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January 2002

Your next issue of Greenkeeper International will be with you by February 20, 2001

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A First for Andy Campbell MG

Master Greenkeeper Andy Campbell, Course Manager at De Vere Carden Park, near Chester has become the first UK based greenkeeper to achieve GCSSA certification.

Andy achieved his Master Greenkeeper status in 1998 and decided to attempt the GCSSA certification route as his next educational challenge.

"I was looking for something which wouldn't tie me into the formual structure of university, as time away from work would have been difficult. The GCSSA route allowed me to work at my own pace in my own time... There was also a feeling that 10 or 11 American Superintendents had 'done it to us' by becoming Master Greenkeepers so I wanted to 'do it to them'", smiled Andy, who added that he got a lot of support from the American Master Greenkeepers.

The initial step proved to be one of the trickiest and that was having UK qualifications recognised by the GCSSA for education points and Ken Richardson, BIGGA's Education and Training Manager, was able to assist in this area.

He still needed to gain continuing educational points from the GCSSA and it meant him undertaking five correspondence courses, including the University of Guelph Turf Certificate programme before the was eligible to sit the six part exam but only after he successfully completed an inspection of his golf course operation.

"Like MGC the exam is six hours long but unlike MGC it is open book and multiple choice. There are 300 questions which works out at 50 per hour. There are one minute and 15 seconds per question," explained Andy.

The difficulty for Andy, is similar to that faced by Americans facing the MGC exam but with relatively less experience and has helped to broaden his outlook.

"I'm a fairly confirmed Jim Arthur fan and I do think that's the way to go but there are situations where others have got answers which we haven't or another way of working.

"John Scott, the US Tour's agronomist who has become a great friend of mine, told me that I should be looking and questioning things more. Before I may have been a little bit narrow minded and focused on one way, so in terms of thinking outside the box I think I'm a better greenkeeper," he explained.

One thing it hasn't done is diminished his admiration for British greenkeepers.

"We're probably as good, if not better, than most when it comes to coping with a variety of conditions and dealing with the high expectations of golfers."

Like anyone who is a "first" the determination and commitment shown by Andy is quite remarkable.

"For the last six months, five or six nights a week I studied from 9pm to 2am and when I was doing the correspondence course it was every night for nine weeks. The financial cost, in terms of books and seminars etc was considerable, shall we say," said Andy, who is now considering learning Spanish and also starting a BSc.

"I do have a high sense of achievement, in a pioneering sort of way, but that will be wasted if others don't follow. However, I'd definitely recommend people going for the Master Greenkeeper first because you've got to acquaint yourself to the sort of exam pressures MG exposes you to without doing it all with another country's methods."

Andy will be presented with his certificate at the CGSSA Conference and Exhibition in Orlando by Walter Woods, who will be awarded the CGSSA's Old Tom Morris Award at the Conference.

There was real pressure to retake the exam quickly as I knew Walter was going to be presenting the certificates this year. I admire Walter greatly and his receiving the Old Tom Morris Award is fantastic for British greenkeeping."
Recognition for Kenwick Park GC

Winners of the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition Northern Region in 2000 and one of only two English clubs granted Committed to Green recognition, Kenwick Park Golf Club, which is near Louth in Lincolnshire, hosted an Environmental Seminar last month, to spread the word on how good environmental management can enhance the golfing experience.

Kenwick Park, which opened in 1992, formed an environmental panel in 1999, comprising the Head Greenkeeper; the Club Secretary and four members.

The Panel produced an environmental management policy document in January 2000 which led to the Club registering for the Committed to Green programme in February 2000.

Ian Sheppard, Chairman of the Environmental Panel, said that the aim of the seminar was to encourage other golf clubs to partake in the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition; to register for the Committed to Green programme and to use sound environmental management policies.

He also stressed that golf clubs were there for people to play golf and were not nature reserves. Moreover, with good management, strong commitment and effective communications, many more clubs could help to show that golf courses have a positive impact on the environment.

Role model for young trainees

BIGGA's Clerical Assistant, Brad Anderson, has been featured in a Learning Skills magazine as a prime example of what can be achieved by a young person through work based training.

Brad has attained his NVQ Level 2 in Business Administration and his Key Skills since joining the BIGGA HOUSE staff in September 2000 and the article highlighted his success and the work BIGGA, as an Association has done, in supporting him.

"I've been discussing what to do next with John Pemberton and I'd really like to do an IT qualification and I'm planning to do the European Computer Driving Licence as well," said Brad, 18. John Pemberton is delighted that the Association has been able to assist in Brad's progress.

"Brad has quickly become a valuable member of the BIGGA HOUSE staff and he has deserved his success," said John.

Plaudits for Broadstone

The Presentation of awards for the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition 2001 took place at Broadstone Golf Club, in November. More than 30 Broadstone members, past Captains, Chairman of Green, Lady Captain, Club Captain, Course Manager Adrian Archer and the Greenkeeping Team, joined Neil Sherman, Norman Fenwick, Mike Dickens from Ipswich Golf Club, Graham Lang from Cardigan Golf Club, Dr Keith Duff, Bob Taylor, Ken Richardson and David Ansell from the Dyke, last year's winners, to hear how Broadstone had been working for many years to improve the maintenance of their course as a traditional heathland while still giving golfers a memorable golfing experience.

Thanks to the generous sponsorship of the R&A, this competition has continued to encourage golf clubs to think about their course management policies and see how good environmental practice can run alongside the need to have a good course for golf.

Ipswich Golf Club, winners of the first competition, in 1993, were the winners in the South of England, Cardigan Golf Club were the winners in Wales, Wilmslow Golf Club were the winners in the North and Kilmacolm Golf Club were the winners in Scotland. Each regional winner was presented with a cheque for £500 and a plaque to display in the Clubhouse.

Broadstone, the National Winners, were presented with a cheque for £4000, a Glass Bowl and a plaque to display in the Clubhouse by Dr Keith Duff, Chief Scientist of English Nature and National Chairman Clive Ogston.

Toro deal renewed by Elmwood College

Elmwood College, in Scotland, has renewed its five-year exclusive partnership agreement with Toro for golf course maintenance equipment, in a deal valued at £350,000.

"We renewed the deal because the reliability of the whole range of Toro products, plus the back-up we receive, ensures that we can maintain our own high standards and offer the best in the industry," said John Quinn MG, Director of Elmwood Golf Developments, who oversees the management of the college's 18-hole course, restaurant/clubhouse and consultancy/contracting operations.

The college is serviced by local Toro dealer Henderson Grass Machinery.

Testing times for European Turfgrass Laboratories

European Turfgrass Laboratories have once again been reaccredited by the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation to undertake putting green materials testing.

"We are pleased that once again we have met the standards of the A2LA being now accredited to ISO/IEC 17025 until July 2003," said Ann Murray, Laboratory Director.

ETL continues to be the only accredited laboratory in Europe that tests to USGA standards.

"In addition to being accredited we also take part in the USGA proficiency testing programme. Care should be taken to note that the USGA proficiency testing programme does not accredit any laboratory, it is merely a proficiency testing times which participate," explained Ann.
**Section Event?**
www.bigga.org.uk/events.html

**Prestigious events require volunteers**

**Volvo PGA Championship, The Wentworth Club, May 23-26, 2002**

The Association will again be providing a support team for this prestigious event on each of the four competition days. Each member will be allocated a match and will walk the course with the game, taking any bunkers found by the players.

In addition, should adverse weather conditions prevail, you may be required to assist the Wentworth greenkeeping staff in keeping the course playable.

You will be responsible for your own transport arrangements to the course and there is no provision for overnight accommodation.

You may apply to help on any or all days and usually all those who apply are given the chance to participate on at least one day.

When applying please give details of your polo shirt size as this may be provided together with daily meal vouchers.

Helping at this event will not prejudice your chance of a place on The Open Championship Support Team.

Applications to Derek Farrington, BIGGA Regional Administrator, 35 Cleveland Road, Worthing, Sussex BN13 2ES Tel: 01903 208656

The Open Championship, Muirfield, July 18-21, 2002

The BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team at The Open Championship will be involved in early morning course preparation, bunker raking while matches are in play and evening course repair. You must be available from Wednesday evening July 17, through to the close of play on Sunday July 21.

While all transport, accommodation and meals will be provided between these dates it is the team member's responsibility for travel from home to the venue and return. Full BIGGA members only may apply to be considered for the Team, and must apply to:

John Pemberton, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwalk, Alne, York, Y061 1UF. Should you require any further information then John can be contacted on 01547 833600 or e-mail: john@bigga.co.uk

The closing date for applications for the Open is Friday, February 22, 2002.

**Latest news?**
www.bigga.org.uk/news.html

**Employment tribunal payout**

Neil Whitaker, a member of the Mid-Anglia Section, has recently won substantial damages at an employment tribunal against Ashley Golf Club, North London, for unfair dismissal.

**Line adds to Gaunt & Marnoch team**

Line Mortensen is the latest addition to Gaunt and Marnoch’s team of golf course architects. Aged 30 and from Copenhagen, Denmark, Line will strengthen further G&M’s push to expand its activities in Continental Europe. But Line will not work solely abroad and in her first three months at G&M’s Bakewell office, she has immersed herself in a range of remodelling work at Prestatyn, Trentham Park and Aston Wood.

“We have travelled far and wide across Europe to find somebody like Line. Her profile is perfect and we’re delighted how quickly she has fitted in as a key member of our team, alongside our other recent golf course architect recruit, Dimitri Van Haewaert and our trainee, Steve Pope,” said Co-director, Jonathan Gaunt.

Line brings a wealth of experience to her new role. Like Jonathan and Steve Marnoch, Line is a landscape architect. Unlike them she is an exceptional golfer, having played for the Danish National women’s team from 1997-1999. She was top graduate of the EIGCA’s Professional Diploma course in 1998 – the first woman and only Dane so far to graduate to the EIGCA.

**UK Irrigation Association 2002 Spring Seminar**

**Losing the right to irrigate?**
Wednesday, February 13, 2002
London Golf Club.

The south east of England may suffer from devastating floods in the winter but is there sufficient water to go around in a dry summer? Will there be enough for irrigators of fruit and vegetables and for those in the sports turf and leisure industries who have come to rely on irrigation to provide quality? How will trickle irrigators fare under the new abstraction licensing arrangements? How much water can you reasonably expect to have? How can you make the most efficient use of it?

Never has there been a time when the industry has had such change and uncertainty. You need to know the facts and how the changes will affect your business so you can plan for the future. Presentations will look at: How do Changes in Water Resources Management affect Irrigators? Implications and experiences of introducing the new southern region water resources strategy for irrigators; Abstraction Licences - how are they dealt with? What is a Reasonable Irrigation Need? What is the optimum use of water for irrigation from which the guidelines for future licensing will be drawn. How can Irrigation Efficiency be improved? The technical and management options available to irrigators for improving water use efficiency in the light of the Environment Agency’s new water use efficiency requirements for lic. the approval and a look at the future of irrigation.

Cost: £60 (plus VAT) for UKIA members, £80 (plus VAT) for non-members. This includes seminar registration, buffet lunch, refreshments, and a summary of Seminar Proceedings.

Contact: Melvyn Kay, Executive Secretary. UK Irrigation Association, 5 Lea Road Amtophill, Bedford, MK45 2RR. Tel: 01525 635127, Fax: 01525 754537. Email: m.kay@ukia.org

**Textron seal new deal**

Textron has been appointed as the distributor for Iseki compact and mid range tractors for the Middle East and South Africa. Before this extension to their territory, they held the franchise for the UK only.

Glyn Patrick, Sales Director at the international turf maintenance equipment manufacturer and distributor, said:

“This extension to our territory is a direct result of the success of our sales and marketing strategy for the brand here in the UK. We were awarded the franchise over three years and in the intervening period have brought some welcome stability to the brand.

"We have a significant distribution chain, both in the Middle East and South Africa, which will enable us to offer the same level of customer service and support to Iseki as they have achieved with the Jacobsen, Ransomes, Cushman and Ryan brands. We are looking for further penetration in the turf maintenance market with this territory extension. " Textron has been appointed distributor for Iseki's compact and mid range tractors in the Middle East and South Africa.

**Kawasaki awards New European role to Jack Ford**

The growth of Kawasaki Commercial Products in the UK over the past decade has earned the man behind the scenes of this success a key post in Europe with the Japanese manufacturer.

