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**Your next issue of Greenkeeper International will be with you by October 8, 2001**

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- Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Association, and no responsibility is accepted for such content, advertising or product information that may appear.

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**INVESTOR IN PEOPLE**
Where does all the time go?

It seems amazing that as I write this column David Tom's has just been crowned USPGA Champion and the four Majors of the season have all been played. It doesn't seem like five minutes ago that I was sitting in this self same seat wishing you well for the start of the golf season.

Where does all the time go? I'm sure if we took time to look at it we could account for every second but it doesn't half seem like nothing more than a blink of an eye at times. I do think that the pace of life in this country, in particular, is a little frantic at times and we could all do with slowing the pace down. Our sanity might then be preserved a little longer.

Talking of the USPGA Championship. The venue, the Atlanta Athletic Club, hosted the first round of the Hayter International Cup back in 1998. I recall the tee box quite vividly because there was a wonderful statue in honour of Bobby Jones, for whom the Athletic Club was a home golf club together with a fine museum in his honour.

It was a "big" golf course in every sense of the word and the players in the Hayter International couldn't help but feel privileged to have the chance to pay it and all acquitted themselves well. I remember standing on the 1st tee on a gloriously sunny morning watching them all tee off and not one of them failed to strike a fine tee shot despite probably being as nervous as they have ever been on a golf course. Well wouldn't you if you were representing either "The Rest of the World" or "The Americas"?

This month we include a preview of the Ryder Cup at The De Vere Belfry and the work of Dave Samuels and his team. The Braintree Course will be hosting its fourth Ryder Cup and whatever you say about the rights and wrongs of the course housing "The Greatest Show on Earth" so often you cannot but admire the transformation that has taken place on the course.

The course is described to be about three holes - the 10th, the 18th and, to a slightly lesser extent, the 9th. Elsewhere it was a bit of a slog with a lack of really memorable holes. It is only my opinion but if the '93 Ryder Cup hadn't seen so many matches go down the last and produce real drama I doubt whether the Ryder Cup Committee could have justified taking the Ryder Cup back to the course for an unprecedented fourth visit.

Now however, there are any number of interesting holes any one of them capable of producing the sort of excitement for which the Ryder Cup is famous. So while 2001 will undoubtedly be The De Vere Belfry's Ryder Cup swan song I'm sure that the Braintree's contribution to the 2001 Ryder Cup Match will be a memorable one.

Scott MacCallum
Editor

Textron unveil new branches

Textron is opening three branches in strategic areas of the UK in support of their dealer network. Representing a significant investment in both people and premises the new branches will aim to enhance the quality of service, sales and parts support with direct links to Textron's head quarters in Ipswich.

The launch of the new branches comes following the termination of dealership agreements with ET Breakwell Ltd and Henton & Chuttell Ltd by mutual consent in July.

"This latest move represents a major investment for Textron Golf, Turf & Specialty Products," said Harold Pinto Managing Director. "It demonstrates our commitment to our municipal and golf customers in Warwickshire, the West Midlands, Hereford & Worcestershire, Leicester, Notts, Derbyshire and Yorkshire. The Nottingham facility will provide a strategically located service centre with Solihull and Pontefract offering a complete sales, service and parts operation for their respective territories," he explained.

The new branches in Redditch, Worcestershire, Selby in North Yorkshire and Mansfield in Nottinghamshire are progressing at a rate of knots with the Redditch premises scheduled to open by the end of August.

Staffing is virtually complete with Textron having received an overwhelming response to press advertisements from applicants with experience of the turf and sweeper industries in general and their products in particular.

"We have reacted extremely quickly and efficiently to the termination of the dealership agreements with Breakwell's and Henton & Chuttell. We nominated Alan Prickett, former Senior Regional Sales Manager to head up the Branch structure. He has already appointed a good number of quality people and found premises which suit our needs," said Glynn Patrick, Textron's Sales Director.

"We have taken a three month lease of Henton's former premises in Leeds to provide an immediate presence in this area and have leased a modern industrial unit of 8,500 sq ft at Selby that will be the permanent hub for our Yorkshire operation. We already have a service team operating in this region."

"We have sourced a building at Redditch, which totals over 14,000 square feet which will be operational before the end of August. One of the new teams, Peter Cooper, Breakwell's former Sales Manager will head up the sales team that will market our turf and industrial sweeper products. He will be supported by two Area Sales Managers responsible for Hereford & Worcester, Warwickshire and the West Midlands. A fully equipped workshop will accommodate a workshop manager, two technicians, two field technicians and a fully resourced parts department. Most of these people are already on board," explained Glynn.

"We have been pleasantly surprised by the high number of quality people who have applied for this new range of jobs. Most of them have experience of either the turf or industrial sweeper industry, and many are already familiar with our products," he added.

Scotts to distribute Casoron in the UK

Uniroyal Chemical and The Scotts Company announce the signing and implementation of a new distribution and marketing agreement for Uniroyal's Casoron brand dichlobenil, whereby Scotts will act as Uniroyal's distributor of Casoron products for the amenity market in the UK. This new arrangement is aimed at increasing product availability and service to customers.

Casonon, which contains dichlobenil, is a pre-emergent granular herbicide widely used in the UK landscape and amenity sector. The product can be applied among established plantings, controlling annual and perennial weed growth for a full season.

"We are pleased to announce Scotts as our UK distributor, Casoron fits neatly into their herbicide product range and they offer us increased distribution opportunities. This is an important product range for us and as such, we are determined to provide the long-term availability of Casoron in the UK landscape and amenity sector. The product can be applied among established plantings, controlling annual and perennial weed growth for a full season."

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"We have been pleasantly surprised by the high number of quality people who have applied for this new range of jobs. Most of them have experience of either the turf or industrial sweeper industry, and many are already familiar with our products," he added.

Top Award for Carraro Tractors

Tractors distributed in the UK by Charterhouse Turf Machinery have scooped a major European award for their innovative features. The Antonio Carraro Ergi TC and Ergi 'TN' tractors triumphed in the 'Best of Specialised' category of the Tractor of the Year Awards announced during the recent FIMA exhibition in Zaragoza, Spain.

A panel of 12 trade journalists, representing a dozen European countries, considered 19 tractors from all over the world. To be eligible, a tractor had to have been publicly launched before the end of November 2000, and in production by the end of that year.

"We sincerely congratulate Antonio Carraro on winning this prestigious award," says David Jenkins, Managing Director of Charterhouse Turf Machinery. "This confirms our belief that these tractors break the mould of conventional compact units, with power outputs starting where others leave off and unique features that set them apart."
**Sisis and Lloyds form an alliance**

Sisis and Lloyds, two of the trade's longest established British manufacturers, are getting together to make the popular Lloyds Paladin hand mower more widely available to smaller clubs.

Sisis will sell the Paladin to sports clubs while Lloyds will continue to supply Local Authorities, golf clubs and existing customers, direct from Letchworth.

The Paladin celebrates its 40th birthday this year, but has been continuously updated over the years and is recognised as a "Rolls-Royce" among mowers. The Paladin is made from high grade aluminium castings which never rust. It has been designed for mowing excellence on fine turf with features for maximum operator comfort and safety.

"We are confident that the Paladin will complement our comprehensive range of high quality maintenance products for bowling, tennis and cricket clubs. We have always had a high regard for Lloyds and Co and the Paladin complies with the Sisis criteria of reliability and quality. We look forward to a long and mutually beneficial relationship with Lloyds," said Sisis Sales Manager Keith Vertigan.

"Lloyds and Sisis have always had a very good relationship and have worked closely together over the years. We see this partnership as a good opportunity to make the Paladin more accessible to the sports club market," said Lloyds Managing Director Clive Nottingham.

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**Speedcut adds new trencher to their fleet**

Speedcut Contractors Ltd has added another Mastenbroek 10/1 2D sportsturf drainage trencher to their fleet of company owned, specialist machinery. This recent acquisition is the latest in sportsturf drainage technology and comes fully fitted with soil elevator, extra wide tracks and state of the art laser grade facility.

Contracts Manager, Kevin Smith has put the machine to work immediately, and hopes this new addition will help them to satisfy the increased demand for their sportsturf drainage services.

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**The Phantom Pilot**

Many of you will have enjoyed the piece in last month's magazine about our greenkeeping pilot. However, due to an oversight by the Editor, the excellent article went unattributed, so many people will not have known that the Flying Greenkeeper was in fact Jon Budd, of Ham Manor Golf Club, in Littlehampton.

Sorry about that Jon and good luck with the rest of the lessons.

Chris joins Greenlink

Greenlink International has appointed Chris Wild as Regional Technical Sales Manager for the South of England.

Chris will be known to many in the sports turf and amenity industry having worked for Rhone Poulenc for many years and was the company's Technical Manager for its Environmental Products Amenity business. Most recently he has been working as Sales Support Manager for a major agricultural company in eastern England. He holds qualifications in ecology (MI BIOL), an HNC in applied biology and is BASIS registered in both Amenity Horticulture and Crop Protection.

Chris has returned to the amenity industry to provide a technical and commercial field resource to users and distributors for GreenLink's increasing range of specialist products such as Blazon, Integrate, Green-Relief leaf and a soon to be launched range of speciality foliar nutrients. Living in Essex, Chris is married with two children a keen sailor and gardener and is an Associate of the Institute of Biology.
Barenbrug UK's policy of 'zero zero' testing the grass seed mixtures that the company formulates for turf production reassures growers that their requirements are completely free from diseases and that Barenbrug's specialists are carefully chosen by Barenbrug for their ability to produce yields of high quality and quantity. Two 30g samples are taken of the seed crop, one of which is stored carefully at Barenbrug's warehouses at Bury St Edmunds and the other being assessed independently by MAFF. If the sample passes the analysis, then the rest of the crop is stored at Barenbrug's laboratories and the other sample is sent to the scrutiny of Andy Sadler, Barenbrug's Production Manager, zero testing ensures quality is maintained at two key stages in the production process: the harvesting of the original seed and the formulation of the final mixture.

In the first stage, grass is grown for seed production by approved growers who are carefully selected by Barenbrug for their ability to produce yields of high quality and quantity. Two 30g samples are taken of the seed crop, one of which is tested at Barenbrug's laboratories and the other being assessed independently by MAFF. If the sample passes the analysis, then the rest of the crop is stored at Barenbrug's warehouses at Bury St Edmunds and assayed by individual turf producers.

The second stage of the zero test process begins when the seed is mixed with varieties at Barenbrug's specialist mixing plant, in strictly regulated proportions for optimum turf production. Again, two 30g samples are tested, one in-house and the other by MAFF. This ensures that the zero test standard has been maintained and that Barenbrug's mixtures are completely free from any undesirable seed or diseases.

Textron Golf, Turf & Speciality Products has won the prestigious Anglia Business Awards Exporter of the Year for 2001. Organised jointly by Barclays Bank and the East Anglian Daily Times and sponsored by Eversheds solicitors, the award was presented to Marketing Director, Peter Bell by TV presenter Helen McDermott, at a gala dinner at Hintlesham Hall Hotel.

"I am absolutely delighted that we have won this prestigious award as it recognises the superb team effort here at Textron, from manufacturing through sales and marketing to the management team," said Harold Pinto, Managing Director.

"We have worked particularly hard on our export marketing strategy and have witnessed significant growth in sales to the former USSR states and Eastern Europe. Overall, export sales accounted for 36% of our business last year, with sales to the Czech Republic increasing 10-fold in the last two years. Our golf car sales have remained very strong, especially to the warmest climes of Southern Europe, in particular Spain and Portugal," he explained.

"None of this could have been achieved without the commitment and enthusiasm of the tremendous team of people here at Ipswich and I am thrilled that their combined efforts have been recognised by this award," added Harold.

The winning Hartshorne Golf & Country Club team clinched the first Midland Region Golf Management Trophy events held at Verulam Golf Club recently. The picture shows Shaughn Whyte, Club Secretary; Allan Wagman, Club Captain; David Futterman, Greens Chairman; David Stenton, Head Greenkeeper and Mike Jupp, of sponsors Scotts. The portrait behind the winners is of Samuel Ryder, of Ryder Cup fame.

The Midland Region Golf Management Trophy winners

The company has also appointed Brian Kemp as its new Service Manager.

"Before working in the ground care machinery supply business I worked in the motor industry for 25 years, 15 of which were as service manager. I am delighted to join such a forward-thinking company allowing me to use my vast knowledge and experience of the motor industry to help SGi ensure that all of their customers continue to receive first class service," said Brian.
Holster will control more problem weeds in your turf than any other turf herbicide. Specifically developed to target hard-to-kill broad-leaved weeds in amenity turf, Holster has the unique combination of 3 powerful killing ingredients that provides effective weed control with low application rates.

But whilst Holster is tough on weeds it is also gentle on grass. In fact it's safe to use on newly sown grass after just two months and has excellent grass safety.

