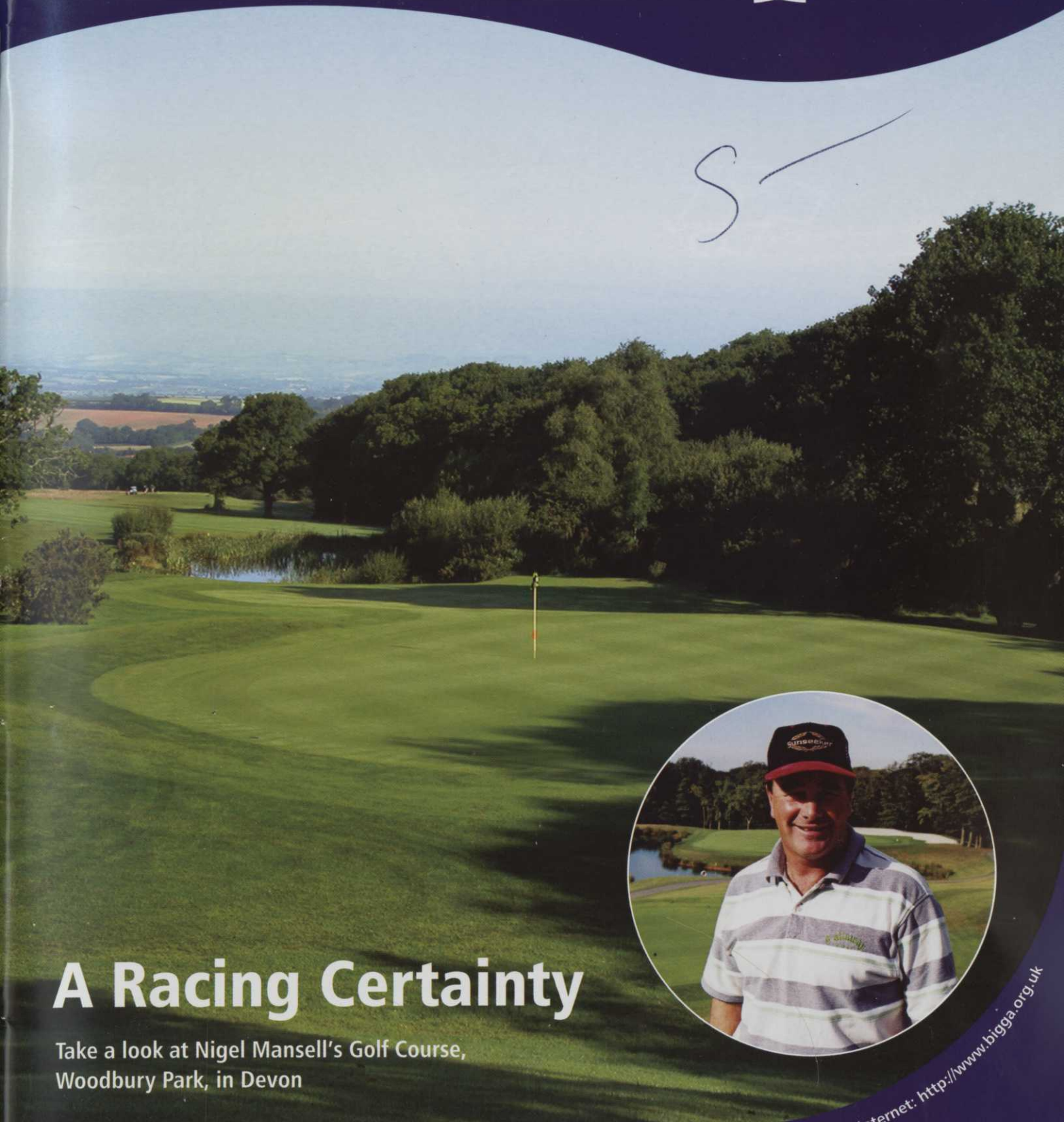




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Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL



A Racing Certainty

Take a look at Nigel Mansell's Golf Course,
Woodbury Park, in Devon





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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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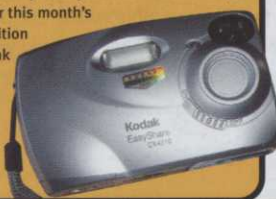
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Buyers' Guide competition
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Inte-rate
See page 48





Welcome

THE CIRCLE OF LIFE

Over the last decade we have all learned of HRH The Duke of York's love of golf and while you can't equate it with the impact Tiger Woods has made on the popularity of the game, he has certainly raised its profile in some areas of society.

He was also good enough to come to Aldwark and officially open BIGGA HOUSE five years ago this month. My how time flies.

Well, last month the profile of the game was given a further boost when the Duke drove in as Captain of the R&A for the next 12 months.

R&A Secretary, Peter Dawson, said it was the best drive he'd ever seen down the famous 1st on the Old Course and within moments those very words were being beamed across the wires and turned into quotes in newspapers, magazines and websites, together with pictures of the Duke's well balanced follow through. If anything could highlight the impact the new R&A Captain will have over the next year that was it.

With playing numbers not increasing at the expected rate and golf clubs involved in battles to secure prospective members, a lifting of the profile of the game is just what the doctor ordered. Photographs of the Duke playing golf will no doubt appear in the likes of Hello and OK magazines again and it might give those people who had contemplated giving the game a go, but done nothing about it, a nudge into visiting their local club or driving range.

Let's face it, for those of us who make our living from the game, however directly or indirectly, any leg up golf gets is a bonus. Our sector of the industry is not huge and any more money that can be brought through the doors is most welcome.

A new member means your club has a cheque to bank, which in turn means when you come to need a new piece of machinery the money will be there to spend. When you do, the company from which you have bought will have more money and they might feel inclined to give their profile an injection by taking out an advert with Greenkeeper International, or becoming a Golden or Silver Key supporter of our Education and Development Fund or increasing their stand space at Harrogate.

When that happens we have more resources to improve the benefits we offer BIGGA members and provide additional education and training courses and resources, which means you're better placed to do a better job back at your golf clubs. If your courses are looking tip top you are better placed to attract more new members. Many more members and the club will be in a position to add to its greenkeeping staff and then BIGGA will have more potential members which gives the Association more clout when we come to talking to the industry, or even companies from outwith the industry.

I suppose, stealing from The Lion King, it's the Circle of Life!

Scott MacCallum, Editor

TORO MATCH-UP

The benefits of the Toro Student of the Year Award have long been known to those people who have been lucky enough to have become involved at any stage of the competition but for the 2001 winner, Andrew Pledger, they have been greater than most.

Andrew won his Award in the final year that the competition was run alongside the Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping, and his fellow victor was Huw Morgan MG, Course Manager at Wildernesse Golf Club in Kent. It was the first time that the two men had met and their friendship grew over the following months and in particular during the time when both were in the States - Andrew as part of his

Scholarship Award at the University of Massachusetts and Huw during his winner's trip to the GCSAA Conference and Show in Orlando.

During this time Huw had been looking at his own staffing issues and felt that Andrew was just the sort of person he'd love to have as his Deputy. So on the taxi journey back to Orlando International Airport he offered the job to Andrew, who, at the time was number three at The Hertfordshire Golf Club.

"He was a bit taken aback to be asked but two or three weeks later he accepted and started as joint Deputy Course Manager with Grant Elliott, the following January," explained Huw.

"It has been a great move, Grant is excellent at construction work and Andrew, who has customer care experience from his time as a Sainsbury Manager is great at talking to members in the clubhouse, while his attention to detail out on the

golf course is superb," explained Huw.

"I can't thank Toro enough. Not only did we get a great deal out of winning the competitions but they acted as matchmaker too. We would never have met if it hadn't been for Toro."



Andrew seated with Huw standing

The Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year prize of an intensive seven week turf management course in Massachusetts, visits to the GCSAA Conference and Show and Toro Headquarters was a huge boost to Andrew.

"It really brought me on to another level and opened my eyes to what could be achieved. When I came back I really wanted to use the information that I'd learned," he said.

"I'd had corporate experience at The Hertfordshire but I really wanted experience at a members' club and what better club than the Wildernesse for that and working with such a dedicated, open minded Course Manager as Huw has been great.

"If it hadn't been for the Toro Awards we wouldn't have met and I wouldn't have had this opportunity," he said.

WELL DONE NEIL!

What do Paul Lawrie and Neil Woolfrey, Course Manager at Great Lever & Farnworth GC, have in common?

Well, they are both Carnoustie Champions. Paul, as we all remember, won an amazing Open Championship over the famous old links in 1999 and earned himself a place on Greenkeeper International's front cover as a result. Neil has just won the Carnoustie Amateur Championship, or as it is better known The Craw's Nest Tassie.

The event attracts players from all over the world and this year had a field of 365.

Neil, a 2 handicapper at Breightmet GC, in Bolton, had to survive two rounds of qualifying. One over the Championship course and another over the Burnside course, before going into the 64 man knockout stage, all played over what is widely regarded as the toughest course in golf.



"During the matchplay stages I beat two past champions from the Carnoustie Club and in the final beat a player off +2 handicap, by two holes.

Ironically he was also from Bolton and I was the first ever winner to come from the North West.

Email press releases and new product updates to;
scott@bigga.co.uk

PRACTICAL GREENKEEPING

Second edition

By Jim Arthur B.Sc. (Agric.)

Published by The Royal & Ancient
Golf Club of St Andrews 2003-08-18

ISBN 0 907583 12 1

The first edition of Practical Greenkeeping was

produced in 1997 to fill a huge void in practical knowledge in a format that could be easily understood at all levels. Jim Arthur's experience, advising more than 550 golf clubs in Britain and Europe and acting as consultant agronomist to the Championship Committee of the R&A, made him the ideal man for the job.

His no-nonsense, down-to-earth approach conveys his message loudly and clearly. Golf courses can flourish by following traditional methods that are the most simple and most effective, both in terms of condition and cost.

The second edition of this essential book contains much new material in the form of appendices to chapters, bringing the debate right up to the minute in terms of new regulations on pesticides and fertilisers and restrictions on the use of water. Now, more than ever, the sound traditional advice in Practical Greenkeeping is vital to all those involved in the preparation of golf courses.

New generations of student and trainee greenkeepers will find the content of this book invaluable and it will also stimulate much debate and provide encouragement for experienced Course Managers.

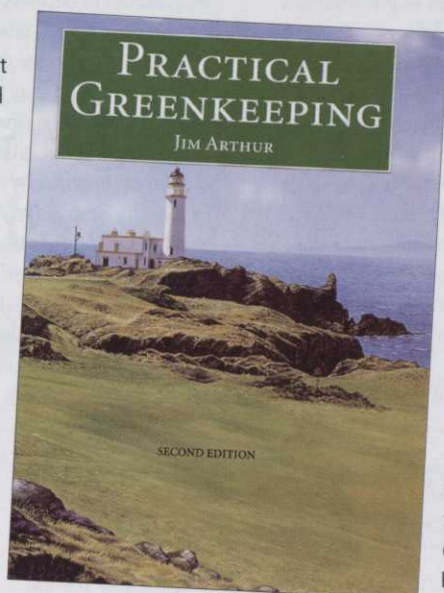
As Jim Arthur points out: "Pesticides are

predictably going to be progressively banned or unavailable, so high input methods involving massive corrective or preventative chemical control systems will collapse. The only solution is to swing back to austere methods which favour our traditional grasses as well as our traditional game, while costing far less and carrying fewer associated problems."

No golf club green committee should be without a copy of this book. The future health and prosperity of golf courses throughout Britain and Europe could be ensured by following the

sound advice crammed into these pages.

Practical Greenkeeping is available from the R&A website (www.randa.org); from the STRI Bookshop (www.stri.co.uk); from the distributors Gazelle, at White Cross Mills, Hightown Lane, Lancaster, LA1 4XS (tel: 01524 68765); and all main booksellers. Jim will also be happy to post signed copies to students and fellow enthusiasts (tel: 01395 442966). The price is £29.95 hard back post free, copiously illustrated 312pp.



LDCA SEMINAR

The next LDCA Sportsturf Drainage Seminar and Demonstration will be held on 13 November. It will take place at the impressive facilities of the Sport England National Sports Centre, at Bisham Abbey, in Berkshire.

The morning session will include talks on drainage design, installation and maintenance of sportsturf facilities, presented by a team of well respected figures in the national turf industry.

A valuable part of the day is the afternoon working live demonstration. This shows systems of drainage and secondary treatments being installed with a range of different types of machinery and equipment.

Further information and booking form can be found on the LDCA website www.ldca.org or from the LDCA Secretary Tel: 01327 263264 Fax: 01327 263265 or email: secretary@ldca.org

YES MINISTER

The GTC's David Golding has been in correspondence with Alan Johnson, the recently appointed Government Minister for Lifelong Learning, Further and Higher Education regarding the "on-going statements regarding 'Mickey Mouse' degrees such as Golf Course Management" as reported to have been made by Mr Johnson's predecessor, Margaret Hodge.

Greenkeeper International has also been critical of Chris Woodhead, the former Chief Inspector of Schools, who regularly appears on the media using Golf Course Management as an example of "Mickey Mouse" courses.

In his letter to Alan Johnson, David states: "We as the industry body have invested heavily in working with our SSC and Awarding Bodies to ensure the range of courses/qualifications are appropriate for employers and student greenkeepers.

