 386 1331 Fax: 0191 386 0419 Email: enquiries@ecdhecc.ac.uk Website: www.edhcc.ac.uk Information: Full-time courses: National Certificate in Horticulture/Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship - 3 year National Diploma in Horticulture. Courses are in Greenkeeping, Sportsturf Option - 2/3 years. Part time courses: Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Maintenance NVQ Level 2 - Day Release. NVQ Level 3 Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Maintenance Day Release. Short courses: FEPA Modules, Chainsaw certification, first aid, Horticultural Machinery, Safe Lifting and First Aid.


HARTPURY COLLEGE, Hartpury House, Gloucester, Gloucestershire GL19 3RE Contact: Sara-Jane Watkins Tel: 01452 700722 Fax: 01452 700626 Email: enquiries@hartpury.ac.uk Website: www.hartpury.ac.uk Information: Courses available: First Diploma Horticulture, National Certificate Horticulture, National Diploma Horticulture, First Diploma Greenkeeping, Certificate in Greenkeeping, National Diploma Greenkeeping, National Diploma Golf Studies, Modern Apprenticeships, Route 2 Work. NVQs available in Amenity Horticulture, Turf Management, Sport Turf, Amenity Turf, Sport Turf, Decorative Horticulture, plus RHS General Examinations, City & Guilds Certificate in Gardening, TUISA Award Titles and a full programme of seminars, tutorials and day release courses.

MERRISTWOOD COLLEGE, Worplesdon, Guildford, Surrey GU3 3PE Contact: D Rhodes Tel: 01483 840041 Fax: 01483 840018 Email: info@merrist-wood.ac.uk Website: www.merristwood.ac.uk Information: Full-time courses: National Certificate in Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management, National Diploma in Horticulture & Sports Turf Management. Part-time courses: NVQ Level 2 and 3 Sport Turf Maintenance in the work place - we come to you. NVQ Amenity Horticulture Turf Maintenance Level 2. NVQ Amenity Horticulture: Sport Turf Maintenance Level 3 (afternoon/evening release). HNC Turf Science (afternoon/evening release). Various short courses throughout the year. Please contact us for up-to-date listings and information.

MYERSCOUGH COLLEGE, Ribbleton, Preston, Lancashire PR2 9JY Tel: 01750 463200 Fax: 01750 463331 Email: mail@myerscough.ac.uk Website: www.myerscough.ac.uk Information: Full-time courses: BSc (Hons) Turfgrass Science, NVQ Level 2, 3 and 4 Horticulture & Sports Turf Management, BTEC Higher National Diploma in Horticulture. Commercial Horticulture, Amenity Turf, Sport Turf, Decorative Horticulture, plus RHS General Examinations, City & Guilds Certificate in Gardening, Turfgrass Science, Golf Course Management. HNC Turf Science: FEPA Short courses: Industry Training Support Course: Myerscough Turf Management Foundation holds an annual conference and regular education seminars. Myerscough College.

NESCOT - North East Surrey College of Technology, Bronigate Road, Ewell, Epsom, Surrey KT17 3DS Contact: Dr S Shaw Tel: 020 8394 3038 Email: info@nescot.ac.uk Website: www.nescot.ac.uk Information: NVQ Levels 1, 2 and 3 in Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping options). Training and assessment for the Greenkeepers Training Manual. Pesticides Application - Certificate of Competence. Part-time Day, Six Month or Level 2. FEPA spraying Courses.

OAKLANDS COLLEGE, Oaklands Campus, Hatfield Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL2 1QJ Contact: Ian Merrick Tel: 01727 737000 Fax: 01727 737759 Email: ian.merrick@oaklands.ac.uk Website: www.oaklands.ac.uk Information: Full-time courses: National Certificate in Horticulture (Greenkeeping option). NVQ Level 2. New offer NVQ Level 4 Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management delivered in the work place and over the internet using the college's new 'Virtual System'. Also offer O2U3S in the work place. Part-time courses: NVQ Level 2 & 3 Sports Turf Maintenance (Shrink winter or full block work-based training qualification). NVQ Level 3 Sport Turf Management. Commercial Horticulture, NVQ Level 4 Sport Turf Management. FEPA Short courses: Industry Training Support Course: NESCOT Turf Management Foundation holds an annual conference and regular education seminars.

PLUMPTON COLLEGE, Iverns, East Sussex B74 4QE Contact: David Blackmur Tel: 01273 890014 Fax: 01273 890071 Email: enquiries@plumpton.ac.uk Website: www.plumpton.ac.uk Information: National Diploma in Amenity Horticulture (options in Landscaping and Sportsturf). Course in sportsturf. Decorative Horticulture and Hard Landscape. We also offer a range of short courses for the industry including Health & Safety, pesticide training and chain saw operation.

REASEHEATH COLLEGE, Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 6DF Tel: 01270 623513 Fax: 01270 626665 Email: bursars@reaseheath.ac.uk Website: www.reaseheath.ac.uk Information: Full-time First Diploma Horticulture (Sportsturf Option) - 1 year. National Diploma Horticulture (Sportsturf Option) - 2 years. BTEC Higher National Diploma Golf Course Management - 3 years. Part time: HNC Golf Course Management with Open Learning option. NVQ Level 3 4 Greenkeeping with 3四周 block options. NVQs courses available. Short courses: FEPA Chemical Safety; Safe Lifting; Chainsaw, Off-Road Vehicle Driving; First Aid.
This guide is not exhaustive and a full list of GTC approved training providers can be obtained from the GTC. The Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC) are continually reviewing the approved status of colleges offering greenkeeper training courses. This guide shows colleges offering courses to craft, supervisory and management levels. Anyone with a query regarding greenkeeper training should contact the Greenkeepers Training Committee at Aldwarke Manor, Aldwark, Aline, York Y061 1UF, Tel: 01347 838640 or visit their website at http://www.thegtc.co.uk

SPARSHOLT COLLEGE, Sparsholt, Winchester, Hampshire SO22 5HF Contact: Ray Broughton Tel: 01962 776441 Fax: 01962 776487 Email: r.broughton@sparsholt.hants.sch.uk Website: www.sparsholt.hants.sch.uk Information: NVQ Level 2 Greenkeeping Practice, NVQ Level 3 Greenkeeping Supervision, City & Guilds Phase IV Management Studies, National Diplomas in Golf Course Management and Golf Studies, National Certificate in Greenkeeping and Surfacing Management. E.R.C. Greenkeeping Certificate, E.R.C. Certificate in Golf Course Supervision, FEPA. Short courses. Phase IV and NVQ Levels 2 are offered on block release and day release. Full residential facilities available. Sparsholt college provides education and training in the turf-based industries.

THE COLLEGE OF WEST ANGELIA, Milton Campus. Contact: Bob Young or Student Support at King's Lynn on 01553 761144 Ext 271 Tel: 01223 866701 Information: The College of West Anglia offers a full range of courses for greenkeepers including; NVQ Level 2 Sportsturf Greenkeeping (Day Release 2 Year Programme); NVQ Level 2 & 3 Day Release and Weekend Option (we come to you); two year ND in Horticulture with Turf Option; IGC Intermediate Diploma (evening class); Certificate in Turf Irrigation. Short Courses: Introduce your Committee to Turf Culture; Computing for the Greenkeeper; Various throughout the year - ring for details. FEPA, Chairman Certification, TDLB. First Aid. Alf IBS General and Diploma, P.T.I. PA1 and PA2.

WARWICKSHIRE COLLEGE, Royal Leamington Spa & Moreton Morell, Moreton Morell, Warwick, Warwickshire CV35 9BL Contact: Brian Cook Tel: 01926 318268 Email: b.b.cook@warwickshirecollege.co.uk Information: Greenkeeping Courses: HNC Sports Turf & Golf Course Management (Day Release 2 Year Programme); NVQ Level 2 & 3 Day Release and Weekend Option (we come to you); two year ND in Horticulture with Turf Option; IGC Intermediate Diploma (evening class); Certificate in Turf Irrigation. Short Courses: Introduce your Committee to Turf Culture; Computing for the Greenkeeper; Various throughout the year - ring for details. FEPA, Chairman Certification, TDLB. First Aid. Alf IBS General and Diploma, P.T.I. PA1 and PA2.