So keep Holster by your side and win your war on weeds.
Confessions of a Greens Chairman

There can be more more fitting author for this latest STRI publication than Malcolm Peake, a man whose passion for golf course conditioning and knowledge of what is required to achieve the best possible results are second to none.

Without mentioning any names, many Chairman of Green-Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper relationships are adversarial but Malcolm takes a more enlightened approach - finding out what needs to be done and then working closely with his Course Manager to make it happen. In Malcolm’s case at Temple Golf Club with Course Manager Martin Gunn, the relationship between the two is as good as you would find anywhere and the results they have achieved at Temple bear testimony to the quality of their working relationship.

Confessions of a Greens Chairman includes brief history of Temple Golf Club but not in the usual sense. It describes the course management practices and philosophies including minutes from Greens Committee meetings and charts how the course’s came in the 1970s with the introduction of an irrigation system coupled with new harder golf balls.

Malcolm then reports on the resurgence of the club from 1990 beginning with the arrival of Jeff Perris of the STRI as agronomist and Martin Gunn as new Head Greenkeeper. The book looks at the approach required to reinstate the course - intensive aeration programme, hefty investment in staff, machinery and compound - none of which were popular with much of the membership and all relevant to other golf clubs which need to take the same approach.

The book then takes in the new holistic course management approach and the ecological management which has gone on at Temple together with practical advice on Greens Committees and the need for continuity as well as the politics which often cloud the issues.

Confessions of a Chairman of Green by Malcolm Peake is a must read for anyone taking on such a role but it should also be required reading for everyone involved at committee level at golf clubs. In addition greenkeepers themselves for whom Malcolm has the utmost admiration, should have a read as the book gives an insight into the thinking of Chairmen of Green which could be invaluable. SM.

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Avoncrop re-launch seaweed products

Avoncrop range of seaweed products Surf to Turf is to be re-launched.

The new improved range will offer turf managers a wider choice of liquids and a new and enhanced soil improver.

Both Avoncrop and Pattons will jointly market the New Surf to Turf range, giving nationwide availability.

The new range consists of one granular composted seaweed soil improver with 2% potassium and five seaweed liquids, Triple Seaweed containing 27% seaweed extract, Seaweed plus 6% chelated iron, Seaweed plus 20% nitrogen, Seaweed plus 12:0:7 + 1% chelated iron and finally Seaweed plus 20:15:0.5% chelated iron. This liquid range offers the turf manager an analysis to complement almost all nutritional programmes for use throughout the seasons. They will encourage deep-rooted, healthy turf as well as stimulating beneficial organisms.

The soil improver is a fermented seaweed rich in trace elements, carbohydrates and plant growth stimulants, providing sustained nutrition for plants and beneficial micro organisms.

Grade 'A' success

Turfgrass professionals trading with British Seed Houses are starting to claim over £5000 worth of free industry training. They have been referred to greenkeepers for golf club members on the subject of aeration.

You may be aware that I have been asked to talk at Harrogate in January and give a member's view on the subject of "Preparation for Winter". I have been exercising my mind as to what to talk about and how to approach the subject and had already concluded that one of the main thrusts, if not THE main thrust, should be communication, and how it can be improved to get better cooperation from golf club members.

You're got mail!

If you've got a unique set of skills, you've got mail! You've got m@il! If you've got an email account why not send an email to us here at BIGGA, where we can place you into our exclusive email address book. We can then keep you up-to-date with news and event information as soon as it happens.

Next month: Amistar response

The letter which appeared last month under the heading 'Wellingtonborough's Rash Problem' has come to the attention of a number of people, individuals and interested bodies, because it highlighted the fact that the golf club had been using a product - Amistar - which is not cleared for amenity purposes.

Due the fact that the deadline for this magazine was so close to the circulation of the August issue it has not been possible for those people to formulate a written response in the time available and so these contributions will appear in next month's magazine.

Open thanks 1

Hugh Campbell and I would like to pass on our thanks to everyone at BIGGA who was involved in making this year's Open Championship run so smoothly.

Without the assistance of our volunteers, it would have been impossible to stage the event and the efforts of everyone involved are most appreciated.

Peter Dawson, Secretary, R&A

Open thanks 2

I would like you to convey my grateful appreciation to all the members of the Open Championship BIGGA Support Team.

Your assistance was most welcome, duly rewarded by some thrilling golf and hopefully some fond memories.

Paul Smith, Head Greenkeeper, Royal Lytham and St Annes Golf Club

Open thanks 3

Just a quick note to send all concerned my congratulations for the hard work done during The Open Championship where everyone did a splendid job and added so much to the elegance and running of the Championship.

Peter Alliss, Farnham, Surrey

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

September 2001 Greenkeeper International
This month, Ken Richardson, BIGGA’s Education and Training Manager, puts the finishing touches to the comprehensive education programme at Harrogate.

Get the most from your education

September is the month when the Education and Training Department begins to finalise the arrangements for the Continue to Learn Week in Harrogate, coordinate the final stages of the Golf Environment Competition, organise the Country Finals for the Torro Excellence in Greenkeeping, and organise the Country Finals for the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, visiting clubs around the Country and trying to select Regional Winners, prior to Dr Keith Duff judging those winners to select a National Winner. Standards continue to improve each year, which is very well illustrated in BIGGA’s latest publication ‘The Wildside of Golf.’ The competition has continued to run thanks to the support of the RSA but a major sponsor is still required to give the competition a long term future.

Country winners in England, Scotland and Ireland have been selected for the Torro Excellence in Greenkeeping Competition with the winners to be announced in upcoming issues of Greenkeeper International. The competition has continued to run thanks to the support of the RSA but a major sponsor is still required to give the competition a long term future.

Remember, that the BIGGA CPD Scheme started the year 2001/2002 on 1 July. Register on the scheme by contacting Sami at BIGGA HOUSE and you could be earning credits towards your Certificate of Continuing Professional Development.

There is still time for you to write and submit your entry for the BIGGA Essay Competition, one of many activities sponsored by the BIGGA Education and Development Fund, which, in turn, is funded by Golden and Silver Key members of the Fund. The title of the essay is ‘Poa Annu, friend or foe’. All entries must arrive at BIGGA HOUSE by 26 October 2001. Get thinking and writing. You could win £500 for your 1500 to 2000 words essay.

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

Now you've got the power!

Unleash a charge of Green-Releaf microbes into your turf.

Applying a programme of Green-Releaf liquids will charge your soil with billions of beneficial bacteria to improve turf health.

- Stimulates chlorophyll levels – Superior turf colour
- Improves root mass – Greater tolerance to stress
- Increases turf density – Early stand development
- Enhances plant vigour – Increased nutrient uptake
- Strengthens defences – Triggers immune responses

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1 Rysley, Holybread Lane, Little Baddow
Chelmsford, Essex CM3 4DD
Tel: +44 (0)1245 222750
Membership Photocard update

A big thank you to all of you who have been quick off the mark and have returned your renewal form with a passport size photograph. This will provide you with an extra form of ID but it will continue to promote the professional image that the Association has achieved. To start preparing for the launch of the new card, BIGGA need a photograph of each of you! If you have a passport size photograph please send it to Tracey or Susannah, Membership Services Department, BIGGA, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, A1, York Y061 1UF. Don't forget to write your full name, date of birth and membership number on the back. Alternatively, if you have mastered the art of digital cameras why not send us a photo by email to tracey@bigga.co.uk or susannah@bigga.co.uk.

January 2002, BIGGA's Membership Department will be issuing plastic credit card size Membership Photocards (at no extra cost to the member). This will not only provide you with an extra form of ID but it will continue to promote the professional image that the Association has achieved. To start preparing for the launch of the new card, BIGGA need a photograph of each of you! If you have a passport size photograph please send it to Tracey or Susannah, Membership Services Department, BIGGA, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, A1, York Y061 1UF. Don't forget to write your full name, date of birth and membership number on the back. Alternatively, if you have mastered the art of digital cameras why not send us a photo by email to tracey@bigga.co.uk or susannah@bigga.co.uk.

2002 Membership Renewal form with a difference...

Because of the new Membership Photocard, next year your renewal form will be different. For convenience your renewal form will continue to have your personal and Golf Club details already printed, however, you will need to check that these are correct. To help us ascertain education and training needs, we have asked you to complete a section on education and training and for convenience this will be a tick box section. Most importantly, to process your membership you will need to return your form with a passport size photograph of yourself, with your name, date of birth and membership number written on the back. This can be the photograph on your current membership card, or send us the whole card. Finally it is important that you sign the form in the space provided. The form has been designed for easy completion and should only take a few minutes to check and complete.

TRACEY & SUSANNAH FROM BIGGA'S MEMBERSHIP SERVICES DEPARTMENT WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME ALMOST 70 NEW MEMBERS TO THE ASSOCIATION AND UPDATE YOU ON THE NEW MEMBERSHIP PHOTOCARD

Membership Renewal form with a difference...

Because of the new Membership Photocard, next year your renewal form will be different. For convenience your renewal form will continue to have your personal and Golf Club details already printed, however, you will need to check that these are correct. To help us ascertain education and training needs, we have asked you to complete a section on education and training and for convenience this will be a tick box section. Most importantly, to process your membership you will need to return your form with a passport size photograph of yourself, with your name, date of birth and membership number written on the back. This can be the photograph on your current membership card, or send us the whole card. Finally it is important that you sign the form in the space provided. The form has been designed for easy completion and should only take a few minutes to check and complete.

Leisurewear that's well worth a look!

BIGGA now offer you a fantastic choice of BIGGA logo Leisurewear

Cutter & Buck Classic Polo Shirts

Available in sunflower with navy trim, and navy with cream trim for only £12.95 inc. VAT, post and packaging. Sizes Medium, Large, XL or XXL available.

Peter Scott BIGGA logo Jumpers

Available in three styles:

1. Round neck, available in navy and charcoal, sizes from 40" to 48". £34.95 inc. VAT, post and packing. Sizes Medium, Large, XL or XXL available.

2. V-neck long sleeve, available in navy only, sizes from 40" to 46", larger sizes available on request. £34.95 inc. VAT, post and packing.

3. V-neck no sleeves, available in navy only, sizes from 40" to 46", larger sizes available on request. £29.95 inc. VAT, post and packing.

Sun & Rain Waterproof Suits

Available in navy consisting of a jacket with matching trousers with a drawstring waistband. Sizes from M to XXXL. £49.95 inc. VAT, plus post and packing.

Slazenger Baseball Caps

Available in khaki with navy peak, one size fits all with adjustable strap. £12.95 inc. VAT, plus post and packing.

BIGGA Members Lapel Badge

BIGGA have introduced a new "Members" enamel lapel badge. Available to all members at the special rate of £2.50 inc. VAT, plus post and packing.

The new BIGGA logo merchandise can be seen at the BIGGA stand at the Saltex Show on 4th-6th September. For further information contact Tracey or Susannah in Membership Services.

Scottish Region

Edwards Cashfield, Cleveland
Christopher Crawfurd, Northern
Michael R Dainty, Northern
Paul A Dawothull, Northern
Robert A Herm, Northern
Tomas Ronn, N West
Colin Jessie, Sheffield
Glynis H Jones, N Wales
James Kernish, Northern
Joanne Kernish, Northern
Paul Nelson, Sheffield
Simon Sayner, Sheffield
Steven Walker, N West
Timothy Ward, Northern

Midland Region

Paul C Brehm, N West
Paul Brown, North
Victor Buck, N West
Paul J Cressith, Mid Anglia
Stephen J Donoghue, E Midland
Mark R Faulkner, BB&O
Luke Howell, Midland
Derek Camling, Midland
Paul Harden, Midland
Gregory J Lamburgh, Mid Anglia
Alistair More, BB&O
Philip C Newman, Mid Anglia
Paul A Shift, BB&O

South East Region

Nicholas Barley, Essex
Rodney D Beulahum, Essex
Philip R Canell, London
Stephen W Coote, London
Daniel P Hughes, Surrey
Philip G T Hunter, Surrey

Northern Region

Paul C Brehm, N West
Paul Brown, North
Victor Buck, N West
Paul C Brehm, N West
Paul Brown, North
Victor Buck, N West
Paul C Brehm, N West

Northern Ireland

Harry Craghman
James M E Kilkenny
Rodney McKay

August'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 sports watch. Our congratulations go to August's winner, Alistair Logan of Galgorm Castle Golf Club.

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Northern Ireland

Harry Craghman
James M E Kilkenny
Rodney McKay

International Members

Lars M Westlund, Norway
Lif Oy Von Tommen, Sweden
Ronalde Gai, USA

Associate Members

Blair S Coombes, Far East

Student Members

Andrew Fraser, East
Graham Studd, Ayrshire

Next month... August's latest members

In the News

You may have heard that names 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...

Richard Barker

Vice Chairman

Name: Richard Barker

Association Position: Vice Chairman

How long have you been a member of BIGGA?

