You can find the answer with the highest quality selective weed control – the micro-emulsion formulations of Bastion'T and Greenor'.

No longer do you have to keep spraying the same patches of weeds, year after year. Their unique weedkilling ability ensures not just the leaves but also the roots are thoroughly controlled, whilst turfgrass safety is second to none.

Which one is best for your weed problem...

- Slender Speedwell
- Common Dandelion
- Creeping Buttercup
- White Clover
- Yellow Suckling Clover
- Broad-Leaved Plantain
- Ribwort Plantain
- Knotgrass
- Daisy
- Common Mouse Ear

Keep your eye on the ball with Bastion T & Greenor
March 2002

Your next issue of Greenkeeper International will be with you by April 8, 2002

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THIS EXCLUSIVE SQUALL JACKET

Don't miss your chance to win this fantastic jacket worth £60 in our exciting new Buyers' Guide competition in association with Allen Power - "THE TURFTIME TEASER"

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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

March 2002 Greenkeeper International 3
Why, oh why, oh why?

There are occasions in the middle of the night when questions pop into my head and refuse to budge until I've given them due consideration. Granted, not all of them have a definitive answer, and some of them don't deserve an answer at all, but they are there nonetheless, nagging away at me and preventing me from returning to the land of nod.

I've decided that the best thing to do is to open them up to you, the readership, so you can share my torment.

Unfortunately there is no prize, but if you do come up with an answer to any of them I'm sure you'll be viewed upon with increased respect by your friends and colleagues while you could set yourself up as an amateur psychologist.

Why does your putting always go when you're nailing your irons?

Why do all BIGGA members work at clubs where the club down the road has the better greens?

Why are there more Championship golf courses than there have been Championships?

Why do so many people assume that other people's job is much easier than they actually are?

Why does time always go faster when you're running late?

As I said I don't expect a stream on answers landing on my desk just the knowledge that you might well be wrestling with the same thoughts as I am now make me feel a little bit better.

Why in the Winter Olympics, do they give fancy names to things like Luge, Skeleton and Bob when we all know that they are just sledding?

If any of you have questions which cause you similar angst perhaps we should get together and start a Self Help Group.

Textron renew agreement with Gleneagles

Textron and their distributor, Scottish Grass Machinery, have signed a new four year agreement with The Gleneagles Hotel to provide a range of turf maintenance equipment to keep the internationally renowned courses in immaculate condition.

As a result of this new agreement, Textron will provide a full range of turf maintenance equipment, light utility vehicles and E-Z-GO golf cars for use on the three championship courses - the King's, the Queen's and the Jack Nicklaus-designed, PGA Centenary course.

Additional support for major tournaments also forms part of the package together with technical and operator training at Textron's Ipswich head office, SG M's Inverkeithing premises or on-site at Gleneagles. Reciprocal arrangements will see the greenkeeping team at Gleneagles trialling and evaluating new products, including the Jacobsen E-Plex II, the all-electric ride-on greens mower.

"I am delighted with this new agreement between Textron, their distributor, Scottish Grass Machinery and ourselves. It provides our Golf Superintendent, Scott Fenwick and his team with a raft of top quality equipment to ensure that the golf courses will continue to remain in superb condition all year long," said Jimmy Kidd, Golf Courses and Estate Director at The Gleneagles Hotel.

"I am equally delighted that Textron and SGM will be actively supporting our greenkeeper training initiative, sponsoring a greenkeeper exchange with a golf club in the USA. Also they will be initiating a 'Greenkeeper of the Year' award open to all greenkeepers that are employed at Textron's exclusive partnership golf clubs in Scotland and continuing their support for GEGAS, the Gleneagles Excellence in Golf Award Scheme, the international training scheme for young greenkeepers from around the globe."

Glynn Patrick, Textron's Sales Director added, "This prestigious contract involves a whole host of equipment from our Cushman, Jacobsen, Ransomes, and Ryan brands including greens mowers, fairway mowers, rotary mowers for semi-rough, aerators, top dressers and turf utility vehicles and the very latest Cashman Diabline, all electric, mid-range utility vehicle."

"It also reconfirms our long-held commitment to training and the subsequent raising of standards in this industry, not just here in the UK, but across the world. It's an ethos that Jimmy Kidd continues to espouse and one that we fully endorse," he added.

Annual Patrons' Lunch a huge success

The Scottish Region held its annual Patrons' Award Dinner in Stirling just before Christmas. A great day was had by all Patron Members and Award winners as well as Section representatives and guests.

The Scottish Region would like to thank all Patrons for everything they do for the Region because if it wasn't for them we wouldn't have our Scottish Conference, have superb prize tables at Section events or the numerous other ways they assist the Region and the Sections in Scotland.

The Patrons' Scheme awards two winners from each Section with a trip to BTME for three days, including accommodation and travel, and a greenkeeping book.

The Patrons' Award winners from 2002 who have already benefited from their prize were Alan Campbell and Ian Aitchison, East; Martin Carey and Colin Black, West; Wallace Mercer and Paul Tulloch, Ayrshire; Kenneth Kinnaid and Robert Hardie, North, and Gordon Mitchell and Stuart Cruickshank, Central.

The dinner was a huge success and the after dinner speaker, Ex-Scottish referee, Brian McGinlay, went down a storm. The speakers who Regional Administrator, Peter Boyd, tracks down just seem to get better and better each year.

Chris Yeaman
St Andrews Links sign up with Toro

St Andrews Links has chosen Toro greens and tees mowers to maintain its six historic courses at the world’s most famous golf complex.

Toro irrigation products have been in use at St Andrews since 1998, with each course now using the fully automated Toro SitePro Central Control System.

Now St Andrews Links Trust has strengthened its relationship with Toro by entering into a five-year preferred supplier agreement for a range of greens and tees mowers.

Links Superintendent Gordon Moir heads a team of 51 staff who maintain Europe’s largest golfing site and the home of golf.

"We put the Toro mowers through an exhaustive evaluation programme alongside other manufacturers during the spring and summer of 2001. The feedback from a large majority of the greens staff was that Toro tees and greens mowers were the best overall, for equality of cut and ease of operation." During the early part of this year, St Andrews has taken delivery of 20 Greensmaster 1000 and 14 Greensmaster 1500 pedestrian mowers, 15 Greensmaster 3230-D ride-on machines and three Reelmaster 3100-D Sidewinders.

As part of the deal, St Andrews Links Trust will receive comprehensive back-up, service and parts supplied by Toro local dealer George Henderson, plus full training for its operators and maintenance staff.

"The greens staff are really looking forward to the arrival of the new mowers and I am confident that working closely with Toro will bring success for both parties," added Gordon.

Training aids supplied

BIGGA and the STRI have joined forces to further the cause of greenkeeper training.

Nigel Weller, winner of the Vitax prize draw conducted at BTME, dearly wanted to spend his BIGGA voucher on the NVQ level 2 theory notes, which are available on CD at £90. As Head Greenkeeper of North Downs Golf Club in Surrey, and a D.32-33 assessor, he has already taken one member of his staff, Paul Varley through the course, and has two more assistant greenkeepers ready to start.

"A new lad joined us last week, which gives us a staff of six, who are all relatively young," he says. "Our policy is to wait a year, see how they do, and then start training them. I’ve got one lad, Ian Cardy who was due to begin last September but has been in hospital. We will start him up from now on and he will be started through the course. My other lad, Stuart White is a 16-year-old who we’ve got to spend the next couple of months with in order to introduce him to the industry before we start him on the NVQ level 2 course this year.

"Obviously this is a great start to the year for us but it hasn’t been an instant success. We’ve won several awards over the last few years including a specialist sub contractor award from BALF, but we went on to be awarded the Rain Bird International Contractor of the year award at the GCSAA Orlando USA earlier this month.

"Obviously this is a great start to the year for us but it hasn’t been an instant success. We’ve won several awards over the last few years including a specialist sub contractor award from BALF, but we went on to be awarded the Rain Bird International Contractor of the year award at the GCSAA Orlando USA earlier this month.

Russell Mellor joins the Swan team

Russell Mellor (centre) has moved to Swan, after 25 years with Kubota.

"After 25 years seeing the Kubota business grow and prosper I am now looking forward to a new challenge at Swan," said Russell. "Ted Mitchell has given me the opportunity to join the Swan team and I am delighted that I will be working with a company that has shown continued growth and service to the market they serve."

Breeding & Evaluation of Turf grasses Technical Conference, May 1-2, Crieffand Hotel, Crieff, Perthshire.

A two day conference providing an opportunity to review current research on amenity grasses and discuss related topics affecting the performance of grasses in the UK and Europe.

Organised by the STRI the conference programme includes a Conference Dinner on the first day with a visit on the second day to STRI in Bingley for a tour of the cultivar trials which are part of the Grass Testing Programme at STRI.

The conference will interest all Turfgrass Breeders and Evaluators, Turf Scientists and other Turf Professionals. A panel of eight speakers will present 10 conference sessions including contributions from Dr Daniel Thongood and Sheena Hughes, Duller Turfgrass Breeders from IGER, Arthur Wolleswinkel, Principal Turfgrass Researcher from ISA Papendal in the Netherlands and Mogens Tøft Jensen, Head of Marketing & Product Management for the DLF Trifolium Group.

The Full Package including accommodation is £205 per delegate. Further details can be obtained from Anne Wilson Tel: 01274 565131

Royal Inverdivot GC... Strip Cartoonist of the Year www.tonyhusband.co.uk

The greens are terrible

The bunkers have hardly any sand in them

The course is in great nick lads!

Posset... worst bunker player in the club

Posset... played well, had a good score

The bookies have hardy any money on them

The bookies are terrible
Communications Director for Wardle

Wardle Consultant Engineers Ltd has expanded its management team with the appointment of Stephen Baker as a director of the company. Steve, 42, joins the team as Communications Director and brings with him over 20 years of marketing experience.

“As we continue to expand I knew there would come a point when we would need to really address some of the fundamentals in this industry and that requires a fresh marketing approach,” said Giles Wardle, Managing Director.

“Out client list has tended to reflect the premium end of the market in the UK and abroad, with clients such as The Gleneagles Hotel, Carnoustie Links, The Turnberry Hotel, Royal Lytham & St. Annes Golf Club and Cherokee Plantation Links, South Carolina.

“This has always given the industry two major misconceptions about Wardle; firstly, that only the top clubs can ‘afford’ to work with consultants and secondly that irrigation consultancy represents an additional cost. We aim to inform the industry at large that most clients of ours actually save money by using us because we ensure true competition between bidding contractors who are all tendering for the same design and specification, drafted by us to meet the unique needs of the site and the client consulting Engineers Ltd,” said Giles.

Ocmis joins the Mansell team

Woodbury Park Golf & Country Club, the 27 hole golfing complex owned by former Formula 1 World Champion, Nigel Mansell, is to undergo a complete irrigation refit during the first half of 2002.

Ocmis Irrigation (UK) Ltd have designed and will install the new greens and twin row fairway irrigation system for the 18 hole championship course and 9 hole acorns course.

Using Rain Bird Eagle Series electric valve in head sprinklers on the green and fairway areas and the Rain Bird Nimbus II map based PC control system with both Freedom radio remote control and Freedom-pad remote control (based on a handheld Compaq iPAQ).

The heart of the system comprises a variable speed pumping station, which will deliver over 22000 gallons of water per hour through 25 kilometres of medium density polyethylene pipeline, which ranges from 315mm to 50mm in size. A majority of the pipe installation will be undertaken by one of a number of large vibratory moleplough machines owned and operated by Ocmis, minimising disruption and scarring.

Expansion set to continue for ETC

ETC has recently moved its location to Tilstone Fearnall in Cheshire to facilitate a further expansion programme.

The new location includes a modern workshop and extensive storage facilities for the wide variety of reconditioned and new grass maintenance machines supplied by ETC.

“The improved facilities will mean better levels of stocking of a wide range of second hand equipment,” said Managing Director, Andy Smith.

He added that ETC is now in its seventh year and has grown steadily year on year.

Matt swaps pucks and whistles for balls and pins

Matt Folka, a golf enthusiast with an added passion for ice hockey, has become Mere Golf & Country Club's newest greenkeeper.

Canadian, Matt was a professional International Ice Hockey referee and has continued his passion for the sport in this country where he is a professional referee for the Ice Hockey Superleague.

Matt will use his 12 years experience in greenkeeping to help maintain Mere Golf & Country Club and will report to Mere's Course Manager, Paul Hyde, and Course Superintendent, Stuart Boyce.

Previously, Matt spent seven years as a fire fighter with Maple Ridge fire department before taking up a greenkeeping position at the prestigious Swan-e-set Bay Golf Club in Vancouver.

He then moved to England 1996 and worked at Hayton and Prescott Golf Course in Merseyside until he was appointed by Mere Golf & Country Club in Cheshire. Continuing his career development, Matt is currently studying for a NVQ Level II qualification in amenities sports turf.
Amazingly, some species of fungus are good for your turf. Mycorrhizal fungi develop a mutually beneficial relationship with turf roots for effective nutrient exchange, and increased resistance to drought, insect pests and disease.

You'll be pleased to hear then, that Rovral Green leaves these 'friendly' fungi completely unharmed.

But Rovral Green is as effective as ever at controlling the harmful species like Fusarium, Red Thread and Dollar Spot.

Rovral Green - it thinks for itself.

Harmless to beneficial fungi - still effective against disease.
R&A look for equipment restrictions

The R&A has written to golf equipment manufacturers seeking their comments on proposed changes to the ball testing procedures, and possible restrictions on clubhead size and club length for clubs other than putters. The R&A is proposing to update the current golf ball test for overall distance by combining the use of an indoor test range and computer technology.

"The underlying principle of the proposal is to test balls efficiently, with modern equipment and in a way which accurately reflects how Tour professionals are hitting the ball today," said David Rickman, Rules Secretary of the R&A.

"As for clubhead size, we are concerned that recent submissions of driver heads for conformance rulings show a significant increase in clubhead size. While these large headed clubs may be 'substantially different from the traditional and customary form and make', there is also the possibility that such clubs may offer undesirable performance benefits," said Davie.

The R&A is also concerned that increases in club lengths might lead to increases in driving distances. It therefore feels it may be appropriate to introduce a maximum length for clubs other than putters.

At present, the R&A is not proposing numerical limits on clubhead size or club length. Instead, it is conducting independent research in these areas and seeking the views of manufacturers on the introduction of finite limits.

Elland Road visit for D&C members

A group of Devon and Cornwall Section members took the opportunity of visiting Elland Road, home of Leeds United on the eve of BTME. The took in the Leeds -Arsenal match on the Sunday and followed it up with a tour round the stadium.

The young ones ...

Last month we said that Richard Barker was the youngest ever National Chairman at 37. Unfortunately we were mistaken. That honour is still held by Roy Kates, the 1992 National Chairman, who was elected to the office at the tender age of 34.

Textron host Dealer Awards at Harrogate

Svenningsens Turcare-Scandinavia, of Kestrup, Denmark and Lindorp, Sweden, has won the Textron Distributor of the Year Award for 2001.