UK Sales and Marketing Manager Jack Ford takes 30 years of knowledge and experience in the commercial products industry to his new role as European Sales and Marketing Manager as part of a broader restructuring within Kawasaki on a Europe-wide scale. Speaking on the appointment, Jack described it as a wonderful opportunity, but at the same time he is fully aware of the magnitude of the challenge.

"I'm naturally very pleased and flattered to have been selected for such a position and am looking forward to being able to make a difference on a European scale, but this is not just a mammoth opportunity, it's a mammoth task and will take a great deal of careful consideration and thorough planning," he said.
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Viva Las Vegas!

Bude and North Cornwall GC Assistant, Jason Chilley, made his local paper with his marriage to Bridgette recently. The couple had headed off on holiday to Las Vegas having assured their parents that there was no way they were going to get married only for Bridgette to phone home at 2.15am one morning to announce that they had indeed got themselves spliced... which, in fact, had been the plan for the previous nine months. Having wed in the glitz capital of the world the newly weds then spent their honeymoon in Hawaii. Congratulations to you both.

Response to Duncan McGilvray

When a greenkeeper of Duncan's (McGilvray) experience and status expresses concerns about the state of our profession it must be noted (See Greenkeeper International November issue page 9). Clearly from the tone of Duncan's letter he wishes to stimulate a debate; on that I wholly endorse him, I too feel that stagnancy has crept over us recently, and that the stature of our profession is diminishing.

I do not believe that our profession has become complacent. However I do think that our profession is struggling to cope with the golfers expectations of year round perfection, that changing work patterns due to climatic change is exacerbating the problem and that a lack of support mechanisms for the Course Manager can leave him feeling isolated.

I believe that what our profession is suffering from is a crisis of confidence. A lack of confidence deriving from that feeling of isolation. At a time when the demands made of our golf courses are increasing. The Course Manager is too often left 'slogging it out' with Committees, Boards, Golfers, and Secretaries in the pursuit of best practice.

The source of the demands is quite simply the constant drive for higher standards, and the need for clubs to generate revenue. Now that is a good thing, as professionals we should welcome it, yet realism demands that higher standards require resourcing, and nature insists that golf courses are very resilient to changes in the weather on the contrary weather changes are one of the most common issues raised by golfers when they talk about golf. I think that one of the main issues is the condition of golf courses suffers, and golf Course Managers are hindered.

Duncan's suggestion that some Course Managers are lacking in proactive optimism may well be valid, but the fact that he knows potentially pro-active managers who have abandoned the industry really does demand scrutiny. I am concerned about the way in which we as a profession are demoralising young enthusiasts, to the point that they will walk away? What is it about our industry that results in short-term reactive management?

Our profession is golf course management, our industry is Golf. We need to look at all the elements within the industry, the structures (the golfing authorities) the employers (the golf clubs), the decision-making processes (committees, boards of management). Golfers (our customers) the education system and finally support mechanisms for the Course Manager. That means BIGGA. We have to analyse the extent to which these various elements impact our capacity to deliver a product. We have to consider whether the net sum of these elements means that golf courses suffer, and golf Course Managers are hindered.

The Way Forward by the R&A, for a period managed to pull these elements together. But it is inherent within our industry that change occurs. The constant turnover of club committee members guarantees that last year's decisions are next year's debates. The inevitable consequence of this is that even as valid a document as "The Way Forward" annually becomes dilut ed, and eventually ineffective. If the Golf Club is not always an ideal environment for golf Course Managers to work, how can we change it?

I believe that all the elements need pulling together and refocusing, and that the condition of golf courses needs to be moved to the very top of the industry agenda. To do this we have to start at the top. The Golf Authorities are respected enough throughout the industry to have influence within individual clubs. They could impart this influence by issuing a code of conduct to clubs, or even club officials, controversial yes, but if it was dependant on affiliation it would be effective.

The golf clubs have to reconsider priorities, and accept that pro-active management commences in the committee room or boardroom. A return to the principles of "The Way Forward" in those clubs where it has lapsed, or an adoption of those principles where they never existed would be a positive step.

Golfers need educating, and every avenue has to be pursued in this goal. The Course Manager has to be active within his club, Golfing magazines should be persuaded to take up our cause, and TV commentators must be told to refrain from telling in time by commenting upon a subject that they know nothing about. For golfers take their word as gospel.

The education system needs an urgent review. I believe that the worst thing that has happened to our profession in my time has been the introduction of NVQ's. (I speak from experience here because I have taken NVQ3 and C&G3 ) If knowledge is power, and power breeds confidence, then NVQs are eroding the confidence of the greenkeeper. To make the step from greenkeeper to Course Manager you need to be furnished with more
Industry stallwart retires

One of the biggest supporters of the Scottish golf industry has retired after 50 years career servicing, repairing and selling equipment to golf courses throughout Scotland.

At a special celebration at the headquarters of Scottish Grass Machinery George Brown received £200 golf vouchers.

Since 1951, George has become one of the leading UK authorities on the Ransomes brand of grass cutting equipment experiencing the high man-power requirements of horse-drawn and pedestrian machines to the latest high output equipment.

"Over the years George has become one of the most knowledgeable and best known characters on golf courses across Scotland. Professionally, he will be missed by us all, but given the number of invitations that he has had to play golf from all of his hundreds of customers, I am sure that we will constantly be bumping into him as he plays the country’s finest courses!” said David McInroy, Managing Director, of Scottish Grass Machinery.

Are we stagnating?

than group assessments of simple tasks, and the barest of essentials on soil science and amenity horticulture. The lack of theory and scientific background in NVQ’s is simply disgraceful.

We as a profession should not be accepting these as industry standards, and should be encouraging the educationalists to produce a qualification that is viable.

And finally BIGGA, we may well look back with pride, where it all started, how far we have come, but we must continue to strive forward. We must question whether the goals set up at creation have been attained, and whether those goals are still what the membership requires? Does the Association interact with clubs enough? Is the Association offering the support mechanisms the Course Manager needs? What input does the Association pursue in the items discussed above? I believe that BIGGA has a huge input to make in the representation of our profession, and that it must do so forcefully and with confidence.

Finally, having had my tuppence worth let me say that I am not pessimistic about our future. I see around me hungry young men, articulate, dedicated and keen to take up the baton. If the industry, and all those in it behaves responsibly then the future is bright and prosperous. However if the industry is irresponsible, then it is to those young men that they will eventually turn to for a solution. Ultimately, they cannot get by without us.

John Ross, Course Manager, Laleham GC, Chertsey

Thanks!

I would like to thank the Golden & Silver Key sponsors for supporting the Regional Training Programme. I attended the Risk Assessment and COSHH Awareness Course on 29 November at West Hill Golf Club. They offer excellent value for money and I would urge other greenkeepers to attend the training provided by BIGGA.

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This month, Ken and Sami from BIGGA'S Education and Training Department would like to wish all readers a very happy New Year, and outline details of forthcoming Regional Training Courses...

**Education and Training update**

**Regional Training**

Following some very successful Regional Training Courses, which took place during November and December, we are planning a series of courses for February/March. Several sections have requested courses ranging from Basic Computing to Chain Saw Competence and these will run alongside the very popular Essential Management Skills and a new, Next Steps in Management Course. Details will be sent to members during January so make sure that you book early to ensure your place.

Remember, each one day course costs members an extremely low £20 thanks to a £40 per delegate subsidy from the BIGGA Education and Development Fund. Golden Key Members of the Fund (see opposite) are also issuing £30 training vouchers to their Greenkeeper customers making one day courses completely free.

The National Education Conference, Workshops, Seminars, all BIGGA courses, Section and Regional Education and Training all count towards BIGGA CPD credits.

**Continue to Learn at Harrogate**

The popularity of the Continue to Learn Week is increasing with many delegates booking early. Workshop 1 is now full and only a few places remain on Workshops 2 and 3. There are still places available on all Seminars, which may be booked 'on the day'. Remember, that bone fide customers making one day courses completely free.

The weeks events are rounded off on Thursday 24 January by the BTME/Golf Club Show Banquet, which is open to delegates of both shows. Returning to the Majestic Nightjars. Banquet tickets are still available but please ensure to book your place before 9 January. BIGGA has sold all of its reserved accommodation and all those wishing to stay in Harrogate during Continue to Learn/BTME/Golf Club Show should contact Reservations Highway on 01423 525577.

You've got mail!

If you've got an email account why not send an email to the education department, where we can put you up-to-date with education news and events as they happen.

Send an email to education@bigga.co.uk

**Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund**

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

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Raising the Standards of Mowing Management Video £4.95 to BIGGA members £29.95 to non-members

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Email: StudentEnquiries.silsoe@cranfield.ac.uk
www.silsoe.cranfield.ac.uk
Tracey and Susannah from BIGGA's Membership Services Department, would like to wish all existing members and prospective new members a very Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Make your New Year's resolution...

... to bring your passport size photograph to Membership Services on the BIGGA Stand at the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition (BTME) on Tuesday, January 23 or Wednesday, January 24; if you wish to:-

- Renew your existing membership
- Join BIGGA
- Bring a passport size photograph of yourself
- Obtain information on the different categories of Membership
- Change your personal details i.e. home address, Employer details etc
- Check your membership status
- Obtain renewal replacement forms
- Collect Tax Forms
- Ask questions regarding General Legal Protection
- Ask questions regarding Personal Accident Insurance cover
- Obtain information on the Direct Debit Scheme
- Obtain information on the Direct Debit Scheme

BIGGA welcomes...

A warm welcome is extended to the following new members...

Scottish Region
Stewart Addison, North
David Brad, East
Raymond Leach, East
Barry Nichol, West
Brier Williams, Central
Michael Wilson, Ayrshire

Northern Region
Matthew Corfield, N West
Barrie Crooks, N West
Mark Draper, N West
Gary McGowan, N West
Christopher Robinson, N East
David Scott, N West
Peter White, N West
Paul Worsennich, N West

Midland Region
Luke Brinfeld, Smith, BBO
Martin Burbanks, BBO
Martin Downend, BBO
Steven Grass, Mid Anglia
Daniel Haynes, E Midlands
Marc Kelly, BBO
David Leatun, Midland
David McGreggor, BBO
Daniel Neve, BBO
Andrew Payles, E Midlands
Kevin Steppings, BBO
Andrew Turnbull, BBO
Michael Walter, Midland

South East Region
James Cole, Kent
Phyllis Evans, Surrey
Richard Johnson, Surrey
Neil Simpson, London
Peter Thirston, Essex

S West & S Wales Region
Adrian Bridgewater, Dev Cwall
Sarah Heck, S Coast
Sean Jarvis, S West
Andrew Martin, S Coast
Paul Nicklen, Dee C Wall
Nicholas Ofori, S Coast
John Petter, S Wales

Corporate Members
Lee Flynn, E Midlands
Keith Harrison, E Midlands
Jim McGeeley, E Midlands
James Robson, E Midlands
John Allen, Surrey
Alan Abi, S Wales
Richard Minton, S West
Roger Turner, S West

Student Members
Andrew Brandie, North
Stephen Dunlop, Northern
Graham Steel, N West
P Steele, Midland
Edward Edwards, E Midlands
Robert Osgood, E Midland
Paul Garman, Sitwell
Jes J Goodchild, London
Brian Plume, Essex
Mark Grace, Central

whatever your query call onto the BIGGA stand and visit Membership Services.

Also on the BIGGA stand you will have the opportunity to purchase quality clothing from the popular BIGGA leisurewear range, made by Cutter and Buck, Peter Scott and Sun and Rain, all branded with the BIGGA logo.

The BIGGA stand will also have for sale, copies of all the educational/training videos BIGGA has produced, plus the following three popular books, Practical Greenkeeping by Jim Arthur, Golf Course Presentation by John Hacker and George Shiel and A Practical Guide to Ecological Management of the Golf Course, written by STRI Ecologist R.A. Taylor. Not to mention the very useful BIGGA Field Guides (FREE to members on production of your membership card).

There will be something for everyone so why not visit the BIGGA Stand in Hall Q Stand Q69.

Important news for all Greenkeeping Members
As from January 1, 2002, the following changes to the Personal Accident Insurance Scheme apply to all Greenkeeping Members, regardless of their membership expiry date.

- The Scheme will be insured by the Royal Sun Alliance Group and excludes the first 28 days of any period of incapacity. Claims arising from war and terrorism are excluded.
- For full details contact Membership Services.

January's Monthly Membership Draw Winner

Just introduce one or more new greenkeeping members to BIGGA and your name will be placed into a draw to win a fantastic BIGGA sportswatch. Our congratulations go to January's winner, Joseph Findlay of Royal Portrush Golf Club.