Since the beginning in 1987

Where do you hope the Association will be in 10 years time?

With an improved profile and greater recognition among other golfing bodies

For what would you most like to be remembered?

For leading a 36 hole scratch tournament in the morning after a round of 71, for which I won a prize

For what would you least like to be remembered?

For adding an 88 in the afternoon, for the worst score of the day

Why did you take on a more involved role in the running of the Association?

I wanted to put a little something back into an Association which had provided me with a lot of help and education over the years

Name one thing which would improve the Association?

More active support from members at grass roots level and continued expansion into Europe

What is your claim to fame? (None, not acceptable)?

Playing eight rounds and six holes - 2002 membership renewal form with a difference...

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If you are choosing a quality irrigation system...

With 30 years experience of providing sports turf irrigation systems our specialist company is completely independent of a brand manufacturer. Each bespoke system is designed by our qualified engineers to the highest specification and according to the individual requirements of the course, and with thorough knowledge of the products produced by the top manufacturers we are in the best position to provide top of the range service care.

Our portfolio includes: Woodsome Hall, Sherwood Forest and Royal Lytham St. Annes.

"The important aspect in choosing the specialist equipment is to choose the right sprinkler and controller rather than the make"

Greenkeeper International 1997.

At the end of the day the system has to work. Ours do - Beautifully.

Call us to arrange a free consultation on 01785 812706

Irrigation Ltd
Consulting Watering Specialists

be sure its from a quality irrigation company
As part of BIGGA's existing website - bigga.org.uk - a BTME Microsite has been added to make pre-registering for the Show, booking accommodation, and reserving stand space, just a few clicks away. It also means that exhibitors can have their stand and company information available to everyone much earlier than in the past, while visitors can familiarise themselves with the show layout months before they arrive in Harrogate.

In a new departure for 2002 and in response to the queues, which were a direct result of the record numbers who visited Harrogate last January, everyone who attended BTME2001 will be automatically pre-registered for BTME2002. If you didn't attend January's show, however, or your personal circumstances have changed - new job or residential address for example - you can pre-register using the Microsite.

Pre-registration
Simply click on the Pre-registration option in the navigation bar at the left hand side of the page. You'll then go to the pre-registration page where you will find a number of ways in which you can sign up for your free ticket. By clicking on the email link, you will open up an easy-to-use form. Fill this in, click on the submit button, and there you are. You will receive confirmation that your form has arrived and that the registration will be processed.

Please note that all badges will be mailed in early January 2002.

Exhibitor information
The new BTME Microsite gives so many added benefits for exhibitors. Existing exhibitors can list contact information for themselves, plus their new stands or general company details. These are then activated by microsite visitors when they click on the relevant stand within the on-site Show map. Visitors to the site can then find individual company websites using this advanced function. Potential exhibitors can identify an available stand and click on it to learn the size and cost - as space only or with shell scheme. If they wish to proceed, they can then fill in an online form and reserve that stand for themselves. Easy!

The site also includes an online accommodation booking service, up to the minute information on the Education Programme and important information about the social side of the week.
Immaculate greens are the product of sheer hard work, which is why the new Mule Diesel 2510 is the envy of the fairways. Built for the toughest terrain, the Mule gives you more power, performance, load capacity and fuel efficiency and, with its low-ground pressure qualities, you won’t leave any divots.

- 23 hp, 3 cylinder, 4-stroke, liquid cooled, diesel engine
- Automatic variable speed transmission
- Dual mode differential for rear axle
- Dual range gear box with selectable 4-wheel drive
- 12-months warranty

A sharper cutting cylinder produces healthier, stronger and more attractive grass.

Find out how Express Dual and Anglemaster, the world’s fastest mower grinders, can dramatically improve your golf course, cut costs and save time...

Call 01788 811600 today!
Dr. Ruth Mann explains how the problem with Chafer Grubs could soon be a thing of the past ...

Chafers: Have they met their match?

In 1983, an article appeared in the Sports Turf Bulletin concerning pests in turf. Chafer grubs (also called white grubs) were included only as a minor pest in the British Isles, although, at this time, they were causing major damage on continental golf courses. Since this article, chafer grubs seem to have been appearing with more regularity, sometimes being an incidental pest and sometimes causing severe damage. This year, perhaps due to a rather mild winter, chafer grubs have become a major pest on some golf courses.

Chafer grubs can be identified by their creamy white bodies with a swollen tail end that is usually darker due to the intestinal contents and lie in a characteristic comma shape (Fig 1). They have three pairs of brown legs and a distinctive shiny brown head with large chewing jaws. They lie just below the turf surface and feed on the roots. As the roots are severed the turf becomes prone to drought in dry weather. They like to live in sandy soils and thatchy areas with adequate moisture as they can easily move up and down the soil profile. They are most commonly found in roughs, semiroughs and fairways. They also favour less disturbed areas, such as the sides of bunkers or infrequently used championship tees. Adult females do not tend to move over vast areas. This can lead to the same areas being infested year after year. So far, they have been found from Guernsey, Cornwall and Devon up through East Anglia across to the West coast of Wales and as far North as Cumbria. At this point I have no reports of chafers in Scotland, although I suspect it is just a matter of time before they begin to appear.

We have five species of chafers, the cockchafer, garden chafer, summer chafer, brown chafer and Welsh chafer. The two species that seem to be commonly found on golf courses are the cockchafer and garden chafer. The cockchafer is the largest species. Adults have black heads and reddish-brown wing cases. They are nocturnal, emerging in May and June. The male burrows back down into the soil to lay eggs which hatch 5-6 weeks after laying (around July). Cockchafer grubs take three years to mature and can grow up to 48 mm in length. Therefore, any grubs found actively feeding in springtime, will be cockchafer grubs.

Garden chafers are thought to be the most abundant species on golf courses. The adults are smaller with a metallic green head and reddish-brown wing cases. Grubs are also smaller (around 18 mm when fully grown) and only take one year to mature. The grubs feed from hatching around July until late autumn when falling temperatures cause them to burrow down the soil profile and hibernate. They do not resume feeding in the spring as cockchafers do, but pupate and emerge as adults in May and June.

Small grubs do not really cause much damage to the turf, unless they are in very large numbers. In such cases, they can weaken turf leaving it prone to increased injury from wear and tear and environmental extremes. Also, once they have grown quite large, small numbers of grubs can kill areas of turf which then encourages the influx of weed grasses and broad leaved weeds. On golf courses, feeding grubs do not tend to be the major problem. Birds and small mammals searching for juicy grubs can rip up large areas of turf, leaving unsightly scars. To moles and badgers chafer grubs are a delicacy and so they may be encouraged to take up residence in chafer infested areas, causing more problems.

There are no chemicals approved for the control of chafer grubs at the moment which presents a major problem in itself. It has been proposed that physical control methods could be attempted, such as heavy rolling to squash the grubs when they are actively feeding just below the surface. However, research carried out at the University of Kentucky showed that liming, fertilisation, heavy rolling and aerification had no effect on chafer grub numbers over four years. Aluminium sulphate applied just before adults emerged did reduce grub numbers, perhaps showing that, similar to earthworms, chafer grubs do not like acidic conditions.

One control measure currently available in the British Isles is parasitic
nematodes. Nematodes are microscopic round worms. Just like fungi and insects there are 'bad' species that parasitise turf leaving the area weak and prone to drought damage and 'good' species that parasitise other turf pests. Heterorhabditis megidis is a good species of nematode as it searches for and kills chafer grubs. This nematode naturally occurs in our soils but the numbers are not large enough for chafer control. It is also specific and so does not affect other beneficial insects or animals and humans. The nematodes search for chafers in the soil and enter them through natural openings such as the mouth and anus. Once inside they release a bacterium that multiplies and kills the chafer in a couple of days. The nematodes then feed on the bacteria and reproduce releasing more nematodes into the soil to begin the search again. However, nematodes do not come without their problems. At initial application the soil temperature must be 12°C or above for activation. The nematodes are destroyed by ultra-violet light and high temperatures and so are best applied in early morning or evening when it is not too hot or sunny. The turf needs to be well irrigated after application to wash the nematodes into the soil and kept moist, but not flooded, for two weeks as the nematodes need a film of water for movement. The nematodes may be easily washed into the soil on areas with short grass, such as greens and tees. However, on areas with long grass like fairways and roughs there have been problems with getting the nematodes into the soil. Nematodes are being successfully used in gardens here but as yet we have no information regarding usage on golf courses in the UK. However, in Denmark, nematodes have been successful on greens and tees but not on fairways, possibly due to the nematodes failing to penetrate the long grass and thatch. They are expensive for treating large areas. The aforementioned golf course in Denmark spent £25,000 treating the whole course. However, work carried out by Imperial College, Berkshire on garden chafers infesting a golf tee showed that they aggregated under grassy areas. They suggested that this may be due to the female laying eggs which hatched in batches and the grubs did not move far from their preferred food source of grass roots. The grubs were less associated with bare areas or areas colonised by broadleaved weeds. Therefore, spot treatment of grassy areas infested with chafer grubs may be possible. Research is required here to determine whether nematodes are successful at treating chafer infestations on golf courses and if the longer grass on rough areas presents a major problem in preventing nematode penetration into the soil. If, and when, this research occurs we will let you know the outcome! Other research at STRI, such as our Pests and Disease Survey 2001, will help to determine which years chafers cause the most damage and if they are slowly moving North into Scotland as we suspect. Therefore I would like to remind all greenkeepers about returning their questionnaire. There is no time limit on these and the more we receive the better the results we can give you. If you have not received a copy of the STRI questionnaire please contact me.

Dr. Ruth Mann is the Turfgrass and Plant Pathologist at STRI. Ruth and the rest of the STRI team can be contacted on 01274 555131; e-mail info@stri.co.uk; or visit our website www.stri.co.uk.
Roland Taylor gives some tips on establishing wild flower areas on your golf course...

Wild things

A golf course is ideal for developing areas of wild flowers, but if these floral hazards are to continue to flourish, they need to be carefully managed. If left to their own devices the dominant species will eventually crowd out the other plants. Most of the wild flowers found in today's mixtures originally thrived in old meadows where farmers grazed livestock and had made hay. This meant, that periodically the top growth was removed and any nutrients would have produced were returned to the soil. Strange as this may seem, it encouraged many species, especially the rarer varieties to survive. The removal of the cut material is critical for another reason: left on the surface it suffocates the plants underneath.

When establishing wildflower areas, this scenario has to be created and managed. It is not just a matter of cutting the seed and sitting back expecting results. This is a sure-fire way to failure.

When a site is being considered, it is important to sow or plant indigenous species to the area. At this stage calling in the experts is strongly recommended. There is a wealth of experience out there to draw from and suppliers can advise on suitable species and the management necessary to ensure success.

Preparation of the site is similar to that for most seeds, but there are important differences. A fine weed free tilth is necessary if healthy germination is to occur. The soil should be low in nutrients. In areas known to have high fertility, annual weeds need to be eradicated with a systemic herbicide and then allow the ground to remain fallow. It is preferable to have at least two alternatives: use sulphur or remove the topsoil. Whichever one of these is used the final seedbed needs to be cultivated to a depth of 10cm with a fine surface tilth.

Sowing can take place any time of the year as long the right seedbed conditions can be created, but the best time is from mid-August to the end of September.

The seed will need mixing thoroughly to ensure an even distribution of the different species of wild flower. Recommended sowing rates are 5 grams per m² for mixtures that contain grasses and 0.5 to 1 gram per m² for pure wild flower. Broadcast the seed and follow by raking or harrowing to a depth of 5 mm. Finally, roll with a ribbed roller to cover the seed and ensure its contact with the soil particles. There are machines on the market that will carry this out in one operation.

If the mixture is made up of small seeds, this can be bulked out with silica sand or ground barley at a ratio of 4:1. Irrigation is not recommended. Let nature take her own course.

The seeds have germinated and everything is looking good, so what next? Bearing in mind this is like growing a crop, it is necessary to remove the younger growth from weeds and grasses. As herbicides cannot be used, an alternative is necessary and this is where mowing comes in. In the first year begin cutting in March or April depending on conditions. Cut down to a height of 5 cm every two months or when the sward reaches 15 cm. It is important that all the cutting material is removed.

The final cut will be between September and October. Something else that needs to be taken into account is that any persistent weeds, like docks, will require spot herbicide treatment or removal.

By the time the second year comes round the wildflowers should be well established and the mowing regime is completely different. Between March and April the first cut and collect should be carried out leaving the sword at a height of 5 cm. The second cut is done at the same height at the end of the flowering season, which can occur somewhere between August and October depending on climate. A further light grazing may be required in the autumn.

Failures can occur especially in the first year and amongst these is that the high levels of maintenance required have not been raised. Plus all the cut material must be removed. This later operation can be extremely expensive and labour intensive if the right equipment is not used.

