FINDING FUNGI
GreenTek's NEW topdressing method
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Get an Easy-Load to do the hard work for you!

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Innovative Turf Care Machinery Designed to Save Your Time!
June 2002

Your next issue of Greenkeeper International will be with you by July 6, 2002

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The advertising copy deadline for inclusion in the July 2002 edition of Greenkeeper International is Wednesday, June 12, 2002

A guide to who's who at BIGGA

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PLUS

THE TURFTIME TEASER

See page 42

For Greenkeepers by Greenkeepers

Visit www.bigga.org.uk and check out the latest chat from the greenkeeping industry

Time to talk

FOR GREENKEEPERS BY GREENKEEPERS

© 2002 British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association
The Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC) is smoothing the path to the introduction of revised Sports Turf vocational qualifications in July. National Vocational Qualifications and Scottish Vocational Qualifications in golf greenskeeping and ground maintenance are being updated to take in the latest advances in technology in the amenity horticulture world. The GTC has taken a lead role in this in collaboration with the two Awarding Bodies, City and Guilds and the Scottish Qualifications Authority. A network of training providers guide students to the qualifications and it is essential that these providers all work to the same standards. The GTC has therefore been encouraging the Awarding Bodies to develop standard documentation covering the learning programme.

The GTC's Education Director David Golding said: “The GTC is committed to setting high and common standards in the UK and Ireland. This is why we have been at the forefront in setting out the knowledge and practical standards for the revised NVQs and SVQs.”

The GTC is golf's independent advisory service for both employers and employees with regard to greenskeeper education, training, and qualifications. It aims to persuade employers of the necessity for learning and acquiring new skills throughout life and encourage more people to get the qualifications they need for working.

Chipping Norton GC wins first Deere qualifier

A four man team from Chipping Norton Golf Club is heading for the famous Braeburn course at The Belfry, having won the first British regional qualifier in the inaugural 2002 John Deere Team Championship golf tournament.

The team - consisting of Club Secretary Simon Chislett, Club Captain/Chairman Julian Willis, Greenskeeper, Steve Doyle, and Club Professional, Neil Rowlands - beat off the challenge of 14 other teams in the competition, which was organised by Peter Helps, Sales Manager at John Deere dealer Turner Groundscare of Bledlow, Aylesbury in Buckinghamshire.

He was assisted on the day by John Deere representatives Henry Bredin and BIGGA's Midland Regional Administrator Peter Larter. The winners finished 20 under, two shots clear of the field.

We’ve run a great many tournaments here, but never one quite like this, or with teams made up in this way,” said Club Secretary Simon Chislett. "It was a long and nervous wait to see who won, as we teed off first, but it was worth it - and I have to say, we’d happily host the competition again! We're all looking forward to playing at The Belfry, but there won't be any advantage for us this time as none of the amateurs have played it before.”

Now in its 16th year, the John Deere Team Championship has traditionally been open only to teams from the USA and Canada. Last year invitations were extended to Germany and Australia, and this year teams from Great Britain and Ireland are also included. After the national final at The Belfry, two winning teams - one from Great Britain and one from Ireland - will travel to the USA with the chance to be crowned John Deere World Team Champions 2002.

John Deere Limited is also making a donation of £25 for every British and Irish team entered, to support the educational activities of BIGGA (British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association) and GCSAI (Golf Course Superintendents Association of Ireland).

Twenty years of success for Charterhouse

Charterhouse Turf Machinery recently celebrated 20 years of supplying equipment for greenskeeping and grounds maintenance tasks. The company is best known for the Verti-Drain range of deep aerators, which were introduced to the UK in 1980.

The Verti-Drain is popular among professional turf specialists. It is a high-quality product that has been used in golf courses and sports grounds throughout the UK and Ireland. Charterhouse has also expanded its range to include other products, such as aerators, cultivators, and mowers.

The company has worked with many of the world's leading golf courses and sporting venues, including Wimbledon, The British Open, and The Ryder Cup. Charterhouse has also worked with a number of professional sports teams, including the England cricket team and the England rugby union team.

Charterhouse is committed to providing high-quality products and excellent customer service to its customers. The company has a team of experienced engineers and sales staff who are dedicated to helping customers find the right equipment for their needs.

Scott MacCellum Editor

by past and present employees. A special feature was a commemorative cake baked by Secretary Barbara Jannan.

"Having identified the turf equipment market as a specialist and high-quality products, Charterhouse quickly became recognised as experts in our field," says Philip Thoshard, a founder of the company. "Our ongoing flexibility has enabled us to develop the business to meet trends in new and existing markets, and we can look forward with confidence and excitement to the next 20 - and beyond."
English Golf on course with Nature

Golf clubs across England stand to benefit from free environmental management advice thanks to an innovative scheme to be launched this summer.

The English Golf Union and the government's environmental partners, English Nature, have provided joint funding for this new scheme, to be delivered by STRI, the golf industry's independent advisory and research specialists.

An additional ecologist will be employed to work under the guidance of Bob Taylor, STRI's Senior Ecologist, now well established in golf course ecology circles. Over the next two months details of the scheme with an application form will be sent to all English Golf Union affiliated clubs. In July STRI will begin visiting up to 70 golf clubs assigned by representatives from EGU and English Nature from applications received by 28 June. This service is specifically designed for golf clubs who have had little or no ecological or environmental input, to raise awareness of ecological issues relating to their golf courses. An STRI ecologist will spend a day walking each course with greenkeeping staff and club officials before preparing a detailed report offering professional environmental management advice.

Participating clubs will benefit from ongoing support from STRI for an 18 month period. At the end of which they will receive a free follow-up visit to assess progress and, hopefully, a certificate to acknowledge their environmental commitment and showcase wildlife gain.

Applications unsuccessful in the first year of the project will automatically be carried over to the following year for consideration, alongside opportunities for new applicants. A series of joint newsletters will be published and circulated by STRI to follow the progress of clubs taking part in the scheme.

The joint funding for this free service will also extend to offering support to all EGU affiliated clubs through telephone and written advice from STRI. A series of advisory leaflets providing conservation advice on issues ranging from pesticides to management of the rough will be made available free of charge.

This three-year project heralds a new era of co-operation between golf clubs and conservationists, and is the culmination of a series of meetings between the EGU, English Nature and the STRI over the last two years.

English Nature's Chief Scientist, Dr Keith Duff, himself a keen golfer, said: "Golf courses, contrary to popular belief, can provide vital green corridors and oases for wildlife amongst an ever encroaching tide of developed land and monocultured farmland.

Often relatively minor changes to course management can deliver huge benefits to wildlife and we're delighted to co-fund this ground breaking scheme to provide free tailored expert environmental advice to golf clubs throughout England."

Golf Services Committee Chairman, Colin Spurr, added, "The EGU welcomes the opportunity to join with English Nature and the STRI on this project which will ultimately be to the benefit of both our member clubs and the wonderful habitats that exist on their courses. This can only be good news for golf and conservation."

This free initiative is not intended to replace more comprehensive ecology and environmental services from STRI or other providers.

Boughton expands

To keep pace with expansion, Boughton Loam Ltd. have added a further two new machines to its growing contract fleet. A Kubota 4200 series tractor and a Charterhouse 7326 – 2.5 metre Outfield Verti-drain will be brought immediately into use. These machines will compliment the existing fleet, increasing capacity in the forthcoming end of season renovation on winter sports pitches. They will also be used in the ongoing maintenance of golf courses and cricket pitches.

All machines are operated by Boughton Loam's own highly trained staff who have extensive greenskeeping and landscaping experience.

Royal Inverdivot GC ...

Captain, you know how you said I have to get rid of the males...

Because they're damaging the course

How do I stand with the golfers?

Yes

Roger receives STRI honour

STRI's former Chairman, Roger Robinson, has accepted a position of Life Vice-President of the STRI, offered in recognition of his valuable contributions both as a member and as Chairman of STRI's Executive Committee.

Roger became a member of the committee in 1986, then known as the STRI Board of Management and Executive Committee, as a representative of the R&A. In 1992 he was elected as Vice Chairman, becoming Chairman in 1995, working closely with Dr Mike Canaway who had been appointed to the new position of Chief Executive.

Roger retired as Chairman in September 2001, having supported for over 12 months Dr Gordon McKillop, STRI's current Chief Executive. Gordon oversaw in June 2000 Roger's experience and connections with the golfing world extend far beyond the STRI including both the R&A and BIGGA. As a member of the R&A, Roger was asked to serve on The Championship Rules of Golf Committee, The Council of National Golf Unions and currently The Membership Committee. It was as an R&A representative that he became actively involved in the formation of BIGGA in 1987 and sat on the BIGGA GA Board as a Trustee until 1996. Not all of Roger's activities have been connected with the "political" world of golf. His personal love of the game is evident at his club. The Royal Liverpool Golf Club where he was Captain in 1982. In 1992/53 he was an Oxford Blue and latter played many times for Cheshire becoming President of the Cheshire Union of Golf Clubs in 1987. Acceptance of this position will enable Roger to stay in touch with developments at STRI even though he has officially retired.

Irritech launched

Roger Davey, Senior Design Engineer and Area Manager for Omcis Irrigation, has left after 13 years to become Managing Director of Irritech Limited – Independent Irrigation Consultants.

Roger has amassed a vast experience of golf course irrigation design and management projects, both within the UK and in Europe. This helps in understanding each individual client's needs and the ability of different irrigation equipment to meet these needs, concentrating irrigation designs on efficiency, economy and environmental impact.

Irritech will offer independent analysis of existing irrigation systems, provide specifications for new systems and system upgrades, and provide tender evaluation and project management.

Roger can be contacted on Tel: 01623 690216 Web: www.irritechlimited.co.uk

June 2002 Greenkeeper International
New appointments at John Deere

Three senior appointments have been announced at John Deere. Graham Williams has left Langar to replace Joe Weegenaar as International Marketing & Sales Director for the commercial & consumer equipment (C&CE) division, based in Mannheim, Germany. Graham will be responsible for continuing to drive the growth and profitability of Deere's international business.

From left: Graham Williams and Pieter Nel

As C&CE Division Sales Manager of the UK & Ireland branch at Langar, Nottingham since 1993, Graham oversaw a fivefold growth in the grounds care business, making this the largest C&CE branch outside North America.

Graham attended both Lacham and the West of Scotland agricultural colleges, obtaining an NDAGe. He joined John Deere Limited as a territory manager in 1979, and became sales promotion manager in 1987.

Pieter Nel succeeds Graham Williams as C&CE Division Sales Manager for the UK and Ireland, based at Langar. Pieter originally joined the branch last year as Business Development Manager from John Deere (Pty) Limited in Nigel, South Africa, where he served as Manager, Product Support. Pieter joined John Deere in South Africa in 1989 as a Territory Manager and was appointed Manager, Product Support in 1993.

Keith Clayphan succeeds Pieter Nel as Business Development Manager for John Deere Limited. In this position Keith will supervise the company's complete goods department, and will be the branch expert in process management, working with all departments.

He will also lead the development and implementation of quality initiatives such as ISO certification, and will be responsible for managing and coordinating the branch's internet activities. Keith returns to Langar from Deere & Company’s corporate headquarters in Moline, where he was a Project Manager on the order fulfillment team.

The major breeders and suppliers of amenity grass seed have formed the Amenity Grass Crop Group (AGCG). Members include Advanta Seeds, Barenbrug UK, British Seed Houses, Cebeco Seed Innovations, DLF Perifields, Nickerson and Semundo.

Paul Johnson, Managing Director of Barenbrug UK, has been appointed as the Chairman and representatives will meet regularly with staff of STRI, at Bingley, which currently undertakes the independent evaluation of newly developed grass cultivars.

The Group will review with the STRI, the existing varieties available and fine-tune testing procedures. Its members will also liaise with end-users to ensure that the needs of industry professionals are being met in terms of amenity grass cultivar performance, and will meet under the auspices of the respected British Society of Plant Breeders.

"Developing new grass varieties takes typically 15 years, and it requires a long-term view to ensure they meet the user's requirements," said Paul.

Toro north of England dealer Cheshire Turf Machinery, in Stockport, has celebrated its fifth anniversary as an independent concern, with the sale of its 1000th machine - to the golf club to which it made its first sale, a Reelmaster 2300-D mower.

The club in question is Birchwood Golf Club, an 18-hole parkland course in Warrington.

Steve Halley, of Cheshire Turf Machinery, said: "The company was established to focus on the grounds care market, professional, with the belief that if we did our job properly the customer would remain loyal. It's therefore especially satisfying to reach this milestone by supplying our original customer."

Head Greenskeeper, Adey Holt, who has built up its Toro fleet over the years, said, "I've always been a Toro fan, they make the most reliable machines on the market. Our Reelmaster 2300-D has done over 2,000 hours since we bought it and it's still going strong."

Toro dealer celebrates anniversary in style

Dennis has appointed Alan Ronaldson to their sales and marketing team.

Alan appointed Area Sales Manager

As Northern Area Sales Manager, Alan will offer product advice and service back-up to Dennis' customers and dealers throughout the North of England, Scotland, and Ireland. They will also co-ordinate the branch's internet activities.

Keith Clayphan succeeds Pieter Nel as Business Development Manager for John Deere Limited. In this position Keith will supervise the company's complete goods department, and will be the branch expert in process management, working with all departments.

He will also lead the development and implementation of quality initiatives such as ISO certification, and will be responsible for managing and coordinating the branch's internet activities. Keith returns to Langar from Deere & Company's corporate headquarters in Moline, where he was a Project Manager on the order fulfillment team.