Managing Director Niels Svenningsen and Golf Sales Manager Niels Beem, accepted the silver trophy and commemorative plaque from Glynn Patrick, Textron Golf, Turf and Speciality Products’ Sales Director, and former Olympic silver medallist, Roger Black, at an evening awards ceremony held at The Old Swan Hotel, Harrogate at BTME. Textron dealers from the UK, Eire and Europe attended the ceremony, which recognised business performance in all areas. Scottish Grass Machinery of Inverkeithing, scooped three awards for UK Service Dealer, UK Retailer and UK Sweeper Dealer, while Araz Ltd, of Israel, won two categories, those of Specialty Products Sales and International Industrial Vehicle Distributor.

"This prestigious award recognises outstanding performance in all sectors of the business, including service, parts, sales and marketing. In a year when we have seen major business development across all our UK and continental European distributors, Svenningsens have demonstrated exceptional performance across all areas of their business and tremendous commitment to the Textron franchise. They thoroughly deserve the title of Textron Distributor of the Year," said Peter Bell, Marketing Director.

Niels Svenningsen returned to the podium to receive a special award for Outstanding Service to the Grounds Maintenance Industry recognising his company's 340 years of service in the industry sector, followed soon after by Keith Sutton, from Burrows (GM) Ltd of Preston, Lancs, who collected a similar award as his company celebrated their 50th anniversary in 2001.

Fishwick Hall Golf Club lives up to its name

Fishwick Hall Golf Club, on the River Ribble lived up to its name recently when the greens were more likely to see fish than birds. Course Manager of the Preston club Paul Eddleston, had no complaints when he put up the Course Closed signs as the course disappeared under feet of water bringing back many memories for many who had suffered in a similar fashion last year.

A student's perspective of Harrogate

Phil Shingles, of Cannington College, took 12 students to Harrogate and reports back on what they found.

A visit to Harrogate proves to be a very important part of any students' education while at Cannington College whether they be studying at NVQ level or Higher National Diploma. For many this trip proves to be a valuable and worthwhile insight into our industry that, of course, cannot be simulated in the college environment.

With the depth and breadth of equipment, manufacturers, seminars and ancillary products available for viewing and discussion the experience cannot be beaten, and it's all under one roof!

With the depth and breadth of equipment, manufacturers, seminars and ancillary products available for viewing and discussion the experience cannot be beaten, and it's all under one roof!

For many students this is the first real chance they have to meet and chat with industry professionals, whether they be greenkeepers, Course Managers, agronomists or their sales representatives. It also proves to be an ideal and neutral ground for meeting Course Managers wishing to interview or chat to students about their particular golf course, the possibility of work placements with them and allows all to gain a deeper insight before taking the, what seems at the time, big step.

Students are also encouraged to pick up literature, brochures and flyers that can be used to reinforce future assignments and projects. This year the hospitality of the South West Region, the size and scope of the exhibition, in fact the whole experience, generated some excellent comments from students such as: "Thoroughly enjoyable and a great atmosphere," Martin Slater, First Year HND student, while Alan Pyne, a HNC student, said "I am amazed at how large the industry actually is." From further afield Jose Manual Barbancho Ruiz, a HNC student from Madrid, said, "I found Harrogate 2002 was a very good opportunity for me to understand the trends of the turf industry and I had the chance to meet very experienced professionals," while James Hallett, a HNC student from South Africa said, "Overall a great experience and very educational. It was a good trip."

Of course, comments about the night life around Harrogate remain a memory that is best left unprinted, although amazingly, all managed to make breakfast every morning!
A need for continuity calls for a plan

I have recently read the comments of Duncan McGilvary, and agree entirely with his views. Many greenkeepers I know have become disillusioned with the industry and are leaving, including myself, having moved abroad in 1995 after starting in fine turf in 1983. I have tackled this problem, working closely with Duncan, with education of the members. The root of the problem starts with most Greens Convenors (Chairman of Green) or change of policy, move to golf course, can this happen in some clubs every year.

As a Course Manager, it’s your duty to try and formulate a Course Handling Plan and submit this to the committee. This should encompass all aspects of the course; Greens, Tees, Fairways, Bankers, Woodland etc. Everybody has one don’t they?

I have found that this is the only way in which you can hold continuity on the course in all areas. This way you combat the next power crazy Green Chairman who incidentally hates you because you can run his own pro VI Titleist when you we cutting semi rough four years earlier. Seriously, it begins to bring much more case to decision making on changes on the course, machinery investment and more man power etc, in fact everything which makes our job more difficult. It also eliminates personal clashes which inevitably leads to the greenkeeper being dismissed and rarely the Green Chairman.

There are those who say a little knowledge is dangerous, however, we have been so successful with this method that in association with the Danish Golf Union we operate courses in all aspects of greenkeeping, so our employers better understand how complex our job can be. We also try to teach them that it’s fine to expect a certain standard but this must be realistically related to our budget. You can’t expect to pay for Shadecover Pay and Play and expect Augusta.

Have you done your plan yet? And not just for in the morning, or even the next two years but for the long term future of the course if not it’s fair to ask. Should we lead or Should we be led? Inspiration starts here!

Chris Haspell, DGU Denmark

Bernhard and BIGGA Thanks

I write primarily to thank you for enabling our organisation to produce an educational visits through which, several greenkeepers were given the chance of a lifetime to visit another country to compare and exchange views within our chosen field.

It proved to be a sensational experience I will be with me for many years to come. Our group met so many interesting fellow greenkeepers it kept the mind occupied at all times.

I must have been asleep on her feet for what an exciting new Buyers’ Guide competition in association with Allen Power, "THE TURFTIME TEASER"

Don’t miss your chance to win this fantastic jacket worth £60 in our exciting new Buyers’ Guide competition in association with Allen Power

"THE TURFTIME TEASER"

Win!

We are not going to give you any more information about the competition other than that it runs from March 1st to April 1st.

Winners will be announced in the May edition of Greenkeeper International.

Managers are not getting the respect they deserve

I had been in greenkeeping for 16 years and did enjoy the work very much. I decided at the end of 2001 to leave the game due to some overwhelming factors.

As the years went by I gained a fairly good insight of the running of a golf club, as far as the committee and junior club officials are concerned. I had been a First Assistant since 1987 and felt that I had played a fairly key part in the upkeep of the course, I did not consider myself to be just an ordinary First Assistant as a lot of the rules I played over the years where certainly more than that! But I shall not go into details. I did everything that was asked of me and that includes getting as well qualified as I possibly could. This includes: phase 2 & 4 City and Guilds with a double distinction, NVQ level 3, pa 1.2 & 6, first aid and a few other related qualifications.

One would think that this plus years of experience would equate to a equally respectful wage packet. Well this was not the case for me at least. I am sure there are others out there in the same position. All one hears as an excuse is "You should move on to get better money and more responsibilities". Well I say phooey to this.

There are only so many jobs out there for Course and Deputy Managers. Golf clubs very rarely promote from within, quite why I really don’t understand. Who else is better qualified than a person who has all the qualifications and knows the club inside out. Surely it is the way forward to promote your own staff. When the time comes they will move on having gained real experience as a manager, and if all were in the same boat then it stands to reason that when a manager moves on, selection would be far simpler for clubs when appointing a new one, I don’t think I have to spell out why this is the case.

But this apart, I honestly believe that managers are not getting the respect they deserve or are financially rewarded enough. Golf clubs, in the most part, do not appreciate the stress and difficulties involved in the day to day running of a course. Committee’s always seem to know best it seems, well at least they think they do! How on earth can a club keep any sort of continuity when on an annual basis the committee and captaincy changes. Every year the poor old Course Manager gets barraged with the latest opinions and great new ideas from a body people who all have their own ideals of which 99% is purely because they feel they have to “contribute”, and now they are in a position of authority, feel they must be right.

The Course Manager has a policy and that is to maintain the course and manage the staff to his or her best ability. To do this they must be left to their own devices as much as is practical. There are a lot of excellent greenkeepers out there and if clubs want to have great courses then there needs to be an appreciation that the course maintenance crew are essential and must be treated so.

On a final note, I believe that the way things seem to be going, more people will be leaving the trade.

Barney Wright

March 2002 Greenkeeper International 9
This month Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson, highlights the Spring range of BIGGA Training Courses and launches Key Skills Corner

Education and Training update

The spring range of BIGGA Training Courses is underway with several courses already completed. I am writing this article in my hotel room after overtime), which will be followed by similar courses at Berkhampstead and in Aberdeen. We are also running courses on Health and Safety, Chain Saw Operating Skills, Abrasive Wheels Safe Use, Budgets and Finance, Essential Management Skills, Further Management Skills and Communication Skills. All courses are offered at a minimal cost of £30 for one day of training and £60 for two days thanks to contributors to the BIGGA Education and Development Fund. If the course that you want is not being presented in your Region or Section then ask your Section Secretary to contact either Sami or myself with your ideas. We can run courses with a maximum of 4 delegates for Chainsaw Operator and a minimum of 6 delegates for all other courses.

One of the favorite subjects on the Basic Computer Skills courses is how to use the spell and grammar checkers in word processing and the lack of such help on e-mail, Internet and bulletin boards.

If you want to ensure that your e-mail message is spelt correctly and written grammatically, then use your word processor package to help.

For example, in Microsoft Word, Open a blank document and compose your e-mail. When you have completed your e-mail, carry out a spelling and a grammar check. Select the complete text and use Cut to remove text to paste board. Open e-mail and paste document into New mail.

Alternatively, just write ‘please see attachment’ in e-mail and Attach file containing text.

The Cut and Paste procedure can be used in the BIGGA member’s bulletin Board.

If you’ve got an email account why not send an email to the education department, where we 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 either:

education@bigga.co.uk  ken@bigga.co.uk  sami@bigga.co.uk

OnCourse

The powerful organiser keeping 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.

Key Skills Corner

A major part of NVQs, especially for under 25-year-olds, are Key Skills in: Information Technology (IT); Numeracy (Counting) and Literacy (Reading and Writing). Therefore, I thought that it would be useful to highlight some of the rules to be used in written English.

Capital Letters

Use capital letters at the beginning of a sentence, eg. The cat sat on the mat. In abbreviations, eg. BIGGA. As the first letter in Proper Nouns eg York, Richardson, Ken, the word I, months eg. England, days and months eg March, Monday:

Here is a test for you to try.

Answer next month.

Welcome to Bigga house, today is Tuesday, the 3rd of March, the next public holiday in England, will be Easter.

Hint. Using Microsoft Word with cut and paste board.

For more detailed information and a free demonstration CD, please contact:

ken@bigga.co.uk 01347 833800

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Today, the sports industry is one of the fastest growing industries. It is essential that surfaces on which sports are played remain in outstanding condition. Our flexible training programme addresses the business and technical skills required to achieve the high quality sports facilities of tomorrow:

- Our ten, two week short courses are available individually and provide training in specific areas such as “Sports Surface Playability”, “Mechanisation for Sports Surfaces” or “Irrigation and Drainage.”
- Successfully complete all ten, together with a research project which can be carried out at your own sports venue and you will be awarded an MSc in Sports Surface Technology. You can take up to five years to complete the course.
- Our MSc in Sports Surface Technology is also available as a one-year full-time course. Apply now for entry in October 2002.

Endorsed by The Institute of Groundsmanship and supported by top national and international sporting organisations, this qualification will enhance your future career and salary prospects.

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www.silsoe.cranfield.ac.uk

How to stop the grass growing from under your feet

Longhand account.
Trinexapac-ethyl is the active ingredient in Shortcut that works by redirecting plant growth. It specifically targets the gibberellic acid site responsible for cell elongation in grass. Not only does Shortcut inhibit vertical growth but actually diverts plant growth downward into the root system to produce increased food reserves and lateral stem development. This in turn produces a thicker, healthier sward that better equips your turf to withstand temperature extremes, moisture loss, traffic and wear and even helps in the management of Poa annua. American research has also established that Shortcut can enhance the performance of a fungicide when jointly applied and has no adverse effect on seedling development.

Shortcut version.
A unique turf management tool that can reduce mowing frequency and grass clippings by half, improves turf colour and helps manage annual meadow grass.

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The future's bright, the future's Orange

The new orange coloured Greenkeeper Membership form is now in circulation. It includes the 2002 membership subscription prices and details regarding sending a copy of your membership number on the reverse - Section 6 Membership Introduction. You could win one of our ‘all-in-one' clock/calculator/calendar and alarm.

You've got m@!!

If you've got an email account why not send an email to membership@bigga.co.uk to discuss the possibility of receiving a membership newsletter for free. We can then keep you up to date with membership news and events as they happen. Send an email to: membership@bigga.co.uk

Our new greenkeepers are the future! Help increase membership of your Association by introducing a colleague. They could soon be benefiting from many section, regional and national educational courses available and at subsidised prices, the legal helpline, personal accident insurance, naming but a few of the many benefits and services available to greengrass makers of BIGGA.

Membership

MARCH 1992

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

The month this is given over to an infamous trip to the BTME in Harrogate and the obstacles to getting there. Gordon Child takes up the story...

Arctic Expedition'

On the clear frosty morning of January 21st, our coach arrived promptly at 9:00am to begin our 'journey into the unknown'. It seemed well at the first pick-up point - Exeter Golf and Country Club - and with half our party on board we proceeded to the MS. Flashing lights soon revealed that our boot door had flown open and a few miles and a few more flashing lights later we also discovered the loss of an excessive amount of water. It was decided to proceed to junction 24 for our lane-ranger (waiting in a lay-by) and we just made it! Then the coach stubbornly refused to move and after some pondering it was decided to withdraw to the nearest pub and communicate the problem to those waiting 'up the line'. The coach stubbornly refused to move and after some pondering it was decided to withdraw to the nearest pub and communicate the problem to those waiting 'up the line'. After a 150 minute delay both a second coach and a minibus were arranged and we continued our great adventure. A few miles further and it became painfully obvious that no heating was included in the package deal. Temperatures were falling and there was danger of hypothermia, so no one was allowed to sleep. Great initiative was shown by the Board of Management member who turned his cap inside out and proceeded to keep the windscreen clear for the driver. Finally arriving at our destination - some three hours later - those able-bodied members of the group still prepared to leave at 12.30pm. Once again it was not to be, for our coach seemed to prefer Harrogate and after two hours delay a new coach was boarded - leaving the first vehicle to rest in peace. This proved to be the end of our tribulations, everyone wished to communicate the problem to those waiting 'up the line'. After some pondering it was decided to withdraw to the nearest pub and continue the journey home. The final day proved no less exciting with a warmer journey home anticipated. Saying our farewells we prepared to leave at 12.30pm. Once again it was not to be, for our coach seemed to prefer Harrogate and after two hours delay a new coach was boarded - leaving the first vehicle to rest in peace. This proved to be the best decision made all week and a warm and comfortable journey was achieved at last, even prompting an outburst of song. Despite the trials and tribulations, everyone wished to take up the challenge next year.

Membership

March's Monthly Membership Draw Winner

Just introduce one or more new greengrass makers 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 March's winner, Bruce Cruickshank of Rothburge Hotel & GC.

BINGA has almost 300 international members situated throughout the world in as many as 31 different countries. This month we would like to welcome our members from the bordering countries of France and Spain.