In this country you cannot bank on the weather, and in the past few years anything is too by, more often than not its going to be soaking wet and thick lush growth. Cutting and collection can be a nightmare in these situations. Machinery continually has to be stopped and the system unblocked, thus considerably slowing down the operation. When considering mowers for this type of work there are some important points to take into account. The rotary principle relies heavily on moving grass out of the cutting deck fast, otherwise it quickly builds up and slows down the blade. This compounds the problem and results in the unit finally stalling. During this process, both engine power and fuel are soaked up, plus components are placed under considerable loading.

Bearing all this in mind, the ideal machine is one that gets rid of cut material from the deck fast, so that the chute needs to be wide and as deep as possible with no obstructions between blade and the back of the collector. In addition, the cutting system has to be designed so that the maximum power is constantly available to the blades to maintain tip speed.

When considering machinery for this type of application, demonstrations should be carried out on the same day in the same conditions, preferably wet, then a true picture can be seen of each one's capabilities. Cutting dry, fairly short vegetation is relatively easy. It's the tough, last, wet growth that sorts the men from the boys.

Conclusion

- Get the initial seedbed right.
- The quality and purity of the mixtures is vital, so only the best should be used. As with most products today, cheapness can be a recipe for disaster as some projects have proved in the past.
- Check the mixtures that you are buying are clean and not just horsetails straight from a meadow. Use reputable companies who specialise in wild flowers.
- Follow the correct mowing schedule.
- Before deciding, have mowers demonstrated in the worst possible conditions, i.e. wet and thick growth. The wrong equipment can turn it into a very expensive labour intensive operation.

After the first year, the maintenance programme is relatively straightforward and a wild flower site will virtually take care of itself, providing the correct mowing programme is carried out. Because suitable conditions are available, other species than those selected can grow.

The key to success is to seek expert advice from day one and ensure you have the right mowers to maintain the site.
Jim Crabbe explains how taking care of drainage issues can reduce course closures when the rains come...

Drain power

Hands-up all those clubs who have tried to hire a drainage contractor this summer, only to be told that somebody beat them to the top of the list. After the wettest autumn and winter since records began at the Met Office, there can be little surprise that drainage has suddenly become a hot topic and a priority for many clubs around the country.

We will all have witnessed the adverse effects that the very wet weather has had on sports turf facilities, many clubs through last winter were forced to close, with surfaces lying under pools of water, causing damage to the sward that would take many months to recover, in fact some establishments are still suffering, and no doubt are now having to placate some very unhappy members, not to mention the revenue that has been lost.

Yet some sporting facilities did remain open and courses and pitches were played upon. How? Because of efficient drainage, and unless you are fortunate to have a naturally free draining facility then a drainage scheme should be a priority.

Effective drainage is vital to all Sportsturf whether an existing facility or a new construction. A system, which has been carefully designed and installed by skilled contractors, will have enabled many courses and pitches to provide a service to its members and attract valuable revenue to the club despite the appalling weather conditions.

In 1998/1999 St Mellion in Cornwall installed an intensive piped drainage system, when the club records began in 1995 1100mm rain fell, since then the club has seen a significant increase in the rainfall, last year an overwhelming 1600mm fell. Despite this huge increase the course was only closed for a handful of days. Simon Marsh, the Course Superintendent explained that had the work not been undertaken it would have meant the closure of the club for some four to five months. The loss of revenue for any business having to 'close shop' for such a period would be catastrophic, according to Simon "the drainage installation has made the world of difference to St Mellion".

So a clear example of the benefits for undertaking the work, but what does it actually involve? Firstly, the design. A site investigation will be undertaken to assess the actual problem and the needs. The designer will work closely with the client to decide upon the intensity of the actual scheme as the selection of drainage is often based on experience and soil type as well as the site location and the underlying soils, the sporting activity, frequency of use, and the rainfall. For example the club that relies solely on membership will have to consider the overall value it provides for its members and therefore what proportion of its spending may be allocated to a specific area, whereas the course that has to open its doors at set times for set events cannot afford not to take all the necessary actions to ensure that the course will be available at the required time and not closed due to waterlogging. The scheme should be suitable for machine installation, pipe junctions should be kept to a minimum in order to avoid blockages and breakdown, and where possible main drains
should be located outside the playing areas. The location and condition of any existing land drains should also be determined during the planning and design stage, as they may be incorporated into the new design.

The depth of the surface drains depends on their function as well as soil type. For example where the drains alone are used, the soil type is an important consideration, whereas other secondary treatments are used subsurface drains act mainly as carriers and the soil type has less importance. In free draining soils, deeper drains may allow wider drain spacings. In heavy clays with poor filtration, drains should be shallower and closer together.

The appointment of a well-established consultant/design and build contractor will ensure that the client receives a comprehensive design service and that a suitable system is installed, providing the necessary infrastructure for any subsequent secondary drainage operations.

Once the design has been agreed and the costs approved its time to get the job underway. It is worth making the effort to find a specialist Sportsturf Drainage Contractor, as it is important that those who undertake the project are properly trained, equipped and fully experienced. Contacting associations like The Land Drainage Contractors Association is a good starting point. Their members include companies such as, White Horse Contractors Limited, with over 43 years experience in the industry. These specialist contractors will have invested in the most up-to-date equipment and plant specifically adapted for working on sportsturf and as members of the association their workmanship has already been assessed and won the approval of many bodies within the industry.

On an existing site there may be some surface disruption. However, this must be kept to a minimum, the trenching machines should be fitted with elevators and conveyors in order that the trench spoil can be conveyed to suitable trailers to avoid contamination or damage to the playing surfaces. On new constructions before topsoil placement it may be possible to spread the excavated soil on either side of the trench line. Trench spoil may also be used to create a landscape feature, but all unsuitable spoil must be removed.

This year the ground conditions for trenching are as near perfect as they could be on many sites, the damp subsoil layer mixed with the dry top layer creates a crumb effect which helps to provide smooth sides and bottom which allows the pipe to sit

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level in the trench. Today’s modern trenching machines are fitted with lasers, which take away the guesswork in levelling and ensure that a true fall is achieved. Once the primary system has been installed secondary drainage may also be a consideration. These range from sand slitting and banding, which consists of an intensive matrix of narrow sand or gravel bands running at right angles to the under drainage. The trenches some 250mm deep are normally filled with suitable coarse sand or with 3-10mm washed gravel topped with sand. Sand grooving may be used in areas of high usage.

If the drainage system is to be efficient a certain amount of maintenance will be required. For an intensive piped drainage system to work efficiently, it is important to try to maintain an ‘open’ surface to all drain lines; regular applications of approved sand top dressing in conjunction with vertidraining can help to delay the natural capping process. This should be carried out twice a year for a minimum of three years then reviewed. It should be noted that on heavy clay soils, settlement of the trench lines might occur during dry periods. This may lead to future requirement to top up these trench lines and must be budgeted for.

Funds invested in quality schemes will from the outset provide value for money and produce lasting improvements to the facility, allowing greater use throughout the year. Most new builds will benefit from the installation of a comprehensive piped drainage system. This must be of prime importance and should be given due consideration at initial design stage.

Is it too late to get help? The answer of course is: - it is never too late to take action to maintain and renovate the surface. However funds invested in preventative measures are always more cost effective in the long term. The only difficulty you may have now is trying to find the right contractor to do the job, as many are inundated with enquiries and requests for work.

Everyone has a budget and as stated earlier you might be tempted to cut costs, but if you already have a problem, why add to it? Face the problem now and with the help of an experienced drainage contractor your facilities will be enhanced and leaving you content in the knowledge that whatever the weather you are prepared.

The many clubs and facilities that have invested in primary and secondary drainage schemes are reaping the benefits now and will continue to do so in the future.

Jim Crabbe is Contracts Manager for White Horse Contractors Ltd Tel: 01865 736272
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Greenkeeping on a tight budget does not have to be restrictive and can be the driver for best practice. Kevin Marks visited Bargoed Golf Club to look at the innovative equipment maintenance regime that is reaping great benefits for the members at the Mid Glamorgan club.

Maximum impact

Bargoed Golf Club is located 15 miles north of Cardiff, 350 metres above sea level in the Rhymney valley with stunning distant views of the Brecon Beacons. The club was formed in 1913, but it took a further 10 years to raise the funds to build the initial 9-hole course. In 1972 a further nine holes were added, at a cost of just £8,000, to produce the 6,049 yards long, par 70 course that is in use today. There are over 500 playing members including a very strong junior section of 60 very keen youngsters.

The original nine holes were created from the rocky valley slopes following the natural ground contours, while the 1972 addition was built on nearby farmland and this has resulted in two distinct characteristics for the course. Head greenkeeper Robert Wilkinson often describes it as one half 'mountain links' with natural fescue grasses and heather and gorse lining the fairways, while the other half is a typical parkland course punctuated with trees and bushes.

Clive Poole has been the Greens Chairman at Bargoed for the past three years and said, "We have one of the best inland courses in South Wales, with immaculate greens and fairways. Although not the longest course in the region it offers an excellent challenge for golfers of all levels, while offering easy walking and spectacular views."

Like many smaller clubs, Bargoed has to keep a tight rein on finances, so it is vitally important that the annual greenkeeping budget of £18,000 is used to maximum advantage. This budget covers all greenkeeping requirements such as fertilisers, grass seed, top dressings, spare parts and lubricants but excludes wages and capital expenditure on new equipment. Far from constraining Rob Wilkinson and his three-man team, working within the demands of the budget actually inspires them to be innovative in the way that they undertake their daily tasks.

A new 600 square metre workshop and storage facility was built in 1996 at a cost of £40,000 and integral to the design is a small kitchen and rest area, together with shower and toilet facilities. A special chemical store was also constructed to comply with H&S legislation. The workshop is the responsibility of Assistant Head Greenkeeper and Mechanic, Paul Jeffries, a self-taught technician from his days as an amateur rally-driving enthusiast. Paul has been with club for 22 years and will tackle any job however large or small, be it services, repairs and maintains the club's JCB. The workshop is a testament to his commitment; there's a place for everything and everything was in place, from band and air tools to welding equipment and cylinder grinding machines to gang mowers.
and trailed aerators. They have also purchased an hydraulic pipe repair kit and carry out all their own puncture repairs, making it almost totally self-sufficient. However large a storage area is, it's never quite large enough and equipment has to be double-parked. This means that it has to be moved frequently to access equipment at the back. Paul Jeffries has looked at this and devised a clever method to alleviate the problem.

Every item of equipment, however large or small, is stored on wooden pallets. A hand-operated pallet truck is used to lift and move the equipment around the shed. There's no need to hitch any of the larger trailed or hydraulic equipment to a power unit or for any manual heavy lifting of smaller items, which is excellent from a health and safety perspective, a point emphasised by the inspector during their last H&S review.

Looking at the turf maintenance equipment is yet another revelation. Much of the equipment is over five years old, but from the immaculate condition you would never realise it. This is epitomised by a pristine Ransomes GT Classic, now entering its 10th season, and looking as good as when it left the factory. Paul has lavished considerable care on this machine, including a complete overhaul, rewiring, respray and new decals.

The course uses predominantly Textron equipment including Jacobsen greens, tees, surrounds and rough mowers, Ransomes hydraulic gangs, an Iski compact tractor and a Cushman Turf-Truckster with various attachments. However, head greenkeeper Rob Wilkinson also runs a Kubota G1900 rotary, an Allen National triplex, a Wiedermann verti-drainer, a Massey Ferguson 240 tractor, a Wessex greens sweeper, a Sisis scarifier, a 3-tonne 4-wheel drive dumper and the JCB already mentioned.

To keep the machines in pristine condition is not an onerous or time consuming task, and the only way forward is to pay attention to detail. When you have reached perfection in performance you can pay attention to detail.
Maximum impact

Above: Equipment is stored on pallets and a hand-operated pallet truck is used to lift and transport the items around the shed. This prevents any manual lifting and saves time and effort hitching to a power unit.

Below: A section of the 'Mountain Links' part of the course featuring natural fescue grasses with heather and gorse lining the fairways.

Consuming task, it's just a case of a regular maintenance regime that everyone on the team buys in to. Oil and water checks and a visual inspection are carried out daily and it is the responsibility of the operator to wash down each piece of equipment used during the day. This is a policy that is followed with an almost religious zeal as the corrosive nature of macerated grass is fully appreciated by the team. This is done in a special wash down area using an industrial, heavy-duty steam cleaner powerful enough to reach the most inaccessible areas on any machine.

"We purchased the steam cleaner second-hand about 5 years ago and it has been excellent. Being of industrial quality it is much more powerful than most other machines and cleans the equipment brilliantly," says Rob Wilkinson.

Every week, each machine receives an extensive lubrication, with every grease nipple located and lubricated with a transparent grease. This involves putting the machines on ramps to get to every lubrication point, not just those that are visible. This is followed every month by an intermediate service including the resetting of blades and back lapping with both an 80 and 120 compound, if required. Each winter, every machine is stripped down, completely overhauled and rebuilt for the following season. Every second year the machines are resprayed.

