### NEW COURSE CARD

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Posts: BIGGA HOUSE, Actonbury, Acton, Worcestershire, WR8 0BQ
Email: reception@bigga.co.uk
Internet: www.bigga.org.uk
Tel: 01347 833800
Fax: 01347 833801

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Rachael Palmer
Email: rachael_p@bigga.co.uk

Editorial/Media
Scott MacCallum
Email: scott@bigga.co.uk

Contact us
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Internet: www.bigga.org.uk
Tel: 01347 833800
Fax: 01347 833801

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Editorial
Editor: Scott MacCallum
Tel: 01347 833800 Fax: 01347 933801
Email: scott@bigga.co.uk

Advertising
Sales & Marketing Department:
Jennifer Whitbread, jen@bigga.co.uk
Cheryl Broomhead, cheryl@bigga.co.uk
Tel: 01347 833800 Fax: 01347 833802
Email: enquiries@bigga.co.uk

Design
Headline Communications
Tel: 01904 019061 Fax: 01904 045074
Email: info@headline-comm.co.uk

Printing
Warners Midlands Print, The Maltings
Water Lane, Bourne, Lincs PE10 0PH
Tel: 01778 391000 Fax: 01778 394269

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Features
What’s up Doc?
Steve Isaac's offers some help in the education of golfers in the matter of turf

Field of Dreams
Scott MacCallum talks with Colin Irvine, Course Manager at Muirfield, about the impending Open Championship

Turf Quality
Robert Laycock takes a look at the development of turf and gives some advice as to what to look for when purchasing turf

It’s a gas
Roland Taylor takes a look at pollutants and how emission control is now such an important issue

Making the most of rotary
Maureen Keepin reports on the dramatic developments in engineering has resulted in the production of highly durable rotary mowers with an improved cutting finish

A public disgrace
Sandy McDow suggests that the USGA missed an opportunity when it hosted the US Open on a public course

Greenkeeper International

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The Muirfield Champion? Let me guess!

We are halfway through the "Major" season and, what do you know, Tiger Woods is halfway to the Grand Slam. It used to be considered all but an impossibility. The original Grand Slam, as completed by Bobby Jones, in 1930, comprised the US Amateur, US Open, British Amateur, and British Open Championship, but only Ben Hogan had previously got close to the modern day slam of Masters, US Open, The Open Championship and USPGA Championship winning three and, in the British Open, all four in a couple of shots of Mark O'Meara and Paul Lawrie. Since then, however, Tiger has developed him probable victories. Even then he came within striking range by Sunday he doesn't often fail...

Two of the Green staff have already served over 25 years, and Mark Ford, appointed Head Greenkeeper in 1989, was celebrating the completion of his 25 years service. Led by Club Captain, David Ravstrone, tributes were paid to Mark and his staff and it was clear that such collective loyalty has played a major part in ensuring the reputation of Kingsdown as one of the premier courses in Wiltshire. Mark, who joined Kingsdown when he left school in Corsham, trained at Lackham and Cannington Colleges and is a fully Qualified Greenkeeper and NVQ Assessor for the Institute of Greenkeeping. He was runner-up in the national Greenkeeper of the Year competition in 1997.

A unique treble for Kingsdown GC

The first meeting of BIGGA's Futures Sub-Committee took place at BIGGA HOUSE in May. As its name suggests the future for both the individual greenkeeper and the profession will be the theme for the Sub-Committee.

In setting it up, BIGGA's Board of Management is looking to generate fresh ideas and proposals on the way forward for both the Association and the profession and to secure greater member input. The Sub-Committee is set to meet twice a year under the chairmanship of Elliott Small and its members will embrace modern technology to work as groups between meetings on agreed topics. The first topics being considered are the Development of the Profession, Education and Training and Communication with the Industry and the Game. Recommendations from the Sub-Committee will be subject to Board of Management consideration and approval.

Members are welcome to convey their individual views to members of the Sub-Committee on the above or any other relevant topics. Members of the Sub-Committee are: Elliott Small, Chairman - Tulliallan Golf Club, Richard Andrews - Highgate Golf Club, James Braithwaite - Long Ashton Golf Club, Andy Campbell MG - CGCS- De Vere Carden Park, Jonathan Cleland - Helensburgh Golf Club, Euan Grant - St Andrews, Duncan McIlvray - Potters Bar Golf Club, Billy McMillan - Mannings Heath Golf Club, Huw Morgan MG - Wilderness Golf Club, Andrew Pledger - The Hertfordshire Golf Club, John Ross - Lakeham Golf Club, Peter Wisbey - Woodhall Spa Golf Club.

Charterhouse maps out its future in detail

Philip Threadgold, a founding Director of Charterhouse Turf Machinery, has announced plans for the company's future development and expansion.

Philip, who for the last five years has been working for the company's parent, Redexim Charterhouse, setting up the North American operation, took over at the helm of Charterhouse this January.

Speaking at a press lunch in The Reform Club, London Philip said, "Charterhouse Turf Machinery should be seen as a group of four mini-companies operating within the grounds care and landscaping sphere. As with any diverse operation, some people only know us for one of our ranges or products. We are strongly associated with the Verti-Drain, which has become a generic term for deep aeration, but in fact we have no less than 60 other products in the Professional Turf Machinery Division! We aim to project an image that better reflects our breadth and depth, which means significant, positive changes. That's why we feel as if we're looking far ahead to the 22nd Century."

He has already implemented plans to move Charterhouse forward, while maintaining operational control of Redexim Charterhouse USA.

"My job, aided by my dedicated staff, is to integrate and maximise our resources, and exceed customer expectations. I have modified our field staff operation, so that sales people are now responsible for all products within their regions, rather than covering the whole country with just one line, as before. This means dealers see only one representative instead of three, and maximises efficiency. Our staff also relish their additional responsibilities."
Golf’s Environmental role gets boost from Minister

Scottish Golf took another step forward as the European leader in the field of environmental management of golf courses at Gleneagles Hotel recently.

The event was organised by the Scottish Golf Environment Group, where the Deputy Minister for Environment and Rural Development, Allan Wilson announced a new strategy for Golf and the Environment. The Group is funded by Scottish Natural Heritage, the SGU, the R&A and the Scottish Greenbelt Foundation.

“Scotland is endowed with over 350 golf courses - areas of permanent green space within cities, in green-belts, along our coastlines, buffering nature reserves. These golf courses provide a very important function in the conservation of Scotland’s rich natural heritage. Many communities feel they do this by their very presence, protecting areas from other forms of harder development. However, we are increasingly in need of golf courses to find ways to assist in the conservation of wildlife and habitats. We need Clubs to consider the needs of wildlife in their management and where possible to provide new habitats. I am pleased to say that many golf courses are taking this forward,” said the Minister.

He went on to say that on the evidence of previous work, and the content of the new strategy, the golfing sector in Scotland was a leader in the field of environmental management.

During the day the Minister, along with representatives from the main golfing and environmental organisations in Scotland, reinforced this message that golf courses can be developed and managed in harmony with nature - for the benefit of golfers. Duncan Weir of the R&A also gave a presentation which recognised the ongoing support of the R&A.

Following the launch of the Strategy, Environmental Excellence Awards were presented to four courses: Mortonhall Golf Club, Edinburgh. The Duke’s Course, St Andrews, Fife; Fomerston Golf Club, West Lothian and Fortrose and Rosemarkie Golf Club, Inverness.

They followed on from Elmwood, Gleneagles, Kilmacolm and Linlithgow who were among the first 12 in Europe to receive the Award in 2001.

The Environmental Awards are both a national and international award through the links between the Scottish Golf Environment Group and Committed to Green. It means that when awards are made in Scotland they are to a standard that is matched across Europe.

Many other courses across Scotland and throughout Europe are now working towards this standard. Cochrane Castle, Peebles and Ruth Park Golf Clubs received Environmental Certificates in recognition of their progress.

Details of the criteria to be met and further information on the Scottish Golf Environment Group can be obtained from Jonathan Smith on 0131 660 9480 or e-mail: scotland.wilderlife@virgin.net.

Myerscough Foundation Degree in Sportsturf Science

Continuing its tradition of innovation in the development and delivery of education and training in sportsturf, Myerscough College, near Preston in Lancashire, has successfully validated a new two year Foundation Degree in Sportsturf Science and Golf Course Management.

Building on the success of its well established Higher National Diploma, the Sportsturf Department at Myerscough will offer the Foundation Degree from this September. Underpinned by a sandwich placement period, the qualification is targeted at those individuals seeking to develop operational, technical and management careers in sportsturf.

Crucially, the course will allow successful candidates to “top up” to Myerscough’s full Degree award - already firmly established as the only specific sportsturf degree in the UK - with an additional year of study and two “new bridging modules” aimed at supporting those “Honours” year students undertaking sportsturf research.

Colin Steenfield, Sportsturf Programme Leader at Myerscough said, “We are extremely proud of our provision for Sportsturf here at Myerscough, and our students are provided with wonderful facilities. A new 2 hectare sportsturf trial site is currently under development here, which will allow our students to benefit from hands on experimental and research work in close collaboration with the industry”.

John Deere awarded official supplier status

John Deere has been given official supplier status for the 2002 British Open at Muirfield. This means Deere is supplying course maintenance equipment for three of this year’s major international golf tournaments in the UK - in addition to the Open, the Barclays Course at The De Vere Belfry is being maintained by John Deere machines for both the Benson & Hedges International and the Ryder Cup.

John Deere’s first Open as preferred machinery supplier was at last year’s championship at Royal Lytham & St Annes. As part of a large fleet of course maintenance equipment, three of John Deere’s new 7235B fairway mowers fitted with fairway tender conditioners (FTCs) were used without grass boxes, due to the efficiency of the FTC reels in cutting and undercutting the fairway grass in one pass.

These are being held at Cumberwell Park on August 7, Salisbury & South Wilts on August 31 and Tredegar Park on August 28. Entrance is by invitation only and if you have not received one and would like to enter please contact Paula Humphries on 01288 352194.

Hayter’s new MD

Derek N. Boulton is the new Managing Director at Hayter, taking over from the recently retired Tony Bourke. The appointment was announced by James C. Pelletier, CEO of Murray Inc.

The new MD has had wide experience in engineering, particularly in the automotive and diesel engine industries. He has held various senior positions with Cummins and Komatsu Cummins Engine Co. and has managed operations in the US, Africa and Japan among others. He served his mechanical engineering apprenticeship with British Leyland and holds Diplomas in Management Studies and Mechanical Engineering from Teeside Polytechnic and Bromsgrove College. In addition he received his MBA from INSEAD, Fontainebleau, one of Europe’s leading business schools.

He is married with four sons and intends to relocate from the US to Bishop’s Stortford at an early date. “Our extensive experience should give ample impetus to the next phase of Hayter’s development. He is joining a company with a fine pedigree and is looking forward to building on the achievements of the past 53 years” said Kim Macfe, Sales & Marketing Director of Hayter.

SW/Wales Course Management Trophies

These are being held at Cumberwell Park on August 7, Salisbury & South Wilts on August 31 and Tredegar Park on August 28. Entrance is by invitation only and if you have not received one and would like to enter please contact Paula Humphries on 01288 352194.

June 2002 Greenerkeeper International
The Grand Old Man of Golf, responsible for the modern look and design of the Old Course at St Andrews, watched over the delivery of the new batch of mowers to the Home of Golf, today.

It was more designed to support the highest level of course presentation, the St Andrews Links Trust, which is responsible for the six public links courses at St Andrews, has awarded a five-year equipment contract to Scottish Grass Machinery (SGM). The delivery of the new equipment was overseen by Old Tom Morris, played by actor David Joy, who was custodian of the Links at St Andrews for over 40 years until 1902.

The 50 St Andrews Links Trust greenkeepers still base their working practices and methods on the principles of Tom Morris. Morris was influential in developing the present shape and form of the Old and New Courses, and is remembered for using sand to encourage the fine indigenous grasses that characterise the world famous Links. It is this same turf that the SGM supported equipment has been brought in to maintain, with the machines being used to cut around 250 acres of fairways twice a week, with the grass ranging in height from 9mm to 14 mm.

SGM will supply the Trust with large cylinder dressers for greens and fairways. The Trust's order with SGM has seen it take delivery of a range of equipment, including: Jacobsen LF3400 Fairway Mowers; Jacobsen AR250 Semi-Rough Finishing Mowers; Ransomes rotary mowers and trailed gang mowers; Ryan green and fairway aerators; Cushman general purpose trucksters and topdressers for greens and fairways.

Gordon Moir, Links Superintendent at St Andrews Links Trust said, "Through this agreement the Trust has secured the use of what we believe to be the best fairway mowers for our courses, the Jacobsen LF series, supported in the field by Scottish Grass Machinery personnel. We believe that the Trust has secured a deal which will benefit all golfers at St Andrews."

David McInroy, managing director, Scottish Grass Machinery added, "It is a real feather in the Scottish Grass Machinery cap that our customer-focused approach in providing the right equipment, finance and maintenance packages has been rewarded with a significant new contract at the home of golf."

New National Turfgrass Conference

Cranfield University at Silsoe and the National Turfgrass Foundation, a newly formed charitable trust, have teamed up with the aim of funding research projects and raising awareness of turfgrass research, have joined forces to stage a major conference.

Entitled 'In Pursuit of Excellence' the conference will be held at the Southport Theatre and Floral Hall Complex, and the Prince of Wales Hotel in Southport from November 18-21.

Martyn Jones, originator of the NTF and organiser of the Conference, announced that, "The Conference has been designed to augment the education programmes provided by BIGGA and the IOG by focusing on the results of recent and current research into a wide range of turfgrass topics. Drawing from all backgrounds who wish to keep abreast of the latest developments will receive up-to-date information from internationally renowned researchers. Speakers will be drawn from all over the world. This is the largest programme to date and will feature 25 speakers, sharing their vast knowledge on 36 topics."

Among the line up of speakers are Dr Stephen Baker, Professor Joseph Vargas, Jr, Dr Alan Gange, Professor Al Turgeon, Dr Kate Entwistle, Professor Karl Danneberger, Stanley Zentek, Professor Bill Adams and Professor Peter Dernoden.

Presentations cover a range of subjects, including recent research from Newcastle upon Tyne University into enhancing drainage rates by the use of electrokinetic geo-synthetics, and details of a UK golf green construction specification. The effectiveness of plant growth regulators and the stiplulated should have extra blades in the verticuts from 3/4 of an inch to 1/2 inch - it will all be very gradual, ending up with a...
Available October this year

**Tillers Rootzone Turf**

If you’re planning to turf your new greens, talk to us now.

Our new Rootzone Turf produces firm, fast, free draining greens. It ensures compatibility with the rootzone used in your construction. And avoids the problems of layering and soft, waterlogged greens associated with normal turf.

Tillers Rootzone Turf will be available this October. It’s grown on three commonly specified rootzones:

1. USGA spec rootzone from Prestige, using sand from Messingham, plus peat.
2. USGA spec rootzone from Banks, using sand from Leighton Buzzard, plus Fensoil.
3. 1742 Grade rootzone from Rufford, using sand from Messingham, plus soil.

A full particle analysis for each rootzone can be supplied on request, or visit our website. The grass used in our rootzone turf is a Barenbrug 50/50 bent/fescue seed mixture, giving a bent dominated sward at maturity.

**Custom-grown Rootzone Turf**

In addition we can grow any mixture of grasses on any rootzone to match your individual specification. But you do have to plan ahead as it takes 6-8 months from sowing to delivery.

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**Main agent Rigby Taylor**

Tillers Rootzone Turf can be ordered now through our main agent, Rigby Taylor. Please call your local representative, or Freephone 0800 424919. Or contact us on 01652 678000.

Further information is available on our website at tillersturf.co.uk
St Andrews Bay Agreement

Yamaha Motor (UK) Ltd have signed an exclusive three year contract to supply the St Andrews Bay Golf Resort and Spa, St Andrews Scotland with over 40 Yamaha Golf Cars.

The agreement is being well supported by BIGGA regional administrators, and is likely to raise £9000 to support the Association’s educational activities - lots of £25 for every British team entered at the qualifying stage.

World Congress

The four World Scientific Congress of Golf will take place at St Andrews in the week immediately following The Open Championship at Muirfield.

Among the topics which will be discussed are golf course construction, turf grass breeding, pests, biotechnology and golf environment while the week will also include golf at Kingsbarns, as well as an alternative Ryder Cup, a three club tournament, and a range of other social activities.

Further information, including a booking form can be obtained on the World Scientific Congress of Golf Trust website: www.golfacts.org

John Deere Championship tees off

Twenty-six golf clubs will be taking on the challenging Brabazon course in August, having won their regional qualifier in the inaugural 2002 John Deere Team Championship golf tournament.