New amenity grass seed group formed

The AGCG's role is to monitor industry issues and listen to the views of amenity turf professionals, so that we can effectively set the standards that tomorrow's varieties, and appropriate evaluation procedures, should meet. The Group has already held fruitful meetings with several influential trade groups, and we look forward to gaining the views of others so that breeders and testers fully understand their exact requirements."

Tee 2 Green in link with ETT

Tee 2 Green and European Turf Technology have announced a collaborative partnership to market several grass seed varieties in the United Kingdom and Middle East.

"We have conducted extensive market research over the past two years through our UK subsidiary and have established that we certainly produce a range of varieties ideally suited to these markets. We need to involve ourselves with a company with direct links to the country's leading golf clubs. ETT fit the bill with their outstanding contacts and highly technical approach they are the ideal partners," said Agostino Gaude, Tee 2 Green, Corp. Sales Manager for Europe.

The agreement covers a complete range with several specially designed mixes as well as a custom mixing service and the popular A4 creeping bent. Richard Lawrence Managing Director of European Turf Technology said, "Our philosophy has always been to bring to the market products that have a distinct technical advantage, which we have achieved this through our associations with Floratine Products and Norsk Hydro the world's largest fertiliser company. The Turf-Seed and Tee 2 Green ranges are an ideal addition to our range."

SGM investment

Scottish Grass Machinery has invested £250,000 in two new workshops in Inverness and Aberdeen to support contracts recently won with Highland and Aberdeenshire Councils.

The new facilities will provide equipment and a full customer service, delivered by two dedicated engineers in each depot, supporting both the two council contracts as well as providing on-site support to SGM's golf customers across the North of Scotland.
John Deere launches Turf Tech scheme

A major new training scheme for the UK groundcare machinery industry is being launched by John Deere Limited, in conjunction with Brooksby Melton College in Leicestershire, with the approval of BAGMA and the City & Guilds of London Institute, and the support of the Learning & Skills Council.

The only scheme of its kind in the groundcare industry, the John Deere Turf Tech apprentice engineering training programme has been developed to assist dealers and their service departments in the recruitment and training of suitably skilled technicians. It is based on a similar John Deere scheme that has already been operating successfully in agriculture since 1992, and which won a National Training Award at the end of 1997.

Turf Tech is a four-year block release course at Brooksby Melton College, leading to the BAGMA City & Guilds of London Institute 4024 Agricultural / Groundcare Service Engineer NVQ Level 2 & 3 Certificates, and the John Deere Turf Tech Certificate.

The standard three year apprenticeship will cover all the normal engineering principles and systems, and include regular sessions at the John Deere Training Centre in Langar.

During the additional fourth year, the trainee works at the sponsoring John Deere dealership, and attends at least three service schools at the John Deere Training Centre.

Successful completion of the fourth year of the scheme also qualifies technicians for Associate Membership of the Institution of Agricultural Engineers, and registration as Eng Tech with The Engineering Council.

The first intake of students, who need to be resident in the UK, sponsored by a John Deere dealer and aged 16 or over, is planned for September 2002.

Anyone interested in applying will be able to obtain a brochure outlining the scheme from Brooksby Melton College, area careers officers of John Deere Limited at Langar, Nottingham, and John Deere dealers nationwide.

Trilo buys Long Equipment range

MJT Contracts Ltd and Trilo have added the Long Equip range to their own range of Trilo Vacuum Sweepers. All production has been moved to the factory in Holland with MJT continuing the supply of parts and machines to the UK. The range has been "thinned down" to the successful collectors and sand spreaders, other machines may be made on request as all drawings are held by Trilo.

The company is hoping that the reputation of both TRILOs and Long machines will go hand in hand for a stable future and ask customers to bear with them while we gear production of machines and parts up to the standard expected by existing Trilo customers. They are holding some parts in stock and hope to have things back in operation within six to eight weeks with full production being resumed by Salfect at the latest.

Sportsworld seminar a great success

David Bates (left) gets up to his elbows in a demonstration of hydraulic conductivity at the Sportsworld Amenity-sponsored North Wales Section Seminar at Carden Park. Chaired by Bill Lawson and with speakers including Peter Wibbery, of the EGU; Duncan McGilvery, of Potters Bar GC; Ken Richardson, of BIGGA; several speakers from Sportsworld Amenity as well as Colin Hood, from TurfTrax, the audience was treated to a wide ranging array of topics.

Great news for Woodlands

The Forestry Commission has changed its Woodland Improvement Grant giving more opportunity to golf courses to access grant aid for the management of their woodland.

The grant is split into 3 units: WIG1 for Public Access, WIG2 for Undermanaged Woodland and WIG3 for Biodiversity. It is WIG 2 and WIG3 that are generally of interest to golf clubs, previously uneconomic thinning was not applicable for grant aid under WIG2. This has now changed and therefore golf courses with woodland should now be eligible for 50% of the agreed costs to bring their woodland back to environmentally acceptable levels. This grant has a ceiling limit of £10,000 in grant assistance.

WIG3 has also been restructured with a new ceiling limit of £50,000 in grant aid. This is available to clients wishing to improve the biodiversity of their woodlands providing it is in accordance with either, the National or Local Biodiversity Action Plan, a Habitat Action Plan or a Species Action Plan. The grant gives a 50% contribution towards agreed costs.

For further information please contact John Nicholson Associates at:-

South Wales Seminar well supported

Pictured at the South Wales Seminar are Professor DJ Adams, David Ward, Head Greenkeeper at Royal Porthcawl GC; Simon Barnaby; Scott's Technical Manager and Martin Townsend; Scott's Sales Manager. The event was very well supported and the South Wales Section would like to thank Scotts for their very generous sponsorship of the event.
Vandalism – What can you do?

The day after Easter Monday Jon Seabrow, Course Manager at Abridge Golf Club in Essex, returned to work after his Easter break. It started off as a normal day but during the afternoon Jon walking past the 13th green, the nearest to his offices, noticed a zigzag strip of discoloured grass right through the heart of the putting green. It went from one end to the other. A closer inspection made it obvious that the green had been sprayed with an unknown chemical which turned out to be paraquat. Jon hoped that as the green was quite close to a country lane with easy access to the course that the 13th was the sole victim of the attack.

Jon and his Deputy, Geoff Smith, did a tour of the course and the full extent of the attack was slowly revealed - 14 greens, seven tees and three approaches plus various other areas of fine turf on the golf course had been attacked by a group of people using a knapsack sprayer full of paraquat. Generally all of the spraying had been done in a zigzag although some across tees were in a broad straight line.

Who was responsible for this attack? The fact that whoever did it was well equipped and without some knowledge of the equipment and the chemical he was using probably rules out "spur of the moment" vandals finishing up a good night out on the beer. But, of course, the deeper that you look the more sinister it becomes.

Abridge Golf Club is a Jewish Club just outside London. It is not far from a Jewish residential or industrial area. Some people who were interviewed suggested this might be relevant.

But there is more! The Club is about to undergo considerable changes which have been widely reported in the local press. A deal has been struck with Tottenham Hotspur Football Club whereby Spurs will be entitled to 55 Corporate Members. Spurs have bought land adjoining the Golf Club and are planning to build new training grounds, soccer academy and other facilities there. The name of the Golf Club is to be changed to Tottenham and Abridge Golf Club and the Club will receive a substantial amount of money. These changes alone provide a motive for another several thousand rival football fans!

There are also other possibilities. The list goes on and on. Not knowing the source of this attack on his course is one of the most worrying to the Course Manager. Will they strike again? When will they strike next time? It is impossible to know the answers and almost impossible to guard against any future attack. As all connected with golf realise a golf course in a rural area is an extremely vulnerable target in the dead of night.

Jon has been Course Manager at Abridge for five years. Each year the standard of the golf course has improved and it would be fair to say that it was following a 'lottenable' period prior to FC Golf Day at the club a year or so ago that the Football Club including the Manager, Glen Hoddle, were so impressed with the course that negotiations were started culminating in the current deal between the two clubs.

Technically Jon is qualified and experienced enough to get his course back in pristine condition as quickly as possible. But he didn't seek the job. Jon knows how to get them and I am sure that any forum started within these pages would provide a mountain of sound advice. He has done his "crest test" to indicate when the course has recovered sufficiently to work on but the main problem is allowing the new seed to establish while cutting heights are reduced for summer play. With zigzag lines through the centre of the green it is almost impossible to protect these very vulnerable seedlings.

As nearly all Greenkeepers have to work within their budgeted resources the time spent by Jon and his staff on this calamity has meant that his normal spring programme of work has been even more frantic. The Club, of course, is sympathetic to his plight but Jon is reminded of the story told by a Surrey greenkeeper last July when he went to his Club Managers to report that the fairways were growing at three inches per week and his rough at inches and a week and due to an epidemic of staff sickness, staff on holiday; a 'Work Experience' lad who took up a lot of his time, he was down to himself only and couldn't cope. The Club replied that he understood, he was doing his best and as long as everything was all right for the Captain's Day on Saturday don't worry about it!

The one hope of Jon and his staff is that the sad person who was responsible for this criminal act has wreaked sufficient vengeance on the Golf Club and that it is no longer a target. Even better would be that he is apprehended and punished by the justice system.

In the meantime let us all hope that the weather conditions that have been so extreme and unpredictable in recent years will be less severe allowing play to get back to normal as quickly as possible.

Derek Ferrington
Arne Van Amerongen reports from his latest port of call - Calabria in Italy

CALABRIA
A NEW GOLFING FRONTIER

I did not know this region of Italy when I arrived to oversee the construction of the nine hole course in Southern Calabria so it was a real challenge and a very gratifying experience for me.

The population of Calabria is approximately two million and the project is being built in a region with a precarious economy. The city of Reggio Calabria boasts a national airport with daily flights from Rome and Milan and a population of 180,000.

The Montechiarello golf course which brought me to the area is being built in a small village called Orti in the hinterland of Reggio and mainly due to the initiative of nine local investors.

The project is at an altitude of 750 metres with a magnificent view over Sicily. Furthermore the Straits of Messina, the Etna and the Eolie islands can all be seen from the clubhouse from where you can also see the magnificent view which embraces the 1st hole with its artificial lake, the Calabrian coastline and the Straits of Messina (photo no.1).

One of the first problems I encountered was the recruitment of experienced personnel and related machinery. Some of the work was executed manually, as big stones were transported with wheelbarrows to the shores of one of the three artificial lakes (photo no. 2).

One of the three artificial lakes was completed after 2 weeks work and has a total surface of 5000 m² with a total volume of 25,000 m³.

Water is extremely important in this type of climate in order to maintain the turf to a high standard.

The two photographs show the 6th hole before (photo no. 4) and during construction (photo no. 5). The 6th is a Par 3 of 121 yards. Each hole was designed and integrated into the existing landscape in order to preserve a complete harmony with the surrounding environment.

It took just five months to construct the driving range, six holes and the irrigation system. As is usual in Calabria, and especially after such a lot of hard work, a break with good wine and excellent food is organised by the construction personnel (photo no. 6). The golf resort of Montechiarello will also include tennis courts, a swimming pool, horse paddocks and a hotel which still have to be constructed.

It is just the first of a number of similar developments intends to build six new 18 hole courses in Calabria over the next few years.

The Calabrian climate allows golf to be played for 12 months in the year. Calabria could really become a new promised land for golf.

On the left, we can see Peter Harradine the Golf Course Architect who designed this course, on the right Architect Filippo Barbaro the Promoter of the project and in the middle Arne Van Amerongen the Project Supervisor and author of this article (photo no. 7).
Education and Training Feedback

Sami and I are very busy putting together the Education and Training Programme, Continue to Learn 2002, which will be held in Harrogate from 20 to 23 January 2003.

Following the success of Continue to Learn 2002, the education and training programme for BIGGA’s week in Harrogate, in January 2003 will continue to offer delegates plenty of choice.

The week commences on Monday, January 20, with the National Education Conference and Workshop Programme. Planned Workshops include two 2 day Workshops: Golf Course Design and Construction 2 and Environmental Management. There will also be a one day Soil Science workshop held on both Monday 20 and Tuesday, January 21.

A further option for all greenkeepers involved in or contemplating joining the Master Greenkeeper Scheme, will be a one day Master Greenkeeper seminar.

The Programme has, again, been designed to give delegates plenty of choice to make the most from their time in Harrogate with speakers from the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada and Australia. Remember that BTME opens on Tuesday, January 21. BTME Seminars will be held on Wednesday, January 22 and Thursday, January 23. Seminars will be concentrated around the main gates the chance to visit the Exhibition and take in some or all Seminars.

The National Education Conference includes four sessions over two days covering Management Skills for the Golf Course Manager and Practical On -Course Management.

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

This month sees the start of the journey to select the TORO Student of the Year 2003, when the judges will visit Scotland, the North, the South East, the South West and the Midlands to interview 33 Students. Up to eight Regional Finalists will be selected to progress to the National Final, which will be held at BIGGA House on Monday, September 23. The judging tour begins in Edinburgh on Monday, June 24.

We are still waiting for your requests for training in the Sections and Regions to come pouring in. We have had a good response from some sections and from one Region. However, in order to train at a very low price, thanks to subsidies from the BIGGA Education and Development Fund then contact your Section Secretary, Regional Administrator or us here at BIGGA HOUSE to make sure that your course is provided. Remember that all Golden Key companies will have £30 training vouchers to give away to their customers from September. These vouchers can be used to pay for BIGGA Training Courses or be used towards the cost of Workshops, the National Education Conference or Seminars at Harrogate next January.

Due to popular demand, I have decided to end the Key Skills Corner. Anyone wishing to obtain the answer to last month’s poser should contact me at BIGGA HOUSE.