GREENMOUNT COLLEGE, Antrim, County Antrim BT41 4QG Contact: Declan Gallagher Tel: 028 94 426774 Email: declan.gallagher@dardni.gov.uk Website: www.greenmount-college.ac.uk Information: Day release courses to NVQ GTC Certificate/NVQ Level II Greenkeeping and Sportsturf; NVQ Certificate/NVQ Level III Golf Course Supervision National Diploma in Horticulture with Turf options FEPA, Health & Safety and a range of short courses.

TEAGASC COLLEGE, Teagasc College of Amenity Horticulture, National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin DUBLIN 9 Contact: Pat Suttle Tel: 00353 1676773 Fax: 00353 18040212 Email: college@botanic.teagasc.ie Website: www.teagasc.ie/teagasc Information: Block release courses in greenkeeping providing Level III Certificate by the National Council of Vocational Awards. Level IV Certificate in Golf Course Management, 3 year full-time course. National Council for educational awards A National Diploma in Horticulture (Greenkeeping Specialisation).

Elmwood College, Cupar, Fife KY3 4BJ Contact: How Farry Tel: 01334 658842 Email: abain@elmwood.ac.uk Information: Full time National Certificate, Black Release following SVQ Level II and GTC training manual. SVQ level III Black Release and Outreach available with SVQ level IV coming soon. HNC/HND Course Management available as full time, block release and distance learning. Professional development awards for football and cricket available by both block Release and Outreach. FEPA and C.S.I. Chainsaw, tree climbing and rescue techniques and Health and safety short courses also available.

OSTАРіЧ Training Ltd, Unit 5E Clydeway Centre, 45 Kinnerton Street, Glasgow G3 8JU Contact: Chris Brothwell Tel: 0141 248 2772 Fax: 0141 248 2453 Email: training@ostarch.co.uk Information: SVQ 3.4-5 and Modern Apprenticeship in all options. Assistance by day/week/day in distance learning. From November/Week Short Courses include Pesticide, Chairman, First Aid, Abbreviated Wheels, Manual Handling, Fire Extinguisher and Assessor training. Consultancy covering Noise Management, Site Risk Audits, Machinery Permit to Use, GSD/SH Health and Safety Policy.

LAMDSIDE COLLEGE, Rutherglen Campus, Buchanan Drive, Rutherglen. Glasgow G73 7PP Contact: Colin S Limpitlaw Tel: 0141 647 6300 Email: colins.rp@langside.ac.uk Information: NVQ, HNC, HND: Full time and part-time courses in Greenkeeping, Groundsmanship, Golf Course Management, Horticulture, Land and Environment and Applied Ecology. Short courses for land based industries including Risk Assessment and Protocols.

GATRIDGE AGRICULTURE COLLEGE, Ecclesmachan, By Broxburn, West Lothian EH52 6NH Contact: Steve Millier Tel: 01506 854387 Fax: 01506 853275 Email: gatridge_agriculture@elevon.co.uk Information: HNC in Golf Course Management (Part-time): Full-time National Certificate in Greenkeeping and Surfacing Management. NVQ Level 2 & 3. NVQ Level 2 in Sportsturf (Day and Block Release): NVQ Level 3 in Ground Care Machinery, full range of Amenity Horticulture, Landscaping and other land based subjects at HNC, National Certificate and SVQ Levels. Short Course - FEPA, Chairman, Forklift, First Aid.

PENCOE COLLEGE, Pencoe, Bridgend, Cowbridge CF71 5LG Contact: Paul Dinsmore/John Sullivan Tel: 01606 362672 Fax: 01606 382801 Email: psullivan@bridgend.ac.uk Website: www.bridgend.ac.uk Information: Courses: - NQV Greenkeeping and Surfacing Levels 1-3. HNC in Turf Management is in conjunction with the University of Glamorgan. Short Courses - Include Pesticide Application, Chairmain, Operation, Machinery Management plus many others. Outreach NVQ 1 is in the workplace. Pencoe College is conveniently situated between Cardiff and Swansea J35 on the M4.

WALES

Research tools to help with your study

Greenkeeper International, the Association’s award winning monthly magazine, is packed with up to the minute information and features, providing you with valuable research, and perhaps even helping you with your assignments. A FREE copy will ensure you are kept informed of all that’s new or topical in greenkeeping (normally £36 for annual subscription).

Your membership also includes a FREE copy of the BIGGA Golf Directory which provides you with an extensive guide to the products and services relating to the fine turf industry and the contact details of the major companies supplying those products and services. The Directory also includes a comprehensive greenkeeper membership section.

All BIGGA members are invited to attend the annual BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition event in Harrogate. With over 200 exhibitors and 6,000 visitors, this is Europe’s largest indoor fine turf exhibition and features a showcase of the latest advances in machinery, products and services within the industry. On production of your membership card you can attend the seminars FREE of charge.

Exclusive discounts and benefits

To aid your study further, Student members are entitled to receive a FREE copy of each of the field guides available in the series, produced in a handy to use and read format. Can’t find the book you require in your local library or College Resource Centre? Why not check our library listing to see if the BIGGA lending library stocks the title for which you are looking? The lending library is available to all BIGGA members, allowing them to borrow up to two books for up to six weeks, and the only cost is return postage.

Student members are eligible for substantial discounts on the books and videos available from BIGGA HQ. All of these are connected with your studies. BIGGA have teamed up with ARCO, the leading UK supplier of workwear, safety clothing and equipment and industrial and maintenance products, to offer you a massive 20% discount off a choice of goods, including big named brands, orders include free delivery and there is no minimum order charge.

Another valuable way of learning... from those already in the industry. By attending local events in your section, you can build up a network of greenkeeping contacts in your area, region and the UK as a whole.

When you gain a position as a greenkeeper at a golf club, why not upgrade your student membership to full greenkeeper membership? Call Membership Services for further details on 01347 833800.

For further details, contact Tracey Maddison, BIGGA Membership Services Officer

British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Aine, York Y061 1UF Tel: 01347 833800 Fax: 01347 833801 membership@bigga.co.uk

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Mark Hunt gives some useful advice when it comes to planning your greens fertiliser regime

Fertility

RIGHTS (NOT WRONGS)

Seldom a year goes past without the introduction of new products or new concepts in fertilisation for the sports-turf market. For greenkeepers and Course Managers, the choice is bewildering. Can these products really provide the improvements they seek or are they just fads, here today, gone tomorrow?

To begin to answer this question, we must first look at the basic principles that underpin the usage of fertilisers on golf courses and the factors that need to be taken into account.

If I was starting at a new course and was looking to put together a greens fertiliser regime for the coming season, these are some (but not all) of the details I would consider in order to 'shape' my thinking:

- Size and design of greens and associated wear patterns
- Construction and rootzone characteristics. Are all greens the same? (Unlikely), are they a mixture of types/ages of greens?
- Thatch levels, any signs of anaerobic conditions, drainage and percolation characteristics.
- Grass species present, sward density, root development.
- Soil nutrient levels, pH, nutrient retention, etc.
- Planned events, aeration, tournaments, etc.
- Machinery, labour and budget availability

These points all have a bearing on the amount of nutrient required in any one year. For example, smaller greens with less pin positions tend to concentrate wear and place more stress on the sward. If fertility is lacking, the sward density may suffer, allowing encroachment of undesirable grasses and weeds, so it follows that these types of green will require more nutrient than larger ones.

Similarly, rootzone characteristics dictate nutrient demands. Take for example a modern USGA specification green with a high percentage sand-based rootzone - this has low nutrient retention and over the growing season, will need a higher fertiliser input, compared to a soil-based green.

In addition, such greens will also require a higher nutrient input from September to March. During mild spells of winter weather, the sand warms up, initiating growth, which...
There are many different types of fertiliser available for many different uses and application methods.

Fertilisers come in three main forms: solid, soluble or liquid. Solid fertilisers include granular, prilled and powdered products and are usually applied through a pedestrian spreader.