There's a report board in the workshop where notes indicating any faults or problems are posted so that rectification can be carried out as soon as possible. Each machine has a detailed logbook designed by Paul Jeffries containing a complete history of every service, maintenance and repair carried out. He also has parts books for every machine and ensures that when parts and spares are ordered, a part number is quoted every time, thus ensuring that the correct part arrives. Over time he has built up an extensive stock of parts and consumables, mainly items that are used regularly such as hydraulic filters, oil filters, drive belts, plastic drives, etc.

"This might appear to be an unnecessary expense," he says, "but it has been built up over a number of years and ensures that we have as little down time as possible. If I don't have an item in stock I can always call R S Bird our local dealer in Cowbridge and they normally get the part to us within 24 hours."

Paul continued, "Readers might think that our maintenance regimes are excessive, but our policy is little and often; we never let things deteriorate. Regular maintenance at any club, large or small, is essential but here on our limited budget we have to get as many hours out of each machine as possible and this system works for us."

Rob Wilkinson added, "We used to lease purchase the machines in the past, but by making sure that we maximise the life of the kit we have been able to accumulate funds and we now purchase new equipment outright, as we have done when we bought the Jacobsen Turfcat and Iseki tractor last year."

News of the success of the service and maintenance work undertaken at Bargoed has spread to some of the smaller clubs in the valleys and they now use Paul Jeffries for some of their more difficult repair tasks. "This has worked well, as we sometimes carry out servicing and repairs in exchange for an unwanted piece of equipment which I know I can refurbish and use here at Bargoed," he said.

The final words are left to Club Secretary, Geoff Williams, "The club is very proud of the greenkeeping team, the way they maintain the course and look after the equipment. Lifelong learning is becoming the norm in all professions, especially greenkeeping. I hope that by sharing some of the practices adopted here at Bargoed that every club, however large or small, can benefit in the longer term."
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Those lucky enough to be entered in the 2001 BIGGA National Championship have a real treat in store with the rare opportunity to play two of the finest courses in the country possibly on the way to winning some of the most prestigious silverware in the Association’s possession. Royal Birkdale is regarded by many as the finest course in the country while Southport & Ainsdale, a two time Ryder Cup venue in the 1930s, but a scan of the web produces other tributes to both of these great courses...

I know everyone at Royal Birkdale is looking forward to hosting the first day of the BIGGA National Championship and my team and I will be making sure that the course is set-up so that everyone will enjoy their visit. We shall certainly look forward to meeting up with fellow greenkeepers from all over the country.

Chris Whittle
Head Greenkeeper,
Royal Birkdale GC

We are delighted to be hosting the final round of the 2001 BIGGA National Championship and I am sure the players, whether in contention for a prize or not, will thoroughly enjoy playing the course we shall be preparing for them. I am also looking forward to meeting fellow greenkeepers from around the country and I’m sure it will be a superb occasion.

Mike Mercer
Head Greenkeeper
Southport and Ainsdale GC

Southport & Ainsdale (S&A), situated in the famous belt of linksland near Southport, lies adjacent to the main Southport to Liverpool railway line, across from Hillside. Established in 1906, Southport & Ainsdale soon became famous. Having already held several tournaments, S&A was chosen to host the Ryder cup in 1933 and 1937. Few changes have taken place since then and many of the holes are still as they were when Sam Sneed and Percy Alliss graced a course which was regarded as the toughest in the country by professionals at the time.

S&A also hosts many local and national championships, including the Open qualifying rounds. A links course by nature, S&A is a fair test of golf, stretching to 6,687 yards in length off the championship tees and 6,285 yards off the yellow tees.

Royal Birkdale is a championship course par excellence. It provides a most formidable, yet always fair, test of links golf and fully deserves the accolade of recognition as a venue for the one of the world’s golf classics. The test it provides is a complete one. It tries the golfer’s skill, character, nerve and intellect.

Along with Muirfield it is justly regarded as the fairest of all the British Championship links courses. It is modern and progressive without betraying the game’s heritage. If ever the Open were to be given a permanent venue, Royal Birkdale would have a widely-accepted claim.

Birkdale exploded onto the championship scene in 1946 with the Amateur Championship and celebrated its centenary in 1989. Since then it has staged numerous championships and international matches for the best amateur and professional, men and women golfers, including the biannual matches between teams representing GB&I and America; the Curtis Cup, the Walker Cup and the Ryder Cup. Above all though, Royal Birkdale is an established venue for the Open Championship.

Each hole runs in the valley between towering sandhills. The problems are clearly stated but if you stray from the fairway, the sandhills, buckthorn and scrub can be punitive. The signature hole at Royal Birkdale is the 17th— a 547-yard par 5. Great accuracy and boldness are required – the twin sand dunes, some 240 yards from the tee, pose a real challenge, even with help from the prevailing wind.

Royal Birkdale can also boast the accolade of being voted number one in the top 100 golf courses in the British Isles.

Information from: www.golf-england.co.uk/golf/sanda.htm

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Jim Fry
Scott MacCallum met up with Dave Sammels, Courses Superintendent at The De Vere Belfry to talk about the forthcoming Ryder Cup match

You could make a strong case for arguing that the biggest sporting event of the year - and I haven’t forgotten the Lions Tour, or the Ashes Series, or Wimbledon or the Super Bowl - will take place in Wishaw, near Sutton Coldfield, in the Midlands. That is the home of The De Vere Belfry where the recently remodelled Brabazon Course will be the stage on which 24 of the world’s finest golfers will compete for the Ryder Cup.

It may last only three days and have no prize money at stake but in each of the matches since the early 80s, it has never failed to produce drama which wouldn’t be out of place at the Globe Theatre in nearby Stratford-upon-Avon.

The teams are now so evenly matched that every one of the 24 players, who tees it up during the two series of foursomes and fourballs and final day singles, knows that every single shot may prove to be of vital importance when it comes to tallying up the points at the end of the match. With that in mind the condition of the course takes on almost mind-numbing importance. What if a perfect 330 yard Tiger Woods drive finishes up in a divot... or a hole-bound Colin Montgomerie putt on the 18th green to win a match misses its target after being nudged offline by an old pitch mark? The fact that golf is an outdoor game and the rub of the green is a major element wouldn’t come into it. Perfection is what is expected and perfection is what is demanded.

You would think such a weighty responsibility would have the man in charge of getting the course close to that perfection waking up in a cold sweat at the very thought. Not so.

“I don’t get sleepless nights thinking about the Ryder Cup and everything that goes along with it,” revealed De Vere Belfry Courses Superintendent Dave Sammels. “If I were to worry about it I’m sure I wouldn’t sleep but I’m confident that we have everything covered and have contingency plans to cover all eventualities.”

And if anyone is in a position to ensure every is dotted and tee is cut it is Dave, who lives in a flat above his office and rarely leaves the gates of the De Vere Belfry during his working week.

He does admit, though, that the one thing that could go wrong is the one thing he can’t control and that, as greenkeeper knows, is the weather.

The problems that can cause were demonstrated dramatically at the Benson & Hedges International Open held earlier in the season, a tournament which acted as a dress rehearsal for the Ryder Cup.

Those watching the BBC coverage on the final day will recall the heavy skies under which the last few matches completed their games. Minutes after the final putt was sunk the thunderstorm struck with such venom that lightning hit the television commentary box at the back of the 18th stand and pictures were lost.

“We were standing under the stand at the time and there was a huge bang and a bright light at the same time as the lightning hit,” recalled Dave, who works closely with Brabazon Head Greenkeeper, Bevan Tattersall. “It also struck a huge Scots pine on the main drive 12 feet from the top and completely shattered the tree, blowing pieces 50 yards in all directions. I’d never seen weather like it before.”

Having said that, should the Weather Gods once again decide to turn their attention to the Midlands at the end of September the team will be as ready as they can possibly be.

“We have got plans in place for everything from getting water off the course to what happens if fog delays the start as happened in an earlier Ryder Cup match here,” explained Dave, who is in charge of The De Vere Belfry’s three courses, the Brabazon, the Derby and the recently-built PGA.

That planning has been underway virtually since the day Dave took over with meeting galore with the Ryder
Up for the Cup

Cup committee and European Ryder Cup Captain Sam Torrance himself.

"I've already had several meetings with Sam on how he would like the course set up for the match," revealed Dave.

"When I was in Boston for the last Ryder Cup I was interviewed by a television reporter who asked if I would be the 13th man on the team. I asked him if the Brookline Superintendent was the American's 13th man and although he didn't answer the inference was clear," revealed Dave.

"The set-up on the Brabazon will be done fairly... but in our favour," he smiled.

"Sam knows quite a bit about greenkeeping and he knows what he wants to give his guys the best chance of winning the Cup. For example, he knows how far the Americans can hit the ball and he knows how far we hit it. He knows the speed of the greens the Americans are used to and the speed of greens our guys are familiar with."

In short Sam will make sure the Europeans have everything in their favour as much as possible with the longer hitting Americans perhaps finding the fairways narrowing the further down they go or the greens not quite as fast as they would expect on their own Tour - all of it no more than the Europeans expect when they are the visiting team.

The players will find the rough four inches long with the semi an inch and a half while the likelihood is that the greens will be stimping at between 10.5 and 12.

During the week of the match the greenkeeping team will comprise of the 13 permanent members of the Brabazon team, supplemented by the 15 from the other two courses - nine on the PGA and six on the Derby - six students, who do strimming and fly mowing in the summer, and six additional greenkeepers from Slaley Hall and Carden Park, two other De Vere resorts.

"Normally there is quite a bit of banter between our three teams - each team has a name, the Brabazon staff are called Brabwrackers, there is the PGA Scum and the Derby Dingles - but we will all be pulling together to make sure everything is right during the week," said Dave. "We will be hand mowing all greens and tees and will have 18 machines, plus a couple of spares, to do the job. We will also be using greens triples to cut the fairways," said Dave.

The team will begin at first light and cut the entire course. On the first two days, when there is a foursomes series followed by a fourball series, the greens, tees and fairways will be cut again midway through the day and all divots replaced. This will be repeated at the close of play.

"We can cut the entire course in around an hour with an individual green taking about 20 minutes."

While it is easy to appreciate the nerves the players will be feeling during the week it would also be easy to underestimate the pressure the greens staff will be under. With high in the sky camera positions and huge grandstands any less than perfect mowing lines will be blatantly obvious but Dave knows his team are up to the job.

"We have some of the best greene-
keepers anywhere in Britain here - one of them is known as "Laser" Luke because his lines are so straight - and everyone is up to the job. They are all buzzing about the Ryder Cup," said Dave, who expects many of them to move on once they have the Ryder Cup on their CVs.

"I've told them I don't mind as long as they go away from here to be Head Greenkeepers - if they move sideways I'll kick them out the door. All are good enough to be at least First Assistants. We train them all on side here and I'm proud of our record for training."

While the course is being brought to a peak for the week of the Ryder Cup the general standard is something The De Vere Belfry strives to maintain day-in-day-out.

"We operate a five day shift rather than a five day week so we've always got cover on the golf courses. It saves the courses going up and down and we can keep the standard high all the time," said Dave, who likes nothing more than getting out on to the golf course and doing whatever job needs done.

"People see the course on television and expect it to be the same when they arrive for a game. It is our job to make sure it lives up to expectations 365 days a year."

When Dave is not working he heads back to his home in Edinburgh, where his wife and brother run the family business, Edinburgh Landscapes. It was through Edinburgh Landscapes that Dave first became involved with the soon-to-be four time Ryder Cup venue.

The company had worked closely with Dave Thomas, the original co-designer of the Brabazon with Peter Alliss, on a number of other golf courses including Westerwood near Cumbernauld and the Roxburghe in the Scottish Borders, and he asked Dave to give him a price for growing in the new PGA course.

The company had worked closely with Dave Thomas, the original co-designer of the Brabazon with Peter Alliss, on a number of other golf courses including Westerwood near Cumbernauld and the Roxburghe in the Scottish Borders, and he asked Dave to give him a price for growing in the new PGA course.

"At the end of that contract I was asked if I wanted a job here, initially as Course Manager of the Derby and PGA courses. I was asked as we walked around the course and the further we walked the more I fancied the idea. I can't tell you why I wanted to come here. It was a big challenge and I suppose I was getting older as well and didn't want to lose what was a great opportunity for me," explained Dave, who took on the additional responsibility for the Brabazon six months later.

A visitor to this year's Ryder Cup, not having visited The De Vere Belfry since the last match was played there in '93 might be forgiven for thinking he'd shown up at the wrong venue such has been the number of changes to the course since then.

"It would be easier to say what we haven't changed about the course rather than go through what we have," smiled Dave, hinting at the extensive nature of the face lift the Brabazon had been on the receiving end of, costing almost £2.5 million.