OnCourse

If you’ve got an email account why not send an email to the education department anywhere our you can place you into our exclusive education email address book. We can then keep you up-to-date with education news and events as they happen. Send an email to: education@bigga.co.uk  ken@bigga.co.uk  sami@bigga.co.uk

The powerful organisers which keep your golf course green!

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You’ve Got Mail!

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The powerful organiser which keeps your golf course green!

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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This month, Rachael Palmer, BIGGA's Membership Services Officer, would like to welcome 79 new members to the Association and asks if getting a photo taken for the new membership cards is causing problems.

Renewals: No photo – no problem!

Are you delaying returning your renewal form because you have still got your photo taken? By putting off the return of your form you could risk missing out on all the benefits of membership including receiving your monthly copy of Greenkeeper International, use of the Legal Help Line not to mention access to the members exclusive section of the website. If getting to a photo booth is really impossible for you then you can send in your old membership card and we can reuse your photograph. Alternatively as long as you provide us with a clear picture of yourself which is approximately passport sized there should be no reason why we can’t use it. However if sorting out a photo is still going to take several weeks, return your green renewal to us without one and we will still be able to process your membership so that you can continue to enjoy the benefits of membership. You can then send in your photograph at a later date remembering to write your name and date of birth clearly on the back. Upon receipt of your photo we will despatch your new style plastic membership card.

Remember you only have to supply us with one this photograph and we will reprint the image onto a new card each year.

BIGGA welcomes...

Scottish Region
Ronald Martin, N East
Robert Alexander, N West
Nigel Maclennan, N West
Mick McAllister, N West

Midland Region
Tony Stott, BBRO
Stuart Blyth, Mid Anglia
Daniel James, C of England
Denny Jones, BBRO

South East Region
Nick Bayliss, London
Paul Bost, Kent
James Burton, E Anglia
Daniel Cowley, London

Northern Region
Peter Anderson, N East
Stewart Anderson, N East
Wayne Birks, N East
John Edmond, Northern
Jason Edmond, Northern
Jordie Gibson, N East
Michael Gumerlock, Northern
Mark Hadly, N East
Michael Hodgkin, N West
Jacob Kay, Northern
Andrew Land, N West
Jason Lee, N West

BIGGA's Summer Collection

As the days get warmer and nights shorter why not treat yourself to BIGGA's range of branded leisurewear, perfect for wearing on the golf course.

Our model is wearing a classic polo shirt by Cutter and Buck in sunflower, which boasts generous sizing for ease of movement. For extra warmth in the evenings we recommend a navy blue slipover made of 100% lambs wool. To cope with the unpredictability of the British summer, we also offer a wind and shower proof top from Walrus Golflwear which will take care of your comfort and freedom of movement on the golf course. All items are available from BIGGA House by calling Rachael Foster on 01347 833800.

A Cutter and Buck BIGGA Logo Classic Polo Shirts Available in sunflower and navy, M, L, XL or XXL available. £29.95

B Peter Scott BBRO Logo Slipover (Navy only) Sizes 40" to 46", larger sizes available on request. £29.95

C Walrus Golflwear Wind/Shower Proof Top Available in tartan only. M, L and XL available. £20.00

D Slazenger Baseball Caps Available in slate with a light blue peak. One size fits all. £12.95

All prices include postage and packing.

Sami Collins

Name: Semantha (Sami) Collins
Position: Education and Training Administrator

What does your role involve? Organising delegates attendance at Continuing to Learn and BTME; Regional Training; Golf Environment Competition; Toro Student of the Year Award; running CPD scheme and Master Greenkeeper Certificate.

How long have you worked for the Association? Nine years

Where were you born and brought up? Born in Edinburgh, brought up in Harrogate, with a year living in the USA when I was 17.

Where did you work before you joined BIGGA? I can’t remember it was so long ago! (a computer company). What are your hobbies? Going to concerts, the movies, travelling and reading trashy novels.

What is your favourite food? Mexican. It’s spicy and you get tequila

What is your favourite film? Can I have a top five in no particular order? 1. Some Kind of Wonderful; 2. All the President’s Men; 3. JFK; 4. Almost Famous; 5. High Fidelity.

What was the last book you read? I don’t know the title, but it was trashy!

Who is your all time hero? John Lennon

What was the best event you've ever attended? Journey (my favourite band) at Red Rock Amphitheater, Colorado (my favourite venue)

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

How well do you know the people who work for the Association? In this new series we give you a chance to learn a little more about a member of BIGGA’s Headquarters staff.

June's Membership Draw Winner

Just introduce one or more new greenkeeping members to BIGGA and your name will be placed into a draw to win a fantastic BIGGA Clock/calculator/calendar and alarm. Our congratulations go to June’s winner, Ross Wilson, of Prestamore Golf Club.

How’s it ever too late to renew? If your membership expired in December; January; February or March it is still not too late to renew! Just complete your renewal form and return it to the Membership Services office and we will update your membership with a new expiry date. If you have missed your renewal form or would like details on paying by direct debit then call Rachael Palmer on 01347 833800.

Owen O’Mahony, Ireland
Hemelga Holands, USA
Jason Padre, USA
Philip Caumans, Australia

Associate Members

Michael Cox, Surrey
Brian Boyle, N Ireland

Corporate Members

Daren Cleaves, Midland
Ruth Mann, Northern

Student Members

Michael Abbott, N West
Rebecca Baums, Essex
Paul Staples, S Coast

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Slazenger Baseball Caps Available in slate with a light blue peak. One size fits all. £12.95

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People

IN THE NEWS IN THE NEWS

How well do you know the people who work for the Association? In this new series we give you a chance to learn a little more about a member of BIGGA’s Headquarters staff.

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Brush off your dew for a better cut without clumps of debris!

18' width with 3 floating sections for contours

The Multi-Brush instantly transforms into a 6' wide zig-zag brush for greens

Paul Eddlestone of Fishwick Hall Golf Club has been using the new Multi-Brush for a month now and says:

"Being situated besides the River Ribble, we tend to get heavy dew in the mornings so it's mid afternoon before we could get a good quality cut on the fairways.

Now we brush all the fairways and rough each morning. It only takes us an hour and a half to two hours and then we can start mowing 10 minutes later. I've been doing it for a month now and I can honestly say I don't think we've left any clumps of clippings anywhere on the course."

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GreenTek
INNOVATIVE TURF CARE MACHINERY
DESIGNED TO SAVE YOUR TIME!
Scott MacCallum visited Greetham Valley and met Adrian Porter, who together with his team, makes an army of ants look slovenly

**THE CLUB WHICH NEVER SLEEPS**

There can be few greenkeeping teams which operates quite as efficiently as Adrian Porter’s at Greetham Valley Golf Club, near Oakham, in England’s smallest county, Rutland. A bold statement one might think, and I am more than happy to be proved wrong, but when you consider that Adi’s team of nine manage two 18 hole courses, a par-3 course, a driving range, a bowling green, help at the club’s newly built 4x4 course, oh and, operate a contracting division which manages fine turf for anything from other golf clubs, stately homes to private dwellings as well as maintaining local bowling greens and football pitches you might get my drift.

“We are a young team and there is a real go-getting atmosphere around the place. There is as much work out there for them if they want it and if they work the hours they’ll get good money,” said Adi.

The average hours the guys put in in the summer is around 50-55 a week and Adi himself doesn’t leave until the jobs are done and regularly works 6.30am to 6.30pm.

It is an up and at ‘em approach which is epitomised by a club which only celebrated its 10th birthday in April. To mark the occasion they held a competition for members, friends and supporters over both the Lake and Valley courses which acted as more than just a thank you to everyone who had helped make the club successful but a true marker as to just how far Greetham Valley has come over the past decade.

Amid all the tributes to the Hinch family, without whose vision and drive the complex would still be a sheep and arable farm, was a very public and heartfelt thanks to Adi and his team for making dreams a reality.

“They are great that way. I am always invited to competitions which the club holds and they never fail to credit the staff for the work they do while the members often go up to staff while out on the course and complimenting them on the condition of the course,” said Adi.

Adi joined the club from Crocketts Manor G&CC, in Henley-in-Arden, in 1995 after the Hinch family led by Frank but with superb support from his wife, Hazel, son Robert and his wife, Dee, decided that the introduction of a professional Course Manager was vital if the club was to fulfil its potential.

“For the first three years they tried to run it by themselves with some farming friends but before I came they had begun to lose members to neighbouring clubs,” explained Adi.

“It didn’t look like a golf course. Every fairway was cut from tee to green with no definition. They knew something wasn’t quite right and Robert - who is now the Club’s Managing Director - was getting earache whenever he went into the clubhouse.”

An advert soon went into Greenkeeper International and Adi was appointed.

“It was a bigger development, closer to my home, and as soon as I walked round the course I knew it was a job I wanted. I felt I could really make a name for myself at Greetham Valley.”

At that stage they had just finished the construction of the nine holes to turn it into a 27 hole complex, plus the par-3 course, and were at the stage where they were still seeding greens and turfing areas.

There was no mention in specific
terms of what Greetham Valley would eventually become but Adi was given an inkling at his interview. "Even then they said they didn't like to sit back and always wanted to make changes and improvements."

From that moment Adi has enjoyed a superb relationship with the Hinch family, who have always accommodated his requests for new machinery and additional staff. After Adi's arrival Greetham Valley ran as a 27 hole complex for around two years before the decision was made to add a further nine holes and create two distinct 18 hole courses. "We bought more land adjacent to the existing course which gave us room for another four holes but we had to find additional space for the other five holes. This involved moving the par-3 course across the road," he explained.

"We seeded the greens on the new par-3 course while the old one was still open and got them in play before building the new five holes. There was no disruption to the members and there was always a course for them to play while the work was going on."

That's not to say the entire job went seamlessly as turning 27 holes into two 18s can be a logistical nightmare. "All the holes had changed and it was absolute bedlam for a while. It was also confusing for my staff as well as the members because what was the 3rd on the Valley course became the 3rd on the Lakes. Even now I'll tell someone to go and cut the 27th green when I really mean the 17th," he revealed, while adding that it also meant all the course literature and stroke indexes had to be amended to cope.

The story behind who designed the new holes is also one worth telling. The initial 18 holes were designed by Dave Wishart, of the STRU, who'd been brought in at the start to assist the Hinch family in the transition from farm to golf but the remainder of the holes have been designed by Ben Stephens.

"Ben combines his drawing skills as an architect with his golf knowledge and works from that. He can look at a piece of land, design a hole, draw it within a very short space of time, then go to his computer and draw it properly. As an example our 13th hole on the Lakes course was a bland par-5 but we got Ben in and he redesigned the hole with a meandering ditch and some banking on the left and it looks fantastic."

"I sit down with him when he's done his initial drawings and discuss... Ben Stephens. Surely you must have heard of Ben Stephens."

Well don't go thumbing through the Institute of Golf Course Architects' Directory for Ben's name because you won't find it. Ben was a junior member at Greetham Valley and a single figure golfer, who is now studying to be an architect - not the golf sort - at university. "He sat down one day and off his own bat drew an extension to the original 18 holes. He showed it to Frank, who thought it was fantastic and we all sat down together, did a few modifications and went with it," said Adi.

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1 Jacobsen Mk V
2 Toro Sidewinders
1 Toro 580D
5 Toro 1000
3 Toro Workmen
1 Ransomes 30S
1 Articulator 425D
2 Kubota ST30
1 TYM Tractor
1 Toro Sand Pro
1 Greens Iron
1 Groundsman Aerator
1 Verti Drain 1.45m
1 Verti Drain 2.5m
1 Sisis Fairway Slitter
1 Risbose Turf Sitter
1 Sisis Auto Rotorake
1 Sisis Tru Level Brush
1 Gambetti Sprayer 600 lt
1 Wilmot Sprayer 1000 lt
1 Sanderson Loader
2 Toro Topdressers
1 Amzone Groundkeeper
2 Vicon Spreaders
1 Kilworth Buryvator (stonelurrier)
1 Kubota 3 Tonne Mini Digger
1 Man Lorry
2 Ifor Williams Trailers
1 Kawasaki Mule
it from a maintenance or health and safety perspective and he takes these on board and comes back the next day with the revised drawings."

Ben, who also happens to have hearing and speech difficulties, studies the work of the great architects like Robert Trent Jones and Alistair McKenzie, and has already designed another nine hole pitch and putt course Manton, on Rutland Water for another client.

"To achieve what he has done is amazing, it really is, particularly with his disability, and I admire him so much for it. I also admire the fact that someone was prepared to take a chance on him."

It is indeed an example of the unusual way things are done, and done successfully, at Greetham Valley.

Another is the entrepreneurial spirit in which the club seeks out other work to augment the budget. "Frank and Robert’s idea was that I would go around local bowling clubs telling them who I was and what we could do for their bowling green. Frank was a keen bowler and felt that the quality of greens could be a lot higher," explained Adi.

"So one day Robert and I made appointments with a series of local clubs, explained the services we could do for them together with a price list and since then we have looked after between six and eight on a regular basis and they have seen great improvement in the quality of their surfaces."

That service then grew beyond purely bowling greens to anyone who wishes to construct or maintain a fine turf area. A few years ago they even built and looked after the indoor turf green that was laid for Jimmy Tarbuck, golf inspired, quiz show.

"We don’t do landscaping but anything to do with fine turf and we’ve worked at stately homes and built a sunken lawn to greens quality. We also do a great many football pitches and contract work for other golf clubs," he explained, before adding that he’d already done a job that morning before my arrival.

To make it all possible they ensure that they have the machinery to do the task and double up on some so that they can still do work on their own patch when a piece of kit is on the road.

"We’ve got a seven and a half tonne flatbed lorry, all logoed up, to transport the kit around and have two verti drains as well as more than one top dresser."