Soluble fertilisers normally consist of water-soluble powder or prilled products, which are dissolved in a spray tank and then applied to the turf. Liquid fertilisers, as the name suggests, are just that, liquid forms of nutrients, mixed into a spray tank and then applied to the turf.

Nutrient sources
Fertilisers are normally made up of different combinations and ratios of major nutrients, usually nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium (but not necessarily all three). However, it is not unusual to see magnesium and iron as part of an analysis and sometimes, minor nutrients (trace elements). The major nutrients can be derived from different sources, for instance nitrogen in a conventional (quick-release) fertiliser may be derived from sulphate of ammonia, ammonium nitrate or urea, or a combination of some or all of these.

The source of the nutrient will influence how the fertiliser 'works', that is to say, how quickly it is available to the plant, how long it will last, its effect on pH, its potential to scorch and so on.

Analysis isn't everything
Just looking at the analysis of a fertiliser tells us little about what to expect when we apply it. Take the following example. I have two bags of fertiliser, they both have the same analysis on the label (8+0+0). This tells me that 8% of the bag contents is nitrogen, but what does it tell me about how the products will work? The answer is nothing. If I look further, I see product A states that the nitrogen is derived from sulphate of ammonia, whereas the product B is derived from urea.

Sulphate of ammonia provides nitrogen that is immediately available to the plant and so works even if soil temp-
peratures are low (hence it’s inclusion in many autumn/winter and spring starter formulations). It acidifies the surface of turf, but has a high scorch risk. Urea on the other hand, requires bacterial activity for the conversion of nitrogen to plant available forms. This in turn requires good soil temperatures and moisture levels.

So if I was looking for a product to apply as a spring starter to give me a good response, after coring maybe, I would use product A. However, if I was looking for a summer product to give gentle growth and less flush, I would choose product B.

Potassium Source

It’s not just the source of nitrogen that can affect how a fertiliser works and how it should be used. Potassium in fertilisers can come from one of three main sources - potassium sulphate, potassium chloride or potassium nitrate, and each have specific characteristics. Potassium chloride is often used in fertilisers because it is readily available and cheap, but it possesses a high scorch risk compared to potassium sulphate. Thus, two fertilisers of identical analysis may have widely different scorch risks because of the potassium source utilised. Fertilisers derived from potassium nitrate are usually sulphur-free and contain nearly 50% oxygen as part of their analysis - both of these features are especially useful when dealing with anaerobic (Oxygen-lacking) rootzone’s.

The take-home message is that rather than just looking at the analysis of the fertiliser, one should also look at the sources of nutrient it is derived from to get an idea of how it works.

Longer term Fertilisers

Some products release their nutrients over longer periods. These would include slow release, controlled release and organic fertilisers. They can rely on soil temperature, moisture, as well as bacterial activity (or all three) to regu-
Different types of Potassium Nitrate Fertiliser
1. Coated (controlled release) for fine turf
2. Mini prill for fine turf
3. Coated (controlled release) for coarse turf
4. Water soluble fertiliser
5. Standard prill for coarse turf

late the release of nutrients over a given period of time. Such products can provide clear benefits, including the saving of time and labour, avoidance of growth flushes and low scorch potential.

Again, it is important to understand how the particular product works, i.e. what factors it depends upon for its release, how long it works for, etc, before making a product selection.

Coated or controlled release fertilisers are one such group providing long term nutrition and have become widely used over the last 12 years on tees, approaches, fairways - and latterly greens as part of a base feeding fertiliser regime. Resin or polymer coated products release their nutrients through a semi-permeable coating, governed by soil temperature. As temperatures rise, more nutrient is released into the rootzone, closely following the requirements of the grass plant. Release of nutrients is unaffected by increased moisture levels, making such products ideal for use in wet conditions. Other coated fertilisers such as (poly) sulphur coated ureas (PSCU/SCU) depend upon temperature as well as other factors such as soil moisture levels and microbial activity for nutrient release.

Base Feeding - A new approach

The concept of base feeding is relatively new on fine turf, but is becoming accepted as a different way of applying fertiliser, with particular relevance to high sand content rootzones. In this scenario, a controlled release minigranular fertiliser is applied in the spring and autumn, at renovation time, to provide a long-term base feed of nutrients. (Some products feature controlled release potassium in addition to nitrogen). These applications provide a base of nutrients for the season, upon which supplementary applications, in the form of light rate granular, water-soluble or liquid fertilisers, can be made.

Advantages of base-feeding include;

- Granular applications can be confined to the times of year when they interfere less with the playing surface (cutting heights are higher and the cutting frequency is lower).
- Supplementary fertiliser applications can be made in the form and at the rate the plant requires for that particular part of the season, thereby maintaining control.
- The controlled release of nutrients ensures a gentle supply to the plant, in line with it's requirements, because both the grass plant and fertiliser are dependent on soil temperature for growth and release respectively.
- Continuous nutrient availability avoids 'peaks and troughs' associated with other fertiliser regimes, providing more consistent growth and more efficient fertilisation.
- Excessive rainfall will not effect the release, minimising the risk of leaching, ensuring excess nutrients are not lost.

Fertilisation on golf courses is dependent on a wide range of factors, not least, the weather.

Knowing about the different types of fertiliser, their nutrient forms and release characteristics and applying this knowledge to get the best results is a key part of modern day greenkeeping.

Mark Hunt is Fertiliser Product Manager for Headland Amenity Ltd
Following the success of the first BIGGA Delegation which took 10 BIGGA members to Vancouver for the CGSA Conference and Show earlier this year, courtesy of our friends at Bernhard and Company Ltd, 10 more BIGGA ambassadors will fly to Orlando, Florida next February for the GCSAA Conference and Show ...

Will you be flying to Florida in February?

Do you want to benefit from participating in the GCSAA Conference and Show?

If so, now is the time to seek Regional selection. Just forward details of your career, education and training and a brief history of your BIGGA membership. You need to explain why you should be selected and how you feel you would benefit from the trip.

You will need to demonstrate your ability to represent BIGGA and the greenkeeping profession in a public relations role at an International event.

It is a rare opportunity to mix business, education and pleasure in the wonderful surroundings of Orlando, the Theme Park Capital of the World. You could be discussing the latest innovation on a new triple in the morning, learning of the latest developments within the industry in the afternoon and having your photograph taken with Mickey Mouse in the evening. A well rounded day by anyone's estimation!

Will you be one of the 10 man Bernhard and Company Ltd BIGGA delegation?

To give yourself every chance, submit a personal profile - no more than one side of A4, and remember this must be received by your Section Secretary no later than July 31, 2001.

Good Luck!

Two BIGGA members will be selected from each Region and if successful all costs of travel, accommodation and entrance to the Conference programme will be met by Bernhard and Company Ltd.

July 2001 Greenkeeper International 33
Scott MacCallum met up with John Deere’s new American boss at the company’s Langar base

Above: Clay Sherrill, General Manager

Below: Clay with Graham Williams (seated) and some of the John Deere team

The last nine months in this country have been quite remarkable. Flooding has been followed by a disease not seen here for 34 years and as I write we are still to see the evidence that the pronouncements of a scorching summer have any truth in them.

Into this unique set of circumstances has arrived American, Clay Sherrill, the new General Manager of the UK John Deere headquarters.

Since taking over the reins at the beginning of the year Clay has seen the Langar base caught in the middle of a Midlands Foot and Mouth exclusion zone - there is still a disinfectant mat at the entrance to the company’s superb building - while markets for much of the company’s product have shrunk as revenue streams at many golf clubs have reduced to a trickle thanks to extended flooding induced course closures up and down the country.

Surprisingly this has not prevented Clay, previously the General Manager of the company’s Minneapolis branch, from turning on his heels and heading back across the Atlantic and he is delighted to have landed his new job. “Earlier in my career I can remember being in Fargo, North Dakota, in the middle of winter with the temperature 30 degrees below and the wind blowing at 60 miles an hour. I started to think back to who I might have angered in the company. I certainly don’t view the UK that way as it’s an extremely important part of John Deere’s business,” said Clay, as we spoke in his new office, housing in a building which boasts five huge training rooms and state-of-the-art conference facilities.

