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Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

55

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**Golden
Key**





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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Greenkeeper

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

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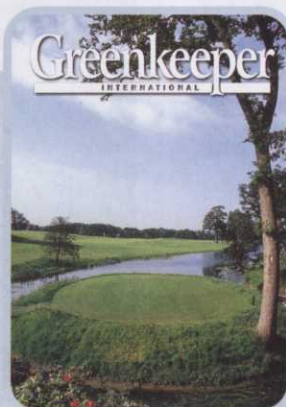
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John Hughes offers some excellence advice about Take All Patch

Take a lead from Stoke Park

Elsewhere in this issue we profile Stoke Park Club, a wonderful place with a rich and varied history; a high quality golf course, both in design and conditioning, and a hotel with supporting facilities good enough to make even the most privileged feel pampered.

But despite all these qualities perhaps the one which we should applaud the loudest is the vision they have shown in becoming a BIGGA Golden Key Supporter - the first golf club in the country to do so.

Those within the fine turf industry, including the many high profile companies who have contributed for so many years, have long known of the benefits to the game from supporting BIGGA's Education and Development Fund, but perhaps those who have gained the most have not been aware.

It is without dispute that golf courses are now maintained to a higher standard than ever before and that this has enabled clubs to cope with increased rounds played over a much greater proportion of the year - it seems strange writing this when so many courses have been closed for extended periods but it shouldn't be allowed to cloud the overall picture - and the reasons this has been made possible is by the sophisticated machinery and knowledge and skills of those charged with their care.

From a golf club's point of view this has meant increased revenue, while from the member's perspective an ability to play more rounds over his or her own course than would have been conceivable 20 years ago.

Sure people do complain if the greens are a little slow or bumpy in February but they forget that not so very long ago their Mizunos or McGregors would have been gathering dust in the garage for about five months by then.

The greenkeeper's ability to keep on top of the job can be put down in no small part to the excellent training that is available to the fine turf industry and which is, in all modesty, the envy of many other professions.

Much of this is paid for, or subsidised, by BIGGA's Education and Development Fund and golf clubs have been the ultimate beneficiaries of this free, or low cost, training. It staggers me when I see the cost of training in other fields when compared to what is offered in the fine turf industry. The difference can be measured, not in tens of pounds but hundreds for two or even one day courses and this certainly does not reflect on the quality of the training which almost without exception is out of the top drawer.

Stoke Park must be applauded for recognising that they have a responsibility to assist in the development of not just their own excellent team of greenkeepers, but greenkeeper training in a wider perspective.

While we accept that not all golf clubs have the resources to become Golden Key Supporters it must be hoped that other golf clubs at the top end of the game take a lead from Stoke Park and make a contribution to the Fund.

Scott MacCallum
Editor

Gidman elected as new EIGCA President

Simon Gidman, well known to many BIGGA members who have attended the Golf Design Courses he and Howard Swan have held regionally and at Harrogate, has been elected as the new President of the European Institute of Golf Course Architects at the first Annual General Meeting of the EIGCA. Peter Harradine was re-elected as Vice-President.

Following his election Simon immediately thanked outgoing President David Williams for his work and guidance since the inception of the new Institute. He paid special tribute to David's reorganisation of the Institute's Committee structure and his work on Continual Professional Development courses.

"It is a great honour to be elected as President and I am looking forward to working to further develop the role of the Institute in the coming year within the golf industry and beyond. The next twelve months should be an exciting period for the EIGCA particularly with our intention to hold a conference in the autumn devoted to the planning of golf and real estate communities," he said.

He first entered golf course architecture with Hawtree in 1983 after studying Landscape Architecture at Leeds Polytechnic between 1979 and 1982 and prior to that having worked as a professional golfer for six years. In 1991 Simon set up his own golf course architecture company and has now designed more than 35 golf courses throughout Europe. He has served on the Committee of the EIGCA and before that the BIGCA for many years and has chaired the Institute's sub-committee investigating safety margins on golf courses.



Kawasaki award for Jim Price

Kawasaki Commercial Products Group has just announced that the Jim Price Machinery at Craven Arms, Shropshire, has won its Welsh Dealer of the Year title and collected a ten-year dealer service award.

The Welsh dealer title recognises sales performance in both ATV and Mule utility vehicles and was presented to Managing Director Jim Price, by Kawasaki Commercial Products' Sales and Marketing Manager Jack Ford and UK Field Sales Manager Robert Rees.

Here's mud in your eye!

Assistant Greenkeeper Jamie Gill got more than he bargained for during a recent demonstration of the Terralift machine at Stowmarket Golf Club. Invited by Head Greenkeeper, Roger Eade, who has been with the club for 30 years, Terrain Aeration Services probed to a one metre depth using their Terralift aeration equipment and injected compressed air at 10 bar into an area of the fairway which slopes towards the river Rat. Although the blast lifted the turf for two to three metres around the probe hole, the surface settled and TAS moved the Terralift further down the slope.

"As the machine is capable of injecting air up to 20 bar, we decided to up the pressure", remembers TAS director, Lynda Green.



"The spread was more extensive, the blast blew old divots out of their replacement spots and delivered a free mud pack to Jamie's face."

David lands new role at Sportsworld



Sportsworld Amenity has appointed David Evans as its new Area Technical Sales Manager for the south region covering South Wales, Avon, Wiltshire, Somerset, the M4 corridor and London. David was previously Amenity Sales Manager with Stollens and prior to that spent eight years working for Maxicrop.

Leatherhead GC sign new Textron deal

Textron Golf and Turf has signed a three-year agreement with Leatherhead Golf Club in Surrey to supply a range of turf maintenance equipment from their Jacobsen and Ransomes brands.

Stewart McMillan, Leatherhead's General Manager, is in the process of upgrading and improving the facilities at the members club that includes replacing their older turf maintenance equipment and installing fairway drainage in the next five years.

The first batch of equipment arrives shortly and includes an LF-3800 light fairway mower, two Greens King IV greens triples and a Frontline 728 ride-on rotary for the semi rough. Inclusive to the agreement is a package of operational and technical greenkeeper training programmes to ensure that we get the maximum benefit from the equipment.

Completing the package are two petrol-driven E-Z-GO golf cars.

"I'm delighted with this agreement



between Textron and ourselves as it will ensure that we have the very best equipment to provide superior playing

conditions for our members as we approach our centenary in 2003," said Stewart.

Creating an instant park at the London Eye

Tillers Turf, took just one day to transform an area adjacent to the British Airway's London Eye into a green landscape park. To complete the job on schedule turf was supplied by the company in 20sq metre big rolls to cover 2,000sq metres of prepared ground located in the shadow of the landmark "big wheel" on London's South Bank.

The laying of the turf was sub-contracted by Tillers to Talbot Farm Landscapes and the main contractor for the job was Surrey firm, Waterers Landscapes.

As temperatures soared into the 80's Tillers Turf Managing Director, Tim Fell, was on hand to ensure that the turf was being well watered following laying.

"The park was to open to the public just three weeks later, so it was vital that the turf got off to the best possible start" he explained.



Royal Inverdivot GC...

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



Perryfields plans series of wild flower seminars

Due to the growing interest in native Wild Flowers meadows, DLF-Perryfields are planning to hold a series of Wild Flower seminars throughout the year. They will cover the production, selection and management of native meadows. The seminars will be targeted at Architects, Landscapers, Contractors and Advisors.

DLF-Perryfields, the UK's fastest growing Wild Flower seed specialist offer a superb range of Wild Flower Mixtures. Their catalogue is beautifully illustrated with colourful photography as well as a very comprehensive section on the management of Wild Flowers. "Each mixture carries both common and Latin names for the flowers, colour of flowers, flowering period and growing height," explains Derek Smith, Amenity Sales Manager.

The range of mixtures is suitable for amenity landscaping and habitat recreation.

Wild Flower seed is harvested from second generation plants which is derived from primary stock. This is collected from wild plant communities in the UK and this, together with new in-house production facilities, ensures improved seed quality of native origin.

Seed has been supplied for many of the UK's most prestigious landscape and recreational projects, whether it is Wild Flower for the Channel Tunnel Rail Link or Blue Water Shopping Centre. This has undoubtedly led the Pro Flora range to become 'the professional choice'.

For more information about the seminars or to receive a catalogue please call Derek Smith on 01386 793135.

Latest news?

www.bigga.org.uk/news.html

Open Championship comes back to Royal Troon for 2004

The 133rd Open Championship will be played at Royal Troon Golf Club in July 2004.

This will be the eighth time that Royal Troon has hosted the Open and will come just over 80 years since Coombe Hill professional Arthur Havers won the first Championship to be played over the Ayrshire Links in 1923.

He still remains the only European winner there. Justin Leonard was the last Royal Troon winner clinching the famous claret jug in 1997.

To E and not to B

Andrew Jeffery, who wrote the article "Under One Roof" in the April, works at Golf Club Eichenreid and not Bichenreid, as it appeared in the piece. Apologies for the error.

A LOOK BACK TO A DECADE AGO Back Lapping FROM GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

Take a time-honoured look back through the pages of Greenkeeper International from a decade ago



JUNE 1991

Royal St David's Golf Club

'Greenkeeper International' profiled Royal St David's Golf Club as it prepared to host BIGGA's National Tournament. It was reported that the linksland course is one of Britain's finest and certainly the most atmospherically alluring of all, whilst the skillful layout follows the contour of the dunes and hillocks and consequently no two fairways run parallel. Tantalising breezes keep even the most talented golfer guessing. Head Greenkeeper, Roger Kerry, had been at the club for 13 years, working in harmony with a dedicated staff of five, including deputy Head Greenkeeper, twin brother John. "I'll not be trying for anything unusual or try to 'trick' the course up" said Roger of the forthcoming BIGGA National Tournament.

Today Roger and John Kerry remain in their positions at Royal St Davids.

1991 BIGGA Annual Report

The Annual Report for 1991 advised readers that membership continued to grow and at the end of 1990 totalled 3700, of which 3300 were greenkeepers and 400 Associate or trade members. The 1991 BTME had attracted 86 exhibitors and a highlight had been the two motivational presentations by American keynote speaker, Bobbie Gee.

BIGGA membership currently stands at 7,176 while the number of exhibiting companies at BTME 2001 was 191.

Drought? Surely not ...

Greenkeeper International reported that greenkeepers countrywide were praying for rain. It was considered more than likely that certain parts of Britain would again be in drought during the summer and a nine page 'Irrigation' feature was simply headed 'DROUGHT'. It was clear that reserves were lower than normal and another dry summer could see restrictions in the use of water sooner rather than later.

As for comparison with 2001...

Demands for quality turf set to grow

Turf buyers, specifiers and installers are being urged to place orders sooner rather than later for quality seeded turf required for landscaping projects during the year.

The advice comes from the Turfgrass Growers Association (TGA) which is forecasting shortages of cultivated turf, and higher prices, over the coming 12 months due to continuing delays in re-seeding caused by the wet weather experienced nationally since last September.

Returns from the TGA members' survey carried out in December 2000 reveal that the total turf area sown by members last autumn was 20 per cent down on predictions made in the members' survey of June 2000 and 20 per cent down on the total area sown by TGA members in the autumn of 1999.

"The optimism of last June's survey has been washed away by three months of autumn rain, the fuel blockades and, now, the foot and mouth



crisis," commented TGA spokesman, Graeme Forbes.

"From reporting good business and good prospects in the summer of 2000, a number of turf growers have

seen sales fall by 60 per cent. This was highlighted by last December's TGA survey in which a staggering 79 per cent of respondents described current trade as ranging from fair to very poor.

Whatever the weather!

A new computerised weather station is being employed by one of Sovereign Turf to help maintain consistently high production standards of their quality turf - whatever the weather.

"Information fed into the computer assesses rainfall and the irrigation required to maintain the correct moisture level for the grass," said Mac Bailey, General Manager at Sovereign.

"The weather station has made a dramatic difference as we can now predict the necessity for water up to 10 days ahead. The system only applies the correct amount, at the correct time, without any wastage."

This is the first year the system will be fully utilised, following successful trials last year. Linked to tensiometers - used to measure the amount of water in the ground - readings are taken every 15 minutes and the weather centre also takes into account wind and humidity.

Water levels were previously checked every other day by taking readings in the field and these were used to predict five days ahead.



New General Manager for C+P Soilcare



John Warren has been appointed General Manager of C & P Soilcare.

John joins the company with a background in mechanical engineering and 18 years of senior management experience with local companies.

He studied and qualified at Suffolk College and has since achieved incorporated engineer status with the Institute of Engineering. John, who is 40, lives at Haughley Green and is married with two sons.

Latest recruits graduate to EIGCA



Following their recent successful conclusion of the Professional Diploma course of the European Institute of Golf Course Architects, Miss Ljubica Jovetic (far left) and Richard Myers (left) now join the Institute as Graduates. Both were awarded Distinctions in the Graduation ceremony held in April in Surrey, England.

Myers, with a Landscape Design degree from University of Greenwich, London also gained the Barenbrug prize.

Jovetic, a Croatian who has played golf for her country, and an engineering graduate from Zagreb University, becomes her nation's first qualified Golf Course Architect.

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You may have heard their names mentioned in conversation, or even seen them in print, but have you ever wondered who the individuals are who help BIGGA to run so smoothly as the leading Association in the fine turf industry? Read on...



Ian Semple

BIGGA Board Member
for the South East Region

Name: Ian Semple

Golf Club: Old Fold Manor Golf Club

Association Position: Board Member for South East Region

How long have you been a member of BIGGA?
Nearly 14 years

Where do you hope the Association will be in 10 years time?
At the same high profile level as the European Tour

For what would you most like to be remembered?
Just to be remembered would be enough

For what would you least like to be remembered?
Over indulging at Harrogate

Why did you take on a more involved role in the running of the Association?
To help progress the Greenkeeping industry

Name one thing which would improve the Association?
More high profile press coverage

What is your claim to fame (None not acceptable)?
Single figure handicapper for the last 28 years

Describe BIGGA in 15 words.
An association run by Greenkeepers for Greenkeepers, available to everyone in the Golf Course industry

A very fishy tale indeed!

Carl Horrax, Course Manager at Salisbury and South Wilts GC found himself in the news in a most unexpected way last month when he was called upon to comment on the downpour of goldfish and koi carp which landed on the golf course.

Golfers took cover when it started raining and when they returned to their game the fairway was covered in the fish.

"It's not a particularly believable story but I drove over the area about ten minutes before I got the call and everything was fine then, so if it had been a prank I would have seen them," said Carl, who appeared in the local and national papers as well as on television and radio.

It is thought that a mini whirlwind may have sucked up the fish from a garden pond and dumped them on the course.

Golf Course Solutions

Two well known faces in the industry have formed a new company covering course surveying, agronomy and golf course design.

Steve Jones MG, formerly the Superintendent at The London Club and Bill Farnham, who has been involved in golf course design for over 25 years and had an article on Global Positioning System survey work published in the May 2000 edition of Greenkeeper International have formed Golf Course Solutions.

"We are proud of the client base we have built up in such a short period, having providing our services to such clubs as, Sunningdale, Loch Lomond, The Oxfordshire, Chart Hills. GCS also offer a worldwide service, and we already have clients in Poland, Spain, France and the USA," said Bill.

Based in Kent, the nucleus of the business is the survey work, using GPS at sub-centimetre accuracy, usually to within +/- 10mm.



"The two other main thrusts of the business are quite naturally Agronomy and Golf Course Design both of which tie in with our survey work.

"Having both come from a golf background, we fully appreciate the needs and requirements of the golf club and the Course Manager, we aim to the client a tool to aid in the efficient and cost effective management of the golf course without sacrificing on quality," said Steve.

Remodelling work for Midland courses

Golf course architects, Gaunt & Marnoch, have recently started significant new remodelling work on existing golf courses in the Midlands.

From their Head Office base in Bakewell, Derbyshire, proposals for work on eight courses in the west Midlands and Cheshire are now underway. The courses vary considerably from vintage courses, such as Atherstone in Warwickshire, Trentham Park and Newcastle in Staffs, through to younger courses such as Brandon Wood, Coventry.

"Four of the courses in this batch are at least sixty-five years old and the oldest is well past its' first century. You can see some common problems, particularly with bunkers and drainage but, invariably there are specific issues like internal and external safety and the impact of new highways which affect an individual hole or part of the course," said Jonathan Gaunt.

According to co-director, Steve Marnoch, the expansion in remodelling work is not simply a response to the ageing process.

"Many of the new courses built in the 1960's, 1970's and 1980s have raised the awareness of the golfing public to the high standard of facilities that can be offered at a reasonable cost. Today's British golfer is discerning, demanding and prepared to travel for good quality golf facilities.

"Course remodelling can be crucial to the delivery of quality service and customer satisfaction. Linked to our skills as landscape architects, we are also improving golf courses by adding aesthetic interest and artistic flair, particularly in our planting proposals."

All go at Algarve Course for Howard Swan

The new 18-hole course at the Boavista Resort in the Portuguese Algarve is advancing well and now has ten holes completed and the remaining eight nearing seeding and planting.

The 6,065 metre par 72 course, which also includes a range and large Golf Academy is designed by Howard Swan.

Much effort by the golf course architects has been concentrated on conversion of a spectacular cliff top location, with outstanding vistas. All the natural stone from the site has been reused in waterfalls and lakes, and to restore many of the ancient walls of the land. In addition where it has been necessary to remove trees, they have been transplanted in new locations to suit the design.

The greens, tees and fairways of the new course are being irrigated with treated sewage effluent with specially designed aeration features - 800m of spilling waterways - and all rain and irrigation water is being reclaimed through a recycling system.

The new course is scheduled to open early in 2002.