With that he runs through a list which covers virtually every hole, sometimes fundamental amendments, other times mere tweaks. Indeed included among the changes are two completely new holes in the 3rd and 4th. The 3rd has moved from being a straight par-4 to being a dog-legged par-5 with a pond in front while the 4th used to be a par-3 but is now a par-4, again with a pond guarding the green.

"The work has been done for the betterment of the golf course as a whole and not just for the Ryder Cup and now it is a mature course which is going from strength to strength," said Dave, whose personal input included the addition of 14 magnificent brick bridges around the course.

Pleasingly, both Dave and Bevan have been invited to all of the official engagements during the week, including the Opening and Closing ceremonies but Dave isn't fazed by the prospect of rubbing shoulders with the likes of Tiger and Monty.

"I think being a Scotsman you think 'A man's a man for a' that'. They might play golf better than me but I can do other things better than them so as far as I'm concerned we're equals. I do admire them though."

Such is the excellence of the work that has been done at The De Vere Belfry recently, coupled with that during the week of the match itself Dave Sammels and his team will have the admiration of all the players and the rest of the greenkeeping fraternity.
Daniel Binns leads you through the confusing path of soil analysis...
Periodic soil analysis is important in order to review trends of pH and nutrient levels in the soil. There are currently a variety of testing alternatives available to the greenkeeper but very few of these are independent. Furthermore the information they provide is often confusing and difficult to understand. The purpose of this article is to help interpret the minefield of information which can often accompany the results of your chemical analysis once it returns from the laboratory.

As far as we know there are 13 essential elements in the soil necessary for plant growth. These are required in addition to three nutrients, which are not derived from the soil but from the atmosphere and water. These are carbon (C), oxygen (O) and hydrogen (H) and form the largest percentage of the plant, on a dry weight basis. The plant carbohydrates are composed of these elements. The only reason we usually don't think of these as being essential nutrients is because we do not have to supply them through fertilisation and they are not derived from the soil.

The 13 soil-derived nutrients are divided up into macronutrients and micronutrients.
Soil analysis
Unravelling the mystery

required in largest quantity and include nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), calcium (Ca), magnesium (Mg) and sulphur (S). Micronutrients are present in very small quantities within the plant. These trace elements (micronutrients) are chloride (Cl), iron (Fe), manganese (Mn), boron (B), zinc (Zn), copper (Cu) and molybdenum (Mo). All of these nutrients need to be present in adequate quantities for concentrations are measured in parts per million of leaf material.

Soil pH is, of course, the single most important chemical factor that influences turf management. It is a measure of the acidity or alkalinity of the soil, determined by the concentration of hydrogen ions in a soil solution. Acidic soils (pH below 7.0) have a high concentration of hydrogen ions while alkaline soils (pH above 7.0) have a low concentration of hydrogen ions. In more acidic soils, certain nutrients become less available, namely nitrogen, phosphorus, calcium, potassium and magnesium. Potentially toxic elements such as aluminium and manganese are made more available through acidification. Many species of grass will not thrive under these conditions and as a consequence soil pH has a significant effect on the species that dominate the turf.

Most of the nutrients that we supply to the turf through fertilisers are positively charged ions. We call these cations. These cations can become attached to the negatively charged surfaces of clay and organic matter in the soil. When cations become attached to these cation exchange sites on clay and organic matter, they become temporarily retained by the soil. These nutrients can then be utilised at a later time by the plant. There are also negatively charged plant nutrients. These include nitrate-nitrogen, phosphates, sulphates, chloride and molybdenum. Due to the negative charge, they cannot be held by soil clay organic matter and these nutrients tend to move more quickly through the soil along with soil water. Thus they are prone to leaching losses, and once they reach beyond the root zone of the turfgrass roots, they are no longer available to the plant.

One essential plant nutrient is neutral, meaning it has neither a negative nor positive charge. This nutrient is boron in the form or boric acid, but the plant requires it nonetheless. Samples should be submitted from each green on the course. Representative samples may be appropriate if all the greens are constructed and managed in the same way, also helping to keep analysis costs to a minimum. Identifying the best, worst and average green.

Collect the samples at the same time each year, to the same depth and use the same laboratory - preferably the same one. This process eliminates a few variables that can compromise the value of the data. Samples should be obtained at least three weeks after any fertiliser application.

Nitrates can be extracted in the laboratory in a number of ways but in sports turf we are now seeing standardisation of these extraction methods. It is the interpretation of the results that often causes confusion.

Commonly soil chemical analysis can be interpreted in two ways, the first is the more proven, traditional method of predicting the quantity of plant available nutrients in the soil. Basing a sound fertiliser programme on pH values and level of available nutrients will provide an accurate assessment of nutrient requirements in the rootzone.

The second method of interpretation uses the base cation saturation ratio. Recommendations are made by ranking the calculated percent cation saturation with an ideal base saturation taken from research in agriculture. The percentage base saturations are those likely to be found in a soil of neutral pH. They are not necessarily the optimum ratios for plant growth and are simply derived from the natural element concentrations in soil.

As a consequence recommendations from this method assume a pH of 7.0 is desirable because nutrient availability is increased in neutral soils. Unfortunately this fails to recognise that most greenkeepers in the UK aim to have mildly acidic soils where favourable grass species will dominate, disease incidence can be reduced and weed growth inhibited. Having mildly acidic soil may have a detrimental effect on the availability of some nutrients, but it may be this very fact that gives the poverty grasses a competitive edge in a Poa annua dominated world.

As you can imagine this method can often highlight a number of anomalies in the soil, for example copper or boron deficiency. In reality, it is extremely rare to find deficiencies of any of the micronutrients on turf in the UK.

The only way to be sure that any soil test predicts nutrient availability for turf is to carry out the basic research. Interpretation of analysis results must be based on trials with turf grasses growing under varying nutrient regimes such that deficiency symptoms are actually induced.

There are now a plethora of greenkeeping products available on the market and we are constantly bombarded with information on the latest development that will make the difference to our turf. In terms of nutrition, try not to be blinded by science; instead keep resistant, disease tolerant turf as the physical maintenance of the rootzone and sensible nitrogen fertiliser applications.

Daniel Binns is an STRI Turfgrass Agronomist covering the Midlands. Daniel and the rest of the STRI team can be contacted on 01274 565131, e-mail: info@stri.co.uk or visit our website www.stri.co.uk
**North**
At the time of writing the forms for the Autumn Outing were going out to all members, and by now the event at Keith GC will have probably been played. Results will be in the October magazine as will the report from the Norrie Whytock Championship at Royal Birkdale.

All in the Aberdeen area are urged to attend the event at Keith GC will have probably been played. Results will be in the Next month's magazine.

A couple of weeks ago the annual Round Robin was played at Spey Bay GC. A match report and hopefully a happy one to follow next month.

September is busy month on the old calendar with Invitation Day next week and the Cup Final Cup at Penrhin GC on the 19th.

Important changes to your diary concerning the AGM at a recent committee meeting it was decided to move the AGM to coincide with the financial year and also make the winter golf more of a fun day. Notice is hereby given that the Northern Section AGM will be on Thursday, October 18 at 11.30 am at Woodside Hall GC.

The Autumn Tournament will follow with bacon sarni and coffee following the AGM from 12.30 with a meal and prize giving at 1.30 followed by the evening meal. Closing date for entries is October 10 with payment in full (cheques made payable to BIGGA Northern Section) and sent to my address: Mike Smith, 16 Westwood Road, BD2 1NJ.

Tickets are now being sold for the Section's annual dinner dance on Saturday, November 10, at Bradford GC, Carvery + Disco £7 per person. This is an open event so along with family and friends for a fun night out. The price for this is only £17. To book for this event contact our social man Dave Thackeray on 01274 640739 or 07765 876264 or 16 Westwood Avenue, Bradford, West Yorkshire, BD2 1NJ.

Congratulations to John Studdard for making it through to the final of the Stewards Tournament. We had to cash in some of the dollars he never spent in Florida!

Another year has ended. It seems to me so if the chance comes again, lets have a better response.

In the July issue of Greenkeeper International all members of BIGGA were given the opportunity to submit a personal profile to win a trip to Florida and the GCSSA Conference and show. The profile had to be submitted by 30th October but as although the North West Section has 600 members I only received three applications. The trip is sponsored by Bernhard & Company, and two BIGGA members will be chosen from each Region. This was a rare opportunity to go to America completely free of charge, and to find out what greenkeeping is like on the other side of the pond. Three out of 600 is not good enough, and I am sure that many of you would love to go but did not apply, well remember these opportunities are open to all members of BIGGA, so if the chance comes again, let's have a better response.

The next golf meeting will be the "Stewards" match at Hazel Grove on Tuesday, October 31 and we need a team of 16 to retain the trophy. This will be followed by the "Whitewall Bowl" to be played at Penrhin Golf Club on Wednesday 19th November 1997 and we need a team of 16 to retain the trophy. This is open to any of the above matches, or have any news or job vacancies please ring me on, 07761 583387 or 0151 145412, Bert Cross.

**Central**
This month we extend a warm section welcome to Bruce Summerton, Bruce is Head Greenkeeper at King Gordon Moir, Links Manager at St Andrews. Ronnie Bunting, Course Manager at Balgownie GC. A match report and hopefully a happy one to follow next month.

Andrews. Best wishes and every success for the future from everyone in the Section. This month we extend a warm Central welcome to Bruce Summerton, Bruce is Head Greenkeeper at King Central welcome to Bruce Summerton, Bruce is Head Greenkeeper at King Gordon Moir, Links Manager at St Andrews and Great Sander is the July magazine regarding the venue. Was the clue too cryptic or did no one really want to win a Club 2000 ticket? Tell the truth now! Surely with a venue like Celtic Park for the AGM we will get a better turnout than the usual 10 to 12 stalwarts who always give us their support. I have some of my members who actually do very well. Paul Smith and his staff on the fine condition of the course. Most of my time was taken up either in the portrait department or in the paper department. I am sure Roy Spencer passing away. Roy was laid up with a broken ankle that was never spent in Florida!

A man who has been in the wars recently is one of our Patron's representative on our committee, Kevin Brunton. Kevin sustained a broken ankle while attempting to unload something from the rear of a trailer and ended up in hospital. Best wishes from everyone for a speedy recovery. Kevin I thought because he was laid up with a broken ankle that would get peace from his usual sales patter for a while, but no, he came of it from the other day. "Just to see if there is anything you're needing. You can't keep a good man down!" John Crawford.

**Ayrshire**
Just a brief note this month to remind everyone that our Autumn Outing will be played at Brighouse Bay Golf Club on Thursday, September 27. The format will allow the usual lines. Our Secretary, Derek Wilson, will have a letter with you to confirm all the final arrangements and I hope to see a better turnout than in previous years. The event will be held at Celtic Park, Glasgow on Tuesday October 23. Incidentally no one came up with the answer to the puzzle set in the July magazine and ended up in hospital. Best wishes and every success for the future from everyone in the Section.

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**Telephone a friend!**
www.bigga.org.uk/contact.html

**North Wales**
Apologies once again for lack of notes but I have moved house and for the last month have had no fixed abode, all my belongings are spread around North Wales and my life is a bit upside down at the moment.

Apologies to go Darren Anderson, who has been trying to track me down without much success. In saying that thought is this and who has tried (C'mon committee, I need dates etc. of things to relay) It is the first week of August and I should be moving into my new house this coming week. I hope this should be resumed. I can still be contacted on my mobile on 07787 586084.

Dave Goodridge
The first of this year's Midland Region Golf Management Trophy events was held at Verulam Golf Club on Tuesday, August 7 when 16 teams competed for the Mid Herts Golf Club Autumn tournament prize. The event was sponsored by Scotts Turf, a local seed merchant, Mayor of St. Albans, Chairman of Greenkeeper and other team prizes.

Many readers may not be aware that Samuel Ryder, local seed merchant, Mayor of St. Albans, Chairman of Greenkeeper and the instigator of the Ryder Cup, was a member of Verulam Golf Club at the time he had the idea of playing a match against the USA for which he donated the trophy, which is in everyone's minds in the lead up to this year's Match at the Belfry.

The event was sponsored by Scotts who in their fourth year of support for which he donated the trophy, is to be held at Lettenh Golf Club on October 11th. The format is to be held at Lettenh Golf Club on October 11th. The format the Mid Herts Golf Club Autumn tournament prize.

The members played an excellent course prepared by head greenkeeper Geoff Smith and his staff.

The winning team was Hartshourne Golf & Country Club with a superb team score of 133, 11 under par, with the Mid Herts Golf Club a close second on 134 and Mill Hill Golf Club third on 136, on a count-back from the host club. An excellent day was had by all and our thanks go to all at Verulam Golf Club for their hospitality and cooperation in staging the competition.