And while many have suffered through the financial downturn John Deere seems to have continued to trade relatively unscathed. “Actually, Foot and Mouth has not affected our business as badly as we thought. It has had an impact because without Foot and Mouth we think we would have had another really good growth year. With Foot and Mouth we’re not going to have as much growth as we’d expected but we are still going to be slightly above where we were last year. So that’s not bad,” said Clay, who, although a non-golfer, is originally from South Carolina, an hour inland from the golfing hotbed of Myrtle Beach.

To reinforce the point on the state of the market, Graham Williams, Division Manager for Commercial and Consumer Equipment and the owner of a face well known within the UK greenkeeping industry revealed some interesting statistics.

“Figures around at the moment show a decline in the golf turf business brought about by the flooding of something like 20%. The effect of the Foot and Mouth has not been evaluated yet but budgets have been cut, that’s for sure. However if we have a good summer season I don’t think we’ll have any long term problems. There is a lot of business being done at the moment and in the Commercial and Consumer Equipment sector we’re actually up 10% on last year, and that’s in a down market,” revealed Graham.

The C&CE Division is responsible for home owner products, including lawn tractors and walk behind mowers, commercial mowing equipment, which comprises the compact tractor range plus out front rotary and wide area mowers, as well as the golf and turf equipment.

“So the C&CE division encompasses all three of these different market sectors and right now we are ahead of last year which is good news,” he explained.

For many years John Deere cast a huge shadow over agriculture, and the impact such a massive company would make if it did turn its attention to other areas could only be imagined.

When it did turn its attention to the market which encompasses the golf industry about five years ago it was not a case of half measures. A goal was set of becoming clear market leader, a target which they feel they will hit within five years.

“If you go back five years we were hardly a player in the golf and turf business. There were three main companies, Toro, Jacobsen and Ransomes. Now, with the merger of Jacobsen and Ransomes into Textron, there are still three main players and we are one of them and it is very difficult to pick out who is the market leader,” said Graham.

Clay is very keen to grow the UK and European business as much as possible over the next few years. “Part of my own goal is to support the company strategy which is growth, and the UK and Western Europe is an important part of that. We believe that Western Europe is a huge opportunity for us. There is enormous potential with the amount of business that is
here, coupled with the ability of John Deere to increase its market share," he explained.

The delayed entry into the market was due in part to the fact that without diesel powered products - the staple fuel of the UK and Irish markets - they didn't have the product line to meet customer requirements.

"Adapting to grow into a completely different customer base and the knowledge that there was so much shared engineering technology between the agricultural business and the C&CE market hastened the change of focus, into four main sectors - agriculture, C&CE, construction equipment and John Deere finance."

"Our agricultural customer base is shrinking. We all know that there are fewer, bigger farmers and fewer farmers so C&CE allows us to grow our business into a completely different customer base yet the design and engineering of quality power products and the services which go with them are very much our strengths," said Clay.

"Frankly it took us a while, both in North America and Europe, to develop the products we needed to penetrate the market and establish relationships within the industry itself. That is key and you don't just do that overnight. You must earn respect and credibility," said Graham.

"One of the great successes which has enabled John Deere to develop machinery and build relationships are the feedback sessions which in recent years has involved large numbers of greenkeepers from all over the world converging on Germany and the States to ensure that the new machinery being developed was what greenkeepers wanted to buy.

"The feedback sessions do produce tangible benefits, there is no question about that," said Graham.

"For example a recent success for us has been the 2500 greens mower which has been fantastically successful. Without the input of greenkeepers that wouldn't have happened. The whole operator station, the controls and adjustable steering arm came about purely because of feedback. We went to an awful lot of trouble to ask them what the operator wanted and this was designed with those guys in mind," explained Graham.

"Clay is quick to reinforce the point about the benefits that come from such events.

"One of the key components of our product development process is the early involvement of customers. The best way to get the attention of a design engineer is to put him in the same room as a set of customers. We do exactly the same in the agricultural sector," he said.

The company is also extremely proud of its parts support and recognises the importance of minimising down time.

"Part of our commitment to customers is to keep their machines up and running to help protect our customers' revenue. We have a substantial investment in parts supply and offer true 24 hour turn-around. I think we do a better job than anyone else in that respect," said Clay.

Looking ahead, John Deere aims for steady innovation and evolution rather than any quantum leaps and this is likely to be seen in the area of environmentally friendly equipment.

"We introduced the electric Gator last year which has been a big success and I can see an extension of that technology into other machines as well," said Graham.

Uniquely among the major manufacturers John Deere sponsors an event in Tiger Woods' playground - the US Tour. The John Deere Classic is played on a TPC course Deere Run built on land donated to the US Tour and runs in the same week as The Open Championship here.

Another event which will be of great interest to BIGGA members next year is the John Deere Team Championship involving the club professional, a greenkeeper and two club officials.

"This is an established event in the States but one of the wishes is to extend it worldwide and the likelihood is that two teams from the UK will be sent over to play in next year's event," said Clay.

But there is another golf event, in which John Deere has an input, which is causing huge interest all over the world.

John Deere is the exclusive supplier of equipment to The De Vere Belfry which this September hosts The Ryder Cup.

"We are running an incentive programme on a worldwide basis and a number of dealers will be attempting to win a trip to the Ryder Cup. Everyone is fired up about the Ryder Cup and from our point of view it will be the first time that the North American and European guys will have come together," said Graham.

The key question, however, is which side will the new General Manager of John Deere's Langer headquarters be supporting?

"I'm supporting Europe. I go where my customers are and my customers are in the UK and Europe. They're the ones who sign the cheques," said Clay, with just a trace of a smile.

Above: John Deere's brand new headquarters allow plenty of room to display their equipment
Right: One of the custom built training facilities at the Langar Headquarters
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out at the Glen Golf Club on May 30. A fine day was had by all in attendance as normal the rain was heavy when we arrived but by the time we had played the 1st the rain had gone and the sun was shining for the rest of the day.

We would like to thank the Captain and Council for the courtesy of the club and the catering staff for the superb food and the equality of greens and the constant refreshments which I believe they had to re-stock the bar completely the next day (well it felt that way the next day). The bus driver for the day was an absolute gentleman, as he got us there safely and made sure we all got home safely. Thanks to our sponsors for the day SGM (Brian Gioudic & Ewan Thain) and the Hinson Finance (Ian Henderson).

Thank you gentlemen you looked after us superbly, and it was a pleasure to be in your company for a good social day and we look forward to continuing this partnership next year. Thanks.

Last, but not least, Course Manager, Davy Coul, and his team for having the course in great shape considering the driving rain which lasted throughout the day. I had the pleasure to play with Davy on the day and he is a new member to the Section so we hope to see him at some of the up and coming events.

Results: The individual competition (Eddie Holt Trophy) with 39 points was won by Club Captain, Tom Murray, in The Chairman (Tom Murray) versus Vice Chairman (Chris Yeaman) match, the result was a win for the Chairman’s team. Well done to them for playing so well and they scored some impressive Stableford points (handicap will be looked at).

The members of my team will have to improve next year as their coats are on a shoogly peg! Joking apart we all had a great day and found looking around to next year already thanks again to everyone concerned.

Well that’s all for this month and hopefully we have not missed anything if I have let me know on all the usual numbers or you can e-mail me, so that it till next month with news and results from the summer tournament from Duns GC.

West
Welcome to this month’s Section news.

The spring outing to Brechin GC started off with a wet and breezy day, but most people were happy to see some rain at last and much bickering had been done in the previous days. As the day wore on the weather got better and most got round.

Andy Wilson and his staff had the course in great shape especially after the awful Winter we had endured. We are indebted to Andy and all at Brechin for a great day out for the 74 members, trailed and guests who attended.

Prize winners were as follows:

Scratch
1. D. Proctor, Brechin, 74
2. B. Maiden, Brechin, 75
3. G. Mair, Brechin, 76

Net
1. T. Thompson, Brechin, 76-5=71
2. G. Bruce, Brechin, 76-6=70
3. G. Kinnaird, Brechin, 76-7=72

Nearest the pin
1. J. Robertson, Brechin, 30-5=30
2. J. Logie, Brechin, 30-6=30

Golf Day at the 2001 Scottish Open was held at Loch Lomond in the late summer/early autumn and was enjoyed by all. I am told that the Section Secretary made the arrangements for the day and would be available to play. The event was well attended with a good turn out and the day will be remembered for a long time to come.