Rolawn receive Holy order for turf

Rolawn, Europe's largest producer of cultivated turf have recently received an order to supply 8,800 sq.meters of Medallion turf for the church yard at Birmingham Cathedral, which is one of the few remaining open green spaces in Birmingham City Centre.

The work is being carried out under the Heritage Lottery Scheme and the overall aim is to restore the churchyard and monuments to their former glory.

"The Landscapers in charge of the restoration work require top quality turf to enable them to complete the task to a very high standard, which includes painstakingly returfing around all of the existing grave stones and monuments" said Terry Ryan, Sales & Marketing Director.

SW diary dates

The South West and South Wales Course Management Trophies, sponsored by Scotts UK Professional, are again being played in August. Entry is by invitation only and if your club has not received an invite but would like one they should telephone Paula Humphries on 01288 352194.

The dates and venues are as follows South Coast, Salisbury and South Wilts, Tuesday August 7; South West, Manor House, Castle Coombe, Tuesday August 14 and South Wales, Celtic Manor, Roman Road Course, Tuesday August 28.

Retirement for CGSA's Vince Gillis

Vince Gillis Executive Director of the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association of CGSA has announced his decision to retire early next year.

Vince said that as of November 1, 2001 he will have completed 12 years as the Association's Executive Director and he felt that it was time to give up full-time employment and pursue his personal interests. He has been in association management since 1965. The latter 22 years he has served as Executive Director of three different organisations as well as Acting Secretary-General for an International organisation.

He expressed his satisfaction with things that have been accomplished over the years he has served CGSA and said that he considered it a privilege for him to serve the members of such a dedicated and professional group of people.

He indicated that he is prepared to assist in the orderly transition from himself to new leadership.

PLM's new President

Harry Leytham, of PLM Power Products Ltd, has been elected President of the ABA for the period 2001/2002. For the preceding two years Harry had served as Chairman of the ABA Outdoor Power and Equipment Council.

Keith Christian, Managing Director of Claymore Grass Machinery, takes over from Harry as Chairman of the ABA's Outdoor Power & Equipment Council.



Please address your letters to The Editor, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF, or send them via email to: reception@bigga.co.uk

Royal Navy give praise for article on maintenance facilities

I write in my capacity as Chairman of the Management Committee of Southwick Park Naval Recreation Centre to thank you for the excellent article about our new Course Maintenance Centre in this month's Greenkeeper International. Several of us in the Centre worked hard to ensure that we achieved both the right conditions for our greenkeepers and a facility that would help us ensure that our most important asset; the course, could be properly looked after well into the new century. We are therefore delighted to receive such a ringing, professional endorsement of our efforts.

There is one point I would wish to clarify however. Your article mentions that the Navy provided £144,000 of funding for the project but in fact, Southwick Park receives no Public funding at all, depending on receipts from subs and green fees for its operating income. Two Naval Charities, the Sailors Fund and the Fleet Amenities Fund provided the £144,000. These charities largely funded the building of the course and facilities in 1976 and have nobly supported us since for larger projects where the Centre has been unable to raise the funding itself.

We are most grateful to these charities and their part in our success deserves proper mention.

Thank you again for the great article and I hope we will see you at our course again in the future.

Commander Roger Ireland,
Royal Navy

Iain Taylor to take early retirement

It is with mixed feelings that I bring you the news of Iain Taylor, of Powfoot's early retiral.

I would like to wish Iain all the best. Like many colleagues in the South West of Scotland, I will miss Iain, as he was one of the old school.

Iain was always patient, sympathetic and always available for advice. I will miss Iain's advice greatly, and Powfoot is a sadder place without him. Wishing you all the best in the future,

Ian G McNab.

John Calderwood Young 1939-2001

It is with a heavy heart that I have to inform BIGGA members of the sudden death of my great friend and mentor John Young. As Head Greenkeeper at Esporta Dougalston, in Milnegavie, Glasgow, since the early 70s John was one of the most loyal, hard working and conscientious greenkeepers in the business.

Born at Baljaffery Farm, in Bearsden, John entered greenkeeping around 1957 at Douglas Park GC under his uncle, Alec Calderwood, and learned his craft from one of the most respected greenkeepers of his day. After a spell at Mount Ellon, in Gartcosh, John returned to Douglas Park as Head Greenkeeper in 1968.

When the Stakis Organisation decided to build a championship length golf course on the Douglasston estate in 1973/4 John was appointed Head Greenkeeper and set about the task with his usual enthusiasm and sheer determination. Douglasston golf course was his life and here he was in his element. I will never forget the time I had here as John's Assistant Head Greenkeeper and when I moved into grass machinery sales John was always there with a kind word of encouragement or just a cup of coffee and a chat.

John was my best friend and would always have time for me as he would for all he encountered.

In his honour Esporta have decided to name the new 14th hole, "Young's Choice" in John's memory and with the permission of John's family and Esporta I have decided to plant a flowering cherry tree at the point where he died.

John's wife, Maureen and his son Alan, also a greenkeeper in the USA, have asked me to extend their gratitude and thanks to the scores of greenkeepers and members of the trade for their presence at the funeral and for their kind words. John's popularity with his fellow members of BIGGA came as no surprise to me. It is also a mark of the respect in which he was held that members of the unit of the Royal Marine Reserve for which he served and reached the rank of Colour Sergeant carried him into the crematorium.

The greenkeeping fraternity has lost one of its most colourful, honest and hard working members and there will always be a place in my heart for John Young, my friend.

Kenny Hunter, Souters Sports Ltd

Help sought with medical query

Having been a member of BIGGA for a number of years, now retired, I thought that you might find this of interest. A month ago I had a blood test at the hospital which showed that my white cells were down and immune system in danger. I was told that the cause could well have been radiation or baryon.

Well, as a Royal Marine, I landed in Japan in 1945 and may have come into

contact with radiation then but I also remember that the moss killer used on the greens contained baryon.

I know I used the moss killer quite a few times and am also aware that some of them were banned about that time because of what they contained. I wonder if any other greenkeepers have had any trouble of this nature.

John Farley, Dursley, Gloucs

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This month, BIGGA's Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson outlines the various options available at the 'new-look' National Education Conference, Workshops and BTME Seminars for 2002

Mix 'n' match your education

The education and training programme for BIGGA's week in Harrogate, in January 2002 will offer delegates more choice than ever. The extension of BTME to a three day show has given us the chance to improve our major learning event and plans are well

developed to bring you a top class learning week. The week commences on Monday 21 January, with the National Education Conference and Workshop Programme.

However, to allow delegates to have greater choice and the option of visit-

ing BTME on its opening day, Tuesday 22 January, we have designed the programme in modules. Mix and match to your exact requirements.

Start planning your week now by considering your options from the lists below.

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

National Education Conference, Majestic Hotel, Harrogate

National Education Conference, Majestic Hotel, Harrogate

Emergency First Aid Workshop

Environmental Management Workshop

Emergency First Aid Workshop

Environmental Management Workshop

Tuesday 22 January, 2002

National Education Conference, Majestic Hotel, Harrogate

Golf Course Design and Construction 1

Emergency First Aid Workshop

Environmental Management Workshop

National Education Conference, Majestic Hotel, Harrogate

National Education Conference, Majestic Hotel, Harrogate

Environmental Management Workshop

Emergency First Aid Workshop

Remember that BTME opens on Tuesday 22 January. BTME Seminars will be held on Wednesday 23 January, Thursday 24 January and Friday 25 January. Two of the Seminar Sessions in Wednesday morning and Friday morning will be free of charge to all. The National Education Conference includes four sessions over two days, including a Master Class from Dr James Beard, a session on Global Warming and the Golf Course, Redesign and Reconstruction of Golf Course Features and Winter Preparation. Golf Course Design 1 will be presented, once again, by Howard Swan and Simon Gidman. Bob Taylor, Chief Ecologist at STRI, has agreed to co host the Environmental Management Workshop.

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

BTME2002 outline education programme

Wednesday 23 January, 2002

Seminar Session 1
Content and speakers TBC

This session will be FREE to all wishing to attend

Seminar Session 2
Content and speakers TBC

Thursday 24 January, 2002

Seminar Session 3
Content and speakers TBC

Seminar Session 4
Content and speakers TBC

Friday 25 January, 2002

Seminar Session 5
Content and speakers TBC

This session will be FREE to all wishing to attend

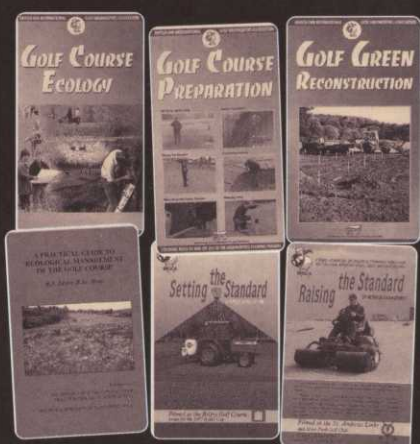
Keep checking www.bigga.org.uk for the latest news on the various education and training options available at BTME2002

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Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

BIGGA GOLDEN KEY and SILVER KEY CIRCLES

The Fund provides the key to the future for greenkeeper, golf club and game. Individuals and companies can join the Golden Key Circle and Silver Key Circle. For details, please contact Neil Thomas, Executive Director on 01347 833800 or via admin@bigga.co.uk

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Tracey Maddison, BIGGA's Membership Services Officer, welcomes almost 120 new members to the Association and gives details on how you could save £££s off workwear with ARCO

Get your copy of the big red book!

To continue BIGGA's successful partnership with ARCO, which entitles all BIGGA Members to 20%* discount on the UK's widest range of Workwear, Safety Clothing and Equipment and Industrial and Maintenance Products, we would like to promote ARCO's first annual "three into one" ARCO Catalogue.

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May's Monthly Membership Draw Winner

Just introduce one or more new greenkeeping members to BIGGA and your name will be placed into a draw to win a fantastic BIGGA sportswatch. Our congratulations go to May's winner, Robert Kimberlee of The Belfry.

BIGGA welcomes ...

Scottish Region

Colin R Aiton, North
 David Anderson, Ayrshire
 Edward W Brown, North
 Trevor Cameron, North
 Steven Couper, Central
 Richard D Davis, Ayrshire
 George Duncan, North
 Frederick Elrick, North
 Colin Irving, North
 Matthew J Kyle, Ayrshire
 Andrew J McCrae, North
 Gary McShane, West
 Gregor N McTavish, Ayrshire
 James Mutch, West
 John Myles, Central
 Kyle R A Nimmo, Ayrshire
 Alan Patterson, North
 John Renton, Ayrshire
 Chris MacGregor Smith, Central
 Gavin Speedie, Central
 Frank Spencer, North
 Gareth Thomson, West
 Joseph Wallace, Central
 Andrew Wilson, North

Northern Region

Robert F Adams, N West
 James D Blacklock, N West
 David J Cooper, N West
 Andrew Copestick, N West

Midland Region

Daryl L Curtis, Sheffield
 Stephen Dutton, Northern
 Rodger L Gibson, N West
 Philip Graham, Cleveland
 James Hollingsworth, Sheffield
 Tom Humphreys, Cleveland
 Richard L Jones, N Wales
 Matthew D Lawson, N West
 Andy Riley, Sheffield
 Robert E Smith, N West

Ben P Atkinson, Mid Anglia
 Ashley D P Cook, Mid Anglia
 Peter K Cummings, Midland
 Simon J Finch, Midland
 Alex Hall, BB&O
 Robert S M Harrison, Midland
 David P Harrison, Midland
 Graham Ives, Midland
 Alex Millar, BB&O
 John M Mitchell, E of England
 Andrew S Myall, E Midland
 Mark Orchard, Mid Anglia
 Sean A Oyston, Mid Anglia
 Matthew C Parker, BB&O
 Simon Plummer, Midland
 Michael G Spencer, Midland
 Mark Street, Midland
 David R Ward, E Midland
 Jonathan D Webster, Midland
 Martin L Wotton, Midland

South East Region

John R Barnard, E Anglia
 Colin A Beene, Surrey
 Andrew Bleach, Surrey
 Liam F Bowerman, London
 Greig Bowles, Sussex
 Andrew Brooker, Surrey
 Mark C Cecil, Surrey
 William Chapman, Surrey
 Darren A Child, Kent
 Gareth O Clarke, Sussex
 Colin Clifton, Kent
 Richard B Cooper, Surrey
 Steve Daniels, Surrey
 Richard A Dwan, Kent
 Lee A Fuller, Kent
 Stephen Hain, London
 Darren Hendricks, Kent
 John C Hunnisett, Kent
 James Murphy, Kent
 Michael J Oakes, Essex
 Michael Peters, E Anglia
 Chris Philpott, Surrey
 Aaron Ransom, Sussex
 James Sheffield, Surrey
 Tim Sheldon, London
 Paul Shepherd, Surrey
 Tim Simmons, Essex
 Colin F Smith, Kent
 Michael A Turner, Surrey

S West & S Wales Region

Jonathan P Bradnock, S West
 Andrew Brown, S West
 Kevin Davis, S West
 Ian R Larcombe, S West
 David McCutcheon, S Wales
 Mark S Rowling, S Wales
 Paul J Tarring, S West

Northern Ireland

Ian Martin
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Republic of Ireland

Eugene Hennessy
 Graeme Paxton
 Michael Radford

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Stuart D Cooper, Netherlands
 John Nielsen, Sweden
 Paul G Burch, USA
 Walter K Kulpeksa, USA
 Neil Critchlow, Canada

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 Tim Webb, Midland
 Mark Day, Essex

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 Brian Davis Jarratt, Kent
 Garry Naishloss, Surrey
 Benjamin Willey, Dev & C'wall
 John Sidney Baker, S Coast
 Darren Nesbitt, N Ireland
 Jyri Kaapro, Australia

Student Members

Kevin Johnston, West
 Robert H Churchman, N Ireland

Check out July's edition of

Greenkeeper

for all of the new members from May 2001!

Usually the spotlight falls on the Course Manager or Head Greenkeeper at a Club.

Now it is the turn of those whose work often goes unheralded to star.



Name: Simon Berry

Club: Southwick Naval Recreation Centre, Portsmouth

Position: Assistant

Age: 27

1. How long have you been a greenkeeper?
 10 years

2. What education are you currently undertaking?
 About to begin NVQ Level 3, Sparsholt College

3. Which one task do you most enjoy doing?
 Cutting approaches

4. Which one task do you most dislike doing?
 Weeding bunkers

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

6. Who has been the biggest influence on your career?
 Head Greenkeeper, Nick Beadle, and First Assistant, Steve Smees

7. What would you do to improve the life of a greenkeeper?
 More consideration from the golfers when we're out on the course because we've got a job to do and often risk being hit by a ball

8. What are your hobbies?
 Football, darts, cricket and socialising

9. What do you get out of BIGGA?
 Superb magazine and seminars

10. What do you hope to be doing in 10 years time?
 Be a Head Greenkeeper



As well as providing a wealth of information, the BIGGA website is also a powerful communication tool. Discover how you can use the Association's website to keep in touch, or even get a job ...

www.bigga.org.uk: An important information tool

As part of our continual programme of online improvement, and the addition of new and informative content on the BIGGA Website, it is often possible to forget about some of the other fantastic services that are available for online members.

BIGGA's 'Time to Talk' Bulletin Board is a great way of keeping in touch with fellow greenkeepers, and an ideal way for you to share your knowledge on all matters connected with the fine turf industry. This service also enables all Greenkeeping members of BIGGA to discuss any topic of interest relevant to their profession, online.

How do I chat online?

'Time to Talk' is located in the BIGGA website Members' Area, and can be accessed by logging into the Greenkeeper Members Area. Simply enter your surname and date of birth, and once in the Members' Area, click on the Bulletin Board icon. A second window will automatically

open, from where you can either register (if you are new to the Bulletin Board), or Login, if you have previously registered.

Once you have completed the registration process, you can login, and go to the Home Page of the Bulletin Board.

From here you can organise your home page to meet your own requirements and select and view any of the discussions ongoing. You can create a new topic, or reply to an existing one. How about;

Getting help and advice from fellow members?

Renewing friendships with colleagues?

Sharing ideas and challenges online?

Whatever your question, BIGGA's 'Time to Talk' Bulletin Board is the place to ask it. So visit www.bigga.org.uk and login to the members area for an exciting and communicative experience!

Online recruitment

BIGGA already 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: meredith@bigga.co.uk

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

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Following his recent accreditation of Master Greenkeeper status from BIGGA, Amy Bird asks Stuart Cagle how he manages to accomplish so much...

A greenkeeping Master

Stuart Cagle, MG, CGCS at Old Oakland Golf Club in Indianapolis, works hard. For the last 14 years, Stuart has gone to work early, stayed late and sacrificed weekends to ensure that Old Oakland's golf course is in the best possible shape for its members. So, after Old Oakland members learned that Stuart had earned his Master Greenkeeper's certificate from the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association, they took the opportunity to show him their thanks.

"We (recognised Stuart) in our newsletter, and members got excited, as much from the fact that Stuart has been such a strong superintendent for the 14 years he has been with us, as for the certificate," says Larry Dawson, Vice President of Old Oakland.

"They wanted to thank him in some way, beyond just talking about it."

Proving good on their word, Dawson says that a group of members approached management last autumn about hosting a tournament on Stuart's behalf.

"They came to us, through the pro shop, and asked if they could set a tournament up. We said 'absolutely' and approved it," Dawson recalls.

Personal challenge

Oct. 1, 2000, Stuart's 14-year anniversary with Old Oakland, members held a tournament for Stuart that raised more than \$6,000 to send him and his family to England to accept his Master Greenkeeper certificate.

"I think that primarily it came from wanting to say, 'Stuart, you've done the club a great service over the last

14 years.'... It's their way of giving back," Dawson notes.

"The quality of his work shows. A lot of our members play other clubs, so they recognise his attention to detail - it shows. That is why they stay here. They can see the difference."