Sand Green Construction

In an article on Sand Green Constructions in Great Britain, Tim Colclough of the STRI asked is there a place for them and is there a need for them? Conclusions were based on research following a three year trial on the fertiliser nutrition of sand greens carried out at the STRI and sponsored by the R&A. Tim concluded that the combination of research work and site experience leads us to believe that generally there is no place or need for pure sand greens in this country. The only mitigating circumstances which could contradict this conclusion may arise due to a complete lack of suitable local materials and a tight construction budget.

In the News

Tom O'Brien, Head Greenkeeper at Royal Birkdale Golf Club for the past 14 years would be retiring in 1992.

Howard Swan had been admitted to the regulating body for golf architecture, the British Institute of Golf Course Architects, as a full member. He had founded the British Association of Golf Course Constructors in 1980 and for five years, until 1990, was Chairman of the National Turfgrass Council.

Phil Baldock was moving from Hanley Court to take up the prestigious position of Head Greenkeeper at Royal Portrush. Today, Phil is Course Manager at another top course - Ganton Golf Club.

David Wood, Head Greenkeeper at Holtye Golf Club, then a Phase 3 student at Plumpton College, had gained the rare distinction of being the first greenkeeper to gain the prestigious Top Student of the Year Award - The City and Guilds Silver Medal - awarded by none other than the governing body itself, The City and Guilds of London Institute Examination Board. Today, David is Head Greenkeeper at Hever Golf Club.
Club Car Carryall Turf Vehicles  Green keepers around the world have placed Club Car turf vehicles first in performance, reliability and overall satisfaction. We want you to share in that experience. Our versatile turf vehicle range offers more than 200kg of payload, a massive 5.2m² load bed and an industry-leading 2-year manufacturers’ warranty. These impressive capabilities are supported by a unique light-weight aluminium chassis which means that our vehicles don’t rust and they’re gentle on turf.

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Top dressing, bunker renovation and material handling are physically intensive tasks involving the movement of bulky and heavy materials. Kevin Marks visited Kings Hill Golf Club in West Malling, Kent, to see how Course Manager Duncan Kelso approaches these important disciplines.

The Kings Hill development at the former West Malling airfield in Kent is a mixed commercial and residential project based around the concept of combining work (offices), rest (homes) and play (golf course) to provide a high quality of life in a single location.

The golf course was constructed in 1995 and was opened in October 1996. It is a proprietary club, privately owned, and managed by Kings Hill Golf Ltd, with a management team that consists of three people: the Club Manager, Margaret Gilbert, the Golf Professional, David Hudspith, and the Golf Course Manager, Duncan Kelso. It is run on a membership basis, but is not directed by the members.

Duncan, a BIGGA member, has complete control of the premises and the course. He sets his own budget, subject to the approval of the American owners, and signs his own cheques and has a huge degree of autonomy, probably more than most Course Managers in the UK.

The course was designed by a UK architect, David Williams, and construction took just over a year with seeding commencing in autumn '95 followed by a growing-in period during the spring and summer of 1996.

Tees and greens have been constructed to USGA standards and the course has been sown with fescue and bent grasses. It is over 6,700 yards long, a par 72 and includes 60 acres of woodlands and some heath land.

The entire 200-acre course is situated around a central area of
Top: The hand held remote control unit enables the operator to monitor the operation at the working end of the machine.

Above: Large volumes of material can be accommodated in the 4 cubic yard capacity hopper.

Top right: Low ground pressure is achieved utilising a four-wheel axle and 31 x 15.5-15 turf tyres.

woodland, with the startlingly modern clubhouse located close to one of the housing developments on the north side of the course.

The Greenkeeping Centre was built two years ago and is located in the central woodland. Being in this central position it offers five access points onto the course, which alleviates heavy wear on any particular route. It also results in fast access to the farthest points on the course.

The 6,000 square feet facility comprises a large storage shed, engineering workshop, chemical/fertiliser store, greens' staff rest room and changing facilities, refreshment area and Course Manager's office. As you would expect from a modern, forward-thinking manager there is a host of IT equipment and Duncan's office houses the computer controlled irrigation system along with PCs and software that provides a host of personnel and management information. Facilities have much improved as prior to the opening of this new centre, the greenkeeping team of nine were based in the airfield's former Control Tower.

Duncan runs a variety of equipment from three major manufacturers - Textron for top dressing and aeration, Toro (ride-on fairway and rough mowers) and John Deere (Gator utility vehicles, pedestrian mowers and compact tractors).

However, the main reason for my visit was to obtain Duncan's views on topdressing and bunker renovation and take a detailed look at how he is using one of his latest items of capital expenditure - the Turfco CR-10, a combined loader, top dresser and material handler.

Duncan is a great believer in the need for top dressing and throughout the season will top dress the greens with a light dressing every three to four weeks. He also cores twice a year on greens and twice a year on tees - in March and in August - but will increase this if necessary.

As any greenkeeper will appreciate, top dressing is a time consuming task, requiring the material to be loaded at the storage site, then transported to the relevant part of the course, then shovelled into a top dressing machine, then applied to the tee or green. And this is exactly how Duncan's team undertook this task, using a 2-tonne trailer to transport the material to the dressing area. It was a three-man operation and took the team 12 hours to core and top dress all 18 greens. This involved four hours of overtime per man and proved to be not only a physically...
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It may surprise you to know that it was over thirty five years ago that a small Dutch company first solved a problem that will be only too familiar.

For years people had been scratching their heads looking for a speedy, efficient and economical way of collecting litter, leaves and grass cuttings.

The engineers at Trilo came up with the perfect solution – an ingenious vacuum sweeper which they called the Trilo Grass Collector.

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First in the field, still out in front.
Duncan's philosophy is that you can never do enough on a golf course, so with the labour and time savings made there's more time to tackle numerous other tasks. One of those tasks is bunker renovation and again the CR-10 has proved invaluable.

No matter how efficient a bunker drainage system is, over time debris will build up and drainage will deteriorate. The main cause is the deluge-type rainfall that now appears to be more common in the UK. More run-off from surrounding areas is generated by this type of rainfall resulting in silt, leaves, grass and other debris collecting at the lowest point of the bunker, which over a five-year period results in standing water in the bunker and the need for a renovation programme.

As most of you reading this will appreciate, there are around 2000 tonnes of sand in the bunkers of a typical golf course and the normal renovation process will be to pile the sand into the centre of the bunker, either by hand or mechanically, backhoe it into a trailer, then transport it to a storage/recycling area somewhere within the boundaries of the course. New drainage pipe work is then installed, new sand is transported to the bunker and deposited directly into the centre if access is possible, or deposited at the side, close at hand. This is then spread, again either mechanically or manually. It takes 2 days per bunker using this traditional approach.

Disposing of the old sand always presents a problem, but with the CR10 the old sand can be used as top dressing on the adjacent fairways using the twin spinners that are an integral part of the machine. This saves a journey back to the storage site and speeds up the operation.

The real benefit becomes apparent when the bunkers are refilled. Sand is loaded into the hopper, and is then transported directly to the bunker edge. Using the swivel action conveyor system, the sand can be deposited in various positions around the bunker and then spread with a mechanical bunker rake or by hand. The time saving and reduction in physical effort is enormous - two of the largest bunkers at Kings Hill were refilled in one afternoon!
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Are you on temporaries for long periods?

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Aah DANISH
Ian Tomlinson describes some of the problems he has faced since beginning work as Course Manager at Rungsted Golf Club in Denmark.

Having worked in Switzerland for 14 years I returned to work in the UK for three years before my family and I decided to spread our wings once again and this time head for Denmark.

I became Course Manager of Rungsted Golf Club in July, 2000, and had just 24 days to prepare the course for the SAS Invitational Tournament.

Taking on such a challenge in the middle of the playing season and not understanding the course, the climate, or how the Danish Green Staff worked, pushed me to the limits of my greenkeeping abilities but thankfully the competition was a success.

So why Rungsted? The previous year the club held the final of the SAS Invitational with Scandinavia vs The Rest of the World with stars such as Tiger Woods, but after the competition the Poa greens failed due to stress and the members ended up playing temporary greens.

Before discussing the greens let us look at some worrying facts and imagine that in 2000 all greenkeepers in the UK were faced with the same prospect as Danish Greenkeepers. Today the only legal fungicide labelled for golf course use is Sportak, a systemic fungicide that has been used so much you may as well throw orange juice on the greens.

Imagine that in 2003 the only fungicide that you can use will be banned for use on golf courses along with all weedkillers. In fact all chemicals. Quite a daunting prospect for any greenkeeper but how long before UK greenkeepers are faced with the same situation?

In the Talking Heads feature in August some Course Managers/Head Greenkeepers were stating that they accepted having Poa greens and that you could not get rid of it and that standards would fall if they tried to eradicate the Poa. It is all too easy to say we manage the Poa when you know that you have an arsenal of fungicides available to you in your chemical storage room at the first sign of any disease.

The way forward is going back to traditional greenkeeping methods and trying to encourage fescue and bent grass to establish on the course, major aeration programmes and limit the use of water and fertiliser.

So let us go back to understand why the greens failed in 1999. The greens were 100% Poa with 5cm of thatch. NPK had been applied on a regular basis, greens were receiving 20 to 25 minutes of water every night but what is quite incredible is that six years ago a consultant had told Danish greenkeepers that aeration was bad for greens and so everyone stopped aeraating. The result was at Rungsted we had 1cm of root growth and serious compaction problems.

Obviously trying to get greens low for a major championship with no root growth the resulting failure was inevitable.

It would appear that many a golf course has been set back by poor agronomic advice in this country and with the prospect of all chemicals being withdrawn in two years time a rethink on greenkeeping practices is urgent. There is no quick fix solution here only a lot of very hard work ahead for most greenkeepers.

One man who has taken on the crusade is Chris Haspell. Chris has been in Denmark six years and has done an incredible job of turning 100% poa greens into high percentage fescue/bent greens at Falster where he worked. His traditional methods have not gone unnoticed as he has now become Greenkeeping Consultant for the Danish Golf Union, offering advice to clubs who have found themselves in the same situation as Rungsted.

Just after the SAS last year the serious work on to the greens began. Soil tests showed we had huge excesses of fertiliser in the soil. The greens suffered with dry patch and Anthracnose disease. The irrigation water taken from a bore hole was of poor quality and turned the poa yellow if used on a regular basis (the course is only 500 m from the sea) and the irrigation system required major work to it.

The old greens still drain but the thatch holds the water on the surface. In August 2000 I hollow tined with 16mm hollow tines with a new Toro Pnoore aerator at 3cm spacings to remove as much thatch as possible, overseeded with 200 kgs of Bar 2 fescue/bent seed applied with a proseseeder and applied 60 tonnes of top dressing. Solid tining was done with 8mm tines every two weeks followed by a light top dressing. In September we hollow tined again the same as above but did not top dress and applied 300 kg of seed. In October I verti-drained the greens with 12mm tines down to 30cm depth some six times in six weeks. I will not tell you what the members were saying.
Now, unlike the weather that you experienced in the UK from the autumn in 2000 through to the spring of 2001, we missed all the rain. Winter was perfect with cold dry weather and some snow. The temperature was down to -15 at times and I had some greens that had frost in them for three months. This was perfect for the greens as natural decompaction had taken place under the greens and fusarium was the last thing I was worried about. We also verti-drained the fairways in the autumn for the first time in the club's history. We had a very dry spring and summer and the fairways were in great shape without any fertiliser being applied. In the past four tonnes of fertiliser had been used on the fairways each season. The programme for the fairways in the future is deep aeration with the vertidrain and verticutting as required.

As mentioned previously the irrigation system left a lot to be desired. The first thing that I did was to have Bill Hawthorn come out to evaluate his experience as a true professional. We had no isolation valves out on the tees irrigation system left a lot to be desired. The temperature was down to -15 at times and some fusarium was the last thing I was worried about. We also verti-drained the fairways in the autumn for the first time in the club's history. We had a very dry spring and summer and the fairways were in great shape without any fertiliser being applied. In the past four tonnes of fertiliser had been used on the fairways each season. The programme for the fairways in the future is deep aeration with the vertidrain and verticutting as required.

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programme when greens have been used to a high NPIC diet and that a softly softly approach is required which is very good advice. I am aiming at 100 to 120 kg/ha of Nitrogen this year on the greens but it is a fine line between letting the poa struggle and still having some sort of playing surface for the 1100 members. As we manage to get more fine grass to establish so I hope to reduce the Nitrogen levels each year so making the poa struggle even more.