The 2nd Section members winning £100 towards a trip to the National Championships are S Sullivan and K Kinnaird.

Thanks to the Scottish Region for providing the prize for one of these winners. The first four prizes in the 2001 Scottish Open were drawn and winners are:

1. T. Drummond, Brechin, £30
2. R. Napier, Brechin, £30
3. J. Robertson, Brechin, £30
4. G. McLaren, Brechin, £30

Well that is it for this month, if you have anything you would like added to future columns please do not hesitate to call me on 01352268662. John McQueen.
Central

What’s happened this month? No new members to welcome, this is the first time we have failed to increase our numbers this year, surely there are still a good number of greenkeepers within our area who are not members and don’t know what they are missing. So let’s make sure we welcome some new faces next month.

There is not great deal of newsgos-
surgery whatever to report at the moment as everyone seems to be too busy trying to combat this appalling wet weather we have experienced so far this year, we are only two weeks away from the longest day and the wind is blowing like mad, it’s raining, there are hailstones and frost is forecast for tomorrow. Who would be a Greenkeeper? Still it will soon be time for Harrogate again!

Discussions are taking place with regard to the venue for this year’s AGM, but as yet nothing has been finalised so I can only give you a clue as to its whereabouts. The location is referred to in one of Phil Collins’s songs (I’ll refer to it as it’s well almost!); if anyone can work it out then send the answer to me on a post card and you will win a much sought after prize of a free ticket for next years “Club 2000”. Speaking of which, the tickets for next year’s draw will be arriving with you shortly, I can just hear you all saying: “I must remember to send John the mon-
ey for my tickets this time.”; well the 240 members who forgot last time! Next year’s draw will be an even bigger bargain than before with the cost of the tickets being reduced by £1 to £5, but the prize money will remain the same, I think. So bad can it, something coming down in price.

Entry forms for the Autumn Tournament at Murrayshall on Thursday September 27 will also be arriving shortly, and as the maximum number of entries will be 50, if you wish to play and test your golfing ability over one of the most scenic and testing new courses in Scotland, Please get your entries in pronto!

That’s it for this time! Hopefully there will be more next month.
John Crawford.

Gleneagles Chapter

Just a brief note this time to keep you all updated on the student chapter’s progress after our inclusion within BIGGA as discussed in May’s issue.

Last month (May 21) we attended a lecture here at Gleneagles hosted by Dr. Joe Dutch. For those who are unfamiliar with the name, Dr. Dutch is Technical Advisor and Consultant for TEE-2-GREEN in the USA. Prior to this appointment, Dr. Dutch was Professor of Turfgrass Science at Penn State University for more than 36 years. While at Penn State he played a major role in the development of Pencross Creeping Bentgrass, which was released in 1955. Pencross was the first advanced creeping bentgrass cultivar exclusively for golf course use, and since then he has gone on to develop Pennegale and Penlinks Bentgrasses in conjunction with Penn State and TEE-2-GREEN.

Dr. Dutch remains a consultant to Augusta Golf Club and is renowned for his forward thinking on Bentgrass development.

The talk started with the history of the turf care programme at Penn State and how development is financed and progressed. Dr. Dutch then talked in depth about genetics, choosing seed, watering and fertilisation. Finally the point which he could not emphasise enough was the value communication and networking. He was visiting Gleneagles with John Bradwell, from Tuff Seed UK, to show new material which is at the development stage to the Gleneagles Golf Maintenance team who will be evaluating and commenting on the merits of these new Bentgrasses.

Students are going to have an opportunity to run trials and maintain these new developments by aiding in the construction, maintenance and management of a new test site.

Other student news involves Gleneagles looking into the possibility of employing three Chinese students for seasonal work, the students who attend Elmwood College in Fife are over here on work experience and are training to teach turfgrass management to colleges in China when they return. The students would gain invaluable experience and it gives them a chance to put all their theory into practice in a championship-working environment and equally important it allows the student chapter to develop links and contacts with one of the fastest growing golf markets in the world.

I can be contacted by e-mail on Ian.Morrison@gleneagles.com or Tel: 01764 694429
Ian Morrison

North Wales

Sorry about lack of notes last month I was on me hols. I met Paul Massey in Corfu airport and he was telling me about his problems and vice versa. What a year, no spring, just the longest winter on record and then a flamin’ heatwave, my poa has been laying in water for seven months and then gets roasted. It had no chance! The Bents have been happily growing away making some of the most uneven putting surfaces this side of the moon. If I threw top dressing on it would be furanatum cay or whatever this game is called.

Due to various reasons the annual Gem sponsored N. Wales vs N. West match was cancelled. However Gem will still be looking to sponsor the event again next year. We want against the one we won against last 12 months. Fortunately the weather picked up and allowed them to produce a course that was a credit to them, and British greenkeepers.

The next Section golf is the “Roses” match against the Northern Section at Sandmoor Golf Club, on Wednesday August 22. I will require a team of 16 to win the Pattison Trophy. If you are available contact me as soon as possible.

Education? Each month the edua...
tion page in the magazine gives lists of courses available at Regions and HQ. If you feel there is a subject that particularly interests you, let me know, and through our Education Officer, Ken Richardson, we can arrange a venue for a course in our Region.

Before I finish how about Liverpool Football Club getting the treble. Worthington Cup, FA Cup, and the UEFA Cup. Not bad stuff (That should get my phone ringing).

Bert Cross
Mobile 07791 583387
Home 0151 7245412

Northern

Sorry about last month’s entry, there was a glitch on the Internet. Back to the Spring Tournament and what a turn out at Filey GC sponsored by F & G Adamsons & Son. A record of 54 of you turned out to brave the weather for the pre-round bacon sarni and three course meal. I would like to thank Filey GC for being so accommodating and the presence of Vice-Captain for the prize giving. Thanks also go to Head Greenkeeper, Andy Flemmings and his staff, for their help on the day and the quality of the course.

The Results are as follows: Scratch Cup Alan Baxter, 41pts; Div. 1. 1. Richard Harris, 38pts; 2. Brian Hudson, 38pts; 3. Tony Gerrard, 36pts; Div. 2. 1. Johnny Platt, 40pts; 2. Philip Baldock, 36pts; 3. John Studdiard, 35pts. Div. 3. 1. Mike Gregson, 34pts; 2. John Wood, 31pts; 3. Richard Wood, 28pts. The Trade Prize went to Mel Guy and the Longest Drive and Nearest the Pin sponsored by Aitkins Sportsturf Ltd. went to: Longest Drive, Mel Guy; Nearest the Pin, Alan Baxter. One of the lowest scores of the day was 5pts, and it wasn’t me! So there is room for all types of golfer, the main aim of the day is enjoyment and meeting other greenkeepers with golf coming a poor third. Thanks again to everybody at Filey GC and F & G Adamsons & Son for being main sponsor and Aitkins Sportsturf Ltd for the longest drive and nearest the pin.

The Roses Match against the North West Section which we are proudly

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Midland

This year's annual Spring Tournament was held at Great Baddow Golf Club on the May 14.

Congratulations to Kings Norton's Nick Bird who took the net prize. Gross winner was Rob Shaw, of Goodall Lax, Eddie Stant of Pen GC and 3. Steve Mucklow, of Beau Desert. The trade prize went to Rory Taylor, Tony Cheese, with a net 70. Many thanks to Len Breakwell and Alastair Bainbridge for sponsoring the day. Longest drive and nearest the pin sponsors, Rufford, and drinks on the 10th sponsored by Sportsworld.

Sportsworld have also sponsored a golf day, which they intend to develop into an annual challenge match between Midland, North Wales and North West, to be held in the Autumn.

Dockerty as soon as possible so as he can

This year's event was contested at Northop Hall Golf Club with North Wales becoming the victors followed by North West second and Midland third. Our thanks go to Sportsworld's Matthew Burrows for sponsoring the first day and to Mike Whitehouse, Terry Adamson and Dave Rahman for bringing together a new and exciting day.