"The money we make offsets my expenses and makes my figures look good at the end of the day," said Adi, who explained that the work was done under the name of another company, Greetham Valley Turf Care.

Now you would think that with so much going on, and with a staff of only nine, labour saving methods would be employed on the two courses, and par-3 course, to make it all possible. But you’d be wrong.

Greens are always hand mown - a total walking distance for the 45 holes of 22 miles - and are cut six days a week while they do not have the luxury of a fully automated irrigation system.

"We use travelling irrigators on the fairways. Since I’ve been here we’ve put in irrigation points at the sides of fairways but we didn’t bother with pop-ups because we were continual-ly tweaking fairways and they would be in the wrong place.

"It is very labour intensive and we spend a lot of time with hose pipes in the summer especially as with only four inches of topsoil over limestone, which is very free draining, the fairways and even the rough dries out quickly," said Adi, adding that he has to cope with the high alkalinity of the course.

So what next for Greetham Valley? Well, other than the recently opened 4x4 course, there are plans afoot to build a 35 room hotel on site to provide more facilities for visiting company and society guests while Adi is hopefully of attracting a mini professional tour event which he hopes would be televised.

"The Hinch’s know of my desire to attract a televised event to the course and are happy to pay the fee for that to happen and the course is pretty close to being ready for such an event," he said, adding that it would probably be on a composite course to stretch over 7,000 yards.

Speaking to Adi, you get the impression of a young man who is well in control of the fast moving, dynamic job which he now holds.

"I couldn’t imagine doing what I am doing now when I started. I knew Greetham Valley would go to 27 holes and that would be a big step for me but even now, being in charge at such a big complex, I still can’t believe how quickly it has happened."
The BIGGA Golf Directory is the most comprehensive annual guide to the products and services within the turfcare industry. What better way to promote your products and services than by having a company listing all year within the BIGGA Golf Directory. Published annually, the Directory is a stand-alone publication which provides the industry's buyers with an unrivalled database of contacts from which to make their buying decisions. Easy to use, with over 125 individual product categories, the Directory is proving to be a major resource for buyers as they search for industry contacts. Can you afford NOT to be included?

Entry into the 2002/3 edition starts from just £150 for 4 category listings, with your contact details automatically included in our searchable Online Directory, absolutely FREE of charge! To find out more about the various advertising opportunities available to you and your company, call Cheryl Broomhead on 01347 833800 or send an email to cheryl@bigga.co.uk.

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When diseases develop on turfgrasses, it is almost invariably fungi that are the cause of the problem. Under the right conditions, the symptoms of disease can develop and spread rapidly and in some cases, cause extensive and lasting damage. But when conditions are not conducive for disease development, what happens to the fungi? Dr Kate Entwistle, from the Turf Disease Centre investigates...

In the vast majority of cases, the fungi that are responsible for turfgrass diseases are permanently present on the sward or in the rootzone. The most obvious exception to this is in newly constructed areas where the microbial populations will naturally be very low. However, these areas will not remain free of microbial presence (or sterile) for very long and within a short period of time, both beneficial and pathogenic microbes will begin to colonise them. Once present, these microbial populations will fluctuate over time increasing and decreasing in response to the local conditions. But as far as the pathogens are concerned, once they have become established in an area, they are likely to remain. So why is disease not an everyday occurrence?

To answer this fully we need to take a closer look at the agents of disease; the fungi. The mere presence of a fungus that has the propensity to cause disease on turfgrasses, doesn’t necessarily mean that disease will develop, nor indeed that it is the cause of any symptoms expressed! Although the fungi are an extremely diverse group of organisms, they share similar characteristics and life cycles. However, there will always be exceptions that may vary widely from the general model, but on the whole, the fungal life cycle can be described as shown in Figure 1. By appreciating and working through the fungal life cycle, we can understand why disease is not an everyday occurrence, even if the fungi that cause the disease are always present.

Let’s choose the spore as an arbitrary starting point for the fungal life cycle. The spore is the reproductive unit of the fungus (resulting from sexual or asexual reproduction) and it is extremely important for accurate fungal identification. Spores are liberated in vast numbers and dispersed locally or disseminated over large distances to enable the fungus to find a new host. Spores may be present on the leaf surface, in the rootzone and in the air above the turf area but for any fungus to have a chance of causing disease, these spores must land on a susceptible plant. Spores are, however, moved about at random and the vast majority will be deposited on areas or plants that they are not able to colonise. Thus, inoculation (or the arrival of a fungus on to an area) does not necessarily mean that disease will develop. Only a relatively low number of the released spores will end up on a suitable turfgrass host.

Inoculation of susceptible turf with a potential pathogen will still not result in disease if the fungus can’t enter the plant. Firstly, the fungal spore must germinate to produce a germ tube and ultimately, mycelium that can be considered as the ‘body’ of the fungus. If the environmental conditions are not right for the fungal spore to germinate, or the conditions change soon after germination, the spore will not germinate or the germ tube will die. In either case, disease will not occur. If the spore does germinate, the germ tube will start to grow across the plant tissues trying to gain access to the plant.

In order to penetrate the plants defences, the fungus will either take advantage of natural openings (e.g. stomata) or wounds (e.g. caused by mowing), or it will directly penetrate the plant by force. Once the fungus has infected the plant and gained access to its internal cells, you might imagine that disease development will be inevitable. Not so. In plants that are able to recognise the initial presence of the fungi, the fungus may be restricted to only one or two cells. In these cases, the resistance shown by the plant means that the recognisable symptoms of disease will never develop. The effort made by

FINDING Fungi
recognisable symptoms of disease will never develop. The effort made by the fungi to get this far has come to nothing. However, this situation does not always occur. In many cases, the fungus can progress further in to the plant causing damage to the plant tissues as it removes nutrients from them. This part of the life cycle can be regarded as disease development and symptom expression. The extent and severity of the disease is directly related to the relative susceptibility of the host plant and the virulence of the pathogen. Once the fungus has colonised the plant tissues and removed the available nutrients, the fungus will need to move on to find a new host to colonise. In the majority of cases, it does this by producing spores which are disseminated either in the water film on the surface of the sward or within the rootzone, or alternatively through the air. Parts of the fungal mycelium may also be disseminated across the turf to allow colonisation of new areas of the same sward. And so we return to the start of the life cycle. But there’s one additional part of the life cycle that is of importance to many fungi and that is the development of structures that will allow the fungus to survive adverse conditions. When they are not able to cause disease, some fungi can live on dead and decaying organic material and will do so for as long as it is necessary until the conditions are right for them to actively cause disease. Other fungi cannot and they rely on some alternative method of survival. The means by which fungi do this are diverse and include the production of specialised spores or accumulations of mycelium, but ultimately these structures may allow fungi to survive in a dormant state for many years or decades until they become active again.

So what do we now know about the fungi that cause disease? Firstly, that they are extremely diverse in their modes of action, their life cycles and their ability to attack plants. Secondly, their mere presence in a sward does not necessarily mean that disease will occur. Thirdly and arguably of most importance, there are many stages during the lead-up to symptom expression, during which disease development will fail. Therefore, disease must be regarded as the ultimate expression of a series of events in the development of the pathogen and its effect on the turfgrass plant. This ‘relationship’ between the fungus and the plant is significantly affected by the local environmental conditions and they directly control the severity of any

![Figure 1: Generalised infection cycle of the fungi](image-url)
may be so minor or so restricted as to cause little or no concern to the turf manager. Conversely, they may develop into devastating outbreaks that could claim large areas of a sward in only a few hours. The extremes are uncommon, as extremes generally are in all aspects of life, but they are a real possibility. The ability of these fungal pathogens to cause disease should not be underestimated. At the end of the day, these fungi need to obtain nutrients from the turfgrass plant in order to survive. Some pathogens have evolved along with their hosts and their relationships are extremely complex. Many are less choosy and will cause disease on any susceptible sward.

There is one last but very important thing to remember. There are many physiological conditions and invertebrate problems that can develop on a sward and resemble the symptoms of turfgrass diseases, but which are not caused by the activity of a pathogen and will therefore not respond to fungicide application. Before you waste time and money in applying fungicides unnecessarily, get the problem checked and not just for fungal presence! Choose carefully where you get the analysis done because being told what fungi are present on your turf does not necessarily mean that you have found the cause of the symptoms that you see.

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Roland Taylor looks at the development of the tyre and how that has enabled the ATV to become a valuable greenkeeping tool

INFLATED IDEAS

While sitting in a traffic jam recently, I was pondering that we must spend a considerable amount of our lives sitting on air and rubber - tyres. This prompted the next question, do we really know a lot about this important transportation component or simply do not really care until it causes us aggravation by deflating? Unless you are one of those diligent people, how many times this year have you checked your car's tyre pressures? I cannot remember. My resolution is to do it more often.

Prior to the 1840's a vehicle's tyres were made from either wood or steel. It was thanks to two Scotsmen, that riding any type of vehicle was to become less painful to the rear end.

In 1845 R. W. Thompson, launched the first solid rubber tyre. Apart from being quieter it had no other benefits over its steel counterpart.

Grass played a significant part in Scottish vet, John Boyd Dunlop's invention. He was fed up with the deep grooves his son's tricycle made in his lawn. His solution to this was to fit lengths of hose filled with water to the wheels. An acquaintance suggested using air instead of water might be better. This he did, and the resulting tyre was patented in 1888.

But Dunlop's invention proved to be impractical and never made him a rich man. However, the die was cast and over the next few years many names, that were to become well known in the future, introduced various forms of the pneumatic tyres.

From the beginning, rubber was seen to be the answer, but its properties posed some major problems. In hot weather the tyres melted and in the cold they froze and cracked. In addition, they stuck to everything. It was a man called Charles Goodyear...
who eventually came up with the answer - a heat process, which he named vulcanisation. In 1937 signs of a natural rubber shortage were becoming evident. To counteract this, the Goodyear Tyre Company launched a man made substitute called 'Cherigum'. Today, it is estimated that over 60% of all tyres sold are synthetic.

Tyres come in a vast range of sizes and specification, and depending on the vehicles they are to be fitted on determines the method of construction and the materials used.

The recipe for tyres

Natural rubber is latex (sap), tapped from a tree's outer bark, it then coagulates to form solid slabs. Its synthetic counterpart is produced by the interaction of chemicals and processes. Another important compound is 'carbon black' - a substance for increasing the strength of the synthetic rubber. Burning crude oil in specially designed furnaces produces this product.

Fibreglass, nylon and polyester in the form of sheets of parallel textile cords are used in the construction of tyre casings. High tensile bronze or brass-coated steel wire is also used.

All the ingredients are weighed and mixed in a 'Banbury Mixer' to form a pliable material that is then rolled into sheets. One of three processes then takes place depending on the tyre's properties.

Extruding

The compound is heated and then forced under pressure into a die creating the tread, side wall and apex of the tyre.

Caldering

This involves the textile and steel cores being laid flat, both sides are given a thin coating of the mixture. These layers are cut and reassembled to form reinforced sheets that are used to create the casing ply and breaker belts, which give the final result, added strength, shock resistance and durability.

Coating

High tensile steel wire is given a rubber coating and wrapped into hoops to form the beads of the tyre. Having carried out one or more of these preliminaries it is time to build the tyre.

The first stage consists of an inner liner, that will retain the air, plus the components to form the basic structure being wrapped round a drum. The side walls are then placed in position. On another drum the tread and breaker belts are assembled. These moulded forms are brought together and the tyre is inflated. At this stage special attention is paid to ensure all the air is expelled from between the layers. The bald tyre casing is loaded into a mould where high-pressure steam is used to produce the tread and side wall markings. The heat generated also results in a chemical action that bonds everything together.

Once the tyre has cooled down it is given a thorough inspection and is ready to be used.

In recent years it has become clear-
In recent years it has become clearly evident that reducing compaction is of paramount importance in producing a quality-playing surface. Some tyre manufacturers have recognised this and are using their knowledge from other applications, such as agriculture, to produce a specifically designed range for the grasscare markets. The features of these introductions help towards maintaining an open soil structure and avoiding damage to the turf. By using a tyre with a wide surface contact area, plus low inflation, the equipment’s weight is more evenly distributed, but this is only part of the picture. The tread pattern is also important in reducing slippage and increasing the machine’s efficiency. Stability is another factor, especially on uneven or sloping terrain. With the right tyres fitted it is possible to work on soft, wet areas, with minimal marking or damage to the grass.

There are other spin-offs, these include; lower fuel consumption, longer life and more cost-effective operation.

To achieve all this requires buying the right tyres - this can be a minefield. Low ground pressures tyres are readily available, but the question that needs to be asked is - are they designed specially for your equipment? Unfortunately, this is not always the case and what looks like a bargain can become a liability. To get it right from the onset, it is best to contact companies who offer tyres specifically for working on grass. While the initial outlay might be slightly higher the benefits and technical support will save money and hassle in the end.

When it comes to tyre maintenance there is very little to do. Regular checking of pressures being the main one. For some applications changes in air pressure may be recommend by the equipment’s manufacturer. In these cases if there are any doubts then a tyre specialist will be able to advise on the best course of action. Other things to watch out for are missing dust caps and any signs of damage, chaffing or excessive wear. By looking after your tyres you will get a smoother ride all round.

Saving or making time is problem most of us are faced with in the modern workplace, as a result we are constantly having to be seeking ways of achieving this.

One aspect that can be overlooked is the time taken to travel around a course. With any large operating area, minutes and hours are guzzled up over a week, month and year. The shortest route between two points is a straight line, but unless the area is flat and devoid of any obstacles this is rarely possible. The type of machinery and the on site work that is to be carried out, is generally the governing factor on which is the best possible route from A to B. A range of equipment that can speed up travelling times are the “go anywhere” vehicles - the ATVs or Utilities.