Peter Larter

Mid Anglia
The Section's autumn golf tournament is to be held at Leitchworth Golf Club on Saturday, October 14th. The event will be 18 holes of golf in the morning, followed by a meal and the Annual General Meeting in the afternoon. Those wishing to attend the AGM only, should arrive for 4.00pm. Entries for the golf tournament should be sent to Richard, using the usual form.

Paul Lockett

East Midlands
Not a great deal of news to report on this month. At the E.T. Breakwells golf day on July 25 several members were invited courtesy of Len Breakwells for a business day's game of golf. The winner was BIGGA Vice Chairman himself Richard Barker. Unfortunately the East Midlands teams could only finish in third place. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Kevin Kinear, of E.T. Breakwells, for helping to organise this event. Please remember that this year's Autumn tournament is to be held on September 14 at Lingdale Golf Club. If you wish to confirm your Tee-Off time then please give me a ring.

Antony Bindley

East of England
Woodhall Spa was the setting for the Burdens Golf Trophy.

The members played over the new Bracken Course, which was in superb condition. It was well defined and manicured and an excellent test of golf. Sam Rhodes and Peter Wisbey were thanked for their efforts and asked to thank all of the EGU Headquarters for their support system and fewer working parts.

The Peterborough Garden Machinery Trophy was played at Spalding Golf Club. A good turn out of members played an excellent conditioned course prepared by head greenkeeper Tony Ward and his staff.

The winner on the day was new Head Greenkeeper to the Section Ian Batty of Sleaford GC. Welcome and well done on winning the PGM Trophy.

1. Ian Batty, 35 pts, Sleaford GC
2. Les Howkins, 34 pts, Cleethorpes GC;

Nearest The Pin. Simon Hedley.

Thanks to all sponsors on the day, especially Keith from PGM.

Others were:- Tower Chemicals, Greenpide, Atkins, Boughton Loam, Alpha Amenity, Lincsgreen, Rigby Taylors, Mansfield Sands, Burdens and Midlube.

After the prize giving Gary Cooper, of Tower Chemicals, presented David Horsey and Les Howkins with their BIGGA Blazers. Tower are now the Order of Merit sponsors which first prize is a new Blazer. Thanks to Gary and Tower Chemicals.

G Macdonald

BBO
Hustle of apologies for missing the last few months. It must have been all that sunshine going to my head - just not used to hot sunny weather especially down here at Costa Del Caversham. Anyway straight onto business and it seems that Colin Hutt is trying to do his own impression of Tiger Woods by winning all the Section competitions. Not satisfied with success at Caversham Heath back in April, he then went on to win at Maidenhead with 43 pts, closely followed by Carl Small with 41 pts and myself in the prizes (at last) with 37 pts. Many thanks to Maidenhead Golf Club for their hospitality and also to David Winterton and his team for producing such an impressive course.

We would also like to thank Bernie Wall, of Gem, for sponsoring the competition. You may also be aware that the Ryder Taylor Pairs is in full swing at the moment, (no pun intended, honest) and at the time of writing is at the semi-final stages, which consists of the following pairings: Alastair Higgs & Simon Robinson, Calcot Park, v David Goodchild & Charlie Wright, Ellesbrough. Ian Robins & Carl Small (Defending Champions), Ellesbrough) v Tony Steven & Andy Reason, Castle Royle. Chris Lomas & Mark Hancock, The Berkshire. v Gary Armstrong & Mark Steels, Cherwell Edge. Lee Bishop & Brian Payne, Burnham Beeches. v Lindsay Anderson & Simon Austin, Badgemoore Park. Good Luck to those involved as soon as I can find out the results I'll try and get them in a report.

Well that's about it for this month. You would have thought that after three months or is it four? that I might have something interesting to write about but unless you want to hear about shooting myself in the thumb or the episode with Steph and the tattoo... no I'll stop there. Hopefully see you next month.

Jon Scoones Tel: 01189 723334
The annual Regional Seminar at Cannington College will take place on November 21, 2001.

Speakers for the day are Steven Bernhard, of Bernard and Co, who will talk on Better Grass for Less Money, a two part paper. Steven will be followed by Richard Whyman, Head Greenkeeper at Bude and North Cornwall GC who will report back from his trip to Canada where he was a part of BIGGA's Bernhard's Scholarship earlier this year. The afternoon will hear from Dave Samuels, Courses Superintendent at De Vere Belfry, who will speak on preparing from the Ryder Cup. Question time will involved the listed speakers plus Neil Thomas, Executive Director of BIGGA and Past Chairman of the Association, Gordon Child.

Attendance at the seminar counts for three CPD points and cost is £17.50 for members and £25 for non-members inclusive of lunch. Further information is available from Paula Humphries Tel: 01288 352194

South Wales
The summer Competition was recently held at the Llanwern Golf Club in Newport. We were made to feel extremely welcome at the club by everyone and we had an excellent day all round. It was a first time visit to Llanwern for many of us and we found the golf course to be in excellent condition thanks to A Panks and his team. It's great when someone goes out of their way to provide that little bit of something more, something different, something special!! Course Manager Adrian Panks certainly did this for us at Llanwern, I don't know how many noticed but for us the greenkeepers, Adrian cut the greens in backlap mode, yes really! Thanks!

Thanks Ade for this special treatment, you know what they say about a craftsman blaming his tools?

Results of the day: Winner of the Birdie Cup with a best gross was Peter Holmstrom from Newport GC; Winner of the Jacobsen Out with a best net was Paul Stott from Portishead GC; Winner of the Caber Net was Mark Ellis from Cardiff GC; Winner of the Caber Best Gross was John Stacey from Cardiff GC; Winner of the Ryder Cup with a best net was John Stacey from Cardiff GC;

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best nett was J B Jones from Dinas Powys GC; 2. nett, Chairman Adrian Panks; 3. nett. Steven Lloyd from Brynsiencyn GC; 4. nett, Brian Jones from Pencoed College.

Longest Drive and Nearest the pin both went to Andrew Roach, of Haverfordwest GC.

On Tuesday 17th I was privileged to address the committee at Llanwrn for granting us courtesy of the course and to R S Bird Ltd our sponsors of the Summer Competition, to Steven Clifford, Julian Driver and Jeffrid Howells for their kind words at the presentation.

But Wednesday was the day. The prize table was superb as always and we thank them for their continued support of what is our most established event/trophy.

One of our new GC, near Porthcawl our annual match Greenkeepers versus Secretaries took place. The weather was once again superb and the golf course was in excellent condition. This was our first visit to the Grove GC and everyone was pleasantly surprised at how good not only the course is, for it's only five years old, but the facilities they have there are really top class. We were made to feel extremely welcome by all at the Grove but especially Directors Tim Jones and Mike Thomas, our sincere thanks to them for their splendid hospitality.

Grove Golf Club Captain, Mr David Jones paid special praise to Head Greenkeeper Henry Stead for his efforts in ensuring that the Grove GC is presented at it's best at all times and this was reiterated by everyone who was present. Well done Henry to you and your team.

The 39th result of the day was a friendly half with the Greenkeepers retaining the Shield. My thanks to Ray Howells for organising the Secretaries match and your team.!

As some members have problems paying before meetings, they will be able to continue to pay on the day without being levied as long as the entry has been received before the closing date, any member who doesn't attend after entering will be invoiced if no payment is received.

Richard Whyman

South Coast

It's been quite a busy month with two golf fixtures being played! The first was the Invitational Summer Tournament, which was played at a very well presented Broadstone GC.

The day received a good turnout, with 60 people taking part in the competition. Everyone I spoke to was happy with the standard of the course, so a big pat on the back to Adi Archer and his gang.

The day finished quite late, I didn't get back into the clubhouse until 9.30pm, but the meal was definitely needed by that time. A big thank you to the catering staff, who stayed late to feed us.

The results for the day are as follows;

1. 43pts Simon Rickard/Mark Davis, Rigby Taylor Trophy.
2. 40pts Alan Magew and Father; Course Care Trophy.
4. 39pts James Martin/Mike Cartwright. (Yes, that is me...)

The second event to take place was the Bigga Management Trophy, which was played at a truly magnificent Salisbury and South Wilt GC. (That's where I work!)

The first 12 came from around the South West and the section took part. The teams comprised of The Course Manager, The General Manager, The Greens Chairman and The Club Captain.

The winning teams were; 1. Moors Valley GC; 2. Another GC. 3. Aldershot GC. Some of you might not have heard of "Another Golf Club", I think it's one of those pseudonyms. I will investigate and reveal their true identity next month. I do apologise to all those at the post. But I will give more details.

So that's what has happened, now for what is yet to happen. The first is the Regional Semi Final at Carington Golf Club. Everyone should receive details of prices and how to pay for the day in the post. But I will give more details in next months article, when I have more information myself.

Well that's it. See you at Peterfield. Mike Cartwright.

Kent

July 26 saw the summer Stableford at Chestfield Golf Club. It was a rather hot day but the standard of golf not so hot. Well that's what I was told anyway. I was unable to attend so I have too much information about the antics of the day but I do have the results and reports back from those who did and they thoroughly enjoyed their day out. Well they don't get out much because I have them working so hard.

Right to the results. First place went to Andrew Gay, second to Lewis and third to Paul Larsen. Longest drive went to Chris Wright and Nearest the pin went to Keith Porter. Well done to all you girls. Not forgetting the trade who we thank for they continued support once again. And the winner of the trade prize was Derek (NOT SO) Keen of John Shaw Grass Machinery. Many people remarked that if they could have the day off and go out and about Derek. So on behalf of everyone who played at Chestfield I would like to thank all of their staff for making the Kent section feel welcome and I'm sure everyone enjoyed their day.

As I mentioned earlier I was unable to make the golf day because I had already excepted the great honour of being invited to give a talk at the Cook Memorial Golf Day at Kings Hill Golf Club. Those who don't know Bob, would not know that his golf swing passed away several years ago after a long illness. A great day was had with some of Mr Cook's more colourful friends and drinking buddies. I had the pleasure of playing with Bob's good friend The 'King' say no more.

I have not been inundated with calls or e-mails from you guys but I did hear from one Head Greenkeeper who is fed up with some of you reps who just turn up for a shake without an appointment expecting to see him and I do think he has a point. So all you reps who travel around Kent please phone to make appointments.

No other news to speak of this month so please get in contact with me and tell me what's going on at your clubs or your lives must be going on somewhere out there.

My number is 01732 876302 or e-mail me at jbatldigolf@aol.com, please, not that I am desperate yet.

I look forward to seeing you all at
the Greenkeeper and Guest Day meeting at Bouighton Golf Club on the 13th of September and I'm sure Gary Deberham will have the place looking its best for our visit. Jason Bean.

Surrey

Our summer tournament was held on Saturday 27th in warm and sunny weather at Farnham Golf Club. Many thanks to Peter McMorrin and his team for presenting the course in such fine condition and to Farnham Golf Club for the magnificent morning tea. Top of the points were;

Greg Richards, Hankley Common. 42pts Douglas Steer, Ferrow, Royal Epson, with an amazing 41 pts and two runners; Mike Gould, Copthorne, 40 pts a very welcome visitor from Sussex.

Section Nearest the pin; Anthony Rudolf Bremer, Dorking. Longest Drive; Dave Gay.

Finally the Booby Prize for most golf we played congratulate Dan Wreeker. Many thanks to Sheerwater for sponsoring the day and supplying such good quality prizes.

Anthony Freeman our Surrey Section Chairman has arranged a visit to the All England Tennis Club at Wimbledon. This promises to be most interesting excursion that will take place on October 17 from 2pm until about 4.30pm. Please contact Anthony before October 10 as all visitors must be registered prior to the day. Now other items of news from your roving reporter from around Surrey. Garry and Nicola Bishoff at Tandridge Golf Club have celebrated the birth of a son, Ethan James, 8lbs 9oz on the 26th of August. Through to the next round was the Hindhead Golf Club Steve and Kerry Holmes happily announce that their daughter Jessica Michelle 8 lbs was celebrated the birth of a son, Ethan James, 8lbs 9oz on the 26th of August. Through to the next round was the Hindhead Golf Club Steve and Kerry Holmes happily announce that their daughter Jessica Michelle 8 lbs was.

East Anglia

Firstly may I congratulate Paul Smith and his team at Royal Lytham & St. Annes for putting on a great venue for the 13th Open Championship. The course looked in splendid shape and certainly caused some problems for the professionals, and well done to the BIGHGA team for their sterling performance. Results as follows:

0-10 handicap Section
1. Robert Whitting, 34 pts.
2. Peter Howard, 33 pts.

11-17 handicap Section
1. Lawrence Wright, 38 pts.
2. John Kettle, 37 pts.

18-28 handicap Section
1. Andrew Wray, Castlenock Golf Club, 37 pts.
2. David Darby, Casderock, 36 pts.
3. Ian Richie, 36 pts.