Phil Gates

East Midlands

This year's Spring Tournament was held at Newark Golf Club on May 9. On a pleasant spring day 40 members turned out for the competition which was quite an improvement on previous years. The winners were as follows.

Best Gross

Derek McJannet, Shrewsbury Forest, 72

Best Net

Jamie Bedford, Birstall, 83-16

Category 1

1. Andy Smith, Market, Kirkburton, 75-72

David Smith, Cotgrave Place, 81

Category 2

1. Andy McGreal, Lingdale, 88-28-80

2. Antony Bindley, Kirby Muxloe, 87-16-71

Category 3

1. Simon Hedley, Boughton Loam, 82-12-70

2. Adi Porter, Greetham Valley, 82-12-70

Best Nett

1. G. Wells, 32 pts

2. Pete Fell, Aitkens, 88-12-76


The top five winners were:

1. S. Brown, 36 pts

2. Simon Hedley, Boughton Loam, 86-15-71

3. Anthony Bindley, Kirby Muxloe, 87-16-71

4. G. Wells, 32 pts

5. J. Moorecroft

The finals are to be held at Reddish Vale.

Congratulations to the midlands Section for securing the event for the year. The day went very well.

Thank you to all the trade members or courses they would like to go

out for the competition which was quite an improvement on previous years. The winners were as follows.

Kent

Surprise! A report from the Kent Section. Well it's been a while since the last one and that's why I'm now doing the honours.

Now other items of news from around the country. We have provisional bookings for 2002, Thetford GC April 25; Stowmarket GC June 11; Gorleston GC July 30; Ufford Park GC October 9. Well done, Colin.

Ian Willett, from Basingstoke Barracks Golf Club, is the latest greenkeeper to join our ranks. Hope to see you at a meeting in the near future Ian.

Well that is all for now, see you all soon.

Ian Willett

East Anglia

Well now I feel as old as I look, my daughter Janey gave birth to our first granddaughter, Christina, Skye. She weighed in at 6lb 10ozs and looks just like her father, David.

Congratulations to the winners of the National Championship Qualifier February 2002 at Bungay and Waveney GC (Best Net) and Alan Carter from Hoverville GC (Best Gross).

Can you please let me know if you have any ideas on what training you think is required for your continuing professional development over the Autumn 2001 and Spring 2002, BIGGA HOUSE is hoping to provide courses in the Sections over this period. Discussions on progress at this moment and I will let everyone know the results later in the year.

I would like to pass on my congratulations to the Greenkeeping Teams at Portland and Wentworth. After the terrible winter everyone had, it's nice to see all their hard work come to fruition with the excellent presentation of their courses.

We have provisional bookings for 2002, Thetford GC April 25; Stowmarket GC June 11; Gorleston GC July 30; Ufford Park GC October 9. Well done, Colin.

Ian Willett, from Basingstoke Barracks Golf Club, is the latest greenkeeper to join our ranks. Hope to see you at a meeting in the near future Ian.

Well that is all for now, see you all soon.

Ian Willett

Surrey

Spring and summer have arrived together and today, June 5, continues to be sunnny and warm. As the birds are singing, the irrigation systems are nearly working and if only it would rain at night Surrey would be the perfect place.

One spot in Surrey on May 10 was such a place, Hindhead Golf Club, the venue for our Spring Tournament. Many thanks to Steve Halms and his team for providing a course in fantastic condition. It was for many a first visit to Hindhead but with such a diversity of landscape, Flora and Fauna I am sure Surrey Section will be pressing for a return as soon as possible.

The better golfers were: Best nett - 69 Darren L, Sunningdale, Best Gross - 74 Nigel Golley, Rockfield. 2nd, Best nett - 75 Gary Ogilvie 9th hole John Groomebridge, Old Thorns. Longest Drive 18th hole Bob Rogers Laleham Nearest the pin 5th hole Brian Gillespie, Petersfield, Nearest the pin 15th hole Eddie Oliver, Liphook. Thanks to our sponsors E&K's Sports and Kestrel Golf

List of news from our friend Surrey, the latest member to have achieved his Master Greenkeeper is currently regional representative and course manager from Richmond Golf Club, Lee Strutt, and I am sure you would all join with me in expressing our heartfelt congratulations.

Les Coombes, from Windsheam
Golf Club, would like to offer some assurance to any greenkeeper who is having irrigation leaks in our latest dry spell, for every one you have somewhere will have two and that if left they will be completely unnoticeable when the rain starts again in September.

Due to a delayed deadline for the magazine I am able to include the results of the Cresta Cup played at the superbly presented North Hants Golf Club. Everyone agreed that this is one of our outstanding courses in the south and confirmed that we are very lucky to be able to play golf in clubs that are presented to such a high standard. We thank Nigel Stainer and his Greenkeepers for an extremely pleasant day.

The above average golfers were: Cresta Cup Winner John Mathis Sunningdale GC, 48pts. Runner up Andrew Dennis, Laleham GC, 33pts. Nearest the pin Craig Mills, Hendhead GC, Longest Drive Gary Ogilvie (Avoncrop) The day was sponsored by Vitax whom we thank most sincerely.

Brian Wilmott

South Coast

The Spring Tournament has finally been played at Basingstoke. The lunch and evening meal was very enjoyable. A special thanks must go to Julie Tribe, the Assistant Club Secretary, for all her hard work.

And last but not least to Harvey/Tribe and his team, for providing the course at such short notice.

The next competition to take place is the The Secretaries’ v BIGGA, to be held at Upton GC on June 14. And then the Summer Tournament is to be held on July 12 at Broadstone GC. So look out for the results shortly. Well that’s it for another month.

Mike Cartwright

Div 1 (H ashes’ Trophy)
1. Mark Hancock 55pts
Div 2 (Avoncrop Trophy)
1. Kevin Glass 55pts
2. Andy McDonald 54pts
3. Alan Magner 53pts
Div 3 (Reefsey Cup)
1. Kevin Ratcliffe 55pts
2. Andy Harvey 56pts
Longest Drive
Stuart Hooker
Nearest the Pin
Brian Wilmott

Everyone enjoyed the wonderful hospitality given by Basingstoke. The lunch and evening meal was very enjoyable. A special thanks must go to Julie Tribe, the Assistant Club Secretary, for all her hard work.

And last but not least to Harvey/Tribe and his team, for providing the course at such short notice.

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Mike Cartwright

Devon and Cornwall

What a month we were lucky to have the company of our Chairman Clive Goodg who attended the workshop on Health & Safety organised by our Regional Administrator, Paula Humphries. Unfortunately the excellence of the workshop wasn’t matched by the attendance. For the second time this year I have experienced the effects of an earthquake this time in my home town of Bude, although it only measured 3.6 it still made the bed shake, I thought my luck was in.

The Section is delighted to announce that Phoenix Irrigation will be sponsoring the fixture cards for the next two seasons. The new fixture cards will hopefully be with you during late August.

Richard Whynman

South West

The Greenkeeper/Amateur Fourball Betterball Competition took place on a sunny short-wearing day at Woodspring Golf Club, Bristol. I was lucky enough to play with the Course Manager, Steve Chappel, Nigel and Chopper Harris (a very appropriate name) from T.H. Whites. The course was in excellent condition, and the scores proved this.

Superb prizes provided by sponsor of the day Biodose Probiotics. These were presented to I. C. Tozer and D. Rendell 42 pts. 2. M. Hawker and C. Ross 41 pts. 3. J. Keenaghan and L. Cox, 38 pts.

The longest drive went to C. Tozer and the Nearest the pin, J. Keenaghan.

We would like to thank everyone at Woodspring for a brilliant day in splendid surroundings. The next event for your diary is the Summer Tournament at the Kendleshire on July 24 please continue to support the Section and the events.

The team will play the South Coast on August 16 Contact; J. Keenaghan if you are available for selection.