When ATVs first appeared on the market they were predominately sold
to the leisure sector so, quickly established a reputation as fun machines. Some of the early models had a three-wheel configuration, but these could, if abused be unstable and dangerous. Four-wheels were found to be safer.

At first this form of transport was shunned by the commercial sector, but farmers, especially in mountainous areas soon discovered the benefits of this means of transporting foodstuffs, fodder and sheep over difficult terrain. The crop growers also found they could use an ATV, with its low ground pressure properties, for fertilising or spraying when conditions were soft and wet. Using a conventional tractor in this situation was asking for trouble as considerable damage could be caused to both the soil's structure and the growing plants.

In the early days usually a trailer was towed behind but, recognising this as not being always ideal, manufacturers introduced integral transport boxes. They also launched purpose built units, which were given the name ‘utilities’. These have the same low ground pressure and traction qualities of the ATVs. Most of today’s models have the advantages of pto and hydraulic systems for operating a wide range of turfcare attachments, as well as transporting materials.

Both these types of vehicles are now recognised in the grass maintenance sectors and are used throughout the world in a wide range of applications.

For golf course an ATV in the fleet can certainly cut down travelling times, especially for light work such as greens or tees maintenance. It is also a fast way of getting to a breakdown or puncture out on the course. The machine’s ability to cover rough ground, soft wet areas without virtually any markings and handle steep slopes means they are able to travel across areas where other units cannot.

The utilities are for many, a substitute for the conventional tractor and trailer and there are some large carrying capacity units now available for transporting materials such as top dressing and sand.

Whilst these ‘go-anywhere’ vehicles are not everyone’s cup-of-tea, for others they are ideally suited to the geographical location of the course.

If you were looking for ways of saving time getting round your course the possibilities of using an ATV or Utility vehicle are worth investigating.

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Lakes and ponds, both man made and natural, have a life cycle. They start balanced, clean, fresh and clear. Eventually, with increasing levels of nutrient that overwhelm the natural clean up mechanisms, algae and weed growth appear, and without the correct supervision they pass into ‘old age’ as shallow bogs or marsh land.

This process used to take hundreds of years, but now can take only decades. Why? Because until recently, water was one of our least understood resources. This lack of understanding has led to some significant problems eg Algae blooms, aquatic vegetation growth, foul smelling odours, clogged sprinklers, valves and pumps. A better understanding of the causes of these problems leads to a clear long-term solution, which addresses the causes and is preventative in nature.

A pond in balance is a healthy, dynamic ecosystem that is ageing at a very slow rate. Fish and other aquatic life are present. There is an absence of odours, foul smell and algae blooms. As nutrients enter the ecosystem they are either absorbed by the plant life or metabolised by aerobic bacteria. There are safe levels of oxygen in the lake - at least 2.5 ppm or mg/l. Oxygen is added to the lake from wave and wind action, the light side of the photosynthesis process and rain. It’s a healthy, balanced ecosystem. Mother Nature has provided the necessary clean up tools to deal with the problems.

Because this is a finely balanced situation it does not take much to throw it out of balance. Typically there is an influx of nutrients. The aerobic bacteria consume oxygen as they metabolise nutrient. Everything is fine until the first hot cloudy day when the planktonic algae doesn’t photosynthesise and create oxygen or the first long hot night when oxygen demand soars.

It is in these scenarios when there are no oxygen producers and the demand for oxygen cannot be met. The result of this lack of oxygen appears in the form of algae, foul smells, insect infestation and eventually fish kills.

As any manager of water will tell you, the three most important factors that impact the balance of a lake or pond are temperature, nutrients and oxygen.

**Thermal stratification or layers of temperature**

The summer sun will warm the surface water. This water becomes less dense than the cooler waters that are trapped at the pond’s bottom. As the summer progresses the surface water gets warmer and warmer in comparison with the cooler water at the bottom and the water eventually becomes stratified or separated into layers. The warmer water, which has a diminished capacity to hold oxygen - water at 40 degrees Fahrenheit can hold 40% more oxygen than water at 72 degrees Fahrenheit - encourages algae growth.

**Nutrients**

In pond ecology we talk specifically of those compounds that contain phosphorous and nitrogen. In fact, phosphorous has been identified as the single greatest contributor to aquatic plant growth. As the nutrient level in the pond increases, so does the plant and weed growth, which leads to severe problems from an environmental and aesthetic viewpoint.

The most common sources of nutrient are bottom silt; plant life and run off water from surrounding turf areas and inlet water. Vegetative life in the pond and sediment are the number one source of nutrient. Blue green algae can divide as often as every 20 minutes with a two-week life cycle. At the end of the cycle the plants simply die and fall to the bottom adding to the biological material in the pond. This dead plant material acts as nutrient for future growths which in turn adds more demands on the little available oxygen.

‘Run-off’ is the second most common source of nutrient. Research shows that up to 4% of the fertilisers applied to areas adjacent to the ponds and lakes will eventually leach off into the water, placing additional burden on the lake’s natural clean-up process. Nutrient loading tends to be very high in waters adjacent to green areas or turf grass. Sludge build up can accumulate at 1-3 inches per year. This build up can rob your lake, or irrig-
tion basin of its capacity to store water. The pond will work to break down and get rid of this nutrient load. This is a process called organic digestion. There are 2 types of digestion, aerobic and anaerobic. Aerobic bacteria are the most effective. They metabolise or break down the nutrients, respiring or consuming oxygen, much like we do. They are efficient, breaking down organic nutrients into elemental form, creating no noxious by-products.

The second type is anaerobic bacteria. They exist in water that is oxygen deficient. They are not as efficient and allow soluble organic nutrients to recycle into the water column. Byproducts such as methane. Ammonia and hydrogen sulphide are created by anaerobic decomposition. Aerobic bacteria work roughly 7 times faster than anaerobic bacteria.

**Oxygen**

The third role is oxygen. Oxygen is important to both the life in the pond and is used by the pond itself to utilize the nutrients. Oxygen supports the food chain. A healthy ecosystem in a pond is not just a nice thing to have. It provides for a natural way to consume organic nutrients.

The bottom of the food chain are the microscopic algae which are consumed by the slightly larger zooplankton. Each level of consumers transfers only a small fraction of the energy it receives up the chain to the next level. This means that a few sports fish depend on a much larger base of plants and algae. Therefore a healthy food chain can pull a tremendous amount of nutrient out of the water. Oxygen supports this entire system.

**Putting it all together**

As a pond gets older the level of nutrient rises. This is due to an increase in run off, organic bottom sediment or fertiliser use in the surrounding area, and in the amount of algae and aquatic weed growth. As these weeds die they sink to the bottom. This will result in a sudden increase of aerobic bacteria due to the large food supply. This bacteria will use large amounts of oxygen as they digest organic waste. Due to thermal stratification, the top and bottom layers of the pond will not mix which means that the oxygen cannot get to the bottom to support the aerobic digestion.

Balance is critical to the aquatic ecosystem. A healthy lake contains balanced amounts of oxygen, nutrients and temperature.

**Solutions**

Several methods are available to help solve the problems.

Mechanical control - This is the oldest method of management. Dredges, weed harvesters, rakes, are used to remove algae and aquatic plants. These methods can be an effective short to medium term solution - treating the symptoms of poor water quality rather than treating the causes. Disposal of aquatic plant material and dredged materials is quickly becoming more regulated and expensive.

Chemical control - This is probably the most popular method. Herbicides are applied to the pond to kill the algae and plants. They are fairly quick, however since herbicides kill the plants and algae which then sink to the bottom, oxygen depletion, odours and fish kills can be a byproduct. Chemical control does not improve water quality, but the symptoms of poor water quality, algae and aquatic weed blooms.

Biological control - The most popular of these is the introduction of weed eating fish or grass carp. These fish can be quite effective in keeping excessive weed growth under control, are inexpensive and require no labour; however they are indiscriminate feeders with their preferred food being aquatic plants and they will only eat algae if their preferred plants are not available

Aeration - This is the addition of oxygen to the water, it is still used today as a vital part of the treatment of industrial and domestic waste. By putting large amounts of oxygen into the water, an aerator encourages aerobic bacteria which, in turn, work to clean the pond of organic nutrients and waste. The high pumping rate of an aerator also prevents thermal stratification, distributing oxygen to all parts.

Aeration helps to keep the three contributing factors, temperature, nutrients and oxygen in balance.

**For more information on 'Aeration' and Otterbine aeration units please contact Mike Spencer, of Aquatic Control Ltd, Tel: 01542 325389, H/o 01477 500406, or email mike.spencer@ukf.net**
Six of the country's top men give their views on Trees

Compiled by Malcolm Huntington MBE

1. What do you consider to be good golf course trees and why?

1. In our case, pine and small leaf trees such as hornbeam, whitebeam and silver birch because they are native to the area. Large leaf trees cause more problems.

1. Anything indigenous to the area, in our case oak, beech and ash with a few cherry, apple and rowan. Deer play havoc with our trees particularly the ash.

1. We need trees which are indigenous to the area such as oak, beech, ash, field maple and copper beech. They make a pleasant backdrop and reinforce golfing strategy.

1. The simple rule to remember where trees are concerned is always to use the indigenous species. For instance, on seaside links you would use no trees, heathland - no trees, parkland - majestic oaks.

1. Good trees on golf courses are those native to your area and preferably don't cause you problems - large leaf etc. We have ash, sycamore, oak and beech and a few Scots pine which provide shelter for young trees and will benefit those here in two generations time.

1. We are on an exposed headland on high ground. Eleven years ago the Forestry Commission provided oak, ash, sycamore and beech trees but they haven't grown because of the conditions so now we have planted a mixture of pines.
2. Conversely what do you consider to be poor golf course trees and why?

Hawthorn, in particular, as you can get badly scratched and it hasn’t got a good appearance in any case. Leylandii is an unnatural tree on a golf course and has no aesthetic appeal.

2. What is your management policy with regard to trees?

We have our own woodland management five year plan which is ongoing with three acres of planted woodland. There is some housing development round the course so we sometimes move trees to provide a shelter or barrier.

2. Following the above rule I would be dismayed to see the likes of Leylandii, cypress, lombardy, poplar being planted on any golf course.

2. Anything ornamental such as leylandii, cherry, Japanese pine and which look as through they should be in someone’s garden rather than on a golf course.

2. While I don’t think any tree is a bad tree, broad leafed trees are no good for our course and any tree not native to the area such as leylandii would look out of place.

3. What do you consider to be poor golf course trees and why?

The same for Leylandii, poplar, sycamore, which don’t support any life, willow and anything which looks out of place.

3. Annual clearance and pruning where necessary. We have only had a course here for 12 years so there is not too many really well established trees.

3. Where do you consider to be poor golf course trees and why?

We have an annual tree budget for replacements and we have planted a lot in recent years in a bid to establish some after the initial disappointment outlined earlier.

3. What is your management policy with regard to trees?

We have began a woodland management scheme 18 months ago, felling trees in a big square in the middle of woodland, replanting and thus creating new woodland in the middle of an old one.

3. What do you consider to be poor golf course trees and why?

A management policy would work towards having healthy trees varying in age and species. This could entail a programme of thinning and dead wooding.

4. What do you know of the grant aid which is or was available for tree planting?

I am aware of several schemes which are excellent. However, we prefer to fund a plan ourselves as we then have more control and can be more flexible, rather than working under certain conditions.

4. What do you employ for leaf removal?

We use an Amazone Groundkeeper and blow as many leaves as possible back into the woodland. Greens are cleared of leaves on a daily basis and the rest of the course on a weekly basis. We also make good use of a Sisis Litamisa.

4. What do you consider to be poor golf course trees and why?

A management policy would work towards having healthy trees varying in age and species. This could entail a programme of thinning and dead wooding.

5. What methods do you employ for leaf removal?

We use a Tornado Leaf Blower for the fairways which we use on the back of a tractor. We have a steel knapsack leaf blower which sucks the leaves up into a hopper.

5. What do you consider to be poor golf course trees and why?

We have to make sure they fit into the landscape and are easy to maintain. We have a problem with herds of fallow deer so we have mesh guards round the base of the trees and put total weedkiller round the base as well.

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

Rapturous Racoon launched by Claymore

The Stella Racoon is a 20hp ride-on flail mower launched for the 2002 season by Claymore Grass Machinery. Having undertaken a programme of demonstrations to users and dealers throughout the winter with impressive results in terms of both interest and orders, the Racoons are now being supplied in time for the main grass cutting season.

Contractors in particular are impressed by the high work rate and performance of the Racoon especially on banks.

Now add to this the features of big agricultural tread tyres, 48 unbreakable swinging Y blades giving a wide 38in (95cm) width of cut with rear discharge, the power of a 20hp Briggs & Stratton Vanguard OHV engine and high maneuverability. Height of cut is adjustable by central adjustment from 30-80mm. All in all a tough no nonsense mower for the professional user at a RRP £7,995 plus VAT.

For further information
Tel: 01865 820731

Multi-Brush mops up dew

GreenTek have launched a new 18 feet wide tractor-mounted brush called the Multi-Brush which is made up of three separate 6’ sections, allowing it to float over contours and undulations. Hydraulic rams are used to fold it out to its full width for large areas such as golf fairways. When folded in to its 6’ width, it has five rows of straight and zig-zag brush sections in line for brushing-in topdressings on greens and tees. Golf Clubs are already finding the benefit of using the Multi-Brush for dispersing dew before they mow their fairways to avoid leaving clumps of grass behind.

For further information
Tel: 0113 267 6000

Earthquake offers an affordable answer to compaction

With the addition of the RotoKnife slit aerator to its product range, EarthQuake Turfcare Ltd now offers a complete system capable of dealing with turf compaction, soil aeration requirements and drainage problems from the surface down to a depth of 380mm.