Another reason why Nitrogen is being used in Denmark is that Denmark is one of the largest fescue seed producers in Europe which gives you hope that it will grow naturally like that in this climate. We work out of a first class main- maintenance facility. We have a fully fitted workshop and I am fortunate to have four Danish greenkeepers, two French greenkeepers and an excellent Danish right hand man called Johnny Mortenson. The staff are really wanting to learn and there is a greenkeeping school at the top of Denmark but the courses are spread out over 11 weeks each year so making the poa struggle even more.

Although fluent in French with a working knowledge of German nothing quite prepared me for the Danish language. I am trying hard to master it but when nearly every Dane speaks perfect English it is all too easy to carry on daily life in English.

We work out of a first class maintenance facility. We have a fully fitted workshop and I am fortunate to have three qualified mechanics on the staff and breakdowns are very quickly put right. The staff quarters and canteen are cleaned and washed every day by outside contractors (now that is something that you should ask your committee to implement at your next meeting. I would probably hear their reply from here!) We have a full range of equipment from all the major suppliers.

There was talk before I joined the club about bringing in an Architect to see about lengthening some of the holes and assessing the bunkers which are in a terrible condition and need major renovation work to them. I am fortunate in that Ron Kirby who has designed Jack Nicklaus' courses in Europe for the last 16 years and has worked with Trent Jones Snr and Gary Player is a family friend and Ron came out in May of this year for two days and has given us some invaluable help on the way forward for the course. Ron was somewhat surprised that six of the holes are growing on pure peat which goes down some 18 metres before reaching solid ground. This is why you can imagine creates a special maintenance practice. The grass on these fairways grows 2 cm every night! It is worth noting that Alistair MacKenzie's brother designed the course back in 1957.

Following a recent meeting of the Board, finance has been made available to start the bunker reconstruction programme. The first investment will be a 3.5 tonne 360 degree excavator on tracks. I have sourced the materials required from sand to fill and turf and will start in October 2001. We are going to push ahead with as many bunkers as possible through out the autumn and winter and will fit in the tees irrigation upgrade as well when ground conditions means that construction of the bunkers is not possible.

The coming years look like being very interesting and exciting and I look forward to giving the members the course they deserve after all the disruption that they are facing today.
This month sees BIGGA's major Education and Training week, Continue to Learn, starting on the 21st of this month. Designed to give delegates greater choice of subjects and speakers, the first two days include the National Education Conference and the Workshop Programme.

Start your week by listening to Dr James Beard, the world renowned Turf Grass expert or by attending a one day Workshop on Emergency First Aid or Environmental Management. Unfortunately, the two day, Golf Course Design Workshop is full. Dr Beard is followed by three speakers, Keith Weatherhead from Cranfield University, John Bradwell and Agostino Guadue from Turf Seed UK and Ruth Mann from STRI looking at the effects of Global Warming on the Golf Course.

Tuesday morning's lecture looks at Redesign and Reconstruction of Golf Course Features with Donald Steel, Tom Mackenzie and Martin Ebert covering the design and redesign of golf courses, Brian Pierson covering construction techniques and Jim Moore looking at the needs of greenkeepers.

Tuesdays afternoon gives the information needed to prepare your course for winter play with Ed McCabe, Arthur King and George Shiels giving you the knowledge to answer those difficult questions.

Both one day workshops run again on Tuesday, January 22.

Wednesday, January 23 sees Continue to Learn move to the Royal Hall, alongside BTME, with Roger Black giving the Keynote Speech. A range of seminars follows starting with Jim Moore from the USGA talking about the Design and Construction of Bunkers. Dr James Beard appears for the second time on Thursday afternoon, talking about Turfgrass Management. Come along and see if you agree or disagree with the speakers on this varied programme.

Friday morning sees the final seminar session for those remaining in Harrogate with Jim Moore from the USGA talking about the Design and Construction of Bunkers. Dr James Beard appears for the second time on Thursday afternoon, talking about Turfgrass Management. Come along and see if you agree or disagree with the speakers on this varied programme.

Friday morning sees the final seminar session for those remaining in Harrogate with Dr Mike Canaway leading the way with a talk on the link between training and professionalism. BIGGA Chairman, Clive Osgood, follows to tell you about his year as Chairman with Master Greenkeeper and Certified Golf Course Superintendent, Andy Campbell talking about Changing Times and Changing Jobs.

The Careers Advice Clinic returns for its third year with Brin Bendon and Frank Newberry looking to treat your career problems. Find out how to apply for jobs, write a CV and cope with interviews by attending the clinic in the HALL Q of the Harrogate Exhibition Centre.

Discuss you education and training problems with Ken or Sami at the Education and Training Stand which will be situated alongside the Royal Hall. The Royal Hall is approached through Hall M. The Golf Club Show has its own education programme. Aimed, mainly, at Golf Club Secretaries, Chairmen of Green and other Golf Club Committee.

The NEW Allen Hover Trimmer

...come a new range of petrol driven hover mowers powered by 4-stroke HONDA engines.

Three models are in the range each benefiting from the easy starting smooth and quiet running of the Honda power packs, which can be used on slopes up to 45 degrees.

The usual features of Allen hovers are retained, strong duty.
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members, the programme begins, on Monday, January 21, with Running Golf Courses in the 21st Century presented by experts from STRI.

Golf Club Show delegates can then attend the free Keynote Session given by Roger Black and then attend the Golf Club Show Seminars chaired by the National Secretary of the Association of Golf Club Secretaries, Ray Burniston. Thursday sees some excellent seminars for Golf Club Show delegates with speakers looking at how to keep irrigation water sweet by using Sulphur Burning Technology, Preparing for the 2006 Ryder Cup, Strategic Planning and finally, the chance to see the World renowned expert, Dr Jim Beard, talking about Turfgrass Management.

There is something for everyone, Greenkeeper, Superintendent, Groundsman, Golf Club Secretary, Chairman of Green, Golfer and Committee member, at Harrogate this month. BIGGA has provided the largest, flexible, education and training programme in Europe. Make sure that you gain the most benefit by coming to Harrogate where it all takes place from Monday, January 21.

Over Mowers

Honda Engines

handlebar fixing to the deck, engine mounting frame giving less vibration and less damage to engine/deck in heavy duty conditions.

Tapered cone fixing of impeller to crankshaft means this item can be removed easily and without the use of pullers with resulting damage.

New pram style handlebars give more comfortable and hence less tiring grip, and are easier for side to side mowing.

Clean cut, quick change, safety blades

- Safer than a bar blade
- Clean cut - minimises bruising
- Safe for use with a rope
- Quick & easy to change
Clive Osgood looks after the two magnificent Walton Heath courses and, as he explained to Scott MacCallum, you've got to work extremely hard to retain their heathland characteristics.

Walk out into the middle of Walton Heath and immediately you can smell golfing history. Half close your eyes, and you can almost picture James Braid's giant frame striding down the fairway. Listen carefully and you'll swear you can catch the swish of hickory as another ball flies off towards its intended target.

Walton Heath Golf Club doesn't celebrate its centenary until next year but in the 99 years golf has been played on the famous piece of common land it has witnessed more significant moments in the game's development than the combined histories of a dozen clubs each with 200 years on the clock.

Just as a taster. In addition to the '81 Ryder Cup, which featured what is widely regarded to be the finest team ever to represent the United States, and numerous top professional and amateur Championships, Walton Heath is the home of the Parliamentary Golf Society.

Pleasingly the test of golf set by architect, Herbert Fowler, and over which the aforementioned Scottish representative of the Great Triumvirate played as long time Club Professional, has changed only minimally and efforts to regain the 1903 look involves a great deal of on-going effort now and in the future.

Continuity is a quality Walton Heath has in spades and something many other clubs would do well to emulate. James Braid was the forerunner of a very small band of Club Professionals, while BIGGA National Chairman Clive Osgood, is one of only six Head Greenkeepers in the club's entire history. In fact one of the old photographs on display in the clubhouse is of Thomas McNiece, the club's first Head Greenkeeper.

That's not to say that Clive is the greenkeeping equivalent of a museum custodian, as keeping things the way they are intended is a full time and demanding job.

"Heathland is a semi permanent state and it is true to say that it is always trying to revert back to woodland," explained Clive, as we sat in his 4x4 in the middle of the course.

"Heathland originally came from tree felling and sheep grazing and there certainly hasn't been any sheep here for a few years," said Clive, whose office wall carries a poster which declares, "Heathland: Surrey's Last Wilderness".

It prompted the question of how long would it take for the course to recolonise.

"If we sat back for 10 years and did no clearance work at all you probably wouldn't be able to see from one fairway to another for trees. In fact within a year the growth would be noticeable," said Clive, who has enjoyed a considerable number of years at the Club.

It was, he contends, the war years contributed to the decline in Surrey heathland.

"The men were not around and the commons and heaths were neglected and became woodland. When that happens it takes a lot to get them back." While Walton Heath Golf Club is well aware of the quality of the golfing heathland it has in its care and has policy documents ensuring the two wonderful courses retain their character, Clive has had to face criticism when trees have been felled and removed, not necessarily from members of the golf club.

"If we stand in the middle of Walton Heath we are surrounded by trees on all sides and a lot of the people who would criticise us for taking trees down are the same people who in 15 years time, say we'd been remiss and lost the heathland. It's a point about which I feel quite strongly," he said.

Clive has some old postcards of the course which show James Braid playing shots on some of the holes and one thing that does strike you is that, although anything but heavily wooded, the modern day Walton Heath does have a few more trees than when Herbert Fowler designed it.

"We don't rely on trees on the course. It was designed by Herbert Fowler to be an inland links course, not with trees in mind. In our circumstances there are still too many trees on the course," he said, adding that another feature noticeable from the postcards is that Walton
THOMAS McNiece

Left: Thomas McNeice was the first Head Greenkeeper at the club and a man who served on the Board of Management of the greenkeeping Association of the time. He died in the Great War in 1916.

Heath’s greens which are considered large were even larger in Brat’s day. Walton Heath is found in an area covered by several blanket Tree Preservation Orders but by making a case through English Nature, the Surrey Heathland Project, other relevant bodies and local councillors that they would be replacing the trees with a much richer habitat they were able to remove the Order.

As you look around you’ll see examples of some large scale tree clearance which has subsequently been carried out and Clive sees this as an on-going project.

To highlight the point of how this will return the course to it original look Clive drove out to the 12th tee on the Old Course and told a story about a Henry Cotton feat in 1938:

"Henry Cotton was involved in a Grand Match involving, among others, Bobby Locke and he performed the previously unheard of feat of taking out the dogleg and driving the green," explained Clive, as I attempted to peer through the trees even to see the green.

When Cotton did it he had a clear view of the green and had to clear an expanse of heather and gorse, no mean achievement in itself, but it was a possibility not open to anyone who walked off the 11th green with a point to prove nowadays.

"In the Ryder Cup in 1981 we played the tee off the front, a distance of 341 yards, to invite players to cut the corner but not too many tried. That was 20 years ago and trees will have come and gone in that time but I’d very much like to get the hole back to how it was when Cotton played it in 1938."

When tree clearing is undertaken Clive and the team often use a JCB to push the tree over and remove the roots as well.

Bracken is another unwanted visitor to Walton Heath and this year Clive and his team have sprayed it with an eco-friendly chemical, Asulox, in a bid to seize the initiative from the virulent plant.

“We’ve invested a lot of money in bracken control but, being a systemic herbicide, we won’t know until next spring how successful we’ve been. Hopefully it won’t come up again and we can then budget to go round the bits we may have missed and it becomes just an occasional job thereafter.”

While the bracken which is good to see the back of, heather is the opposite and there are on-going procedures in place to ensure the heather is positively encouraged.

“It is something which we’ve struggled to get on top of but in recent years the resources have been there and thankfully I think we’ve turned
the corner," said Clive, who has a dedicated team of three within the team devoted to the conservation work.

"Over the last few years we have carried out work on several fairways where we have stripped down to the seed bed on five metre wide strips down each side of the fairway.

"Some might consider it unsightly but after a year or 18 months the heather never lets us down and it comes through to the extent that the membership would like us to do a lot more. Heather needs to be kept young for best results.

"The important thing is not to carry away the heather seed when you lift the turf with a turf cutter. This can be used for revetting bunkers or restoring pathways or general repair work. The large scale areas are stripped with a JCB and we store it for composting," said Clive.

Labour intensive though the work is the rewards are there for everyone to see with the ever changing colours which identify the seasons throughout the year.