Dave Bougen

Section Event? www.bigga.org.uk/events.html

Northern Ireland

The result of our Golf competition at Galgorm GC on June 8 will be featured in our Section notes next month. The NI Section will be sending two representatives to this year’s National Championships, to be held at Royal Birkdale, Southport and Ainsdale Golf Clubs. Members who intend to play in the qualifying competition for the trip to Birkdale, must have played in two of the competitions held over the spring and summer period.

The qualifying competition will be played on a links course around late August, probably on the north coast.

The Secretary will be notifying all members of the charity day golf competition and summer period.

South West

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Dave Bougen

Section Event? www.bigga.org.uk/events.html

See you next month!

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Simply send an email to: updates@bigga.co.uk quoting your name and your Membership number, and we’ll do the rest - it’s that easy!
Our congratulations and a fantastic sportswatch. The first correct entry drawn will receive a stylish BIGGA Sportswatch!

Write down your three answers on a postcard and send your entries to:-

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Strong construction complete with replaceable threaded handle

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A STRONG COMPETITION

Entries to reach us no later than Wednesday, July 18, 2001. The first three telephone numbers when he correctly identified correspondence will be entered into.

This competition is not open to Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Aina, York YO61 1UF.

Entries to reach us no later than Wednesday, July 18, 2001. The first correct entry drawn will receive a stylish BIGGA Sportswatch!

The judges decision is final. No correspondence will be entered into.

This competition is not open to BIGGA staff or non-members.

Just call Jennifer Whichello, Cheryl Broomhead or Meredith Foster on 01347 833800 and ask about an alphabetical category listing; the cost starts from as little as £29.50 per month.

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Classified

Job Shop

31 year old Head Greenkeeper with 12 years experience in greenkeeping. Qualified to NVQ level 4 Management, including Spraying, Chainsaw and First Aid certificate. Excellent motivation, supervisory skills and computer literate. Experience in formulating & working to agreed budget, managing staff, resources and presentation to highest standards. Seeks challenging new position all locations considered.

Scottish Golf Course Manager seeks new challenge either home or abroad. Experienced in growing-in, as well as all other aspects of greenkeeping, including construction, drainage, irrigation and machinery maintenance. Qualified to HNC level.

FREE online Job Shop Ads!
If you didn’t already know, BIGGA upload all recruitment advertising from the pages of Greenkeeper International to coincide with the launch of each issue. Many Greenkeeper members have found the online recruitment section to be of great benefit, particularly if they have left their magazine at work! They can simply log on at home, to the BIGGA website, and access all of the latest jobs available in the fine turf industry. Also, if a member is looking for employment, their advert will appear in this database for prospective employers to read.

Any member who has found themselves out of work as a direct result of the Foot and Mouth Outbreak may wish to take advantage of the BIGGA website to help find another club. As a special service to members the Association will allow you to post a Job Shop advert on the website, listing your experience and qualifications, offering your services free of charge. Further information can be obtained from the Sales & Marketing Department at BIGGA HOUSE Tel: 01347 833800 email: sales@bigga.co.uk

Please note: This offer only applies to website adverts and not those which you wish to appear in Greenkeeper International.

ONLINE RECRUITMENT
Check out www.bigga.org.uk for the latest job vacancies from the finesturf industry.

Recruitment

KNOLE PARK GOLF CLUB

Require an
ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Applicants should be qualified to minimum NVQ2 with Spraying Certificates PA1A, PA2 & PA6. Salary negotiable according to experience. Applications in writing with CV to: The Secretary, Knole Park Golf Club, Seal Hollow Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 0HJ

LANGDON HILLS GOLF CENTRE

Requires a
DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicants should have appropriate qualifications inclusive of spraying certificate. Knowledge of machinery and irrigation systems would be an advantage. Apply with C.V. to: Head Greenkeeper, Langdon Hills Golf Centre, Lower Dunton Road, Bulphan, Essex RM14 3TY

Sutton Green Golf Club

Require an Assistant Greenkeeper

We are looking for an enthusiastic and hard working greenkeeper to join our existing team. NVQ Level 2 with PA1, 2 and 6 qualifications preferred. Salary in line with BIGGA rates. No accommodation. Apply in writing with full CV to: Nathan Kimsing, Head Greenkeeper, Sutton Green Golf Club, New Lane, Guildford, Surrey GU4 7QF

TOWER GOLF CLUB, GDANSK, POLAND

Tower Golf Club, Gdansk, Poland are seeking a Head Greenkeeper or Assistant Greenkeeper (willing to take on the responsibilities of a Head Greenkeeper). BIGGA qualified individuals are preferred and should send a CV to the following address: Attn. Al Brasseaux, Tower Golf Club, ul. Wladyslawa IV 13C, 80-547 Gdansk, Poland or via e-mail, mark@tti.com.pl

The individual selected will be responsible for the co-ordination and construction of the golf course (presently under construction) and the training of local nationals. A willingness to learn the Polish language and communicate with managing is a must.

A competitive salary, accommodation and transport will be provided. The deadline for entries is 15 July 2001.

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Please print clearly, and keep your entry to under 100 words.

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Send your completed order form to: Jennifer Whichello, Cheryl Broomhead or Meredith Foster, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Aire, York YO61 1UF, or fax the form to us on 01347 833982. Alternatively, you can also email your copy to sales@bigga.co.uk
SCOTSCRAIG GOLF CLUB

EST 1817

Invites applications for the position of

COURSE MANAGER

Scotscraig Golf Club is one of the oldest golf clubs in the country, and is currently on The Royal & Ancient list of Final Qualifying courses for “The Open”.

This is a new appointment and offers an exciting and challenging position.

The successful candidate will be a fully qualified greenkeeper who can demonstrate ability in forward planning, budgeting, organisation, man management, interpersonal and communications skills.

The Club have recently installed a full irrigation system with computer control and a skill in this area is also essential.

An attractive remuneration package will be available to the right candidate.

Applications which will be treated in strictest confidence, should include a detailed career history to date, current salary, and references, and sent to:

Barrie D. Liddle, Managing Secretary, Scotscraig Golf Club,
Golf Road, Tayport, Fife DD6 9DZ

Closing date for applications - 6th August 2001
A full job description is available upon request.

ROYAL BLACKHEATH GOLF CLUB

IS A PRIVATE MEMBERS CLUB, INSTITUTED IN 1608

WE CURRENTLY REQUIRE A

HEAD GREENKEEPER

FOR OUR 18-HOLE PARKLAND COURSE

The successful applicant will possess the appropriate qualifications and be experienced in all aspects of golf course management, with skills to supervise an established greenkeeping team.

Excellent salary and conditions available to right applicant.

Applications in writing, together with your C.V. should be addressed to:

The Secretary, Royal Blackheath Golf Club,
Court Road, London SE95 5AP

Marketing Directors

Could you maximise your company’s online presence for your primary target audience?

BIGGA’s online statistics have revealed the most viewed area on our website to be the recruitment section. Regularly receiving an average of 1,355 individual user session visits every month, this area of the BIGGA website has, in fact, received over 12,220 individual user session visits since its’ relaunch just 9 months ago.

Opportunities now exist for creative, forward thinking professionals to utilise their knowledge and skills to implement a strong marketing presence within this rapidly expanding commercial area. We are looking for candidates who can see the long-term potential of building strong links with the Association, and understand the importance of targeted marketing. Previous experience of handling advertising budgets is desirable.

Attractive financial packages will be dependent on experience, but monthly sponsorship rates for successful candidates will start at £400 per single month sponsorship, rising to £1,000 following a successful 3 month sponsorship period.

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For an application form, please contact Jennifer Whichello on 01347 833800 or email jennifer@bigga.co.uk

All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence. Closing date for applications: August 14, 2001
**THE LONDON GOLF CLUB**

### ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

The London Golf Club is one of the premier complexes in Europe, with two championship courses designed by Jack Nicklaus and his company Golden Bear. Set in 650 acres of the Kent countryside, the club is situated 25 miles south of London. Equipped with the latest machinery and one of the most modern maintenance facilities in the industry, the successful applicant will experience high standards of greenkeeping, with excellent training provision. The position presents great opportunities for the right person to progress, in our 30 man team.

We are looking for an enthusiastic, conscientious and self motivated greenkeeper with experience.