Offering a fast and cost-effective solution to rootzone management, the standard 1.52m EarthQuake RotoKnife has six 4mm thick discs mounted 305mm apart. The discs can be set to slit the turf to a depth of approximately 175mm, adjustable in 25mm increments. A consistent working depth is maintained by a pair of 250mm diameter rollers which also smooth the turf, leaving the surface level and ready for play.

Used on its own, the RotoKnife is a high-speed slitter aerator which encourages the movement of air, water and nutrients to prevent and eliminate thatch, soil pans, hard spots, waterlogging and poor grass growth. Designed to be mounted on or trailed behind a 33hp to 40hp tractor or suitable turf utility vehicle equipped with hydraulic drawbar, the RotoKnife is available with a choice of three interchangeable roll and disc combinations.

Offered with an optional full-width rear brush, the RotoKnife can be equipped also with additional weights to aid surface penetration in tough conditions. Price of the machine with standard discs and flat rolls is £4,700.

For further information
Tel: 01952 641949
Chip off the block for Vermeer

Powered by a 122 HP Caterpillar engine, the new Vermeer BC1400 comes standard with the patent-pending SmartFeed system. Similar to the Vermeer patented Autofeed U control system, the distinct difference with SmartFeed system is the predictability capabilities. Predictability is the act by which the controller actually monitors how quickly the engine loses RPM rather than reacting based on a predetermined setting. The SmartFeed computer controller automatically stops or reverses the feed rollers if the engine loses RPM. An all-new feed roller control bar and integrated bottom feed stop bar are also standard on the BC1400. The feed roller control bar features two "stop" positions, and forward and reverse, to aid the operator in actively controlling the feed rollers. Also standard on the BC1400 is a manually operated hand crank for 270° rotation of the chip chute. An optional electric motor-driven rotating chute is also available on the BC1400.

For further information Tel: 01933 274400

Komatsu launch world's lightest brushcutter

2001 saw the introduction by Komatsu Zenoah of several new and innovative hand held power equipment products. The new Strato Charged 26cc engine now fitted to many of their products provides benefits of 30% fuel saving and 30% less noise. This new engine has CARB approval and was a major breakthrough in small engine technology.

Now Komatsu Zenoah introduce the lightest brushcutter in the world - BC1400. Weighing just 3.7kg this 21.7cc engine now fits to many of their products providing benefits of 30% fuel saving and 30% less noise. This new engine has CARB approval and was a major breakthrough in small engine technology.

For further information Tel: 01759 321000

Flymo chooses Inturf for advert

Flymo makes a return to TV this spring with an innovative new advert thanks to help from Inturf.

Inturf, based in York, was asked by the producers of Flymo's new TV advert to provide 90 square metres of grass to feature in the campaign that launches Flymo's new Turbo Compact Vision mower. To meet the unusual brief, Inturf chose its innovative Integrated Turf Module system - the most durable natural grass and sports turf product available - to highlight the bright orange mower.

Inturf is experienced in providing turf for use in high profile areas, with a portfolio of clients that includes Newcastle United, Bolton Wanderers, Middlesbrough football clubs and the Cardiff Millennium stadium, which uses the ITC system. The commercial, shot indoors in Manchester in February, promotes Flymo's revolutionary new Turbo Compact Vision, which squashes grass clippings down into a "built-in" central grassbox, and allows the user to see inside the monster to know exactly when to empty it.

For further information Tel: 01759 321000

Biostimulant gets activated by RT

RT has launched Activate F. for use on amenity turf. It is a microbial biostimulant that boosts microbial populations. It contains simple plant sugars providing carbohydrates, enzymatically extracted plant growth hormones and betaines, as well as a soil penetrant to ensure the ingredients are moved into the root zone. The product helps improve rooting, seed germination and establishment and the general health of the turf plant. Available in a 5 litre pack, coverage 5,000 square metres. Activate R improves plant health, containing plant growth regulating hormones, chelated trace elements and a soil penetrant, as well as humic acid sourced from Leonardite (potassium humate) which assists in nutrient retention. Available in a 5 litre pack, coverage 5,000 square metres.

For further information Tel: Freephone 0800 424919

Tonic is new product gets set to make (radio waves)

The Vi-Aqua system consists of a wall-mounted control box and an antenna which is submerged in the water inlet flow or sump. The system does not require chemicals, is quick and simple to install, cheap to run and operates without supervision. It is totally safe for plants and men and has full CE compliance. The treatment process is entirely natural and safe. The electromagnetic field is harmless and the treatment does not cause chemical reactivity or DNA modification.

Basically, the process reduces the surface tension of hard and soft water which increases the solubility of nutrients and enhances their uptake. Fertilisers and Nitrogen are absorbed more effectively and the amounts needed are reduced. The applied water percolates more quickly through the soil which reduces water run-off. Root depth is stimulated and the soil suction is increased. Silicon is converted to Silica, a component of plants, and boosted in the silicate layer which improves root growth, thus helping to eliminate thatch and black layer.

For further information Tel: 01269 832325

Vi-Aqua Vi-Aqua Vi-Aqua Vi-Aqua Vi-Aqua Vi-Aqua Vi-Aqua Vi-Aqua Vi-Aqua Vi-Aqua Vi-Aqua Vi-Aqua Vi-Aqua Vi-Aqua Vi-Aqua Vi-Aqua Vi-Aqua Vi-Aqua Vi-Aqua Vi-Aqua

Please send your latest product release notes or press releases to: The Editor, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, 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
Jim Arthur hands out some advice to those who feel living with poa is the only answer

CONTROLLING POA

I can hear at once a chorus of "Oh! No it can't..." "Oh! Yes it can..." "Who says so?" The answer to the last question is easy - literally hundreds of experienced Course Managers of all ages and with a wide range of courses to prove it, varying from the best of our links courses to large and small members' clubs, ranging from around a century old to a few years. They are backed by a small band of truly qualified and widely experienced agronomists who have seen the results of years of treating courses by time honoured and proven austere methods of greenkeeping. It will be noted that I limited my approbation to a few because far too many of our so called advisers are really thinly disguised salesmen or merely tell their clients what they think the client wants to hear.

In 55 years of golf course advisory work I have seen it all before and the remarkable thing is that despite all the commercial hype against our traditional standards and the ceaseless media support for the nice and green feed-and-water school, so many of our good courses still show excellent fine firm turf derived from our native bents and fescues.

Few of even our very best Course Managers would claim to have absolutely Poa-free greens but they control it, hit any invasion hard and avoid encouraging it so that even in flush growth periods their greens never suffer from the disfigurement of seeding Poa and in winter they play to full greens when Poa dominated turf is virtually unplayable or disease ridden. Who has not seen good bent/fescue greens invaded by soup plate sized patches of pure Poa contrasting so horribly with the residue of the fine turf.

Recently reported surveys imply that greenkeepers must learn to live with Poa: that it is impossible to control; and that without it we would have nothing but bare ground. This is totally untrue. Nature in any case abhors a vacuum and if you kill off the Poa by management not herbicides, by encouraging finer grasses, then they will fill in behind the penalised Poa. Admittedly in severe cases which are always the results of misguided management, though perhaps several decades earlier, there can be a very uncomfortable time unless you are lucky with the weather and skilled in fine tuning when the sickly Poa is going faster than the Agrostis is coming in. A term for this was coined 30 odd years ago - Arthuritis, but once over, one never looks back.

It does demand conviction and support from all levels (management and members alike) as well as a thick skin and deaf ears.

The first thing is to look dispassionately at the main causes of Poa annua invasion and dominance. It is beyond debate that the first and foremost cause of Poa invasion is the application of even very low levels of phosphatic fertilisers. Many fertiliser manufacturers admit this and sell nil phosphate mixes (of which more anon) but they do not understand that above very low levels potassic fertilisers are just as encouraging, as a moments contemplation of the graph showing the effect of rising levels of P & K on turf composition (1981 research).

Yet articles are published all the time by fertiliser firms advocating really high levels of potash e.g 15-0-12 applied as frequently as every two to three weeks and then they wonder why Poa takes over.

This link between P & K and Poa has been researched and proven for over 90 years, on both sides of the Atlantic but has been studiously ignored by fertiliser salesmen and their bosses. It was before the First World War that Dr Murray working in South Africa postulated that (in his own words)...his research proved that a system of management designed to provide an adequate supply of nitrogen in an acid medium, with a very limited amount of phosphorus and potash- the only source of the latter being such as is contained in the usual compost (top-dressing) will best produce fine turf."

This research was repeated with the same results time and time again, both in the States and in the United Kingdom. In the 1920's, the Acid Theory was based on this research and was highly successful initially in converting lush wormy alkaline seedy turf into fine Agrostis (bent) swards.

However, without adequate irrigation (or none at all), a series of droughts in the mid thirties coupled with the reduced drought resistance of the acid turf caused problems.

Some pundits, including the then Director of the Board of Greenkeeping research, R. B. Dawson, stupidly went back to NPK - perhaps unsurprising in view of his
declared levels are supplied but does not complain if the levels are exceeded. Only where we can persuade inspectors that phosphates in these circumstances are harmful could action be taken. I suggest informing suppliers that their mix will be analysed independently to see if it really is phosphate free!

Fertiliser manufacturers on the whole seem to accept that greenkeeping really wants nil phosphate mixes, but have no understanding that potash over very low levels is just as harmful. Advice to apply potash at high levels every four to six weeks is definitely wrong unless you really want Poa annua green. So also is advice to apply potash in the autumn - it goes straight to the drains.

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In fact if you do not want Poa then never apply any autumn fertiliser. If any course is not at its best in autumn then it never will be and applying fertiliser is counter-productive. The same applies to "micro-nutrients" or trace elements for which on normal greens there is no evidence of need whatever. We are told that sand based greens need this help. If the advisers mean pure sand greens then they may have a case but they clearly do not!

In any case how many pure sand greens still survive? Do not confuse them with standard perched water table sandy greens.

My advice regarding potash is to apply a light dressing in spring perhaps every two to three years, or subject to analysis showing levels below 10-15 ppm. Remember that with phosphates we can find excellent greens whose root zones show as low as 3 ppm - and need no phosphate additions. Do not believe that P & K will induce disease resistance! I know very many courses where neither have been applied for years and which never suffer from disease because their traditional austere management does not encourage "Fus".

I would bet a pound to a brass farthing that all greenkeepers who say that Poa annua is inevitable so lie back and enjoy it have two things in common. First they are not supported by their management or have made no effort to inform their members - or lack the conviction and strength to go against the current. Secondly, all use complete NPK fertilisers or heavily use potash as well as nitrogen even if they do not use phosphatic fertilisers, while they will often apply fertilisers in autumn. I cannot see any justification for applying fertilisers (sulphate of iron is not a fertiliser) in autumn, because if any course is not looking at its best then it never will and all that fertilisers do then is to encourage disease and Poa annua.

Of course the battle against Poa annua is not confined to banning P & K, though that is the first essential. Aeration must be intensive and above all avoid that common error of hollow tining in spring, allowing seeds of Poa easy entrance into the tiniest of swards, excessively close mowing at any time of the year will bring in Poa and if greens need to be speeded up then roll them - a tip as old as greenkeeping! If you deep aerate afterwards there are no ill effects. Do not chase colour and rely on frequent grooming to pick up seed heads.

A word on overseeding! A case can be made with dominantly bent-fescue greens to thicken up fine turf by over-seeding in early autumn, though establishment is at best 10%, often nil. Over-seeding in spring or into dominantly Poa annua greens is a predictable waste of time and money. I well remember the Superintendent of a famous Californian course denying that his greens were 100% Poa annua because they spent so much money every year in overseeding them through the whole season with Penncross that they had to be Penncross. Management will swing the grass type not over-seeding which benefits only the seeds firms.

Austere traditional greenkeeping is guaranteed to reduce though not totally eradicate Poa annua but where the cause has been persisted in for many years it takes longer and in the process unless steps are taken to keep them informed members may revolt. Success depends on bringing with you but from an early stage they will get better winter playing conditions with less disease. This is something that the feed and water brigade should take on board, especially as the coming recession starts to bite, especially as such methods cost less both directly in reduced "input" and indirectly in minimising disease and thus expensive controls. Until we can educate golfers, especially the new entry into understanding that the correct colour for a golf course is not lush television green but the natural bownner shades of our natural courses it is going to be an uphill battle and those in the front line deserve the support of all the golfing authorities and the golfing media in the fight to retain our traditional standards and all weather golf. I am more than willing to enter into debate with any informed people or bodies. We can always disagree without being disagreeable. Over some 55 years of advisory work I have seen hundreds of over-fed Poa courses come back and enjoy it have two things in common.

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North
Three new members to report this month, and they are: Keith Law, from Letham Grange Golf Club; John Harnell, from North Berwick GC, and Derek Chisholm, from Kingsgill Golf Club. Welcome to the Section lads.
A young greenkeeper on the move is Muir Ross, from Dingwall. Muir served his apprenticeship at Castie Heath Golf Course in Inverness and is now on his way to the Isle of Man
Haddington Golf Club. Welcome to the Section Muir.

Central
At last! We are up and running again in welcoming new members to the Section and this month we would like to extend a warm welcome to Thomas Aitchison, who is a greenkeeper at Kinghorn Golf Club in Fife. As usual it is hoped that we will get the opportunity to meet him at some of our events in the very near future.
The first golf tournament of the new season was held on May 1 at Kinghorns Golf Links in Fife, when, on a beautiful sunny day, over 80 members enjoyed a day to remember. There were certain things that were there even a couple of Queens in attendance and I mean that in the proper context!) by the staff at Kinghorns and with the course in superb condition everyone could forget the long haul through the wettest summer and savour the courtesy and pampering extended to every visitor to this beautiful links course. Our sincere thanks go to General Manager, Stuart McEwan, Course Manager, Stuart McComb and his staff; the catering staff and the starter who set the pace on their way at the 1st tee with a smile, (that was before they hit the ball), (the hall).