Although the tournament was

"I take a lot of pride in my work, but I like to be behind the scenes. I do my job and do the best I can, and I want people to enjoy the course and my staff's efforts.

"We have so many good, quality people here at Old Oakland," he continues.

"I've always been interested in how (the British) maintain courses. I love to watch the British Open... I wanted to get a better grasp of how they managed courses in the U.K., how it was different from here. It's fascinating." After joining, Stuart learned about BIGGA's Master Greenkeeper certificate and, again, attracted to the challenge, decided to pursue his second professional distinction.

organised for Stuart, Dawson points out that it made a positive impact on the club, as well.

"This was a first-time situation. Nothing like this has ever been done in the 14 years we've owned the club. The members did this together, on their own."

Stuart says the fact that members also raised money for his family, showed their appreciation for the sacrifices his family has made over the years, as well.

"I was overwhelmed to the point of tears, and I still get choked up," says Stuart, a 19-year member of GCSAA.

"I was overwhelmed that (members) would want to do that, and by the warmth they showed me for receiving certification and for the 14 years I've worked to make this a good course."

Whereas normal club tournaments at Old Oakland draw around 20 to 30 pairs/couples, the tournament for Stuart attracted 96 individuals (48 twosomes). Moreover, many who couldn't participate responded with donations.

"People who said they couldn't play would drop checks off. One member walked by and threw a \$100 bill down and said, 'I can't play, but I

Right: Stuart Cagle (center) received his Master Greenkeeper award from BIGGA President Sir Michael Banallack (left) and 2000 BIGGA Chairman Elliott Small (right) during BIGGA's National Education Conference, in January at Harrogate



want you to have a good time.' It was then that I started realising that people really appreciated my efforts," Stuart reveals.

Following the tournament, the club had a cocktail reception for Stuart, his family and the tournament participants. During the reception, the club presented Stuart with a golf bag, a plaque for his efforts and a poster with the tournament name and date that all of the participants had signed. He was also presented with a cigar box containing \$6,000.

As if their efforts weren't enough, Stuart says that several members also gave him their gift certificates from the tournament closest to the pin contests, instructing him to use the restaurant certificates to take his wife, Joni, to dinner.

"I was absolutely overwhelmed. I will never forget all they did," he exclaims, noting that he, Joni, their oldest son, Taylor, and his mother, were able to spend eight days in England in January as a result of the club's efforts. They travelled to Harrogate, January 22-23, to attend the BIGGA National Education Conference and spent the rest of their vacation around London.

Lessons learned, taught

For Stuart, the trip to BIGGA's conference was the realisation of a goal set four years earlier.

"I became certified through GCSAA in 1996 at Orlando (conference and show). That was a personal goal and challenge I had set for myself to learn more and see if I could do it," Stuart offers, explaining the natural progression of his membership, beginning with the desire to increase his knowl-

edge and network with peers.

"It was a personal challenge to become a CGCS."

The following year, at GCSAA's conference and show in Las Vegas in 1997, Stuart visited the BIGGA booth and, intrigued by European golf course maintenance, decided to join. "I've always been interested in how (the British) maintain courses. I love to watch the British Open... I wanted to get a better grasp of how they managed courses in the U.K., how it was different from here. It's fascinating." After joining, Stuart learned about BIGGA's Master Greenkeeper certificate and, again, attracted to the challenge, decided to pursue his second professional distinction.

"The MG certification process is a little different (than GCSAA's). They use different technologies, the education is a little different and there weren't too many people from the United States who had accomplished it," he acknowledges.

"At the time, there were only five individuals from the United States and 22 individuals worldwide who had earned the certificate."

After documenting everything he had done, from his formal education at Purdue to GCSAA seminars, Stuart

began the certification process through BIGGA, which included having his course attested by a Master Greenkeeper from the United States - GCSAA board member Robert Maibusch, CGCS, MG, attested Stuart's course in 1999 - and taking a written exam.

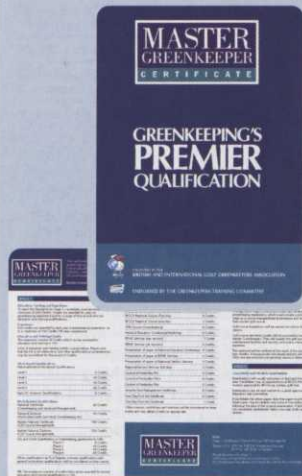
"I received a letter of congratulations the first week of June (2000)," he remarks, crediting Joni, Taylor and his youngest son, Adrian, who is 5, for their support. He says his motivation comes from wanting to improve himself and to set an example for his sons.

"(Obtaining certification) was a personal challenge, but I also did it for my son, Taylor, who is 9 years old, to show him that if you set goals, you may not reach everything, but you are on the right path and that, even as you get older, education is still important."

So, beyond feeling satisfaction in having achieved his latest goal, Stuart says he cherishes his son's reaction to the news. "When I got the letter from BIGGA, I showed it to Taylor, and he read it and said, 'Dad, that is a good job.'"

Our thanks go to the GCSAA for their permission in allowing us to reprint this article, which was first published in the May edition of *Golf Course Management*

If you are interested in enrolling in the BIGGA Master Greenkeeper Certificate programme, you can obtain further information and a brochure from Ken Richardson, BIGGA's Education and Training Manager. Just call 01347 833800 or email: ken@bigga.co.uk



Additional information can be found on the BIGGA website at www.bigga.org.uk

Neil Thomas reports on how you could join the BIGGA delegation to the GCSAA conference and show in Orlando, USA - February 2002

The chance of a Lifetime



In February this year, a 10 man BIGGA delegation participated in the CGSA Conference and Show in Vancouver courtesy of sponsorship through Bernhard and Company Limited. Following the success of this new venture, Bernhard have confirmed renewed sponsorship for 2002 which will enable BIGGA to send another ten man delegation, this time to the GCSAA Conference and Show in Orlando, Florida.

The group will consist of two BIGGA members selected from each Region (10 in all) and the costs of travel, accommodation and entrance to the Conference programme will be met by Bernhard and Company Ltd. Applications are invited from BIGGA members who would be interested in representing the Association at this major industry event.

How do I apply to be considered?

You must submit a personal profile consisting of no more than one side of A4 which should include brief details of education and training and career summary, as well as membership history within BIGGA. You will need to explain why you warrant selection for and how you would benefit from the Orlando visit.

Also, you will need to demonstrate an ability to represent BIGGA and the greenkeeping profession in a public relations role at an international event.

This application must be submitted to, and received by, your Section Secretary no later than July 31.

Each Section Committee will consider all the entries received and will then put forward a chosen candidate for Regional selection. This will involve the finalists in an interview with a panel consisting of the Regional

Chairman, Regional Board of Management representative, sponsor's representative and a representative from BIGGA headquarters. Each Region will select two of the finalists for the visit and the remaining finalists will receive a voucher worth £100, redeemable against a visit to BTME 2002 in Harrogate. The Regional panels will meet during October and the names will be announced in the December issue of 'Greenkeeper International'. The delegation will be visiting as guests of Bernhard and Company but will be representing BIGGA throughout the seminars, conference sessions and visit to the Trade Show. You must possess a BIGGA blazer and tie and dress appropriately throughout the visit.

Delegates who attended the CGSA Conference and Show in Vancouver are not eligible to enter.

Below: The ten BIGGA delegates pictured with Sam McLean of Bernhards (centre) at the 2001 CGSA Conference Dinner in Vancouver



Richard Whyman, (pictured on the immediate right) Head Greenkeeper at Bude and North Cornwall Golf Club and a member of last year's Canada delegation speaks highly of the experience.

"I saw last year's trip to Vancouver as an important part of my continuing educational development and I learned a great deal from speaking with other Superintendents and greenkeepers and from visiting other golf courses. Thanks to Bernhards it was a wonderful opportunity and I would thoroughly recommend BIGGA members to put themselves forward for possible selection on next year's trip to Orlando".

Neil Thomas reports on how the event planning for BTME2002 is going, and urges prospective exhibitors to book their stand space fast!

Action stations!

BTME2002: Planning to be even BIGGA and better!

BTME each year evolves through a twelve month cycle. No sooner have we returned to BIGGA HOUSE from Harrogate than the planning process for the next BTME is well and truly underway. There is a comprehensive review of what has been and changes as necessary are put in place for the following year. The freshness and appeal of the week in Harrogate are essential ingredients to its success and there is never any sense of complacency as we reflect on one event and plan for the next. There are many considerations to be undertaken in the planning process and decisions to be made.

Through the pages of 'Greenkeeper International' we plan to keep readers informed with key announcements in the months ahead. We hope that this will ensure a great sense of anticipation for BTME 2002 which no doubt will come around again in quick time.

Record bookings

As I write in mid May, 127 stands have confirmed bookings while 40 other exhibitors are currently seeking relocation. Such is the level of booking and enquiry that the remaining portion of Hall B which was not utilised for BTME 2001 will now be used to accommodate new exhibitors and those who require more space.

The GCSAA Conference and Show in Dallas last February proved to be a fruitful source of enquiry in relation to the BTME and will surely enhance the ever-growing international presence in Harrogate.

The decision to allow breakdown from 5.00pm on the Thursday has been widely welcomed particularly amongst smaller exhibitors who have subsequently confirmed their stand bookings.

So, for companies who are seriously contemplating exhibiting at BTME 2002, there is no time to waste. Meredith is your contact at BIGGA HOUSE - speak to her soon!

Automatic pre-registration

One significant development at BTME 2001 was the advent of far longer queues than previously on the Wednesday and Thursday mornings. Luckily the sun shone and to an extent this alleviated the obvious frustration experienced by those stranded outside. As I have said there is no sense of complacency on our part and this problem will be tackled for next January's show. Visitor badges will be sent automatically to all those who registered for the 2001 show while pre-registration will be streamlined through direct on-line and telephone bookings. Life is so much easier for those arriving with a badge! It would be foolish to



claim that queues will be a thing of the past as growth of the show is a primary aim year on year.

We will do our best to cater for that growth and this will include speedier access through the on site registration process where we will attempt to anticipate the growth factor to the best of our ability.



Education, training and entertainment

We are well advanced in preparation of the conference, seminar and workshop programmes (see page 10) whilst decisions will soon be made on a keynote speaker and the entertainment programme for the BTME banquet.

We will be aiming to produce packages to suit all tastes and pockets and the focus will very much be on making BTME 2002 once again the premier event in the greenkeeping calendar and one which greenkeepers and companies alike cannot afford to miss.

Confirmed Exhibitors

Details correct as of 23.05.01

Advanta Seeds UK Ltd	Links Leisure Ltd
AF Trenchers Ltd	Lloyds & Co Letchworth Ltd
Aitkens Sportsturf Ltd	Logic Irrigation
Allen Power Equipment Ltd	Long Equipment Ltd
Allett Mowers	MJ Abbott
Amenity Land Services Ltd	Major Equipment Ltd
Amenity Technology	Merrist Wood College
Angus Horticulture	Mitchell Hire Ltd
Arden Lea Irrigation Ltd	New Holland
Aventis Environmental Science	Nickerson UK Ltd
Avoncrop Amenity Products Ltd	North Staffs Irrigation Ltd
Barenbrug UK Ltd	Ocmis Irrigation UK Ltd
Bathgate Silica Sand	Oliver Seeds Ltd
BCA	Pentagon Amenity Marketing Ltd
Bernhard & Company Ltd	Prestige Sports Surfaces Ltd
Better Methods Europe Ltd	PSD Agronomy Ltd
Bickers plc	Rain Bird Europe S.A.R.L.
BLEC Landscaping Equipment Co Ltd	Reasheath College
Boughton Loam Ltd	Richard Campey Ltd
Boyd Golf Course Accessories	Rigby Taylor Ltd
British Seed Houses	Risboro Turf
Cannington College	Rolawn (Turfgrowers) Ltd
Capari Pumps (UK) Ltd	Rousseau Equipment Ltd
Charterhouse Turf Machinery	Rufford Soil Technology
Charterhouse Turf Machinery	Same Deutz Fahr UK Ltd
Course Care	Saxon Industries
Dennis	Scotts UK
Distinct Manufacturing	Sheppy Fertilisers Ltd
DLF Perryfields	Shirley Aldred & Co Ltd
DW Tomlin	Simon Tullett Machinery
Eagle Promotions	Sisis Equipment (Macclesfield) Ltd
Elmwood College	Spaldings UK Ltd
Etesia (UK) Ltd	Speedcut Contractors
European Turf Technology Ltd	Sumi Agro (UK) Ltd
Evenproducts Ltd	Supaturf Products Ltd
Farm & Garden Machinery	Swan Golf Designs Ltd
Farmura Ltd	Swan Plant Services Ltd
GPS Services Ltd	Symbio
Gambetti Barre UK Ltd	Tacit
Garfitts International Ltd	Talbot Farm Landscapes Ltd
Gem Professional	TEG Environmental
Geosynthetic Technology Ltd	Textron Golf Turf and Specialty Products
Golf Car UK Ltd	The Association of Golf Club Secretaries
Greenkeepers Training Committee	The Golf Sign Company
Greenlink International	TIL Irrigation Ltd
Groundsman Industries	Tilden Ltd
Hallmarket Ltd	Tonick Watering Ltd
Hardi	Toro Commercial Products
Hayter UK Ltd	Totrax Ltd
Headland Amenity	Trelleborg Wheel Systems
Hunter Grinders Ltd	True-Surface Rollers
IOG	TT Proturf Ltd
Irrigation Control Ltd	Turf Seed UK Ltd
John Deere	Turfgrass Services International Ltd
John Greasley Ltd	Turfmech Machinery Ltd
John Hinton Associates	Tyre-line Original Equipment Ltd
Kawasaki Motors (UK) Ltd	Verde Sports Ltd
Ken White Signs	Vitax Ltd
Kestrel Golf	Waste 2 Water
Kubota (UK) Ltd	White Horse Contractors Ltd
Lastec UK Ltd	Whitemoss Amenities Ltd
Lewis Equipment Ltd	Wiedenman UK Ltd
Lindum Seeded Turf Ltd	Yamaha
	York & Martin



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

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WORK HORSE

Versatility is important if you're going to get the maximum out of existing machinery or any new equipment you may be thinking of purchasing. Roland Taylor takes a look into the world of tractors.



WORK HORSE



The best-laid plans can sometimes go pear-shaped and none more so than when Mother Nature is involved. Over the last 12 months, hardly a day seems to have gone by when the heavens have not opened. This winter must have taken its toll as even the hardiest of golfers have decided to stay indoors. A combination of the weather plus the foot and mouth outbreak is bound to have had some effect on the revenue a course is generating. As a downturn in funds

filters through, it is very likely that readers have to shelve plans, review their operating costs and reconsider replacement programmes or the acquisition of new equipment.

In times of financial constraint, everything goes under the microscope in an endeavour to keep costs down. Versatility is important if you are going to get the maximum out of existing machinery or any new equipment you may be thinking of purchasing.

Machinery

One of the most cost-effective pieces of machinery for any course is still a tractor. This prime mover when fitted with attachments can, with the exception of some fine turf applications such as mowing, carry out virtually all the operations required to maintain a course. Over the last two decades, arable farms have become larger with a resulting decline in the demand for small agricultural tractors. This has meant that manufacturers have had to turn their attention to the amenity sector in the interests of survival. At present, UK sales of compact tractors have levelled out to around 1800 units per annum with approximately 90% of these now being sold to the amenity, leisure and pleasure sectors. This swing in demand has seen a greater emphasis being placed on designing new models that meet the requirements of the market and there is now plenty of choice.

The tractor has well-proven systems for adding and driving attachments with just a single power source to maintain. Modern engine technology has led to the introduction of compacts with higher horsepower ratings and virtually no changes in weight or size to previous models. Certainly, in the present climate a compact tractor is worth placing high on the list for versatility.

More than just mowing

A number of large ride-on rotary mowers and flail units, which incorporate collection, will efficiently collect leaves thus saving the expense of either buying another machine or having to carry out the labour intensive operation of raking up. These units will cope with the rough and





are ideal for cutting and collecting on wild flower areas. Brushes are available for some models for sweeping paths and car parks and there are also scarifying units for large areas. By using these machines fully, savings can be made.

Turfcare equipment

In recent years a number of turfcare machines have appeared on the market using a single power source to which a variety of attachments or cassettes can be fitted. When considering this type of equipment the ease and speed of changing units is a factor that needs to be taken into account. One big advantage of this type of system is that it can be added to as and when required - thus spread-

ing the costs. It is also worth looking at existing equipment to see if there are any other attachments or optional reels available that will increase their output.

Hire

There is now a wider choice than ever before as more and more companies are offering comprehensive fleets of professional amenity equipment for hire. This is a sure-fire way of saving money on operations that do not justify the expense of buying specific machinery. Long and short-term hire schemes are available.

Fuel

Over the next few years, emission levels will have to be reduced and this has prompted several specialists to



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now offer conversions to Liquid Propane Gas (LPG). In addition to reducing all exhaust gases there is another major saving - the cost of fuel. Petrol and diesel prices are at present between 75p and 78 per litre - LPG is at least a third of this figure,

especially when bought in bulk.

Although there is an extra cost for the conversion plus a LPG storage tank, the indications are that the savings made will recoup this fairly quickly. Expert advice should be sought when considering LPG conversion - your local engine specialist will be able to advise.

Operating costs

Cutting costs in the golf course sector might be difficult because the operation is already highly streamlined. If you have been asked to reduce overheads it could be worth considering having a brainstorming exercise with your staff to explore if there are ways of keeping expenditure levels down. It is often surprising what comes out of this sort of session. Tweaking mowing cycles, especially on fairways, may make some timesaving. If carefully monitored, an extra day or two could be gained by increasing the cycles

between cuts. This would then release staff for other jobs.