"Whilst 90% plus of students are registered on N/SVQ's several of the more academic students prefer the HE route and this we believe is important for the future maintenance and management of our golf courses.

"It is therefore unhelpful when publicly Mrs Hodge undermines our efforts."

In his reply Alan Johnson says: "You raise some concerns about perceptions of certain courses, and specifically about comments attributed to my predecessor Margaret Hodge. Much was made of Margaret's comments at the Institute for Public Policy Research seminar earlier this year. However, she deliberately did not name any particular course or type of university but was instead referring to any course where the content is perhaps not as rigorous as one would expect and where the degree itself may not have a clear purpose or relevance in the labour market. The comments were made in the context of ensuring that the expansion of higher education is both relevant and appropriate to meet the needs of learners and employers. This was a key message in our recent White Paper, The Future of Higher Education, where we underlined our support for diversity in higher education and for the skills and qualities it develops in those who take part."

David added that while there were no reassurances in Mr Johnson's letter regarding the future of turf HE qualifications, the Government are now certainly aware that the turf sector is determined that golf club employers and turf students have a range of qualifications based on employment opportunities from apprentice greenkeeper to the agronomist.

Royal Inverdivot GC...

Strip Cartoonist of the Year www.tonyhusband.co.uk



With reference to the article 'The SMART way to manage disease' by Dr. Ruth Mann of STRI, BAYER Environmental Science have kindly pointed out that iprodione is, in fact, a multi-site fungicide (in that it affects more than one biochemical process in the pathogen). Iprodione is the active ingredient of Chipco Green and not Rovral Green as stated in the article.

SGM OPEN WEEK



'Groundcare and the Environment' was the theme of a special Open Week staged recently by Scottish Grass Machinery at its Inverkeithing Headquarters in Fife.

Over 300 hundred groundcare professionals from local authorities, golf clubs, sports stadia and the landscape industry attended the event held over three days in August.

They were treated to a series of presentations centred around the increasing influence of environmental issues on the groundcare business.

Expert speakers included Steve Chicken, Alan Prickett and Richard Tyrrell, all from Ransomes Jacobsen Ltd, Barry Ohrman, Calor Gas Ltd; Jim Maloney, Envirosafe; Jimmy Kidd, The Gleneagles Hotel and John Caven, Meldrum House Golf Club.

Many of the latest models of environmentally friendly equipment were also previewed by Scottish Grass Machinery at its purpose built demonstration facility. These included Ransomes 2130 LPG and Jacobsen E-PLEX.

The Open Week also offered the opportunity for

Scottish Grass Machinery to introduce its customers to its brand new £250,000 workshop facility which has doubled workshop space at the Inverkeithing HQ to 20,000 sq ft.

During the Open Week, Scottish Grass Machinery underlined its credentials as a successful family business when the new workshop facility was declared open by Kerr McNroy, the three year old grandson of business founder, David McNroy and son of managing director, Steven McNroy.

Commenting on the Open Week, Steven McNroy, managing director, Scottish Grass Machinery said, "The Open Week has become a regular fixture in our calendar because it provides an excellent opportunity to gather together many of the industry's top players in Scotland, to discuss the latest trends and to look at the latest equipment coming on to the market. As with many other industries, environmental issues are moving rapidly towards the top of the agenda in groundcare and it therefore seemed a natural choice as the theme for this Open Week."

GREENKEEPING MASTERCLASS DECEMBER 3 & 4

Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers will be heading for Woodhall Spa in December for the next event in the highly successful series of Greenkeeping Masterclasses. The Masterclass is a technical conference which aims to keep Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers right up-to-date with specific agronomic and environmental theory and practice as well as the wider picture in relation to these subjects.

Provisional Subjects and Speakers for December:

European Perspective on Pesticide Regulations, Steve Isaac, Secretary to the R&A Golf Course Committee; Update on Biologicals, Stella Rixon, STRI; Grasses for Golf, Dr Andy Newell, STRI; Waste Water Re-cycling, Tim Early, Waste2Water; Agronomy, Andy Cole, PSD Agronomy; Management & Communications, Kerran Daly MG, Gog Magog and Duncan McGilvray, Potters Bar.

Booking forms will be sent out in early October and further information will also appear at www.englishgolfunion.org/roadshows

SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH WALES REGIONAL SEMINAR

November 19 & 20

Speakers will include David Garland of the European Tour, The National Chairman, George Brown, Kerran Daly, the inimitable Frank Newberry and English Amateur Champion Richard Finch.

Programmes were sent out in September. Please contact your section secretary if you have not received one. Enquiries telephone Paula Humphries on: 01288 341418.

ONE DAY GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT SEMINARS

A series of one-day golf course management seminars organised by the EGU's Golf Services and County Unions are scheduled for this autumn.

The seminars will cover a wide range of topics for Course Managers, Greenkeepers, Secretaries, Managers, Owners and Chair of Green.

The programmes will be delivered by expert speakers and include on-course agronomy and ecology discussions, machinery demonstrations, finance, climate change and course design and alteration.

VENUES AND DATES:

- 15 Oct - The Wiltshire
- 16 Oct - Tavistock Golf Club, Devon
- 22 Oct - Chelmsford Golf Club, Essex
- 23 Oct - Gog Magog Golf Club, Cambs
- 4 Nov - The Oaks Golf Club, Yorks

Booking forms were sent to Golf Clubs in early September and further details of the programmes and speakers will be available on our website at: www.englishgolfunion.org/roadshows

BIOSEED BOWL TROPHY 2003



The final of the Bioseed Bowl was recently played at the superb Foxhills Golf and Country Club in Ottershaw, Surrey.

The final was a keenly contested affair which was won by 2 holes, by Steven Weir and Scott McMurray (Wentworth) over Roger Tydeman and Kevin Humphreys (Croham Hurst).

A meal was followed by the prize presentation. The winners receiving free entry to the BIGGA

National Championship as well as £100 spending money. The runners up each received an £80 golf gift voucher.

Kind thanks go to David Smart of Bioseed for generously sponsoring the event.

Picture above Left to Right: Weir and McMurray, winners; David Smart, Bioseed; Anthony Freeman, Surrey Chairman, Tydeman and Humphreys, runners up.

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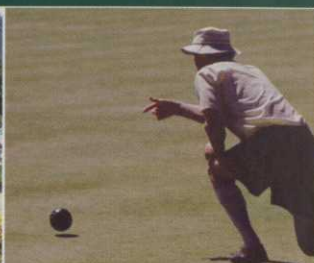
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Ken Richardson gives an Education Update.

By the time this magazine is printed, I will have returned from a brief holiday in Spain, the TORO Student of the Year Competition will have reached its climax, the Standing Committee on Greenkeepers Salaries and conditions of service will have published its 2004 Recommendations and the first of this autumn's training courses will have commenced. I must be in need of a holiday as Scott, our Editor, keeps implying that I am getting old and passed it in his editorial.

Toro Student of the Year

The Toro Student of the Year Final was held at BIGGA HOUSE on Monday 29 September when eight candidates were judged by Peter Mansfield, from Lely UK; Andy Brown, from Toro, and David Walden and John Pemberton, from BIGGA. Each candidate was put through an intensive 45 minute interview and they had to produce a survey of 9 holes of the Aldwark Manor Golf Course. The standard of this Competition improves each year and the judges had a very difficult job selecting the winner. Full details of the Competition will appear in the November Edition of this magazine.

Salary Recommendations 2004

You should have received a copy of the 2004 Salary Recommendations with this magazine but if you did not receive your copy or want further copies then contact the CGS on 01347 830155 or by e-mail greenkeepersalaries@hotmail.com. The increase on the 2003 salaries is 3% which the rate of wage inflation as of June 2003.

Regional Training Courses

All greenkeeper members of BIGGA were sent a list of courses available and an application form, during late August. Most courses are now full but there are limited places on the Essential Management Skills Courses at Sunningdale Park on 28 & 29 October and Dunham Forest Golf Club, Cheshire on 25 & 26

November, on the Basic Computer Skills Courses at Newark Golf Club on 29 & 30 October and BIGGA HOUSE on 25 & 26 November. Remember that these courses are provided at such low prices (£70.50 inc VAT for members) thanks to a massive subsidy from the Education and Development Fund.

Continue to Learn 2004

You should have received a copy of the Continue to Learn 2004 brochure with this magazine. Continue to Learn 2004 is presented in association with the Greenkeepers Training Committee and is supported by the John Deere Team Championship (National Education Conference and Workshops), by Toro (Careers Fair), and by Ransomes Jacobsen (Keynote Speaker). Remember, that the Conference, Presentation of BIGGA Awards, Keynote Speaker, Seminars and the BIGGA AGM will all be held in a purpose built conference facility in Hall D of the Harrogate

International Centre. Three one-day Workshops will be held in the Moat House Hotel. The Conference dinner and the Exhibitions Banquet, with Bootleg ABBA, will be held in the Majestic Hotel.

You need to be thinking about booking your accommodation for Continue to Learn and the BTME & ClubHouse Exhibitions. BIGGA will NOT be booking accommodation for January 2004. The BIGGA Accommodation Booking Agent is Reservation Highway and you can book accommodation through their website www.reservationhighway.co.uk

Workplace Stress

Anyone who read my article on Workplace Stress in last month's magazine may have recognised many of the causes of stress from their own experiences. Others may have dismissed the article as irrelevant.

The Health and Safety Executive are taking this new legislation very seriously and have recently served an improvement notice on a Health Service Hospital Trust.

Overseas Exchanges

New immigration rules have made it easier for visitors from Commonwealth countries to work in the UK. The old rules banned people from working at their jobs while on a working holiday visa and limited their stay to two years. That has now changed and, for example an Australian Greenkeeper could come to work on a British Golf Course and stay for three years with a possibility to extend their stay.

This new rule would make exchange of greenkeepers easier, although there would still be the problem of accommodation etc. Is there anyone out

there who would consider employing a greenkeeper from overseas, who would consider working overseas or would consider allowing one of their staff to take part in an exchange visit? As I mentioned earlier, these rules apply to the Commonwealth but that includes, among others, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, India, Pakistan and most of Africa. Travelling to and working in countries in Europe presents less of a problem although anyone thinking of trying to work in Portugal for example would have to learn Portuguese whereas English would be sufficient in Australia.

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BIGGA Merchandise

With the weather starting to deteriorate it's that time of year when wet weather gear and winter woolies are pulled from out of the cupboards. If your winter gear is looking a little worse for wear then why not invest in a new waterproof suit from the BIGGA merchandise range.



The "Highlander" suit is available for £55 and boasts a Teflon coated microfibre shell and waterproof breathable lining. It has a one year waterproof guarantee and is available in four colours.

The "Greenkeeper" suit is the more expensive of the two at £70 featuring a heavy duty Teflon coated microfibre outer shell and a high performance waterproof, breathable lining system. The trousers to the suit are available in differing inside leg measurements which ensure a more comfortable fit and boast extra long zips on the bottoms for 'easy on' over boots. The extra long length jacket has size adjusters. The suit has a two year waterproof guarantee and is available in two colours.

If you don't want to purchase a full suit then jacket and trousers can now be bought separately. The two jackets

available are called 'International' priced at £48 and "Weatherbeater" priced at £42. Both jackets have a two year waterproof guarantee and whilst the "International" is a traditional front zip style the "Weatherbeater" is designed in a pullover style. Both are available in a multitude of colours.

Trousers can also be bought separately to compliment the jackets. These are available in four lengths, hold a two year guarantee and are priced at £40. The trousers are only available in Navy.

For more information about the new merchandise range or to order please phone Rachael Foster on 01347 833800. The range can also be viewed in the members section of the website at www.bigga.org.uk.



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Robert Myatt, North Wales
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Alan Shaw, Cleveland
Andrew Unwin, Sheffield
Jamey Wike, North West

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Scott Matear, Mid Anglia
Gregory Skinner, East Midland
Thomas Hooper, Mid Anglia

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Nigel Harden, South Wales
Denis Jolly, South West
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Richard Earl, Mid Anglia

Message of the Month Winner



Each month the person who has written the best message on the BIGGA Bulletin Board, which is found on the BIGGA website www.bigga.org.uk, receives one of these FM desktop scan radios.

Our congratulations go to October's winner, Kevin Heslop from Brancepeth Castle Golf Club whose message was posted on the 15th August under the 'Talking Shop' section.

OCTOBER'S MEMBERSHIP DRAW WINNER

Just introduce one or more new greenkeeping members to BIGGA and your name will be placed into a draw to win a fantastic BIGGA Clock/calculator/calendar and alarm. Our congratulations go to October's winner, John Waite of Scarthingwell Golf Club.



ACTIVITY DAY WINNER



When your membership is due for renewal you will receive a newsletter which contains details of how to win an activity day of your choice. Activities are held all over the country so there should be a centre near you. A winner is selected every three months so it does not matter what time of year you renew your membership.

This month's winner is Neil Wright from Wareham Golf Club who has a choice of at least 20 activities to choose from ranging from Ferrari driving to powerboating. Congratulations Neil!

Course Feature

A Racing Certainty

Scott MacCallum meets up with motor racing legend, Nigel Mansell, owner of Woodbury Park, in Devon.



Nigel Mansell

One thing this job does involve is a bit of driving, as I clock up the miles travelling the length and breadth of the country visiting golf clubs and chatting to some wonderful people about their work and their golf courses. What it gives me is plenty of time to think, and I often find myself wondering what common ground I might share with the person I am about to meet. It can help to oil the cogs of the interview.