France

David Abercrombie, Alasce Golf Club
Richard Barnes, Kikuoka Country Club
Peter Bird, Saint Jean Co
Guillaume Cudic, Golf National
Yves Kerambrun, Rain Bird France
Daniel Lodrini, Rain Bird Europe S.A.R.L.
Stephan Okula, Golf De Joyenval
Katrin Pelanchon, Rain Bird Europe S.A.R.L.
Leong Wilson, Golf De Coiroux
Francois Pujol, Golf De Saint Cloud
John Stevenson, Golf De Joyena
Robert Wood, Golf De Coiron

International welcome

Spain

Jose Manuel Barcacho Ruiz, Student Member
Jose Brey, Melia San Petri Golf Club
Vicente Coll Pons, Golf Son Saura S.A.
Enrique Diaz Cortes, Real Sociedad Hipica De Golf
Ray Mackay, Marriott Son Antem
Stephen McMahon, Club De Campo Joven Nunez
Javier Ortiz Patino, Valderrama Golf Club
Jaime Rivera, Rain Bird UK/Ireland
Peter Stander, Golf De Andraxt S 4

Student Members

Nicholas Casson, N West
Dale Firth, N West
Edward Green, Northern
Stephen Andrews, Midland
Jonathan Taylor, Midland
Paul Cuff, Kent
Paul Deny, London
Matthew Seymour, E Anglia
Adrian Curtis, S Coast
Elizabeth Crispe, Rep of Ireland
Joe Manuel Bartolome Ruiz, Spain

Silver Key Co Members

Santo Tomas, E Anglia
Vicente Coll Pons, Golf Son Saura S.A.
Fernando Brunet, Golf De Andraxt S A
Peter Standen, Golf De Andraxt S A

International Professional Products

Victor Lopez
Jasmin List
Auston Sutton
Mark Zajac

Associate Members

Andrew Allan, North
Edward Searle, N West
Faser Hallingwell, Northern
Peter Lawrence, N West
Andrew Murray, N East
Dee Conforti, Kent
Paul Taylor, Northern
Alan White, Northern
Eddie Butlock, BB&O
Glenn Butcher, Midland

Vicente Coll Pons, Golf Son Saura S.A.
Peter Standen, Golf De Andraxt S A

Don't miss the April edition of Greenkeeper International for all the new members from February 2002.

This month, Tracey Maddison from BIGGA's Membership Services Department, would like welcome almost 140 new members to the Association and update you on the new Greenkeeper Membership Application Form ...

Scoops

David Button, Surrey
Richard Robinson, Surrey
Robert Mills, London
Paul Enfield, Essex
Bradley Sim, London
Anthony Moore, Dev & C.Wall
Alan Pyne, Dev & C.Wall
David Thayre, Surrey
Steven Thompson, Midland
Andrew Taylor, Surrey

Scoops

Tommy Howard, Surrey
Gary Smith, Surrey
Richard Robinson, Surrey
Robert Mills, London
Paul Enfield, Essex
Bradley Sim, London
Anthony Moore, Dev & C.Wall
Alan Pyne, Dev & C.Wall
David Thayre, Surrey
Steven Thompson, Midland
Andrew Taylor, Surrey
WIN A SUPERB GOLFING BREAK

Here's your chance to win a superb break at one of the finest hotel chains in the country. It is a Golf Break for two at one of the De Vere Golf Hotels and consists of two nights bed, breakfast and table d'hôte dinner for two adults sharing a standard twin/double room, plus one round of golf for two persons. It may be taken any time before June 30, 2002, subject to availability and excluding Bank Holiday periods and The Brabazon Course at The De Vere Belfry.

To whom did Jack Nicklaus lose in the famous head-to-head Open Championship at Turnberry in 1977?

a. Gary Player
b. Tom Watson
c. Bob Charles

t. Tony Jacklin won The Open Championship in which year? Was it ...
   a. 1971
   b. 1967
c. 1969

t. Which year did Bobby Jones complete the Grand Slam of US Open Championship, US Amateur Championship and British Amateur?
   a. 1930
   b. 1927
c. 1933

The closing date for entries to this competition will be Friday, March 22, 2002. You can send your answers on a postcard to De Vere Competition, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Aine York Y061 1UF or by fax on 01347 833801 and by email to reception@bigga.co.uk. Remember to put your name and address on your entry.

The winner will be selected by draw from those correct entries received by the above date and notified thereafter. BIGGA staff and non-members are not eligible to enter, and the successful entrant must be a fully paid up member.
Government legislation, likely to become law in the near future, will see the end of unlimited abstraction licences. How will this affect you?

**Losing the right to IRRIGATE**

Abstraction licenses for all bore holes are soon likely to be issued on a renewable basis rather than indefinitely while those applying for licences or licence renewals will be required to present a case justifying their need for such a licence.

This was one of the main topics which came out of a recent UK Irrigation Association Seminar held in The London Club, under the title “Losing the right to irrigate.”

Information on the proposed new Government legislation was given to the assembled irrigators, by Gwyn Williams, Water Resources Regulation Policy Manager for the Environment Agency.

Gwyn explained that following the droughts of the 1990s the Government had reviewed the arrangements for controlling abstraction of water and the publication of “Taking Water Responsibly” in March 99.

Changes for the licensing system including the introduction of regional Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies (CAMS) where local officers will assess the water needs of the area together with the availability of water and produce a plan to ensure that the two are not too far apart.

“We wish to move away from the rights of abstractors to the responsibilities of abstractors,” said Gwyn, who urged delegates to become involved in the CAMS process wherever possible.

While explaining that abstraction licences would become renewable he did stress that it was not something about which to be overly concerned.

“The normal renewable period will be 12 years but six years notice will be given should a licence not be renewed for environmental reasons while there will be a reasonable assumption that licences would be renewed provided certain conditions are satisfied,” he explained.

He urged irrigators to examine their abstraction needs carefully so that a strong case could be built to take to the CAMS officer.

Earlier Nigel Hepworth, Regional Water Resource Planner for the Environment Agency in the Southern Region, had highlighted the extent of the problem in general terms and specifically in his area, and he admitted that there was over licensing of water at the moment.

He showed a map which, in simple terms, identified that there was available water in the north of the country all year round; that some areas had problems in the summer and that some including the Kent area, had year round problems, with over licensing or over abstraction.

An action plan has been put in place to improve this situation over the next 15 years using CAMS.

Later Dr Jerry Knox, a Research Scientist at the Institute of Water and Environment at Cranfield University, described the work he was doing to develop a framework for assessing reasonable need.

The methodology developed involves taking into account spatial variations in soil type, land use, typical irrigation practices and local agroclimate. The result produces a relatively simple yet scientific and rational approach for allocating water between irrigators.
"Because the methodology is transparent to applicants as well as the Environment Agency staff the needs can be assessed and agreed at an early stage in any application," said Jerry, who emphasised that the framework had been drawn up with agriculture in mind but that it would also be introduced to the sports turf, and golf, industries as well.

He was keen to begin discussions with the golf industry so that the necessary criteria could be put in place for any calculations.

The bulk of the audience comprised those involved in agriculture but there were also several delegates representing golf, including Paul Todd, Superintendent of The London Club, as well as others from irrigation companies, consultancies and colleges.

The general feeling during the Seminar and among the delegates was that golf was fairly advanced in its use of irrigation water - The London Club itself was held up as an example of somewhere which collects and stores rain water in the winter to use as an irrigation supply in the summer.

Earlier in the day David Winn, Training and Education Manager for the IOG, described how the sports turf industry had progressed in its use of irrigation in recent years.

He explained that the IOG had been working with the Football Association for the last 18 months and the Lawn Tennis Association for the past 12 and that more consideration was being given to the reason stadia are built in the first place - the pitch. In the past the pitch was the last thing to be considered when a new stadium was built.

He also recalled how groundsmen were sometimes told by the football team manager to flood the pitch to negate a visiting team's strengths or force a postponement to allow injured players additional time to recover.

He admitted that often amounts of irrigation were decided by how much had been given in the past rather than any more objective approach.

He told delegates that technology was now available to map sports pitches and race tracks to show the different make ups of the soil structure which could be within them so that different regimes may be undertaken of specific areas to ultimately provide better continuity of surface.

"With so many different types of soil on some race courses the 'going' is going to be different depending upon the area inspected," said David, who also made a pertinent point when it came to the public's desire to look after the environment.

"A bottle bank or a car wash. Where's the queue?" he quizzed.

Michael Martin, of York and Martin, highlighted the need for appropriate sprinkler selection, spacing and positioning together with the need for good pipe systems, pumping plants and control systems.

He also cautioned against the use of weather stations other than their ability to record data.

Summing up the day Keith Weatherhead, Senior Lecturer, at the Institute of Water and Environment at Cranfield University, said that water was a valuable resource for serious irrigators and that it was going to become more valuable.

"Water is scare and is going to become scarcer as the climate continues to change and irrigation needs increase but we know that water could be used more effectively."

He said that we would have to take every opportunity to get more water through winter collection; filling up the reservoirs in times of flood using powerful pumps and, as The London Club does, rain water harvesting.

He also said we had to guard against "wet year apathy", accept that water shortage would continue to be a problem and urged people to work in groups and participate in the consultation programmes to ensure the best possible use of the available water. 

The Seminar was organised by the UKIA. Anyone seeking more information about the Association should contact Melvyn Kay, UKIA Executive Secretary, 5 Lee Road, Ampthill, Bedford, MK45 9PR Tel: 01525 635127 Email: m.kay@ukia.org
Mention Cornish Golf and St Enodoc will be at the top of the list - well Stuart Dymond, the Head Greenkeeper, thinks so, and probably so do the members of this most scenic of links courses.

The mammoth Himalayas bunker receives its facelift

Historically this James Braid designed course remains little changed from those halcyon days of gutty balls, hickory shafts and plus-fours. A game in those days that was played by the gentlefolk of Rock. How proud James Braid would have been to know that his 6th hole on the beautiful Church Course would become its most renowned. The towering 90 foot bunker fondly known as the Himalayas has thwarted many a golfer who has tried in vain and at huge cost to pride and their golf score, to take liberties with this colossus. A hole to be attacked by the very best and the strongest who only use their head.

Over many years golfers have been seen tramping up its face to retrieve their ball in resignation and despair. Sadly however over the last few years the ravages of golfers and many heavy feet, along with the out lazy' winds that whip up a sand storm at the drop of a baseball hat, have eventually changed the face of this wonderful hazard. To such an extent that without drastic action St Enodoc was in danger of losing their treasured landmark.

It was decided that it had now gone beyond temporary measures already carried out and something more permanent had to be done. Structural engineers were appointed to look at the project and their plans came back at huge costs and a daunting plan. Stuart Dymond had other ideas which would involve a swing shovel, railway sleepers and a huge amount of muscle and hard graft. Stuart never have anything to put him off preserving his precious golf course went to the committee with his ideas finally in the backing of the Greens Chairman and Club Captain his ideas and plans were set in motion.

Firstly something had to give a foundation to work from up under the high banks to hold in the turf and soil that would eventually give back the shape to the hazard. This major task was achieved by placing and staking railway sleepers under the bank to form a platform to build the banks. This is were the muscle power and hard work came in. Stuart and his team of hardy greenkeepers toiled painstakingly to heave by hand these sleepers in place creating the shape that was desired. Then another artist in the form of John Oliver Plant Hire, with John himself performing almost balletic skills with this huge piece of machinery, sometimes in the most precarious of positions which were enough to send shivers down the back of the most hardened greenkeepers. John managed miraculously and skillfully to place the earth and turf above these sleepers burying them out of sight. The whole surrounding area was laid by hand with indigenous turf cut from the course. Here again Stuart's Team came to the fore with hard back breaking work to lay and net it all down with 400 square metres of turf.

How long did this take one month two weeks not on your life when Stuart's gang get going there's no stopping them. One week: saw the job pretty complete!

The proof of the pudding they say is in the eating or viewing as the case may be. NO GOLFERS ALLOWED - just for a little while anyway.

Hope you approve Mr Braid.

Stuart Dymond with John Oliver

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The proof of the pudding they say is in the eating or viewing as the case may be. With just one very large proviso to ALL that it is, ONLY looking for the time being because - NO GOLFERS ALLOWED - just for a little while anyway.

Hope you approve Mr Braid.
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Don't use guess work - use Rufford
Andy Sadler describes the stringent procedures that should be implemented to ensure greenkeepers receive the best quality seed mixtures possible

SEEDS OF SUCCESS

A turf manager might have all the skilled labour, specialist equipment and modern turf chemicals imaginable, but if the sward he starts off with is not of high enough quality he could well be fighting a losing battle. The grass seed used is the component, and the importance of choosing a product with the highest quality cannot be underestimated.

The production, certification and marketing of seed are governed by The Fodder Plant Seeds Regulations 1993. Basically, this places the seed producer under an obligation to ensure varietal purity, freedom from noxious weeds, the satisfaction of a minimum quality standard, and uniformity of marketing. Obviously, a quality-conscious company has to select competent growers who use suitable fields, and must implement controls throughout all aspects of the production process, such as monitoring the growing crop, checking the harvesting, drying and cleaning of seed, and determining its purity and germination level. Only if the required standards are met can a Certificate of Purity and Germination be issued.

The second stage of the zero zero process begins when seed is mixed at our specialised mixing plant, in strict quality control. The production process, so that if any areas of concern arise, they could be checked back to source.

Under the rules and regulations governing seed production and marketing, all mixtures offered for sale have to carry a green, official mixture label from DEFRA, describing the seed species, varieties and mixture details. The information printed on the label is mandatory, and refers to the identity of the seed species used in the mixture, the variety names, their percentage by weight, the month and year of production and other basic details.

In summary, all those involved in the challenging task of creating a top-quality playing surface need as much information as possible, and they appreciate the need for the highest quality standards throughout. If greenkeepers and groundsmen can confidently select seed that meets or exceeds these criteria, then they will have the best chance of success. And so will the players who perform on the results of their efforts!
For those that know!

GREENS MM 9
- Overseeding greens
- Very tolerant of close mowing
- Improves the quality of the playing surface by establishing vigorous new plants
- Range of varieties enhances all year round performance of the greens
- 100% Browntop Bent

GREENS MM 11
- Traditional 80:20 greens mixture
- Tolerant of close mowing
- High shoot density
- Good playing quality
- 80% Chewings 20% Browntop Bent

GREENS & TEES MM 10
- Variation of the traditional 80:20 mixture
- Tolerant to close mowing
- Dense close knit turf
- Top rated cultivars
- Good wear characteristics
- Good disease resistance
- 30% Chewings 50% Slender Creeping Red Fescue 20% Browntop Bent

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A dictionary defines the word "utility" as something useful or designed for use. The vehicles that fall into this category certainly come under this description as many readers have already discovered. The modern offerings have come a long way since those early days, when some manufacturers and greenkeepers had the foresight to recognise the benefits such an animal had to offer. Roland Taylor reports...
The early models were primarily a platform on wheels, with a couple of seats, powered by an engine. Some early ones had three wheel configurations that were found in use to be unstable. Once this became evident, a fourth wheel was added. Initially, their main role was to transport materials and people, but gradually attachments were added that increased the vehicle's versatility.