Maintenance

The lack of regular maintenance has a considerable effect on running costs. Badly maintained equipment uses more fuel, takes longer to carry out the work, and the possibilities of a major breakdown are increased. If machinery has been well maintained and looked after it will also be reflected in its value when it comes to trade-in.

This is only a rough guide to some of the areas where possible savings might be made in the present climate. Each course will be different and dependent on the requirements of its management.

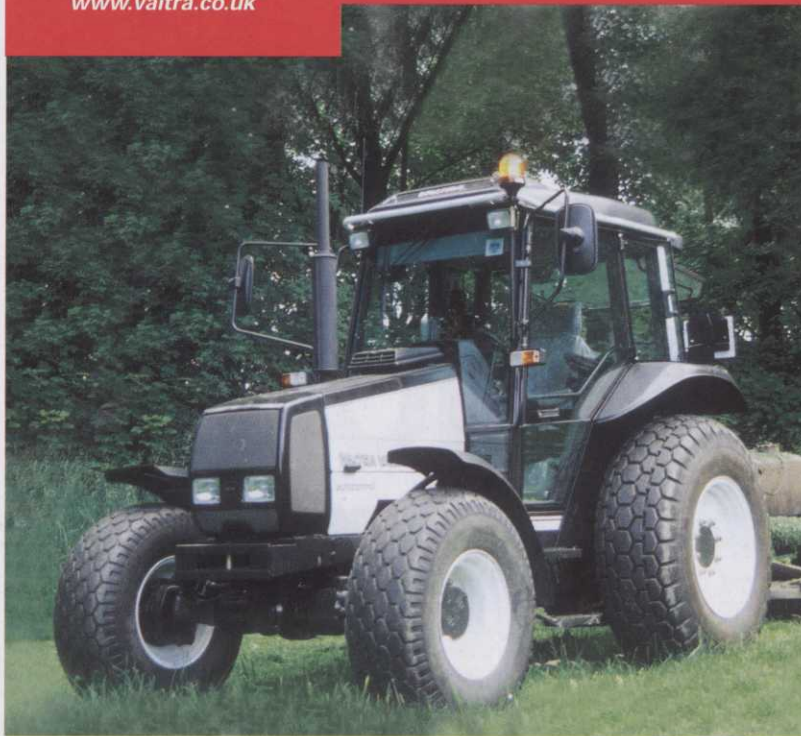
Let's hope it soon stops raining and warms up, especially at weekends, and any foot and mouth restrictions are lifted so golfers can appear in their droves and the revenue comes flooding into the coffers.



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Arnie Van Amerongen describes the construction of a new lined green in Switzerland which meets the country's stringent environmental constraints

Design considerations



These days, particularly here in Switzerland, golf course constructors and greenkeepers are operating under severe restrictions on the construction of golf courses imposed upon them by councils, ecologists and many other organisations.

These are aimed at preventing fertilisers, fungicides, herbicides and other chemicals ending up in the ground and ultimately in the main water supply as tapwater.

Here in the French part of Switzerland, in Sion, I am currently extending a 9-hole golf course to 18 holes.

The new nine holes are built on terrain which belongs to the municipality, and is close to the water reservoir for the city of Sion.

The greens are built out of two draining layers of gravel 100% sand on top of the gravel.

No.1	8-16 mm (round)	depth 20 cm
No.2	4-8 mm (round)	depth 5 cm
Sand	0-2 mm	depth 30 cm

As you will see this type of construction will give a very high infiltration and leaching effect, so you might ask where does all this water go from these greens? Well, we have to gather this water to respect special ecological requirements.

The answer is a liner. I will describe the construction of these types of green.

On photograph A, we can see the special constructed v-formed shaped shuffel for this type of drainage to a depth of the 30 cm.

When the drainage lines are finished and the stones are removed from the surface, we put on the surface of the subgrade, the protection sheet colour grey see photograph b, strong 500 gr/m.

After this we put the liner in the drainage lines on top of the protection sheet, the green coloured liner thick 1.2 mm - see on photograph B.

The drainage uses the herringbone system.

It is important for the welding of the liner that the outside temperatures needs to be higher than 5°C and the humidity needs to be lower than 75%.

If the drainlines are welded and the perforated drainage is in the drainlines they can be filled up with the gravel 8 - 16 mm (round).

All the perforated drains have the same size in diameter 110 mm.

If the drains are all connected to the main drain, we can start to fill up the drain lines with the gravel 8-16 mm.

It involves a lot of hand work at the beginning to fill up these drain lines - photograph C.

If the drainage lines are filled up with the gravel 8-16 mm, the rest of the big areas from the green can be welded.

On photograph D, we see the outlet of the green, from there the water will go into a concrete collector.

The drainage water from the green will go via transport drainage to a safe area where there will be no risk of pollution to the main ground water.

As we can see on photograph E., the green is completely welded and the rounded gravel 8 - 16 mm, can be transported in to the green. The wooden sticks are taped on the following heights 20 cm, 5 cm and 30 cm.

In my opinion the tractor with balloon tyres, driving in straight lines on 20 cm rounded gravel and wooden planks will not cause damage to the liner at all.

The rest of the procedure is identical to that of a normally constructed green.

Levelling the gravel 8-16 mm, after this levelling out the gravel 4-8 mm, topsoil around the green and starting bringing the sand on the green.

Here we can see on photograph f from the drive point the ending result of the construction, the sand is spread and levelled out and this year 2001, in spring, we are starting with the preparation for the seeding.

I hope that environmental organisations are not going too far and that they only remain with lining the greens and not to line a complete golf course, the work and the costs, if that were to be the case would be enormous!

The work which was carried out was supervised by the writer Arne Van Amerongen.

Scott MacCallum left the Association helicopter in the garage and drove down the M1 to visit BIGGA's latest Golden Key supporter - Stoke Park Club, the first golf club to become supporters of this extremely worthwhile programme



The Club with the



golden key

In today's customer-focussed, competitive environment, where every effort is made to attract new visitors to golf clubs, you often find location maps issued giving directions and advice on the best way to get to the club by car, train and sometimes, at the bigger clubs, plane.

You know you are visiting somewhere a little bit special when that club also issues instructions as to how to get there by helicopter.

But Stoke Park Club - Helicopter Grid Reference O/S SU 970827 - is indeed a special place and the list of what makes it special is longer and more diverse than virtually any other establishment in the country.

Just as a taster, the Estate was mentioned in the Doomsday Book in 1066; Elizabeth I once owned the Estate; it was the home of the guy who coined the phrase "An Englishman's home is his Castle"; it was also owned by the Penn family after whom Pennsylvania is named; it was the base for the famous Corinthian Sporting Club; Capability Brown designed the lakes on the Estate; Harry Colt designed the course; the most famous par-3 in golf - the 12th at Augusta National - was model on the 7th at Stoke Park; the most famous golf scene in all cinema - James Bond and Goldfinger battling it out both inside and outside the rules - was filmed at the course, while, more recently, scenes from Bridget Jones' Diary were filmed at Stoke Park.

Undoubtedly however, most significantly of all for BIGGA members everywhere Stoke Park has become the first golf club to become Golden Key supporters of the Association.

"We were amazed to learn that you didn't have any golf clubs as Golden Key supporters," said Stoke Park Club Marketing Director, David Fardon.

"We see ourselves as one of the leading clubs in Britain and felt that by taking this opportunity to be the first club to invest in greenkeeper education and training through the Golden Key programme we would be showing leadership. Hopefully it will lead to other golf clubs doing the same. After all, by investing in the people who look after our golf courses it can only benefit the game as a whole," explained David.

Estate Director, Alex Millar, a member of one of the premier greenkeeping families in the country, was quick to add his endorsement to the move.

"One of our main thoughts was to put something back into greenkeeping," said Alex.

The King family (who own Stoke Park Club) do like to invest in people and many of the people who come and work for them do so for a long time. They also feel that by taking out Golden Key membership it will make the greens staff more aware of BIGGA and the work that the Association does for the greenkeeping industry," said Alex, who has been at Stoke Park Club for 13 years.

He also admitted that with 10 golf courses within five miles of the club finding good green staff was not always easy.

"Stoke Park Club is a great name to have on a CV and we want people to want to work here. As Golden Key supporters and being seen to give good in-house training and encouragement to greenkeeper education, ideally we should have a waiting list of people wanting to work here."



While everything at Stoke Park Club from the Hotel, which is a member of the Leading Hotels of the World, to the golf course and the new £9 million Spa, Health and Racquets Pavilion due to open next year is of the highest possible standard, the staff and members of the club are all part of an inclusive environment.

"The greens staff are a key part of making this club what it is today and we make sure they, and everyone else, are treated in the same way," said David.

The point is hammered home by Alex when he says that the quality and condition of the golf course wouldn't happen but for the way everyone is treated by the Board of the Club.

"People just won't produce the

goods to the same way if they are not being looked after," he said.

Stoke Park Club's arrival as a Golden Key supporter was welcomed by BIGGA's Executive Director, Neil Thomas.

"I am delighted to welcome Stoke Park Club as a Golden Key member of BIGGA. Their initiative in supporting greenkeeper education in this way is to be applauded and we hope that more golf clubs will follow their example and thereby boost the monies available to enable us to provide first class training opportunities for BIGGA members," said Neil.

The Millar clan is one of the strongest in greenkeeping with at least half a dozen of them head men at clubs in the UK - along with Alex's father, also Alex, from Denholm GC,



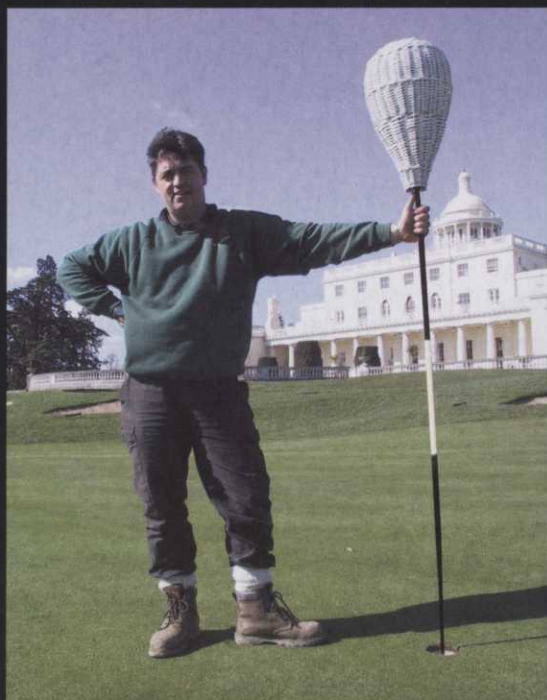
and Jock, from Burnham and Berrow GC, both of whom are now retired - and another in Cairns, Australia. It isn't a surprise to learn that Alex fell in love with Stoke Park at the age of 14.

"I played golf here with the Artisans as a 14 year old and I knew that I was going to be a greenkeeping and that this was where I was going to be head man," said Alex.

He started his greenkeeping career as an apprentice under his father and in nine years rose to First Assistant before being offered the job of Head Greenkeeper at the club.

"I was lucky as it was a case of right place right time. I played golf to county standard - he still plays off 2 - and one of the county officials was quite high up here and thought I might be





suited to taking on the task of improving the course," explained Alex, although he had no idea of how his job would grow over the intervening years.

He took over a course for which the term "sleeping giant" could easily have been coined having lost its pre-eminent place near the top, alongside the Wentworths and the Sunningdales, during the two wars. Part of the course was given over to the war effort to plant potatoes, and in the subsequent years there was not the investment to haul it back into the Premier League.

"Up until the mid 80s the profile of the club was still fairly high but after the Ryder Cup victory in '85 the golf boom really started and investment kicked in and Stoke Park was left behind."

Alex and the team worked hard on the course - he was faced with 70 mil of thatch and grass coverage of around 25% on each green - until yet another significant moment in the history of the club when the King family bought it in 1993 with a vision for what they wanted the club to become.

"That vision was to create a Championship course to the standard Colt had laid out but to make the most of the Capability Brown landscaping around it. It was the dream ticket," recalled Alex.

That point is reiterated by David. "The King family goal is to take the Estate back to the standards of the original Stoke Park Club in 1908 with a world class golf course; world class tennis facilities - three indoor, four all-weather and five grass courts as



STOKE PARK CLUB

**Stoke Park Club
Notable Dates**

1066 Stoke Park Estate mentioned in the Domesday Book

1581-1603 Owned by Queen Elizabeth 1

1603-1644 Owned by Sir Edward Coke who coined the phrase "An Englishman's home is his castle"

1760-1848 Owned by the Penn family whose name gave rise the state of Pennsylvania

1750 Capability Brown designed the lakes on the Estate

1792 Humphry Repton designed the landscaping of the Estate

1908 "Pa" Lane Jackson bought Stoke Park and turned it into the Corinthian Sporting Club, the last amateur team to win the FA Cup and a name still synonymous with fair play and sport for sport's sake

1908 Harry Colt designed the golf course including the 7th hole upon which the 12th at Augusta National was modelled

1964 Stoke Park used as location for James Bond's famous golf scene with Goldfinger

1993 Stoke Park bought by the King family and plans put in place to restore it to its former glory

2001 Stoke Park used as location for Bridget Jones's Diary

2001 Stoke Park becomes the first golf club to become a BIGGA Golden Key Supporter



scale of the project when they set out. "The job just got bigger as we moved on. We'd cleared areas and more views of monuments would become apparent from the house and that would encourage us to do more. You can actually see Windsor Castle from the house now.

"We were told by conservation experts that it was not forests that were threatened in this country but parkland and that we were actually putting back what was supposed to be in place and now we've got much more wildlife on the Estate than we've ever had," said Alex, who added that he reckoned they'd ripped out as much as three times more scrub than anyone else before or since.

The other major project was the rebunkering of the entire course.

"We had to take the modern game into account when redoing the bunkers and we almost had to imagine how Harry Colt would have built them if he had had a JCB. A Colt bunker always had a tongue on it, always had a face and nine times out of ten you could see the danger from the tee or the second shot. They had a flattish bottom but always ran in from both front and back," said Alex, who researched the bunkers by playing and visiting many of the Colt courses in the south east.

"This is Colt country round here and it was a case of playing them, studying photographs and looking at what we already had. Sometimes we'd go to a bunker and know that we wouldn't have to do very much to it but about 95% of them we just flattened and started again."

They also picked up on the favourite Colt idea of a bunker in the middle of the fairway about 100 yards short of the green.

"I used to think that they wouldn't have caught anyone even when they were built but then I realised that the purpose of them was to throw your eye out. You learn these things and slowly get the feeling what Colt intended us to get from his golf course,

es," recalled Alex who added that as their skills developed they went back and redid some of those they had done earlier.

Although still on-going the bulk of the work was completed three years ago around the same time as an additional Donald Steele nine holes were opened, giving 27 holes - the holes are numbered 1-27 - of "Colt-style" golf to enjoy. They have also reinstated 10 acres of the 15 acres of gardens.

"What I like to feel we have here is a 100 year old golf course with a history and maturity to it which is maintained by the most modern technology available - they have a new million pound Toro irrigation system - and managed to the highest possible standards," said Alex.

He is always keen to restore the links to golfing history and one of these will come to fruition this month when the restores the lobster pots which acted as flags in the early days.

"Many people will know them from Merion Golf Club in the States but they took the idea from Stoke Park Club having visited us on a tour. It was originally an idea Colt brought down from the west coast of Scotland where lobster pots were used in preference to flags which would become ripped in the wind. The feeling about them was that golfers wouldn't receive any 'outside assistance' in the shape of clues to the direction of the wind from the way the flags were fluttering. It is a tradition I was keen to bring back and we're doing so with different colours of pots for each of the three nines."

The lobster pots are yet another example of Stoke Park's rich history and by bringing them back it merely helps to trumpet how the club has influenced the rest of the game.

Stoke Park Club is a very special place, whether you arrive by helicopter or any other means of transport, and by being the first to become Golden Key Supporters the Club is setting a trend which others may follow.

well as the Health Spa, fishing, croquet and other facilities.

"We will be looking to hold top quality high profile golf and tennis events in the near future and really pushing to get the Stoke Park brand known throughout the world of sport," said David, as we sat in one of the beautifully appointed reading rooms within the 20 room hotel.

It was with that picture firmly in the front of Alex's mind that he set to work on bringing the golf course and garden side of this equation to reality.

"We went in and got rid of 95% of the scrub on the 350 acres estate, the majority of which we did in-house only bringing in contractors for the major tree work," he explained.

It would be fair to say that Alex and his team had little inclination of the



For further information on joining the Golden or Silver Key Circle of Supporters, please call Neil Thomas, Executive Director, BIGGA on 01347 833800 or visit www.bigga.org.uk

TALKING

Six of the country's top men give their views on how they cope with the winter weather

Coping with winter

Compiled by Malcolm Huntington MBE



Name: Sandy Bulloch
Course: Fereneze GC, Barrhead, Glasgow
Region: Scotland
Course Type: Heathland
Staff: Course Manager plus three



Name: Graham Chambers
Course: Longhirst Hall GC, Morpeth, Northumberland
Region: Northern
Course Type: Parkland (27 holes)
Staff: Course Manager plus seven, plus mechanic



Name: Gavin Robson
Course: Lingdale GC, Woodhouse, Leicestershire
Region: Midland
Course Type: Parkland
Staff: Head Greenkeeper plus five.



Name: Adrian Archer
Course: Broadstone GC, Poole, Dorset
Region: South West and South Wales
Course Type: Heathland
Staff: Course Manager plus six



Name: Ray Day
Course: Sundridge Park, Bromley, Kent
Region: South East
Course Type: Parkland (36 holes)
Staff: Course Manager plus ten, plus one mechanic



Name: Allison Sloan
Course: Ballymena GC, Northern Ireland
Region: Northern Ireland
Course Type: Parkland
Staff: Head GK plus three, plus one apprentice

1

Following the worst winter in most people's memories what particular difficulties have you encountered preparing your course for the new season?