So, as I headed south towards Devon last month, thoughts were going through my head about what connections I might be able to make with my soon-to-be interviewee, Nigel Mansell.

Where to start? Well, we both have an interest in cars. Nigel has driven a Lotus, a Williams and a Ferrari. My stable of vehicles has included a Mondeo, an Escort and a Cavalier.

Nigel is a two time World Champion - Formula 1 in 1992 and Indy Cars in 1993, when he became the first, and only, rookie to lift the title. Evidence of my speed behind the wheel may be contained in the speed camera which flashed me on the M5.

We share an interest in golf. Nigel currently plays to 1.6; is a member of the R&A; has played in the Australian Open and owns Woodbury Park Hotel Golf and Country Club, near Exeter. I play to 14; am a member of The Oaks GC, near Selby, and play in the occasional BIGGA and Association of Golf Writers event. I don't currently own a golf club.

On the face of it, while they may be connections, the fact remains that we've been operating in slightly different leagues. But one thing we do certainly have in common is our birthday. Leos both, we were born on August 8th, although Nigel does have nine years on me.

This year that birthday was particularly significant for Nigel as it brought up his half century and enabled him to play in, as well as host, the Sunseeker Nigel Mansell Classic, an event on the PGA European Seniors' Tour.

The youngest man in the field, he teed it up with European Tour legend, Neil Coles, and old friend, Bill Longmuir, and proceeded to shoot opening rounds of 73 and 72, both of which he is quick to tell you should have been much lower. Tougher pin placements on the final day, combined with a tricky wind saw him card a still respectable 78.

"Running the tournament, with all the responsibility that entailed and then to go out and shoot a respectable score was very satisfying," said Nigel, who was also delighted that had there been a cut in the tournament, he would have been the right side of it.

He credits much of his success to the fact that he didn't have to worry about the golf course as Course Manager, Ian Chenery, had done such a wonderful job.

"I can't praise Ian and his team enough. His organisational and management skills in getting the job done were fantastic. The biggest compliment I can give him is that I didn't have to worry about the golf



The Woodbury Park Team

course. It was in the back of my mind but I knew it was being attended to and I could focus on other areas."

His ambitions for himself and the Nigel Mansell Classic offer excitement in both areas.

He is President of UK Youth, an organisation which provides programmes for up to 750,000 youngsters with the help of 45,000 volunteers and, if it wasn't for the fact that its AGM clashes with the final rounds of European Senior Tour Qualifying School in Portugal, he might have given it serious consideration. In the meantime he is still hopeful of some invitations for Senior Tour events and wants to get his handicap back down to scratch.

As for his own event, he is keen to grow it over the next few years to the stage that the prize fund will attract the biggest names in Senior golf which, in addition to the legendary Americans like Watson and Nicklaus, will soon include European players like Faldo, Langer, Ballesteros and Woosnam. Greg Norman, who provided the youngest member of the Mansell family with his Christian name, and a godfather, is a likely entrant when he hits the big 50.

"A date slightly earlier in the calendar, when the course is looking its absolute best, would be ideal," explained Nigel.

Talking with him you can't help but be swept away by his drive and enthusiasm and you can't believe that his dreams for the Nigel Mansell Classic, and for his own game, will be anything other than a racing certainty.

Nigel bought Woodbury Park 10 years ago, while he was still actively racing and a club close to an airport was a major consideration. Exeter Airport is just ten minutes from Woodbury Park.

The next factor was the potential of the club and, with a little imagination, the box for that could also be ticked.

"When we came to visit there was a Portacabin which acted as the clubhouse while the course, or track as I called it, was in its infancy and was awful. It was no fault of the greenkeeping staff, it just hadn't had money spent on it. Basically it was unplayable all through the winter.

I hated the tees. I hated the fairway. But I loved the greens and felt that everything else could be fixed. I just thought potential, potential, potential."

His knowledge of golf comes as a direct result of his enormous love of the game and the rare opportunity he has had to play some of the finest golf courses in the world.

"When I was racing round the world I rated the race track by how close it was to a golf course. They actually tell you that the best thing to do to acclimatise into a time zone when you fly into Australia, New Zealand or America is walking in the sun and exercising. Well, if you are going to do all that... play golf!

"So I visited all these magnificent golf courses and learned a lot in the 'touchy feely' way you do when you play a course. I'm not an agronomist. I'm not a greenkeeper, but I think I can hold a conversation with them and I know what's right and my team here gets it right," said Nigel, who reads up about greenkeeping and does read Greenkeeper International.

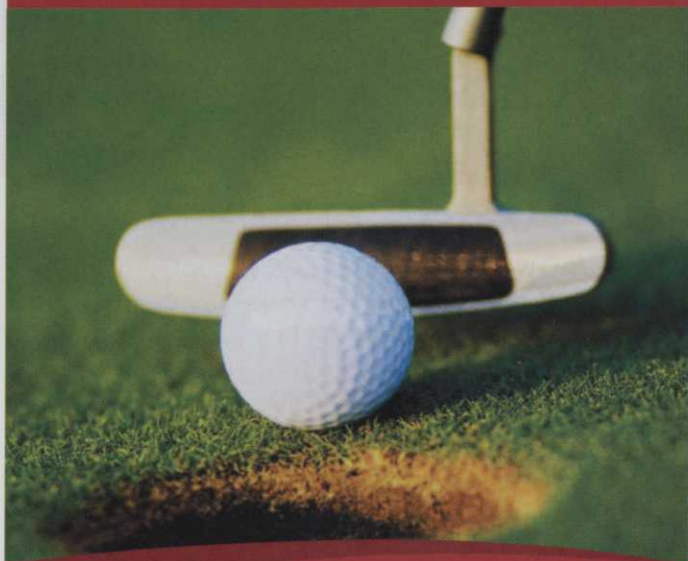


Hole 4



Oaks, Par 3, 3rd

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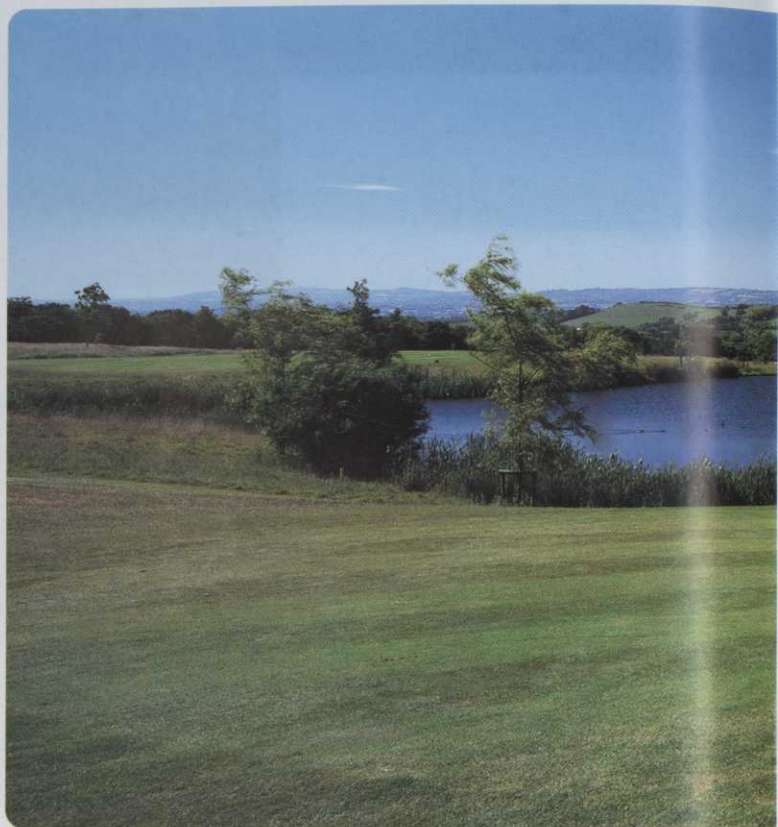
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"Sometimes though, I just make out that I know nothing as it's easier that way!" he laughed.

When he is at the club - he currently resides in Jersey and spends a lot of time travelling around the world - he is not averse to taking his turn on a mower.

"In the past I've been told that a job takes a certain amount of time. I've doubted it so I've jumped on a machine and gone out there and done it in much less time."

Nigel is also keen to point out the great strength he and his management team have at the 27 hole complex.

"The strength of the business is that if we have a hiccup it is immediately fixed and then we'll have a chat about it if necessary. We can call a Board Meeting at a moment's notice and nothing is left on the back burner."

Ian Chenery knows that he can call his boss at any time and that, if needed, Nigel will get on the telephone himself to sort out a problem. It isn't the first time a supplier has heard a familiar voice giving him some straight talking down a phone line.

Nigel's management style is very committed and obviously influenced by the team bosses he raced for - Frank Williams, Enzo Ferrari, and his great mentor, Colin Chapman, whose portrait hangs on a wall of his office.

His conversation is sprinkled with words like "sensational" and "fantastic" and it is a positivity he exudes and expects from others.

"If you want to succeed in any job in the world, while you're in your 20s, 30s and 40s, 'No' shouldn't be in your vocabulary. You get on and do it. If you are a good organiser and disciplined you can do the job and fit everything else in round about it.

"I've got a gentleman sitting next to me (Ian), and another in my Chief

Course Feature



Oaks Par 4, 12th

Executive, who I know would still be here doing their jobs even if an atom bomb were to go off. That commitment rubs off on their teams. There isn't a guy on Ian's team who wouldn't die for him. I know that," said Nigel, who recently flew three of them over to his home in Jersey to look after the garden and enjoy a short break on the island.

The answer he gives when asked if he considers himself a full time golf club owner, provides an insight to his obsession.

"I live, breath, eat and sleep Woodbury Park. I have a notebook beside the bed and I'll think about the 5th hole, or remember what Andy Stubbs (Senior Tour Managing Director) has said, or what Neil Coles has said. I'll wake up and write it down immediately. We are always tweaking and doing things to the course. We are already planning for next year. It never stops."

Having been involved at the technological cutting edge of F1 it is interesting to hear his views on fine turf machinery and the manufacturers.

"You can't compare this industry to Formula One as they have hundreds of millions of pounds to spend and grass cutting machinery would be twice the cost it is now if it were engineered so that it didn't fail and people wouldn't pay that for it.

"But I have to say the greenkeeper's biggest enemy is the burst pipe. You can have a mechanical failure of some kind and no harm can be done, but you burst a hydraulic line... I think whoever invents a lubricant which doesn't scorch or kill the grass would make a fortune."

Over the last 10 years Woodbury Park has enjoyed an exclusive machinery agreement with Ransomes Jacobsen, struck with the then Regional Sales Manager, now National Sales Manager, Alan Prickett.

"The biggest credit for that deal should go to Alan. I'm a people person and I struck up a fantastic working relationship with Alan. I genuinely

believe we have the best relationship with a company which has the best equipment and the best back-up. I'm very faithful and if you're friends you should be friends for life. It would take a lot for me to change."

Sitting in that office high above the clubhouse terrace, overlooking the beautifully criss-crossed fairway which acts as the bail out area for the water guarded par-3 18th, it is easy to see why 2000 members now call Woodbury Park home.

"We pride ourselves in giving people far more than they pay for but next year we are going to put our prices up sensibly because we don't want to be accused of being busy fools. We don't want to wear out our product and we'd like to get the same revenue, or a little more, for fewer rounds played.

Nigel's success on the race tracks meant that when it came to developing Woodbury Park his wife, Rosanne, and he had advantages not open to most developers.

"When we built the course we did so with zero members and when we built the sports centre we did so with zero members. We backed our beliefs and acted as our own bankers. Happily it has all worked out," said Nigel, whose Nigel Mansell World of Racing Exhibition is housed within the hotel and is well worth a visit.

In addition to the golf, the complex also boasts tennis courts and a Premier League-standard football pitch which is used by the likes of Chelsea and Fulham for pre-season training.

After an enjoyable hour, the interview was over and we headed downstairs to take a few photographs. Oh, and I did let him know of our "connection". I also told him that we shared our birthday with Dustin Hoffman, as well as The Edge out of U2. He seemed delighted to learn that he was among such luminaries.

Course Feature



5th



Ian Chenery

Ian has been Course Manager for 10 months but has been at Woodbury Park since it was first opened 13 years ago.

Currently studying for his Masters Degree at Cranfield University, Ian is a stickler for presentation and ensures that both courses are maintained to highest presentational standards.

"We cut fairways, tees and greens and semi rough and hand rake bunkers daily and the rough is cut twice a week on the Oaks and once a week on the Acorn while the greens are cut and the bunkers are raked at weekends," explained Ian.

He was delighted with the work of his team during the Nigel Mansell Classic when each man clocked up 100 hours work.

"We were double cutting fairways twice a day and the Tour said the greens were the best they'd played on all season. We had them at 10.5 which was just right for them and they were extremely true."

During the week they had additional machinery brought in as part of the partnership agreement with Ransomes Jacobsen and support from PJ Flegg, from whom Des Marks, was in Ian's words, an "absolute star".

He also has praise for Mark Ganning, of Rainbird, who was on hand for three days when an irrigation problem emerged 10 days before the event.

As for his boss Ian is full of admiration.