With the addition of power takeoffs and linkage systems, it has become an easy-to-connect source for a host of turf-care equipment and in many cases the transport side is now secondary.

Another benefit that is claimed, is that this type of unit has an even weight distribution and low ground pressure, important factors in the fight to control compaction. Some manufacturers' literature reflects this with claims that their utility vehicles can be used on sensitive areas, such as greens.

So, where does the utility vehicle fit into the scheme of things as far as a golf course is concerned? Does it replace the tractor and trailer? On paper the answer is probably yes, but in practice it is not so cut and dried.

Certainly, they are said to be able to go on fine turf and in places where it would be imprudent to take a tractor, especially if the ground conditions are soft. They may also provide a power source for most of the regular jobs a conventional tractor would undertake. Obviously for heavy operations, such as a verti-draining they are not in the running.

While a utility vehicle might look an attractive proposition, the sticking point could be that there is not only the investment in a vehicle, but also the possibility of extra costs for attachments to fit on it. A solution in this case would be to start with the basic transport unit, then add the extras when funds become available.

Trawling through the utility vehicle literature it becomes clear that there are plenty of choices, so when considering this type of machinery the areas and the tasks it is going to be used for need to be fully taken into account.

Weight and carrying capacity are key factors. Another feature to be on the look out for is the ground pressure rating when fully loaded and with an operator on board. This does not appear in all the literature, so some detective work may be needed.

When it comes to power sources there is a choice of petrol, diesel, LPG or electric. The transmission is either a continuous variable or syncromesh system and there are two and four wheel drives versions depending on the particular make. A differential lock is fitted as standard on a major-
ity of models. Power steering is a not always a feature so this could have a bearing on the units handling, turning circle and its manoeuvrability. It is something worth checking out.

As the vehicle is likely to be used for long periods, operator comfort is another aspect that requires looking at in detail. Even if only travelling from A to B the ride wants to be comfortable, especially over rough ground. While manufacturers might expound the virtues of their particular suspension system, it can only be gauged from experience. The answer is to arrange a demonstration, climb aboard and test it for yourself.

Noise levels are now increasingly under the spotlight both from an operator’s point of view and the public. These are generally shown in leaflets, so a companion of different makes and models is easy to make. Another specification to look out for is the ground clearances, especially if a course has a lot of undulating terrain.

At some stage there is the likelihood that a unit will be required to tow a piece of equipment, so its towing capabilities and capacity and is relevant. Depending on what the utility is being initially bought for will largely govern the importance of its overall versatility. Where a vehicle is to be used mainly for transporting smallish items such as pedestrian mowers, top dressing, fertiliser and hand tools, then the dimensions and carrying capacity of the cargo box are a priority. Cargo beds are in all shapes and sizes with the options of full, two thirds and one third, with side or without configurations.

On some models the list of optional attachments is long, plus there are now a number of companies offering trailed and specially designed attachments. These include sprayers, spreaders, top dressers and other turf care equipment.

Apart from using a utility vehicle for course work, it could also be converted to a mobile repair unit by the addition of a portable generator, compressor, welder and toolbox. Should a breakdown occur out on the course, the service technician, plus all his kit, would be on site in a few minutes. One of the smaller models would be ideal for this purpose.

Utility plus

Another piece of equipment that comes under the “utility” heading is the loader or skidster. A number of these types of machine are now available in the UK. There are four-wheeled units, which have a platform at the rear for the operator to stand. Because of their compactness they are said to be ideal for working in very confined areas and the drive system to the wheels allows you to spin turn, which makes them highly manoeuvrable. Also available are slightly larger loaders that have a driving seat. Some models in this category articulate in the middle, a feature it is claimed that provides tight turning without leaving tracks or damaging the turf.

The basic power units generally have 4-wheel hydrostatic drive as standard. On some makes there is a 2 pump hydraulic system, one for wheels and the other to drive or lift the attachments. Other companies offer an auxiliary circuit as an option. This is in the form of a flow divider valve, which enables the operator to

CONQUEROR MKII

The Allett Conqueror combines impressive work rate, total stability on banks and the ability to cut long grass cleanly, even in wet conditions

- Hydrostatic transmission
- Wide wheel base and ATV type rear tyres gives great traction and stability
- 16HP twin cylinder engine
- 7” diameter, heavy duty cutting cylinders

AZTEC

The Allett Aztec is a superb pedestrian cylinder mower ideal for maintaining golf greens. A range of fully floating hydraulic attachments are available in both 20” and 24” widths

- 6 or 10 bladed cylinders with or without Groomer
- Scarifier, Verticut or Brush units available
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LIVE LIFE ON THE EDGE

When it comes to staying the course, you can bank on the Allen National range keeping you on the straight and narrow. The Allen National range of triple mowers – 6B, 6BDL & 84 – are the only real choice for the professionals on the tees and surrounds. And as for bunkers, they’re no longer a hazard.

The 66DL has transport speed, electric start and full width rollers. Banking has never been so easy.
VAN
FOR ALL SEASONS

increase or decrease the oil flow to the attachment, or the wheel drives. Petrol or diesel engine versions are available.

A big feature of all these multi-purpose machines is the speed at which one person can fit or remove an attachment. It usually means connecting or disconnecting hydraulic hoses and fitting or removing two locking pins, and the unit is ready; some manufacturers claim this takes less than a minute.

A look at some of the operations that a loader or skidster could be used for on a course illustrates the versatility of these units.

Ditches, ponds or bunkers
A backhoe is ideal for clearing out ditches and ponds, or even digging new bunkers. They are compact enough to get in the tightest of spots and are said to be capable of moving a lot of soil in a short period of time. Various bucket widths are available.

Landscaping
For making new seedbeds there are soil cultivators. These will, it is claimed, in one pass grade bury stones and any other debris. Other attachments for landscape work include, grading rakes, scraper blades and levellers. An earth auger takes all the hard work out and speeds up creating the holes for tree planting.

Fencing
By using a loader or skidster with minimal labour, fencing becomes a highly efficient and cost effective operation. Most companies offer a choice of earth auger drills for producing various depths and diameters of holes. In addition, some manufacturers have a cement mixer attachment. This means fence posts can be erected and set in concrete immediately without the necessity of having to bring in additional plant.

Drainage and irrigation
Providing trenches for irrigation insulation, electrical cable or small drainage pipes, is said to be fast and easy with a trenching attachment. At least one manufacturer offers a bore-driving head with a rod and reamer kit for going under paths without disturbing the surface. Once the installation has been carried out the trench can be back filled using a blade and leveller.

The list of other attachments is extensive and includes, tree forks, rotary brooms and a wide range of buckets. Some companies also have wood chippers and rotary or flail mowers.

A skidster or loader could be a considerable asset to the fleet, but unless there is sufficient all-year-round work for this type of machine, a better proposition would be to hire one as and when required.

One suspects, that like a lot of machinery, once a utility vehicle, skidster or loader is on the fleet, it is soon discovered how many other applications it can be used for, that were not originally considered. For those courses that do not already have one, it is a piece of equipment worth checking out with a view to including it in future machinery replacement planning.
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visit our website at www.eaglepromotions.co.uk & www.teesigns.co.uk
Scott MacCallum met up with Mike Smith, who accepted an assignment which would have scared off many, but what he and the Donnington Valley team have since done shows just what can be achieved with hard work and ingenuity.

Imagine a situation where your mission, should you decide to accept it, is to design and build a golf course on the site of an existing course; where you undertake the job in-house; oh yes, and the existing golf course remains open while the new course is being built. Sound a tall order? Well that's exactly what Mike Smith and his team at Donnington Valley, in Newbury, have recently accomplished.
Mike, who had already designed several golf courses, took on the assignment in 1997 when it was decided that the original 18 hole course did not match the standard of the four star Donnington Valley Hotel and sister five star Vineyard at Stockcross Hotel, which also boasts a Michelin Star Restaurant. The two hotels and course are owned by Sir Peter Michael, a successful entrepreneur, who is the Chairman of Classic FM and who owns a renowned vineyard in California which produces some of the finest wine in the world.

"He is not a golfer and was more interested in buying the hotels than the fact that they also came with a golf course but was keen that the course should be up to the standard of everything else he is involved with," explained Mike.

The original lay-out was basic. Aimed at, and popular with, the new golfer. It had greens cut out of the hill, straight fairway and few bunkers.

Acting Head Greenkeeper at this time was Andy Burnham, who had worked at the course since the day after his 16th birthday, and who had been promoted to the acting role when he was 19. When Mike arrived one of his first decisions was to confirm Andy, then 21, as Head Greenkeeper.

"Andy had the responsibility for the day to day running of the golf course while I spent from April to July designing the new course over the existing ground and some adjoining parcels of land which had been purchased with the new improved course in mind," explained Mike, although both were heavily involved in the actual construction of the course.

Throughout the construction stage Mike and Andy tried to keep as many holes open as they possibly could to give the members something to play while at the same time constructing the course.

"We managed to give them 18 holes for the vast majority of the time, although we did drop to 15 for a while, and 11 for about a week, when we put in the last three holes - the new 12th, 13th and 14th."

This plan, while placating members during a difficult time, caused innumerable complications while building the new course.

Although it was not how he would have done the job in the ideal world Mike had actually been instrumental in the decision to keep the course open.

"I was asked what the best way of doing it was and I said that if we kept it open we could still generate half a million in revenue each year by giving members a course to play as well as keeping up their interest. Had we shut for two years they might have found somewhere else to play and not come back," he explained.

What it meant was that while the course was under construction they still had to access established greens so they could be cut.

"We would have to put boards out for members so they could walk over the mud," recalled Andy.

They had hosted a members' meeting at which they explained what was going to be happening and how it would effect their golf.

"About 120 members turned up and Andy was thrown in at the deep end as I gave him grasses to talk about. I wanted the members to realise how big a part he was playing in the project. It was an excellent meeting, we cut cores and put them behind glass to show how the greens were to be built."

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constructed and told them that the expected time frame for the job would be two years," said Mike.

"For the first 18 months I attended every committee meeting, gave them a progress report and told them what course they would have for the next few months. As we brought new holes into play and removed the old the par was steadily going up from 61 to 63 to 65 etc."

However, after the first 18 months it became obvious that the two year deadline would not be met and patience, among the membership, began to wear thin. Mike explained to Sir Peter that you couldn't be three months or six months behind when you build a golf course, you were either a season behind or you weren't.

"We accepted the fact that the job would take three years to complete and not two. We were facing many problems for the first time and trying to keep one course going as we built another on the same site caused more problems than we perhaps envisaged," said Mike, who added that the weather was not helping either.

Andy chipped in.

"We took on three or four extra guys but occasionally we'd have to take everyone off construction because the grass on the course was getting so high while we'd have to put extra people on course preparation when there was a competition coming up."

Oh yes. Another little complication. Right behind the course is Sneelsmore Common, home of the infamous Newbury By-Pass protesters, Swampy et al, who did their bit to slow down proceedings.

"They took tarpaulins and rope, dug up the 4th green and put top dressing in our fuel tanks," said Andy, who also recalls an amusing scene when a water cannon was used to try to remove a naked man from a tree.

"He was hanging on for dear life," he said, smiling at the memory.

Carrying out construction work while golfers plied their trade just a few yards away also had another downside.

"It meant we couldn't hide our mistakes. When we did everyone could see it, and we were not in a position to close the door and say that they wouldn't see anything until it was finished."

Mike and Andy freely admit that they made mistakes but are equally free in admitting that they learned from each and every one.
Mike Smith

Mike Smith has a unique set of talents. He is a former draftsman, who worked in the North Sea Gas fields producing cartography and seismic maps but was also a talented golfer playing off 1 and representing Perthshire Boys. Borred with life in London, and seeing his golfing ability diminishing he returned home and a job at Dunblane Golf Club. "The Captain sent me to Elmwood where I was in the same class as Laurence Pithie," explained Mike.

When the previous Head Greenkeeper/Pro left, Mike became Head Greenkeeper at Dunblane and he remained there until Lord Morton asked him to take over at the 36 hole country club at Dalmahoy. "We’d already agreed to take the European Matchplay Championship the following year but the trash of the greens would have sucked your golf shoes off. In 1997 I believe I bought the first Quahahn in the country for £5,500, put a Greensaver on the back of it and piled sand into the greens until the greens were firm, fast and good to putt on and I got some lovely comments from Tommy Horton and Bernard Gallacher among others."

He left Dalmahoy shortly afterwards and moved to Littlestone GC and then Bush Hill Park where he got the chance to design three golf courses in Southend which, due to a downturn in the climate, ultimately didn’t get built. The first course he designed to be actually built was Lydd on Romney Marshes and his name is listed as architect in the R&A Golfers Handbook on the same page as the likes of James Braid, Henry Cotton, Donald Steel, Alistair Mackenzie and Jack Nicklaus. Since then he has designed courses on Wincanton Racecourse, Newbury Racecourse, the Strand Leisure Centre, in Gillingham, as well as Donnington Valley while he has another six hole academy currently under construction.

"To have had one 18 hole course actually built is a wonderful feeling but to have done six courses is great."

"When the first load of root zone arrived for the double 9th and 18th green, one of two double greens on the course, we thought there was something wrong with it and we should have stopped but we carried on and when it was all in and levelled off it looked great," explained Mike.

"But after a while it started to back off as the root zone had gone like concrete. It was totally the wrong spec. We tried to punch holes in it but to no avail so we ended up ripping up the green and doing it again having sought advice from Tim Banks, of Banks Amenity.

Another problem emerged when Mike and on site digger operator, Malcolm Cox, laid some irrigation piping. "It was a lovely sunny day, Malcolm had trenched it all and we had laid out the four inch piping and put in the cables. We then left it open to fill the following day but the heat had expanded the piping and when we returned it had contracted leaving a four inch gap. We took it out and made sure the second time."

Andy also found himself "fire fighting" after they had turfed their final green, right in the middle of summer ’99.

"We hadn’t got the irrigation connected up to the green and when I came in on the Sunday morning the turfs were all curling up at the edges. I spent four hours hand hosing the green but it was just baking it," he explained.

"We decided to leave that green for a while and concentrate on areas which we wanted in play quicker but all the members could see the tram lines. They were telling us that we’d have to relay the green but Andy told them he would seed and irrigate, and together with picking the meadow grass out by hand on the bare patches, the green has come back well just as he said," said Mike.

The construction work involved everyone at the hotel as well as the golf club.

"We were digging our two reservoirs at the same time as building the course and used the earth from the holes to shape the course. We had one contractor digging and we had hotel kitchen porters, chefs and chambermaids driving diggers to move the earth around the site when Malcolm would do the shaping. It would never happen nowadays but they all loved it. They were out in the sun getting a sun tan," recalled Mike.

The reservoirs - one with a surface area of 2000 square metres of surface area four and a half metres deep and the other 1200 square metres also to a depth of four and a half metres.