Our winter hasn't been too bad so we have had no real difficulties. However, it has been cold in March and April so the growth is a bit behind. We haven't had much rain at all.

It has held back the fertilising programme and we are a month behind schedule. Because we are well drained we have had a lot of visitors in winter and therefore we have compaction to deal with.

We have had problems just getting out on the course to cut. Fertilising is ok but spraying is behind schedule and greens growth is six weeks behind.

We haven't been able to get out on the course to do many jobs and with competitions and societies using the course we have had to work round them. We are about a month behind with most things and need to do more aeration on the fairways as we have a build up of thatch.

Just getting on to the ground. We have hilly courses and have discovered new springs coming out of the hillside which leads to flooding so we need to work on the drainage.

It's been very cold and wet so the growing season has been delayed considerably. Cutting hasn't started as we speak on May 1. I would say we are a month behind schedule.

HEADS

2 How has your membership reacted to longer and more frequent course closure the weather has caused?

We have been closed for only four or five days and every closure has been due to snow rather than flooding so the members have been far happier than the majority in other parts of Britain where the weather has clearly been a lot worse.

We have never closed for rain and only six or seven times due to snow. We have been border line once or twice though.

It's been a frustrating time as we have been closed for 67 days. I would think 99% of our members, many of them five-day, are sympathetic but the weekend golfers don't always understand and get frustrated. It's the usual story of 400 good greenkeepers among the membership!

We have only been closed for about 15 days plus a few half days. Members have been understanding but then some have got a bit frustrated, which is understandable, as they haven't been able to get out and play their golf.

Very positively. The members have been very understanding about the problems and we have tried to open the course whenever possible.

Our course hasn't been too bad though we have been on temporary greens. We have been closed for about 20 days and the reaction of members has been 50-50 from a frustration point of view.

3 What policies have you put in place to protect your course during such a difficult time - trolley bans, temporary tees and greens etc.

We have been on temporary greens and tees a few times, but have used them as little as possible. There hasn't been a ban on trolleys, but we rope off or white line certain areas where, for example, we have re-turfed.

We are on winter greens on every hole and all 27 are USGA specification. This comes into operation on November 1 each year. No trolley ban, but we rest some walking areas and ask golfers to stay on the tarmac paths we have all round the course.

We have 18 temporary greens, 18 winter mats and winter teeing areas. Walkways are roped off and there has been a trolley ban for the first time. On some days we open half the course which is a lot drier than the other half, but still no trolleys.

We haven't had any trolley bans and this is part of our policy because we use ropes and this forces players to walk the way we want them to go, rather than walking across a green to get to the next tee.

Mats are used in winter along with temporary greens on the aprons which are maintained all the year round so that there is always a reasonable surface. We have had total trolley bans and also occasional trolley bans apart from medical reasons.

We have had temporary greens on every hole and trolley control with roped off areas, but we have not banned trolleys as the membership is quite old and they rely on trolleys.

4 What long term implications on the course has the bad weather had?

Hardly any. We are doing some drainage work, but that is normal and we haven't done any extra work.

I can't think of any long term implications as we are so well drained and have had no problems.

A thatch build-up on greens is one problem and we are spending £27,000 on draining the fairways in September. We have built four USGA greens and start on the other 14 in September.

It will mean that we have to spend a lot of money on drainage. Many of our old fairway drains are shallow and can be damaged by verti-draining. We have discovered springs and have a fair amount of clay content in the soil.

We have had flooding in areas never before experienced so we are working on new drainage as it's been difficult to move water off the course. We have a programme for new drains on greens and fairways.

We will do more spiking and hollow tining on fairways getting down 12 inches when possible. We have also used a drill and fill machine.

5 What, if anything, will you be doing to be better prepared for a repeat in future winters?

We will aerate more and also slit and verti-drain to give more aeration to prepare for any bad winter we may have. I can recall far worse winters than the one we have just had. We will also gradually change all our greens to a USGA specification at the rate of two or three a year.

We will verti-cut more often, moving from two or three times a year to four on the fairways. We micro-tine greens once a month which should be sufficient.

A big drainage problem and we will be verti-draining the fairways. The new greens will be solid tined once a month. Having spent £57,000 on the front nine drainage we should be a lot better off.

The increased drainage programme we are putting in place with drains a metre deep, when we can get down that far, should be very helpful. In the last three years we have been working on drainage and now this will be done on a much bigger scale.

A complete drainage programme will help and we will also be verti-draining a lot more often rather than once every two or three years on the fairways. It will be more like greens three times a year and once a year on fairways.

I would say we will do considerably more aeration work before the wet weather starts.

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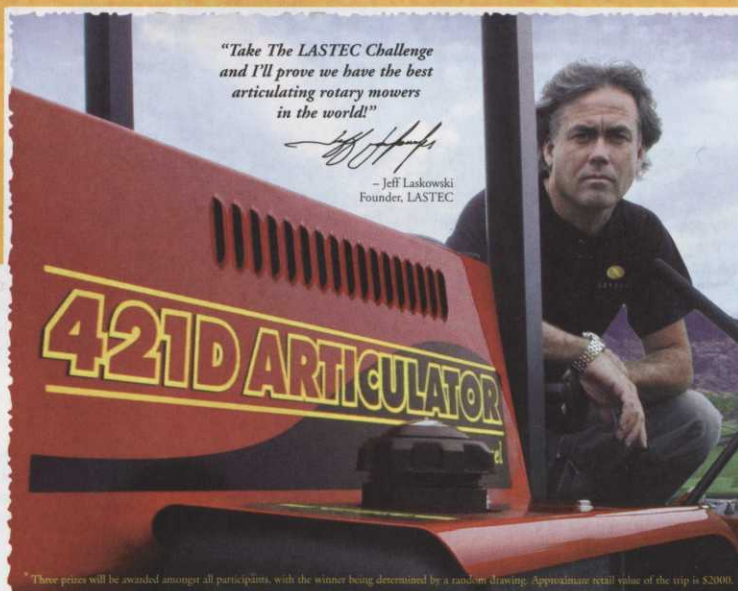
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*Three prizes will be awarded amongst all participants, with the winner being determined by a random drawing. Approximate retail value of the trip is \$2000.



Dr Kate Entwistle continues her regular series in Greenkeeper International by looking at leaf spot diseases

Spot the difference

Below: Close-up view
of red leaf spot on a
bentgrass sward
Photo courtesy of Grass Science

I would bet that if you were asked to name a handful of turf grass diseases, leaf spot diseases would not be among them. Diseases such as fusarium patch, red thread and take-all patch would almost certainly figure in your selection, not only because they are frequently seen on highly managed turf, but also because they are some of the most talked and written about cool-season turf disease

problems. Brown patch and pythium diseases may crop up too because they are either frequently identified, or rather misidentified, as causing damage on cool-season turfgrasses or because their effects are so dramatic on the sward that once seen, they are never forgotten.

How important are leaf spot diseases?

Once brought to mind, you may argue that their effects on turf are generally quite minor and therefore not of any great concern. Some of you may consider that because you have never noticed them on your course that they are not of any great importance. Alternatively, you may never have heard of them at all. Although I can understand each of these views, it is a fact that leaf spot diseases can cause a range of symptoms on all turf grasses throughout much of the year and under all management conditions. The fungi which cause them are diverse and differ markedly in their requirements for optimal growth. Their effects on the sward will vary from a virtually insignificant marking of the leaf blade to complete death of the grass plant. These fungi are active now and some leaf spot causing fungi will be active until the autumn and possibly year-round in milder climates.

The term leaf spot encompasses a

whole range of diseases caused by numerous different fungi, but they all have one feature in common - they all produce a defined, often discrete, mark on the leaf blade. The fungi that cause leaf spot diseases may not limit their attack to the lamina, indeed some are so aggressive that they can develop in to the crown and root systems of the plant causing its complete death. Some fungi that are responsible for leaf spot diseases can also kill seedling turf before the plants emerge from the seedbed and these pre-emergence diseases can account for large areas of poorly establishing turf. Mature turf does not go unaffected by leaf spots either and in some cases, it appears that the mature sward is often more severely affected by certain leaf spot pathogens than an equivalent younger sward. There appear to be few rules in this 'disease contest'. Basically, all grasses are affected by at least one leaf spot fungus and the severity of the disease development is a complex formula that deserves a closer look.



Information on turf disease outbreaks

Thank you to all of you who have responded so far to my request for information on turf disease outbreaks. I intend to collect information throughout the year on turf disease problems, so you can offer your information at a time to suit yourself. If you would like to contribute your information, please ask for a form from either Scott (at BIGGA) or myself. The details of your Club will not be published but are requested so that we can identify the location of disease outbreaks. Thank you.

Dr Kate Entwistle

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Email: Kate@theturf-diseasecentre.co.uk
Web: www.theturf-diseasecentre.co.uk

What size are leaf spots?

How long is a piece of string? Many factors affect the size of the leaf spot, not least of all the width of the leaf blade. Grasses with a broad lamina may show individual leaf spots of around 5 mm diameter whereas grasses which have a more needle-like lamina may show comparatively smaller symptoms, even down to a fine 'dot-like' appearance to the leaf blade. Individual leaf spots may well increase in size from their first appearance on the plant and many will coalesce to increase the total area covered by the disease symptom.

What do they look like?

Leaf spots will vary in their appearance depending on which fungus has caused the symptom to develop and which grass the fungus has attacked. Some leaf spots will appear as no more than a pinprick in size and may well be dark brown or very dark red in colour. Other leaf spots will show, for example, a tan circular mark on the leaf that is bordered by a ring of dark coloration and possibly surrounded by a yellow halo. Leaf spot symptoms that are caused by any one fungus, may well change over time. The initial infection of a leaf caused by one fungus may start as a small dark spot but with time, may develop into a more complex and extended symptom which may in no way resemble the initial one. Some plants, when infected by a leaf spot fungus, show a general yellowing or browning of the leaf blade from the tip downwards and this symptom may well be more obvious than discrete spots on the leaf. If the sward looks 'off-colour', particularly following irrigation during the summer months, it is possible that a leaf spot disease is affecting the turf. In short, there is no definitive symptom expression and the only way to be entirely sure which fungus is responsible for the disease is to have it identified in the laboratory.

Why do leaf spots develop?

In order to survive, some fungi use the nutrients within plant cells for their own growth and development.



The disease symptoms that they cause fall into four main types: foliar blights, wilts, root and crown rots and leaf spots. With regard to leaf spot diseases of turfgrass, the exact way in which the symptom is expressed will vary depending upon the specific interaction between the grass and the fungus. However, it is possible to generalise and simplify this process to give an idea of why these symptoms develop.

If we start from the point where the fungal spore is on the grass leaf, we can follow the process of events leading up to the expression of the leaf spot symptoms. Initially, the spore germinates and the fungal hypha enters one of the cells of the plant leaf. Once inside the plant, the aim of the fungus is to obtain sufficient nutrition to sustain its growth and development for as long a time as possible. The plant will try to prevent the fungus from leaving the first cell that it has entered, thereby preventing further damage to itself. And so the battle begins! If the plant is fairly resistant to the given fungus, it will immediately recognise its presence and act so as to prevent the fungus from moving out of that first cell to any adjacent cells. The plant does this in one of two ways. Plants are able to either initiate the death of the cell which has been invaded by the fungus, thereby killing the fungus now inside it, or they can lay down a barrier around the infected cell through which the invading fungus is unable to pass. In this second situation, the effects on the leaf may be nothing more than a small pinprick sized dark mark on the leaf that would probably not be seen unless you were to look extremely closely. However, this response does not always occur. In many cases, either the plant is slow to react to the

presence of the fungus or the fungus is able to produce chemicals that 'fool' the plant so that the plant doesn't realise that it has been attacked. In these cases, the fungus is able to move out of the initial cell that it penetrated and into the adjacent cells. If the fungal presence has still not been 'recognised' by the plant, it is free to move out in to the next band of cells and so on. Eventually the plant realises what is happening and lays down a barrier to prevent the further spread of the pathogen. The longer the fungus has to invade subsequent cells, the larger the resulting leaf spot will be. If large leaf spot symptoms develop, it means that either the plant is slow in recognising the presence of the fungus or the fungus is able to move rapidly through the host plant tissues. Either way, the plant is showing an increased susceptibility to attack.

In some cases, the plant 'over reacts'. It recognises quite early on that it has been attacked and produces chemicals to prevent further movement of the fungus but, even when sufficient chemical has been produced and the fungus is well contained, the plant continues to produce the chemical. Leaf blades can be turned almost completely purple by this panic attack by the plant (as shown in the two photographs of red leaf spot on bentgrass). This over reaction will reduce the possibility of further attacks by the same fungus but, at the same time, will reduce the vigour of the sward by affecting the plants photosynthetic ability. It's a trade off - the plant will recover well from this given time, but it may take a little longer to do so. It has, however, succeeded in stopping the pathogen from attacking and causing a potentially serious infection of its tissues.

Above right: Ryegrass variety trial showing cultivar susceptibility to foliar disease. Photo courtesy of Brian Clifford, Novastara

Below: General view of red leaf spot on a bentgrass sward. Photo courtesy of Grass Science





Does the sward height affect leaf spot development?

Absolutely. In general, turf grasses that are maintained under close mowing, show significantly higher levels of disease when compared with the same grass that has been subjected to a less severe cutting height. This effect is dramatic and demonstrates very clearly how our management programmes may contribute to, or be used to reduce, the severity of certain disease pressures. Why should closer mown turfgrasses be more severely affected? There are two main reasons for this. Firstly, once the environmental conditions are right for the fungus to cause damage to the turfgrass, the fungus will enter the plant and initiate the plants reaction. With a small leaf surface area available, a relatively small number of fungal infections can quite easily cover the whole of the leaf blade. If the height of cut was raised, the leaf blade would have a larger surface area and the same disease pressure (number of infections formed in a given time) would cause correspondingly less severe effects on the plant. As the plant responds to the infection, the ability of the plant to photosynthesise is reduced. If the plant has a small leaf surface area to start with (ie under close mowing), the effect of the disease, which effectively reduces the healthy surface area, will have a dramatic effect on the ability of the plant to photosynthesise. As this ability is reduced, the plants food supply is reduced and the plant is put under further stress. While under this additional stress, the fungus now has an even greater opportunity to colonise the turfgrass plant and to cause even more damage. Many swards affected by leaf spot diseases are affected as much by the resulting stresses experienced by the plants as by the initial disease outbreak.

Does cultivar selection matter?

Yes, quite significantly. If you take any one leaf spot fungus and determine its effect across a range of cultivars of the same grass type, you will see dramatic differences in the extent to which the cultivars are affected.

The effect will range from virtually no observable infection to severe attack with significantly discoloured leaf blades and an overall decline in the vigour of the sward. Given the same fungus and the same cultivars, the observed effect will vary depending on the prevailing environmental conditions and the quality of the sward prior to attack.

To summarise...

Although leaf spot diseases are numerous and are not uncommon on cool-season grasses, it is perhaps fair to say that they generally express only minor symptoms on fine turfgrass swards. Occasionally though, they can cause dramatic effects and even the eventual death of the sward. The symptoms expressed depend on the sward composition, its quality at the time of the infection and the specific fungus present. Significant control can generally be achieved by relieving the stress on the turf either by increasing the height of cut or ensuring adequate but not excessive nutrition. As with all diseases of turf, accurate control measures can only be provided following an accurate identification of the cause of the problem.

Many physiological problems associated with turf can produce symptoms that closely resemble the symptoms of leaf spot disease. Make sure that you know exactly what you are trying to control before you implement any control options - it could save you time, money and your sward.

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John Hughes offers Course Managers and Greenkeepers a reminder of Take-all, which is particularly relevant to staff involved in newly constructed courses or with newer greens

Winner takes all?

The use of bentgrass within new greens has been common for years. Various percentages of bents have been sown in conjunction with fescue and over recent years, some new greens have been sown with pure bent. New varieties have also become available, offering greater shoot density and greater tolerance of close mowing.

The main concern of using bentgrasses, is over their susceptibility to Take-all Patch - a disease that attacks velvet bent, creeping bent and colonial bent varieties. If unchecked the disease will spread, carried physically from one green to another by foot or machinery.

This overview sets out what to look for to spot the disease and tips on preventative and curative measures, should you be unlucky enough to be struck by this disease.

A survivor

"Take-all patch (*Gaeumannomyces graminis*) - or *Ophiobolus* patch as it used to be known - can survive as a saphrophyte in thatch and also survives as dormant mycelium in the plant. It is most serious in newly established turf and does its worst damage generally in new greens. The disease attacks velvet bent, creeping bent and colonial bent. Over many years, traditionally greens have been sown with fescue bent combinations. The fescues are resistant to the disease, the bent component however remains susceptible even in this situation.

Creeping bent does offer many advantages over fescue bent combinations, particularly in its ability to provide dense uniform swards in a relatively short period. However, it is recognised that the maintenance of creeping bent is more specialised, requiring careful management, and that creeping bentgrass, *Agrostis stolonifera* (var *palustris*) is the most susceptible to the disease.

Creeping bent is predominantly used in new greens as a monoculture and should Take-all occur, it will spread quite rapidly. Sadly, the choice of variety of bent has little bearing

on the resistance to the disease, in fact, very dense varieties may exhibit even greater scarring.

Furthermore, the pros of pure bent have to be weighed-up alongside the cons of the high degrees of maintenance associated with some varieties. For instance, some bent varieties are actually very difficult to maintain as they build up such a dense coverage. This in turn leads to difficulty in managing fertiliser applications and to increased aeration programmes - which combine to mean extra funding from the outset of a construction project. These factors should be taken into consideration, as they will have an effect on the future budgetary requirements of the course.