"For a few weeks in March there is the beauty of the yellow gorse in flower, then there is the broom, which, if you're not careful, can get away from you, but it then comes into flower. Then we have summer before the end of August through to September when we have the beauty of the heather. There is also a certain bleakness in the winter which to me is another side of the character of the course," said Clive, spoken like a man who has never lost enthusiasm for his place of work.

"It is a beauty which the Club shares with the many other people who enjoy the heathland.

"The course is on common land and I'm pleased to say that everyone who uses the heath complements each others' pursuits. We have dog walkers and horse riders and everyone enjoys and respects the heathland. Long may it continue.

Another striking element of Walton Heath is the magnificent heather faced bunkers, many of which are fine examples of Fowler's, and subsequently Braid's, distinctive cross variety, which have helped to preserve the length of the course - although both courses can now be stretched to over 7000 yards.

"The best examples of the heather faces are on the obsolete bunkers because heather doesn't really cope well with sand blast but where we can encourage it we will. In fact you can see on some of the bunkers which side has most play because one side of the face can have better heather coverage than the other."

Clive also took the opportunity to correct the popular misconception that the courses' excellent drainage comes as a result of a sandy top soil.

"We have very heavy clay, 30 foot of it above chalk. It is also extremely acidic which is where we get our heathland characteristics but there is not a hint of any good soil of any real consequence anywhere. Our quality drainage comes from surface run off. Any problems are always self inflicted," he revealed.

"Talking with Clive you discover that he knows every nook and cranny of his golf courses. He even has an area named after him, Osgood's Corner, after he highlighted the location to a local archaeological group but those who know Clive will not be surprised that he is more embarrassed than proud of this accolade. When his year in office as BIGGA's National Chairman ends at BTME this year he will happily return to his full time role of ensuring that the Walton Heath members have a course to be proud of and that they stay ahead of the game in the battle to retain one of the finest true heathlands in the country.
New trials claim greener grass

This month sees the commercial launch of what scientists are calling a 'quantum leap in turfgrass breeding', British Seed Houses' turfgrass breeding programme at the Institute of Grassland & Environmental Research has developed a new ryegrass-based seed mixture proven to stay green all year round.

According to IGER plant breeders, the new Grade A26 So-Green mixture - based on the first ever 'stay green' perennial ryegrass - will offer opportunities to keep turfgrass looking good, even under summer drought and other stress conditions.

The new mixture is a product of over 12 years of development and like many of the most significant scientific breakthroughs, has its origins in a chance natural discovery.

"In 1969, one of the IGER scientists noticed that leaves on a single grass plant in a field trial in Aberystwyth kept their green colour during autumn and winter, instead of turning the expected yellow colour like leaves on surrounding plants," explained IGER turfgrass breeder Danny Thorogood.

"Later it was found that leaves on plants bred from the original 'stay green' plant also retained their green colour during drought," he said.

The green colour in grass leaves is chlorophyll that intercepts light and converts it to sugars - the process of photosynthesis. Normal ageing or severely stressed leaves switch on a series of genes that trigger the production of enzymes that break down chlorophyll. This process removes any greenness and the grass leaves turn yellow.

But, as Danny pointed out, 'stay green' grass is different.

"In 'stay green' grass, a gene controlling an enzyme involved in one of the earlier stages of chlorophyll breakdown is not active. This means the normal process of pigment breakdown is prevented, even though photosynthesis is inactivated. This results in the retention of a photosynthetically inactive green pigment in the leaves," he explained.

"Over 12 years of conventional plant breeding and backcrossing has now produced a distinct, uniform and stable 'stay green' perennial ryegrass called AberNile. AberNile combines the 'stay green' benefit with all the other characteristics required in an amenity perennial ryegrass, such as high shoot density and an ability to withstand high levels of wear," said Danny.

Trials at IGER and the STRI have now demonstrated that mixing 60% AberNile with 35% slender creeping red fescue and 5% Avoan velvet bent can deliver the best all season, greener grass.

"According to Andy Newell from STRI, the 'stay green' is certainly a significant turfgrass development. Our trials have shown that 'stay green' grasses differ from traditional grasses in respect of increased greenness and reduced yellowness. There's no doubt that they can increase the perceived visual quality of grass mixtures," said Andy.

The trial findings have resulted in the BTME 2002 commercial launch of Grade A26 So-Green a proven, innovative new seed mixture offering any turfgrass professional seeking to improve the year-round visual appeal of amenity grassed areas beautiful turf that literally stays green all year round. Seed is available now for spring 2002 sowing.

Further details from British Seed Houses Tel: 01522 866714

Scotts launch new organic based fertilisers

Scotts are launching a new range of organic based turf fertilisers formulated to give turf managers the benefits of both organic and inorganic fertiliser. New Greenmaster Organic fertilisers combine inorganic and organic nutrient sources with natural bio-stimulants, ensuring accurate, reliable provision of essential nutrients while also enhancing the soil micro-flora.

The organic fraction of Greenmaster Organics is derived from chicken manure and, in addition to providing a proportion of the nutrient charge in slow release form, will help improve soil structure, stimulate soil organisms, encourage thatch breakdown and enhance micro flora responsible for fighting turf diseases. By combining this material with a mineral-based fertiliser, NPK and trace elements the product formulation can be tailored for today's needs. Greenmaster Organics are also designed for ease of application, comprising a dust free, homogeneous granule giving a fast, accurate spread and a uniform turf growth and colour response. The product is low in odour and guaranteed free of weeds and other contaminants.

"Greenmaster Organic is designed for the environmentally aware turf manager looking for good performance and value for money. It is efficient to use, effective, based on solid science and it works. Essentially, Greenmaster Organic combines the reliability of mineral feeds with the benefits of organics - and none of the drawbacks," said Scotts Technical Manager, Simon Barnaby.

For further information call GreenTek, European distributors of the products on: 0113 287 7000
Improve your irrigation water

For the greenkeepers whose courses are built on alkaline soil and who have to irrigate turf with water which has a measurable alkaline content, the yearly battle to keep breakthrough of poa annua, broad leaved weeds and fungal diseases - not to mention surface earthworm castings in check, is inevitable.

According to Peter Roberts, Managing Director of the Hydroscape Group, who is launching the Sweetwater Solution Generator, at this year’s BTME, this is not necessarily the case.

‘The SSG, an “add-on” to existing water resources - storage tanks, ponds, lakes or reservoirs - negates problems caused by alkalinity and related high pH levels, by the addition of soluble sulphur into water used for irrigation purposes, and subsequently absorbed into the soil.

‘The SSG achieves this by burning sulphur granules in the generator’s oxidising chamber. As combustion takes place, sulphur dioxide gas is produced and mixed with water forming dilutated sulphurous acid.

‘The process is completely safe. Unlike acid injection, which involves health and safety issues, the SSG is simple to operate. Once sulphur granules are fed into the hopper, the process takes place automatically,” said Peter.

‘Pumped back into the holding source - storage tank, lakes or reservoirs, the treated water is applied to the turf and soil through the irrigation system during normal watering cycles. Depending on the type of system used, application can be made on a selective basis or right across the golf course.

‘Water treated in this manner offers many benefits; it destroys surface algae on ponds, lakes and reservoirs, reduces alkaline content - in the water - and when absorbed into the soil, breaks down calcium carbonates, salts and other growth impairing elements.

‘In addition to controlling pH levels in water and soil, the sulphurous acid also prevents the build up of algae in irrigation pump filters, valves and sprinklers heads which, if you have ever been unlucky enough to experience blocked filters and the like, you will know that clearing them can be frustrating, time consuming and expensive exercise.

‘Full season field tests, carried out on the golf course in the United States, have shown that water treated by an SSG not only controls soil pH at favorable levels. It helps to break down soil structured into porous aggregates.

‘By opening up the soil, improving water penetration, consumption through irrigation systems has been reduced by 13%. Furthermore, because treated water has improved ground condition to a degree where grasses use nutrients and micronutrients more effectively - and the fact that sulphur provides a fourth major nutrient - the need to apply fertilisers was reduced by 33%.

‘Other benefits identified by the use of treated water produced by the SSG included the relief of top soil compaction and notable reduction in the need to use wetting agents.

‘Available in manual or automatic versions, the SSG - Sweetwater Solution Generator - is easy to install and can be added to existing irrigation system water sources simply and quickly.

For further information
Tel: 01425 476261

Powerful backpack blower from Kawasaki

With air velocity of up to 180 mph, the forced air-cooled 2-stroke engine in the Kawasaki’s powerful KRB400-B backpack blower, ensures the job of dealing with the perennial problem of scattered leaves is done efficiently and reliably.

“This has been our most successful year so far with the blower. The fact that it has been a long autumn has made customers realise how much they need a product like the KRB400-B to help them,” said Robert Rees, National Field Sales Manager, Kawasaki Commercial Products Division.

“The powerful engine ensures that the Japanese manufacturer’s blower has high air volume at the blower outlet, reaching up to a maximum 180 mph. A joystick has been added to the blower arm enabling the fully adjustable throttle lock control to be operated at the push of a button.

“As with all of Kawasaki’s power products, the KRB400-B has been designed with user comfort in mind. A large volume air cleaner and sound deadening material has been applied to the fan rotor to reduce noise levels.

For further information
Tel: 01285 654777

Articulated Rotary Mowers from Lastec

Lastec will be showing he world’s only practical articulated rotary mowers at BTME 2002.

The articulator technique offers a cost effective answer to a worldwide need for a fine finish to turf, cut from 25mm to 150mm over flat, undulating or even steeply banking terrain.

Lastec’s market researches led to the articulator’s development. Also seen as a solution to many practical lawn maintenance problems, it avoids the need to pick up or vacuum leaves by mulching them away. The system works in long or short, wet or dry grass. The range includes front, rear mounted and self-propelled articulators with a width cut of from 1.80 to 3.35 metres. A patented belt drive allows decks to articulate independently, without messy power detracting from hydraulic deck drives. This permits a smaller, less expensive tractor. Self-propelled, zero turn models powered by 38hp Kubota diesel engines are available with 208cm or 244cm cutting width decks.

For further information
Tel: 01622 812103

Netlon pave the way with plastic paving

A recently introduced clip-together plastic paving system, designed for installation on top of existing grass surfaces, has been launched by Netlon Turf Systems. Netpave 25 provides a solution for pathways and access routes over existing grassed surfaces and for the creation of overspill car parks on turfed areas.

Fast and easy to lay, the 500 x 500 mm pavers require no substructure or excavation prior to installation, and, at only 25 mm deep, virtually disappear into the grass within a two to three month period detracting from overall appearance.

The rapid-fastening system reduces installation time to a minimum and the inherent flexibility of the design means that Netpave 25 can be installed on uneven and sloping ground. Although designed for permanent use, the Netpave can also be used in temporary situations.

At golf courses, Netpave 25 can be used on walkways between tees, as buggy access routes and for general pathways. Where overspill parking may be required for tournament visitors, it can be used to protect verges and other turfed areas. It joins a stable of Netlon turf protection products which, between them, provide the total solution to managing traffic on turf. All products will be on show at BTME.

For further information
Tel: 01254 262431
Annual Conference, Business Learning Centre, Lauder College, Dunfermline.

On March 5, 2002 BIGGA Scottish Region will be once again present their Annual Conference at the Business Learning Centre, Lauder College, Dunfermline. In previous years we have had an Agronomist, Richard Millar, from Meldrum House, John Caven; Dr Paul Millar; the ‘Director of Golf Courses & Estates Director,’ Wardle Consulting Engineers Ltd; Biotal Industrial Products Ltd, and David Withers Textron and Brian Goudie Scottish Grass Machinery. All of these speakers will present a talk that is both relevant and of interest from across the industry.

The speakers include Jimmy Kidd, Golf Courses & Estates Director, Gleneagles Hotel; Dr Ruth Mann, Department of Turfgrass Protection, STRI; from Ellrwood College we have Dr Paul Millar; the ‘Director of Golf from Meldrum House, John Caven; Phil Langdon, Projects Director, Wardle Consulting Engineers Ltd; Agronomist, Richard Millar, from Biral Industrial Products Ltd, and finally a joint presentation from David Withers Textron and Brian Goudie Scottish Grass Machinery. All of these speakers will present a talk that is both relevant and of interest to all in the greenkeeping industry.

The Conference has always been well supported, with first class facilities on offer and easy access from all parts of Scotland this is a first class venue and hopefully will attract greenkeepers, greens convenors and secretaries and indeed everyone associated with the golf industry to attend.

Application forms will be available in the early part of January 2002 and will be posted to all members in the Scottish Region.