One is two metres above the other with a waterfall connecting the two. Slowly the course came together and the completed lay-out was played for the first time in May 2000 with the official opening - with the PGA South Region Donnington Valley Classic with ex Ryder Cup star Paul Way in the field- played last June.

Having safely emerged at the other side of a huge project both men can reflect on things they would do differently next time round.

"We turfed some of the greens before we did the aprons because we had to get the greens in play but then we had to marry the greens to the aprons which was difficult," said Andy.

"Another thing we would have done is built a concrete turning bay for lorries as access was extremely difficult. I remember having six lorries lined up a 6pm one day all desperate to unload so they could get home but they couldn’t get onto the site."

Mike can reflect on how a more conventional design/build/grow-in would have made their lives much easier. "It would have been nice to have had unrestricted access to the entire site and to have done the job in one go. We could have ploughed the field, stone burlied, harrowed, prepared for seeding, installed the irrigation, seedled, fertilised and waited to see it all come through," he said wistfully, while he is also well aware of the
inherent problems of turfing, rather than seeding, greens.

Asked if he was now bored having returned to pure greenkeeping rather than the exciting life of greenskeeper/constructor Andy is refreshingly honest.

"I was glad to get my golf course back. The old course wasn’t the best in the world but I looked after it and it was my little baby. Then Mike came along and ripped it up. I was 19 and wondered what on earth he was doing. Then I realised what we were trying to achieve and it has turned out better than I’d hoped," said Andy.

I’ve learned so much during the last four years it’s unbelievable.

Mike has now taken on the role of Director of Golf and is involved in all aspects of the golf related business but he is immensely proud of what he and his team of seven greenkeepers have achieved.

"It is a tough little lay-out - 6,334 yards off the back tees - with a tight back nine and the toughest closing four holes in the county," said Mike.

Donnington Valley is also unusual in that it has some magnificent sculpture displayed around the course.

"Sir Peter loves sculpture and pieces are often shipped from California for display here. It adds a nice unique touch to the course," said Mike.

It has come a long way since he first set eyes on a site with genuine potential. "It was a field with a bit of formal garden and I got such a buzz from doing it. Once I’d drawn the layout we painted out the course on the land and then went to the hill across the road to see how it looked. We still go there occasionally and we get a real buzz seeing what it has become.

"From a distance it looks quite good," he added, with a self-deprecating laugh.

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For generations I have lived around here. My great-grandfather lived down there in that low spot where the water always runs off. Of course, they did not live very long in those days, but now we have adapted to the conditions here we can live for years. And that’s all thanks to those kind greenkeepers who are forced to over-feed and water us even when we don’t need it. But who can blame them - they just want an easy life.

As for the people who walk all over us in those studded shoes, the other day I heard one of them say he was wearing soft spikes. Well I will tell you, they are not very soft when they are on your tender nodes and ligules. Still, they do make it easy for us whenever they complain that we are getting too dry and they cannot stop their balls on us. We know that we don’t need it. But who can blame them? Whenever they complain that we are with all sorts of equipment, I have to wait and see. Hey, keep your heads down. OK, I can’t help it. It’s the way I am. We grow up fast you know. My friends and I have been put here to sort you out. Nothing personal old pal.

A few weeks later ...

Hey Rich, can you hear something? Yeah! It’s beginning! Keep your head down. Well, I survived that. Are you alright? I know but I can’t feel part of my roots. CORE! Look at all those poor sheaths. Goodbye and good luck!

It’s not over yet. Here come the spinning blades. Keep your head down! Well I only lost a few seeds that time. Here come the foreigners now. There seems to be thousands of them this time and some have landed next to me. Well, it’s not very big is it? This is new! Close your eyes, they are covering us up.

Help! I can’t see the sun! Aah... there it is. That feels good - nice and cool and water as well. What could be better?

Two weeks later ...

Good morning sir. Who said that? It’s me, down here. Who are you? I am Bent. Bent? we don’t want any of your sort around here. Hey Rich, there is a newcomer here and he is Bent. Yeah. I have some more over here. I can’t remember anything like this happening before. We will just have to wait and see. Hey, keep your stolons to yourself. You’re getting a bit fresh for someone so immature. I can’t help it. It’s the way I am. We grow up fast you know. My friends and I have been put here to sort you out. Nothing personal old pal.

Well, I think we might have something to say about that you young upstart! Rich! Did you hear any of that? Yes I did. What are we going to do about it?

Poa puts his thinking cap on and tries to remember an old wartime story his dad once told him, about survival and the battle they had against something called fescue. There seem to be differences in strategy. This time the greenkeeper has given us all a good watering and a much needed feed. Dad told me that in his battle he had to survive without food and water for weeks on end and the starvation only stopped when golfers complained that they could not play any more and gave the greenkeeper and his mate, Jim, the big E. Well, I don’t think this is going to be as easy as that this time because the greenkeeper and the golfers have come out to inspect us all. Ouch!

What does he think he is doing, pulling my leaves off and saying that this is what he wants to get rid of? Thank you Chairman - I agree the golfers do still have to play upon us and how dare he call me a weed to be eradicated! What have I done to upset so many people? Naturally I am only trying to do my best - and spread a few wild seeds. Well I don’t know, it’s all a bit over my head really ...

Time goes by ...

Bent is getting a bit big for his boots hey Rich? Yeah, and so are his mates! They are trying to squeeze me to death over here.

Then along comes some help ...

Listen! I can hear the spinning blades - wow! Did you see that? Bent got it right between the nodes and cut off some of his stolons. That must have been painful.

That will slow him down for a while and it’s getting warmer so he’ll feel a bit sick for a while. Well we got that wrong didn’t we Rich? He must be some sort of masochist! He loves all this rough stuff and he said that it is good for him as he can multiply without having to seed.

Not a lot of fun. This could be the beginning of the end for our kind. Don’t give up that easily Rich - we still have a few tricks we can use. We mustn’t let them see that they
are hurting us. Be brave and blend into everyone around you.
Yes, you're right. I heard one of the golfers say he was practicing for the Club Championship next week.
Good, so now we can expect to have some rest from all this punishment and even get some food. It's a good thing they have so many competitions to let us regain our strength and regroup - just as they have the upper hand. It happens all the time.
Hey Rich. Can you hear me?
Not feeling very well. That feed we had seems to have upset me - I feel terribly bloated and quite weak and I've even got some spots coming out down here.
Oh no! I've seen this before and lost some good friends last time it struck. Shame it doesn't affect Bent in the same way. Here comes the greenkeeper and he seems to be making a bit of a fuss of us. He appears to care about us at last. Well, that's a turn up for the books, or is it that he needs us? We are better than nothing, after all!

Rich gets worse and dies and Poa is outnumbered by Bent and all his pals but he isn't about to give in. Some of Bent's friends are getting sick as well. Now the greenkeeper has to do something. Here comes the sprayer and within hours everyone is feeling better. Poa now knows how far he can go before the greenkeeper will give in. Within a few days there is a voice coming from the spot where Rich once lived...

Hello out there.
Not more Bent thinks Poa. But to his surprise he looks across to see a mirror image of himself.
Hello Dad!
Poa is beside himself with joy. Not only have I survived the battle, but I have managed to multiply and we will try again to win this war!
Hey Bent, are you still here?
Yes I am. That was not at all pleasant being treated so badly and feeling so sick.
How do you manage to keep coming back from the brink?
Oh didn't you know? It's like that every year at this time. I've been through it more than once. You too will learn to recognise the seasonal changes with shorter working days and long damp nights resulting in more feed to try to keep us going for longer than we naturally would. It is hardly surprising then that we then get sick and diseased. Why don't the humans hear what we are telling them? The signs are always there for them to see.

I've been listening carefully to you Dad and I can't help but feel sorry for the greenkeeper. It sounds as if he is only trying to help and be our friend.
That's right. You will always learn more by watching and listening than you will by telling everybody that you know it all. I know you will survive - it's in your genes.

Oh I forgot, jeans are not allowed on golf courses!
Scotts launch new range of organic based fertilisers

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

The organic fraction of Greenmaster Organics is derived from chicken manure and, in addition to providing a proportion of the nutrient charge in slow release form, will help improve soil structure, stimulate soil organisms, encourage thatch breakdown and enhance micro-flora responsible for fighting turf diseases.

By combining this material with a mineral based fertiliser, reliable provision of NPK and trace elements is assured and the product formulation can be tailored more appropriately for today’s needs.

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

There are two formulations available so far. Greenmaster Organic Spring and Summer (12.5-11 + TE) is designed as a high nitrogen seasonal treatment with 19% of the N derived from organic sources. Greenmaster Organic Pre-Winter (7.3-17 + TE) is an autumn treatment with 37% of the N derived from organic sources.

For further information
Tel: 01473 830492

Latest addition from SCH will sweep you away

The new SCH (SUPPLIES) LTD. PR0120 Brush Sweeper is designed for use on large level surfaces. The addition to the range has twin land wheel drive and a 300 litres capacity polypropylene hopper. When full, the hopper can be discharged from your compact tractor seat by means of the draw cord. This feature reduces the time needed to empty the unit, as well as an aid to those customers who have difficulty lifting. The brush adjusting handle has five positions. Other features include a free wheel transport mode, three speed brush settings and a stop parking position. The PR0120 has a 1200 mm working width and weighs 85 kg.

For further information
Tel: 01473 328272

Spray boom safety from Charterhouse

Charterhouse Turf Machinery has introduced to the UK the Rogers Windfoil Lite Spray Boom, whose unique features allow spraying to be done with maximum safety, efficiency and effectiveness.

Spraying needs to be done with the strictest accuracy to avoid accidentally treating non-target areas and to prevent over-application, which can lead to problems such as grass scorched or run-off into waterways.

Perhaps the most impressive of all the Windfoil Lite’s attributes is the clever design of the shrouded boom, which ensures that the chemical is always applied in an enclosed environment, so that droplets cannot be picked up and distributed by strong winds. Unlike other shrouded systems, the Rogers unit has specially designed aerolites on top of the booms, which avoid the creation of eddies of turbulence behind the enclosure.

Research has shown that spray enclosures without an aerolite actually push air upwards, creating an eddy that throws the applied.

The Windfoil Lite’s aerolites, developed after extensive wind tunnel trials, redirect the air downwards so that the spray is targeted towards the ground. A drift-stop curtain at the rear also helps to seal the enclosure and eliminate drift. Tests have shown that the Windfall’s enclosed booms give less drift in a 24 mph wind than a conventional open boom in a 6 mph wind, allowing grounds professionals to maintain work schedules in less than ideal conditions. The aerolites have front and back mounts to secure them even during high speed transport.

The Windfoil Lite is available in two versions, the WL5000 and WL6000, with working widths of 5m and 6m respectively. Electric folding of the booms is available as an option.

For further information
Tel: 01428 661222

C-Dax Europe has introduced a new three-point linkage mounted sprayer suitable for use with any compact tractor with sufficient lift capacity. The 400 litre unit is supplied with a 4.0m boom, and is designed to offer ease of operation and high accuracy combined with rugged build. Standard features include a clean water tank plus remote hose reel for spot spraying. As with all C-Dax equipment, the sprayer is purpose made for professional use and can be specified to suit a range of applications. Prices are from £1300.

For further information Tel: 01953 609999

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

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

The new HD16 16 litre backpack sprayer is set to replace the Allman mid range A16 sprayer which has proved popular for many years. The HD16 offers many improvements to its predecessor.

1. High output piston pump offers a greater pump displacement of liquid on each stroke of the pump, thus making it more efficient and needing less pumping strokes to maintain pump pressure.
2. A large screw filling lid incorporating a strain re-aid easy filling.
3. Ability to switch the pump handle from left to right hand pump operation.
4. Shoulder straps with quick release strap adjustment to enable easy adjustment of the straps when the knapsack is on the operators back.

The HD16 shares many components that have been used in the high specification Allman X1 3, which has a long track record of being a robust and reliable workhorse used by many knapsack fleet users.

At the same time many of the accessories/attachments such as spray shields, lance extensions, 2/3 nozzle cross booms, together with the Allman UPC constant pressure valve for operations at 1 or 2 bar, are easily attached to both the new HD16 and the X15 knapsacks, making them very versatile and user friendly back- pack sprayers.

Recommended retail price - £39.00 plus VAT.

For further information Tel: 01243-512511

Increased versatility and range from Oleo Mac

Oleo Mac has increased the versatility of its brushcutters with the addition of hedgetrimmer and pruner attachments which will fit most brushcutters in the range.

The EP 100 pruner is designed for most plant pruning and trimming jobs and is quick and easy to fit, without the need for tools. The 30 degree angle of the bevel gear allow precise control on the ground, cutting undergrowth or clearing ditches and affords protection in an overhead cutting position where branches fall away from the operator.

The bar and chain is constantly lubricated by an oil pump and a hook on the accessory grips the branch being cut making cutting easy and reducing vibration.

The Oleo Mac hedgetrimmer transforms the brushcutter into an efficient 48 cm bladed trimmer with a number of fixed position throughout the 270 degree blade rotation making overhead, ground or side-wall operation effortless. A 23 cm blade is also available for tidying flower beds and a runner fitted to the attachment allows the machine to glide easily over the ground.

For further information Tel: 01488 699400

Indoor putting green from Huxley

An indoor putting green from Huxley Golf has been installed within the impressive new Golf Science laboratory located at the PGA National Training Academy, The Belfry.

Measuring 15ft x 15ft the putting green is being used to help train budding professional golfers as part of a three year sandwich course leading to the PGA Diplomas in Golf. The majority of graduates will go on to become professionals at golf clubs throughout the United Kingdom and Ireland, as well as overseas.

The Huxley Golf putting green will be used also for practice by and coaching of elite national player squads and for continuing development programmes undertaken by experienced touring and club professionals. “There is a growing awareness and understanding of the close relationship between science and sport,” explained Dr Kyle Phillips, head of training and education at the PGA National Training Academy. “Our new laboratory is designed to demonstrate how golf science can be applied to golf performance and contains a range of equipment which will help recreate the physical and mental stresses encountered on a golf course. The aim is to help golfers maintain control over the mind and the body, for example, when faced with a three foot putt to win a tournament having walked 120 yards up hill to the green.”

Latest product innovations to be jointly marketed

Richard Atkin Seedsmen Ltd, Atkin’s Sports Turf and Avoncrop Amenity Products have developed a new national brand of amenity products under the name AWARD and will be jointly marketing this range throughout Scotland England and Wales.

Launched at BTME 2002 were AWARD Green Lite and Sport Lite Fertilisers, a unique range of high performance fertilisers. Green Lite combining organic and vermiculite technology for fine turf and Sport Lite with organic and conventional nutrients for outfield turf. Award fertilisers are designed to give extended performance to the grass. The nutrients are retained in the root zone longer than conventional fertilisers, reducing the number of applications needed over the season and also making them more environmentally friendly, due to reduced leaching.

Green Lite’s fine turf unique vermiculite organic technology results in lightweight compound granules to ensure perfect distribution at low rates, the particle size is up to 1.2 mm. With low air permeability the fine turf is kept in a state of nutrient deprivation, giving an even release to reduce excessive early growth after application over an extended period compared, with traditional formulations. There are four analyses to meet fine turf requirements.