The competition is being well supported by BIGGA regional administrators, and is likely to raise £9000 to support the Association’s educational activities - lots of £25 for every British team entered at the qualifying stage.

Each winning team from the regional qualifiers - consisting of two members of the club’s board or committee, plus the club professional and greenkeeper - goes through to the Great Britain and Ireland national final at The Belfry on August 19, a month ahead of the Ryder Cup, to play for a place in the world final at Grayhawk Golf Club in Scottsdale, Arizona, USA in November. Teams will be joined at The Belfry by a representative of their local John Deere dealer. By the end of May, 15 regional qualifying tournaments had been completed, involving 207 British and 55 Irish teams - with the host club’s team winning in four. Another 11 of these dealer organised competitions are due to take place in June and July, with over 190 more teams planning to take part.

Winning golf clubs so far include Connaught from Loughrea in Co Galway and Thurlow from Co Tipperary in Ireland; Ardglass from Co Down in Northern Ireland; and in England, Boothferry in East Yorkshire; Bowood Park from Sherborne in Dorset; Wheatley in Doncaster; and Windmill Village in Coventry.

A need for Ken’s Key Skills Corner

After reading the responses to Ken Richardson’s article on grammar basics, I feel that I must respond in Ken’s defence. I simply fail to understand why Ken has been attacked. Those attacking Ken are obviously unaware of the fact that one in four adults in the UK have some kind of literacy problem (Government figures). For representatives of the industry to state that none of its members need this kind of support is simply blinkered and ill informed.

I work with many young (and often older) Greenkeepers who require extensive support in Literacy and Numeracy. Some of these students do not know how to form a sentence or how many square metres are in a hectare. Indeed you may have noted the recent television advertisements encouraging people to seek help in improving these key areas.

For Greenkeepers to accuse Ken of dumbing down is outrageous, how are we expected to encourage people to seek help if they perceive that they are stupid and should have learnt these skills when at school?

Those with high levels of literacy who find such articles condescending should simply ignore them and get on with their own lives and not interfere with those who try to offer some small degree of help to others.

I would like to end by saying, “Well done Ken”, I hope you continue to offer support to those in our industry who are academically less able and in doing so raise the standard of education for all.

Andrew Wright, Lecturer in Greenkeeping Studies, Oaklands College, St. Albans Herts

Controversial bunker issue receives response

Andy Law’s article “Shifting Sands” in May’s Greenkeeper International raises some controversial issues. Firstly, why must bunkers be visible?

There are bunkers all over the world with blind bunkers: does this mean that they are architecturally flawed? And what about bunkers on our links courses that are basically holes with sand in the bottom?

Secondly, I cannot agree that bunker sand should “be light in colour”. May I suggest that the current desire for light sand was sparked by the high profile television coverage of American venues such as Augusta National. (Incidentally, this also increased the pressure on greenskeepers for faster and faster greens.)

Up until about 20 years ago, there were very few inland golf courses in this country with light coloured sand. Personally, I would like to see a return to tan coloured sands which are not only less obtrusive, but conceal contamination better that light sands, and at the same time remaining perfectly visible to the golfer.


Address letters to: Scott MacCallum, Editor, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF, or email them to: scott@bigga.co.uk
It never rains – it pours!

Last year, the Greenkeeping Support Team at the PGA Volvo Championship really earned their free shirt and cap in 2001 by slogging it out in 80 degrees plus. This year they were warm enough but thoroughly busy as they carried out their duties (as well as a rake and a squeegee) wearing waterproofs. It precipitated down!

Saturday wasn’t too bad, pretty wet but interspersed with sunny spells, but Sunday. Let me tell you about Sunday. The first ominous sign was when Craig Small, from Chris Kennedy’s Greenkeeping Team, delivered 30 squeegees to our tent.

At first it seemed that Chris had been over cautious, early matches were returning with the squeegee being reported as “something extra to be carried and never to be used”. Wishful thinking if ever I heard it! Sure enough it rained steadily for a while and then came the first downpour. Not too bad, just a hailstorm turning nicely to torrential rain. The greens however were up to it and only minimal work with the squeegees was needed. Play continued without a problem for about half an hour or so and then came the second tremendous downpour. Greens started to be awash, bunkers started to flood. Chris Kennedy and his Staff were magnificent. And so were the Support Team, no panic, just hard work at a speed. All available Members (those who had finished their matches) and anyone else available in our tent was armed with a squeegee and dispatched to distant parts of the course to drain bunkers and to keep the greens playable. I would add at this point that there wasn’t one single moan, even though wives and girlfriends were abandoned and everyone got on with it and helped.

The results stand for themselves despite such rain the Championship finished more or less on time and the viewing public were hardly aware that there had been such problems. A brilliant achievement all round and I know that the PGA European Tour Tournament Director, David Garland, as well as Course Manager, Chris Kennedy, would like to use these columns to pass on their appreciation to the BIGHGA Greenkeeping Support Team. Well Done!

Derek Farrington, South East RA

In agreement with Ronnie

Having read Ronnie Bunting’s article on environmental management in the April issue of Greenkeeper International I felt compelled to put pen to paper. I was particularly interested in Ronnie’s comments about fusarium and that “leaving it alone” may be an option. I would like to say that leaving it alone is indeed a very good option. I have not sprayed fungicide on the greens for five years on the basis that it is a very expensive, harmful to the essential and beneficial microorganisms and labour intensive.

Ronnie is spot on in pointing these aspects out.

Once the decision to spray no fungicide had been made my club committee were informed and since then there has been no complacency. This has come from the club’s agronomy advisor. What I have observed is that when fusarium attacks come they have become less damaging with every passing year. I believe this sensible maintenance programme has had a strong impact. However, I also believe that the turf on my greens is fighting back and its natural immune system is getting stronger each year. What I do know is that, yes, my greens are left scarred but no more scarred that had I sprayed fungicide upon noticing the first disease patch. Because, as most of us know, if you haven’t sprayed before you see the first few patches you’re only going to spray a curative treatment on your attack and this will not prevent scarring.

You can argue that your scarring will not be so widespread, but maybe, if you leave the disease alone and let your green’s natural defences work it may become strong enough not to need chemical support. It is an important point to remember you can only prevent scarring if you apply preventative treatments and this means spraying well before any sign of disease.

Don’t be frightened of fusarium, leave it alone and be assured, greens do recover on their own and a sound maintenance programme does ensure as quick a return as possible to full grass coverage.

Andrew Phillips, Head Greenkeeper, Glynrhr GC

Don’t be frightened of fusarium, leave it alone and be assured, greens do recover on their own and a sound maintenance programme does ensure as quick a return as possible to full grass coverage.
BIGGA Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson, highlights the latest education and training available to BIGGA members

Continue to Learn 2003

Plans for Continue to Learn 2003 are progressing well. The programme will again allow delegates to ‘pick and mix’ various learning options to ensure that all delegates gain the maximum benefit from their time in Harrogate.

The Continue to Learn Programme includes:

Monday 20 January and Tuesday 21 January

Two day Workshops

Golf Course Design 2 with Howard Swan and Simon Gidman. Continue to discover the secrets of golf course design, presented in this hands-on workshop. Note, delegates should, previously, have attended a Golf Course Design 1 Workshop.

I gained a tremendous amount from this workshop.

Howard and Simon are very enthusiastic and I gained a lot of knowledge.

An excellent sequel to Golf course Design 1.

An extended version of last year’s Workshop, Golf Course Environmental Management, with Bob Taylor, Jonathan Smith and Fiona MacIntyre. Learn how to survey your course, how to produce an environmental management plan and how to manage your course with an environmentally sympathetic regime by attending this extended workshop.

Very useful, it made me think.

Had to absorb a lot of information in one day.

One Day Workshop

Soil Science with Dennis Mortram. Introduced at Harrogate, following its success around the Regions, this Workshop introduces delegates to the mysteries of soil science. An ideal first course in soil science or as revision for those who have not studied for some time.

Very good course, easy to follow, straight to the point.

I gained a lot of knowledge from this course.

A good day. Very good value.

National Education Conference

Attend the Conference on both Monday 20 January and Tuesday 21 January or attend either Monday or Tuesday, the choice is yours.

The theme for the 2003 Conference is Golf Course Management.

Monday 20 January 2003

Follows continuity in the theme of Management with Master Greenkeeper, Kerran Daly, describing his Management Style at Gog Magog Golf Club, followed by Tony Mears looking at the Course Manager’s responsibilities for Training and Development. Frank Newberry completes this session by looking at the link between a Business Plan and a Management Plan.

Tuesday 21 January 2003

The theme of Management continues in this session but looks more closely at Managing the Golf Course. John Nicholson, from John Nicholson Associates, starts the proceedings by describing the Course Manager’s role in Tree and Woodland Management, Simon Barnaby, from Scots UK, considers how Course Managers will cope when less and less chemicals are available for Fine Turf. Following the break, Chris Byrd, from Milliken Chemicals, concentrates on the benefits of an integrated foliar feed programme closely followed by Keith Hay, from the USGA, who considers what to do about Pesticide Runoff.

Dr Richard Earl and Justin Smith, both from Turftrax Ground Management, start the afternoon session with a look at Aspects of Soil Science and Soil Water Movement followed by Master Greenkeeper, Steve Cook, describing his technical preparations for holding the Ryder Cup at Oakland Hills in 2004.

The final paper of the Conference is presented by Ken Siems, Course Manager at Loch Lomond Golf Club. Ken will describe the Research on Grass Species, recently completed at Loch Lomond.

Watch out for more details in the next edition of Greenkeeper International.

Regional Training

The deadline for the Autumn and Spring series of Region and Section Training Courses is approaching.

If you would like to see a training course in your Section then speak to your Section Secretary, Regional Administrator or contact me direct at BIGGA House. We are planning a range of courses, already, including Essential Management Skills, Tractor Driving, Health and Safety, Pesticide Application, Basic Computer Skills etc.

NPTC Assessors

The National Proficiency Test Conference is looking for volunteers to fill a number of vacancies for assessors. NPTC assessors can be used to assess greenkeepers in a range of skills eg Forestry, Machinery Operation and Pesticide Application.

Anyone interested in taking on this challenging role should send their CV to David Golding at the GTC, Aldwark Manor, Alne, York. Y061 1UE.

The powerful organiser which keeps your golf course green!

Golf Club members and owners are continually demanding better quality playing conditions, which brings the role of Golf Course Managers into sharp focus. Not only are they expected to keep the course in excellent condition they also have to be skilful communicators and personnel managers. Additionally, Golf Club Managers need detailed and well-structured reports on golf course operations, which can be a time-consuming task. OnCourse™ has been developed to make all of these things easier.

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This month, Rachael Palmer from BIGGA’s Membership Services would like to welcome 47 new members to the Association and also welcomes Gemma Lee to the department.

Remember your benefits!

Now that summer is well and truly here we are all more likely to be out enjoying the sunshine, playing sport or even indulging in a spot of DIY or gardening. Whatever you get up to this summer it’s worth remembering that all Greenkeeper members are covered by the personal accident insurance that is provided as a benefit of membership.

The personal accident package provides cover for any accident you may have at home, work or even on holiday. It is not just during the period of insurance a member remains covered but also means no exclusions apply. For a more detailed summary of what BIGGA’s cover provides see the schedule of benefits which could secure you up to £50,000 in increased benefits.

In the event of an accident likely to give rise to a claim you should immediately call 0161 935 2935 or you can use any clear photograph of yourself on your personal accident insurance that is provided as a benefit of membership number ready.

A warm welcome
With Rachael having taken over from Tracey Maddison as Membership Services Officer her role of Membership Services Assistant has been taken by Gemma Lee (below).

Gemma (19) was born in Bradford but moved to the York area eight years ago, and now lives in Easingwold, just a few miles from BIGGA HOUSE. In fact she was at Easingwold School at the same time as another BIGGA staff member, Brad Anderson.

Prior to joining the Association she worked in the Customer Services Department of Norwich Union, based in York, having previously achieved her NVQ in Advanced Health and Social Care at York College. Her interests include socialising with friends, going out for meals, cinema and swimming.

“I’m delighted to have joined the Association and am looking forward to getting to know many of the members over the next few months and years,” said Gemma.

Membership renewals
Keep those renewal forms coming in! Remember we can use any clear photograph of yourself on your new membership card as long as it is a passport photo size. If you are still having difficulty getting a photo organised send your renewal form back to us anyway so that you don’t miss out on the benefits of membership and we will sort your photo out at a later date. It’s not too late to renew if your membership expired in December, January, February or even indulging in a spot of DIY or gardening.

Our congratulations go to July’s winner, Alan Gibson, of West Lothian Golf Club.

BIGGA welcomes...

Scottish Region
Thomson Attwooll, Central
Alan Brown, West
Martin Fabiani, West
Mark Roberts, Central
Jeff Rye, Central
Edmund Wood, West
Northern Region
Alex Hancsor-Law, N West
Eli Parker, N West
Paul Hussnott, N West
Midland Region
Andrew Sommerville, N West
Guy Webster, Cleveland
Midland Region
Adam Armes, Mid Anglia
Daniel Barnes, E England
Robert Collins, BB&O
Lee Fordham, Mid Anglia
David Gane, Mid Anglia
Paul Harris, Mid Anglia
Michael Johnson, BB&O
Robert Sendeckis, Midland
Robert Stogans, BB&O
South East Region
Stuart Apley, E Anglia
Keith Howard, Surrey
Murry Ling, Surrey
Jason McBride, Surrey
David Parker, Surrey
Christopher Parratt, Surrey
Matthew Summerfield, Surrey
Chop Thompson, Surrey
S West/S Wales Region
Jen Downes, S Wales
Andrew Gogan, S West
Matthew Perry, S West
Graham Shielley, S West
International
Gary Finney, Ireland
Steve Gonyea, USA
Paul Malone, Ireland
Patrick Toulson, GOGC, USA
Associate Members
Martin Davis, S Wales
Tim Halt, Northern
Dennis Humphries, N West
John Warwinyk, S West
Corporate Members
Geoffrey Burgess, S West
Student Members
Steven Porteous, W Scotland
BIGGA MEMBERSHIP

HOW CAN YOU benefit?

BIGGA membership isn't just for greenkeepers. We have four main categories to suit everybody. All membership categories are utilised by people seeking to create a greater understanding and awareness of greenkeeping, the skills, knowledge and training involved, and the rewards to be gained from this profession. All categories of membership benefit from a monthly copy of our award winning magazine Greenkeeper International and an annual copy of the BIGGA Golf Directory.

Greenkeeper Membership
(any person employed in the 'keeping of the green at a golfing establishment') offers:
- Education opportunities for professional greenkeepers
- Exclusive discounts and benefits for Greenkeeper Members
- Exclusive access to our Greenkeeper Members Area
- Through Membership, BIGGA also aims to create a safer working environment for our members

Associate Membership
(any person who is not a working greenkeeper, but wants to be part of a growing Association, i.e. Chairman of Green, Secretary, Company Sales Representative etc) offers:
- Engaging media products which educate and entertain
- Networking with members, clients, suppliers and potential customers
- Exclusive discounts and benefits for Associate Members
- Online information & opportunities for Associate Members

Corporate Membership
(for those companies who want to join up to 4 members of staff) offers:
- Engaging media products educate and entertain
- Network with members, clients, suppliers and potential customers
- Exclusive discounts and benefits for Corporate Members
- Online information & opportunities for Corporate Members

Student Membership
(for those who are studying full-time) offers:
- Research tools to help with your study
- Exclusive discounts and benefits for Student Members
- Get exclusive access to our Greenkeeper Members Area

BIGGA MEMBERSHIP IS ABOUT MAXIMISING RESOURCES FOR THE BENEFIT OF MEMBERS AND ENSURING THAT GOLF CLUBS RECOGNISE THE IMPORTANCE AND BENEFITS OF EDUCATION WITHIN THE PROFESSION

For full information on any of the four categories of membership, please call Rachael Palmer in the BIGGA Membership Services Department on 01347 833800, email rachael_p@bigga.co.uk or find us on the web at www.bigga.org.uk or write to us at BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF
Harrogate 2003 is six months away but already much of the preparation required to make it a week to remember for all who attend has been put in place.