Welcome to this month's column. As I write this report the Elgin out-putters are on fire and they are: Keith Law, from Letham Grange Golf Club. Welcome to the Section lads.

Well, that's all for this month folks. If anyone has any ideas on short courses for education then you can contact me on 01997 420155 as there are courses available this autumn/winter run by BIGGA. We would really like to report this month, so I hope the weather remains decent and your greens run true.

East
Welcome to the East's column.
Well spring is well and truly here I am glad to say and it's the first decent stanza up and running. We have had a number of meetings and we have heard that the weather has been quite nice and we have heard that the course is in quite nice condition. We are pleased to hear that the course is in quite nice condition and we are pleased to hear that the course is in quite nice condition.

The Scottish Championship is at North Linton Golf Club this month and I am sure it will be well worth the visit if anyone can make it down. If any one has any ideas on short courses for education then you can contact me on 01997 420155. We would really like to report this month, so I hope the weather remains decent and your greens run true.

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East
Ayrshire

The Season spring outing was played at Prestwick Cuthbert’s on Thursday April 25. The weather was good so breaking our recent trend of bad weather. Unfortunately it couldn’t tempt many skillets out the cupboards and we had our usual turnout of 32 prize winners. The course was in a good spring condition, prepared by Stephen Fraser and his staff. The beer was in good condition too and the catering staff didn’t let the side down either.

All in all an excellent day was enjoyed and our sincere thanks go to Captain, Tom McCulllford, Secretary, John Rutherford, and the committee of Prestwick St Cuthberts for granting us courtesy of the course and the associated assistance in our day.

The prize winners on the day were as follows: Scratch - Brian Aitken, Turnberry, Category 1. 1. Duncan Gray, The Pines, 36pts; 2. Wallace Mercer, Skelmorlie, 35pts; 3. Alastair Stevenson, Saltire, 34pts; 4. Iain McClymont, Largs,梁杉, 33pts. Nett B. Hughes, 71, Whickham GC; Ass Cup. J. Hood, 72, Linden Hall GC; J. Richardson, 72 nett, Hesham GC; R. Reid, 74, Prudhoe GC; A. Bowes, 74, Prudhoe GC; A. Harrison, 75, Garesfield GC; B. Wilson, 76, Stockfield GC.

Qualifiers for the Northern Regional Final.
10 to 18 A. Bowes, A. Harrison. Reserves. G. Weight, S. Pope, G. Barson
19 to 28 B. Hughes, M. Lowdon. Reserves. A. Parkin, R. White
All the above will be notified in due course and the final will be played at Whitefield GC, Whitefield, Manchester, on Friday, August 9.

More movement in the Section, Steve Quince has been appointed Head Greenkeeper at Parklands; M. Lowdon moved from City of Newcastle to Bedlington; A. Morrison has gone back to Stockfield. C. Elmsie went from Stockfield for the Slaley Hall as a casual for the summer period and David Thompson moved back to Matfen Hall.

Jimmy Richardson

North Wales

Best wishes goes to Elyf Owen, of Royal St David’s GC, on his retirement this month. Elyf, formerly Head greenkeeper at Dolgellau GC, is one of the protégés of great characters, a keen golfer and a passionate songster with the Welsh Male Voice Choir, a pursuit that has taken him all over the world representing and promoting Wales. Elyf would like toJuly to assist in the European Seniors Event at Harlech.

Anyone wishing to go and watch the Seniors the admission is free and the event boasts over a million pounds prize money.

Any news, views or information they want to share with the Section please forward it onto me at 16 Westwood Ave, Eccleshill, Bradford, West Yorks BD2 2NZ. E mail; Dthcarkay@aol.com

Davie Hennan has returned to God’s own county to take up the helm at Wetherby Golf Club. It’s great to have him back and hope to see him real soon.

If anyone has any news and information they wish to share with the section please forward it onto me at the address at the bottom of these notes. See you at Otley!

Happy Greenkeeping

Please contact me on 16 Westwood Ave, Eccleshill, Bradford, West Yorks BD2 2NZ. Tel: 01224 640738. Mob No; 07976876264 E mail; Dthcarkay@aol.com

Dave Thackray

June 2005 Greenkeeper International 37
hard work preparing the course and presenting it so well, and also a big thanks to Darlington Golf Club for allowing us courtesy of the course and for the meals afterwards, they were excellent.


The spring tournament was organised by Barry Walker and Martin Woods, well done lads on another great success. Thanks for your hard work and thanks to the trade for their support also. The Autumn Tournament will be at Bedale Golf Club. Look out for details. Any News contact me on 07719 193381

Steven Jacques

Midland Region

The first John Deere Championship Regional Qualifier in the UK was held at the Chipping Norton Golf Club on April 25, when Turner Groundcare hosted the day for 15 golf clubs. The day was a great success blessed with superb weather, and the scoring reflected the conditions. The home club won the day with an excellent net score of 51, 20 shots under par and 3 shots clear of the next best score. Chipping Norton Golf Club now progress to The De Vere Belfry for the National Final on August 9.

The Midland Region Golf Management Competitions, which were a great success last year, are being held this year at the Hartshourne Country Club; Bushey Heath on August 7 and Beeston Fields Golf Club, Nottingham on August 14.

Invitations have been sent to many golf clubs in the Midland Region. If you are interested in entering a team and have not yet received an invitation please contact Peter Larter, the Regional Administrator, and he will send you one.

Peter Larter

BB&O

Please Section readers - don't forget when you see we have an entry this month! May I introduce myself, David Winterton MG, as the new Secretary for this Section. I hope to be able to do justice to the position, compared to my predecessor, Lindsay Anderson, who has been excellent in this role over the past 10 years. Lindsay has now become Chairman of our committee. Lindsay and I will be bringing you monthly news items to ensure this column comes alive.

The committee also have on board Adrian Cooper who has served well over 10 years, John Scoones and Robert Woodward. We finally have a printed fixture card which arrived too late to be included in the letter you received recently, giving details of this year’s fixtures. This will be sent to all at the end of May. Many thanks go to Alan Wright, at T.H. White, for organising this card and thanks to T.H. White for sponsoring this handy reminder. May I give condolences on behalf of the section to Alan for the loss recently of his father and wish he and his family great strength to recover.

May I welcome some new members to the fold who are about to receive benefits one can only dream of outside our Association. Tony Bates, Three Locks GC; Nathan Bond, Chiltern Forest GC; Michael Farner, Reading GC; Graham Gardner, Tadmarton GC; Peter Goodwin, Billingbear GC; Danny Jones, Birds Hill GC; Roger Tustain, Chipping Norton GC; Matthew Weatherstone, Lambourne GC.

We had our first fixture for this year - The Spring Tournament - held at Stoke Park Golf Club. On site is the erection of a new health & fitness centre. What I did not realise was the extension of the Roman baths & spa pool around the Colt/Alison 18 holes we played on Tuesday, April 30. Most of the 36 field kinda swam the course and to say that a hot shower at the end in its correct enclosure was heavenly itself is an understatement. The course in these conditions is hard to judge but I know I’m correct in saying that Alex Millar and his crew had done us proud and turned out an excellent course for play for which we owe a huge vote of thanks. Alex promises a next time and I for one will make sure I return to play in exquisite surroundings. The day was sponsored by Tacit and Tim was there in person to play and later hand out the prizes. On such a tough day the scores were more than acceptable with first prize going to Alan Wright of Richings Park with 35 points. The rest of the results are as follows: 2. Ian Robbins, Ellersborough GC; 3. Brian Benicz, Harleyford GC; 4. Andy Law - Stoke Park GC.

The team prize went to the Larter team. Yes, you’ve guessed it, Peter graced us with his presence on the day though he might have thought he was sailing! Mark Sugwell, from Rigby Taylor, won the Trade prize, with the pin won by Peter Helps, of Turner Groundcare, and the longest drive won by Ross Wilson, of Panamagia G&CC Hotel. Can I thank all those who participated and were not deterred by the weather? A final note of gratitude to Tacit for their superb prizes and commitment to making it a great day. Let’s hope our next fixture in August is a great improvement from the skies above. It leaves me to wish all our Section members a great start to the summer, one that will be remembered for all the right reasons of course!

David Winterton

Mid Anglia

Our first golf event of the year took place at Ashridge Golf Club in April, over 36 holes. The obvious appeal of the venue generated a good interest, with forty people entering; our best over 36 holes. The obvious appeal of the venue generated a good interest, with forty people entering; our best.


Clive Parnell was the winner of the trade prize.

East Midlands

Not a lot to report on this month. In The Blankley Open on April 22 Alan Roberts and I finished sixth in a Better-Ball Bogey competition, and Steve Levers and I finished with 35pts in The Ramsdale Park Captain’s invitation on April 14. Thanks for the invite, Steve.

Congratulations should go to Jeff Dickinson and Gavin Robson for making The Greenkeeping Support Team at this year’s Open.

This year’s East Midlands v East of England golf match will be hosted by Newark GC on August 22. Tee-Off 3.45pm. Any member who wishes to play in this match should contact me as soon as possible as we only require 10 players. Greenkeeper members only.

This year’s Spring Tournament will be reported on next month, but may I once again remind all members that if you wish to attend any Section event, your entry form and payment must be received before the closing dates.

Antony Bindley
East Of England
The first golf fixture of the season got under way at Louth Golf Club. The course was in good condition, considering the lack of rain for this time of year.

The competition was sponsored by Righty Taylor and Brian Booth and Stuart Jeffs were on hand to present the superb prizes.

First prize went to the New Chairman of our Section, Adrian Kitchinson, Torksey, with 33pts. Robert Welford, Clitherope, was runner-up with 34pts, and Ian Batty, Seaforde, lost out on count-back also with 34pts. The trade prize was won by Stuart Clayton, Mid-Lude, with 32pts. Longest drive went to Russ Moody, Torksey. The Lambs Cup for 32pts. Longest drive went to Russ

East Anglia
Tour BIGGA found its way to Thetford GC and what a lovely day it was. Birds singing, sun shining. Oh to be in England. It’s rained ever since. There was a good turnout, 63 in all and the course was in excellent condition thanks to Paul Gould and his men.

The golf went as follows: 0-10 Category 1. Alan Elliott, 71 (net); 2. Mark Keyseyl, 74; 3. Peter Howard, 74, 11-16 Cat. 1. Ian Willett, 76; 2. Steve Millard, 76; 3. David Chilks, 81, 17-28 Cat. 1. Stephen Crab, 78; 2. Derek Farrington, 78; 3. Kevin Hodges, 80.

Guest and Trade. 1. Joe Payne, 72; 2. Mark Keysell, 74; 3. Peter

Kent
Did you miss me? Sorry about last month’s report but with Easter and everything I totally forgot to write until it was too late to get it in.

What I would have reported on was what a great day out the Gentlemen’s Dinner was this year. Yes, I did win a prize, well three in fact. I came second in the 10-18 categories and got nearest the pin on 17 with a glorious 6-iron that nearly went in. Just to make my day I also picked up a bottle of vodka in the raffle. It was great to see some other guys from Kent there too and, of course, Duncan Kelso won a prize for 3rd in his category 0-6. It is always a pleasure playing Walton Heath and it was nice to see how much work they had been doing throughout the winter with tree removal and heather management. The BBQ at the 11th tee was most appreciated with thanks going to Neil Pullen and his team at Sheriff Crop Care. The bacon roll and beer must have helped me get 18 points on the back 9. The highlight of the day was when the after dinner speaker was late and Derek Farrington stood in for him. I think Derek was much funnier and probably much cheaper too. Once again a well organised day. Derek, thanks.

The golf days for the coming year are now in place with the first being at the fantastic Kings Hill Golf Club on June 18. So I had better pull my finger out and get the place looking good for you lot. Other dates are set after the committee meeting and will be announced next month by which time you should have had your fixture card. I hope all the events are supported this year and we will see some new faces. There have been some great donations from the trade for prizes, etc so I expect there will be some great golf to win them. And don’t worry Duncan’s lesson in cutting to 5 so there might be a chance someone else can win a prize this year.

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Jason Bean.

East Anglia
Tour BIGGA found its way to Thetford GC and what a lovely day it was. Birds singing, sun shining. Oh to be in England. It’s rained ever since. There was a good turnout, 63 in all and the course was in excellent condition thanks to Paul Gould and his men.

The golf went as follows: 0-10 Category 1. Alan Elliott, 71 (net); 2. Mark Keyseyl, 74; 3. Peter Howard, 74, 11-16 Cat. 1. Ian Willett, 76; 2. Steve Millard, 76; 3. David Chilks, 81, 17-28 Cat. 1. Stephen Crab, 78; 2. Derek Farrington, 78; 3. Kevin Hodges, 80.

Guest and Trade. 1. Joe Payne, 72; 2. Mark Keysell, 74; 3. Peter

The 325EF Articulator easily mounts to the latest 30/35hp out-front traction units from John Deere, Textron, Kubota and New Holland.

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DEVON & CORNWALL

The Section's Rigby Taylor Summer Meeting will be held at Trethorne Golf Club on Tuesday, June 18. The meeting will start as usual with golfing members playing a single Stableford from 1.37pm; the non-golfers course walk will result in the clubhouse at approximately 2.30pm. Entry fee for the day will be £10, which includes bacon roll & coffee on arrival with a two-course meal before the prize presentation.