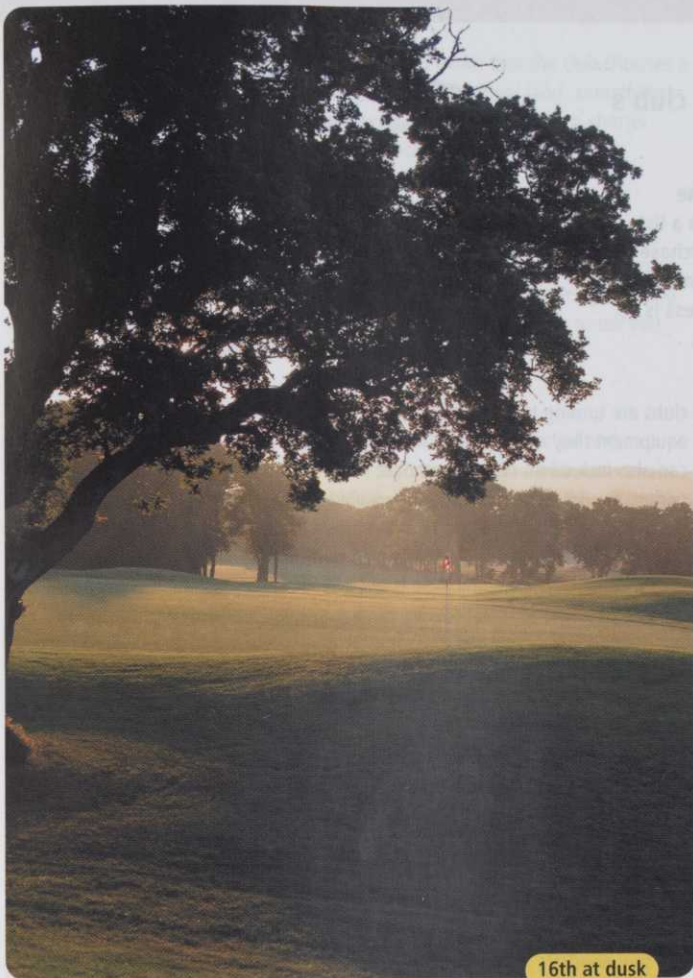
"He is quite knowledgeable about greenkeeping. Maintenance is our job but he doesn't miss a trick and would notice if we've dropped the fairways. He speaks to Course Managers at courses he plays and I always know when he does because he comes in and says something I'd no idea he'd know anything about!"

He also likes to be kept in touch with the maintenance regimes.

"He rings up the club on a daily basis and speaks with me if necessary and I give him a monthly plan detailing heights of cut, what aeration work I'll be carrying out and what fertilisers I'll be using."

MACHINERY INVENTORY

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- 2 Jacobsen LF3800 Fairway Mowers
- Ransomes HR9016
- 2 4 Wheel Cushman



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GR30 Aerator
2 Iseki 538-4 One with Front Loader
Renault 70.14 Tractor
Ford 3610 with Back Actor
Sand Scorpion
3 E-Z-GO St 350G Haulers
Jacobsen AR250
Turfco SP1530 Top Dresser
Core Harvester for Cushman
Hardi Cushman 300LT Sprayer with Blobber
Hardi NK600LTR Sprayer
Tractor Mounted Hardi AM400LTR Sprayer
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ABOUT FINANCE

Keith Jaynes looks at the best way to make your, or the club's money, work the hardest.

It would be easy to fill the pages that follow with a list of all the features of the different financing options available to clubs and businesses. Drawing up such a list would be simple. Just include everything from cash to mortgages and hire purchase to operating lease. However, selecting the 'best' finance option for all the different types of investment would be impossibly complicated because every club and business is different, and what is best for each depends on their individual circumstances.



FINANCING CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

More important is to understand some general principles that lie behind the choice of finance for different types of club expenditure – in particular, new machinery.

WORKING CAPITAL

Expenditure has two components – working capital and fixed capital. Working capital is the finance required to meet the day-to-day commitments of the club. Items like wages, diesel, food and drink served to members. Paying these bills requires cash, which usually comes from the bank account, which holds income from subscriptions, green fees and food and bar takings. Sometimes it may also mean drawing on the overdraft if there is a short-term mismatch between expenditure and income.

FIXED CAPITAL

Fixed capital is expenditure on new machinery and other items with a longer term payback for the club. An important distinction is the period of payback. Items like machinery, buildings or land normally carry a substantial price and have an anticipated 'working life' of more than 12 months.

It can often make sound commercial sense to match fixed capital investment to repayment periods that relate to a realistic working life (say, three to five years for new machinery). This may mean spreading the cost rather than paying cash on day one.

THE THREE C'S

Three C's highlight some important considerations for a club in making cost effective capital investment choices. These are: Capital Budgeting, Cost, and Cash-flow.

CAPITAL BUDGETING

New investment should always be cost justified. In industry, where capital is a scarce resource, accountants use sophisticated techniques to calculate the net cost of alternative projects and balance these against the projected returns to decide which ones will get the capital funding. The same concept, if not the same techniques, should also apply to a golf club.

COST JUSTIFY NEW INVESTMENT

Cost justification means asking questions like: Will it do the job we want done? What are the alternatives? and What is the cost? It is important to distinguish clearly between cost and price, because the lowest price may not always have the lowest cost! You know the price of everything on the day you buy it, but you can only tell what something cost on the day it is sold. That's after you take into account factors like running and financing costs, maintenance and the disposal price, etc.

FIX THE COSTS OF INVESTMENT

Budgeting also implies trying to fix the costs in advance as accurately and predictably as possible. This may be one reason why an increasing number of

clubs are turning to contract hire, a form of operating lease, to rent the equipment they need. This enables them to pay a fixed monthly amount which can also include an optional amount for service and maintenance over a fixed period, say 36 months, to hire the machinery they need. Apart from accurate budgeting, there is the added benefit for some users of being able to keep up to date with the latest developments in machinery.

Once the decision to invest has been made, the question remains as to the best way to fund it, which means turning to the C's of Cost and Cash-flow.

CASH-FLOW

Dickens' Mr Micawber was an early enthusiast for the concept of cash-flow management. Annual income of £20 coupled with expenditure of only £19 19s 6d was, he mused, happiness itself. But spend say £20 and six pence and the corresponding result was misery.

LIQUIDITY IS IMPORTANT

A survey in the mid-1990s conducted by Cranfield University concluded that small and medium-sized businesses in the UK placed a far heavier dependency than their European neighbours on short-term sources of funding – eg, cash and the overdraft – to finance capital investment with longer term payback. Such a loss of liquidity can be a major reason why often 'profitable' businesses fail. They simply run out of cash to cover working capital requirements. In a members' golf club this may mean a special call for additional funds to support a specific project, but for clubs run on a purely commercial basis, managing cash-flow is very important.

LESS FUNDING OPTIONS – LESS FLEXIBILITY

Borrowing to finance new investment may be alien to many clubs that look only at the interest they pay. Some may view income from members and visitors as free capital, thinking it therefore has the lowest cost. However, the investment decisions these clubs can make are limited by the amount of surplus cash and time that is available. This may force 'either/or' choices – eg, should we refurbish the locker rooms or buy the new fairway mower? Both may be desirable to maintain membership and visitor income, but the hike in annual membership to accommodate both is unlikely to be popular with members. In addition, the timing could be wrong and why should the members pay in advance for investment that will deliver the benefit over a longer time frame?

CASH IS NOT FREE

Of course, some clubs may be able to call on substantial cash reserves. If the reserves are sufficient this provides a solution, but the cash can only be spent once and the word 'reserve' implies prudence in its application!

This means if a sudden, unexpected opportunity or crisis arises, perhaps to buy additional land or the need to replace a machine in the event of a sudden major failure, a cash-only investment policy is unlikely to help and finding a short-term solution to a long term need will compound pressure on cash-flow and is likely to have a higher cost.

Keith Jaynes is a Director of Key Associates, a company that specialises in training, marketing support and financial services for businesses in the turf-care and agricultural industries.

TORO Count on it.

Matching the funding to the investment could mean that the club chooses a mortgage or secured loan over 10 to 15 years for additional land, something similar for buildings or building improvements but, perhaps, over a shorter period and hire purchase or a lease for the machinery.

COST

Cost is the final 'C'. A number of factors influence the cost of borrowing. First is the rate of interest. Interest can be calculated and applied in different ways. This is often confusing with flat rates, effective rates, nominal rates and APRs – a quick look at the pages of the Financial Times is enough to tell you this!

INTEREST RATE CONFUSION

Interest is the charge for borrowing money. It can be calculated and expressed in a number of different ways, which can lead to confusion – as the table shows! The most meaningful measure of cost is how much you pay and when you pay it. At a given rate of interest, acceleration of repayment of the amount borrowed will reduce the interest paid while deferment increases this.

To enable consumers to compare the terms of one finance agreement with another, the Consumer Credit Act requires the APR (Annual Percentage Rate of charge) to be shown on regulated agreements. The APR uses a standard formula to express the rate of interest for a particular transaction irrespective of how it was originally calculated or applied.

CHANGING YOUR CAR

To change your car you need to borrow £5000. You want to make 36 monthly payments, commencing next month. You are looking for the best interest rate you can find. Which would you choose? Answers at the foot of the page.

| Source of Finance | Interest Rate % pa |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Joe's Bargain Bangers | 3.65% Flat |
| 2. Superstore Loans | 7.10% APR |
| 3. Honesty Autos | 6.88% True |

FIXED & VARIABLE RATE OPTIONS

However, there are other components that affect the cost of finance. One is whether the interest rate is fixed or variable. Money market rates of interest change daily based on the view the market has of the future. In addition, the Bank of England uses interest rates to influence economic activity. Some types of facility, particularly longer-term borrowings on mortgage tend to use variable rates although rates can be fixed too. For shorter-term funding, say, three to five years, from finance companies that specialise in machinery, fixed interest facilities tend to be the norm, although bank loans may still be offered at variable rates.

The benefit of fixed rate finance for machinery is that it enables the club to budget with great accuracy for machinery it purchases, confident that the costs are fixed at the outset and will not change over the life of the agreement, whatever happens to interest rates in the same period. Often, there is the additional advantage of being able to lock into low interest offers from the manufacturer.

INCREASED SPENDING POWER

Spreading the cost also has another very simple benefit that is often overlooked. One pound today has more purchasing power than that same pound in five years time. One reason is inflation, which erodes spending power each year. Even at three per cent per annum inflation, the value of a pound today falls to £0.86p over five years. This begs the question: Should a club use its own cash reserves for longer-term investment?

Other factors to consider may be the availability of any grants, tax

incentives or deferment of VAT that are available, depending on the type of facility chosen. For example, some clubs that are unable to reclaim VAT, in part or in full, may find that leasing machinery takes some pressure off cash-flow. This is because under a lease the club pays VAT on each rental as it arises, rather than in advance if it chooses to buy.

BUY OR HIRE? - A CHOICE OF OPTIONS

In broad terms there are only two routes for capital investment, buying or hiring – although each has a range of different alternatives as can be seen from the table below. The table ignores longer-term options such as mortgages and other long-term loans.

TITLE/OWNERSHIP RIGHTS

Title to goods, ie, legal ownership, is what distinguishes between purchase and lease. Purchasers gain title to goods by paying the purchase price. The point at which title passes to the purchaser may vary according to the type of finance selected, whereas a lease is a rental agreement where title to goods never passes from the lessor (the owner, normally a finance company) to the lessee (the hirer, ie, the club).

PURCHASE OPTIONS

- **Cash / Bank Overdraft:** Cash is a scarce resource essential for day to day working capital requirements. Overdrafts subject to agreed limits and can be withdrawn without notice.
- **Bank Loan / Credit Sale:** Finance provided by bank or finance company. Important where a business requires immediate title to goods by paying cash but wants to spread the cost using fixed repayments. Additional security may be required.
- **Hire Purchase / Conditional Sale:** Hire agreements where title to goods passes to the hirer at the end of the period.

LEASING OPTIONS

- **Finance Lease:** Divided into primary and secondary periods. In primary period, lessee (the club) pays rentals based on amount financed plus interest. At the end of the primary period, lessee can dispose of goods acting as agent of lessor (the finance company). Lessee normally benefits from rebate of rentals (major percentage of sale proceeds).
Lessee can extend lease into secondary period on completion of primary period. Annual Secondary Period Rentals (SPR) paid each year equipment is retained. SPR is small percentage of original equipment cost.
- **Operating Lease:** Aimed at hirers who merely want the use of a machine without the risks and rewards of ownership, eg, responsibility for repairs, disposal proceeds, etc.
Period of hire and rentals fixed in advance. Normally 24 to 60 months. Rentals are based on equipment cost less projected future disposal value. At the end of the agreement the equipment is returned to the lessor.
- **Contract Hire:** Operating lease that includes costs of service and full maintenance.

FINANCING THE CAR – ANSWERS

The monthly payment is what counts! In fact, all three are identical with a monthly payment of £154.11. It's important to always compare 'apples with apples'. Comparing one finance quotation with another means taking into account factors like the size and timing of repayments, deposit, etc. This is where the APR is designed to assist consumers.

A FAIR DAY'S PAY...

Scott MacCallum meets Don Bailey MBE, the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Greenkeepers Salaries and Conditions of Employment.