Symptoms to watch for

Take-all first appears as circular patches of slightly depressed grass with a straw to bronze colouration in appearance. These areas will begin as just a few inches in diameter and gradually increase, stretching to often several feet in diameter, with patches joining together to form large, irregular areas.

Often as the disease spreads, the middle of the patches 'fill in' with resistant species, with areas of surviving





fescue becoming apparent in fescue bent greens. The roots of the affected grasses will actually become rotted.

Plants which play host to Take-all patch extend to some 40 species of grass, although not all of these hosts exhibit the symptoms associated with the disease.

Life cycle

Initial Take-all infection occurs when the mycelium penetrates the root crown or culm of the turfgrass. The pathogen then spreads by outward movement from plant to plant, spreading over roots, rhizomes and other tissues. In fact, infected material can be carried on machinery or by foot, potentially spreading the disease across all aspects of the course.

Over-wintering or survival in adverse conditions is accomplished by saprophytic infection of the debris of previous seasons plant material. The mycelium can also remain inactive within infected plants until conditions are ripe for a new phase of activity.

The most aggressive phase of the Take-all life cycle is typically seen in cool, wet weather conditions when the plant is actively growing.

Strategies to avoid Take-all

Take-all Patch can therefore survive as a saprophyte in thatch and as dormant mycelium in the plant. As already highlighted, it is more common in newly established turf commonly used on newly constructed areas of courses, normally peaking in three to five years, then declining due to antagonistic microorganisms.

High pH is a significant factor in the development of Take-all so, not only should the pH values of the root-zone and irrigation water be investigated to avoid high pH levels, but you should also look to use acidifying fertilisers. However, it is very important to monitor the greens for any indication of black layer over time.

Aeration plays a vital role in encouraging microbial activity, which is essential to the overall health of the green, as well as encouraging a natural system within the root zone for the recycling and utilisation of elements such as carbon, nitrogen and sulphur.

Gould (1973) observed Take-all patch was far more prevalent on greens which had been subjected to fumigation where soil organisms had been killed. As the turf matured,

Take-all patch occurred with much less frequency. This again points to the need for a good antagonistic microbial population - regular aeration and grooming of the sward are vital for healthy development.

The inclusion of a percentage of fescue in initial sowing mixtures has shown to be of value. Even if the fescue does not persist, it does provide an initial barrier within what would otherwise be a monoculture. Overseeding with fescue - ideally a slender creeping red fescue - will at least fill-in the scars caused by Take-all.

If Take-all does occur, there are cultural practices available to rectify the situation over time - consult your seed supplier or agronomist for guidance and information. If conditions are conducive to the disease, then any bent in the greens will be attacked. Remember: the disease can be carried physically by machinery or on foot from one green to another, so be diligent in preventing this immediately, should you identify Take-all on your greens. There are chemical treatments available for Take-all, but these are not currently licensed for use in the UK - this situation will change however, as fungicides become available to combat the disease.

Conclusions

Good cultural practices will always be necessary in any situation where Take-all occurs. Avoidance is by far the best strategy, so focus on monitoring pH levels, good aeration of the soil and grooming of the sward. Build quality and monitoring of materials is essential. A high quality course maintenance programme is the best policy - quick fixes often have a habit of causing problems at a later stage.

One note of consolation is that as the build-up of antagonistic microorganisms occurs, so the disease will fade. Even in sand greens bacteria and fungi have an uncanny habit of colonising and forming relatively stable populations.

The relationship between microorganisms and the balance that they create is complex and takes time to reach stability. The interaction between Take-all patch and its soil antagonists is an example of complexity leading to stability (Smith et al, 1989). Time is therefore a great healer, and being antagonistic is often not such a bad idea after all."

John Hughes is Amenity Technical Manager with Cebeo Oliver Seeds



Scottish Region
Peter Boyd

Tel/Fax 0141 616 3440

North

More new members to welcome to the Section this month. Frederick Elrick, from Longside GC; Colin Aiton, from Aigas GC, Beaulay; Michael Mann, from Forbes GC; Allan Paterson, from Tirlandie GC, Shetland Isles, and last but not least we welcome Frank Spencer, from Boat of Garten GC. The Section is getting bigger and bigger every month, so we like to think we must be doing something right!

Latest news?

www.bigga.org.uk/news.html

We wish Neil Ballingall all the best in his new job at the Sam Torrance golf complex near St Andrews. As soon as we hear who replaces him at Moray GC we will let you know. Also on the move is Gordon Wright who has left Aboyne to work at Inchmarlo. Good luck to him in his new post.

Tain, along with Royal Dornoch, Fortrose and Nairn Dunbar have recently hosted the inaugural Highland Golf Classic which unfortunately was hit by the Foot and Mouth misinformation epidemic. In early January there were nearly 100 entries with enquiries every day, then Foot and Mouth hit the UK and entries dried up. By the time the competition was played there were only 70 participants.

It is such a shame that here in the North we are losing visitors when the nearest outbreak is over 200 miles away!

We can only hope that those who played enjoyed it enough to come back next year and bring others with them, so that this event will blossom into a major annual tournament bringing much needed visitors to our courses.

At the time of writing, the Foot and Mouth epidemic seems to be under control and hopefully we can still have a good season in the North with many visitors playing our lovely courses, bringing in the revenue needed to purchase the new machines etc we require to do the job even better than we do already (if that's possible!)

I had a great time in Edinburgh recently at Section member, Gordon McKie's wedding, spending most of the time with other members Gordon Moir and Jocky Urquhart, and no, we didn't spend too much time talking about greenkeeping, honest!

Iain Macleod

West

It is with great sadness that I heard of the sudden passing away of John Young who had been a long serving member and supporter of our Section. Everyone in the West Section would

like to pass on their condolences to John's family at this sad time.

On April 3 the Secretaries' match was held at West Kilbride GC. On the day the match was drawn and so the Greenkeepers held on to the magnificent trophy which takes pride of place in John's lounge. It must be added that John Scott and I did not help the cause any by getting well and truly hammered, a dog's licence being mentioned. Jim Paton and his staff are to be congratulated on the fine condition of the course so early in the season.

On April 5 the Greenkeepers'/Conveners' match was held at Helensburgh GC. The leaders in the clubhouse for sometime were the Helensburgh II team which seemed to annoy Ronnie somewhat who had been determined not to hold this early season tournament over his course next year. However, the Lenzie team came good and secured a late victory taking this great tournament to Lenzie next spring. The Section would like to thank the sponsors on the day R.Aitken Seedsmen and Scottish Grass Machinery. Thanks should also go to Ronnie and his team for all the hard work that must have gone into presenting the course in such condition after all the heavy rain that had fallen in the week leading up to the competition.

John Robertson and the committee would like to wish Stuart Cameron every success in his new assistant's position at Airdrie GC. Stuart previously worked at Hilton Park GC under John and joins David's team at Airdrie in a "season" when David should be a happy head man.

New members to be welcomed to the Section are Garry McShane, Cochrane Castle GC; Gareth Thomson, Drumpellier GC; Graeme Hope, Erskine GC and, last but not least, Jim Wilson, Langlands GC returns to the Section. I look forward to seeing you all at Section events.

Well that's it for this month. As always, if you have anything you want added to the column do not hesitate to call me on the number below. The report on the spring outing will be included in next month's report.

Brian Bolland 013552 66862

Phone a friend?

www.bigga.org.uk/contact.html

Central

We start this month by welcoming another two members to the Section and they are Joe Wallace from Glenbervie Golf Club. Welcome back Joe and Steven Couper from Bridgend and District Golf Club in West Lothian.

And now some members who have moved recently, Albert Arnott and Shaun McMillan have both moved from Dunnikier golf course to Lochore Meadows, or "The Meedi's" if you come from that neck of the woods and Steven Ewing has moved from Letham Grange to Thornbury

Golf Club near Bristol. We wish them every success in their new positions.

Winners of the April draw in "Club 2000" were Peter Finlay with ticket number 271, Peter wins £30 and Bobby Fleming wins £20 with ticket number 231. Also the winners in the May draw were Mrs Whitelaw with ticket number 10, £30 and David Beardwood who wins £20 with ticket number 122. Well done folks, hopefully you have received your cheques by now!

Section Event?

www.bigga.org.uk/events.html

As I said in last month's news the spring tournament was fully subscribed very early, but, due to the number of members who wished to take part, Scotsraig Golf Club kindly granted us times for another 20 players which meant we had an attendance of 78 with 72 playing. This is the highest number we have ever had at a Section tournament, so, in future, get your entries in early, as all clubs may not be so accommodating as Scotsraig.

Our sincere thanks go to everyone at the golf club for the courtesy and hospitality which was extended to us on the day, especially Head Greenkeeper John Moffat and his staff for having the course in excellent condition so early in the season, the clubhouse staff who kept us fed and suitably refreshed throughout the day, Club Captain Rod Ford, who did us the honour of presenting our prizes and to Club Secretary Barry Liddle for all his assistance in making the day possible. Obviously with so many players it made for a long day for those who were out early but the majority were able to remain for the presentation of prizes, prior to which one "older" member was heard to remark "This never happened in my day." The reason could be that in "your day" we were lucky if 28 and not 78 attended a golf tournament. That's what we call progress! And long may it continue!

Prizes winners were as follows;

Best scratch

K. Stirling, Kingsbarns, 75;

Best nett

W. Woods 78 - 4 - 74

Cat 1

1. A. Philp, St. Fillans 78 - 2 - 76 bih; 2. K. Mitchell, St. Andrews, 81 - 5 - 76

Cat 2

S. Pearson, Aberdour, 87 - 12 - 75; 2. I. Jarvis, Alloa, 93 - 16 - 77 bih

Cat 3

A. Robertson, Grangemouth 97 - 21 - 76; 2. G. McRae, Ratho Park, 99 - 18 - 81

Stewart's Quaich

D. Leith/K. Mitchell, St. Andrews, 160 - 6 - 154; Patron's K. Brunton, Greentech, 76 - 1 - 75. Guests. B. Liddle, Scotsraig, 80 - 9 - 71. Longest Drive. J. Darling, Aitkens.

Nearest the Pin

S. Smith, Lundin Links.

50/50 Draw

W. Bell, Tulliallan

John Crawford



Northern Region
Douglas Bell

Tel: 0151 431 0433

Cleveland

The Section has three new members this month. Liam McGeough, Shaun Stokell, and Scott Esough all work at Richmond Golf Club. Welcome to the Section lads.

A general knowledge quiz was held at Darlington Golf Club, organised by the Section Secretary, Barry Walker. It was well attended and a good night was had by all. Eventual winners were Ian Pemberton, Martin Hargrave and Tony Cheeseborough. Thanks to Barry for his efforts.

Turf Care had a bowling night at Teesside Park. A great night was had by the many that were there. A big thank you to Terry Charlton and his staff for organising the event and providing a meal afterwards. After the meal Section Chairman, Tony Smith, announced that he had asked Terry Charlton to be President of the Section Terry was proud and honoured to be asked and accepted the role.

Congratulations to Martin Wood, of Wearside Golf Club, and Tony Smith, of Teesside Golf Club, who have just passed their Level 3 at Houghall College.

The spring tournament took place this month at Wearside Golf Club; the weather was superb, as was the course. A great day was had by everyone thanks to Barry Walker and his team for their efforts and to Wearside Golf Club for allowing us to use their facilities.

Cat 1 (Border Sports)

1. Andy Wood, Seaton Carew, 73 bih; 2. Martin Woods, Wearside, 73;

3. Ritchie Hood, Mount Oswald, 75.

Cat 2 (Aitkens)

1. Phil Hargrave, South Shields, 68;

2. Tony Burge, Richmond, 73 bih;

3. Allen Reid, Saltburn, 73.

Cat 3 (Greenkeeping Supplies)

1. Mark Brown, Brancepeth, 69;

2. Chris Powley, Dinsdale Spa, 71;

3. Ian Pemberton, Bedale, 76

Best nett

Phil Hargrave, 68.

Best gross

Andy Wood, 77

A big thanks to the trade for their support of this and other Section events. The draw for the Carrs sponsored Cleveland Shield took place at the event and anyone who wants to know their opponents should contact Barry Walker on 0191 5650691.

And, finally, I have moved to Ramside Hall Hotel and Golf Club. I was sorry to leave the Wynyard Club, but the opportunity of working on one of the top courses in the area alongside one of the finest greenkeepers in the country, Roger Shaw, was just too tempting and so far it's been everything I expected and more.

Any news contact me on 07719 193381

Steven Jaques



Midland Region
Peter Larter
Tel: 01480 437507

Mid Anglia

Our first golf event of the year took place in early May; our spring tournament at Overstone Park GC over 36 holes. After the exceptionally wet spring, it was a relief to have dry conditions and an enjoyable day all round. Twenty-eight Greenkeepers and Trade members entered on the day and the results were as follows:

Best nett

Leon Cant, Brocket Hall, 73,70.

Best gross

Gary Boulton, Dunstable Downs, 79,73.

Morning round

1. Mark Ellis, Stocks, 69;
2. Nigel Phelan, St. Andrews Hospital, 71;
3. Leon Cant, Brocket Hall, 73.

Afternoon round

1. Leon Cant, Brocket Hall, 70;
2. Gavin Simkins, Mount Pleasant, 73;
3. Gary Boulton, Dunstable Downs, 73.

Longest Drive, am and pm:

Chris Yeoman, Tilsforth.

Nearest the pin, am

Tom Houghton, Pynchley.

Nearest the pin, pm

Geoff James, John O'Gaunt.

Our thanks to Philip Helm, Course Manager, and the golf club, for their hospitality. Our main sponsor of the day was Rigby Taylor once again, represented by Mark Stigwell. Thanks also to all other trade members for their support.

Those entered into the Lodgeway Four Ball competition should have received the completed draw by now. Please ensure that these games are played as soon as possible, to avoid the problems experienced during last year's event.

Our next golf event is the summer tournament, to be held at Harpenden Golf Club, Hammonds End, on Wednesday August 22.

Paul Lockett

East Midlands

On March 26-27 I attended the BIGGA Section Secretaries meeting at BIGGA HOUSE. This is a biannual meeting, and again it proved to be

very informative. If any member has any queries regarding their membership benefits etc please get in touch with me and I will attempt to help you out.

The evening lecture held at Kirby Muxloe GC on April 10 proved to be a very successful evening with 32 delegates listening to our four speakers, covering varying topics. Sam Maclean and Peter Hampton spoke about Bernards Grinders and grinding in general, Ken Richardson, CPD and my own subject was Greenkeeping in Canada. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sam, Peter and Ken for their presentations and to all those members who supported the evening. I would also like to thank the following committee members for donating a prize for the raffle, Gavin Robson, Richard Barker, and Andy McGreal. Also thanks should go to Andrew Astle of Alpha Amenity for his generous prize donation. I would also like to thank all those committee members who helped in the smooth running of the evening. Finally, one last thank-you should go to John Cooledge, Steward, for a great chicken curry meal, and to Kirby Muxloe G.C. for hosting the evening. Remember, with your support we can arrange more evenings like this.

On August 15 the Section will host the annual East Midlands v East of England Golf match at Cotgrave Place G.C. We require a team of ten so anybody interested in playing can contact me by telephone or Email. The first tee is booked from 3.45pm followed by an evening meal. So again please try to support your Section.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome back Peter Larter as our Regional Administrator. Antony Bindley

East of England

Unfortunately the first Section golf day at Luffenham Heath had to be cancelled due to flooding, but we will rearrange it for later in the year.

There was not a cloud anywhere on the second outing at Cleethorpes GC, and the course looked in excel-

lent condition thanks to Les Howkin and his staff.

This year's sponsor and hopefully for many more, was Amenity Technology. Thank you to Graham, from Amtec, who brought along some great prizes. Other sponsors on the day were Tower Sports, Aitkens, Scotts, Lincsgreen, Rigby Taylors, Greenprice and Mansfield Sands.

The winners on the day were;

1. K.Hodges, Ryston Park. 35pts;
 2. R.Moody, Lincoln GC, 32pts;
 3. G.Macdonald, Newark GC, 30pts;
 4. S. Lidgard, Kenwick GC, 29pts;
- R. Aitken took the trade prize with 37pts. Nearest the pin for the Lambs Cup went to PFell. The Purdys Longest Drive cup went to Les Howkins.

The Section was delighted to welcome Jim Brown, Northern Section Chairman, who played at Cleethorpes.

The meal by the caterers was recommended by the club secretary. Apparently it was their speciality and I could see why. The fish, chips and peas tasted as if it had just been caught. Thanks to the Club for a great day out.

Forthcoming Events

May 24 - Evening Seminar IPM talk by Simon Barnaby of Scotts, sponsored by FTS.

June 12 - Match against Stewards/Secretaries at Ryston Park.
June 28 - Section Golf day at Spalding sponsored by PGM
G.A. Macdonald



South West and South Wales
Paula Humphries
Tel: 01288 352194

Devon and Cornwall

The Foot and Mouth crisis now seems to be improving with fewer cases being reported. The crisis has had a big effect financially on the Region with Westurf having to be cancelled with the loss of deposits at the show ground and hotel. Also the Section has been slightly hit with the loss of March 1 meeting at Thurlestone Golf Club. To address the loss of this meet-

ing we have arranged a Section meeting to be held at Trethorne Golf Club Nr Launceston on Tuesday, June 19, hopefully the meeting will be sponsored by Avoncrop but this has still to be confirmed going to press as the Region has offered companies the chance to sponsor all four Sections in a one off payment at a very competitive cost. Only time will tell if this has a detrimental effect on the Section.

Details for our summer meeting are as follows; Bacon roll & coffee on arrival, golf tee times between 12noon and 1.30pm, non golfer Irrigation workshop 2pm, 6.30pm two course dinner followed by Devon v Cornwall ten-pin bowling match.