Applicants should hold, or be looking to gain relevant qualifications. Remuneration will be commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Please apply in writing by 6th August enclosing a full C.V to;

Mr Peter Todd, Golf Courses Manager, The London Golf Club PLC, South Ash Manor Estate, Ash, Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 7EN

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**ABRIDGE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB**

**Require an**

### ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

For their mature 18 hole parkland course.

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

Salary in line with the Standing Committee minimum recommendations.

Apply with full CV to

The Manager, Abridge Golf & Country Club, Epping Lane, Stapleford Tawney, Essex, RM4 1ST

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**SOUTH HEREFORDSHIRE GOLF CLUB**

**Requires a**

### HEAD GREENKEEPER

To work on 18 hole course with an attached 9 hole Par 3 and 16 bay Driving Range. The ideal applicant should possess NVQ Level 3 and have experience at a supervisory level in their current/past position.

Salary to be discussed, Accommodation available.

Please send your CV to;

Roger Lee, South Herefordshire Golf Club, Twin Lakes, Upton Bishop, Nr. Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire HR9 7UA

---

**PENRITH GOLF CLUB**

**Requires a**

### HEAD GREENKEEPER

Penrith Golf Club which was founded in 1890 is a private members club and is situated in a splendid location between the delights of the Eden Valley in Cumbria and the majesty of the Lakeland hills which provide a magnificent backdrop to this par 69 course.

The successful applicant must be self-motivated with suitable experience and sound knowledge of all turf maintenance practices. They will have overall responsibility for the course and should be equipped to develop budgets, work schedules, course and machinery maintenance plans and have strong man management and motivation skills to manage a small team of five.

Free golf membership will be available and remuneration will be commensurate with qualifications and experience.

No accommodation available.

Please apply in writing including CV to;

The Secretary, Penrith Golf Club, Salkeld Road, Penrith, Cumbria CA11 8SG
Signs are here to stay and Sandy McDivot has made full use of an array of such notices at Sludgecombe Pay and Play.

I suppose if I was to be brutally frank with myself and using management consultant's parlance, I would have to be classified as a resistor to change. For example, it was not many years ago that I was totally convinced that computers had little place in the lives of we greenkeepers. The fear of prosecution and the potential personal humiliation has made me a convert. The way I see it, if McDonalds can be successfully prosecuted for a million dollars or so because their coffee was too hot, then I am sure we greenkeepers are vulnerable to similar legal pursuits.

Another item that I have in the past had little regard for is the sign. It was not many years ago that I was totally convinced that computers had little place in the lives of we greenkeepers. The fear of prosecution and the potential personal humiliation has made me a convert. The way I see it, if McDonalds can be successfully prosecuted for a million dollars or so because their coffee was too hot, then I am sure we greenkeepers are vulnerable to similar legal pursuits.

So you see the purpose of the sign had always seemed to me to be somewhat superfluous. But I write in the post tense as like the computer I have now arrived at the conclusion that signs can play a very important role in the lives of we greenkeepers. The reason for my about turn, is the trend in more recent years towards litigation. The fear of prosecution and associated public humiliation has meant the sign has become to me what the shoe is to Imelda Marcos.

My course has become flooded with them. If we are sprayng signs are put out that not only warn of the perils of the murderous chemicals that we are applying, but also advise that those that suspect themselves of being susceptible to the effects of these evil toxins should effectively go home and never return. I have learnt that there are many who have convinced themselves that within the spray tank we have concocted a cocktail of dioxin and botulin in a plutonium carrier and so I err on the side of caution. I have not as yet felt the need to post those gory skin disease photographs that can be found within the pages of "The Lancet" as evidence of the consequences of straying within the two mile total exclusion zone that surrounds the sprayer, but who knows what the future will bring.

But other areas come in for the sign treatment. Slopes, adjacent fairways, blind shots, bridges, you name it, at Sludgecombe Pay and Play there's a warning sign and caused permanent disfigurement to someone in the form of a slight bruise.

There are other ways our signage could result in a visit to court. For example there is the question of the call through hole. This one seemed to get Mrs McDivot somewhat excited, although I was not altogether sure whom she thought would meet with this unfortunate accident.
really saying is when you get near to the green you are required to invite the next group of golfers to hit golf balls at you. Now I don't know about you but in my humble opinion that is just asking for trouble.

A golf course near to me has an array of signs just about everywhere. As you drive into the car park, the first one you see states visitors must only park in the rear car park. This immediately gives the impression that visitors are an unwelcome parasite that are not worthy of the car park adjacent to the clubhouse but instead have to hide their beaten up old bangers around the back so as not to offend the members. The next one you see tells you that mobile phones are not allowed in the car park, clubhouse, golf course or any of the vertical airspace above the same.

This requirement was confirmed to me when someone I was with, accidentally had his go off while in the pro shop. He was immediately pounced upon by irate members and thoroughly admonished for bringing these symbols of Lucifer into their temple. But the thing about this course, was that it was located in a retirement area and had a steep slope at its furthest reaches affectionately known as "Cardiac Hill" due to the number of elderly members who while climbing up it had finally succeeded in conquering their habit of living.

The membership was to put it mildly getting on a bit. In fact the worry was, an especially harsh winter could wipe half of them out in one go. Now the Head Greenkeeper had personal-

ly witnessed nine of them exit this world, so what would happen at this club, if while at the far end of the course someone suffered a heart attack and required urgent medical attention. If due to the prohibition of mobiles that person dies while their partner risks his or her own life in running back to the clubhouse to fetch help, then what is the clubs legal position?

Surely they were aware of the potential threat to life that they could be posing by the implementation of this ban. Would they then be open to prosecution?

Of course signs on golf courses are not only used to warn of potential danger. They are also needed as a means of direction. I am sure I am not alone in witnessing golfers walking onto a tee adjacent to the preceding green and not quite being able to work out how according to the card, the hole they face should be a short par three when all they can see is a green some five hundred yards distant.

To such golfers the concept of numerical order is often a difficult one to grasp and so they require signage to direct them to the correct part of the course. I remember the story of how two visiting Americans once played golf at Royal St George's only to stray mid round onto the neighbouring Princes Golf Club. Amazingly they finished the round, had lunch in the wrong clubhouse and only realised something was wrong when they could not find their car in the car park.

Then there was the unfortunate case of the poorly directed newly appointed greenkeeper at Sunningdale Ladies Golf Club who was asked to rake bunkers.

He would of benefited greatly from a direction sign as somehow after raking the bunkers on the Ladies course he managed to end up on the Old course at Sunningdale. This is a course that apart from bordering the Ladies Club was otherwise entirely unrelated. The poor apprentice then worked his way through the bunkers on the Old and then onto those of the New Course. It appeared the actual Sunningdale greenkeepers who witnessed this, did not inform the hapless apprentice of his errors.

They reasoned that he was doing such a fine job of raking their bunkers why did they want to stop him. But no matter how many signs we put out, we can never cover ourselves for every eventuality. A quick glance through the pages of Golfers Handbook reveals that two women once died on the course when an aeroplane hit them. In another three separate cases, golfers have died when their golf shafts have broken mid swing, rebounded off inanimate objects and plunged into their bodies.

Now try doing a risk assessment on those!
We are now well into the golfing season, so we've already had the Volvo PGA Championship at Wentworth, and we are looking forward to The Open at Royal Lytham and St Annes.

The Support Team at Wentworth, operating for the first time over all four days, was a huge success and everyone, particularly Regional Administrator Derek Farrington, should be warmly congratulated of their efforts. His Midland colleague, Peter Larter, also turned up to help out and we were all grateful for his support as well.

Fortunately their work was confined to raking bunkers and not squeegeeing the fairway. I was most impressed by the salubrious hospitality facility that the Tour gave the team as its base. Overlooking the 18th green and air conditioned we could not have wished for better.

But I can't overstate the thanks due to the members who gave four days out of their lives, particularly over a bank holiday, to work on the team.

I firmly believe that nature will sort itself out and I would urge everyone within our industry to remain calm. A good summer season from now on will help to put everyone in a positive mood.
Bringing the industry together – from the ground up

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