THE COUNTDOWN'S

Confirmed exhibitors to date

MJ Abbott Ltd
Advanta Seeds UK
AFT Trenchers
AGCO Ltd (Massey Ferguson)
Aitkins Sports Turf Ltd
Allen Power Equipment Ltd
Allett Mowers
Amenity Technology
Angus Horticulture Ltd
Arden Lea Irrigation Ltd
Askham Bryan College
Association of Golf Club Secretaries
Aventia Environmental Science
Avoncrop Amenity Products Ltd
Barcham Trees
Berenbrug UK Ltd
Barnsfield Golf Ltd
Bathgate Leisure
Berkeley College of Agriculture
Benshaws & Co Ltd
Bioseed Probiotics Ltd
Blom Landscape Equipment Co. Ltd
Boughton Loam Ltd
Bowcom Limited
Boyd Golf
British Seed Houses Ltd
Campey Turfcare Systems
Cebeco Seeds
Charthouse Turf Machinery

For those visiting BTME they can expect to find all their favourite companies in one of five main halls of Harrogate International Centre while exhibitors can expect last year's record attendance figures to be at least matched if not exceeded.

At the time of going to press 140 exhibitors have already confirmed their attendance, well up on the figure at the same time last year, and although there is still some space available in each of the halls it is going quickly and any company who is considering becoming an exhibitor at the biggest indoor fine turf show in Europe should contact BIGGA HOUSE quickly to avoid disappointment.

Among those companies making their debut at BTME 2003 is Glendale while Rigby Taylor return to the Show, after a break of one year, alongside its sister company, Grass Science. In addition other companies have significantly increased their stand space. They include Allett Mowers, Lastec UK, Kubota (UK) Ltd, Earthquake Turfcare Ltd and Same Deutz-Fahr.

The new improved Education area in Hall Q includes representation so far from the colleges of Askham Bryan, Elmwood, Hadlow, Berkshire, Warwicks and Myerscough. The popular Careers Clinic will be relocated to this area together with interview rooms so golf clubs, or indeed any of the exhibiting companies, can speak with prospective employees.

Another innovation for BTME 2003 will be the Internet Cafe, to be located in Hall B which will enable visitors to stay in touch with work or home. This will be particularly beneficial to the large overseas contingent the Show always attracts.

"We are delighted with the progress..."
being made towards making BTME 2003 the best ever Harrogate and I am sure exhibitors and visitors alike will be delighted with the Show come next January 21, 22 and 23," said BIGGA Executive Director, Neil Thomas.

Anyone wishing to book a stand at BTME 2003 should contact Pauline Thompson at BIGGA HOUSE on 01347 833830 or via pauline@bigga.co.uk

Myerscough College
North Staffs Irrigation
Omnia (UK) Ltd
Pentagon Amenity Marketing Ltd
Prestige Sports Surfaces Ltd
PSD Agronomy
Rain Bird Europe
Rigby Taylor Ltd
Riko UK Ltd
Rolawn (Turf Growers) Ltd
Roussseau Equipment Ltd
Rufford Soil Technology
Same Deutz-Fahr UK Ltd
Saxon Industries
The Scotts Company (UK) Ltd
Shellito Sportsturf Drainage Solutions
Sharp Equipment Ltd
Silesia Grill Systems
Simon Tullett Machinery Co Ltd
Sialis Equipment (Maclashfield) Ltd
Spaldings UK Ltd
Speedcut Contractors
STII
SuperTurf Products Ltd
Swan Golf Designs Ltd
Swan Plant Services Ltd
TacoT

Talbot Farm Landscapes
TEG Environmental (Envigro)
Tenax UK Limited
Textron Golf, Turf & Specialty Products
Tildenet Ltd
DW Turf
Tonick Watering Ltd
Toro Commercial and Irrigation Products
Tower Chemicals Ltd
Trelleborg Wheel Systems Ltd
Trimax Mowing Systems Ltd
True Surface Rollers
TT Proturf Ltd
Turf Masters
Turf Seed UK Ltd
Turftech Machinery Ltd
Turftrax Ground Management
Tyreline Original Equipment Ltd
Verde Sports Ltd
Vfor Ltd
Warwickshire College
Waste2Water Europe Ltd
White Horse Contractors Ltd
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Golf Club members and owners are continually demanding better quality playing conditions, which brings the roll of Golf Course Managers into sharp focus. Not only are they expected to keep the course in excellent condition they also have to be skilled administrators and personnel managers. Additionally, Golf Club Managers need detailed and well-structured reports on golf course operations, which can be a time consuming task. OnCourse™ has been developed to make all of these things easier.

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Steve Isaacs, STRI Turgrass Agronomist for Scotland, provides some help in the difficult task of explaining agronomic matters to golf club members

A little understanding
One of the major frustrations faced by turf managers worldwide is the lack of understanding from the end users of their efforts, i.e. the players out on the golf course. The fact that, in many instances, laymen have control of maintenance budgets increases this sense of frustration. Most greenkeepers in the UK would sell their soul for the autonomy over turf management given to superintendents in the USA. The few in this country who control their own budgets, either at professionally run clubs or where they are directly responsible to a proprietor, shudder at the prospect of going back to the days of being accountable to a committee of plumbers, lawyers and a myriad of other professions with little or no connection to the turf industry.

Right, now that I've got that out of my system, the reality is that the majority of greenkeepers working in this country have invariably to function in a management framework where decisions on turf maintenance issues are, at best, influenced by the thoughts of laymen. We have to accept this situation and make the most of it, in many instances it can work well given compromise and diplomacy. Unfortunately, not all greenkeepers have these skills in abundance. One of the basic tasks facing the turf manager is explaining his needs when it comes to resource provision and a works programme that will, from time to time, disrupt play. This is where some form of analogy can come in useful, using some area of experience that is common to everyone and yet to sit on a mound of soil which can be related to turf management. Unfortunately, most office-based occupations are wholly divorced from the turf experience.

The surgery is now open
Ever thought that your turf goes through the same life changes as your own body? Don't laugh. Most aspects of managing turf can be related to the workings of our own bodies, something that everyone has some experience of—though a few greenkeepers might question this of their committee men! I was once in discussion with a well respected member of the trade and he suggested that an agronomist is the equivalent of a doctor to the grass, the supplier taking the role of the pharmacist. I liked the idea and thought it could be expanded as a means of enlightening laymen to the basic principles behind turf management.

Let's try therefore and develop this train of thought with a few examples to show how using this analogy may help when attempting to get over a turf-related idea.

Nutrition
If you eat too much, you get fat. If you eat too little, you become weak and emaciated. Turf reacts in a very similar fashion. Over-fed turf becomes lush and sappy with soft tissues more prone to damage and disease. Under-fed turf is weak and anaemic. When it comes to supplying adequate nutrition, a similar scenario can be seen. The human body will assimilate enough protein, vitamins and other nutritional needs from a balanced diet. The same is true of turf. If turf is managed properly, there should be no need for supplements.

Irrigation
You will be relieved to hear that I haven't developed this idea far enough to find a turf management technique that will help when attempting to get over a turf-related idea.

Aeration
A simple fact; if we don't breathe properly, we die. So does grass. Fortunately for us, we live with the air all around us. Grasses' breathing apparatus, the roots, are underground so air in the soil is vital to its survival. Any traffic over the turf, from participants in the sport or maintenance equipment, squeezes air out of the soil. It is, therefore, necessary to open up the soil structure with aeration practices from time to time to help the grass breathe easier. If you like, aeration is the turf's ventilator!

Thatch
Thatch is the turf equivalent of cholesterol. Too much thatch clogs the turf's arteries, making it prone to disease and damage. I always remember a visit to a golf club whose greens had a thatch problem. The visit was carried out in the early spring and the meadow-grass dominated greens were looking their usual sickly yellow colour. I was asked why this was. The spongy thatch was obviously saturated so my response was to respect this suggestion by the committee member that his leg...
might not look too clever if he sat all winter with his feet in a bucket of cold water. I don’t think he tried out this experiment. Hey, I’m really getting into this. Step behind the screen and get undressed while I expand this analogy.

The holistic approach to turf management

“Holistic” medicine is a term we have got used to in recent years. It describes a form of practice whereby the whole body and mind is considered a single entity in the treatment of any specific disease or illness. Good greenkeeping takes a similar approach. Considering the benefit of individual maintenance practices and the interaction of all turfgrass environments is important when making a diagnosis. This holistic approach should do away with the need to adjust specific practices but relating this to the balance necessary in the management programme to achieve the desired end result.

This holistic approach should do away with the need to adjust specific practices but relating this to the balance necessary in the management programme to achieve the desired end result.

The physical symptoms of human diseases do not always appear at the onset of the condition. I suppose cancer is the classic where tissue damage and the growth of abnormal cells can go unnoticed for years before physical symptoms bring about a call to the doctor and a diagnosis. This can happen to turf where inferior growing conditions, e.g. thatch accumulation or compaction, may not cause a deterioration in the appearance of the turf until the condition has developed for a number of years. Even then it may take some extreme weather to trigger turf damage. So, it is important when making a diagnosis not to jump to hasty conclusions.

The turf doctor’s role: house calls

Most of us will be familiar with the “well-man” and “well-woman” policy being followed by the NHS, whereby routine check-ups are made to monitor our health and prevent problems from developing. In many respects, the annual visit by an agronomist could be considered a “well-course” policy. It is insurance against major disasters and the monitoring of thatch and compaction during an annual visit is just like having your blood pressure or pulse taken at the doctors. It is also true, as any doctor will tell you, that more frequent check-ups will mean a greater degree of control over potential dangers to your, or your turf’s, health.

Just as you would visit a doctor when illness strikes suddenly, an occasional one-off emergency call may be necessary for unexpected problems with your turf. Fortunately for me though, STRI agronomists are not expected to work the same hours as junior doctors! Treat the agronomist as you would your family doctor, he is there to help. But don’t forget that there are a few Quacks out there!

You may think this approach is just a bit of fun. However, I am sure we all accept that communication is a vital part of the greenkeeper’s role these days and what value are you getting out of this facet of the job if the technical detail you are imparting sounds like an alien tongue to your committee? In searching for a common language, terms of reference that we can all follow, we will gain a better understanding and, hopefully, be given the level of support we are looking for and which is, mostly, deserved.

So, next time you see a stranger walking the golf course, talking to the greens – it’s either someone who’s escaped from the nearest asylum or an agronomist undertaking a psychological assessment of the greens!
Scott MacCallum meets Colin Irvine, the man charged with ensuring Muirfield is at its best for The Open later this month

FIELD OF DREAMS

This year The Open Championship sees the golfing elite descend on the East Lothian town of Gullane. There can be few, if any, towns in the world so totally immersed in the game of golf. Everywhere you look, there are superb golf holes, with tees and greens coming right up to the edge of the main road, and golfers of all ages and nationalities concentrating on their own games, totally oblivious to the passing traffic and shoppers.

It is the perfect illustration of golf as part of the community but it is on one of the world's most prestigious golf clubs that the 156 players will be focusing come the week of July 15. Home to The Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers, widely recognised as being the oldest golf club in the world with records recognising its existence going back to 1744, Muirfield is also regarded as one of the finest golf courses anywhere in the world.

The entrance to Muirfield is east of the village's three other wonderful courses Gullane No 1, No 2 and No 3 courses, and the magnificent iron gates at the end of a long driveway are a clue to the exalted position the club holds.

When they do they will discover a links which is widely regarded as one of the fairest to be found anywhere - all the trouble is visible from the tee which doesn't necessarily mean you will avoid it! - and 18 holes which have propelled the club to the top of the British rankings - as carried out by Golf World magazine.

A regular on the Open rota, Muirfield has a list of Champions that reads like a Who's Who of golf as it demonstrates an unflinching ability to identify and crown the best players in the world.

Previous winners have included Harry Vardon, James Braid (twice), Walter Hagen, Henry Cotton, Gary Player, Jack Nicklaus, Lee Trevino, Tom Watson and Nick Faldo, the winner of the last two Muirfield Opens. Each would have a claim on being the best player in the world at the time of his victory while perhaps the greatest of them all, Nicklaus, named his own club in Ohio after the course. It may be a good form guide to know that the winner of the Amateur Championship when it was played at Muirfield in 1998 was Sergio Garcia.

The man who carries the responsibility for ensuring that the quality of the Muirfield layout is matched by the condition of the course is 37 year-old Course Manager, Colin Irvine

While a traditional club in so many ways it is perhaps surprising that Muirfield has a Course Manager and not a Head Greenkeeper, and the more modern approach is extended still further.

"We don't have a Green Committee at Muirfield. I meet with the Secretary, Group Captain John Prideaux, three days a week to discuss the job and any queries we may have and I attend five committee meetings a year. Then I report on the work we are currently undertaking or about to do, machinery purchases, staff etc and then answer any
questions the committee members may have," explained Colin.

Having praised the modern approach adopted by the club with its structure Muirfield's traditional philosophy, when it comes to the management of the links themselves, is equally laudable.

This can be seen in the club's approach to irrigation. While most clubs install a greens and tees system if they are not in a position to install a wall-to-wall system, Muirfield has a system which starts at the front of the tees and finishes at the start of the greens.

"We are the only club I know which has this approach but the club don't want artificial irrigation on the greens. The reason we installed the fairway system, after the drought in '95, was as an insurance against another drought and because of the large areas that needed to be hand watered. Also under the old system when the villagers of Gullane woke in the morning the water pressure available to the club would drop off. "In '95 we went six weeks without a drop of rain but the greens and tees didn't prove a problem at all. The boys would go out and hand hose them and we'd give them a drink on a Friday so we wouldn't have to irrigate over the weekend. It didn't seem to have had any bad effects on the greens.

"It is easy to sit here with this mouse and just turn on the system if we haven't had any rain in a little while, but if you've got to haul a hose out and take guys off other jobs just to water a green quite often you err on the 'Might rain tomorrow' mentality. In the last two years I think we've only irrigated the greens five times."

It is an approach which has reaped dividends as Colin and his team have said to me that the course hasn't been looking as linksy but while we can add water we can't take it away.

A fly on the Muirfield wall would see a lot of top dressing, very little fertiliser and a lot of aeration during the winter months.

"We don't aerate at all in the summer so that the surfaces are as smooth as possible for the members," said Colin, who explained that the two high points of the year are the Club's two medals - the spring in May and the autumn in October.

"October is a busy month as we also give the course over to a charity day that month and it means that we never do any verti draining until November, while most clubs are well into their winter programmes."

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"It is easy to sit here with this mouse and just turn on the system if we haven't had any rain in a little while, but if you've got to haul a hose out and take guys off other jobs just to water a green quite often you err on the 'Might rain tomorrow' mentality. In the last two years I think we've only irrigated the greens five times."

It is an approach which has reaped dividends as Colin and his team have said to me that the course hasn't been looking as linksy but while we can add water we can't take it away.
Deputy - to Chris Whittle, who is now at Royal Birkdale - when Faldo repeated the feat in '92. Shortly after that Open he left to take up the position of Course Manager at the Düsseldorf Golf Club. "I enjoyed my time in Germany and it taught me a great deal. It was an inland course and I had to take on board the different way of managing the course, the different laws that were in place, how different people would do things, as well as, of course, learn the language."

When Colin learned that Chris Whittle was moving back to his home area to become Head Greenkeeper at Royal Birkdale the lure of his own home patch was just too strong and he applied for the job. He is quick to admit that it was his experiences while working abroad which created the opportunity to return to Muirfield two years later. "I don't think I would have got this job if I hadn't gone off and done the job somewhere else first. We have moved on from the traditional way of the job going to the longest serving greenkeeper when the Head Greenkeeper retired."

The arrival of The Open this July hasn't caused Colin and his team to make many alterations to their normal regime. People do say that you could probably have an Open here any year so we don't really need to make many changes to the way we do things when The Open comes along."

There are two holes which have been lengthened for the Championship, the par-3 4th and 13th holes, the latter being hailed by Tom Watson as the best par-3 in world golf while the bunker renovation has been carried out over the last couple of years. "We do them on a two year cycle. We looked at those which the pros wouldn't see so much and did them last year and the ones where they are more likely to find, particularly on the par-3s, we did them this year. "We don't want them to look too brand new or surgical looking when we relase them and the members can play them throughout the winter. I think people would feel cheated if they had to lift balls out of bunkers in the run up to an Open. Having said that, there is nothing worse than finishing a bunker then someone coming along and taking a big divot out of the face, but it's a golf course and we prepare it for golfers. It's the same with divoting fairways, someone is going to come along and take a divot. We are here to prepare a golf course for golfers." One element which has seen a
change from normal years is the treatment of the rough, which has not been cut as much as usual. One of the unique elements of Muirfield is the walk offs from the tee, a small strip of cut grass, often over 100 yards long, through rough to enable golfers to walk to the start of the fairway.

"Some of the older members struggle to make the carry, particularly into the wind, or top a shot and it can be tough for them when the rough is left to grow.

"You have to think long term when planning to cut the rough. People said to me three weeks ago that you could hit the ball anywhere in the rough and still get out of it. They won't be saying that now. When you get the rain and the heat how fast it grows so the same people will be saying in a few weeks time that it needs to be cut."