Peter Boyd

East

First of all we come to 2002 so a Happy New Year to you all. I hope this year is an improvement on the last one! Here’s hoping. Well the Section held its annual dinner dance at the Kilspindie House Hotel in Aberlady on the December 1 and a great night was had by all. By having to cancel the event the year before at short notice it was good to get back to business and the atmosphere was superb. If you weren’t there you missed a good night, because the 64 of us that were there did ... I think! So come on if you want a good night out and a weekend away join us this year. Details will be out in the next few months.

The Full Monty cabaret was good well supported, with first class facilities on offer and easy access from all parts of Scotland this is a first class venue and hopefully will attract greenkeepers, greens convenors and secretaries and indeed everyone associated with the golf industry to attend.

Application forms will be available in the early part of January 2002 and will be posted to all members in the Scottish Region.

Pete Boyd

North

Well, fellow North members, this is my first attempt at the magazine report, so please forgive any errors. I would like to start off by thanking Iain Macleod, from Tain Golf Club, for all his efforts in writing for the North Section in the magazine and also for all his considerable efforts in helping the North Section develop in the way it has, by way of his committee work. I am sure all members appreciate the work Iain has done and wish him all the very best. I hope to see him at future outings as he still owes me a fiver for that tremendous score at Keith.

There are no new members to report this month, but no doubt this will pick in the coming months of 2002.

As Iain said in his last report I will name the committee members who were elected to represent the North at the last AGM. They are as follows: Chairman, Stuart McBeain, 01224 733347; Vice Chairman & Raffles, John Geddes, 01358 723034; Secretary, Dougal Duguid, 01224740329; Treasurer, Steve Sullivan, 07760 191208; Education, Dave Marnoch, Trophies & Prizes, Hugh Maclatchie, 01779 470173 Outings, Handicaps & Magazine report, Iain Gunn, 01997 420155 Outings, Handicaps & 200 Club, Robert Hardie, 01224 783201. Please feel free to phone any of the named people at any time, if you please put pen to paper and give us a brief view into your Patrons’ Award trip to BTME 2002 which will be in a future copy of Greenkeeper International.

Remember the Patrons’ Awards 2002, it could be you so come on let’s see you at all Section events this year.

I’ve had a few moans and groans about handicaps so this year as I said at the AGM last November, if you can get a handicap certificate from your club or the club you play at and you have got an official handicap your handicaps will be adjusted accordingly. It has to be an official handicap certificate not verbally or you will play off your present BIGGA handicap and this is a committee decision. Send them to me at Westwyn, West Linton Golf Club, West Linton, Peeblesshire, EH46 7HN or fax, 01968 661721 asap.

The usual nos are: Home 01968 661313 Work/fax 01968 661721, Mobile 07719 380449 or you can e-mail me on christy26@aol.com. Come on let’s hear from you. Chris Yeaman
Central Section
Well, that's another year come and
gone, hopefully everyone has recov-
ered from the festive period and are
enjoying the new year. We look forward
to seeing you all at our AGM in March.
A little reminder to our current mem-
bers: If you haven't already done so,
please get your forms in on time.
We need to confirm numbers for
the tee as a trade representative and we
need to know what you will be offering
for the now famous "Inter - Club
Tournament".

The December winners in "Club
2000" were D. Sutherland and D.
Scott, both winning £50 each. I hate
to keep on about it (honestly!) but if
you still have not bought your tick-
et, please get them in to me by the end of March
(this year) in order that I can have
them valued for insurance pur-
poses.

The first golf competition of this
year will be the Spring Tournament,
so if you have any ideas or would like to
be involved, please let me know.

Things are a bit quiet on the news
front at the moment, so if you have
anything you think other members
might be interested in, just drop me
a line and I will try to include it in
future Section news.
John Crawford.

West
Well, let me start this newsletter by
wishing you all a happy new year.
Where did the last one go?

Football news first. Congratulations
are to be extended to Brian Hillan
and his team from Drumpellier GC
who took part in the Central
Section's football tourney. Brian's
team were narrowly beaten into sec-
ond place but playing away from
home this was a very respectable fin-
ish.

A little effort from our members to
make such meetings a success. On the
night Kenny Hunter was the only
new member to come onto commit-
tee as a trade representative and we
will be looking into alternative
types of venue to try and

Come and visit
us at BTME
on Stand
Q51

Building the Future of Golf
Barrellfield Golf Limited has probably developed more golf clubs on behalf of clients and landowners than any other
corporate in the last ten years. We pride ourselves on developing golf courses to time, to budget and which are the
very popular venue, if you intend
to participate please return your entry
forms ASAP.

Your committee are in the process of
coming up with a revised format for
the now famous "Inter - Club
Tournament". If you have any
ideas it should be run, please get
in touch with any committee
member (Keep them clean please!).

Would all holders of Section trophy
pleases arrange to have them
returned to me by the end of March
(this year) in order that I can have
the engraving brought up to date and
have them valued for insurance pur-
poses.

The Turkey Trot, scheduled for
December 1 last year, proved to be a
huge success...and still continuing. The
event not to be missed. I will give a
report on the event in a later mag-
azine.

As I write this report the winter
weather is beginning to kick in, and
and temperatures at night are drop-
ing well below zero. It is a cruel game
at times, but it is still a great game.

The December winners in "Club
2000" were D. Sutherland and D.
Scott, both winning £50 each. I hate
to keep on about it (honestly!) but if
you still have not bought your tick-
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team were narrowly beaten into sec-
ond place but playing away from
home this was a very respectable fin-
ish.

On November 30 our annual din-
er was held in Victoria's nightclub.
The event was very well attended this
year and everyone seemed to enjoy
the night if my memory which was
somewhat dulled on the evening.

The December winners in "Club
2000" were D. Sutherland and D.
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corporate in the last ten years. We pride ourselves on developing golf courses to time, to budget and which are the
tittle product for the right marketplace.

Barrellfield Golf Limited assemblies the right team of experts for each project and manages all planning aspects,
design, construction and growing-in. We can be appointed as project managers, contractors or consultants.

Barrellfield Golf Limited has wide experience of the latest design, construction, drainage and irrigation methods.
We can offer expert advice and service for new built projects, clubhouse construction, alterations and course improvements.

Management & Maintenance
Design & Construction
Marketing & Membership Sales
Finance & Feasibility

Barrellfield Golf Limited
302 Ewell Road, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 7AQ
Telephone: 020 8390 6566
Facsimile: 020 8390 8830
Internet: www.barrellfieldgolf.co.uk
Email: melvin@barrellfield.co.uk
the most comprehensive Golf Club exhibition in Europe

Continue to Learn

Continue to Learn with BIGGA at Harrogate, in January 2002, when the National Education Conference and Workshop Programme runs alongside the extended BTME Exhibition. The formal conference is presented in a new format to allow delegates maximum flexibility to gain the most from their visit. The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition Seminars provide an opportunity to mix the Exhibition with a range of Seminars allowing all delegates the opportunity to Continue to Learn. New for 2002 will be the Golf Club Show Education and Training programme which is aimed primarily at Golf Club Owners, Golf Club Secretaries and Chairmen of Green.

This programme incorporates the 21st Century, run jointly with STRI, with a range of seminars. Both programmes are open to all delegates, although members of BIGGA receive preferential rates. The Key Note speaker is Roger Black and this Session is free to all delegates. Finally, the very successful Careers Clinic will run alongside BTME.
Harris, Elland NC. Nearest the Pin on 13th Dave Collins, Temple Newsome GC. Trade Prize (for the year) Mike Beare, Rigby Taylor.

Thanks to Graham Greenwood and Liam Galway, from Amenity Technology and Greenkeeping Supply respectively, for supplying the excellent prizes and ensuring everybody had a good day. Many thanks also to Andy Fowler and his team for the course and also to all the staff at Headingley GC for their hospitality and food.

That's all for now; if anybody has any news or ideas then let me know. My address is 67 Asquith Avenue, Morley, Leeds, LS27 9QS; Tel: 0113 2383188; mobile: 07790 678572; Email: andy@northernsection.co.uk

Andy Smith

North Wales

Welcome to new members Jonathan Gamble, Welshpool Golf Club and Gary Parker, Perton Golf Club. A belated congratulations to Ethan Moses, Maesau Golf Club, whose wife Krissy had a baby boy named Eligh, on October 16, weighing in at 8lb 3oz.

Best wishes to Allen Lewis and everyone at Llanymynech Golf Club after the mindless vandalism that occurred there, it's your worst professional nightmare, all the years of care and attention wiped out by an idiot. I believe two greens have been rebuilt already. What a waste of valuable time.

The seminar given by Hardi at the college was attended by 26 delegates, we all learnt about LERAP and watched demonstrations a very good afternoon. Thanks go to the college for having us.

Our Christmas competition and AGM was held at Conwy Golf Club, 74 played and an excellent day was had. Our thanks go to the club for having us. The course was superb and was made for one of the most enjoyable rounds of golf I have had in years (I was still rubbish). Thanks to Dave and the team for the preparation and you said the greens were soft?

It was good to see Bert Cross playing from the North West Section as a guest, I think that we will see more of him in the future because he only went and holed-in-one on the 2nd and pushed up half the balls in the sweep, Nice one Bert.

Results: 1. Andy Peel, 35pts; 2. Ian Buckley, 34pts; 3. Steve Roberts, 31pts Bill Lawson Shield went to Mark Brute, 32pts. Aggregate Cup for year went to Shaun Pritchard.

Guests: 1. Berywyn Lewis, 37pts, 2. Peter Jones, 34pts, 3. Mike Brute, 31pts Trade Cup, Malcolm Mitchell, Osmans, 26pts. Nearest the Pin member, Tom Fowles, Guest – Bert Cross (Hole-in-one) Thanks go to the sponsor, ALS, Acorn Golf, John Osman, Sportsworld and Walkers. Eight people didn’t turn up and six hadn’t paid, come on lads you can seriously mess up the day if you don’t let the committee know, all entry sheets must be accompanied with a cheque or postal order, no cash. No pay no play. It’s hard enough to organise as it is without being let down, it’s called etiquette.

We are always after venues to play so if any of you fancy holding one of our Golf Days, please contact your committee.

This will be my final column for the magazine. I am handing over the pen to Andy Cornes or Andy Acorn as we all know him, I feel this will be a far better arrangement as he gets to see most of us so can pick up information on his travels, you will all have his phone number as well so it shouldn’t be hard to give him a ring. Here’s to 2002 when the sun shines, it rains at night and the golfers never moan about anything, see I told you I needed a rest.

Dave Goodridge

National Education Conference

Monday 21 January and Tuesday 22 January, The Majestic Hotel, Harrogate

 Causes and Prevention of Turfgrass Stresses. Dr James Beale, President of the British Turf Institute, International Turfgrass Institute

 Global Warming and the Golf Course. Keith Weatherhead, Cranfield University, John Bradwell, Turf Seed UK and Augustino Guadie, Turf Seed UK Ltd

 Redesign and Reconstruction of Golf Course Features. Ian Moore, USA Green Section, Brian Pearson, Golf Course Constructor; Donald Steel Group, Golf Course Designers

 Preparation for Winter Play. Ed McCabe, Course Manager, Brokenhurst Manor GC; Arthur King, Brokenhurst Manor Golf Club, George Shiels, Consulting Agronomist

 Workshops

 Monday 21 January and Tuesday 22 January, The Majestic Hotel, Harrogate

 Golf Course Design 1; Environmental Management; Emergency First Aid; Running Golf Courses in the 21st Century. All workshops run concurrently with Conference Sessions

BTME Seminars

Wednesday 23 January, Spa Royal Hall, Harrogate International Centre

 Keynote speaker: Roger Black MBE represented Great Britain at the highest level in athletics, both as an individual 400 metres runner and as a member of a 4 x 400 metres relay team.

 Seminar topics are as follows:

- Bunker Renovation, Biological Disease Control, Higher Education in Sportsturf - Technology, Is It Right for You?, Preparing the Majestic Hotel, Harrogate International Centre;
- Environmental Management, Preparing for Winter Play;
- Emergency First Aid, Preparation for Winter Play;
- Running the Golf Club Show alongside the well established BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition continues to be eagerly anticipated by keepers looking forward to renewing old friendships and learning at BTME.

To take your minds off the winter your committee has arranged a series of events to continue your thirst for knowledge.

January 17 - Course visit to Questors Golf Club, Surrey.

There will be a special golf course, recently opened and managed by Ian McMillan. I'm sure those lucky enough to visit will find it a very special golf course. Numbers are limited to 25.