In recent years one of the significant advances in the industry has come in greenkeepers' pay and much of the credit for this must go to the Standing Committee on Greenkeepers Salaries and Conditions of Employment.

Formed in 1998 to give a genuinely independent voice in the minefield of salaries and offer guidance to both employee and employer, the Committee replaced the often maligned BIGGA pay scales.

Now, five years on, following two wide ranging surveys into salaries and a honing of the knowledge these have provided, the Committee is confident that it is on the right lines.

Chairman is Don Bailey MBE, Chairman of Hadley Wood Golf Club, and, in his own words, the one man on the committee who doesn't earn his living from the game of golf.

Apart from Don, the Committee currently comprise two representatives of the Golf Club Secretaries Association, National Secretary Keith Lloyd and Chris Silcox; two representatives of BIGGA, George Barr and Richard Barker and Mark Dobell, the Financial Secretary of the R&A.

"We conducted our second survey earlier this year and I was greatly encouraged to discover that more and more clubs are moving towards the guidelines or adapted them to their own ends," said Don, as we chatted during this year's Saltex Exhibition.

"The old BIGGA rates were useful but were always open to people saying, 'You would say that, wouldn't you.' That was understandable so it was felt that the role should be taken away from BIGGA and given to an independent body which represents all sides of the industry," explained Don, who also stressed that the Guidelines should be seen as a benefit to golf clubs and not a threat.

The Guidelines are there to be an assistance to both golf clubs and greenkeeping staff and not to dictate to them and this is the point Don wishes to emphasise.

"In effect what we are saying is what, at any point in time, the industry is doing, where it is going and the cost to golf clubs.

"We are there to prevent the annual battle between the golf club and the biggest element within the club - the green staff.

"We like to feel that we could expand our remit if we are invited to cover other areas of club costs. In which case we would invite representation from those bodies."

In addition the Committee would like to continue its desire to be a useful tool to golf clubs by including health and safety documents, information on the Working Hours directive and education and training opportunities within the new expanded Pay Recommendation leaflet and hopefully a CGS Website.

"Of course the information would be known to the Course Manager but not necessarily by the people who set the pay."

On the matter of pay, setting nationally acceptable levels is indeed a complicated business affected by geography, age, experience, qualification as well as other elements as simple as whether lunch is provided; the number of holes at the club; other facilities to be maintained at the club; whether overtime is paid; whether accommodation is included; whether a car comes with the job and whether pension contributions are made by the club.

"It is very much a package and we can't lay down within an area that everyone should be paid the same because so many other things have to be

taken into account, but the figures we give are a guideline and it is up to the club and the individual to set a fair level based on all the elements given."

Initially it had been decided that pay levels would be broken down by county but the first survey highlighted that there was very little variation across the counties.

"So we thought it was pointless publishing a list for every county so we split it into areas and we think we've got the areas right," explained Don, before adding quickly.

"That's not to say that there aren't variations within those regions." One of the more contentious elements within the recommendations is the London rates which are listed as, "All clubs within a 30 mile radius of Big Ben".

"Obviously some big, prestigious clubs are not within the 30 mile limit, but if we were to say 35 miles, there would be clubs outside that as well. On the other side of the coin there will also be some smaller clubs within 30 miles radius who would be saying, 'I'm not paying that sort of salary'.

"We'd like people to look at the guidelines and say 'We are a club of stature and the house prices in our area are comparable with some of those in the London belt so our team should be setting our pay rates to the same level as those within the 30 mile limit'," said Don, who enjoyed a successful career in marketing, before turning his attention to greenkeepers' pay and conditions.

Don readily admits that there are areas throughout the country which could be regarded as quirky and have significantly different issues and costs of living to those around them. For example in Edinburgh, where house prices have risen considerably in recent times due, in no small part, to the arrival of the Scottish Parliament.

"It is a case of people using common sense and coming to sensible conclusions. Clubs must accept that they must pay a level that will attract and retain the quality of staff they wish for their club."

By the same token he also appreciates that in some of the more deprived areas golf clubs are paying well below the recommended guideline level.

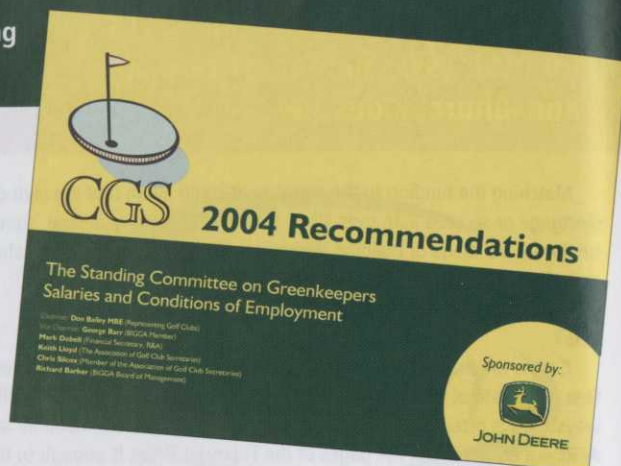
"In order to get an average there are lower as well as higher salaries. But if the guidelines can be used to get people closer to the average and better pay and conditions they are of use to both club and greenkeeper at every golf club." And, as the breakdown of the latest survey showed, it is working.

"As I said more and more clubs are using the guidelines to set pay levels and we have also seen an increase in the number of enquires we get."

The latter will be aided shortly by the installation of the CGS's own telephone number of box number thanks to a sponsorship package from John Deere.

"We are grateful to John Deere and one or two other companies with whom we are currently negotiating additional sponsorship, for funding to assist us in our aim, to retain our independence. We don't want to take funding from the trade bodies within the game."

Given the tie in with pay and qualification one of the biggest benefits of the CGS Recommendations is that they emphasise the genuine and exciting career paths that are available to everyone entering the greenkeeping profession.



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SCOTSTURF PREVIEW



Scotsturf looks forward to a brand new pitch!

Next month Scotsturf exhibition moves to its new location, the brand new 6,000 m2 purpose built exhibition hall, at Ingliston. This state-of-the-art building will provide accommodation for the whole event under one roof rather than spread over three exhibition halls as in the past. The problems of heating and access will also be solved by the move.

Ian Beaney, Scotsturf Chairman, is really looking forward to the exhibition.

"All the logistical problems of the past should now be resolved, and visitors and exhibitors will enjoy a bright and uniformly heated hall," said Ian.

He also had a few words regarding the fact that it had been reported that some companies had pulled out of the Exhibition.

"This is a surprise to us as the companies concerned were not confirmed exhibitors for this year. As happens every year there is a turnover of exhibitors and several companies have taken a commercial decision that due to their own circumstances they would not be taking space this year, but that's certainly different from pulling out! In fact, I'm delighted to say that the show has sold faster than any previous year and is now approaching being sold out!"

BIGGA will have a stand at the Exhibition and Regional Administrator Peter Boyd and some members of Headquarters staff will be on hand to meet members and prospective members.

Other exhibitors for this year include Toro, John Deere, Kubota, IPU Group, AM Phillips Spray Techniques, CNH, McLays Supplies, Swan Plant, Wiedenmann, Allett Mowers, Swan Plant, Blec.



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The Golf Twist mat is another popular choice for the golf club and range. It has proven its durability with its use of spikes, wood and irons. With its heavy duty woven surface and rubber shock pad it provides a comfortable foot feel and natural drive for the player. Now incorporating the 'The Tee Sift System' which enables simple location and penetration of tee pegs for the full and right hand players.

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Sizes Available:
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A Long Year

Murray Long reports on his time studying in the United States, his prize for winning last year's Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award.

After waving goodbye to my wife and daughter at Gatwick North Terminal, I departed on my trip. My first port of call was a flight to Cincinnati, where I would be catching a connecting flight to Hartford Connecticut.

On arrival at Hartford I caught the Valley Transport a local mini bus service for Connecticut and Massachusetts. We were greeted by the North American weather conditions - two feet of snow over the last 24 hours and it hadn't stopped yet. I found this really exciting, having never seen this amount of snow in London, but I think our driver had different ideas.

It took almost an hour and a half to thread our way through Massachusetts, dropping other students off at various Campus sites around an area which seemed to be completely dominated by students. We finally arrived at The Quality Inn on Route 9 Hadley, which was going to be my home for the next seven weeks.

My first day started by meeting up with some of the students I would be spending my time with. Greenkeepers are the same all over the world and it wasn't long before I negotiated a daily ride into the Campus.

The communications forwarded by the University had been excellent and soon we were all assembled in the scheduled building to begin the Winter School for Turf Grass Managers. Mary Owen, our Course Leader, greeted us and we began to go through the schedule and weekly timetable for our time at the University.

The course was taught by 11 tutors, seven of whom doctorates in their specialist field and pioneer research in America. The subjects covered were weeds, turf diseases, soil science, plant physiology, turf grass mathematics, arboriculture, irrigation, golf course design, entomology (the study of insects/turf pests), management, and general turf grass studies. All the classes were incredibly interesting and of enormous benefit. Each student had his own favourite subject and one of mine was turf grass diseases because it dealt with a large number of diseases that we never get to experience. Firstly we went through the basic principles of the diseases, what grass types it affected, what encouraged it and how it attacked the plant and spread and what group it belonged to. We would then examine these under a microscope in the Laboratory. How nice it was to see my old rival fusarium/pink snow mould up-close and personal. It was important to read and study the information received as much as possible.

The lectures kept me on my toes with a series of tests, some weekly, some halfway through, with a test for everyone at the end of the course. There were around 20 students from my course staying in the Hotel and we would

get together around the swimming pool, or as it became known The Tropical Turf Lounge, for mass revision. Some of our free time would be spent watching the University Sports Teams, which included Hockey (Ice Hockey) and Basketball. All tickets were provided free of charge by Dr Patricia Vittum who taught us Entomology. Occasionally we would visit The Hanger for \$5 worth of chicken ribs and the odd beer or two.

The students ranged mainly from North East America, but included Alabama, Texas, the Czech Republic, Canada and the token Englishman.

I became friendly with a group of Canadians who were very handy for explaining the rules of Hockey. They also convinced me they were certainly better players and better drinkers than the Americans!

For the first two weeks we were pretty much the only students on campus, then the 28,000 other students came back and transformed the little town of Amherst.

I made time during two of my weekends off to meet my wife Penny in Boston and New York City, where some valuable retail therapy seemed to ease Penny's pain of me being away!

On the sixth week of my stay it was time for me to catch the plane to Atlanta for the GCSAA Conference and Show. I arrived mid-morning and quickly made my way from the hotel to the show. I visited all the different stands, stopping when something captured my interest. I eventually made my way to the BIGGA stand where I met Neil Thomas and George Brown, who were making every effort to promote the Association across the world.

Later that evening I managed to meet up with my college lecturer, Keith Harrison, who had travelled over for a week to experience the lectures. This was part of the award I had won. Later that evening I bumped into George Brown who was kind enough to give me some advice and share his experiences in the greenkeeping world. I am very grateful for George's advice.

I spent the next morning going round the stands, following up things that I had found particularly interesting. The afternoon was spent relaxing until it was time to prepare for the GCSAA Dinner/Show. This was an extravagant event, with guest speaker Greg Norman presenting The Old Tom Morris Award to Pete Dye for his services to golf.

All too soon it was time to fly back to Massachusetts and my final week. The seven weeks had passed very quickly and before I knew it I was attending the



Murray Long with his prize



Murray with his fellow students

end of course dinner, receiving my certificate and saying goodbye to some good friends.

The course is extremely highly regarded and provides a mountain of knowledge for the future. I feel honoured to have been a part of it.

I left Hartford on Sunday 23rd February, heading for my next destination - Toro Headquarters in Minneapolis. What an amazing experience it was to meet Barry Beckett and his team for a morning tour around the facility. I experienced some of the rigorous Health and Safety testing mechanisms that the Toro company put their machines through and also saw a strange use for Tennis balls! The design facilities were fantastic, using computer technology to ease problems before parts and machines are manufactured.

After lunch it was off to the parts manufacturing facility at Shakopee where I was given another great tour by operations Supervisor Dick Stonewill and shown how all the parts are made. Great investment has been made into new technology to make the plant more efficient.

The time passed very quickly and after a great meal in Minneapolis it was back to the hotel to prepare for my next day's visit to the Toro main manufacturing plant in Tomah Wisconsin.

It took three hours to reach Tomah, which gave me some time to take in the great countryside. On arrival I was introduced to Dave Betthauser, Head of Manufacturing, who took time out of his busy schedule to show me around.

Again, the professionalism of the people and the machinery showed through, with every effort being made at all times to forward the product, the manufacturing process and to build quality.

I found the paint department very fascinating with the bare parts going in through several different processes of dipping in various solutions, emerging at the end of the process dry to the touch and with every single area covered.

After lunch it was on to the assembly line where I had a chance to see some of the construction of machines we all use on a daily basis, from the frame to the last wheel nut being put on and the machine started. I was also privileged to view the Super Workman, a project the employees had undertaken for a special event. With custom paintwork, recaro seats and a mean exhaust it was more suited to Santa Pod than a Golf Course. At the end of another great day it was off to the Brits pub in Minneapolis with Barry Becket for my last evening.

The next day I travelled to Riverside California to visit the Toro irrigation facility. My first thought on landing was how lovely it was to experience some

warm weather. I would be staying in the Mission Inn, which was a beautiful old Spanish-type building set in the centre of Riverside. On arrival in my room I received a note asking me to contact Kenne James. Kenne would be explaining the in's and out's of irrigation for the next couple of days.