But other than that the course will not change much from its norm, a point illustrated when Colin points to an old aerial photograph pinned to his office wall.

"A picture taken now would be very similar to this one," he said.

Over the last few years he has visited the Open venue and compared it to his own course at the same time of year.

"You do work different management programmes in the lead up to Open time to select the best but you've got to remember we have a different climate to other Open venues."

"Last year we were a lot greener than Lytham which was amazingly dry. When I got back over the border on the Saturday you could see even that the road verges were still green and that we were probably a little behind Lytham," he said, before revealing that they had 29 ml of rain in May and that in the first two weeks of June they have had a staggering 54 ml.

He expects the greens to be more than quick enough for the Championship.

"I can get them to run at 10 feet for no special occasion and I have been asked for 11.5."

He revealed that when Sergio Garcia won the Amateur in '98 they had been cutting morning and night but were asked just to cut in the morning as they were getting too fast.

In addition to all the on-course work, Colin has been placed in charge of all the ancillary work as well.

"Some clubs designate a member to look after these sorts of things but with me being the Course Manager and knowing the course best they decided that I should take on the role of keeping an eye on everything and you do want to protect your course as best you can."

To assist in this they have marked all the sensitive areas which include water pipes and drains and told contractors not to go near those areas."

A genuinely laid back character Colin is looking forward to the week and, with six weeks to go, is happy to boast that he hasn't suffered any sleepless nights worrying about it.

"Yes, you know the eyes of the world are on you and that it's your course and good or bad it's going to come on you in the end so there is pressure but if you are confident in what you are doing on your course you should be fine. It is also reassuring to know that I have such a fine team behind me. They have done a superb job in the preparations for the Championship and I know that will be the same during the week itself," said Colin.

"The weather is the only thing you have no control over but it would be nice to see an Open with the sun blazing, a fiery burnt up course and the wind blowing. That would be my ideal."

He's right but whatever weather is served up during the third week of July you know that Muirfield itself will be the star.
SELECTING

Robert Laycock takes a look at the development of turf and gives some advice as to what to look for when purchasing turf

Turf has been used to create new grassed areas on the golf course for as long as there have been golf courses and it has been sold in rolls for centuries.

For many years seed was seen as being a more reliable way of making a new turf surface. Late in the 20th century plant breeders began to develop new strains of grasses created specially for turf, which could be truly called turfgrasses. This advance helped in the development of the turf industry as the new cultivated or seeded turf grown from mixtures containing these was demonstrably better than that composed of agricultural or wild grasses, which is all that had been available before.

For many years it was difficult to find turf of reliable quality, but gradually, about 25 years ago, a cultivated turf industry began to develop in the UK. The use of specialist harvesting machinery, developed in North America, made harvesting easier. Later, big rolls made a further improvement to the laying of turf on larger areas. Other specialist forms of turf later became available for sports turf and other landscaping uses.

The problem has always been how to pick the best turf. Every turf company claims to grow excellent turf, so adverts are not very helpful in choosing the best. Objective tests of quality were needed and the Turfgrass Growers Association (TGA) commissioned the production of a quality assessment scheme to make selection easier for customers. The TGA standards provided these tests, with participating growers using the same techniques to assess their turf. This is not to criticise other growers outside the scheme, who often do produce good quality material. However, direct comparisons are difficult if different assessment techniques are being used.

All participating TGA members have exactly the same equipment for assessing their product and all have been trained in its use. In the event that there is a complaint about the quality of turf supplied under the scheme, it is possible for a properly equipped and trained independent person to repeat all the tests and verify whether or not they have been measured correctly.

The TGA standards have brought a discipline to the monitoring of qual-
TURF

ity that was not there before. It is now possible for a grower to compare his records of assessments on this year’s crop with those from previous years, and see whether or not his turf has improved. Similarly, by using these parameters, customers can compare the products of different suppliers.

Just because a turf company has supplied good turf one year, it does not follow that it will be identical the next. Turf quality varies from grower to grower but all turfgrowers accept that it also varies from year to year. There are many reasons for this variation but it is mainly due to the effects of weather conditions during the crop’s production and the management it receives while it is growing. Cultivar choice is also very important and the best ones for the grower’s conditions should always be used.

The best quality modern turf is grown from top quality turfgrass cultivars and thus should produce a turf area of equivalent quality to one grown from seed. One of the great advantages of turf is that you can inspect its quality and see the grasses it contains, whereas inspecting a bag of seed may tell you which grasses should be in the turf produced from it but not their proportions and not whether weed grasses will be present in the finished sward.

The TGA standards were originally aimed at turf supplied to landscapers, the turf suppliers’ largest market, rather than for sports turf users. Nevertheless many of its contents are also relevant to the latter. I find that greenkeepers are not very familiar with the scheme and what it covers so I have provided a brief list of items that greenkeepers should be looking for when buying turf, whether or not it is covered by the TGA scheme.

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SELECTING TURF

Just because a turf company has supplied good turf one year, it does not follow that it will be identical the next. Turf quality varies from grower to grower but all turf growers accept that it also varies from year to year.

Assessments
Any assessments of turf suitability should include the following:

Dimensions
Some sizes and shapes of turf are easier to handle.

Health
Show how the turf is free from pests and diseases.

Soil type
Some soil types are unsuitable for some situations (usually sports turf).

Grasses
It is good to know that good quality seed using top cultivars has been used to sow the turf. Also it is important to know the proportions of the different species of grass that are present in the turf when it leaves the field.

Cutting height
Relatively short turf looks tidier and is easier to bring under control after laying.

Thatch thickness
If this is too thick it has a detrimental effect on turf performance and can slow down establishment time.

Soil thickness
Thickly cut turf tends to be heavier, more difficult to handle and slower to establish after laying.

Netting
The customer can decide whether they want to have netting in their turf.

Strength
Ensures the customer that the turf is strong enough for its purpose.

Weight
The customer can decide whether turf will be easily handled, what type of vehicle will be needed for transport.

The TGA Quality Assessments cover all the above, with objective measurements made of each criterion, but they are not the only way of assessing turf quality. All growers have their own methods, which are more or less formalised within the company. The advantage to the customer of the TGA scheme is that it provides up to date and easily comparable information on the actual turf being offered for sale.

The standards also show details of the field and the farm where the turf was grown so that any problems that may arise can be traced back to source. A certificate is produced which identifies the staff member who assessed the turf and the date on which it was done.

The important things are that the tests are done on the turf the customer actually receives and that they are done shortly before or soon after harvest.

If turf in a particular field does not meet the standards it will not be certified. Because of this, there are times when growers may not be able to supply turf meeting the TGA standards. Growers who do not tell the truth on their declaration of quality will be disciplined by the TGA. So far, to my knowledge, there have been no instances of sub-standard turf being supplied under the scheme, which is a credit to the TGA members and their staff.

Using turf on the golf course
Additional information needs to be supplied by the grower for turf to be used on the critical playing surfaces, especially golf greens, but including any created on a USGA or similar high specification rootzone, because most natural soils are incompatible with new constructions. If a different soil layer is introduced into the profile of the green with the turf, it will take much work to remove it, a process that may take years.

For new greens of this type, the best turf to use is either washed free of soil or grown on a soil or rootzone compatible with that the greenkeeper is going to lay it on. Only a limited number of growers produce turf in these ways and because of the extra work and materials involved it tends to be more expensive than conventional turf.

The grasses the turf contains are also important, especially for use on greens. In an ideal world all the greens on the course would be identical, and this is possible with a new course, at least for a while. However, most old golf greens contain a high annual meadow grass content and turf of this type is not available commercially, so a mismatch is inevitable when new greens are built. Shopping around will provide the type of turf least dissimilar to that on the existing greens. Get samples of turf from different suppliers and make a choice on the grounds of soil and grass content. Make sure any samples you obtain are from the field your turf is going to come from.

Elsewhere on the golf course, away from areas created on rootzone, it is less important that natural soil is avoided, and many believe that better results are obtained if the soil the turf has been grown on and the soil it is laid on are similar.

This means that using local turf-growers can often produce material grown on a soil type more compatible with the soil on the course. Many of the best local and national growers are members of the TGA, which has members growing turf on all types of soil from clay loam through sandy soils to peaty soil.

The website address of the TGA is www.turfgrass.co.uk
Robert Laycock's website is www.robertlaycock.co.uk
Robert is a founder member of the Register of Independent Professional Turfgrass Agronomists (RIPTA)
As a member of the Greenkeepers Training Committee, BIGGA is actively involved in raising the Standard of Greenkeeper Training. The range and quality of training now available means that there is a training course for every greenkeeper which should improve the quality of greenkeeping and help to produce quality golf courses.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Abingdon and Witney College: Manor Farm, Campuses, Horton-cum-Studley, Oxford OX5 1BQ Contact: Alan Brown or John Revis Tel: 01904 351794 Fax: 01904 358931 Email: alan.brown@abingdon-witney.ac.uk Web: www.abingdon-witney.ac.uk Information: Manor Farm Campus is the base for Abingdon and Witney College’s education and training in Greenkeeping, Sports turf, Amenity horticulture and allied land-based courses for the whole of Oxfordshire. Courses include: NVQ levels 2 & 3 in Sports Turf, Landscaping and Nursery. We also offer a range of short courses for the Industry including Health & Safety, pesticide training and machinery operation. For more information contact either Alan Brown or John Revis tel: 01904 351794 or 01904 358931.

Auchem Brosnan College: Auchem Brosnan, York, North Yorkshire, Y023 3RJ Contact: Central Admissions Tel: 01904 772221 Fax: 01904 772288 Email: sb@achaem-brosnan.ac.uk Web: www.achaem-brosnan.ac.uk Information: National Certificate in Horticulture, National Diploma in Horticulture (Turf Option), Higher National Diploma in Horticulture (Full Management Option) available all year round. Block release courses: NVQ level 2 Greenkeeping, NVQ level 3 Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Maintenance. NVQ level 4 Amenity Horticulture. Short courses: FTP sprayer training, chainsaw and brushcutter courses.

Berkshire College of Agriculture: Hall Place, Burchett's Green, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 2QX Contact: Laurie Brown Tel: 01628 624444 Fax: 01628 624695 Email: enquiries@bca.ac.uk Web: www.bca.ac.uk Information: Full-time programmes - BTEC First and National Diploma and Higher National Diploma. Part-time programmes - NVQ 2 & 3 Amenity Horticulture, Sports Turf (day and block release), NVQ in Sports Turf Technology. Short courses - Greenkeeping for golfers, NFYC Chairman Competence Certificates, Spray Operators Training Courses.

Berkshire College of Horticulture: Pullborough, West Sussex, RH5 1DL Tel: 01798 877100 Fax: 01798 877222 Email: Student Service (Pullborough) Web: www.bfh.org.uk Information: Full-Time: National Diploma Horticulture (Greenkeeping option), BTEC First Diploma Horticulture (Greenkeeping option) Full Time National Diploma Horticulture (Greenkeeping option), National Certificate Horticulture (Greenkeeping & Sports Turf option), NVQ level 3 Maintenance Day release or work based). NVQ2 Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping & Sports Turf option), plus varied short courses including Chainsaw, Brushcutter/Strimmer, PA1/PA2A/PA6A/PA9 etc.

Brooksby Melton College: Brooksby-Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire LE14 3QJ Contact: Annette Hirst Tel: 01664 855800 Fax: 01664 855555 Email: course.enquiries@brooksbymelton.ac.uk Web: www.brokbsbymelton.ac.uk Information: Courses available include NVQ level 2, III & IV in Greenkeeping. Work based emphasis for all of these programmes. Short courses available in Arboriculture/Chairman training, TDSL training and Pesticide application training.


Hartpury College: Hartpury, Gloucestershire GL19 3BE Contact: Philip Sharples Tel: 01275 678500 Fax: 01275 678555 Email: sharplesp@hartpury.ac.uk Web: www.hartpury.ac.uk Information: Edible National Diploma in Horticulture (Specialist), Certificate of Higher Education in Golf Course Management, Foundation Degree in Golf Course Management, Foundation Degree in Turfgrass Science and Technology, NVQ level II Golf Greenkeeping, NVQ level III Greenkeeping and Supervisory Management, NVQ level IV Horticulture (Sports Turf), FTP Training, Chairman Certification, Off-road vehicle Certification, Greenkeeper Mechanics, Certificate in Irrigation (RTY) 1 week course, National Certificate in Golf Greenkeeping (Tyr FT) Note: Certificate of Higher Education and Foundation Degrees both available as part time option.


Hartpury College: Hartpury, Gloucestershire, Gloucestershire GL19 3BE Contact: Lucy Cable Tel: 01452 789322 Fax: 01452 78929 Email: enquiries@hartpury.ac.uk Web: www.hartpury.ac.uk Information: Courses available: First Diploma Horticulture, National Certificate Horticulture, National Diploma Horticulture, National Award in Amenity Landscape Horticulture, also in Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship, First Diploma Greenkeeping, Certificate in Greenkeeping, National Diploma Greenkeeping, National Diploma Golf Studies, Modern Apprenticeships, Route 2 Work, NVQ available in Amenity Horticulture, Commercial Horticulture, Amenity Turf, Amenity Sport, Decorative Horticulture, plus RHS General Examination. City & Guilds Certificate in Gardening, TDSL Awards and a full programme of amateur, leisure and day release courses.

Hoddesdon College: Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire, EN11 0AL Contact: Norman Crasdale Tel: 01732 552232 Fax: 01732 853237 Email: norman.crasdale@hadlowcollege.ac.uk Web: www.hadlow.ac.uk Information: First Diploma Sports Turf Management, National Diploma in Horticulture (Sports Turf Option), NVQ level II, III and IV. Part-Time Day Release or work based. NVQ level II in Groundsmanship evening. NVQ level III Golf Greenkeeping. National Award. Centres at Hadlow and Canterbury.


Nantwich College: Nantwich Cheshire, CW5 6DF Contact: Alan Angus Tel: 01270 737771 Fax: 01270 733220 Email: alan.angus@nantwichcollege.ac.uk Web: www.nantwichcollege.ac.uk Information: National Diploma in Horticulture (Greenkeeping option), Certificate in Amenity Horticulture. Short courses: Health & Safety, pesticide training and chainsaw operation. For more information contact either Alan Angus or Mike Smith Tel: 01270 733220 Fax: 01270 733200.

Norwich College: Norwich, Norfolk, NR1 3SD Contact: Matt Alderson Tel: 01603 624658 Fax: 01603 624656 Email: enquiries@norwichcollege.ac.uk Web: www.norwichcollege.ac.uk Information: NVQ level 2 Diploma in Horticulture (Turf Option) - 1 year. National Diploma Horticulture (Turf Option) - 2 years. BTEC Higher National Diploma in Golf Course Management - 3 years. Part-time: HNC Golf Course Management with Open Learning option, NVQ level 1 & 4 Greenkeeping with Fast Track option. NVQ courses available. Short courses: FTP, Chemical Safety, Safe Lifting, Chainsaws, Off-Road Vehicle Driving, First Aid.

Oxfordshire College: Oxfordshire, OX5 9PT Contact: Bree Jones Tel: 01278 615636 Fax: 01278 615656 Email: bree@oxfordshirecollege.ac.uk Web: www.reaseheath.ac.uk Information: Full Time First Diploma Horticulture (Turf/Leisure option) - 1 year. National Diploma Horticulture (Turf/Leisure option) - 2 years. BTEC Higher National Diploma in Golf Course Management - 3 years. Part-time: HNC Golf Course Management with Open Learning option, NVQ level 1 & 4 Greenkeeping with Fast Track option. NVQ courses available. Short courses: FTP, Chemical Safety, Safe Lifting, Chainsaws, Off-Road Vehicle Driving, First Aid.
This guide is not exhaustive and a full list of GTC approved training providers can be obtained from the GTC. The Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC) are continually reviewing the approved status of training providers offering greenkeeper training courses. Anyone with a query regarding greenkeeper training should contact the Greenkeepers Training Committee at Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Ayle, York Y061 1UF. Tel: 01347 838640 or visit their website at www.the-gtc.co.uk.

**Wales**

**Sparsholt College**
- Address: Sparsholt, Winchester, Hampshire SP6 2FB
- Contact: Ray Broughton Tel: 01962 776441 Fax: 01962 779887 Email: r.broughton@sparsholt.ac.uk
- Website: www.sparsholt.ac.uk
- Information: NVQ Level 2 in Greenkeeping Practice, NVQ Level 3 Greenkeeping Supervision, City & Guilds Professional Management Studies, National Diplosms in Golf Course Management and Golf Studies, National Certificate in Greenkeeping and Sports turf Management, GTC Greenkeeping Certificate, GTC Certificate in Golf Course Supervision, HPFA. Short courses, Courses, Phase IV and NVQ Level 2 are offered on block release and day release. Full residential facilities available. Sparsholt College provides education and training in the land-based industries.