Longest Drive - Mark Day

Nearest the Pin - Mark Turner

Captain & Club Official Shield

For the first time in ten years one of our band got a hole-in-one. Keith Tishall holed out on the 9th hole - 194 yards with a 3 iron, one bounce and in. (Well done Keith.) The toilet seat was won by Pat Snow from Rushmere Golf Club. For a change, only Pat could wear large light trousers in the presence of Nicklaus, Palmer and Player.

The latest Section golf competition was held at Royal Belfast on July 6. This is a quite magnificent parkland golf course between Holywood and Bangor overlooking Belfast Lough. The afternoon competition was played in bright sunshine, light wind with temperatures in the seventies. Head greenkeeper Jim Eager and his staff had the course in outstanding condition. Many thanks to Royal Belfast Club for allowing us the courtesy of the course. The competition was generously supported by our sponsor Graham Prosser of Tacit. The top four prizes went to:

1. Andrew Wray, Castleock Golf Club, 37 pts.
2. Gary Murphy, Hickford Golf Club, 37 pts.

Visitors prize went to Peter Smith, Ballyclare Golf Club. I would also like to thank all the members who attended, many travelling a considerable distance from City of Derry, Castlebor, and Portstewart. Our thanks also to the GA support team at this year's Championship qualifier on the Valley course. The result will be in next month's magazine.

Past chairman Graham Wylie has just returned from The Open Championship at Royal Lytham and St. Annes. Graham was part of the BIGHGA support team at this year's Championship, and was feature on BBC television during the Saturday afternoon session talking to the Duke of York. He has informed me that the trip was a brilliant experience and would like to thank everyone at BIGHGA for giving him the opportunity to be part of this year's Support Team.

Well that's all my news for this month but I would like to welcome new members Rodney McKay, Galgorm Golf Club; Jim Eager Head Greenkeeper, Royal Belfast Golf Club, and Harry Greigston, Deputy Head Royal Belfast Golf Club. Past Chairman Alan Strachan.

I will feature the charity golf day at Cladedge Golf Club and Championship qualifier on the Valley course in next month's newsletter.

Ken Henderson

September 2001 Greenkeeper International 41

I would like to first of all pass on my congratulations to Alan Strachan and his greenskeeping team at Royal Co Down Golf Club, for another successful British Seniors Open. After the installation of a completely new irrigation system at Royal Co Down last winter, it is nice to see all their hard work come to fruition with the excellent presentation of the course. This year’s British Seniors Open was another success, I would like to see come to fruition the presence of Nicklaus, Palmer and Player.

The latest Section golf competition was held at Royal Belfast on July 6. This is a quite magnificent parkland golf course between Holywood and Bangor overlooking Belfast Lough. The afternoon competition was played in bright sunshine, light wind with temperatures in the seventies. Head greenkeeper Jim Eager and his staff had the course in outstanding condition. Many thanks to Royal Belfast Club for allowing us the courtesy of the course. The competition was generously supported by our sponsor Graham Prosser of Tacit. The top four prizes went to:

1. Andrew Wray, Castleock Golf Club, 37 pts.
2. Gary Murphy, Hickford Golf Club, 37 pts.

Visitors prize went to Peter Smith, Ballyclare Golf Club. I would also like to thank all the members who attended, many travelling a considerable distance from City of Derry, Castlebor, and Portstewart. Our thanks also to the GA support team at this year's Championship qualifier on the Valley course. The result will be in next month's magazine.

Past chairman Graham Wylie has just returned from The Open Championship at Royal Lytham and St. Annes. Graham was part of the BIGHGA support team at this year's Championship, and was feature on BBC television during the Saturday afternoon session talking to the Duke of York. He has informed me that the trip was a brilliant experience and would like to thank everyone at BIGHGA for giving him the opportunity to be part of this year's Support Team.

Well that's all my news for this month but I would like to welcome new members Rodney McKay, Galgorm Golf Club; Jim Eager Head Greenkeeper, Royal Belfast Golf Club, and Harry Greigston, Deputy Head Royal Belfast Golf Club. Past Chairman Alan Strachan.

I will feature the charity golf day at Cladedge Golf Club and Championship qualifier on the Valley course in next month's newsletter.

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WIN A BIGGA SPORTSWATCH

Simply look through all the products and services in our guide and name the companies which the following telephone numbers refer to:
a. 01302 365222
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c. 01273 564015

Write down your three answers on a postcard and send your entries to:
Know Your Numbers, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF

Entries to reach us no later than Friday, September 14, 2001. The first correct entry drawn will receive a stylish BIGGA Sportswatch!

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

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

Last month, Robin Evans, from Whitby Golf Club, certainly knew his numbers when he correctly identified all three telephone numbers.

Our congratulations and a fantastic BIGGA sportswatch are on their way to you!
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September 2001 Greenkeeper International 45
Recruitment

FREE online Job Shop Ads!

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

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

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

Send your completed order form to: Jennifer Whichello, Cheryl Broomhead or Meredith Foster, 1UF, or fax the form to us on 01347 833802.

Marketing Directors

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

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

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

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

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 visit: 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: October 12, 2001
Recruitment

TRENTHAM PARK GOLF CLUB require a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Trentham Park Golf Club is an 18 hole Parkland Course situated to the south of Stoke on Trent.

Applicants should be technically qualified in Greenkeeping and have the necessary man management skills to lead a small team in all aspects of maintenance and course development.

The successful candidate must posses the following qualifications:

- A proven ability to prepare and monitor budgets, inventories, expenditure and work schedules. A sound knowledge of Health and 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 C.V. and the names of two suitable referees to:

The Secretary/Manager, Trentham Park Golf Club, Trentham, Stoke on Trent, Staffs ST4 8AE

COOMBE HILL GOLF CLUB require a

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Applicants should be qualified to a minimum NVQ2 with Spraying Certificates PA1, PA2 and PA6

Salary negotiable in accordance with experience

Applicants in writing with CV to:

Murray Long, Head Greenkeeper, Coombe Hill Golf Club, Golf Club Drive, Off Coombe Lane West, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey KT2 7DF

GERRARDS CROSS GOLF CLUB requires an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

To join our enthusiastic team.

Experience required - Excellent training provision

Applications in writing with CV to

The Secretary, Gerrards Cross Golf Club, Chalfont Park, Gerrards Cross, Bucks SL9 0QA
The closing date for applications is 22nd September 2001

CHIPPING SODBURY GOLF CLUB require a

MECHANIC/GREENKEEPER

NVQ 1 & 2 qualified, Spraying certificate an advantage.

At least 3 years experience in a similar position.

The successful candidate will be well motivated, conscientious and able to work as part of a team. Mechanical experience will be a major consideration in the selection for this appointment.

Apply in writing with full CV to:

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

VACANCY

Clandon Regis Golf Club Ltd require an experienced Greens Assistant

Due to the continued success being enjoyed at Clandon Regis Golf Club Ltd, we are in the position of employing an additional Greens Assistant.

The successful applicant should be experienced in all aspects of greens maintenance and operation of grounds maintenance machinery and preferably a computerised sprinkler system. The ideal applicant should hold the appropriate PA2 and PA6 certificates or equivalent. Also preferably enrolled for or holding an NVQ1 or NVQ2.

we offer ongoing training, four weeks paid annual holiday and all appropriate outdoor clothing. The successful candidate will enjoy a salary commensurate within the Standing Committee rates.

In first instance please contact in writing (enclosing your current CV).

Mr SR Swanson, Course Manager, Clandon Regis Golf Club Ltd, Espom Road, West Clandon Surrey GU4 7TT.

September 2001 Greenkeeper International 47
Sandy McDivot gets a few things off his chest ...

Housing Associations

As Basil Fawlty might say, satellite television is an avenue of pleasure that has been closed off to me. I have attempted to persuade Mrs McDivot of its necessity by pointing out that amongst other little treats, it would make available to her a channel entirely devoted to shopping, but she immediately makes the assumption that I am a pathetic play to spend my evenings in anathetic pose while watching sport with beer can perched on rapidly expanding abdominal region. Her objection to televised sport centres around her argument that there is little point in watching sport with beer can perched on a Friday afternoon when you can enjoy real life drama unfold in the form of soap operas.

That is not to say that I am totally alien to the pleasures of the dish receiver. I have to admit to straying into the habit along with my work colleagues of partaking of the odd beverage or two on a Friday afternoon. While engaged in this highly civilised accoutrement to the working week we often watch golf on Sky Sports. This is of the highest quality and a pleasure to watch but I must state my objection to two frequently shown adverts that are totally derogatory to our noble profession. In fact they put us into the same bracket as estate agents and tax inspectors; a minority group that is perfectly acceptable to be prejudiced towards.

The first advert depicts one of our brethren as an unkempt, drug crazed psychopath, hell bent on holding up poor Freddy Couples while he moves the hole to a small promontory of the green that juts out into a lake. The other shows a greenkeeper spending hours rolling golf balls up to the hole making sure the position he has just chosen is as crowned as possible. In both cases, the message is given that the manufacturer’s equipment can more than cope with our evil intentions. Unfortunately for us, the additional marketing angle is that the modern day champions are all Charles Manson clones whose sole raison d’être is to irritate golfers. This is a viscous and totally unnecessary aspersion to the good name of our profession. The manufacturers attempt to persuade Mrs McDivot our evil intentions. Unfortunately for artificial turf, which is probably due to the entirely devoted to shopping, but she This is a viscous and totally unnecessary aspersion to the good name of our profession. The manufacturers attempt to persuade Mrs McDivot our evil intentions. Unfortunately for artificial, which is probably due to the fact that this is a pathetic ploy to spend our profession. Everyone knows that playing from the ladies tees and putting the hole to a small promontory where the sight of a weed would invoke a public inquest, manicured Tudor style beams and each sur- rounded by its own piece of countryside in the form or a garden on at least three sides. Golf course architecture was in its infancy at the time but Colt, McKenzie and Ross et
all, all produced courses that would be in similar compatibility with nature as much as was possible. The land on which they were laid out was never altered to any degree and intrinsic features were utilised in the design. Water hazards were rarely employed unless they were naturally present and bunkers were made to look indistinguishable from their land on which they were laid out was was never within similar compatibility with al, all produced courses that would be in similar compatibility with nature as much as was possible. The land on which they were laid out was never altered to any degree and intrinsic features were utilised in the design. Water hazards were rarely employed unless they were naturally present and bunkers were made to look indistinguishable from their land on which they were laid out was never within similar compatibility with nature as much as was possible. 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Immediately after finishing this column I have the great pleasure of travelling up to Stoke Park to present the club with its Golden Key plaque. As we have said before we are all delighted that Stoke Park has shown the foresight in being the first golf club to contribute so generously to the Education and Development Fund through the Golden Key programme. We do hope that more clubs become involved because, after all, it is the golf clubs which ultimately benefit from all the good work that is carried out as a direct result of the existence of BIGGA’s Education and Development Fund.

I am also pleased to be making the visit because I haven’t been to Stoke Park for many years and I’m looking forward to having a good look at the golf course.

Talking about presentations, I can’t go on without congratulating Walter Woods on becoming the next recipient of the prestigious Old Tom Morris Award, made annually by the GCSSA. We’re all very proud of Walter who was the Association’s first Chairman in 1987 when he combined the role with his demanding “day job” of maintaining high standards, at the St Andrews Links courses. He has done huge amounts to advance greenkeeping as a career in general as well as given so many young greenkeepers a boost in their own career development.

Past winners of the Award include Arnold Palmer, President Gerald Ford, Bob Hope and Jaime Ortiz-Patino, while the last winner was Tim Finchem, Commissioner of the US Tour. So you can see the exalted company Walter is keeping. It is a great honour for Walter, particularly as it is in the name of a fellow St Andrews man, and a great honour for our Association.

I’d like to thank all the members who took part in the recent R&A funded survey conducted by Mike Williamson. The Board are currently looking at the responses and we shall report back at a later date on the findings. While in Yorkshire for the Board meeting to discuss the report I took the opportunity to call in on Simon Haynes, at Skipton Golf Club. Simon used to work for me and has been made welcome by the locals on his move north.

His golf course was surrounded by sheep but the course was still open. In contrast we’ve just returned from a short break in the South West - a bit like Tony and Cherie Blair - and there is still a great deal of evidence of the Foot and Mouth outbreak. It seems there are different rules in place for different parts of the country.

I’d like to take this opportunity to wish Dave Samsells and his team at The De Vere Belfry all the very best for the Ryder Cup later this month. Having been in the same position myself in 1981 I know the pressures involved in preparing a course for a Ryder Cup. With the way the Cup has grown over the last 20 years they are even greater now, so I hope that Dave and the team get the weather to show the course off to its best advantage and none of the problems adverse weather can bring.

Saltex is just around the corner and I look forward to seeing many of you in Windsor. You know you are all welcome at the BIGGA stand for a chat, information or just to say hello.

Just before I finish I’d just like to say that working on a heathland golf course I particularly enjoy this time of year when the heather is in full bloom and everything is looking very nice. It makes you forget the problems of earlier in the year... or very nearly does at any rate!
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