Sport Lite outfield fertilisers come in two formulations, autumn/winter and spring/summer, providing extended release on outfield turf. This true compound granule gives accurate low rate application and is suitable for all sports pitches, fairways, aprons and surrounds. The organic content stimulates healthy grass and encourages beneficial root zone microbes.

The Soil improver fermented seaweed rich in trace elements, carbohydrates and plant growth stimulants, providing sustained nutrition for plants and beneficial microbes. Soil Improver also releases alginate gel once moist, which helps tilth and crumb structure in all soil types, aiding aeration, moisture and nutrient retention. The add-on potassium helps to produce tougher harder wearing turf, ideal for use on turf, seeding, turf laying or shrub bed enriching.

For further information Tel: 01254 820068

Maxi-interest in Micro-granulars

Gem’s new range of granular fertilisers attracted interest from new and existing customers alike at BTME earlier this year.

The micro-granular range allows for accuracy of application that is perfect for fine turf surfaces. Visitors to the show were especially delighted to see Gem’s original Organic Golf Green 8-0-0 in a micro-granular form.

To promote the new products Gem had a competition to guess the number of 8-0-0 granules in a jar. The lucky winner of a colour television was Stuart Bertram, of Moor Park Golf, Hertfordshire who was closest to the massive 342,000 actually in there.

For further information Tel: 01254 356611

Email press releases about new products to: scott@bigga.co.uk

March 2002 Greenkeeper International 35
Ecosolve return to St Andrews with Deep Drill

St. Andrews Links Trust saw the return of Ecosolve's Deep Drill 60/18 for further aeration work on the historic greens of The Old Course. Initially work had been carried out on the 1st Green in November 2000, and twelve months later the second stage of the aeration programme was conducted and also broadened to include an area on the 2nd Green.

After a demonstration of the Drill and Fill aerator shortly before the 2000 Open, The Links Trust booked the sister machine, the Deep Drill 60/18 for later in the year.

"We needed aeration and extraction of rootzone, and the drilling concept met that requirement. However, it had to be deeper than twelve inches," commented Gordon Moir, Links Superintendent. "Ecosolve were able to meet the criteria of exceptionally deep and extraction with the Deep Drill 60/18 aerator."

Ecosolve's operation in 2000 had been a great success. "The work done in stage one gave exactly the results we had hoped for - significant levels of rootzone extraction coupled with compaction relief. The consequent improvement in the green's performance gave us the confidence to proceed with stage two," said Gordon.

Eddie Adams, Head Greenkeeper on The Old Course, added.

"The increase in root extension was incredible. Whenever we changed the pin position during 2000, we could clearly see that the roots were going deeper, and this has increased the plant's health and natural resilience to wear and tear."

A significant factor in determining the level of success of the operation was just how easy it might be to reinstate play on those Old Course greens that thousands of golfing pilgrims from around the world flock to. Much to everyone's satisfaction, the greens were open for play again within hours. Eddie explained "Such deep work might ordinarily cause disruption to the trueess of the putting surface, but we have found that not to be the case. After luting in a light top-dressing and a mow/roll, the green was reopened, and we experienced no adverse impact on play."

Bretton King, Ecosolve Limited's Technical Director, was delighted to receive the St. Andrews enquiry.

"When St. Andrews Links first contact is and explained what the requirements were, we naturally hoped we could provide what was needed. The factory became involved and a specially designed head was produced. We were delighted to have been able to satisfy The Links Trust's special needs and hope that we can continue to be of service to St. Andrews with machine sales or contract work."

Ecosolve Limited is the exclusive importer and distributor of the revolutionary Deep Drill 60/18 and Drill and Fill aerators.

Verti-core line-up introduced by Charterhouse

Charterhouse Turf Machinery has introduced a range of tractor-powered turf corers. The verti-core line-up comprises three machines. The 1300, 1700 and 2100 have working widths of 1.3m, 1.7m and 2.1m and require tractors of 22 hp, 28 hp and 35 hp. All three have more moving elements within a given width than comparable machines, giving more thorough treatment of the turf. Each can penetrate to a maximum depth of 125 mm.

The machines feature positive drive, being powered via a gearbox and crankshaft, rather than relying on belt drive, which is prone to slippage and loss of performance. This also ensures a constant hole pattern is maintained across the work area. The corers can be fitted with multi-tine heads, giving hole spacings across their widths of 17 mm, 22.5mm and 32 mm, and a comprehensive range of tine options are available.

For further information Tel: 01428 661222

Howardson launch Mowersafe

BTME saw the launch of a totally new and innovative device designed to combat the theft of mowers from sports clubs.

British manufacturer, Howardson Ltd, following research carried out by an insurance company has introduced Mowersafe, which highlighted the alarming increase in theft of valuable equipment from clubs' storage sheds. Their recommendations were for some form of protection for this type of vulnerable machinery, which is often stored in an isolated wooden building with inadequate security or alarm systems.

Mowersafe will securely store any make of cylinder mower with up to a 24" cut - it is designed to be simple to use and effective. The 10mm heavy-duty steel structure takes up little more space than the mower itself. The unit can be secured to the concrete, earth or steel floor of the shed for added protection.

High specification hardened steels are used for the main lock pin making grinding, sawing and cutting extremely difficult. The heavy-duty locking system incorporates a barrel lock, which cannot be hammered off or bolt cropped. Weighing in at 160 kg, Mowersafe represents a formidable challenge to any intruder.

"While many mowers are now fitted with Datatags, this is only a trace method and does not prevent a theft happening in the first place. Mowersafe offers clubs a cost effective security device designed to protect their equipment and fight crime," said Howardson's Managing Director, lan Howard.

The unit is priced at £395 plus VAT and installation can be arranged.

For further information Tel: 01332 824777
East

Sorry there was no column last month but as there was no news or views going around there was no point writing one. But we do have some news this month so here goes. I attended BTME at Harrogate last month and yet again the show, seminars and everything else to do with the week just seem to get better and better.

Well done to everyone at HQ for another enjoyable week. Roll on next year. (PS the company was superb as well because when greenkeepers get together it just shows we’re all equals). If you haven’t been before try and get along next year. It was another enjoyable week. Roll on next month

Iain Barr

West

Welcome to this month’s newsletter. First off a few dates for your diary. On March 5 the Scottish Educational Conference will be held at Launder Collegiate in Dunfermline. This has always proved an excellent venue as it has easy road access as well as an excellent conference facility. The speakers who attend these programmes are also of the highest calibre and I am sure anyone who attends on the day will find something of interest which can be utilised to improve their course.

On April 4 the Aitkens — SGM Greensomes competition will be held at Lenzie CC this competition was originally set up to give greenkeepers and their convenors an opportunity to get to know one another in a relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere away from their work environment. The days are always popular and very enjoyable, although the golf is not all that brilliant so early in the season, so do try and stay around. The winner also gets to line up the Aitkens — SCM for their continued support in staging this event. The committee would also like to thank the committee and membership of Lenzie GC for the use of their course. I am sure the three new holes added to the course within the last three months will make the course difficult to play even better.

The Scottish National Tournament of Scots this year so let’s hope this continues in the year’s to come. The Scottish National Tournament for the purposes of this newsletter takes the form of a competition that is shaping up to be the wettest I have seen in March or April. Drier than January and February have been. While at Harrogate it was great to meet old friends and also get the chance to meet greenkeepers from all over the country.

There were a few characters to come out of the week, none more so than the three amigos, who shall remain nameless, but are instantly recognisable by their sombreros. Also the rep who lost his voice, just when it was his shout as well. He shall remain nameless also.

The Scottish Conference is on this month very early on, March 5 to be exact. The speakers cover a wide variety of topics and it should be a good day for anyone who can make it.

The 200 Club will be up and running again soon and I will say more in the next magazine.

North

No new members to report this month hopefully maybe have a few new recruits before the season starts properly.

I would like to wish well soon to three of our members on behalf of the Section. Dougal Duguid and, last but not least, Hugh Mdahidt. We hope to see you all at the outing at Elgin on May 16 this year.

Robert Hardie, from Crailstone GC, and Kenny Kinsaide, from Grantown GC, were at the Patrons’ Award Dinner in Stirling and had a very enjoyable trip. They would like to congratulate all the section members who were at the Patrons’ Award Dinner in Stirling and had a very enjoyable trip. They would like to congratulate all the section members who were at the Patrons’ Award Dinner in Stirling and had a very enjoyable trip. They would like to congratulate all the section members who were at the Patrons’ Award Dinner in Stirling and had a very enjoyable trip.

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Belated congratulations go to a number of Section members this month, namely Derek (Deek) Scott and his staff from Scoome Golf Course in Fife, who were presented with personal achievement awards for their tireless efforts to maintain excellent greens. Also, the Old Tom Morris Award, which was presented as a Scottish delegate on the AITKENS — SCM for their continued support in staging this event. The committee would also like to thank the committee and membership of Lenzie GC for the use of their course. I am sure the three new holes added to the course within the last three months will make the course difficult to play even better.

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Iain Gunn
North East

Well another successful BTME this year. Over 8500 people passed through the doors which just goes to show you how popular it has become. It was good to see many of my colleagues from the Section down there, all thanks once again to Terry Charlton for providing transport for both NE and Cleveland Sections.

Another plus for the Section was to see James Storey and Steve Quince, both from Seaham GC, attending the workshops. Well done to their golf club.

Bumped into two former members of the Section, Ed McCabe and Paul McDowall, who were at Seaham GC a few years back. Both were there for the week also attending all the courses. Confirmation for the Autumn Competition is September 19 at Longhirst Hall, the Spring Comp is TBA.

Jimmy Richardson

North West

I have just returned from the BTME and once again it was a brilliant show, with tractors and mowers sparking like new cars, and so many companies with everything needed for the golf course, from fertilisers, grass seed, and every gadget imaginable. One thing I did not see was a wheelbarrow, but if any equipment on golf courses seems to be ride on, how things have changed.

One section of the show was set out with machinery from bygone times, and there was the mowing machine that gave me my first taste of grass cutting. It was designed to be drawn by a pony, but on my first day of work I was the pony. Two straps on my shoulders and a hook to the machine with the gardener guiding the machine while we mowed the grass verges in the park, thank goodness for change.

I must emphasise the Show is well worth a visit, so if you could not manage this year. Make a note in your diary for 2003.

By now you will all have received your fixture lists for the year, plus your application forms for the Mere Seminar, I must thank Rufford Soil Technology, and our President, Peter Jelford, for sponsoring the fixture lists and making such a professional job of them. There is one small mistake (my fault) summer tournament at Ulverston Golf Club should read Thursday, June 20. The Stewards’ match is at Ashton in Makerfield on Monday, September 9. I hope as many as possible will support the Mere Seminar, and bring along your Secretary and or Green Chairman, I am sure they will find it interesting.

That appears to be all for now but I will welcome any news or views and you can contact me on 0151 724 3412 or mobile 07761583387

Bert Cross

Northern

I start off with an apology about the spring tournament. The date is April 16, at Bedale GC. Sorry about the mix up. Remember the closing date is for the Spring tournament is April 9 with full payment of £15 to any committee member.

By the time you read this we will have hopefully another successful seminar at Howley Hall GC. Many thanks to the speakers and sponsors on the day. More info. next month.

Congratulations and good luck to Graham Greenwood on getting married recently. We have one new member this month: Barry Mars, Horsea GC.

By the way now if anybody as any news or ideas then let me know. My address is 67 Aquishead Avenue, Morley, Leeds, LS27 9QS; Tel: 0113 2383186: mobile 07790 678572, Email: andy@northernscession.co.uk

Andy Smith

North Wales

Congratulations goes to James Cope of Garden Park GC for successfully attaining his BCTIA Irrigation Diploma, This comes just weeks after MG Andy Campbell passed his GCSSA exam (being the only one in the country to hold this state side recognition) placing Garden Park at the forefront of education.

Moving on to this month’s tales of a day in the life of a greenskeeper, Allen Lewis, of Llanyrmych GC, came in to work on Sept 18 to be met by the Green Chairman who had been out early walking his dog, alerting Allen of his observations of a powdered substance that had been scattered on the greens? Upon inspection Allen found that five greens had the same residual on them 3,4,5,8 and 15. Taking samples off for early analysis by taking a hole cut sod, this was detected as powdered weed killer, a rush then was on to douse with water to rid the greens of any scotch etc unfortunately all came too late as the damage had been done and within 5 days the greens turned into yellow/brown mud. Allen got total support from the committee who were very disappointed that this act of vandalism had been thrust upon them.

New turf was placed on to the damaged area’s but also became contaminated and had to be removed along with 8 - 9” of sub soil, finally after 220 tonnes of rootzone and 550sq metres of new turf was laid Allen and the team look forward to presenting Llanyrmych too its former glory for the start of the season.

One lighter note did you spot Allen on Ian Woosman’s, This is your Life’. Well parts of his body anyway! Well done, Al.

Terry Adamson. recently visited Bangkok and assures us it’s all it’s cracked up to be and is thinking of presenting Llanynymch too its for some scorch etc unfortunately all came too late as the damage had been done and within 5 days the greens turned into yellow/brown mud. Allen got total support from the committee who were very disappointed that this act of vandalism had been thrust upon them.

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Andy Smith

East Midlands

Once again the BTME week at Harrogate was a great success. The new formula of combining the National Education Conference, the Workshops and the first day of the show seemed to be a great success. On behalf of the Section, I would like to congratulate Richard Barker, of Beedles Lake GC, on his appointment as BIGA National Chairman, and also to Phillip Helmn, of Overstone Park GC, on receiving his Master Greenskeepers award.

It was also encouraging to see more Section members there than usual, but we would still like to see a bigger turnout from the Section. On behalf of the Section I would like to thank the following members who attended the show for two or more days, Scott Pundy, Ashbourne GC; Donald Donaldson, Farthingstone GC; Dave Leatherland, Kedleston Park GC; Gavin Robson, Lingdale GC; Adi Porter, Greetham Valley GC; and Mark and Antony Birdley, Kirby Muxloe GC. If I have missed anybody’s name out of this list I can only apologise, and we all wish to see you at the same venue next year.

All members should now have received their entry form for the Spring Tournament at The Leicestershire GC on May 2. If you have not received your form please ring or Email me and I will gladly forward you a form.

Antony Birdley
Kent

Not a lot to report on this month due to problems with my e-mail account picking up a virus. So I am unable to pick up all your e-mails of news and views this month... and I'm sure there were loads.

So I have no stories of wild nights in Harrogate at BTME or any of the Christmas parties some of you promised me. I did get a text message from an old friend by the name of Jo Silcoom, from Royal St Georges, on seeing my picture in January's edition of Greenkeeper International, hard at work, as usual, loading up our top dresser on page 16. I've lost loads of weight since then though. Jo pointed out how nice it was to see I still have the enthusiasm for hard work after all these years, just like when we worked together at North Foreland Golf Club.

No news yet of any golf days or events but if there are any golf courses who would like to entertain us then feel free to contact Duncan Kelso on 01732 875020 with news I'm sure he will greet with open arms.

I would like to apologise to the Head Greenkeeper I mentioned in the January issue with my comments being ill advised. He has since found employment and wish him well in his new position.