**The College of West Anglia**
- Address: Milton Campus, Contact: Bob Young Tel: 01223 860761 Email: Student Support at King's Lynn on 01553 761144 Ext 271
- Information: The College of West Anglia offers a full range of courses for Greenkeepers including; NVQ Level 2 (Sports turf) Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship, NVQ Level 3 Sports turf Maintenance, GTC Golf Certificate, GTC Certificate in Golf Course Supervision, TDBL Assessors awards, HPFA, Chain Saw, MN1, Other Courses: National and First Diploma in Horticulture and Garden Design.

**Warwickshire College**
- Address: Earls Leamington Spa & Moreton Morrell, Moreton Morrell, Warwick, Warwickshire, CV35 9BL
- Contact: Brian Cook Tel: 01926 318260 Fax: 01926 318300 Email: enquiries@warwick.ac.uk
- Website: www.warwickcol.ac.uk
- Information: Greenkeeping Courses; HNC Sports Turf & Golf Course Management (Day Release 2 year Programme also Distance Learning option); NVQ Level 2 & 3 Day Release and WorkBased Option (we come to you); two year NO in Horticulture with Turf Option; BTLB Certificate in Turf Irrigation. Short Courses: Introduce your Committee to Turf Culture. Computing for the Greenkeeper - various times throughout the year - ring for details. HPFA, Spraying. Certification, Chainsaw Certification; TDBL; First Aid. Also NVQ Level 2 and 3. A full list of GTC approved training providers can be obtained from the Greenkeepers Training Committee. The College of West Anglia offers a full range of courses for Greenkeepers including; NVQ Level 2 (Sports turf) Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship, NVQ Level 3 Sports turf Maintenance, GTC Golf Certificate, GTC Certificate in Golf Course Supervision, TDBL Assessors awards, HPFA, Chain Saw, MN1, Other Courses: National and First Diploma in Horticulture and Garden Design.

**Writtle College**
- Address: Cheshimold Esks, CM1 6HP
- Contact: David Campbell Tel: 01245 424200 Fax: 01245 425456 Email: info@writtle.ac.uk
- Website: www.writtle.ac.uk
- Information: Sportsturf programmes; NVQ Level 2, 3, 4. Sports turf maintenance. NVQ Levels 1, 2 & 3. National Diploma in Sports turf Science; NVQ Level 3. A full list of GTC approved training providers can be obtained from the Greenkeepers Training Committee. The College of West Anglia offers a full range of courses for Greenkeepers including; NVQ Level 2 (Sports turf) Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship, NVQ Level 3 Sports turf Maintenance, GTC Golf Certificate, GTC Certificate in Golf Course Supervision, TDBL Assessors awards, HPFA, Chain Saw, MN1, Other Courses: National and First Diploma in Horticulture and Garden Design.

**Greenmount College**
- Address: Antrim County, BT41 4PU
- Contact: Declan Gallagher Tel: 028 94 426794 Email: declan.gallagher@dasni.gov.uk
- Website: www.greenmount.ac.uk
- Information: Day release courses to NVQ Level 3 in Greenkeeping and Sports turf; NVQ Level 3 in Golf Course Supervision. National Diploma in Horticulture with turf options. HPFA, Health and Safety. A full list of GTC approved training providers can be obtained from the Greenkeepers Training Committee. The College of West Anglia offers a full range of courses for Greenkeepers including; NVQ Level 2 (Sports turf) Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship, NVQ Level 3 Sports turf Maintenance, GTC Golf Certificate, GTC Certificate in Golf Course Supervision, TDBL Assessors awards, HPFA, Chain Saw, MN1, Other Courses: National and First Diploma in Horticulture and Garden Design.

**Elmwood College**
- Address: Eco Park, KY15 4BJ
- Contact: Ann Bain Tel: 01334 658084 Fax: 01334 658888 Email: abain@elmwood.ac.uk
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W: www.bca.ac.uk

MCUK
Myerscough College, Bisley Park, Preston, Lancashire, PR3 6RY
www.myerscough.ac.uk email: myerscough@myerscough.ac.uk

The facilities
At the College there are extensive practical facilities and resources including a nine-hole "pay and play" parkland course. A four hole par three, practice golf layout, a practical putting green and a bowling green. The College is well equipped to meet the requirements of greenkeeping and sportsturf management courses.

The courses
HNC in Golf Course Management
This specialist level course is offered on a part-time basis. It is suited to applicants who have completed their craft level training and wish to attain more skills and experience necessary to perform effectively as modern head greenkeepers and course managers.

BCA is a BIGGA (British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association) approved training centre for greenkeepers, with industrial links and training agreements with top-ranking golf clubs in the area as well as our own Greenkeeping Group.

Our golf training facilities are full size and open for play, but are primarily there to train professional greenkeepers. The greens are each of a different design and construction with architecture covering the whole of the 20th century and beyond. Computerised irrigation systems complement this unique training resource.

We have full & part-time programmes, including:
- First Diploma, National Diploma and National Certificate in Horticulture, with specialisms in Greenkeeping and Garden Design
- NVQ Amenity Horticulture, Sports Turf Maintenance, Levels 2 & 3 (part-time)

Residential accommodation is available.

BCA, Hall Place, Burchett's Green, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 6QR
T: 01628 824444 F: 01628 824695
E: enquiries@bca.ac.uk
W: www.bca.ac.uk

GRENKEEPING

PROVISION

Oatridge has an excellent reputation for the quality of teaching in greenkeeping and sportsturf management. The College maintains strong links with local golf clubs, local councils and national bodies such as BIGGA (British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association) and IOG (Institute of Groundsmanship). Oatridge is ideally suited to meet training needs of students and employers from throughout the UK.

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BCA offers the full range of SQA modules devised to meet industrial needs by providing students with sound, hands-on practical experience, developing the sportsturf and amenity facilities both on and off the College site. A wide range of opportunities are available in this diverse and expanding industry with the potential to progress for those people with commitment, qualification and appropriate experience.

Oatridge Agricultural College, Ecclesmachan, By Brabourne, West Lothian, EH52 6NH
Tel: 01506 863297 Fax: 01506 853732 Email: info@oatridge.ac.uk Website: www.oatridge.ac.uk

28 Greenkeeper International July 2002
Roland Taylor takes a look at pollutants and how emission control is now such an important issue

No one would place a child in a room full of toxic gases, yet every day we subject them, along with the rest of the planet’s population, to high levels of pollutants in the air that we breathe. In this article we are looking at the smaller engines found on all golf course equipment, although what is written, equally applies to all equipment and road vehicles that use combustion as a source of power. It is a fact of life that there are a number of conditions and pollutants around which can cause serious health problems, not all, are the result of the internal combustion engines.

One of these is the ‘greenhouse effect’, there seems to some confusion as to what creates this phenomenon. If the earth’s surface is to sustain a rich variety of growth it requires an average temperature to be maintained. Global warming occurs due to a cocktail of certain gases including, water vapour, carbon dioxide and methane, raising the temperature levels. The cause is largely due to man’s intervention in nature, which results in excessive amounts these gases, being produced and released into the atmosphere. Damage to the ozone layer is another cause for concern. This is like a skin around the planet that protects the surface from the sun’s harmful ultraviolet radiation. Here the culprits are CFCs (Chlorofluorocarbons) which are commonly found in aerosol solvents and in the past refrigerators. These break down the layer so the earth and its population is exposed to the sun’s rays. A very good reason to protect the skin on bright sunny days.

Combustion engine emissions play only a minor part in these two phenomena, their role is closer to home. Engine exhaust and fuel evaporation are two sources of pollution involved. Petrol and diesel fuels are made up of hydrogen and carbon atoms. In a perfect combustion the fuel (hydrocarbons) is mixed with air (oxygen and nitrogen). When burnt this produces carbon dioxide, water and nitrogen, all three relatively harmless. In an engine the results are different. A mixture of fuel and air creates unburned fuel (hydrocarbons), nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide – a real witches brew.

**Hydrocarbons**

Basically this is unburnt fuel. This mixes with the nitrogen oxide and when exposed to sunlight produces ground level ozone – a major component of the smog, hence the reason for the continual shroud now over a number of large cities throughout the world. From a health point of view it can cause irritation to the eyes, damage the lungs and aggravate respiratory problems such as asthma. Exhaust hydrocarbons also have the potential to cause cancer.

**Nitrogen Oxides**

These are formed from the nitrogen and oxygen in the air being subjected to a high temperature plus pressure. Their role has already been mentioned in the formation of ozone, they also contribute to the production of acid rain.
Carbon Monoxide
This is a real nasty. As the result of incomplete combustion the carbon in the fuel is only partially oxidised. As far as humans are concerned, oxygen levels in the bloodstream are greatly reduced and those with a heart condition are most at risk.

Carbon Dioxide
This is the stuff we exhale. In the normal ecosystem plants and trees take this in and convert it into oxygen. With the changes that man has bought about to the environment this natural cleaning system no longer works at 100% - the greenhouse effect is one of the results. Some environmental agencies now consider carbon dioxide is becoming a pollutant.

There are slight differences in emissions from diesel engines.

Particulates
These are made up of suspended carbon particles and the amount of these released will depend on the quality of fuel.

Soot (Carbon)
Most exhaust contaminates are carried in soot. Petrol units produce less soot, but more carbon monoxide.

Apart from exhaust emissions there is also another area associated with the engine that create atmospheric problems - evaporation.

This is one of the major factors for hydrocarbon pollution, especially on hot days and it can occur in a number of ways:-

- If a fuel tank becomes hot then fumes escapes through the vent in the cap.
- Engine and exhaust heat will vaporise fuel, this continues for relatively long period after the unit has been switched off.
- Vapor is always present in fuel tanks and this is forced out during refuelling - the shimmering haze that can be seen on all garage forecourts.
- There are other indicators that signal a power unit is producing excess fumes or something sinister might be going on inside.

White smoke
Mainly evident when an engine is started up, it usually disappears when the unit warms up. Water droplets (condensation) plus unburnt fuel in the cylinder cause this. In the worst scenario it could indicate that water from the cooling system has gained access to the combustion chamber.

Blue Smoke
Burning oil plus unburnt fuel generally causes this. May be the result of excessive wear, broken oil ring or more likely a poorly tuned and maintained engine.

Black smoke
A combination of soot, oil and unburnt fuel, this could also herald a mechanical failure. In the case of the last two, some action to rectify symptoms is needed fairly quickly, if a major problem is to be avoided.

As has already been shown, the combustion process, although now highly refined, is still relatively inefficient and this can be escalated by other contributory factors:-

- The quality of the fuel used
- Type of engine, whether it is a standard model, turbo charged or has fuel injector.
- Incorrectly tuned engine
- Fuel pump or carburettor settings
- The workload it is subjected too.
- Engine running temperature
- Lack of maintenance.

Stringent legislation in some countries has meant that that engine manufacturers have made considerable strides in reducing emission levels with models now on the market 70% cleaner than a decade ago.

This is the result of changes in the cylinder and valve configurations, finer tolerance throughout, and more sophisticated fuel/air supply systems. Power units are more compact having greater fuel and oil economy and less vibration, plus the lowering of another emission - noise.

On some models the catalytic converter has been introduction. These use very high temperatures to burn off the unused fuel before it is emitted from the exhaust, but they are a highly sensitive components that are likely to be damaged if an engine is not properly maintained.

Another reason why problems can occur is that some of the contaminates from an incomplete combustion remain inside the engine. These eventually find their way into the sump where they mix with the oil to form lacquer and a thick sludge. This then passes into oil ways and adheres to components causing a reduction in an engine's efficiency as the power output drops and fuel consumption and emissions increase.

Out of all this there is a clear message regard controlling the level of emissions. While, engine manufacturers now produce power units that comply with present and future legislation once these are out in the field, it is the responsibility of the users to maintain these standards. The fact is modern engines require very little maintenance, so by look after them regularly and correctly this can be achieved.

Oil
This has two main jobs, to reduce friction and to help dissipate heat. If it is in short supply or contaminated, serious damage to the engine can occur. The message is, check the levels are correct every time the equipment is used. This not only applies to the engine, but also to any other components that uses oil, such as hydrostatic drives and gearboxes.

Change the oil as outlined in the instruction manual using top quality recommended lubricants.

Airfilters
If these are dirty they alter the
fuel/air ratio entering the combustion chamber and as already explained this has an effect on the amount of pollutants the engine emits. It will also increase fuel consumption as well as effect the performance. Starting may also become a problem. In extreme case dirt can enter the engine and cause a great deal of damage.

Regularly clean the air filter, more often in dry dusty conditions. If a filter is badly contaminated or damage it will require replacing.

**Cooling systems**
These are designed to ensure the engine constantly runs at the right temperature.

Where the airflow becomes blocked or restricted, heat builds up very fast, and in some case the unit catches fire. It is time to start running because a bomb in the form of an exploding fuel tank can make a nasty mess.

Clean dried grass and dirt out of the fins of air-cooled areas such as around the engine cylinder blocks and hydrostatic drives also from radiator grills on water-cooled systems.

**Ignition**
In the case of the petrol engines, make sure the spark plug is the correct one with the right size gap, if it is badly contaminated fit a new one. Fuel injectors will require specialist attention.

There are other parts of the machinery that will effect emissions and performance:
- Blunt blade or poorly adjusted cutting cylinder requires more power so an engine has to work harder with all the already mentioned results.
- Badly adjusted drives such as belts and chains have the same effect.
- The unit should also be operated at the correct speed and to meet the prevailing conditions.

Not only will all these benefit the environment they also increase the life of equipment and reduce the risk of a breakdown. It is also necessary to have a fuel management programme in place that ensures the minimum of evaporation.

Petrol or diesel should be stored in a cool place in an approved container. If a spillage occurs it will need to be cleaned up immediately.

**Gas power**
Over recent months there has been a lot of media coverage regard using liquid propane gas (LPG) or natural gas (NG). Some engines are now being manufactured specifically designed to operate on these alternative fuels, but as far as is known no one at present is fitting these in the UK. There are companies’ here, now offering conversion kits. Apart from reducing emissions these units also show considerable savings in fuel costs, as the example below illustrates.

A 16hp Briggs & Stratton Vanguard engine was used for the purposes of this study.

**Fuel consumption:** 3.5 litres per hour
Fuel costs: Petrol £0.75 per litre
LPG £0.25 per litre
Operating period: 6 hours per day
5 days a week
30 weeks per year

Fuel costs for this cutting period
Petrol: 3150 litres at £0.75p litre = £2362.50
LPG: 3780 litres at 25p litre = £945.00

Other items:
- One-off cost of conversion approximately £650.00
- Bulk fuel storage tank £150
- Rental of tank and pump approximately £96 per year

The total costs in first year including fuel is £1941.00
This is a saving of £521.50

In the second and subsequent years the savings are higher, in the region of £1300 per annum based on these fuel costs.

This example is more in line with contract grass cutting, the savings on a golf course could be pro rata.

Regarding diesel, because there is doubt that red fuel will continue to be available to the turf machinery sector, a comparison is not given.

Pollution of our planet is not going to go away and the damage already inflicted cannot be redressed. The only course of action left is to ensure wherever possible we minimise some of the effects we have on the atmosphere, by maintaining the equipment in a tip-top condition and good running order.
Maureen Keepin reports on the dramatic developments in engineering have resulted in the production of highly durable rotary mowers with an improved cutting finish. Taking over rough and semi rough areas how can clubs strive to sharpen up their rotary act?

MAKING THE MOST OF ROTARY

Rotary mowers are proving their worth as part of today's greenkeepers' armoury. You will not find them on the tees or greens - as they cannot cut the sward tightly enough, but rotaries are certainly delving ever deeper into the rough of the golf industry.

Easy to adjust and less expensive to maintain than cylinder mowers, regular sharpening of rotary blades is still critical and should form a vital part of any maintenance programme.

First developed in 1934, early rotary mowers had power driven, horizontally spinning blades. They were introduced onto the golf course because of their capability of dealing with longer grass than the cylinder cutter.

A rotary is not as competitive as a cylinder mower in terms of cutting cost per hectare - as the grass grows faster when cut with a rotary - but it can be cut more easily at higher cut rates.

Neither do they produce as good a cut as a cylinder mower, as the blade hits and destroys the grass leaf tissue which can lead to yellowing at the tips - this is why it is crucial to sharpen the blades at least twice a week for optimum performance. This leads to slower grass growth and less yellowing.

Generally a rotary can stand grass up, even when wet, enabling it to cover wheel marks left in the turf.

Increasing steadily over the last five years, rotary sales have grown from 600 to 850 (figures from OPE).