February 1 - to be advised - Soil science study. Venue: Ashridge Golf Club Max. 15 delegates. Cost: £30


March 5 - Computer training. Venue: Berkhamsted Golf Club. Max. six delegates. Cost: £30

March 6 - Trainings course (Five day). Venue: Ashridge Golf Club. Only four places available. Cost: £250 (half price)

The above events have been heavily subsidised by Headquarters and I do hope you will give your support, all places can be reserved through me by telephone on 01442 842627. Fax 01442 843770 or E-mail jim.cassidy@ashridgegolfclub.co.uk

Remember, the more you learn the luckier you become.

Jim Cassidy

Golf Club Show Seminars

Wednesday 23 January, Majestic Hotel


Two Exhibitions

Running the Golf Club Show alongside the well established BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition is an exciting new concept which will enable golf club industry personnel of all disciplines to network and meet their product and service needs under one roof at the Harrogate International Centre. As such, visitors will be well rewarded by attending an event which enjoys a unique atmosphere and continues to be eagerly anticipated by exhibitors, delegates and visitors alike.

Banquet

The weeks events are rounded off on Thursday 24 January by the BTME/Golf Club Show Banquet, which is open to delegates of both shows. Returning to the Majestic Hotel, the Banquet stars the comedy duo Brahms and List supported by the Nightjars.

JANUARY 22-24, 2002

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East Midland
This year's AGM and golf tournament was held at Mapperley GC on November 8. The day was extremely cold with sleet showers, which resulted in some players turning down and some teams had to play with only two players. However, after some great golf the eventual winners were, Jamie Bedford, Birstall; Andy McNeil, Lingdale, and Steve Coyne, Mapperley, with a nett score of 65.2. was Kevin Kinzer, E.T.Breakwell; Pete Fell, Aitkens, & Chris Weir, Scraptoft, Nett 68: 3. Steve Leyer, Ramsdale Park; Richard Barker, & Geoff Little, Rigby Taylor. Moving on to the serious business of the day. The AGM ran very smoothly, lasting only 23 minutes. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our retiring Chairman, Gavin Robson, for all his valuable work while in office, and welcome our new Chairman, Adi Porter. The rest of the committee is as follows: Vice-Chairman, Ian Needham; Secretary, Antony Bindley; Treasurer, Richard Barker. Seven members were proposed for the remaining places on the committee, the following were duly elected. Gavin Robson, Derek McJannet, Jamie Bedford, David James, Jeff Dickinson & Andy McNeil. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Chris Weir who as now retired from the committee for all his hard work.

I would like to thank Mapperley GC for courtesy of their fine course which had been presented in pristine condition by John Goddard and his staff. Also thanks should go to the Streetwards for an excellent meal. Finally I would like to thank our generous sponsors Vitax Ltd. for the great prizes which were awarded to the winners. Also could I please remind all members, if you wish to attend any section event please return your entry slip and payment, before the closing date. Last but not least I would like to wish on behalf of the Section a very happy retirement to John Goddard of Mapperley GC and it is hoped that we will see him as a regular at Section events.

This year's fixture list is almost complete, Go-kart evening, The Wymeswold Id Est. 20-2-02; Spring Tournament, The Leicestershire GC.; 2-5-02; Autumn Tournament. 17-9-02 at Horsley Lodge: AGM Tournament, Sherwood Forest GC 14-11-02; Christmas Tournament, 10-12-02 at Greetham Valley GC. Please try to support your Section as often as possible by attending these days.

Antony Bindley
Midland
Hello again and a very Happy New Year to all members. It's that time of year once more where we can start the countdown to Spring, and BTME is just around the corner. As ever this year's event promises to be as prosperous as ever with the new format for the trade show in place, and the continued educational opportunities available. I look forward to seeing many of you there. Other news from the Region sees our President, Alan Kite, stepping down, as I am sure you are aware, Alan has served the Midland Section for some 35 years at Committee level, a contribution for which we are all extremely grateful - thank you Alan.

A couple of dates to pen in your diaries are the Spring and Summer Tournaments to be held at Gay Hill on 22nd May and Blowby GC on 11th July respectively. See you there.

Phil Gates

Kent
I'm still writing this column. I hope you all had a great Christmas and a great New Year so far. I'm pleased to say I have actually got a response from my months of pleading with you for some feed back. One in particular grabbed my attention from Nick Knight down at Chestfield GC who sent a rather interesting picture of a young lady on their 7th tee. If you would like to see the picture I will e-mail to anyone who is feeling rather desperate or lonely. Still it must keep the rabbit damage to a minimum.

No reports of any Christmas booze up yet, but I hope to report on any interesting items you might like to send me next month along with the news from the Turkey Trot at Darenth Valley and the AGM.

There might be more to these stories than meets the eye. I would like to thank Mapperley GC for an excellent meal. Finally I would like to thank Chris Weir, Scraptoft, Nett 68. 3. Anne Lunn, Lewis, for his presentation of the Christmas Turkey, so he'll be the man to beat next year. No pressure James!

London
Our Annual Turkey Trot was held on Wednesday, November 21 at Hampstead Golf Club. Mercifully we enjoyed excellent weather on the day and also an excellent Golf Course and after match hospitality. Our thanks go to the Club for looking after us so well and especially Course Manager, Alan Lewis, for his patience with our playing partners and his help in getting the event off the ground. For next season if there are any Course Managers out there who are prepared to put their club forward to front an event, please let me know as soon as possible.

The competition was won on the day by Mark Sidwell, from Rigby Taylor, with 37 points. The Christmas Turkey was won by Nick Knight down at Chestfield GC, who sent a rather interesting picture of a young lady on their 7th tee. I'm still writing this column. I hope you all had a merry one and a happy one!

Robert Phillips

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Surrey
On November 30 Surrey Section held its annual Turkey Trot and AGM at Maldon Golf Club. Alec Bradshaw and his greenskeepers must have really worked hard this year, for to get their course in a condition able to take the amount of rain we have received over the past weeks and still be able to present Malden in such a playable way they deserve all our heartfelt congratulations. We also thank Malden Golf Club for the courtesy of their course and the catering staff for an excellent Christmas feast.

The Stableford competition ended with the following results:

Guest Prize, Jon Hill, Birch Grove Members and Antisans, Gary and Chris.

From 9 Andy Gatland, River Mole Angling and Line Dancing Society, Back 9 Darren Lee, Sunningdale All Male Lap Dancers and his Auntie Mable.

Nearest Pin Peter Craig, See above.

Longest Drive Dave Goddard, No 1. Terry Clark & Richard Daly, Crediton, 33pts.

The Section's first meeting of the new year will be held at Perranporth Golf Club on Wednesday, January 16, the day will once again be sponsored by Barenbrug Seeds and start with a Singles Stableford golf competition with start times from 8.30am. For non golfers the course walk will leave the clubhouse at approximately 10.30am. After lunch our educational talk will be presented by Dave Brewster on golf course construction.

The Devon Garden Machinery-sponsored November meeting was held at Tavistock Golf Club on Wednesday, November 7. This meeting was also the Section's AGM.

The day started with Rob Guntrip, one of our Section's gardening members for the Toro Trophy, which was played in a foursome format. After an excellent lunch Rob Guntrip from Devon Garden Machinery presented trophies on behalf of Toro and DGM to treated our non-golfing members to an excellent tour of the course.

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1. Alan Gwawron & Simon Clark, St Mellion, 37pts; 2. Tony Goode, Torrington, & D. Hunt, 34pts; 3. Terry Clark & Richard Daly, Credition, 33pts.

The Section would like to express its gratitude to the day's sponsor, Devon Garden Machinery, for their support, and to Tavistock Golf Club for allowing the use of their excellent facilities and to all of Tavistock GC staff for making the Section so welcome. Special thanks must go Shaun Getson and his crew who had the course in excellent condition.

The Section's AGM followed the golf presentation and was opened by the Chairman Cary Rawlings

The Administrator started his report with the balance sheet for the year ending September 30, 2001. The balance for the year end was £1642.44 showing a profit of £179.42 compared with last year. As with last year this does not include the sum of £289 outstanding to be paid on the fixture cards, so in real terms the Section made a loss of around £110 for the year.

This amount is the identical amount paid out extra this year to cover the travelling costs of our Chairman to attend the Aldwark Manor Meeting. The Section committee have decided only to send a representative if all the expenses are covered by Head Office in future.

Once again the Section remains indebted to all the trade companies who have sponsored our section meetings over the last year. The Administrator went on to thank all the companies who have generously sponsored our Section meetings namely: Aventis, Avoncrop, Barenbrug, Devon Garden Machinery, P J Flegg, Rolleys and Supaturf.

The Administrator thanked Rigby Taylor for their sponsorship of the fixture cards over the last two years and was pleased to announce that Rigby Taylor would be sponsoring the new summer meeting at Trenthorne GC.

The Administrator continued by thanking Phoenix Irrigation for kindly taking over the sponsorship of the fixture cards for the next two years.

The Administrator informed members that over the last ten months the Region had proposed that each section within the Region should join the patronage scheme they wished to set up. This would have meant that all the present sponsorship deals would have to end. After talks with our current sponsors your Section committee have decided not to join the Regional patronage scheme and continue as present. This can only continue with the active support the Section's members.

On closing the Administrator thanked all the active members of the Section for their support over the last year, he also thanked the Committee for all their efforts over the year, especially to Shaun Getson for organising the educational talks and Bill Mitchell and the Chairman, Gary Rawlings, for their help during meetings.

The Chairman started his report on a sad note as he informed members present that Jack Moore who was formally Head Greenskeeper at Teignmouth GC had passed away. The Chairman moved on to the difficult year many clubs had faced with Foot & Mouth and record rain levels which as usual we all have just got to grin and bare it. Also the year saw the cancellation of Westurf.

On a brighter note the Chairman congratulated Jeff Mills on reaching the English final of the Toro Award and for also being selected to represent the Association on the USA trip sponsored by Bernhard & Co.

The Chairman thanked Richard Wisdom for all his time and effort put into presenting the Section on the regional board for the last four years. Richard has decided to step down this year. The Chairman thanked Shaun Getson on the excellent way he had to cancel the February meeting at short notice due to Foot & Month, also for his efforts in finding speakers for our meetings.

The Chairman continued by thanking all the trade for their help and support of the Section and he welcomed the new summer meeting, which he feels, will become a good annual fixture and with the proposal of a new match play competition he felt that there is something for all members to participate in.

On closing the Chairman thanked Richard Whyman for his continued hard work in administrating the Section.

Terry Farkins open his report regional report by thanking Richard Wisdom for his excellent contribution over the last four years as our representative on the regional board.

The Region started the year with a change in Chairman as Robin Geaves stood down due to a change in his career. He was replaced with Chris Sealey from the South West Section. He reported on the difficult year the Region has had financially due to the cancellation of Westurf show because of Foot & Mouth. Westurf could be a thing of the past with the Region looking at other events to raise money to fund the

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January 2002 Greenkeeper International 37
Region. During the Foot & Mouth Outbreak the Region put on a two day Health & Safety Course at Bude. This was to provide greenkeepers whose courses were closed to meet up with other members. The National Chairman, Clive Osgood, attended the course.

Terry informed members that from February 1, 2002 the new two-tiered membership scheme would come into effect, this will not affect any current member but any new member will be put into one of two categories. Terry also informed members that R&G has been nominated for life membership, which will be approved at the AGM.

On closing Terry outlined the main aims of the Association is to educate its members and hoped all present would attend the regional seminar and BTME. Election of officers: C. Rawlings, Chairman; S. Getson, Vice Chairman; R. Wisdom, Secretary; J. Palfrey, President; C. Ralph, Trade, D. Hunt. Richard Whyman.

South Coast

As a start a new year only time will tell what the elements will challenge us with this year. Last year will be a year many will wish to forget as it severely tested our skills and patience as greenkeepers. To start with we had to endure record rainfalls followed by long dry spells that then lead to an unusually long warm autumn with its associated disease problems. Who'd a thought that 2001 would be an easier year then.

Firstly we have several results to catch up with.

June saw our annual match against the South West take place at Andover Golf Club, sponsored by T.H. White and Weedfree. Again the course was beautifully prepared by Chris Sturgess and his team. There was some excellent golf played on the day and we managed to win 3-2. Our thanks go to Andover GC for their excellent hospitality; to Chris and his team for all their hard work in preparing the course and of course to T.H. White and Weedfree for their valued support. The Royal Golf Club was the venue for our Autumn tournament in October sponsored by Gem. It was a glorious day and a joy to play the course, which had been prepared so exceptionally. The Longest Drive hole only to reach for a breather of wind. The course as ever was in superb condition and was a joy to play the day. The weather was glorious and we were able to enjoy the glorious day and a joy to play the course, which had been prepared so exceptionally. The Longest Drive hole only to reach for a breath of wind. 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Entries to reach us no later than Monday 26th January 2002. The first correct entry drawn will receive an exclusive.
This competition is not open to BIGGA Staff or non-members.