For more information please contact me on 01288 353438.

Richard Whyman

South Coast

Did you see me on the telly? No, then you missed a real treat! I was interviewed by the legendary Carl Tyler, the man who reads the weather on Meridian News, about the gold fish found at Salisbury. You must have heard about that. No again? Then I shall tell you about it.

On one of the very wet days in April we had 15 gold fish come down in one of the heavy downpours. This amazing phenomenon is so rare that we had national newspaper coverage, dozens of radio interviews and I was the lucky one who had to be interviewed on Live Television!

My autograph is now available upon request, signed photos will carry a small charge to cover my costs. (Only joking, unless you really want one!)

The spring tournament, which should have been played at The Army Club, had to be cancelled due to inclement weather. The Army Club gave 12 hours notice of the competition being cancelled. But all was not lost!

The whole thing had been rearranged within the same 12 hours to take place at Basingstoke Golf Club, on May 31. Many thanks go to Basingstoke for giving us the opportunity at such short notice.

So with all that in mind, the results



The finest turf from tee to green

Medallion turf for golf tees is typically sown as Aberelf (Perennial Ryegrass) 25%, Bargreen (Chewings Fescue) 20%, Barcrown (Slender Creeping Red Fescue) 35%, Limousine (Smooth Stalked Meadow Grass) 20%.

All the cultivars we use are highly ranked in independent testing by the STRI (see "Turfgrass Seed 2001" published by STRI).

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of the competition will be printed next month, and not this.

The summer tournament is not so far away now either, Thursday, July 12 to be exact. The summer tournament is an invitation event, so all those wanting to play have to invite someone from their club and they can be an official or just a member.

The competition will take place at Broadstone Golf Club, and will cost £18 per head. Numbers are limited to 44 players, so don't dilly-dally about in getting your entries to Chris Sturgess. Please make cheques payable to BIGGA, and send them to Chris Sturgess, 40 Kinsbourne Way, Thornhill, Southampton, Hants, SO19 6HB.

If you have any queries regarding this, or any other competition, then you can phone Chris on 0777 313 8409.

Well, that's it for another month. I'm off to open a supermarket now. Mike Cartwright.

Section Event?

www.bigga.org.uk/events.html

South West

The team led by new Captain, Knobby Knight, started with a 3.5 to 1.5 victory over the Secretaries team at a well presented Manor House. Our thanks go to all the staff at the Manor House for use of their facilities. Also to the sponsor of the day, Avoncrop, and their representative, Neil Weslake, for the prizes. I would also like to thank the Secretaries of the South West for turning up to play us from as far as Cornwall and Devon or as close as Bath. The next team match is against the South Coast in August. You can contact John Kennaghan on 01454 646837 if you want to be considered (don't offer to play him at snooker).

The tour's next event is at the Kendleshire (soft spikes only) on July 24. Contact Kevin James for more information.

D.Bougen



South East
Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260956

Sussex

I have a confession to make. Those of you who read last month's around the green would have read that I said "by the time you read this we would have already played our spring meeting at Cowdray Park." Well I can only put this down to the fact that I was looking forward so much to playing a course which had not turned itself into the Sussex equivalent of the Everglades, that I must have dreamed I had already played, in reality we were not due to play Cowdray Park until April 19. By the time you read this we would have played our spring meeting at Cowdray Park. Thursday the 19th turned out to be a beautiful day to be playing golf on such a fine golf course,

even if it did start a bit on the cold side. A total of 37 members turned out to support the day of which 12 walked away with prizes. The day consisted of an 18 hole morning medal and a 9 hole Texas scramble after lunch.

The morning round was sponsored by John Shaw Machinery and the results are as follows:

Nett scores

1. Jon Hill with a net score of 71;
2. Rob Hudson, 77;
3. Rob Short 78.

Gross scores

1. Robert Welford 77;
2. George Barr (never heard of him) 82;
3. Jonathan Smith, with 87.

Best trade or guest - Alan Bartup.

Nearest the Pin on the 3rd Jon Hill.

Nearest the pin on the 11th Lee Holloway and **longest drive** on the 14th Jonathan Smith.

Thank you to the sponsors Driving Force Leisure, Sheerwater Leisure, and Vitax.

Rigby Taylor sponsored the afternoon Texas Scramble:

1. George Barr, Jon Hill, and David Ray;
2. Mike Gould, Derek Farrington and Steve Northeast.

A special thank you to Steve and his team for presenting us with a great golf course and to Cowdray Park for letting us play at such a great golf course.

Also to the members of committee who organise these days for us, especially Rose and Mike Gould our Match Committee. The next meeting is the Club team challenge to be held at Ifield G.C. on June 26.

On a passing note, the girl who beeped Rob Hudson as he was on his back swing on the 17th tee has since been disqualified from driving as it is illegal for any person who is certified blind to be in control of a vehicle.

Jon Budd
jonboy69@ukonline.co.uk

Essex

This year's spring meeting scheduled at Frinton GC was in doubt due to adverse weather conditions so in stepped Carl Crocher to offer Orsett GC as an alternative, and what a great alternative it turned out to be. The course was so dry compared to all others in the area that you could have been excused for thinking you were on another continent let alone, another county. As usual, Orsett GC was very well presented and a pleasure to play, this despite the fact that the longest drive was set up on a dog leg which favoured players who hit with a draw. Know anybody like that Mr Crocher?

The meeting was split into two categories 0 - 14 and 15 - 28 plus an overall winner. The main sponsors were Rigby Taylor, and thanks go to Mr Steve Denton. Results were;

Cat 1

1. Ray Clark, Channels GC
2. Carl Crocher, Orsett GC
3. Jon Selwood, Abridge GC

Cat 2

1. Malcolm Smith, Channels GC
2. Martin Guy, Great Hadham G&CC
3. Stewart Wren, Great Hadham G&CC

Overall winner with an excellent 35 points off a handicap of 5 was

R.Hughes, he takes away the coveted Spring Trophy.

Longest Drive and Nearest Pin, which were both sponsored once again by The Greenkeeping Supply Company went to Jon Selwood and M.Bartlett (guest) respectively. D.Kelly picked up the guest prize with 37 points, again off a 5 handicap, with runner up going to D.Cornwell with 34.

The event was again very well supported by the Trade which made Mick Fance's win with 38 points even more impressive. Rumour has it that Mick only left greenkeeping (again) for the trade so he could win a golf day.

Speaking of the Trade who I think managed to win back all of their raffle donations we must say thanks to Tacit, Driving Force Leisure, Vitax, Ernest Doe & Sons, Banks Amenity Products Ltd, Advanta and Gem for the continued and very much appreciated support.

As mentioned previously, this event was staged at short notice and as such and extra special thank you must go to all the staff at Orsett GC who once again made us more than welcome, well done to everyone concerned.

On the education front the evening lecture at Writtle College last month had to be cancelled due to the Foot and Mouth outbreak, we will try to rearrange this and will inform all members of the new date.

Only one new member this month, Tim Simmons Head man at Warley Park in Shenfield, see you soon I hope Tim.

The Secretary of our Section, Martin Forrester, has moved to pastures new, he now presides over The Essex Golf Club while Pete Blackbeby fills the vacancy left at Stapleford Abbots. Good luck to you both. Another mover from our midsts is Andy Sheehan who lets his former assistant Mark Stops, take over the running of Bentley and takes charge at Ely GC. Once again good luck lads.

Our next Section event will have taken place by the time this is in print, and it's the Summer Trophy to be held at Bentley GC. This meeting also incorporates the National Qualifier, which I have heard is having its name changed to the 'Andy Sheehan National Qualifier'. Hope every body had a good day and good luck to those that join Andy in the Regional Final. Results will be posted in next month's edition.

Steve Crossdale

Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland

I would like to start this month's report by apologising for the omission of notes in last month's magazine. Due to a sudden family illness I was unable to make the deadline but thankfully normality has returned and my wife's health has improved. The event scheduled for Downpatrick Golf Club towards the end of March had to be cancelled because of the Foot and

Month restrictions. The committee hope to arrange an alternative date later in the year for this event.

I had the pleasure in attending a recent major Turfgrass seminar at Lisburn Golf Club. The seminar was organised by the Scotts company and its NI distributor John Lindsey. The main speaker was the world renowned Turfgrass scientist, Dr James Beard. Many interesting topics and issues were discussed including plant nutrition, hydrophobic dry patch, top dressing compaction, GM plants, reduction of mowing heights on greens and the resulting problems, irrigation water quality, and creeping bent grasses formed the major part of Dr Beard's presentation. Many thanks to Richard Walton and Simon Barnaby, from Scotts, and John Lindsey for bringing Dr Beard to NI. The seminar was a very interesting and enjoyable experience.

The Section event at Loughall on April 26 went ahead as planned with a visit to the grass trail ground at the Plant Breeding Station. David Linton, Area Manager with Barenbrug, gave us a detailed tour of the trial area with special interest in the fine turf grasses. Many thanks Barenbrug and the Dept of Agriculture for letting us visit the area during this sensitive time.

Members moved across the village to play the new golf course open in June 2000 by Armagh District Council. Barenbrug and thanks again to David Linton for providing the prizes sponsored the competition. The new golf course at Loughall is a real gem with every hole providing challenge and interest throughout. The course presentation by Head Greenkeeper, Brian Tedford and his team, was very highly praised by all the members. I was particularly pleased to meet my former work colleague, Wayne Haffey, who now is part of the greenkeeping team at Loughall. Wayne and the greenkeeping team at Loughall are playing the course in gross 75s on regular occasions. Wining club competitions and prizes on a weekly basis. It has got to be local knowledge. I would also like to thank the Manager of the facility, Greg Fearson, and Armagh Council for allowing us to come and play the course. The results of the competition were;

1. Allison Sloan (17) Ballymena GC, 39 pts;
2. Ken Henderson (16) Allen Park GC, 35 pts;
3. William Russell (20) Ballymena GC, 33pts.

Further competitions are planned this summer at Royal Belfast, The Valley Portrush and Hollywood GC members will be notified.

I would like to welcome the following members to the Section this month Michael Fenney, City of Derry GC; Norman Orr, Ormeau Park GC; Graham Paxton, Michael Radford and Eugene Hennessy K Club, Corporate Member Ian McClements and Associate Member Kevin Kennedy University College Dublin.

Ken Henderson

Phone a friend?

www.bigga.org.uk/contact.html

Greenkeeper International takes a look at the very latest products and services available from the fine turf industry

New mowers from John Deere

John Deere's new 1435 and 1445 front mowers deliver increased standards of traction, manoeuvrability, comfort and productivity for all commercial applications. They are based on a durable, high strength, tubular steel frame, with cast iron front and rear axles and rear bumpers, heavy duty dual hydraulic cylinders, long life steel mower decks and an award winning composite hood design.

Replacing the F735 and F1145 machines, the 1435 and 1445 feature a more powerful Yanmar liquid cooled diesel engine at 24 and 31 gross hp respectively.

A foot activated duff lock gives extra traction on hillsides and in slippery conditions. The mower's lower centre of gravity and wider wheel-base, as well as the mechanical four wheel drive - standard on the 1445 model, and optional on the 1435 provide increased stability and traction in both forward and reverse. Dual drive wheels are optional.

Increased productivity is provided by the large capacity 14.5 gal fuel tank, which allows 10 hours' mowing without the need to refuel, and the durable hydrostatic transmission, with higher forward speeds up to 12mph. Both machines became available in April with a choice of heavy duty commercial mower decks made of 7 gauge steel, the thickest in the industry. The 1435 and 1445 claim the smallest front mower turning radius in the industry, at 50cm).

Manoeuvrability is further enhanced



by the exclusive rear clear trimming' feature on 1.82m deck models, which allows the steered wheels to stay within the path cut by the front mower deck.

A patent pending air intake system allows air to enter from the rear and side of the mower, also contributing to lower sound levels and giving less build-up of debris. An integral two post ROPS is standard equipment, and can be folded down for mowing under low hanging trees, for example.

Options include hydraulic weight transfer and cruise control, a rear hitch and hard or soft cabs; heavy

duty attachments include a 1.19m snow blower, 1.37m front blade and 1.52m rotary broom.

Base prices of the new John Deere front mowers are £9,732 for the 1435 with 2WD, and £12,581 for the model 1445 with 4WD. In addition, the 1.52 and 1.82m (60 and 72in) side discharge mower decks cost £2,154 and £2,500 respectively, and the 1.57m (62in) rear discharge deck costs £2,268.

For further information tel:
 01949 860491

Kawasaki's latest pumps tackle the dirtiest of waters

Two new models have been introduced to Kawasaki Commercial Products' pump line-up with the introduction of a brace of trash pumps.

Targeted principally at the construction, utilities and other commercial sectors, the arrival of the KWS20-A and KWS30-A dirty water pumps takes the number of Kawasaki models available to the UK market to six. The 2" and 3" outlet, semi-trash', centrifugal, self-priming models are available to the market after being introduced to Kawasaki's UK dealer network in March.

As with all Kawasaki pumps, the two newcomers are engineered to a high



specification offering exceptional levels of performance, durability and reliability. An impressive FE, OHV, four-stroke heavy duty engine features a large muffler for quieter operation while a larger capacity fuel tank also extends periods of operation.

For heavy working environments, a full-frame provides protection for the water outlets and controls while a specially designed mechanical seal on the PTO shaft improves durability. A superior discharge capacity is maintained by a super-duty impeller design.

Discharge rates for the 2" and 3" trash pumps are 750 and 1,000 litres a minute respectively.

For further information tel:
 01285 643756

Carving out a niche market

www.postcarving.co.uk's range of carved tops includes an intricately designed golf ball, ideal for tee marks or perimeter fencing.

One of nine intricate designs, the golf balls are available in pine or beech and are supplied with a threaded dowel for fixing. They can be treated, stained or painted, to become an individual addition to golf courses and surroundings.

Other designs include owls, horses, hounds and frogs, mushrooms, acorns or pineapples. Purchases can be made from the company website, www.postcarvings.co.uk, with payment by credit card or cheque acceptable.

For further information tel:
 01274 732 861



Blooming marvellous mix from Advanta Seeds

Advanta Seeds has introduced a new 100% wild flower mixture into its MM and Designer amenity ranges. The 'corn field annual mix' has been designed to produce a field of traditional wildflowers, reflecting how meadows might look if left to grow wild.

The mix consists of seeds of corn-cockle, corn marigold, common poppy, cornflower and corn chamomile, and produces an attractive and colourful area during the summer flowering period. This mix should be sown on a weed-free site of low fertility, at a rate of 2g per square metre. No fertiliser is needed, as this will encourage broad-leaved and grass weeds to compete too aggressively, making it difficult for the wild flower seeds to establish.

Sowing can take place either in the spring, from March to May, or from



early August to mid September. The seed should be spread evenly across the soil. Mixing one part seed with four parts dry sand will make this easier.

After light raking the seed should be firmed in by treading or rolling - followed by watering with a fine spray if

conditions are dry. The area should be kept well watered and free from unwanted plants until the mixture is established.

For further information tel:
 01529 304511

More torque from Euroflexis' turfcutter

Euroflexis, a recently formed company based at Coventry, are powering their turfcutters with Hatz 1B20 diesel engines. The turfcutter originally designed and built by Kevin Ballinger, now the Managing Director of Euroflexis, runs on diesel instead of petrol. The advantages of this are economical and, probably more importantly, because the engine is more powerful with greater torque. Diesel, especially red, is infinitely cheaper than the cheapest petrol available. The engine will perform all day on one tankful. The turfcutter has been tested in extreme conditions. With the ground saturated due to recent terrible weather conditions, the turfcutter stood up well to the challenge. Traction in these conditions was good and the cut maintained.

For further information contact:
Euroflexis Ltd, Turflin, 9 Bayton Way, Exhall, Coventry, West Midlands CV7 9ER

Small is 'super' for Kubota's new range

April saw the launch by Kubota of six new four-wheel drive compact tractors covering the 17hp to 27hp power band. Described by Kubota as the "new generation" Super B series, they supersede the original Super B compact tractors which were introduced in 1996 and have been the UK's best-selling compact tractor range ever since. Kubota's latest Super B tractors comprise the 17hp B1710 with gearbox transmission, the 21hp B2110 and 24hp B2410 available either with gearbox or dual-range hydrostatic transmission (HST), and the B2710, a 27hp tractor with a three-range hydrostatic transmission. The B2710 is an addition to Kubota's Super B series line-up, the highest-powered tractor in the previous range being the 24hp B2400.

All of the new models are powered by Kubota's quick-starting E-TVCS (three vortex combustion system) water-cooled Diesel engine.

The three Super B hydrostatic models have as standard Kubota's unique Bi-Speed Turn, which helps produce faster, smoother, tighter turns with reduced surface scuffing. Electro-hydraulically activated, the system engages automatically when front wheel turning angle exceeds 35deg. At this point, front wheel speed is increased by 60% over the rear, helping pull the tractor through corners and produce easier steering around obstacles. Bi-Speed Turn disengages as the wheels straighten.

For improved manoeuvrability and reduced operator fatigue, the Super B range has speed-sensitive power steering, enhanced by tandem hydraulic pumps which boost oil flow, pressure and rear linkage lift capacity to levels associated with far larger tractors. The B2710 HST can lift loads of 830kg at its lower link ends. Mid-mounted mowing equipment available for the latest Super B series tractors comprises 1.37m and 1.52m side-discharge rotary decks with an optional high dump grass collector. There is also a 1.52m rear discharge rotary deck. All mowing equipment can be attached or removed in minutes. To allow unobstructed movement across kerbs, each mower deck incorporates a high-lift cylinder which gives a ground clearance of 170mm.