"This is a very good increase," said Pieter Nel, John Deere's Division Sales Manager for Commercial and Consumer Equipment. "In the past people used cylinder mowers, but rotary mowers have advanced to such an extent they can produce an almost similar quality of cut at a height of between one to six inches. They are cheaper to maintain, as sharpening their blades is easier," he added. They are safer than cylinders, as you are running rotaries below the deck. "The mulching issue is also important," he said. "Disposal of clippings can be very expensive but with a mulching deck on a rotary this problem is removed."

What to look for in a rotary mower

"Operator comfort is certainly a key area and quality of cut is vitally important," said Peter. "Vibration is always an issue and our 1445 and 1565 machines have been redesigned for greater operator comfort."

Durability and reliability of the machine are also important - and customers expect a good back up package from manufacturers and dealers. These issues can be crucial in the purchasing decision.

Mowing in semi rough and rough

"A dramatic shift has taken place over the last five to six years with a tremendous increase in flexible rotaries with multiple decks," said Alan Prickett, UK Branch Manager of Textron Golf, Turf and Specialty Products.

These are more accurate at a lower cutting height. Ten years ago, the bulk of semi rough mowing was carried out using trailed gang mowers or self-propelled hydraulic gang mowers.

Starting off initially with the use of rotaries with fixed 60 inch and 72 inch machines, giving a reasonable cut to a height of 2 inches, the golf market started asking for greater productivity.

Disposal of clippings can be very expensive but with a mulching deck on a rotary this problem is removed."

While this could be achieved with a wider cut, there was a considerable downside. By increasing the cutting width there was far more unsightly scalping on undulations.

This was not acceptable. The only way of squaring the circle - combining increased productivity with a decent finish - was by using multiple cutting decks. Textron developed an 11 ft cutting width bat-wing machine, with triple deck rotaries - one at the front and two at the sides.

Productivity increase was sorted, and a finer finish was developed at a lower cutting height, which greenkeepers wanted on semi rough areas.

On the Jacobsen AR250 there are five standard blades, and a secondary blade above those which has a mulching effect. This chops the grass a multiple number of times before discharging.

"This gives a really clean finish behind the machine," and avoids clumping and removes long strands of grass often just flattened by cylinder rakes.

Rough areas are increasingly cut with rotaries, generally bat-wing or wide single unit machines fitted with three blades. Here again, the desire for higher productivity and lower maintenance costs rule the day. Certainly rotaries lift longer grass during mowing and cut these tougher blades and this is a distinct advantage over the cylinder.

"We have seen an increase in the sale of our 16 feet bat-wing with nine blades and 90hp," said Alan.

"These can cut 16 acres an hour and machines have just been delivered to Worthing Golf Club and Woodbury Park."

Increased productivity, with a respectable finish, has secured the rotary's future in the rough.

Sharpening up the act

Normally sharpened with a hand-held angle grinder, there are serious problems arising from sharpening
Machines have improved significantly and they now give a good quality of cut.

"Often it is not a matter of just fine tuning the blade on a rotary mower, but eliminating damage by taking chips out of it," said Stephen Bernhard, Managing Director of Bernhard and Company.

Rota Master has been developed by Bernhard to avoid the need to completely discard a rotary blade. The machine grinds efficiently and with greater precision, reducing the amount of time needed to sharpen blades.

"Greenkeepers used to find it a real chore, either when sharpening blades themselves using angle grinders or bench grinders, or out sourcing their sharpening," he added Stephen.

"Our purpose-built machine can efficiently and cost-effectively grind them while agronomy factors should not be overlooked. Rotary mowers may have enough engine power to keep cutting when they are blunt, but damage is inflicted on the sward."
New spray nozzle from Lurmark

Spray nozzle manufacturer, Lurmark, has developed a range of nozzles which can be used in place of traditional spray booms, enabling chemicals to be applied to targets which cannot be reached by a conventional boom sprayer due to natural or man-made obstacles. Known as MaXThro, Lurmark’s new long-throw nozzle is available in seven sizes capable of applying chemicals at swath widths from 5.18m to 9.45m and at flow rates ranging from 7.9 litres/min at 3 bar pressure to 150.4 litres/min at 4 bar. An even spray pattern of at least 125 deg is produced by MaXThro, depending on the selected nozzle size, with consistently large droplets across the range reducing the potential for drift. Typical situations where MaXThro is expected to improve the effectiveness and ease of chemical treatments include golf courses and stadia, sportsgrounds, amenity areas and field boundaries, orchards and specialist crops. The spraying of de-icing agents onto roads, pavements and runways, the application of suspension fertilisers and the distribution of waste products to encourage rapid biological breakdown.

Manufactured in durable Polyacetal with a stainless steel body, each MaXThro nozzle comes with standard male pipe fittings, quick-fit couplers and a mounting bracket enabling fast, simple attachment to any suitable point on the sprayer frame or folded boom. Suitable for use as a single unit or mounted back-to-back in pairs, it has been designed to achieve the required swath width with the spray delivery office positioned horizontally. To better target the spray, the nozzle can be rotated towards the vertical or angled up or down, although this will affect swath width and the spray pattern. Comprehensive information on MaXThro is available from Lurmark together with charts of typical application rates and the even spray distribution patterns achieved in replicated potmulation trials by the company.

For further information Tel: 01954 260097

Shifting Sands

Cherrington “sandsifting” technology is now available in a line of compact sandsifting equipment which provides a solution to small sand areas which are dirty, polluted, or compacted. Offered in both walk-along and pull-type models, they screen out encroaching grass, garbage, rocks, cigarette butts, glass, and rotting seaweed, while putting the cleaned, sifted sand back on the glass, and rotting seaweed, while putting the cleaned, sifted sand back on the front castor wheels and full width rear roller the cutting height control and ground following characteristics of the machines are a major feature.

For further information Tel: 01944 768232
E-mail: info@rytec.co.uk

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

Medium weight flail mower from Rytec

Rytec has announced the introduction of a medium weight flail mower suitable for front and rear mounting on tractors from 2.0 to 75hp. The new Professional SS models are based on a well proven and robust design but incorporate a new SIDE SHIFT linkage, allowing on the move, lateral travel of the mower around obstacles.

Available in 3 cutting widths 1.2, 1.6 and 1.8 metres, the new Professional SS machines are ideal for front mounting on a range of bank/reverse drive tractors with limited lift capacity and allow excellent maneuverability around trees, sign posts and other obstructions as the operator can side shift the mower hydraulically. As a rear mounted unit the machine is ideal for working under trees and hedges where it is important to cut grass but often difficult to reach because of access with the tractor and conventional in line rear mounted units.

The SS Professionals allow offsetting to both left and right hand side of the tractor and can therefore reach in under overhanging branches and hedgerows.

A range of flails allows the Professional SS machines to be used for a variety of work from rough cutting with heavy cast grass flails, to fine mowing with paddle type flails, the machines can also be fitted with scarifying blades to further increase adaptability. With the front castor wheels and full width rear roller the cutting height control and ground following characteristics of the machines are a major feature.

For further information Tel: 01944 768232
E-mail: info@rytec.co.uk

Vermeer launch new brush chipper

The Vermeer BC625AI brush chipper continues the Vermeer tradition of rugged reliability, safety, and helpful features to enhance productivity. Like its predecessor – the BC625I – the BC625AI is a disc-style chipper, geared to meet the needs of all who use it.

The Vermeer exclusive patented AutoFeed system means fewer jams and reduced engine stress because it automatically monitors and controls the feed roller rotation by sensing engine load. Feeding is easy and convenient with the feed control bar located in front of the operator position and a wide chute opening to cut down on trimming and chain saw work. Safety is optimised by a discharge chute which rotates 240 degrees to direct chips away from the operator.

The BC 625AI is built for maximum cutting performance to handle brush and debris up to 15 cm in diameter. It features a four-sided bed knife and a thick cutter disc for more cutting inertia, and an improved variable speed hydraulic system that delivers 20 percent more torque to the feed roller. Two engine options are available, including a 25 HP (19 kW) air cooled Kohler Command, and a 23.5 HP (17.5 kW) water-cooled Perkins diesel.

In addition to safety, reliability and performance, the BC 625AI’s has been redesigned for easier transport-
Campey unveil latest Hi Lift trailer

The application of top-dressing after aeration work to rejuvenate heavily used sports turf is an essential grounds maintenance operation, but it can also be one of the most time-consuming. Normally, if substantial areas are treated, work has to be interrupted frequently to refill by hand, with the substantial quantities of sand required. However, with a Raycam Hi-Lift Trailer from Campey Turf Care Systems, the task is made quicker, simpler and much more efficient.

The Hi-Lift, which can carry over 3 tonnes, is powered by a tractor of 30hp or more, and is driven by the motive unit’s auxiliary hydraulic services. The articulated rear axle is raised quickly to discharge material from a maximum height of 1.4m (4ft 7in) into the user’s top-dressing unit, allowing work to continue immediately.

Hydraulic controls are conveniently situated at the rear nearside of the Hi-Lift, allowing the operator an unrestricted view of the entire discharge operation. The unit features low ground pressure tyres to minimize the risk of turf damage, even when fully loaded.

For operational flexibility, the tailgate and controls detach quickly and, by fitting the standard tailgate assembly supplied with the Hi-Lift, the machine can be used as a standard tipping trailer for general maintenance duties. A road-going lighting kit can be added as an option.

For further information Tel 01260 224568

New improved range from Symbio

Following a four year research and product development programme Symbio has launched a new improved range of products and substantially reduced the price for biological turf management programmes. It will be selling these new products directly to its customers in the South of England and Wales and has appointed two new regional managers. Neil Carter who is based in Portishead will look after customers from Wiltshire to West Wales and provide technical support to Don Hunt of Roffey Ltd who looks after Symbio’s customers in Devon and Cornwall. Neil ran his own landscaping company for many years before taking his HND in turf grass management at Carington. This was followed by spells at The Paris International Golf Club and The London Golf Club where Neil gained lots of experience in presenting courses for tournament play.

Richard Stoner used Symbio’s products for four years as a Head Greenkeeper and liked the results so much he joined the company. Richard has 30 years experience of landscaping and turf management and is based in London from where he will cover the area from Kent to Northamptonshire. Richard said “I’m delighted to be able to help greenkeepers and landscapers use the latest technology to help improve their greens and course presentation”.

New lightweight from Kawasaki

The KLF250-A has entered the market as Kawasaki’s new working market entry model and has been brought in to do a job at the lighter end of an ever increasing and impressive application range including farms, equestrian, parks, sports and recreational establishments.

In an exciting model re-shuffle, Kawasaki has retained the turning capability that make the KLF250-A popular for its agility within confined areas, while providing a noticeable increase in power from the new 250’s 16.8 hp, air-cooled, single cylinder four-stroke engine.

The end result for the working market is a similarly compact and lightweight 2x4 machine with all the same features, but with a greater appetite for hard work and all the inherent characteristics of performance, durability and reliability that have become associated with Kawasaki over the years.

One of the big advantages for the customer is the availability of a machine with a track record when it comes to the working environment at Kawasaki’s model entry level with a competitive price tag at £2,900.

For further information Tel: 01285 654777

Please send your latest product release notes or press releases to: The Editor, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Aine, York YO61 1UF

The right is reserved to edit submissions before publication. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Association. No responsibility is accepted for such content, advertising or product information which may appear.

July 2002 Greenkeeper International
North

As I write this report the heavens are opening again, and this is turning out to be the wettest spell of weather since new golf greenkeepers have been talking to some greengrasskeepers from the east coast, it has been a very dry spell and in some cases it's making life hard, I hope you get some rain soon.

Two new members to report this month, these are Ben Brookes, from Newmachar Golf Club, and Mark Cameron, from Auchinleck Golf Club. Ben has been a member for a while now, so my apologies for omitting you from past reports. Anyway, welcome to the Section, lads.

The Shortbread Cup, Fortrose Golf Club went very well and, with a really good turnout of 80 plus playing, combined with pleasant weather and a superb golf course, it turned out to be a really good day. Alastair Angus and his staff deserve high praise indeed for the condition of the course. It was first class. Thanks also go to the catering and bar staff of Elgin Golf Club who served us all well and, as always, a big thanks to all the patrons who supplied the raffle prizes and supported the event.

The prize winners for the day were as follows:

Scratch 1. and Bowen trophy Mark Ross, Elgin GC, 65; 2. Neil Sadler, Inchnacar, GC, 71-13-63; 3. Robert Paterson, Royal Aberdeen GC, 73-30-77; 3. Brian Cruickshank, Garmouth GC, 75-5-70; 3. Class 2. Trophy, 1. Maxi Grant, Cammanachea Cup, shinty's showing the way. No1 month, these are Ben Brookes, from Strathpeffer GC, who received the Club 2000 tickets for next year. Also a big thanks to all the patrons who supplied the raffle prizes and supported the event.

Central

I must begin this month’s news by making an apology to Jeff Rycie and Mark Thompson for the inclusion of the Lothian Golf Club, for omitting to welcome them to the Section in last months report Sony Lars, but somehow your application forms got mutated in some filing system, at this time of the year it’s that pile of papers lying in the corner waiting to be attended to. Another new member joining us this month is Grant Davidson, from Stirling Golf Club. You can hear him all saying “Aye, he didna forget that one”, but seriously a warm welcome to you all from everyone in the Section.

In last month’s news I gave you the date of this years Autumn Tournament, have you all got it in your diary? Well hears another date, this year’s Grand Football Tournament will be held on Saturday, October 13, again at Forthbank Stadium in Stirling. Hopefully the weather will be a bit drier than last year! You’ve all had plenty of warning and had services arranged now as some of the teams take this event very seriously. Forms for both events will be with you in the near future so, as before, please return them in plenty of time.

Winners of Club 2000 in April were A. O’Hara with ticket number 183 and S. Cormie with number 251, May winners were A. Robertson with ticket number 131 and K. Mitchell with number 036. Guess what’s going to be dropping through your letterbox shortly. Yes! you’ve guessed it, your allocation of club 2000 tickets for next years draw. It may seem a bit early but it’s just to give you time to buy/sell/return or as most of you do “mislay” them.

The draw for this years Inter Club Tournament has been made and circulated, with ten teams (two league of five have been formed, with the winners of each league meeting in the final, hopefully all ties will be played on time in order that the event doesn’t over run again.

I’ve had a suggestion that there should be a Reunion Dinner of the founding committee of the Section, early next year. Bring a club representative and let them enjoy Joe Baxter’s catering and feel the camaraderie of a section event. This event will be the usual format and cost £13 per person by cheque payable to BIGGA NORTHERN SECTION. Any committee member will accept your cheque.

Any gossip or tittle-tattle you want me to share with the section can be forwarded to me by any of the medi- ums at the end of the notes.

Enjoy the rest of the summer, Dave Thackray 16 Westwood Ave. Eccleshill, Bradford, West York’s, BD12 8BA. Tel: 01274 640739 Mobile: 07976867264 E-mail: Dthackray@sol.co.uk Dave Thackray

North

The beginning of June and no real signs of summer yet, but at least the finer grasses are beginning to take off. On Wednesday 22nd June we are opening again, and this is turnout at Bishopton Golf Club where we will accept your cheque.

As far as the course condition goes we are in the sky and that Sandy MacManus from Strathpeffer Golf Club. I know that Jimmy Lees and Jock Grant are now suspended from the course, and I hope to see you all at the dance at Section golf days over the next months report Sony Lads, but some- thing is up in the air, I hope you get some life awkward, I hope you get some rain soon.

Any gossip or tittle-tattle you want me to share with the section can be forwarded to me by any of the medi- ums at the end of the notes.

Enjoy the rest of the summer, Dave Thackray 16 Westwood Ave. Eccleshill, Bradford, West York’s, BD12 8BA. Tel: 01274 640739 Mobile: 07976867264 E-mail: Dthackray@sol.co.uk Dave Thackray

Nordic

Let me start this month’s report by welcoming our new members to the Northern Section. They are Frank Stuart, from Leeds A. G. R. E. Robertson, Stuart Earnshaw, from Clayton Golf Club; Ben Grayson, from Huddersfield Golf Club; Daniel Grainger and Robin Cornforth, from East Kilbride Golf Club. Allan Lothian called me a few days ago to tell me he was taking early retirement from Fidgy Golf Club. No doubt most of your saw the adverti- sement in his job in last month’s magazine. Allan has supported the Section for many years and was also Secretary of the old BOGA. So from all your friends in the Northern Section may we wish you a long and happy retirement.

A little bird tells me that Telford (Scarcroft Golf Club) and his better half are expecting their first child. Congratulations to the both of them.

Finally, the suggested golf match between the Scottish Section and the Northern Section looks as though it might happen. Some- thing is up in the air, I hope you get some life awkward, I hope you get some rain soon.