After a pleasant relaxing evening and a good night's sleep, 'the maddest taxi driver in the world' was soon driving me back to the Toro irrigation facility.

Not only was he driving at a speed to rival Michael Schumacher, he was turning round at the same time to tell me jokes! I was very pleased to arrive at the facility in one piece. Kenne greeted me with a cup of coffee, which I gratefully accepted to calm my nerves after my interesting journey. Kenne showed me around the facility, explaining the general set-up and showing me some of the testing that is done for new development. I was then introduced to Jeff, a new employee of Toro, who would be working in Kenne's department. We then spent several hours discussing various topics regarding sprinkler placement set up and any other irrigation questions.

With his vast knowledge of the business Kenne was able to answer all our questions.

The next day was spent visiting Oak Valley Golf and Country Club. This was the first time I had set foot on a Golf Course for two months, the longest period away from a course since I began work at the age of 16. I found this a strange experience, having just spent the last seven weeks surrounded by three feet of snow and studying everything to do with golf courses.

The Course Superintendent took time out of his busy day to show me around his great Golf Course and explain all aspects of its construction and development. I was looking forward to seeing some of the warm season grasses and was surprised to see poa annua greens that had previously been sown to bent but had converted over to meadowgrass. Sounds like a familiar story to me, even in the States. Then it was on to the PGA course Southern California, a new development, with its clubhouse overlooking the course. This course was well set out and catered for its clients with great practice facilities and more golf buggies than I have ever seen.

I finished my trip by spending a great afternoon taking in some of the sights. I would like to thank the Toro Company for their excellent hospitality and continued support of the Greenkeeping Industry.

I would also like to thank everyone at BIGGA and the staff and members at Coombe Hill Golf Club for their hard work and support while I was away.

Pull the plug on drainage problems

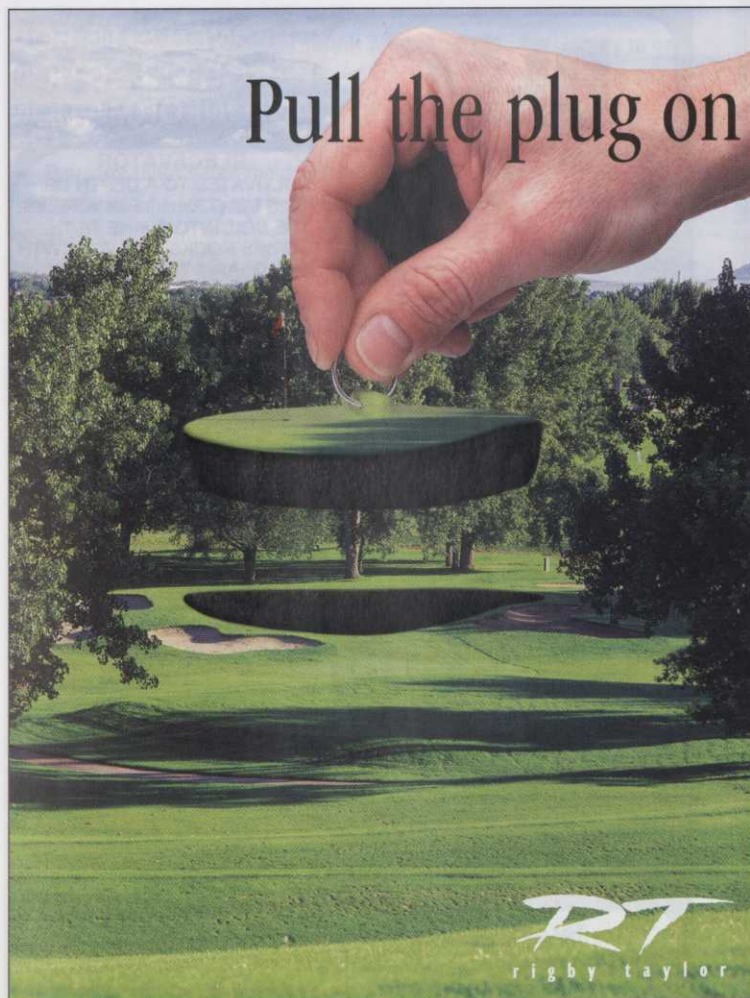
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If I had a Hammer...

Autumn is probably a time of the year when course construction work climbs the list of priorities. It's that point when often a review is made of the present facilities and what work is necessary or can be done to improve them. No doubt for large reconstruction projects, such as drainage, landscaping or the rebuilding of a green, will be undertaken by outside contractors. It is those smaller ones that greenkeeping staff are more likely to undertake themselves and to aid them in carrying out this work and make it as easy as possible; manufacturers have come up with the answers.

Moving earth involves digging holes, making heaps or cultivating and levelling. A visit to a plant show demonstrates how much equipment there is out there to accommodate virtually any situation. If you want to, you could "move mountains".



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Roland Taylor looks at the tools of the trade and the options there for you when you come to undertake construction work.

BACKHOES & LOADERS

For the average golf course the most useful piece of kit, for moving soil, is going to be a backhoe and front loader. These come in a variety of shapes and sizes, some tractor companies providing purpose built systems for their own units. There are also a number of specialist manufacturers of these particular attachments.

Another alternative is one of the small, complete self powered, machines which are on the market.

Whatever the choice there is usually a wide range of digging buckets available, including narrow trenching ones and those designed for cleaning ditches or riverbanks.

SKIDSTERS

The skidster is basically a self propelled, pedestrian operated unit, which has either a petrol or diesel engine that drives a hydraulic system. A wide range of attachments can be quickly fitted to, or removed from, this power source. A list of attachments shows the versatility of a skidster. These include: various bucket widths, multi-levellers, rotary brushes, hydraulically operated dozer blades, tine rippers, pallet forks, concrete breakers, post-hole borers and trenchers.

One of the main advantages of this type of machine is its ability to get into, and work in very confined areas.

CULTIVATION

There are times when the ground will need cultivating and unlike the 1960s there are a lot fewer pedestrian tillers now available. The choice is either one with a front rotary bladed assembly or one at the rear behind two drive wheels. While either of these will do the job, a word of warning is needed. The rotary cultivator, if used consistently on a site, can form a pan below the surface at its maximum working depth, which could result in drainage problems in the future.



Blec Laser Grader

STONE BURIERS

For large areas there are tractor mounted stone burying and soil renovators. These come in various working widths. A heavy-duty blade

assembly is contra rotated into the ground where it throws soil, rocks and other debris up into a sorting screen, which then directs the stone and rubbish into the bottom of the trench created by the rotor. The finer soil passes through the screen onto the top where it is levelled off. The site is also rolled to firm up the surface ready for sowing or turf laying tractors of between 80hp and 150hp, depending on the size of the machine, required. One company offers a pedestrian version of this machine; it has a 60cm working width.

Where it is necessary to remove stones, before seeding or turfing, the motorised stone rakes make fast work of this operation. These units consist of a series of steel tines that are set at an angle, so the unwanted material is gathered in windrows off the site. There are levelling and grader attachments for finally getting the site ready. They can be found as attachments to fit, two wheel and compact tractors and skidsters.



A working AFT45

MAKING HOLES AND TRENCHES

Regardless of the distance, width, depth or diameter there is now equipment available to make the removal of the soil as easy as possible and fast.

For digging trenches there are both pedestrian operated and tractor mounted versions. A look at a trench such as the AFT45 gives a general idea of the capabilities of this type of machine. This particular trencher fits on a compact tractor of between 20hp and 45hp that has a creeper speed or hydrostatic transmission. Using digging chains the unit is capable of producing trenches from 12.5cm to 20cm wide and 1.2metres deep. Special laser grading linkage with solenoid depth control is an option. This is used in conjunction with lasers to achieve precision drainage grading.

By fitting a large diameter soil slitting wheel the machine then produces very narrow trenches measuring from 4cm to 10cm wide and 45cm deep. The removed soil is guided onto a hydraulically driven system to an elevated conveyor. This illustrates the abilities of one machine; there are a number of others on the market, including much larger models, which use similar principles for digging soil out.



JCB Micro Auger

EARTH AUGERS

Renewing fencing or planting trees then an earth auger is the tool. Again there are a plenty of choices from one or two men operated ones, to larger tractor driven units, or as attachments for another piece of machinery. They usually have a selection of different diameters and depths. Some companies offer ones especially designed for tree planting, but the standard ones are also okay, as long as you make sure the bottom of the hole is broken up, to allow the roots to penetrate.

If I had a Hammer...

DITCHES AND RIVERBANKS

Although it does not come completely in the category of construction, the banks of ditches and streams may need some attention before the winter downpours. Brushcutters or clearing saws are ideal for removing vegetation and saplings, especially where access is restricted. On more open areas a flail unit, on an extended arm, will handle most conditions provided the bank is stable enough to take the weight of the tractor and attachment. If silting up has occurred in a ditch or stream, then a tractor with backhoe and ditching bucket is the answer.

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TREE WORK

This is also a good time of the year to carry out tree work. If there is anything extensive required, it may be necessary to use a qualified tree surgeon or arboriculturist.

For lighter pruning jobs, removal of dead branches or unwanted overhangs a pole pruner fits the bill. The benefit of this type of machine is that it requires only one operator because their feet remain firmly on the ground. Where ladders are involved, for safety, two or more people are required. Pole pruners are usually extendable up to about 2.8metres.

Some companies offer them as part of a package that also includes a power unit plus interchangeable extended hedgetrimmer, power broom and brushcutter.

COMPOSTING AND SHREDDERS

Autumn is an ideal time to consider constructing a composting area, especially on courses which have large amounts of leaves to deal with. As part of this type of system, a commercial shredder will be required to ensure that decomposing is accelerated. In these machines the collected material passes through a drum which has a series of hammers or flails. These not only chop the debris up, they also open the fibres to allow the essential organisms access to carry out the work.

Most shredders have a facility for dealing with small branches and light brushwood, converting them into chips for use on walk ways through wooded areas. If plenty of woody material is used some grass cuttings can



MIGHT Mini Trommel Screen

also be added. The compost produced is ideal as a mulch and soil conditioner for the shrubberies or ornamental flowerbeds or areas round a clubhouse or hotel complex. When deciding on the size of shredder to purchase the likely amount of organic matter that will be processed over a 12 month period is an important factor to take into consideration.

TIPPING

There is a good chance that large amounts of materials, such as bunker sand will need to be moved around the course. Tipping this can be a lot easier with a three-way tipping trailer. These allow you to pull up to the side of a bunker and unload the sand, hydraulically, off the side rather than out the back, it can help to cut spreading time.

BUY OR HIRE

In an ideal situation it would be an advantage to have many of the machines mentioned in ones fleet, but in some cases it would be difficult in justifying the expenditure for items which are generally not going to be used on a regular basis. In this situation then hiring is the answer and there are plenty of companies nationwide who specialise in the hire of plant machinery and ground care equipment.

Whatever the construction, refurbishing or renewal scheduled programme is this autumn, the key to make life as easy as possible is to having the right machines to carry out the work. There is no shortage of them out there.

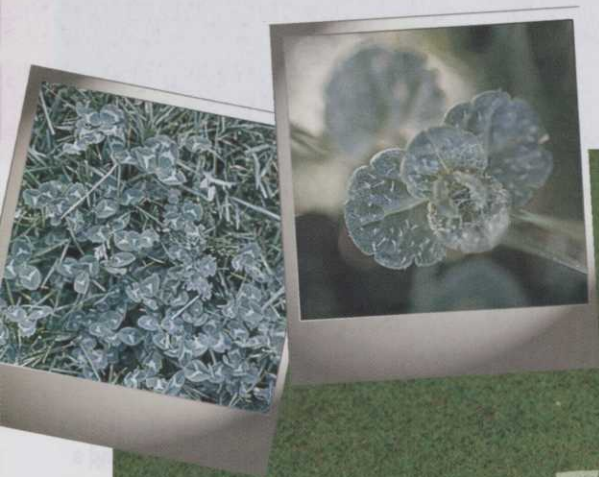


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JCB Micro excavator

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IOG SALTEX REVIEW 2003

Excellent weather greeted the visitors to Saltex '03 and those who made the trip to Windsor Racecourse were treated to an excellent three days. The BIGGA stand was exceptionally busy with members using the facility to talk with BIGGA staff and prospective members finding out more about the Association and collecting membership forms.

SPRAYING SUCCESS

Saltex was the venue for the presentation of a free, state-of-the art 300 litre Gambetti Barre tractor mounted sprayer to Tall Pines Golf Club, near Bristol, winners of the 2003 Blazon "SprayWatch" competition sponsored by GreenLink International.

From a large number of entries nationwide, Tall Pines was the first name to be drawn and BIGGA Chairman, George Brown, in company with Deputy Executive Director, John Pemberton, made the presentation on the Gambetti Barre stand.

Unfortunately, neither the Head Greenkeeper of Tall Pines, nor a member of its management, was able to attend the presentation as the club host an annual charity match that coincided with Saltex. Instead, the Avoncrop Amenity Products representative Neil Westlake, who entered the club's name into the draw, received the sprayer on the club's behalf.

The 2003 Blazon "SprayWatch" promotion celebrated a decade of campaigning for safer spraying techniques to be adopted by the amenity industry and the number of golf clubs incorporating a spray pattern indicator into their spray management programme has increased year on year. In that time ten clubs throughout the UK, from Scotland down to the South West of England, have benefited from a free sprayer.