RICHARD WHYMAN

SOUTH COAST

First of all let me apologise for the lack of Section notes last month. There really was nothing to report on so I have made up for it this month. Once again we have been severely tested as greenkeepers these last couple of months. We have had to cope with a long dry cold spell followed by a dry warm spell. As we eagerly watched the weather forecasts in hope of some natural rainfall many of us were in a dilemma regarding swiching on our irrigation systems. Our courses were drying out fast in front of our eyes; surely it couldn't go on forever. Well, prayer mats and rain had taken so much rain the day before, had dried out and Harry Davis and his hardworking team had ensured that we all started on time.

A big thank you to him, and also thanks to Joe Cleere for having the course in tip top condition. A big thank you to him, and also thanks to Joe Cleere.

Talking of Pencoed. They may be running a HNC in golf course management this year so if you're interested contact Paul Disscombe at 01225 333 928. If anybody has any news that they would like to share with the Section please ring me on 07765 080152 and I'll see if we can get it in the next issue of the magazine.

Adrian Panks

Visit www.biggab.org.uk and check out the latest chat from the greenkeeping industry

FOR GREENKEEPERS BY GREENKEEPERS CHAT GREENKEEPERS

40 Greenkeeper International June 2002
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
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A UNIQUE DESIGNER GOLFMING UMBRELLA

This is your chance to win a superb, ProBella, 'soft feel' Designer golfing umbrella in our exciting new Buyers' Guide competition in association with GreenLink International & Blazon 'THE TURFTIME TEASER'.

The first 3 lucky entrants will receive this fantastic data bank calculator.

Entry could not be simpler! Listed below are a series of clues relating to ONE company featured in the ever popular Buyers' Guide. Take care to look through all the products and services shown and write down the name of the company which you think the following clues refer to.

**WHO ARE WE?**

1. This company has plenty of new and secondhand products available for club and home use.
2. The company is based in a South Yorks town but delivers nationwide.
3. You will find four 2's in the telephone number.

Write down your answer on a postcard and send your entries to: Turftime Teaser, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, A1e, York Y061 1UF.

Entries must reach us no later than Friday 14th June 2002. The first correct entry will receive a unique designer golfing umbrella. This competition is not open to BIGGA Staff or non-members. The solution to the May Turftime Teaser was Complete Wred Control. This was correctly answered by: Chris McLern of Hilton Templepatrick Golf Course, Arthim. Our congratulations and a superb quilted jacket are on their way to you!
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Visit www.bigga.org.uk and check out the latest chat from the greenkeeping industry

FOR GREENKEEPERS' BY GREENKEEPERS' CHAT GREENKEEPERS'
Recruitment

Golf Course Supervisor
£16,734 - £18,417 per annum
Ref. RSP624.

1st Assistant Green Keeper/Chargehand
£14,802 - £16,203 per annum
Ref. RSP623.

For the Golf Course Supervisor post you must be able to live in accommodation within Stockwood Park Golf Course. You will undertake all aspects of the management and maintenance of the course in conjunction with the Parks Operations Manager and you must have a driving licence, as you will be driving a tractor. You will be required to make regular and frequent visits and deliveries to sites within the Borough. You will have basic numeracy and literacy skills, demonstrable communication skills, the ability to deal with straightforward enquiries and to give advice to people inside and outside the council.

For the 1st Assistant Green Keeper/Chargehand post you will work in conjunction with the Golf Course supervisor, undertaking the management and maintenance of Stockwood Park Golf Course.

For both posts you must have demonstrable experience of golf course maintenance with due regard to the green keepers codes of practice and ethics as well as experience of maintenance and operation of irrigation systems. You must be able to work with, supervise and motivate a team of green keeper operatives. You will have demonstrable knowledge of pests and diseases and of their treatment and have PA1, PA2, PA6 pesticides spraying certificate. You must also have NVQ Sports Turf qualification or have equivalent experience.

We welcome applications from ethnic minority candidates who are currently under represented in these areas of work. Section 38 (1)(b) RRA 1976 applies.

For an application form and further details please contact the Human Resource Division, Apex House, 30-34 Upper George Street, Luton, LU1 2RD. Telephone (01582) 546621. Answerphone (01582) 547250, MINICOM USERS ONLY (01582) 546296. E-mail: jobs@luton.gov.uk Please quote appropriate reference number.

Closing date: 20.6.2002.

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We operate a guaranteed interview scheme - candidates with a disability, who are judged to meet the essential criteria, will be guaranteed an interview.

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Recruitment

**HAZLEMERE GOLF CLUB**

**First Assistant Greenkeeper**

Require a First Assistant Greenkeeper. The successful candidate must have a minimum of 3 years experience and be reliable and self-motivated with good man-management skills. NVQ level 3 and PA1, 2 & 6 spraying certificates are essential.

No accommodation. Salary negotiable

Apply in writing with full CV to:

Mr Russell Lucas, Hazelmere Golf Club Ltd, Penn Road, High Wycombe, Bucks HP15 7LR

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**STANMORE GOLF CLUB**

**First Assistant Greenkeeper**

The successful applicant will hold relevant qualifications and have experience working with modern golf course machinery.

Salary dependent on experience.

Apply in writing with CV to:

The Secretary, Stanmore Golf Club, 29 Gordon Ave, Stanmore, Middx HA7 2RL

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**THE LONDON GOLF CLUB**

**First Assistant Greenkeeper**

The London Golf Club is one of the premier complexes in Europe with two championship courses designed by Jack Nicklaus and Ron Kirby. Set in 650 acres of the Kent countryside, the Club is situated 25 miles south of London.

Equipped with the latest machinery and one of the most modern maintenance facilities in the industry the successful applicant will experience high standards of greenkeeping. This position presents a great opportunity for the right person to progress in our team of 30. Self-motivation is essential, as well as the ability to communicate effectively and develop good man management skills.

Applicants must have a minimum of three years relevant experience, be qualified to at least NVQ Level 2, with spraying experience and hold PA1, PA2 and PA6 certificates.

If you are hardworking, enjoy the challenge of working to high standards and possess an enthusiastic and professional attitude, please apply in writing with a full CV by July 5th to:

Frances Moore, Personnel Manager, The London Golf Club, South Ash Manor Estate, Ash, Nr. Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 7EN

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**DONNINGTON VALLEY HOTEL* RESTAURANT*GOLF**

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Situated in the Berkshire countryside near Newbury, Donnington Valley Golf Club was redesigned and rebuilt between 1998 and 2000 and is now a challenging 18 hole, 6353 yard, par 71 course and used as a qualifier for the Southern Regional PGA Tournament. Currently with a membership of 560 but rising to 650 members, the course appeals to both experienced golfers & beginners.

As the ideal candidate you will have:

- Experience at Course Manager or Head Greenkeeper level
- Pride & determination to make Donnington, one of the best golf courses in Berkshire
- Excellent communication & leadership skills in order to motivate and develop the team
- An eye for detail and a passion for constantly delivering a quality product, that members & guests alike will identify with

The role is exciting & challenging- the package is all you would expect

Please apply in writing with your C.V. to:

Peter Smith, HR Director, Donnington Valley Golf Club, Snelsmore House, Snelsmore Common, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 3BG

E-mail: petersmith@donningtonvalley.co.uk

Tel: 01635 568 155

Web: www.donningtonvalley.co.uk
McCormick Tractors International Limited is one of the world's leading manufacturers of agricultural machinery, and in little over a year we have had a major impact on the agricultural industry in the UK. As well as sharing in our growth and success we can, as an Investor in People, offer you the training and career opportunities you need to establish yourself at the leading edge of the agricultural machinery market. As we continue to expand our product portfolio and strengthen our dealer and customer base throughout the UK, we are looking to recruit a specialist, dedicated to supporting our range of grounds care products.

As a key player in the sales team, the successful candidate will be tasked initially with developing and implementing a UK-wide sales and distribution strategy for our range of grounds care and specialist equipment and associated products. This will involve working closely with our current distribution partners and, where required, seeking out new dealers with whom we can collectively work to put McCormick at the forefront of the industry in the UK.

To be considered, you will be a highly influential individual, a strong team player and have at least 5 year's sales/product experience within the grounds care industry. A willingness to undertake frequent travel is essential and relocation may be required.

To apply please send your CV to:
Hazel Cameron, Human Resources Manager,
McCormick Tractors International Limited,
Wheatley Hall Road, Doncaster,
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Email: hazel.cameron@mccormick-intl.com

LEE PARK GOLF CLUB LTD

Applications are invited for the following position

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Founded in 1954, this is a well-established parkland course with 600+ private members.

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Salary commensurate with age and experience.

Written applications with a full CV to:

The Greens Chairman, Lee Park Golf Club Ltd,
Childwall Valley Road, Gateacre, Liverpool L27 3YA

Closing date for applications - 26/6/02

SOUTHFIELD GOLF CLUB

Require a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Southfield Golf Club, which is situated in the centre of the prestigious University City Oxford, requires an experienced Head Greenkeeper.

The ideal candidate will be a motivated, enthusiastic team player who is prepared to take the club forward bringing in new ideas and working practices.

The successful applicant must have the following skills.

- At least 3 years experience in a similar position
- Have the ability to prepare and control a course budget
- Possess strong management skills with proven track record
- Have the necessary qualifications for position (Documentation required)
- Have an understanding of all the latest agronomy techniques
- Have strong leadership/communication skills

Accommodation may be available to the right candidate. Salary will be by negotiation. Please apply in writing to:

Nigel Stone, General Manager, Southfield Golf Club,
Hill Top Road, Oxford OX4 1PF

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HUDDERSFIELD GOLF CLUB LTD

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Huddersfield Golf Club is one of Yorkshire's oldest and most prestigious clubs and boasts a championship layout. It currently hosts the Lawrence Batley PGA Seniors Tournament annually and is a regular venue for the Yorkshire Championships and County matches. The Club has decided to further enhance the quality of the course by reconstructing the greens to a modern specification. This work is scheduled to begin later this year and will take several years to complete.

The successful candidate must possess the following qualifications:

- NVQ3 (or equivalent)
- A proven ability to prepare and monitor budgets, inventories, expenditure and work schedules. A sound knowledge of Health & Safety regulations
- A strong hands on approach and working knowledge of all modern golf course management practices, with the ability to motivate and train staff

Please apply in writing stating expectations, enclosing a full CV and the names of two suitable referees to:

The General Manager, Huddersfield Golf Club Ltd,
Fixby Hall, Lightridge Road, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, HD2 2EP

The 2002/3 BIGGA Golf Directory

The BIGGA Golf Directory is the most comprehensive annual guide to the products and services within the turfcare industry. What better way to promote your products and services than by having a company listing all year within the BIGGA Golf Directory.

Published annually, the Directory is a stand-alone publication which provides the industry's buyers with an unrivalled database of contacts from which to make their buying decisions. Easy to use, with over 125 individual product categories, the Directory is proving to be a major resource for buyers as they search for industry contacts. Can you afford NOT to be included?

Entry into the 2002/3 edition starts from just £150 for 4 category listings, with your contact details automatically included in our searchable Online Directory, absolutely FREE of charge! To find out more about the various advertising opportunities available to you and your company, call Cheryl Broomhead on 01347 833800 or send an email to cheryl@bigga.co.uk
Looking to the Future

National Chairman, Richard Barker, had a quiet month by his standards but still took in a series of events up and down the country.

If you will excuse the pun I have come back down to earth with a bump after flying back from Augusta and my feet have been well and truly on the ground in this country for the last few weeks.

The day following from my return I attended the Agricultural Engineers Association Annual Conference and Lunch and this was held at the Savoy Hotel in London with the conference theme on Rural Business and Leisure as influenced by Government thinking with speakers ranging from Sir Donald Curry to Ben Gill, President of the NFG in England and Wales. This was a most informative day and included a magnificent lunch!!

The following week saw the first East Midlands Section Golf Day of 2002 held at the Leicestershire Golf Club. As National Chairman I was very proud to attend my own Section meeting with speakers including 12 trade members, but had to take some ribbing from my close colleagues about the colour of my blazer. I don’t know why!!

The week after saw the first of the new season’s club competitions at Aldwark shortly after the article. Neil’s article in Greenkeeper International last month was well received by all those that attended. As for the golf, well our score was 39 and it wasn’t good enough. Three teams were tied on 57 and congratulations must go to Steve Levers and his team from Ramside Park for coming out top. I wish you all the best at the Belfry and hope to see you in Arizona.

Moving up to another level I went to watch the third day of the Benson and Hedges International Open at the Belfry and from outside the ropes the course looked superb for so early in the season and I believe the scores reflected this with Barry Lane setting a new course record 65. They’ve obviously got off to a cracking start and I hope it continues for Bevan Tattersall and his staff right through to the Ryder Cup.

Now hopefully you all read Neil’s article in last month’s magazine where he made reference to the Futures Sub-Committee. This Committee met at Aldwark shortly after the article. Neil informs me that those attending considered the discussions over the two days to have been extremely productive and there was a high level of informed debate. There is an enthusiasm within the Sub-Committee to contribute towards shaping the Association’s future. The Sub-Committee is likely to meet twice yearly but intends to be active between meetings. To this end three working groups have been set up to consider and report on specific topics. These groups will embrace modern technology particularly through an e-mail list which will enable them to communicate both individually and as a group. I feel certain looking ahead at this Sub-Committee will be of considerable assistance to the Board of Management in taking BIGGA progressively forward in the years ahead.

Finally, I would like to say cheeeerio and a big thank you to David Emery who is leaving after four years with the Association as Design and Production Editor. He is moving on to another local company in a more senior role so hopefully the Association will be able to continue to benefit from his knowledge. All the best David.
Thanks to Sierrablen I needn’t feed my turf again for the season.

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