Last month, Mr EA Riddell, from Royal Dornoch GC, certainly knew his numbers when he correctly identified all three telephone numbers in our previous Buyers' Guide competition. Our congratulations and a fantastic BIGGA sportswatch are on their way to you!
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Do you believe that most sprinklers are like any other? Then be surprised, they're not. Only Toro for example, offer a choice of sprinklers designed to uniquely fulfil specific tasks in the world of sports turf management. Two, the unique seven nozzle V1550 and the new 800 series pop-ups are ideal for golf course work. A third, the Toro 640 anti-vandal pop-up, is designed specifically for use on (not around) football pitches and large areas of sports turf open to the public...

These and many other sprinklers from the Toro range incorporate features which are unique to their individual design specification. In all cases, they are made available to help people like you to conserve valuable water resources, yet enhance your approach to turf management. Like to learn more? Then simply talk to us, let us explain just what the words Toro and unique mean. It could change your attitude to sprinklers and irrigation for ever!
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, offering your services fee 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, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 lUF, or fax the form to us on 01347 833802. Alternatively, you can also email your copy to jennifer@bigga.co.uk

World of Golf

World of Golf operate the UK’s most successful Golf Centres. We are looking to recruit to the following position for our busy Sidcup centre in Kent.

GREENKEEPER

An excellent career development opportunity for a self motivated greenkeeper wishing to put into practice all greenkeeping skills on our range, fairways, course and practice areas. Supervising a small team of grounds staff this position is a natural stepping stone to a head greenkeeper role.

The ideal candidate will be qualified to a minimum of NVQ Level 2, with full clean driving license, and relevant experience in supervision, use and maintenance of modern machinery, turf, drainage/irrigation and USGA spec greens. You will also hold spraying certificates PA1, 2 and 6. The successful applicant will work a 40 hour week on a 5 days in any 7 rota.

In return we offer a competitive remuneration and benefits package.

Applications in writing enclosing full C.V to:
Liz Williams, World of Golf, Beverley Way, Mew Malden, KT3 4PH, or by email to: lizwilliams@ashtour.freeserve.co.uk

Tehidy Park Golf Club

(founded 1922)
Camborne, Cornwall, TR14 0HH Tel: 01209 842208

This prestigious Cornish Golf Club invites applications for the post of

Head Greenkeeper

We would expect the successful candidate to

✓ Possess a minimum qualification of NVQ Level 3
✓ Have experience in all aspects of course management
✓ Have a practical knowledge of modern machinery
✓ Have experience of a parkland golf course
✓ Have the ability to lead, organise and motivate staff

Salary and optional Pension Scheme negotiable. Assistance with accommodation if required.

Completed application forms and full CV should be received as soon as possible but not later than: Friday 1st February 2002. Further details and application form available from Mr Ray Parker, The Secretary/Manager at the address shown above.

ELSHAM GOLF CLUB

Applications are invited for the position of

Head Greenkeeper

Founded in 1900, a well established private members club with 600+ members. This 6402 yards, par 71 parkland course has an excellent reputation and is one of Lincolnshire’s premier courses.

Applicants should be technically qualified in all aspects of greenkeeping and have the necessary Management skills to train, motivate and direct staff. A proven ability to prepare and monitor budgets, inventories and work schedules is required, together with a sound knowledge of Health & Safety regulations.

Remuneration package negotiable.

Applications in writing enclosing full C.V to

The Manager, Elsham Golf Club, Barton Road, Elsham, Brigg, N Lincolnshire, DN20 0LS
www.elshamgolfclub.co.uk
TYRRELLS WOOD GOLF CLUB LTD

REQUIRES A
QUALIFIED GREENKEEPER

Requires a greenkeeper, to work on this splendid parkland course. Must be educated to NVQ 2 and hold a Spray Certificates PA2-PA6. Good Conditions of work and pay for the right person. Apply in writing with C.V. to:

Mr A E Watson, Course Manager, Tyrrells Wood Golf Club, The Drive, Tyrrells Wood, Leatherhead, Surrey. KT22 8QP

NO ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE.

CARMARTHEN GOLF CLUB

A MOOR/PARKLAND COURSE

Requires a
SUPERVISOR GREENKEEPER

The successful applicant will possess the relevant experience and qualifications necessary for the position as well as a positive approach and the ability to motivate staff. Salary negotiable and commensurate with the position. Full CV including current salary and hand written letter of application in the first instance to:

The Secretary/Manager Carmarthen Golf Club, Blaenycoed Road, Carmarthen, West Wales SA33 6EH

HAWKHURST GOLF CLUB

9 HOLE PARKLAND COURSE

Require a
HEAD GREENKEEPER

To commence as soon as possible. Applications are invited from persons of proven ability with the appropriate qualifications and experience, plus management and supervisory skills to organise the work programmes, and maintain Health and Safety & COSHH standards.

Written applications with full CV and current salary by 31 January 2002 ex:

The General Manager, Hawkhurst Golf Club Ltd, High Street, Hawkhurst, Kent TN18 4JS

RETHMAR GOLF LINKS

REQUIRES A
DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER

Rethmar Golf Links require a Deputy Head Greenkeeper for an Arnold Palmer Designed Golf Course in Hannover, Germany. Applicants should have appropriate qualifications. Enthusiasm, motivation, communication skills essential.

Please apply by writing or faxing CV to:

Peter Casbolt, Course Manager, Rethmar Golf Links, Seufzeralles 10, 31319 Sehnde Hannover, Germany.
Telephone No: 0049 5138702606/ 0049 1732146234, Fax No: 0049 5138613840

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Tim Webb, Tacit, 57 Moat Farm Drive, Hillmorton, Rugby CV21 4HQ

Knole Park Golf Club

Applications are invited for the position of
HEAD GREENKEEPER

The successful applicant will possess an HNC level of qualification and be able to demonstrate an excellent level of greenkeeping. He will be familiar with modern practices and technologies and have wide experience of machinery and irrigation systems. He will need to demonstrate an ability to lead, organise and motivate staff in working to agreed budgets. Remuneration package and conditions of service by negotiation depending upon qualifications and experience. Applications in writing by 1st February 2002, together with full CV to:

The Secretary, Knole Park Golf Club, Seal Hollow Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 0HJ
secretary@knolepark.fsnet.co.uk
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**STOCKPORT GOLF CLUB**

Require an

**ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER**

We require an assistant greenkeeper to join our existing team on this 18 hole Parkland Course. The successful applicant will be hard working, enthusiastic and expected to carry out a variety of Greenkeeping tasks. Applicants should be qualified to minimum NVQ 2 with spraying certificates PA1, 6.

Salary negotiable according to experience.

Applicants in writing with C.V. to:
Warren Bevan, Course Manager, Stockport Golf Club,
Offerton Road, Offerton, Stockport, Cheshire, SK2 5HL

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**WESTON SUPER MARE GOLF CLUB**

**HEAD GREENKEEPER**

The successful applicant must possess the appropriate qualifications and have experience in all aspects of Golf Course Management, together with the necessary skills to lead and motivate a small team.

The position requires an enthusiastic, conscientious and self motivated Professional, who will be responsible for the maintenance and continued improvement of this Links Course.

Salary negotiable. No accommodation.

All applications in writing together with full C.V. by January 30, 2002 to:

The Secretary, Weston Super Mare Golf Club,
Uphill Road North, Weston Super Mare,
North Somerset, BS23 4NQ

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**ROMFORD GOLF CLUB**

Has a vacancy for an

**ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER**

We currently have a vacancy for a greenkeeper with a minimum of NVQ Level 2 qualifications to join our existing team on our established 18 hole parkland course.

Salary and conditions negotiable.

Please apply in writing to:-

The Secretary/Manager, Romford Golf Club,
Heath Drive, Gidea Park, RM2 5QB

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**MANCHESTER GOLF CLUB**

**DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER**

Applications are invited for the position of Deputy Head Greenkeeper at this prestigious moorland course.

The suitable applicant must have at least 5 years relevant experience and have good man management skills.

Qualifications to NVQ level 3 and spraying certificates PA1, PA2 and PA6 are essential.

Applications in writing with full CV to:

The Course Manager, Manchester Golf Club, Hopwood Cottage, Rochdale Road, Middleton, Manchester, N24 2QP

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A young person who is interested in a career working with professional turf care equipment is also being sought. The selected trainee will be given full work based training and will be expected to attend college to study for relevant NVQ certification.

Please apply in writing with full C.V to:

Mr Phil Bush, Branch Manager,
Ernest Doe & Sons Ltd,
Portsmouth Road,
Esher, Surrey
KT10 9AD
I just can't believe that this is my last column. The past year has gone incredibly quickly that it seems like only yesterday that Elliott Small helped me into the Red Blazer at the AGM, during BTME 2001. One of the reasons it has gone quickly is that I've packed so much into the last 12 months and this last month has been no exception. I visited Dublin for the GCSAI Exhibition when I met Jim McKenzie, who stepped in at the last minute, who talked about Celtic Manor's evolution and future plans including the Ryder Cup in 2010; Steven Bernard, Managing Director of Bernard & Co, and Richard Whyman, who gave his first Power Point presentation and talked extremely well, on the Bernard's Scholarship to Vancouver last year. There was also a question time with the speakers plus, Gordon Chad, Neil Thomas, and myself.

From there it was down to Broadstone GC - an interesting place to find - and the well attended South East Seminar which was organised by Tony Dunstan, Secretary of the London Section. The theme was Information Technology and looked at Microsoft Programmes, Satellite Mapping, and On-Course Software. The day went very well, which is always a good sign. After that it was to the Celtic Manor for the presentation of the BIGGA Environment Competition prizes. I went on the course walk after lunch and was extremely impressed by the work of Adrian Archer and his team, particularly on heather renovation and tree clearance. I'd like to thank the R&A for their Environment Competition prizes. I went on the course walk after lunch and was extremely impressed by the work of Adrian Archer and his team, particularly on heather renovation and tree clearance. I'd like to thank the R&A for their Environment Competition prizes. I went on the course walk after lunch and was extremely impressed by the work of Adrian Archer and his team, particularly on heather renovation and tree clearance. I'd like to thank the R&A for their Environment Competition prizes. I went on the course walk after lunch and was extremely impressed by the work of Adrian Archer and his team, particularly on heather renovation and tree clearance.

Finally to my family and particularly Sue, who has kept me supplied with white shirts, and catered for my many quick turnarounds. She, like me, is looking forward to getting back to a more normal existence! I'd like to wish Richard well for next year. The Association keeps moving forwards, particularly in the last 10 years. The Association keeps moving forwards, particularly in the last 10 years. The Association keeps moving forwards, particularly in the last 10 years. The Association keeps moving forwards, particularly in the last 10 years. The Association keeps moving forwards, particularly in the last 10 years. The Association keeps moving forwards, particularly in the last 10 years. The Association keeps moving forwards, particularly in the last 10 years.

As I write I'm just about to leave for Celtic Manor. I'd like to thank the Board of Management for being so supportive over the same period. Also Walton Heath Golf Club, the Captain, the Board and all the members, have been unerringly supportive of me over the past year, while my Deputy, Mick Haynes, and the team have done such a superb job and received so many compliments on the state of the courses I wonder if my presence is really necessary?

Finally to my family and particularly Sue, who has kept me supplied with white shirts, and catered for my many quick turnarounds. She, like me, is looking forward to getting back to a more normal existence! I'd like to wish Richard well for next year. The Association keeps moving forwards, particularly in the last 10 years. The Association keeps moving forwards, particularly in the last 10 years. The Association keeps moving forwards, particularly in the last 10 years. The Association keeps moving forwards, particularly in the last 10 years. The Association keeps moving forwards, particularly in the last 10 years. The Association keeps moving forwards, particularly in the last 10 years. The Association keeps moving forwards, particularly in the last 10 years.
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GROUNDMASTER 3500-D SIDEWINDER Toro’s unique Sidewinder rotary mower, with its innovative ability to shift the cutting units to the right or left, gives a quality finish right up to the bunker or water’s edge. With a 35hp water cooled engine and three 27in floating rotary decks, its productivity is superb.

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