"The addition of a spray pattern indicator such as Blazon to the spray solution is a simple and economical method of ensuring total accuracy and control of the spraying operation. With a visual indication of the spray pattern, more of the chemical reaches its intended target, less is wasted through excessive overlap and a more professional result will be achieved," said Richard Fry speaking on behalf of the sponsors GreenLink International.



Left to right: John Pemberton, Chris Briggs (Avoncrop), Patrick Dixon (Gambetti Barre), Neil Westlake (Avoncrop) George Brown and Jonathan Harmer.

25 YEARS AT SALTEX AND STILL GOING STRONG

Twenty-five consecutive years of a representatives attendance was celebrated on the Sherriff Amenity Services stand at this year's Saltex.

Chris Rudkin (on the left), one of the company's 13 amenity specialists, was awarded with a bottle of champagne and a congratulatory handshake from Mark Pyrah for attending his 25th Saltex exhibition as an exhibitor.



Chris, who is a well known and highly regarded representative covering Surrey and the London boroughs stated, "I have enjoyed this year at Saltex as much as my first visit 25 years ago and look forward to many more annual visits in the future".

Presenting Chris with his memento in recognition of this achievement Mark Pyrah, Sherriff's Sales Director stated "This is indeed an occasion and perhaps even a record, highlighting as it does an individual's commitment, consistency and support for what is an essential show date in everyone's calendar."

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

The champagne corks popped on the Sisis stand at Saltex as David Luxford's colleagues drank a toast to his 60th birthday.

David joined S.E. turf machinery dealer Paice and Sons straight from school and has worked in the turf maintenance industry ever since – and for the last 14 years as S.E. Regional Manager for Sisis.

He is a keen cricketer, still playing for his local team (when they are desperate!)

David demonstrates his dedication to duty every year as both his birthday and his wedding anniversary are during Saltex week.

The surprise party was attended by his Sisis colleagues including joint Managing Directors Roger and William Hargreaves, Keith Vertigan, David Harrison and Lynn Hilton.





CHRIS IS ON COURSE

Saltex was the venue for presenting the prize of the internationally acclaimed 'OnCourse' golf course management software package to Chris Carpenter MG, Course Manager at Brookmans Park Golf Club, Hatfield, Hertfordshire.

Chris won the prize in the annual Blazon 'SprayWatch' campaign and his club was the second to be drawn from a large number of entries nationwide.

The presentation was made on the Sherriff Amenity Services stand by Sami Collins representing the education and training department of BIGGA in the company of Chairman George Brown and Deputy Executive Director John Pemberton.

Chris Carpenter is one of a select band of turf professionals holding the qualification of Master Greenkeeper which will allow him to gain the maximum benefit from the computer software and the on-site training that accompanies the package.

Speaking on behalf of the sponsors GreenLink International, Richard Fry stated "Education has always been at the forefront of our campaign to achieve increased numbers of end-users including a spray pattern indicator such as Blazon in their spray programmes. Our technical literature, the 18 Ways to Spray leaflet and Spray Watch safety sticker have all contributed to spreading the message. Our approach has met with great success as, year-on-year, more operators adopt this simple and economical method of ensuring total accuracy and a professional approach to the spraying operation.

Picture: Left to right: George Brown, Chris Carpenter, Sami Collins, Mark Pyrah, Sherriffs, John Pemberton and in foreground, Richard Fry, GreenLink.



JOHNNY "THE BURGER" BECK

Sherriff Amenity Services, Johnny Beck is well known for his superb halfway houses at BIGGA events in the South East of the country but to enable a wider audience to sample his wonderful range of burgers and hot dogs at Saltex he first had to sit a food hygiene exam. No one had any doubt that Johnny would pass with flying colours but next time you bite into one of his rolls you can do so in the full knowledge that he is now "qualified". Johnny, and his colleagues, is pictured right as he faced an enormous queue on the Sherriff Amenity stand.



NEW BAGMA INITIATIVE

BAGMA, the UK trade association representing the interests of machinery dealers serving the groundcare and land-based industries, launched a unique 'joined-up' approach to groundcare technician training, in order to ensure a sound basis for the education of apprentices.

Under the forthcoming Groundcare Technician Training Scheme (GTTS), 10 colleges and 11 manufacturers have teamed up to provide dedicated resources and machinery nationwide to train technicians for employment with dealers serving in the domestic and professional equipment sectors.

A leaflet detailing the GTTS, which is being co-ordinated by Writtle College, was launched at Saltex. BAGMA regards the Scheme as an essential development in helping dealers attract new entrants into the profession.

"It will provide a platform for a rewarding and valuable career. BAGMA urges dealers to give their full support to the Scheme and their apprentices," said Director General Ian Jones.



BACK TO NORMAL

Windsor Race Course is set for its first meeting following Saltex, thanks to swift remedial treatment to relieve compaction.

"Airforce", Terrain Aeration's hydraulic terralift machine, swung into action 16 hours after the show officially closed, injecting compressed air and dried, milled seaweed particles into the two course crossing areas which had been covered by aluminium track 14 days previously.

The company, who had been camping out in a caravan during the show, while Airforce remained dormant on their stand, treated the areas, inserting the machine's probe 500 times at two metre spacings before backfilling with Lytag to keep the vertical drainage channels open. The only glitch in the operation occurred when two wayward vehicles, one tractor and one lorry, escaped the barriers and drove over freshly de-compacted ground, dictating a repeat of the aeration process.

The IOG, who take responsibility and cover the cost of restoring the racecourse following Saltex each year, estimate that between 9,000 to 10,000 pedestrians and 600 to 800 vehicles, from cars to articulated lorries, cross each of these tracks during the four-day event.

David MacKinnon, who has been Windsor Race Course Manager for just over three years, says he is happy with what Terrain Aeration has done. "It's highly likely that "Airforce" will be back to repeat the operation next year," he commented.

TURN OVER TO SEE A SELECTION OF NEW PRODUCTS THAT WERE LAUNCHED AT THE SHOW. MORE WILL BE FEATURED IN NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE...

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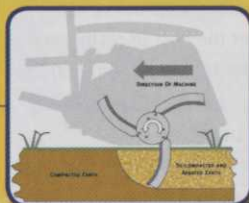
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NEW PRODUCTS

WARM AS TOAST

HotWired is a new range of comfortable heated clothing for the grounds care professional. The range comprises socks, mittens, overtrousers and working jacket using heating pads sewn into the lining of each garment to provide a soothing warmth just moments after plugging in.

Instead of a single wire running through the garment, there are over 250cm of heated wire in each heating pad, which are strategically placed throughout each garment. Instead of hot spots or cold spots, warmth is evenly distributed throughout. The result is a warm, comfortable ride in even cold, windy, and damp weather. Just plug into a 12-volt power source.

The jacket and trousers are made from 100% nylon with a urethane coating on the inside together with sealed seams. The result is a virtually windproof and highly water resistant garment that keeps the cold and wet out and the heat in.

The mittens are exceptionally light and strong and made from the same nylon material with a waterproof and breathable insert providing exceptional protection from water and wind. The mitten heats the entire length of each finger as well as the back of the hand. They plug into the sleeve plug of the jacket or can be worn by themselves with a purpose-designed harness.

The socks heat from the top of the foot all the way down to the bottom of the toes, surrounding the entire foot with warmth. Similar to the gloves they plug into a socket in the trouser leg or can be worn by themselves with a special harness.

For further information Tel: 01473 270000



A CUT ABOVE

STIHL launched two new brushcutters, the FS 100 and FS 100 R brushcutters. Employing the new mixture-lubricated 4-MIX engine, the new STIHL brushcutters combine the benefits of two-stroke and four-stroke engines in one, driving high torque and powerful performance through these versatile machines with optimum eco-properties.

On steep slopes and uneven ground the new STIHL FS 100 and FS 100 R brushcutters, cut through long grass, strong weeds and tough scrub. With their powerful performance, operating convenience and environmental compatibility, the new models sit at the top of STIHL's light brushcutter range. The machines owe their performance and optimum eco-properties to the newly developed STIHL 4-MIX engine. Unlike a conventional four-stroke engine, the STIHL 4-MIX is fuelled with a mixture of petrol and oil. No need for a separate oil tank, oil pump and oil filter; no need to check oil levels, change or dispose of the oil.

STIHL 4-MIX brushcutters are particularly eco-friendly. The efficient flow of combustion and exhaust gases, thanks to valve control in the 4-MIX engine, eliminates scavenging losses and significantly reduces emission levels; and the new machines already meet the emission ceilings which will apply in the USA from 2005 and in Europe from 2007. They are equally beneficial where noise is concerned. Running on the four-stroke principle, the 4-MIX engine noise is in a lower frequency range than a conventional two-stroke and thus perceived as more pleasant by the human ear.

For further information Tel: 01276 20202.

HONEY I SHRUNK THE ...

JCB is developing a new Groundcare division, building on the already very successful licensing business that has seen the JCB brand extend into leisure, work wear, safety wear, power tools and garden machinery.

JCB Groundcare will market part of the current product range including the Micro Excavator and Dumpster to specialist Groundcare users and will develop its own range of Groundcare machinery. The JCB Groundcare range will continue to uphold the JCB name for performance, value and reliability.

Marketed through a network of specialist, professionally trained, factory backed dealers.

The smallest machines JCB has ever manufactured were shown at Saltex as the company geared up to grab a slice of a growing market.

As part of its Groundcare division JCB is offering two micro excavators - the JCB Micro and Micro Plus - weighing in at 1,063kg and 1,237kg respectively.

JCB is the first major manufacturer outside of Japan to produce micro excavators and their introduction opens up new markets for the company. The JCB Micro and JCB Micro Plus will be the first micro excavators to be designed to effectively power a breaker. By using high strength componentry from the JCB 8015 mini excavator, JCB HM60 can be used on the Micro and Micro Plus.

JCB Groundcare also brought another miniature machine to Saltex 2003.

JCB is planning to increase its range with the addition of a smaller backhoe.

The machine - which weighs in at 1480kg - will feature:

- A 20hp diesel engine
- A centremount backhoe with a dig depth of 2.54m, 180° slew angle, 1.98m loader
- Single lever loader controls
- JCB Plus excavator controls
- 2 wheel drive single speed hydrostatic transmission
- Maximum shovel height of 2.18m
- Shovel capacity of 0.23 cu metres
- An excavator loader height of 1.96m
- 300mm std. bucket width

For further information Tel: 01889 590312



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ON YOUR BIKE

Making its debut at Saltex was a new all terrain mower from Etesia - the Attila A180. This latest machine, which is unique in the European market, provides commercial end users with an efficient mower for use on areas such as motorway and river banks; industrial estates; or grassed areas around reservoirs. On sites like these, the safe use of grass cutting machinery on banks is an important Health and Safety issue.

With the launch of this new mower, Etesia have addressed the problem. Depending on ground conditions, Attila A180 can be used on slopes up to 27 degrees. The special feature of this mower is its hydraulic automatic self-leveling system which ensures that the operator, engine and controls are always in the vertical position, while the floating cutting units follow the terrain's contours. This provides total comfort and safety for the user during bank work. In addition, there is a fully adjustable suspension seat with armrests and seat belt, together with a Roll Over Protection System. For added safety, an alarm buzzer sounds when the machine is nearing the 27 degree limit.

Attila A180's 71" (180cm) cutting width comes from two 36" (91.5cm) fully wheeled rotary decks with double acting rams on castor wheels. These rear-discharge cutting units adjust independently to all angles to provide an even finish when mowing in ditches, over crowns and hillocks and on uneven terrain. Hydraulic drive allows them to mow in any position.

Beneath the reinforced steel decks, the cutterbar has swing tips, which can be fixed for use on shorter grass. Concentric design of the cutting units creates a 3cm overlap which ensures that no central band of grass is left uncut.

Designed to cope with a wide variety of grass conditions, Attila A180 has a powerful 3-cylinder 30hp Yanmar liquid cooled diesel engine. The machine is highly manoeuvrable, with easy-to-use hydrostatic drive, power steering and good all-round visibility. This, added to the fact that when in operating mode the central "bike" remains in the vertical position, puts the user in full control, especially in difficult working conditions.

For further information Tel: 01926 403319.



ORGANIC SUPPLEMENT

Scotts launched a new organic turf supplement at Saltex that enhances sward health and vigour through stimulating soil microbial activity. New Greenmaster Blade is an advanced combination of carbohydrate and seaweed technology which, over a series of independent trials, has resulted in increased turf density and vigour and greatly enhanced disease resistance.

The key benefit of including Greenmaster Blade within an overall turf maintenance programme is the impact on root development. During trials, users reported improved rooting to depths of seven to ten inches. The turf is therefore able to take up nutrients and water more efficiently, resulting in accelerated top growth and sward density.

In practical terms, this means that the turf is harder wearing and resilient, better able to resist the effects of drought and disease and shows improved colour.

Greenmaster Blade works indirectly. Instead of feeding the turf, the carbohydrate and seaweed spray feeds and stimulates the beneficial micro-organisms in the soil surface. Modern turf management often results in a near sterile environment in the

upper inches of the soil, starving the micro flora and fauna and preventing the natural recycling of organic matter into plant nutrients. This has contributed to the increasing problems turf managers experience with thatch build up and conditions such as black layer.

