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 every clue consideration. Granted, not all of them have a definitive answer, and some of them don't deserve an answer at all, but they are 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 physiologist.

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?

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Why do supermarkets have these stupid revolving doors which never work?

Why do people who scavenge up the outside lane of dual carriageways before turning left at the roundabout, always get away with it?

Why is it only those people involved in football who ever say "To be fair..." and proceed to slag someone off as in "To be fair, he's always been a bit of a donkey", or the variation. "He's always been a bit of a donkey, to be fair?"

Why did someone put God's Law on the statute book?

Why do so many people assume they can go first without regard to whatever they're supposed to be talking about?

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 sledging?

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

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/SGM 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, SGM's Fiveways premises or on-site at Gleneagles. Reciprocal arrangements will see the greenkeeping team at Gleneagles trawling 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 dresser 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 espouse," 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 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 Archison, East; Martin Carey and Colin Black, West; Wallace Mercer and Paul Tulloch, Ayrshire; Kenneth Kinnaird 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 speaker who Regional Administrator, Peter Boyd, tracks down just seem to get better and better each year.