So once again if you have any information or news please e-mail me on my new address: jrbtkghgolf@aol.com or call on 01732 875020.

A small bit of advice: Don't open e-mails if you don't know who they're from or you may end up with a virus on your computer.

Jason Bean

Mid Anglia

By now, members should have received a fixture card, listing golf events for the year, as well as entry forms for the relevant competitions. Please photocopy the main entry form, should you wish to play in more than one competition this year. If you haven't received the relevant forms, please contact Gerald Bruce, Secretary.

Our first golf event of the season takes place at Ashridge GC, on April 19, over 36 holes. If you wish to play, please make sure that your entries are sent to Richard in good time.

The other golf events are as follows:
- Summer: St Neots GC, August 28; Autumn: Stocks GC, October 10; Christmas Scramble. South Beds GC, December 5
- The Lodgeboy Four Ball has been changed to a singles event this year; entries to Steve Mason, should you wish to take part. To ensure the smooth running of the competition, please be sure that you can commit to playing the matches. We don't want to see last year's problems recurring, with people not completing their matches on time.

New silverware purchased by the Section will be awarded to the winners of the Spring, Summer and Autumn tournaments.

BTME at Harrogate in January this year was once again a great success. It was disappointing, however, to see members at the AGM veto the Board of Management's proposals for restructuring full greenkeeper membership.

Paul Lockett

London

Can I start by wishing all our members a very happy new year. Let's hope the weather's a bit kinder to us all. I should say as I write this we're being battered by gale force winds and driving rain. Oh well, some things never change! Some confirmed dates for your diaries: Spring Meeting at Wyke Green GC, on Tues, April 30; Autumn Meeting at Porter's Park GC, on Wed, August 21; Turkey Trot at Denham GC, on Wednesday, November 20.

I'm still awaiting confirmation on a date for the Summer Meeting but hope to have that soon.

More details on that and the other dates in my next report.

Short and sweet this month I'm afraid but without any juicy gossip from you guys I haven't got much choice. Please phone me with any news from around the Section on 01923 835549.

Robert Phillips

Surrey

Surrey Section Committee had a meeting on the January 29. It was decided that any main committee decisions would be placed in the following edition of Around the Green.

Lee Strutt has decided to stand down from the committee and we all thank him for his hard work over the past years. Tony Bremer from Dorking Golf Club is taking his place and Dan Lightfoot from Gatton Manor has been co-opted onto the committee to help organise the Regional Seminar, which this year is hosted by Surrey Section. Details of this to follow.

It was decided that our Secretary Ian Sellick needs a computer to fulfil his tasks without taking up so much of his personal and business time. We have been fortunate to purchase a second-hand machine from Anthony Freeman. His list of other general merchandise including low mileage, good quality cars can be obtained from the telephone booth in Roehampton High Street.

Tony Bremer will be the golf handicap secretary and will in future notify all changes by post. Geoff Woodward, from Wimbledon Common GC, takes over Lee's job as Regional Representative and will be assisted by Dave Murdoch from Lipshok GC. All other committee posts remain as before.

The fixture list for 2002 will be follows:
- Walton Heath, Gentleman's Dinner, March 8; Foxhills, May 27 - Sponsor Rigby Taylor; Shirley Park, June 27 - Sponsor Barrowfields; Lipshok, July 19 - Sponsor Avoncrop; Sunningdale, TBA - Sponsor Grass Roots; Effingham, Oct 18 - Sponsor Kestral Golf; Banstead, Nov 21 - Sponsor Tacit; Wimbledon Common, Surrey Greenkeepers vs Members Wimbledon Common and London Scottish Golf Club, Hankley Common, TBA - England vs Scotland; Regional Seminar, Possibly November 27. Confirmation will follow.

The Huxley/Sisso Bowl is now the Bioseed Bowl. Details will be available shortly £10 per pair and the final will be at a neutral venue.

Finally our congratulations to Gary and Claire Stewar, Banstead GC, whose son Thomas, 6lb 8ozs, and Claire Stewan, Banstead GC, from Reigate Heath GC, Grant Dooley and his wife, Lisa, have a second child, Freya Lilley.

Please remember to let me have all your news for the next and subsequent editions of Around the Green.

Brian Willmott

Essex

This, as you may know is the first report since God knows how long. That's not because the author has not written anything but more to do with a mix up with names, the reports I write for this magazine as you know go to a Mr S. MacCallum whereas the reports I write for my local newspapers go to a Mr S. MacEniss and yes you guessed it that is were our report ended up and by the time I had found out it was too late to even get it in the February magazine.

Therefore this small entry is just a list of dates for upcoming events. Our first golf day of the year is our Spring Trophy, which is to be held at the Essex Golf & Country Club on April 17. (not April 15 as advertised on your fixture list).

On the education front we have an evening lecture on March 26 at Writtle College, contact John Sinclair on 01702 389063. There is also a one day Risk and COSHH Assessment course being held at The Burstead Golf Club on March 20 at the very small cost of £10, contact Martin Forrester on 01245 605131.

That just leaves me to wish you all a successful and enjoyable years golf with our Section and hope to see you all at each of them in turn.

Steve Crossdale

YOU'VE GOT MAIL!

If you've got an email account, and want to keep up to date with the latest news and events from the turfcare industry, drop us an email, and we'll add you to our ever increasing list of online subscribers. We'll then inform you of any forthcoming features and events via email.

Simply send an email to: updates@bigga.co.uk quoting your name and Membership number, and we'll do the rest!
South Coast

Another month has passed by quickly and as ever we as greenkeepers are being severely challenged by the weather. I quote a much respected agronomist 'nature always pays itself back'. We all anticipated some rain after a very dry November and December, and at the end of January and beginning of February it was no surprise when the heavens opened and the wind blew. Maybe it would be nice if the weather would be kind to us for a whole winter! Maybe next year.

The Section has been fairly quiet this month with the committee concentrating their efforts on the Section seminar, which will have passed when you read this. Let's hope we had a good turn out!

Many of our Section travelled up to Harrogate for the education conference and BTME in January. This year the whole week had a fresh new look as the Association looked to build on previous successes. (As with greenkeeping, the moment you stand still the wind blows.) It is said that some action was urgently required to protect our ever-shrinking courses. In the afternoon it was a pleasure to see Brockenhurst Manor's Course Manager, Ed McCabe, and ex Green Chairman, Arthur King, take the stand and give excellent presentations. Ed spoke of how he and his team coped with the atrocious weather of last winter and Arthur, as ever, spoke of how members should support greenkeepers and their maintenance programme more. I'm sure that there would be a queue of greenkeepers who would love to have Arthur as their Green Chairman!

Wednesday saw Roger Black MBE give us an excellent insight into the environmental workshop on the Monday run by Senior STRI Ecologist Bob Taylor with Jonathan Smith and Fiona McIntyre from the Scottish Golf Course Wildlife Group. Ecological management doesn't mean you have to grow a beard and wear sandals! It probably already is an integral part of your course management programme. We learnt a great deal on maximising the ecological potential of our courses as well as sustaining its diverse habitats. Tuesday I attended the National Education Conference and was treated to some excellent presentations. Donald Steel was excellent as he spoke passionately about his concerns that the modern day golf ball and club were having on our ageing courses. Both professionals and members are now hitting the ball further than ever and he felt that some action was urgently required to protect our ever-shrinking courses. In the afternoon it was a pleasure to see Brockenhurst Manor's Course Manager, Ed McCabe, and ex Green Chairman, Arthur King, take the stand and give excellent presentations. Ed spoke of how he and his team coped with the atrocious weather of last winter and Arthur, as ever, spoke of how members should support greenkeepers and their maintenance programme more. I'm sure that there would be a queue of greenkeepers who would love to have Arthur as their Green Chairman!

For those that have never visited BTME then I can strongly recommend it! Remember to include it in your budget next year. It doesn't have to cost the earth, as the Section coach is there next year!

Back to the Section. It has been suggested to the committee that we could possibly introduce course walks at our Section golf days to those members who don't play golf. Looking around different courses is always informative and we are hoping to arrange these if possible. You should have all received your fixture cards along with an entry form for the inaugural Jim Fry Pairs' competition. Jim has long been a respected and valued supporter of our Section so I am sure the Pairs’ competition will be well supported. Numbers are strictly limited so please return your completed forms as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

The first round draw will be held at our spring meeting at Blackmoor Golf Club on May 1. If you have not received your fixture card then please contact Fred Deamen.

Until next month

Alex McComb

Devon and Cornwall

Fifty-eight members attended the Barenbrug Seeds meeting, which was the Section’s first meeting of the year and held at Perranporth Golf Club on Wednesday, January 16. The day started with our golfing members competing over the Club’s links course for prizes kindly donated by Barenbrug UK. Head Greenkeeper, Bill Mitchell, treated over 20 non-golfing members to a guided tour of the succulent habitats. Tuesday I learnt a great deal as I shared experiences and ideas with other greenkeepers from around the world. We all have the same problems; it's how we deal with them that is sometimes vastly different! The banquet finished the week off where most of us had met old friends and made new ones too.

For those that have never visited BTME then I can strongly recommend it! Remember to include it in your budget next year. It doesn't have to cost the earth, as the Section coach is there next year!

Back to the Section. It has been suggested to the committee that we could possibly introduce course walks at our Section golf days to those members who don't play golf. Looking around different courses is always informative and we are hoping to arrange these if possible. You should have all received your fixture cards along with an entry form for the inaugural Jim Fry Pairs' competition. Jim has long been a respected and valued supporter of our Section so I am sure the Pairs’ competition will be well supported. Numbers are strictly limited so please return your completed forms as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

The first round draw will be held at our spring meeting at Blackmoor Golf Club on May 1. If you have not received your fixture card then please contact Fred Deamen.

Until next month

Alex McComb
tion. Last but not least our thanks must go to Perranporth Golf Club for allowing the Section use of their facilities and all their staff who made our day run so smoothly.

As usual January brought an exodus of greenkeepers from our counties to attend the BTME show held in the lovely town of Harrogate. With the BTME show seminars and conference offering so much in education many members decided to travel independently. The Region's coach departed from Fingle Glen on the Monday with videos on board to keep members amused on the long trip North. Most of the Region's members were able to stay in the same hotel, which created an excellent atmosphere.

The show itself just seems to get better each year and is now one that you can't afford to miss. Many members attended the Amenity Technology evening which was just buzzing with greenkeepers from all over the world.

Congratulations must go to our Regional Administrator Paula, and Stuart Ashworth, of Amenity Technology who had organised the superb BTME. Regional Administrator, Paula, and Stuart Ashworth, of Amenity Technology who had organised the superb BTME.

Richard Whyman

For a quality, precision cut, take a ride on one of our quality, precision-engineered machines. Toro’s Greensmaster® ride-on greens mowers are renowned for their superb finish, reliability, productivity and ease-of-use. And it’s quality that lasts, for they also have a reputation for durability and a high residual value. Now, a new improved Greensmaster® is available - the 3250 with a larger, more powerful engine to give even higher productivity. And if it’s a pedestrian mower you require, our classic Greensmaster 1000 greens mower is just one of a superb range guaranteed to build your reputation for quality greens. Simply telephone on 01480 226800 and we’ll arrange for a local dealer to contact you.

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WIN!

THIS EXCLUSIVE JACKET

Don't miss your chance to win this fantastic jacket worth £60 in our exciting new Buyers' Guide competition in association with Allen Power - "THE TURFTIME TEASER"

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. We offer cost effective solutions
2. Backwards, our telephone number reads: 607218 58710
3. Our name is a clue to... who you gonna call!

Write down your answer and jacket measurement on a postcard and send your entries to:
Turftime Teaser, Greenkeeper International, BIGCA HOUSE, Aldwark, Aire, York YO61 1UF

Entries to reach us no later than Monday 18th March 2002. The first correct entry will receive an exclusive squash jacket. This competition is not open to BIGGA Staff or non-members.

Last month, Andrew Brown from Bath Golf Club, correctly answered the Turftime Teaser. Our congratulations and a fantastic squash jacket from Allen Power are on their way to you!
FOR SALE

4 x Ransomes GS 55 (no groomers)
2 years old - excellent condition:
used approximately 30 hours,
glass boxes, transport wheels
£1500 each
Tel 01278 782207

Don't miss your chance to win this fantastic jacket worth £60 in our exciting new Buyers' Guide competition in association with Allen Power 'THE TURF TIME TEASER'

By Order of
Tyrone S Courtman and Shaun N Adams of Cooper-Parry
Joint Administrative Receivers of Long Equipment Ltd

Auction
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New & Demo Groundcare Equipment
Machine Tools, Office Furniture, Computer Eqpt. Etc

Groundcare Eqpt Manufactured by Long Equipment Ltd & Others,
Tiger Line '45.4' Ride on Rotary Mower, 'TM2800 & TM3800' Roller
Rotary Mowers, 'GR8230 & RM7000' Rotary Gang Mowers, 'GF5000'
Gang Flail Mower, 'FM150 & FM200' Flail Mowers, 1.6m & 1.8m Flail &
Rotary Mowers to fit Tiger Line Ride on, Side Arm Flail Units. 'RL2004
Hi-Tip' Mower/Scarifier/Collectors, 'LE1501 & LE1502' Scarifier/
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Top Dressers, Fairway Brushes, 'LE180' Finishing Mowers,
Brush & Spinner Cassette Attachments. 'TSM120' Flail Mower,
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Also Leyland '262 Synchro' Tractor, Tri-Axle & Tandem Axle Machinery
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(98/R) Machine Tools, Office Furniture, Computer Equipment, etc.

On View: Day Prior 9am - 4pm and Sale Day from 9am
Buyers Premium 10% Catalogues £2
LITTLESTONE GOLF CLUB

Has a vacancy for an
ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

We currently have a vacancy for an experienced Assistant Greenkeeper to join the existing team on our established 36 hole links complex.

Salary according to age and experience

Applications in writing with CV by 10th March to:
The Secretary, Littlestone Golf Club, St Andrews Road, Littlestone, New Romney, Kent TN28 8RD
Tel: 01797 363355

WYRE FOREST GOLF CENTRE LTD

Requires a
HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicants should have a good working knowledge of turf and machinery maintenance, irrigation and personnel leadership.

Applications in writing with full c.v. to
Simon Price, General Manager, Wyre Forest Golf Club, Zorotech Avenue, Kidderminster, Worcestershire, DY11 7EX.
Telephone: 01299 822682

REDBOURN GOLF CLUB \& DRIVING RANGE,
ALDWICKBURY PARK GOLF CLUB \&
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have opportunities available for both
QUALIFIED GREENKEEPERS AND
ENTHUSIASTIC TRAINEE GREENKEEPERS

Ideal opportunities for qualified greenkeepers looking for a career move into a forward thinking group. Excellent opportunities also exist for trainees with either partial training or no training to obtain their professional qualification financed by the company.

C.V. and letter of application by 25th March 2002 to:
Mrs L Flitton, P.O. Box 376, Redbourn, Herts, AL3 7ZX.
Email: enquiries@redbourngolfclub.com
Fax: 01582 794362

OAKLAND PARK GOLF CLUB

require a
FIRST ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Applicants should have a minimum of 3 years experience and be currently working towards or have NVQ Level 3. Also must have spraying certificates PA1, 2, & 6.