Our friends who were unfortunately not born on the wrong side of the Pennines. A team will be picked by the committee based not on golfin ability alone, but on regular attend- ance over space of weeks prior to President’s Day so results and report will be in the next around the green.

A couple of dates for your diaries, Thursday, August 15, Stand Golf Club, this is a yearly match for their friends in the Northern Section. They are Frank Stuart, from Leeds A. G. R. E. Robertson, Stuart Earnshaw, from Clayton Golf Club; Ben Grayson, from Huddersfield Golf Club; Daniel Grainger and Robin Cornforth, from East Kilbride Golf Club. Allan Lothian called me a few days ago to tell me he was taking early retirement from Fidgy Golf Club. No doubt most of your saw the adverti- sement in his job in last month’s magazine. Allan has supported the Section for many years and was also Secretary of the old BOGA. So from all your friends in the Northern Section may we wish you a long and happy retirement.

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were completed by May 1999 and Hillarby.

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greens to USGA specification and a
back in play. The five greens tion the USGA spec greens, (Phase
June or July and we would like to hear

ter your "yes" or "no" and we will
mer which could take place either in

Work took place in the construc-
courses, it wasn't all plain sailing in

As Guy Cannings, of Heswall GC,

High Greenkeeper at Pryor’s Hayes GC, for the preparation of the course and the catering staff for the food. Also a great tribute goes to our local sponsors for their support as well.

Apart from this team event the

North Wales North Wales lost their match against North West, the final score was 5-2 but the greens were completed to date that had by all. Thanks got to Simon, Head Greenkeeper at Prwyer's Hayes GC. The Section held their annual dinner which was once again sponsored by Crowlands Heath Golf Club they are James Winner and Patrick Laws, welcome to our section fellas hope to see you at all the golf days.

New members this month are both from Crowlands Heath Golf Club. If you wish to play please contact the Secretary, Manager or Greens Head 0151 724 5412 or mobile 07761538337. Any news or views especially over golf tournaments give me a ring.

Bert Cross.

North Wales

The Bromborough GC famous for the Cheshire stroke and match play tournaments was, in recent years, becoming unable to deal with the even moderate levels of rainfall, in particular over the winter months that were almost out of play through the winter months and became soft in the summer. At a general meeting in September of 1998 the Greens committee bucked by council persuaded the members that money needed to be spent on reconstructing these greens to USGA specification and a representative from the STRI spoke on the topic of putting. Richard, Head Greenkeeper, went on to explain that this work was to be essential if they wished any winter play.

Work took place in the construc-
country club for a classic event now in it's 20th year and is and now into its 16th month in the realms of greenkeeping.

Any news, views or information you have, please contact me on: Home 01925 263394 - Fax 01925 269202. E-mail acorgolf@supanet.com

Andrew Acorn

Midland Region Peter Larter

BB & O

The summer tournament will be held at Temple Golf Club on Thursday August 19th. Please note that there will not be invitations sent out for this event as all the information required will be covered in this article. You are required to bring along the Secretary, Manager and Green's Chairman as your partner for this Invitational event. The format will be Foursome Better ball played over 18 holes.


The Essex Golf & Country Club was this year's venue for our Spring Tournament. Martin Forrester and his team put on a great show and the course in difficult conditions for the well-attended event, which was sponsored by Banks Amenity Products, a big thank you to Simon Banks for his support.

The Essex is always proved to be a good test of golf, requiring strength drives to shoot a good score, or as Mark Stolps found, a dodgy handicap. Mark managed to shoot a great score of 42 stableford points, winning him the overall prize, which he picked up without the slightest hint of embarrassment. Well done Mark.

There were two categories, 0 – 15 and 16 – 28.


Nearest the pin and Longest Drive were won by Dave Green with sponsorship of the Local Greenkeeping Supply Company, thanks for that. The winners were: C. Garston and R. Hare respectively.

Winner of the guest prize was R. Williams with a birdie on the 15th. Next up for E. Doe came, won the trade prize with 37pts.

Well done to all who took away prizes and also to everyone else for supporting our section so well especially. Sherriffs, Rigby Taylor, Tuckwells, Ernest Doe & Son, Tacit, Driving Force Leisure and Gem Professional who donated raffle prizes. Much appreciation to Headland Amenity who sponsored the mail out for this event.

A huge thank you must go out to The Essex Golf & Country Club for allowing us to visit their fine establishment and for looking after us so well during our stay.

Well for the rest of us fair weather golfers the Sussex Section golf days out are coming up. Starting off with Seaford Head.

If you have never played Seaford Head, you are missing out because for a course which is placed on top of the cliffs, the content and presentation of the house that they even play the game in the bleakest months.

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snapped up by Rose Gould, Steve Blake, and the longest drive went to Lee Amos. A special thanks to John Shaw for this month's section seminar. The section would like to thank Adrian Masters and Adrian Locke, 70 - Qualifier for this month, I hope to see our golfing team at Foxhills. The result: - 1st (best net score) Adrian Locke, 70 - Qualifier National 2; 2. Mack McLaren, 71; 3. Gareth Roberts - Qualifier National Best gross score 72. Nearest Pin - Harry Wright. Longest Drive: Dave Murdock.


Tozer, M Hawker won the scratch for the day is £18 per person and guests. The winners were K Lappin with 39 points and Karl Sonnex with 39 points, lost on the back nine. 4. W Dunster & L Townsend with 39 points, longest drive was won by C. Toner, M Hawker won the scratch for the nearest pin, I understand Matt is saving the scotch for a special occasion! Our next event is at Bath on July 3 you may have just got your magazine in time, please come along. Finally you will all be interested to know that Kevin Green, a past Section Secretary and long time member and supporter of BIGGA has become a landlord. Kevin is now the publican at the Carpenters Arms in Wicklow near Bristol. I think we all wish him, all the best in his career pulling pints.

R Greaves

Northern Ireland

Our first golf event of the year took play at Downpatrick GC on May 3rd. Fortunately we were blessed with super weather throughout the afternoon. It was very easy to be distracted with the views across the County Down countryside. Course manager Emmett Curran and his staff had the course in outstanding condition with the greens running fast and true. Congratulations go to new member George Fitzpatrick from Grosscar GC who took first prize with 39points.

The results were as follows – 1. G. Fitzpatrick, Grosscar GC, 39 pts; 2. N. Crawford, Royal Co. Down GC, 36 pts; 3. M. King, Royal Co. Down GC, 34 pts; 4. P. Lappin, Kirkstown GC, 33 pts; 5. B. Boyle, Royal Co. Down GC, 31 pts.

Our thanks to Downpatrick GC for allowing us courtesy of the course, we would like to remind members our next competition will be held at Carnale GC on July 5 at 3pm. So not to come along and enjoy the craik.

The completed list of speakers has now been confirmed for the Section conference at Massereene GC on November 6. Our thanks to Emmett Curran for all his hard work as Chairman of the organising committee.


Ken Henderson

South West

Summer's really here now, after a very slow start everybody has lots and lots of grass! On May 15 we held our Greenkeeper amateur tournament at Yeovil GC. Our thanks to the Hon. and our Greenkeeper, Organiser Chris Sturgess. Entries are limited so I would suggest you contact him quickly. I am sure Ed McCabe and his team will have the course in its usual superb condition and it will a great day out for us. If anyone has news that they wish to have published in next month's section then please contact me.

Until next month, Alex McCombie

South Coast

After a dry start to the year, the inevitable rain has come in the last month. Coupled with the warm weather many greenkeepers are struggling to keep on top of the greens. Some club have certainly had some stormy weather, which seems to be the pattern at the moment; still it makes life a greenkeeper a bit easier I think. On the Section front it has been a quiet month. The committee are busy preparing next year's section seminar. We will be using a different venue next year and if you or a particular speaker then please contact one of the committee members as we are now about to approach possible speakers. This month sees the retire
ture of one of our sections great supporters. Ted West is to retire from Broadstone Golf Club after 40 years of service. I will report on his retire
ture in full next month but as a hint I wish him a long and happy retirement. Our next section golf day is on Thursday, August 8, at Brockenhead Manor Golf Club. The day, which is sponsored by Huxley's ales, will be a fun day amongst friends and colleagues. Ideal you guest will be a member of your golf club. The cost for the day is £18 per person and please forward all monies to Organiser Chris Sturgess. Entries are limited so I would suggest you contact him quickly. I am sure Ed McCabe and his team will have the course in its usual superb condition and it will a great day out for us. If anyone has news that they wish to have published in next month's section then please contact me.

Until next month, Alex McCombie

Devon & Cornwall

The Section's first match play competition sponsored by Vitax has reached the last eight, after over forty members entered the club qualifying round. The section would like to thank Adrian Masters and Vitax for their support. We are delighted to announce that Phoenix Irrigation will be sponsoring the fixture cards for the second year, hopefully the new fixture cards will be with you during late August. Dates and venues will be announced next month.

Richard Whyman

South West and South Wales

We have received good news from the National Tournament. The weather conditions were kind it was a dry, warm day with sunny spells and the course was presented in truly excellent condition. The greens were very fast and very true and the course was an absolute credit to all the greenkeeping team at Foxhills.


The congratulations paragraph this month belongs to Simon and Yvett who became the proud parents of Luke Aiden Lee Amos. A special thanks to John Shaw for this month's section seminar. The section would like to thank Adrian Masters and Adrian Locke, 70 - Qualifier for this month, I hope to see our golfing team at Foxhills. The result: - 1st (best net score) Adrian Locke, 70 - Qualifier National 2; 2. Mack McLaren, 71; 3. Gareth Roberts - Qualifier National Best gross score 72. Nearest Pin - Harry Wright. Longest Drive: Dave Murdock.

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In a special US Open report, Sandy McDivot reveals a cunning plan to make the Championship more exciting

I write this while watching Mr Wood's engaged in his usual demolition of both course and fellow competitor at the US Open and I am being regaled with a steady stream of dialogue about how the venue is a public course - the Bethpage State Park Black Course.

Yes, hard to believe, but the US Open is being played on a "muni". Now as you know I am not one for cynical expression, but if that's a municipal then Tiger Woods is my illegitimate son. For starters they say it is subjected to 35,000 rounds of golf annually, which on a true public course - the Bethpage State Park Black Course.

You can just imagine the success rate of a Head Greenkeeper going to the local council and asking for three million so as he can tart things up a bit for a big tournament. Seeing as a request for a new rake normally brings a requisite filling in of a 20 page form in triplicate, I think his chances are somewhat limited.

Now as you know I am not one for cynical expression, but if that's a municipal then Tiger Woods is my illegitimate son. For starters they say it is subjected to 35,000 rounds of golf annually, which on a true public course - the Bethpage State Park Black Course.

But the more I think of it the more I believe the USGA has missed a golden opportunity. Presumably their rationale for visiting a public course, was to make the statement that the game of golf is open to all. But this was not your normal "muni" as at the end of this year's US Open, the green fee, will be subjected to a huge hike. Then there is the huge problem that faces the game in that young Tiger is turning golf into a dull and predictable exhibition. So how can both problems be overcome?

Well, seeing as you ask, I would now like to reveal to you all, how I would promote golf as a game for the masses, while at the same time insure against future domination by the young genius.

Firstly I would select a true municipal course, one that is subjected to the annual onslaught of at least 70,000 rounds of golf, and only by qualified hackers, all of whom would be carefully vetted for complete golfing incompetence and ignorance of all matters pertaining to golfing etiquette.

Now I would like to examine the question of Tiger's prodigious length off the tee. How can we negate that as an advantage? Well, in the past they appear to have come up with the brilliant stratagem of extending the length of the courses in the hope that it will result in even Tiger being unable to reach holes in a couple of smacks. Well far be it from me to point out the bleeding obvious, but is that not being plain stupid?

What we must do is select a course that is no more than 6,000 yards from the back tees. And, as the back tees on a municipal are for ornamental purposes only, it would mean a course of no more than 5,500 yards, which should take away all his length advantage.

Secondly, how can we combat his physical advantage? Well I have thought long and hard about this one and I think I have come up with the answer. Remember that this tournament, will be played strictly to true municipal tradition, so Tiger must turn up at the club on the Saturday and Sunday morning at about 4am, ready to put his ball in the chute in anticipation of the twilight kick off.

So what about Tiger's famous preparations? Well, we must insist that only genuine council range balls are played. These large range balls have a bias that will turn a hook into a slice and a slice into a hook, thereby insuring total confusion.

The Head Greenkeeper will have a critical role to play. It is essential that Tiger's ability to impart backspin can be removed so all the fairways should remain uncut for at least a month before the big event.

The Head Man must also take full responsibility for creating as much of a lack factor as is realistically feasible. He can do this by insuring that the fairways are composed of at least 50% unreplaced divots, that the bunkers are officially classified as a disgrace and that the greens are rid-dled with pitchmarks. They must never exceed 3 on the stimpmeter and the holes will be changed two months prior to the big event and not again until the day after it finishes.

Now let us study how we may remove Tigers exceptional powers of concentration. I think we should partner Tiger with Old Sid, who has played off a 24 handicap for the last 30 years, but has not actually played to it since 1975. He has never ever lost a golf ball, not because he is exceptionally accurate, far from it, it is just that he can drive on the fairways and the holes will be changed two months prior to the big event and not again until the day after it finishes. Now let us study how we may remove Tigers exceptional powers of concentration. I think we should partner Tiger with Old Sid, who has played off a 24 handicap for the last 30 years, but has never actually played to it since 1975. He has never ever lost a golf ball, not because he is exceptionally accurate, far from it, it is just that he can carry on looking for all lost balls until they are found, regardless of the time factor and he will expect Tiger to help him.

Bring all that into force and I reckon on Tiger would be reduced to second favourite behind John Daly, who would be quite at home at such a place. And if after all that, he still manages to win, they should not only give him the trophy to keep.
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Betchworth Park Golf Club requires an experienced

**HEAD GREENKEEPER**

Betchworth Park Golf Club is a well established and ambitious member’s club located near Dorking in Surrey. It is an attractive, Colt designed, parkland course overlooked by the North Downs. The ideal candidate will be a highly motivated, enthusiastic and ambitious team player with a desire to take the Club forward, bringing in new ideas and working practices where appropriate.

The successful applicant must have the following skills:

- Possess strong management skills with a proven track record.
- Have the necessary technical qualifications for the position.
- Have the ability to prepare and control course budget.
- Have a sound understanding of Health & Safety requirements.

Residential accommodation is available. Salary and Conditions of service are negotiable and will fully reflect the importance of this position.

Please apply in writing to:

John Holton, Secretary/Manager, Betchworth Park Golf Club, Reigate Road, Dorking, Surrey RH4 1NZ

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**FIVE LAKES**

**Hotel, Golf & Country Club**

The Par 72 lakes course designed by Neil Cross MBE is used annually for the PGA European Tour Qualifying School and was recently voted as one of the best golf courses in Essex by the Essex PGA.

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New Course Manager at Five Lakes Hotel, Golf Country Club & Spa

Five Lakes Hotel, Golf Country Club & Spa is delighted to announce the appointment of Robert Bell as the new Course Manager of our two eighteen hole golf courses.

Robert joins the hotel having been recommended to us by Richard Stillwell, Director of Greenkeeping for the PGA European Tour and will be commencing in his new position on the 19th August 2002 following his return from Nigeria at the end of July where he has been working for the past three years.

Robert will be responsible for maintaining and developing the hotel’s 6,751 yard, par 72 "Lakes" championship course designed by Neil Coles MBE which is used annually by the PGA European Tour Qualifying School and was recently voted one of the best courses in Essex by the Essex PGA. He will also have responsibility for the more established 6,250 yard par 71 "Links" course built in 1975 as well as the facilities included within our golf Academy and the hotel’s extensive grounds.

Robert has a wealth of experience at this level having spent much of his career working at the De Vere Slayley Hall before leaving in June 1999 to take on the challenge of, Golf Course Superintendent working at the IBB International Golf & Country Club in Abuja, Nigeria.

For further information on the extensive facilities available at Five Lakes Hotel, Golf, Country Club & Spa please telephone +44 (01621) 868888 or alternatively visit our website at www.fivelakes.co.uk
Old Fold Manor Golf Club

GREENKEEPER

An opportunity exists for an experienced greenkeeper, qualified to NVQ Level 2, to join our team responsible for developing and maintaining one of the finest golf courses in Hertfordshire.

Applications in writing with full CV to:
Alan Dickens, Manager, Old Fold Manor Golf Club, Old Fold Lane, Barnet, Herts EN5 4QN
email: manager@oldfoldmanor.co.uk

GUARDFORD GOLF CLUB

REQUIRES A
FIRST ASSISTANT & AN ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Guildford Golf Club has a vacancy for a First Assistant and an Assistant Greenkeeper. To continue and progress with course improvements and development, we are seeking enthusiastic and hard working individuals to join our existing team. Must be experienced NVQ Level 2 or equivalent, preferably with PA1, PA2 and PA6 qualifications. Further education provided.