For further information tel:
01844 268111

Kubota get tough with ride-ons

New from Kubota for the 2001 grass-cutting season is the G2160 ride-on mid mower, ruggedly built to withstand the toughest professional use.

Powered by a low noise, low emissions 21hp diesel engine, the G2160 is the first in a new line of heavy-duty ride-on mowers from Kubota. Key features include speed-sensitive power-assisted steering, high capacity hydrostatic transmission and a pressed steel ladder-frame chassis which provides exceptional strength and torsional stability.

A choice of 1.22m and 1.37m side-discharge mid mower decks is offered, both having shaft and twin vee-belt drive and hydraulic lift and lower. Cutting height can be varied from 25mm to 100mm by means of a hand dial beneath the driving seat. When mowing has been completed, the G2160's high power output and commercial build quality enable it to be used to tow suitably-matched implements such as a trailer, turf scarifier or leaf sweeper, extending the machine's year-round versatility. The mower deck can be fitted or removed by one person in minutes.

Shaft-driven from the engine, the hydrostatic transmission (HST) system produces infinitely-variable travel speeds in forward or reverse up to a maximum of almost 10mph.

Operating performance is enhanced



by the large capacity HST unit, which helps keep oil temperature low, and the gear final-drive which ensures that power is transmitted positively and smoothly to the rear wheels.

Available now for demonstrations nation-wide, the Kubota G2160 is ideal for maintaining amenity and landscaped grass in public and private parks and estates as well as roadside verges, golf courses and larger gardens.

For further information tel:
01844 268169

Get totally tropical with Tonick

The new, tropical strength, two wire decoder from Tonick Watering is designed for use in the Tropics and incorporates the most effective lightning protection currently available. Developed from a proven technique used in another industry, the lightning protection is uniquely afforded to remote solenoids up to 800 metres away; decoder clusters can therefore also be used to replace old satellites.

Designed to last at least 10 years, this ruggedly constructed decoder brings benefits to installations in both tropical and other locations. Earth stakes are not required and this reduces cost and installation time. The five year warranty extends to lightning strike.

A low cost programmer can be used for quick, simple address setting and testing before installation. This address



can be reprogrammed if necessary.

The Tropical Strength decoder is available to order from nearly all independent irrigation installers.

For further information tel:
01269 832325

Powerful thatch remover from Sisis

The new SISIS Rotorake 600 is a superb thatch remover for regular routine use when used at a shallow setting, this powerful, heavy-duty machine also has the capability to work deeper when required. With a maximum working depth of 45mm, severe thatch problems, increasingly common with climatic changes and some of the newer species of grasses, can now be controlled with ease. A range of interchangeable reels is available for year-round use, including a heavy duty reel of extra-durable blades for deep scarification.

When used at maximum depth the Rotorake 600 retains the finesse of the SISIS AutoRotorake and leaves a clean cut groove.



It incorporates the SISIS Rotorake contra-rotation principle, whereby the reel rotates at high speed against the direction of travel. The blades therefore cut upwards continuously throwing fibre forwards rather than pushing it into the surface. The machine is also held to the ground to maintain a regular working depth.

It also contributes to aeration. The clean, continuous slits assist water and air absorption through a heavy thatch layer, and integration of top dressings is also improved.

For further information tel:
01625 503030

Allman's latest addition not shrouded in secrecy

Allman has introduced a six metre "Drift-Master" Shrouded Boom. This lightweight boom shroud is available as an add on kit for all hydraulic or electric folding six metre Allman booms, which makes it easy to fit to existing machines operating in the field.

With the increasing pressures to protect the environment and meet the growing demands to control and main-

tain high quality turf, Allmans now offer a system which will help to maximise the window of opportunity to enable greenkeepers and amenity spraying contractors to carry out spraying. Prices for 6 metre boom shroud kits start from £1,180.00 + VAT

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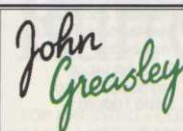
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Attractive financial packages will be dependent on experience, but monthly sponsorship rates for successful candidates will start at £400 per single month sponsorship, rising to £1,000 following a successful 3 month sponsorship period.

Benefits will include: Your 'brand' being associated with a proven market-leader; The ability to entice more than 1,355 potential online customers to your site every month; Increased traffic to your site.

For further information please surf to: www.bigga.org.uk/opportunities.html

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



EALING GOLF CLUB

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Ealing Golf Club is an 18 hole, 6216 yard par 70 course situated on the outskirts of West London alongside the A40. A programme of course improvements is due to start this autumn and the successful applicant will be expected to manage the course enhancements.

The position requires an outstanding candidate, hard-working and self motivated with the necessary supervisory skills to lead a team in all aspects of maintenance and development of the course.

The successful candidate must possess the following qualifications;

A proven ability to prepare and monitor budgets, inventories, expenditure, and work schedules. A sound knowledge of Health & Safety regulations.

A strong working knowledge of all modern golf course management practices, with the ability to train, motivate and direct staff.

Please apply in writing, including a full CV to:

The Secretary/General Manager, Ealing Golf Club,
Perivale, Greenford, Middlesex UB6 8SS

Closing date for applications 31 July 2001

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Please send a covering letter and your C.V. to :

DMC Chartered Accountants, Yew Tree House,
Lewes Road, Forest Row, East Sussex, RH18 5AA

DMC are acting on behalf of a client and your application will be treated in the strictest confidence

MAJOR OPPORTUNITY

WINDMILL VILLAGE HOTEL, GOLF & LEISURE CLUB

Require a

FIRST ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Must have relevant qualifications and minimum of 4 years experience. Current position held would be an advantage.

Send full C.V. and supporting information to;

Course Manager, Windmill Village Hotel, Golf and Leisure Club,
Birmingham Road, Allesley, Coventry CV5 9AL
Tel: 024 76 40 40 40

PORTUGAL'S LARGEST LUXURY GOLF AND BEACH RESORT IN THE ALGARVE REQUIRES:

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To work alongside with the local greenkeepers in top class golf courses at Vale do Lobo. The ideal job for someone who wants to work in the sun in an International/Portuguese environment for a minimum period of one year.

Experience in golf course maintenance and knowledge of modern machinery is essential.

Please Fax C.V to 00 351 289 353230
or e-mail to: margarida@etvdl.pt

VALE DO LOBO, RTL, S.A. 8135 - 864 VALE DO LOBO, ALGARVE, PORTUGAL

LOUTH GOLF CLUB

Requires an experienced greenkeeper must have NVQ 1&2 also it would be an advantage to have PA1, PA2, and PA6 qualifications.

Apply with full C.V. to

Mr M Covey, Louth Golf Club,
Crowtree Lane, Louth, Lincs LN11 9LJ

WREKIN GOLF CLUB LTD

Require an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Applicants should possess NVQII and relevant spraying qualifications. Must have a minimum of 2 years experience and have a sound knowledge of modern Greenkeeping methods.

Application and full C.V. to;

D. Briscoe, Secretary/Manager, Wrekin Golf Club,
Ercall Woods, Wellington, Telford TF6 5BX



Burhill Golf Centres Limited

The Burhill Group has recently expanded its portfolio of Golf Centres to seven with the acquisition of Wycombe Heights (36 holes and driving range) and Abbey Hill (27 holes and driving range). We are seeking two suitably qualified and experienced staff to fill key roles in raising the quality of both sites.

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Abbey Hill Golf Centre, Milton Keynes

DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER

Wycombe Heights Golf Centre, High Wycombe

Both positions will be challenging and require dedication, leadership, vision and the ability to manage resources. In return we will provide you with an attractive package, excellent resources and the support available from a progressive company

If you wish to be considered for either of these exciting opportunities, please apply in writing with full C.V. including current salary to:

Mr B Taylor (Regional Operations Manager), Burhill Golf Centres Ltd,
Burhill, Walton on Thames, Surrey KT12 4BX

Closing date for applications 25 June 2001



FIRST ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER REQUIRED

Applications are invited for this vacant position to work alongside existing Head Greenkeeper, past experience necessary and qualifications in spraying and chemical usage, PA1, PA2 and PA6. Starting salary £14,000 to £16,000 for normal working week depending on experience, some weekend work required, with overtime, can accommodate on a temporary basis.

Please send C.V. and covering letter to;

Phil Fillary, Head Greenkeeper, Pachesham Park Golf Centre,
Oaklawn Road, Leatherhead, Surrey KT22 0BT
or tel: 07703 716867 for further details

INSTALLATION/SERVICE ENGINEER

Hunter Grinders Ltd is a leading manufacturer of mower grinding equipment. We require an Installation/Service Engineer to meet the increasing demand for our products. The candidate needs to be a competent engineer, hard working and self-motivated, with an ability to communicate at all levels. He/she will need to be flexible, as the position involves travelling to most areas of the UK and also requires some overseas work.

The successful applicant must possess the following qualifications:

- Current driving licence
- Knowledge of grass-cutting equipment
- Engineering qualification or proven hands-on engineering experience
- Ability to work unsupervised

As a rapidly expanding company, opportunities of further promotion and job development exist for enthusiastic and ambitious members of our team.

Please apply in writing including full C.V. to; **The Personnel Department, Hunter Grinders Ltd, Delta Works, Hobson Industrial Estate, Burnopfield, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE16 6EA**

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Tel: 01525 863319 Fax: 01525 863399
Email: StudentEnquiries.silsoe@cranfield.ac.uk
www.silsoe.cranfield.ac.uk

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SUNNINGDALE GOLF CLUB ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Assistant Greenkeeper required with a minimum of three years experience (to NVQ 2). Rate of pay to appropriate BIGGA scale, plus staff bonus. No accommodation is available.
Please apply in writing to:

Course Manager, Sunningdale Golf Club,
Ridgemount Road, Sunningdale, Berkshire SL5 9RR.

CHIPPING SODBURY GOLF CLUB

Require a

GREENKEEPER

NVQ 1 and 2 qualified, spraying certificate an advantage.
At least 3 years experience in similar position.

The successful candidate will be well motivated, conscientious and able to work as part of a team.

Apply by 25th June 2001, in writing with full CV to:

The Secretary Manager, Chipping Sodbury Golf Club
Chipping Sodbury, Bristol, BS37 6PU

SAND MARTINS GOLF CLUB

Have vacancies for the following positions

Deputy Head Greenkeeper

Applicants should be self-motivated and hold the relevant qualifications, have experience in all aspects of golf course management with sound knowledge of modern machinery and the maintenance of it. A golfer would be an advantage and spraying certification is essential.

Qualified Assistant Greenkeeper

Applicants should be qualified to NVQ level 2 with relevant experience and knowledge in modern greenkeeping practices.

Please apply in writing, enclosing a full CV and stating the position applied for to:

Head Greenkeeper, Sand Martins Golf Club,
Finchampstead Road, Wokingham, Berks, RG 40 3RQ

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is recruiting...

People with the relevant qualifications in the following area to help us maintain our high quality service level.

GREENKEEPERS

We are an IIP recognised employer and welcome team workers

Contact Personnel & Training on 01565 830 155



27 HOLE COURSE

requires a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Young, enthusiastic and conscientious. Must be qualified and experienced with a spraying qualification. Knowledge of machinery maintenance (John Deere) and irrigation systems (Toro) an advantage. One bedroom flat available - other accommodation can be arranged.

Please apply in writing with CV to the owner:

Mr J Akhtar, Heydon Grange Golf and Country Club, Heydon, Royston, Hertfordshire SG8 7NS
Fax 01763 208926

Feature listing from June '99

June '99: Thorpeness GC, Millennium Bug Busting, Irrigation, Scotts profile, Company adaptability

July '99: Carnoustie, Golf Course Furniture, Spike Research, Toro profile, BIGGA Silent Auction

August '99: Viscount Whitelaw tribute; Open review; Merrist Wood; Saltex preview; Turf; Trees; Grass Cutting; BIGGA Golf Day review; Redexim profile

September '99: Slaley Hall; Tyres; Spotlight on Thatch; Elmwood College Awards; National Championship preview

October '99: The Manor House, Castle Combe; Aeration; Saltex review; Mycorrhizas; Toro Award preview

November '99: Sir Michael Bonallack interview; The Pines GC; Oil; Bunkers; National Championship review

December '99: Agronomy; Security; Environment Competition Winner; Toro Award Winners

January 2000: Greens Construction; Awkward Jobs; Sandy McDivot; Agronomy; Toro Award review

February 2000: BTME2000 review; Committed to Green interview; Rookery Park GC; Engines; Chairman's profile; Environmental Management

March 2000: Clebury Mortimer GC; Course Furniture; R&A Conference Report; Cutting heights; Avoncrop profile; Valderrama report; Westurf preview

April 2000: Fortrose & Rosemarkie GC; Utility Vehicles; Irrigation; Seed breeding; Gem Professional profile.

May 2000: Ross-on-Wye GC; Top Dressing; Course Mapping; Compact Tractors

June 2000: National Championship preview; Spraying; World Education Conference review; Environmental Management; Mowers

July 2000: Open Championship Preview; Dougal Duguid Court Case Report; Pest Control; Aventis profile; Course Conditioning

August 2000: Open Championship review; Water Features; Saltex preview; Charcoal; Malone GC; Royal County Down; Grand Tour Scholarship

September 2000: Blowers and Sweepers; Berkshire College Academy; National Championship roundup; Gordon McKillop interview; Winter health checks

October 2000: Toro Awards Preview; Ronald Fream; Irrigation; Saltex Review; Pest Control; Woburn GC

November 2000: Grass Cutting Machinery; Clandeboy GC; Drainage; National Championship review; Leatherjacket management

December 2000: Toro Awards; Making the most of your Dealer; Budget Boosters; BTME2001 preview; BIGGA/Bernhards CGSA delegation preview

January 2001: Communication; Tyres; Turf diseases; Kingsbarns Golf Links; Environment Competition Winner - Dyke GC; Talking Heads - Pest Control

February 2001: BTME2001 review; Winter Mowing; Irrigation; Broadstone GC; Hedges; Security

March 2001: York GC; Greens Maintenance; Meland GC, Norway; Greens Mowers; BIGGA Essay Winner; Grass Science profile

April 2001: Lightning detection; Brockett Hall GC; CGSA report; Fairway Mowers; Irrigation; Sward renovation; BIGGA Essay winner; Turf Disease

May 2001: Foot and Mouth Disease Special Report; Maintenance Facility report; Bunker Sand; ATVs; RainBird Profile; Fineturf Genetics; BTME2002 countdown; Electric-powered machines



What a fickle bunch



As I mentioned last month I was due to pay a visit to the South West and South Wales Region which has been particularly badly affected by the Foot and Mouth Outbreak. Well I made the trip, which took in a Regional Heath and Safety course held at Bude and North Cornwall Golf Club, and I was delighted to have the chance to say a few words and offer a sympathetic ear in support of those who have been particularly badly hit. I was impressed by the manner in which the greenkeepers I met are facing up to this immensely difficult situation and passed on the thoughts and good wishes of their colleagues in other parts of the country.

I was certainly pleased to have been able to make the trip and it also gave me a chance of seeing the work of Richard Whyman and his team at Bude and North Cornwall Golf Club. It hadn't been affected by the FMD, in fact it had seen quite a lot of play, and despite a hard winter it was in great condition. You could see that Richard and the team had obviously been busy through the winter.

Moving on to other matters, I was delighted to hear of the excellent response to the R&A funded survey

which had been circulated by Mike Williamson. It is by your taking part in such projects that we on the Board of Management get a feeling for how well the Association is working and I certainly appreciate the constructive criticisms and observations that I have already seen coming out of the survey. You can be assured that these will be considered and discussed at the next Board of Management meeting.

At this time of year, when we are getting well into the season there is a greater emphasis on presentation and the need for our machines to be working to their best capability is important. With that in mind I have been pleased to see on my visits round the country more and more clubs now have a designated mechanic. To my mind this is the key to the job as it frees up the rest of the guys to get on with their main work. We at Walton Heath are lucky enough to have one of the best mechanics and his work is really invaluable.

At the time of writing the Volvo PGA Championship at Wentworth is just a week away and I expect by now Chris Kennedy and his team will be recovering after another successful week. Last year the weather was appalling and BIGGA's Support team was a great help to Chris in getting the course playable quickly after the torrential rain. This year the South East Region is organising the team, comprising members who have given up valuable time over a Bank Holiday to take part. Their effort is certainly appreciated at one of the highest profile events on the golfing calendar.

Reading last month's magazine the "True Grit" article by Dr Stephen Baker of the STRI caught my eye. It reminded me of a PGA European Tour Conference I attended about 10 years ago in Penina, Portugal, when we spent most of the five days talking about nothing but bunker sand. It is truly a huge subject and I think it can be summed up by the last paragraph in Dr Baker's article.

"...there have been reported cases of sands being accepted as excellent by members at one golf club while the same sand is considered poor on other courses. This may be a result of the fickleness of the golfer, but clearly further work is needed to improve our understanding of the effects of installation methods, sand depth and maintenance."

With my greenkeeper hat on I've often considered collecting together samples of sand and presenting them to the membership so they can make up their own minds on what they want.

Talking about fickleness brings me nicely to the weather. Having endured the wettest winter in our or anybody else's lifetime I've been talking with colleagues in the south east and we reckon it's now too dry and wouldn't mind a little bit of water.

The point was brought home to me as I drove past Epsom Downs, which will host the Derby in a few weeks time, and they had their watering system full on giving the track as much water as they could.

I feel that every day you don't have to use the watering system is a bonus and just a touch of the real stuff would be welcome at the moment.

As I said we are a fickle bunch.

Clive Osgood

MEMBERSHIP REQUEST CARD

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If you are employed as a greenkeeper, at college studying greenkeeping, or involved in any way with the fine turf industry, then BIGGA membership could benefit you. To find out more about membership, fill in this card and send it to us today.

☒ **Yes, I'm interested in joining BIGGA. Please send me details of:**

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