Must be hard working and a good team member.

No Accommodation.

Salary negotiable.

Applications in writing with full C.V. to:
Mr Perry Harvey, Course Manager,
Oakland Park Golf Club,
Threehouseholds, Chalfont,
St Giles, Bucks, HP8 4LW
**READING GOLF CLUB**

*invite applications for the post of ASSISTANT GREENKEEPERS*

We are looking for two staff to join the team in maintaining this established, well equipped 18 hole private members golf course. Experience and qualifications to NVQ Level 2 would be an advantage. Consideration would be given to a part qualified applicant and further training would then be given.

Salary negotiable, depending on experience (pay review pending on Committee on Greenkeepers Salaries and Conditions of Employment recommendations). Accommodation may be available for the right candidate.

Please apply in writing, including full CV to:

The Head Greenkeeper, Jim Sutherland, Reading Golf Club, 17 Kidmore End Road, Emmer Green, Reading, RG4 8SG.

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**HEATON MOOR GOLF CLUB LTD**

*STOCKPORT*

**ASSISTANT COURSE MANAGER**

Must have minimum 5 years experience. Qualified to NVQ Level 2/3 along with PA1, 2 and 6 spraying certificates. Applicants must be enthusiastic and hard working. Salary negotiable according to experience.

**TRAINEE GREENKEEPER**

Full training will be given to NVQ Level 1, 2 etc. Salary negotiable according to age and experience.

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**THE NORTHWOOD GOLF CLUB LTD**

*Invites applications for the post of FIRST ASSISTANT*

The successful candidate must have a proven track record in Golf Course Management with a minimum of 5 years experience. You must have a high level of self-motivation with the ability to lead a varied but committed team in absence of the Course Manager.

Minimum qualification of NVQ Level 3 or working towards the equivalent, with experience in the use of all sports turf machinery. PA1, PA2 & 6 Spraying Certificate is essential.

Experience in the use of modern computerised Irrigation Systems would be advantageous.

This private 18 hole parkland course which is over 100 years old, offers a good, challenging working environment with the possibility of accommodation and a good remuneration package.

Applications in writing, including full CV and salary expectation to:

The Secretary, Northwood Golf Club, Beauport Park, Battle Road, St Leonards on Sea, East Sussex, TN37 7BP

(Closing date 31st March 2002)

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**SWINDON SERVICES**

*GREENKEEPER - Highworth Golf Course*

Rate of pay: £5.47 per hour plus 33% Bonus Ref: SS143

37 hours per week to include weekend working

The successful applicant will require experience in all aspects of greens maintenance and operation of grounds machinery associated with greenkeeping.

Knowledge of Golf Course etiquette is preferred however, not essential. A full driving licence will be required for this post.

Closing date: 21.3.02.

For an application form and further details please contact Swindon Services Personnel on (01793) 464517 (24 hour answering service). Minicom for deaf users (01793) 436659. Please note that we cannot accept CVs.

We are actively working towards equality of opportunity and welcome applications from any individual.

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**STOKE BY NAYLAND GOLF & LEISURE**

require a **HEAD GREENKEEPER**

Stoke by Nayland Golf club is a 36 hole complex situated on the Essex Suffolk borders between Colchester and Sudbury. Built in 1972, the club has over 1200 members plus a busy Hotel and Society green fee usage. A vacancy exists for a head greenkeeper to have full responsibility for the maintenance of one of the two courses. Whilst experience and at least NVQ Level 3 is expected an aspiring first assistant who is looking for promotion could well be considered. Candidates would also require the following skills.

- Have experience in all aspects of course management
- Have a practical knowledge of the latest equipment
- Experience in the construction of Tees and Greens
- The ability to prepare and control a course budget
- Possess good man management skills

Salary will be negotiable and limited accommodation is available. Applicants should apply in writing with full CV to:

Derek Howe M Inst. GCM, Stoke by Nayland Golf & Leisure, Keepers Lane, Leavenheath, Colchester, Essex CO6 4PZ

Tel: 01206-262836 Fax: 01206-263556

E-mail: info@golf-club.co.uk Web site: www.stokebynaylandclub.co.uk

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Intelligence is a hard commodity to measure. They say that Einstein for all his wisdom did not possess the mental faculties necessary to boil an egg, or change his clothes. This is quite understandable when you come to think of it. How often have we come across people with an abundance of brainpower but no actual ability to think? Why only today I was listening to our venerable Home Secretary on the radio comment on the nations latest crime figures. “They are lower” he stated, “but not low enough”. Brilliant, and at what stage are the crime figures deemed to be “low enough”. Then there was that unfortunate contestant on Mastermind who could cope with Magnus Magnusson’s first question as to what his name was but when asked to divulge his occupation, was totally stumped.

The measurement of intelligence, it is said, can be used to categorise the hierarchy of life forms, while intelligence itself, can be described as degrees of consciousness. Let me explain. The more conscious one is, the more intelligent one becomes. So at the lower end of the scale of life, we have single celled organisms and surroundings but are unable to experience the process of thought and simply utilise the limited information gathered about their environment, as a survival means. Some of those old golf club secretaries, would be the equivalent in our particular world. Then we come to the slightly higher forms of life to be found in the animal kingdom. These have all the senses intact and are able to gather information on their surroundings and carry out a degree of conscious thought, although often lack the faculties for emotional response. They are also remarkably adept at learning patterns of behaviour and of coming to intelligent conclusions based on incoming information. Therefore a cow will sit in the shade on a hot day, or a cat will hide itself in the undergrowth ready to pounce on its unsuspecting prey.

Unfortunately, experience has taught me that the average golf club committee does not always attain such levels of consciousness. Correct conclusion based on gathered data, is not something that is automatically arrived at. Now I know this is a horrifyingly condescending statement to make and I do recognise that some son for crowned holes is that when the turf is wet and soft in the winter, golfers will all step approximately six inches away from the hole to retrieve the ball. Experience has compressed so several such golfers, causes the hole to stand proud above the adjacent area. We can reach this conclusion by using such things as our eyes. I have on many occasions explained the correct cause of the crowned hole malady but each winter the complaint goes up that we never use a board to change the holes. I even remember one committee man, congratulating me on finally learning how to change the holes properly, when he followed me around straight after I had moved them. Even after explaining it to him yet again, he appeared not to grasp the fact that the cause of the holes being flat on that occasion, was that he was the first person to play on them. I have now resolved the issue in true traditional greenkeeping fashion, by the deployment of many years of near zero fertiliser input. This has had the effect of eliminating all thatch from the soil surface and bringing up the greens considerably. I now get a flood of complaints each sum-

Another classic that committees have managed to wind me up with on several occasions, is that of holding important events on a Monday. Is it just myself, or have we all looked in the club fixture list only to find a pro-am, or a Ladies’ Invitational, or a Seniors’ Open starting on a Monday morning?

such like, that have no actual consciousness or awareness but are simply programmed to search for food and engage in reproduction. Replace food with alcohol and it’s a bit like myself as an apprentice greenkeeper. Of course the consumption of alcohol was necessary because of its ability to make unwelcome sights considerably more pleasing to the eye and thus aid the fruitless search for the reproductive division of my mental programming.

Moving up the scale, we have other simple creatures such as insects. These have a vague awareness of their committees are highly proficient, but I will endeavour to back this statement with some of my own evidence gathered in a lifetime of working among them.

Take the crowned hole syndrome so popular among committee men as an excuse for their missed three foot putts, even though their putting strokes often involve a twitch of such horrific violence that divot replacement is required. The crowned hole phenomenon is, they assure us, due to our inability to use a board to change the holes.

Now we all know that the real reason for crowned holes is that when the turf is wet and soft in the winter, golfers will all step approximately six inches away from the hole to retrieve the ball. Experience has compressed several such golfers, causes the hole to stand proud above the adjacent area. We can reach this conclusion by using such things as our eyes. I have on many occasions explained the correct cause of the crowned hole malady but each winter the complaint goes up that we never use a board to change the holes. I even remember one committee man, congratulating me on finally learning how to change the holes properly, when he followed me around straight after I had moved them. Even after explaining it to him yet again, he appeared not to grasp the fact that the cause of the holes being flat on that occasion, was that he was the first person to play on them. I have now resolved the issue in true traditional greenkeeping fashion, by the deployment of many years of near zero fertiliser input. This has had the effect of eliminating all thatch from the soil surface and bringing up the greens considerably. I now get a flood of complaints each sum-

mer that the greens are like “bleedin’ concrete” but rarely about our inability to change the holes correctly.

“Now we’re following us around on purpose aren’t you?” is another cry that goes up when we unfortunately meet up with the same group of golfers, on more than one occasion, when engaged in the execution of our duties. Now the logic behind this accusation is somewhat bewildering to us, but a colleague of mine once enlightened me on how his lady golfers became convinced that all greenkeepers were guilty of making this their sole objective in life.
Amazingly they passed a resolution at their AGM that on ladies' days, the greenkeepers had to mow the greens by starting at the 18th hole and then work their way back to the 1st. This, they concluded, would result in ground staff never interrupting their game. With the full backing of the secretary, I am delighted to say that my colleague did indeed carry out the ladies' wishes to the letter of their law. Predictably enough, the result was utter chaos and apparently the embarrassment of the ladies was something to be treasured. Needless to say the lessons in communication have been well and truly learnt.

Actually the aforementioned colleague of mine, told me of another classic example of golfing lack of consciousness. He was one morning checking the irrigation system, by putting the full greens pop-ups on a two-minute cycle and then racing around the course, taking note of any faults in the system. He got to one green just before the sprinklers were due up, only to find that a two ball was putting out. He rushed onto the green and politely informed them that they needed to vacate the area immediately, or they would get very wet indeed. They completely and utterly ignored him. He repeated the warning but one particular golfer simply looked up at him with a look of contempt and then proceeded to stand back over his putt. At this point the sprinklers came on with one of them aimed directly at the golfer. With true British stiff upper lip, he stood up, stared at my colleague and slowly walked over to him, only for the sprinkler to follow his every move. He eventually arrived at his destination in a condition of complete saturation at which point the sprinkler shut down. “What’s your name?” asked the sodden golfer through clenched teeth. My friend found it difficult to reply due to the fact that he was focusing all of his attention in the avoidance of wetting his own underpants, albeit via uncontrolled laughter.

Another classic that committees have managed to wind me up with on several occasions, is that of holding important events on a Monday. Is it just myself, or have we all looked in the club fixture list only to find a pro-am, or a Ladies’ Invitational, or a Seniors’ Open starting on a Monday morning. Have they stopped for one second and asked themselves how we are supposed to get everything double cut, raked and changed in the couple of hours of daylight available. I have even come across them making the brilliant decision of bringing onboard the full shotgun start, just to make things doubly impossible for us. I have even come across them making the brilliant decision of bringing onboard the full shotgun start, just to make things doubly impossible for us. Finally, let me relay to you, a story that came from a Course Manager friend of mine, who has plied his trade in a particular coastal resort that will remain nameless for reasons of possible litigation. Now several of the golf clubs in this place, let me tell you, have particular Course Manager, was working away with the rest of his team on a hole, when he noticed someone observing them from up in the woods. He thought nothing of it but the next day, the same person was once more going down upon them. This continued for a week or so, before curiosity finally got the better of the Course Manager and he made his way up the hill to confront this strange human being.

"Can I help you" he asked. The reply, when it came was somewhat disconcerting.

“I’m the new Green Chairman. I’ve been watching you and there are going to be a few changes around here”. With this thought in his mind, my friend made his way back down to the rest of his staff to inform them of the distressing news. The Green Chairman continued to observe them for quite a few days after this, until finally the day arrived when he made his way down the hill to make his pronouncement to the Course Manager.

What awful observations had he made, thought my friend, as he saw him marching towards him. Would this be cards on the table time, had he made a fiendish discovery that would prove incompetence, would there be some impossible demand made, would he harass them all with the results of this despicable time and motion study. No, instead the Green Chairman asked, “How do you cut the greens?” “What do you mean?” asked the Course Manager. “Well, when you cut them, do you go up and down, or around and around?”

Sandy McDivot.
Head Greenkeeper:
Sludgecombe Pay and Play.
Richard Barker enjoys a roller coaster experience at the GCSAA Conference and Show in Orlando

Having just unpacked my bags after BTME it was time to pack them again and off to the States for the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America show in Orlando.

Early on Sunday morning (February 3rd) I met with Neil and Tracey, as well as Andy White from Oatlands College - Andy was on the trip as lecturer of Elmwood College. I also met the 10 Heads - Pest Control which included Tracey and Neil as Andy was on the trip as lecturer of Elmwood College. I also met the 10 Heads - Pest Control which included Tracey and Neil as well as his fellow Scottsmen who came over as they will apply next year. It is open to every student in the United States. Each year BIGGA have a reciprocal agreement with the GCSAA for their continuing education. On speaking to them each and every one had a marvellous time, learning plenty and making new acquaintances. But their work is not over as they will be making presentations back home. Please try and support these if there is one in your area, I can assure you of a good evening!

Now earlier I mentioned the Bernhards delegation. This is the second trip that Stephen has sponsored and it is fair to say this is no holiday as it is fair to say this is no holiday as it is fair to say this is no holiday as it is fair to say this is no holiday as it is fair to say this is no holiday. Another Superintendents, who had a similar amount of staff, told me he had hand raked bunkers twice a day. Now that I think it is a bit over the top. But before you get depressed the message came over loud and clear that these guys despite the fact that the staff and large budgets (not in all cases) were under tremendous pressure.

It was a very proud - we certainly are. So with the week nearly over we could reflect on what was a successful week for BIGGA and all that attended and start to prepare ourselves for the long trip home, while Andrew Pledger and Hugh Morgan continued their adventures in the States.

Upon reaching our own shores there were no surprises, it was still cold and damp. My golf course is certainly very wet as I am sure yours are, but looking ahead Spring is not a million miles away so we all have a few more weeks to complete those winter programmes and look forward to some better weather and a good season.
Maxicrop Seaweed Extract produced a 50% increase in leaf area by more early formed tillers. Perennial ryegrass root dry weight almost trebled after 5 weeks following Maxicrop treatment. It was concluded this improved root development gives the plant a greater potential to increase nutrient uptake.

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"Ascophyllum nodosum based seaweed extract enhanced root development of grasses grown under moisture stress, leading to better top growth."

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"Maxicrop produced a 150% improvement in shoot weight, largely by increasing the number of tillers. Maxicrop had a positive effect on improving root growth of creeping bent cultivars."

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The ST350 Workhorse.
A greenkeeper’s best friend.

Whatever you want doing around the course the **ST350 Workhorse** is ready to help. Making light work of tough conditions. Speeding up **movement**, increasing **efficiency**. With its rugged 11 hp engine, **heavy duty suspension** and tipping body the ST350 is a serious performer. Add the options of winch and worklights and you have all the capability you need to make a big impact on your workload. (And with the LPG version, a very **small impact on the environment**).

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