Attractive salary offered and two bonuses paid annually. Lunch time meals provided.
Please apply in writing with full CV to:
Mr B J Green, Secretary, Guildford Golf Club, High Path Road, Merrow, Guildford, Surrey GU1 2HL, (Telephone: 01483 563941)

AMENITY SEED SALES REPRESENTATIVE

Cebeco Seeds are one of the leading retailers of amenity seed in the UK.
Due to our continued success, we are expanding our sales force to cover the South East of England. Good communication skills are essential as the job requires visiting golf clubs, sports stadia, local authorities, etc.
This new position will require a person of a dynamic nature, looking to develop their career from a personal contribution to the company’s growth. Ideally, the successful applicant will already have a proven sales record but training would be given to an outstanding candidate.
The remuneration and benefits package will be commensurate with the position.
Closing date for applications Wednesday 31st July 2002
Applicants in writing along with CV in the strictest confidence to:-
Roger Peacock, Cebeco Seeds, The Old Wood, Skellingthorpe, Lincoln LN6 5UA

COCKERMOUTH GOLF CLUB

Requires an
HEAD GREENKEEPER

Due to the impending retirement of the existing post holder there is a vacancy for a Head Greenkeeper.
Salary to be negotiated.
Applications in writing enclosing a copy of your CV to:
The Secretary/Manager, The Clubhouse, Embleton, COCKERMOUTH, CA13 9SG

EPSOM GOLF CLUB

EST. 1889 18 HOLES PAR 69

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER REQUIRED

Enthusiastic Assistant required to join our young energetic team. Qualified to NVQ Level 2, PA1, PA2 & PA6 would be an advantage.
Further training available.
Salary subject to the Standing Committee recommendations.
Possible promotion to Deputy Head within 12 months

Apply in writing to:-
The Manager, Epsom Golf Club, Longdown Lane South, Epsom, Surrey KT17 4JR Telephone: 01372 721666

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Ritefeed Ltd, Ritefeed House, Kirkless Industrial Estate, Cale Lane, New Springs, Wigan WN2 1HF

ROYAL WINCHESTER GOLF CLUB

Requires a
DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER

Candidates must have the relevant qualifications for the post and practical experience.
The successful applicant will be qualified to NVQ3 or equivalent, possessing PA1, PA2 and PA6 certificates, with a working knowledge of golf machinery, irrigation systems and maintenance practices. As a key member of the greenkeeping staff, the position requires a high level of commitment and enthusiasm to maintain our reputation as one of the best courses in the South of England.

Apply in writing with a full CV to:-
The Secretary, Royal Winchester Golf Club, Sarum Road, Winchester, Hampshire SO22 5QE

RUSTINGTON GOLF CENTRE LTD

Head Greenkeeper

Candidates should be qualified to NVQ Level 2 and hold spraying certificates PA1 PA2, PA6. Awareness of health and safety and COSHH regulations are required together with the necessary management skills to train, motivate and direct staff.
- Good rates of pay and conditions
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- Possible relocation assistance to Angmering for the right candidates
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All applications in writing to together with current CV to:
Stuart Langmead, Rustington Golf Centre Ltd, Golfers Lane, Angmering, West Sussex BN16 4NB
Recruitment

HANBURY MANOR
HOTEL & COUNTRY CLUB

Invite applications for the position of MECHANIC

'British Golf venue of the year' and venue for the English Open 1997-99 best describes the 'Jack Nicklaus II' designed 18 hole Championship golf course which is situated in Hertfordshire.

The ideal candidate will be a motivated, enthusiastic member who is capable of working as part of a full time crew of 15 staff.

The successful applicant must have the following skills:

- Experience in cylinder grinding & mower set up
- Maintenance & servicing of all mowers and utility vehicles
- Knowledge of Health and Safety regulations
- Monitoring stock levels efficiently
- Record keeping skills
- Communication skills

Experience with Toro machinery, welding and fabrication and computer skills would be an advantage for the successful applicant.

The package offered to the ideal candidate has many benefits included with a competitive salary. All application in writing with full CV to:

The Golf Course & Estates Manager, Marriott Hanbury Manor Hotel & Country Club, Ware, Herts, SG12 0SD

BURNHAM & BERROW GOLF CLUB LTD

Invite applications for the position of HEAD GREENKEEPER

Burnham and Berrow is a private members club.

Besides the Championship Links there is a nine hole course.

With a reputation for the quality of its greens the Club is anxious to retain its position as one of the best links courses in the British Isles.

The successful applicant will:

- Report to the Managing Secretary
- Be able to demonstrate a sound knowledge of both traditional and modern greenkeeping techniques.
- Have a thorough knowledge of Health & Safety requirements and the ability to implement them.
- Have the ability to train, motivate, appraise and manage staff.
- Be able to efficiently manage resources and exercise budgetary control.

Whilst previous links experience would be a distinct advantage this is not essential. An attractive remuneration package, including a company pension scheme is available. No accommodation is provided.

Applications in writing with full C/V. to

The Managing Secretary, Burnham & Berrow Golf Club Ltd, St Christopher's Way, Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset TA8 2PE

With its 18th century style landscapes being revived and the original manor house under restoration, The Grove will be offering the highest standard Five Star accommodation, boasting 230 luxury bedrooms, conference & banqueting facilities and health spa. We are now concentrating on the construction of our 7200 yard Kyle Phillips 18 hole championship golf course within the 350 acre estate and require the following:

GREENKEEPERS

These five positions require experienced candidates who are NVQ 1 and 2 qualified. Self motivation, dedication, vision and the ability to learn new ideas are all essential requirements for these important roles. Working out of a modern, state-of-the-art greenkeeping facility, you will be playing an important role in the setting up and maintenance of this superb golf course. A minimum of two years experience and holding recognised spraying certificates would be advantageous.

As a new and, as yet, unfinished course, these positions offer superb opportunities for successful candidates to join a large, dedicated and enthusiastic team in carrying out modern Greenkeeping practices, leading them to establish themselves and their role in the long term future at The Grove. Although no accommodation is available, we offer excellent rates of pay, subject to age and experience, together with a real opportunity for promotion and progression within the company.

There is also an excellent service related benefits package which includes:
- Pension scheme, dental insurance and health care.

Please apply in writing enclosing a CV to:

The Grove
Hempstead Road, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD17 3TP
Alternatively, e-mail the Golf Course Manager on: phillip.chiverton@thegrovehotel.com
LANGLEY PARK GOLF CLUB

Applications are invited for the position of COURSE MANAGER

Situated in the Borough of Bromley in Kent, this J H Taylor designed 18 hole Par 69 course of 6,488 yds is one to the most prestigious golf courses in the area. Used as a British Open qualifying venue, the Club is keen to raise the standard of the course to the highest level and wishes to recruit a high calibre individual.

The ideal candidate will have the following:
• Experience at Course Manager or Head Greenkeeper level
• Management, Leadership and Communication skills
• Self motivated with a desire to produce a top quality product for members and guests.
• Full range of relevant qualifications and skills.

The role is demanding and an ideal opportunity for a progressive course manager. An attractive salary package is offered including accommodation.

Please apply by 31st July 2002, in writing with full CV and the names of two suitable referees to:

The General Manager, Langley Park Golf Club,
Barnfield Wood Road, Beckenham, Kent BR3 6SZ.

www.langleyparkgolf.co.uk

SHIRLEY PARK GOLF CLUB

Invites applications for the position of COURSE MANAGER

Shirley Park is situated one mile east of Croydon, within twelve miles of the City of London and we are seeking an ambitious Greenkeeper who can develop every aspect of the 6,210 yard course.

The applicant must have at least five years experience as a Greenkeeper and be qualified to NVQ level II (HNC or NVQ level III would be an advantage). A driving licence, tractor mounted spraying certificate and chainsaw proficiency certificate would be of additional value.

The successful applicant will be responsible for five Greenstaff hence knowledge of training requirements is essential and in this respect, the D32/33 qualification would be desirable. We are seeking someone with initiative and enthusiasm to make significant improvements to the presentation and playing conditions of our parkland course.

Accommodation is available and the starting salary will be £22,000.

Closing date for applications is Friday 19th July.

Please send your CV and a report on your course management philosophy to:

The General Manager, Shirley Park Golf Club,
194 Addiscombe Road, Croydon, CR0 7LB

EAST HERTS GOLF CLUB

Invites applications for the position of HEAD GREENKEEPER

East Herts Golf Club is a private members Club with some 700 members. Founded in 1899 it has been on the present site of Hamels Park, in the beautiful rolling parkland of Hertfordshire, since 1974.

The successful applicant will possess the following attributes:
• NVQ level 3 or equivalent qualification
• Sound knowledge of modern golf course management techniques
• Ability to lead and motivate the green keeping team
• Experience of Health & Safety issues

Accommodation available / Salary negotiable

Apply in writing with a full CV to:

The Secretary, East Herts Golf Club Ltd,
Hamels Park, Buntingford, Herts SG9 9NA

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Worth over £100
I wonder how many of you have ever actually appreciated the true delights of Old Archibald's traditional bent/fescue dominated sward. Have you ever played on a green with the texture of tarmac, the look of rusty brillo and the wear resistance of kevlar?

in the final throws of a nervous breakdown. I too peered at his turf and did indeed notice something that I had never seen on his immaculate surfaces before. "Archie", I asked, "what you have, is grass!"

Now, you have probably deduced from the above, that Old Archibald's approach to turf management leans towards the traditional. You may also conclude that he is a species of greenskeeping dinosaur that cannot attain the status of extinction rapidly enough.

Well yes in certain respects you are probably correct. After all, ask him what a risk assessment is and he would probably describe it as an extremely useful decision making tool to be utilised when faced with the dilemma of staying for another pint, weighed up against the possible long term physical damage inflicted to his ear drums during the wife's welcome home speech.

But despite this I wonder how many of you have ever actually appreciated the true delights of Old Archibald's traditional bent/fescue dominated sward. Have you ever played on a green with the texture of tarmac, the look of rusty brillo and the wear resistance of kevlar? Have you ever experienced the shear exhilaration of observing one of your members delicately tap a putt only to see it actually accelerate past the hole and into an adjacent pond?

Anyway, to get back to his greens, after some discussion, both Archie and myself decided that this severe outbreak of extraneous leaf material was the result of the aforementioned weather conditions together with a misguided application of organic nitrogenous fertiliser he put down in 1985. "I won't be doing that again in a hurry" he said, before explaining that it was the result of some especially fiendish sales techniques deployed by an unscrupulously attractive female rep.

He then went on to elucidate on how this unfortunate moment of weakness was in direct conflict with his usual feeding programme which consisted of walking around the course on a windy day while waving a piece of partially decomposed seaweed in the air.

But before we dismiss poor Archie and his turf management techniques to the annals of antiquity, should we not examine the potential benefits that could be accrued with the utilisation of his type of feeding regime.

For starters, can you imagine the situation of never having to go home on an October Friday afternoon with the fear that if the mood takes it, micrhibitedium navale will come in a hurry? Consider the option of using a modified version of Old Archibald's methods. But apart from some of the more obvious benefits, there are the other less obvious advantages to this system. For example, you do not have to concern yourself with the disposal of grass clippings; there won't be any. Then fear not the appalling look of a poorly adjusted mower on your greens. When you aren't cutting any grass, mowing will almost certainly take place. Well, that's your decision.

For starters, the general greens texture can take on an alarming degree of firmness. This does then necessitate the need for your golfers to learn the art of the pitch and run shot on occasion. It also brings with it the requirement that they think.

I seem to recollect a couple of years ago receiving a call from Old Archibald, my counterpart at Sleepwell on the Weald GC, the club that time forgot. "Sandy" he said with more than a hint of desperation in his voice, "I've got some horrible disease all over my greens, it's all green and furry, you must come over and help me". "Do not panic Archie," I said, "I'm on my way". As I drove over, it did occur to me that the unreasonably wet and mild weather could have been the catalyst to all sorts of mysterious new pathogens, many of which poor Archie would not be overly familiar with. But as I had over the years got to know his greens almost as well as my own, I felt confident that I could come up with something approaching the correct diagnosis.

I met him on his 18th green as he was bent over looking at this horrible affliction. "What on earth is it?" he asked me, with the look of a man suffering from a piece of partially decomposed seaweed in the air.
before they aimlessly muller their drives in the rough vicinity of the fairway. Failure to do so could result in them leaving a bunker betwixt ball and green, which on Archibald’s surfaces would mean they’re all but stumped.

2. Then there is the problem that the normally innocuous disease known as fairy ring will blend into your greens about as well as Osama Bin Laden at a George Bush tea party.

3. Pitch marks that have not been repaired or improperly repaired can take anything up to a year to fully recover, thereby necessitating the use of fortnightly top dressings.

4. Then there is moss and sometimes clover, which in the absence of competition from grasses can run riot if you let it.

5. It only takes a couple of incontinent ducks to walk over your greens and you end up with unsightly green patches all over them.

6. No dew to help guide you when mowing? Then you had better use greenkeepers intuition, as that’s the only way you’re going to see your last line.

7. Also, you had better review your verticutting policy. Carry on doing that once a week and by June you’ll have nothing left.

By and large though, in my own opinion, there are problems of mere nuisance value when compared to all the benefits one can enjoy. I should of course point out that I am not for one minute suggesting that we all regress to the days of Old Tom Morris. It is just that the traditional approach allied to more modern day techniques should be considered as a potential option and by traditional I do not mean just stepping up the aeration programme and easing back on the phosphate a bit.

Not long ago I took the Sludgecombe team on a pilgrimage to an old links course that I remembered had managed to maintain greens the way I like them. To me they were ideal. I observed that sparse with the odd bit of clover in them perhaps, decidedly off colour certainly, but always incredibly firm, lightning fast and as true to putt on as any in the world. Yet when we played them, they were not as I had remembered. They were still good but somehow the poa annua had become dominant and they were a bit softer than I recalled and they were greener and the grass appeared to be not so fine.

They simply were not the same. So I contacted the greenkeeper in question, who had only been there for a few years and asked of his management policies. The answer when it came was as I had feared. They were hollow tining a couple of times a year and they fed them around 120 Kg of nitrogen and they did this and that to them and somehow they had lost what they had. I am not saying he had done things incorrectly because at the end of the day I don’t know what his circumstances were. Maybe he had been directed by his committee to change the character of the greens, but they were just not as I remembered and I think that is great pity.

So if I have by some miracle persuaded you that there could be something in old Archibald’s turf management philosophies, how best can they be put into practice?

Well I believe it all comes down to getting your head around the fundamental principle that the least thing one wants is for the grass to actually grow. A tough one that I know but let me try to convince you. To help, let me list the common pitfalls associated with excessive applications of nitrogen and therefore grass growth.

They are according to Dr Beard, poor surface quality, thatch accumulation, poor root growth, reduced tolerance to environmental stresses, decreased wear tolerance, higher evapotranspiration rates and greater susceptibility to disease.

In short if you over do it, your greens will be knackered. One then has to ask the question, why do we load on loads of fertiliser to create all this grass and then spend the rest of the time trying to groom, brush, verticut, hollow core and scarify it all away again. It just doesn’t make sense. You could argue that all these operations are carried out so as to avoid the pitfalls, but why not just stop applying nitrogen? That way you will automatically avoid thatch build up, achieve good root growth, create higher tolerance to environmental stresses, improve the wear resistance, have less need for irrigation and have little disease to worry about.

So what do I perceive to be the correct annual levels of applied nitrogen? Well I would say about 20 to 30 Kg per acre, or to put it another way about 10% of what the fertiliser companies recommend. In my humble opinion that should be more than sufficient on most established greens. If you are getting too much moss and turf thinning, add a bit more, while if you are not getting any, cut the nitrogen down.

I leave the conclusions to your-
At the time of reading, all the fuss will be over but I am sure you, like everyone else, will have been watching (everyone’s) cup or, even if you are not interested, will know most of the results.

Fortunately I was given a deadline extension to make a last minute amendment and England have just defeated the Danes 3-0 but I am certainly not going to make any predictions for their continued success because by the time you read this it will be old news. Let’s hope though that England’s good run continues.

A little closer to home we have not experienced the temperatures that Mr. Beckham and his team had to cope with and have had a lot more rain. Despite the problems this may cause I hope that, at least, it has kept your course nice and green.

On the BIGGA front, it has been a relatively quiet time for me but things are hotting up. I’ve just experienced the temperatures that everyone else, will have been watching (everyone’s) cup or, even if you are not interested, will know most of the results.

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