Greenmaster Blade provides an energy source to reinvigorate the activity of these organisms. The result is an acceleration of natural composting - breaking down thatch and black layer, improving air and water flow into the soil and continually releasing new plant nutrients to the turf roots.

This stimulation also benefits turf disease resistance by enhancing the activity of beneficial mycorrhizal fungi in the rootzone. These fungi develop on the outer root surface and work in co-operation with the grass plant, helping in the transfer of nutrients, protecting against disease ingress and also supplying vital vitamins and amino acids.

Greenmaster Blade is an easy to use liquid spray, supplied in returnable containers, and is now available through the Scotts distributor network.

For further information Tel: 01473 830492

GRADEN ZERO TURN MOWER

2003 will see the launch of the exceptional 'Diesel' Graden Zero Turn mower by Turfmasters. This fast and highly manoeuvrable ride on mower is powered by a 26hp Yanmar Diesel engine, or a 34hp Kubota, and is ideal for cutting cleanly and quickly through tight, restricted areas. The Zero-Turn mower has a forward top speed

of over 15Kph, and as the rear wheels are independently controlled, this gives a turning radius of ZERO giving the operator full control for manoeuvring in any situation. There are 2 cutting widths available, 62" and 72" with an option of side or rear discharge.

For further information Tel: 01577 863864



IT SUCKS

Making its first appearance at IOG Saltex was a 2.5m (8ft 2y 2in) wide suction pick-up head for Turfmech's TM5 high-tip vacuum collector.

The development of the 2.5m suction head was prompted primarily by demand from turf growers needing to collect and remove grass clippings quickly from newly-mown turf. Apart from the cosmetic factor, leaving the clippings in place, especially during periods of warm, damp weather, can lead to potential disease problems and unsightly yellowing of the valuable grass beneath.

Fully height-adjustable, the new 2.5m suction head is equipped with a full-width powered debris-loosening brush, of similar design to its narrower stablemate. The combination of agitation brush and powerful suction makes the TM5 ideal for the collection of leaves, litter, grass clippings and other light, loose, damp or dry debris from turf or hard surfaces.

All material picked-up by the head passes through the TM5's impellor before being blown forcefully into the machine's five cu metre capacity hopper. High-tip emptying of the hopper is achieved hydraulically from the tractor driver's seat at a discharge height of 2.35m (7ft 9in), sufficient to clear most high-sided vehicles, skips and refuse containers.

Price of the vacuum collector complete with the wider 2.5m suction pick-up head is £17,330.

For further information Tel: 01889 271503

NEW PRODUCTS

NEW PRODUCT LINE FROM B&S

Briggs & Stratton is re-positioning its Power Product line. The product quality by which the company has become renowned is now being extended to end-user products for the very first time. All the petrol-powered products are exclusively equipped with Briggs & Stratton engines.

Briggs & Stratton will position these end products, targeted with their core line of generators, at distinctive market groups, ranging from consumer use to the demanding commercial sector.

The product line is established based on usage and audience requirements includes:

ProClassic: High performance, value for money, generators for use at home or by professionals; They are maintenance-friendly and powered by quick start Intek 1/C OHV engines.

ProPlus: These Synchronous generators designed for maximum performance and endurance and are powered by commercial Vanguard engines. They are suitable for any number of professional applications.

ProMax: The ProMax line of generators provides the performance and endurance benefits of the ProPlus line plus long run fuel tanks and accessories for demanding professionals.

ProSilent: This innovative line presents generators to be used in places where the neighbour is better left undisturbed: such as camping, catering or near home. They are powered by Vanguard commercial engines for maximum durability and can run for hours without refuelling.

ProDiesel: Powered by diesel engines and suitable for professionals, these generators are designed for durability and low operating cost.

Pro Weld: For use by consumers or professionals alike, these AC and DC generator-welders are designed for performance, durability and long run time. They come equipped with Vanguard commercial engines.

ProWash: These high performance pressure washers powered by Vanguard commercial engines, are suitable for the most demanding consumer and or professional needs.

Pumps: Briggs & Stratton's 2 and 3 inch high capacity water pumps are powered by Intek 1/C engines, providing high power to pump water in most conditions. These are suitable for both consumer and professional use.

For further information Tel: 01708335600

BIG DEAL

David Jenkins Turfcare Equipment has received a substantial order worth in excess of £400,000 from The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB).

The ECB and Channel 4 will purchase 45 trailer-based turf management systems from David Jenkins having first seen the system at Saltex.

David was first approached by Bruce Cruse, ECB Facilities Development Manager last year.

Cruse has been working with a group of 45 County Pitch Advisors for over two years with an objective to create a national network of specialist groundsmen who could assist in the improvement of recreational pitches throughout the country.

Bruce identified that each Adviser needed their own set of equipment to conduct Seminars, Training Programmes and assist with rectification work and realised that the David Jenkins Turfcare Trailer System could be adapted to suit his project perfectly.



FULLY GEAR UP TO THE HIGH-TECH ERA

Grinding specialists Bernhard and Company has fitted a NEW colour graphical touch-screen to the top of the range Express Dual 3000DX.

Giving improved functionality, a series of coloured icons replace the normal panel with a selection of buttons.

"Operators will find the animated instructions simple to follow," said Managing Director Stephen Bernhard.

"Our philosophy is not to make constant changes just for the sake of it, but only in the interests of end-users.

"We learn most from greenkeepers hosting tournaments and incorporate their constructive comments into upgrades," he said.

"With our Express Dual grinders being used world-wide this new screen means operational instructions can be understood universally."

Just touching the screen to make things happen - at the start of the grinding process, to load the mower on to the grinder, the clear animation displays a picture of a mower on a lift table which moves up.

For further information Tel: 01788 811600.

STUCK ON YOU

Mag Knife is a revolutionary new system for attaching the bottom blade to a greens or fairway cylinder mower and will inevitably change the face of mower maintenance in the future. Exclusively available from Ransomes Jacobsen, this new system uses powerful magnets with a force exceeding 19kgm together with special locating dowels, to position the bottom blade firmly.

With no screws to remove, the time required to replace worn or damaged bottom blades is reduced from hours to minutes with this new patented technology.

Traditionally, the bottom blade is held in position by up to 18 retaining screws which, as any golf greenkeeper or maintenance technician will confirm, are notoriously difficult to remove, particularly on older machines. When a new bottom blade is fitted using the traditional system, tightening the screws distorts the blade, which then has to be ground true.

Using location dowels and a series of extremely powerful natural magnets MagKnife, the screwless bottom blade, is held firmly in position on the backing plate by a uniform pressure along its full length, eliminating the tedious and time consuming need to grind true using the 'old' system.

During extensive laboratory and field tests in the US, a surprising benefit of the new design was discovered. Fairly substantial objects such as broken tees, twigs, small pebbles, discarded spikes and even coins passed between the cutting cylinder blades and the bottom blade without damage to either during the extensive testing period.

The magnets, with their powerful field, provide enough strength to hold the bottom blade securely to the frame, but allow it to 'give' when an object is encountered, allowing it to pass through harmlessly before snapping back into place.

A special patented removal tool is required to break the magnetic hold and, once done, the process of refitting can be achieved in seconds.



David Withers, Sales and Marketing Director at Ransomes Jacobsen, speaking at the Saltex launch, said, "We are convinced that MagKnife will revolutionise the maintenance of golf mowers as we know it. We have the exclusive use of this patented technology, which has been extensively tested in the USA.

"Jacobsen has always been known for innovation, launching the first hydraulic greens triple, the first lightweight fairway mower, the first and still the only true turf groomer, FlashAttach reels and now, MagKnife.

"We are committed to providing productive, environmentally-friendly products as a continuing company policy and we believe that MagKnife will enhance the productivity of golf courses around the world."

For further information Tel: 01473 270000

MORE SALTEx NEW PRODUCT LAUNCHES FEATURED NEXT MONTH

What does the Future Hold?

Bob Taylor looks at the work that is going on in the wake of the tightening up of pesticide legislation.

With pesticide legislation becoming increasingly stringent, environmental issues dominating our daily routine and with growing pressures from statutory government bodies and environmental groups over the fate of nutrients, particularly with regard to the impact they may have on surface and ground water, it is perhaps not surprising that products and technologies are being developed to help turf managers in their quest for perfect putting surfaces.

These developments fall under the umbrella of "organic management" the strict definition of which relates to any product or compound supporting a carbon base derived from plants or animals. This definition embraces any substance of plant or animal origin and would include substances consisting of bacterial or fungal origin. It could and is being extended to include all vegetation management performed without reliance on chemicals. This may include the development of buffer zones around watercourses, and the extension and development of the rough grassland to accommodate predatory beetles to assist in pest control. It may include composting, organic weed and pest control, grazing, manual removal of weeds and improving light, air flow and other more routine cultural practices to remove water, reduce thatch and improve turf condition.

In fact, a different or a possibly more familiar way of approaching organic management would be to think in terms of Integrated Pest Management (IPM), not a new concept but one that is rarely fully adopted.

CULTURAL GREENKEEPING MANAGEMENT

The traditional art of golf greenkeeping is not dead or dying, it is however changing to embrace new machinery that will be equally or more effective in its particular job of work. It will hopefully make life that bit easier for the greenstaff. Aeration formerly undertaken by hand is now given over to slit, solid, hollow tine and Verti-drain machines. Scarification is now the preserve of thatch control and thatch removal equipment. Top dressing can be applied and "worked in" with very capable machines.

The essence of the above is that all of the cultural management techniques developed by our ancestors are probably more important now than they have ever been. The only consolation for the greenstaff is that, thankfully, life may be a little easier. Continuing this theme, if greenkeepers have a problem with thatch, they scarify, top dress, and reduce water and fertiliser input. If black layer or poor root development is the issue on a green, then aeration in whatever form, if deemed appropriate, is administered. All of the above however may be being lost in the hype that new revolutionary organic products are being produced which will "eat thatch", increase rooting, improve shoot growth, improve colour and destroy the black layer. Such products may also reduce disease so "saving our bacon" when the current round of pesticide reviews have resulted in a total revocation of all chemicals currently used to combat disease.

SO WHAT ABOUT BIO-STIMULANTS?

Microbial inoculants, it is claimed, increase soil-borne bacterial populations, leading to healthy plant growth arising from improved environment conditions around the rhizosphere. Research has shown that an average golf green contains between 0.001% and 2.0% of the microbial population usually found in healthy grassland. Relatively sterile then, you may think, time to switch to microbial products? The figures quoted are log values and therefore possibly somewhat misleading. It is, however, not unusual to find between 1 and 10 million colony-forming units per single gram of soil, averaging over 10 billion colony-forming units when additional species are added and even figures such as this only represent a small fraction of the soil microbe species that scientists can quite easily culture. Mike Kenna (USGA Green Section Record, May/June



Some of the articles on the subject

2001) has shown that repeated use of fungicides has not significantly decreased populations of soil micro-organisms. Even soil fumigation in trials carried out on Bermudagrass greens failed to sterilise the soil and as such is unlikely to kill all the beneficial soil organisms.

The lower levels encountered may be due to a combination of compaction, lack of oxygen, chemical use, sterile top dressings, sand rootzones, close mowing and removal of grass clippings.

Research undertaken to date has shown that there can be a stimulation of root mass with some products but this is relatively short lived. Thus, the products will need to be applied regularly to be effective. For example, Dr Joe Vargas has shown in trials using pseudomonas species that they need to be applied almost daily as this species commonly used in microbial inoculations has difficulty establishing in soil. Even using a Bioject system, the above has been shown to be the case. Some greenkeepers however have seen positive results, while others have reported negative results. Manufacturers claim that any result may not be immediately obvious, rendering measurements taken after application somewhat unreliable. There has been much discussion as to whether the bacteria and fungi used can be damaged or killed by ultraviolet

light but again the manufacturers suggest that the microbes washed into the surface work within the rhizosphere and rootzone and are therefore protected. Dr Noel Jackson (USGA Green Section Record, May/June 1999) showed that *Trichoderma harzianum* will establish within the rhizosphere and can supplement microbial communities sufficient to produce soil-borne disease. This occurred using two spring and two autumn applications of the fungus. Work continues with *Trichoderma* in biological disease control programmes. *Trichoderma* spores have been sprayed onto turfgrasses to reduce foliar disease. Research here again shows that frequent applications are required and any conventional fungicides applied are lethal to *Trichoderma*.

There have been several case studies reported in-house from product manufacturers supporting the beneficial effects of microbial stimulants.

The first concerned a bowling green where 6-7 cm of thatch was preventing water movement down into the rootzone. Scarification, hollow tining and overseeding gave reasonable results but fungi building up within the thatch layer prevented new grass establishment. The Parks Manager used microbial stimulants and found the results to be quite dramatic. New grasses came through and the original grass began to be sustained. By August they looked like brand new greens – no further treatments for fusarium have been necessary. Fertiliser applications have been reduced by 50%.

A study from an English golf club using microbial stimulants for three years in conjunction with a sound fertiliser and aeration programme has successfully controlled thatch levels, hollow coring is no longer required and wetting agents are not needed.

SO, WHERE DO WE STAND WITH MICROBIAL PRODUCTS – DO THEY WORK OR DON'T THEY?

STRI has recently conducted a commercial trial using microbial stimulant products on a fescue-bent turf growing on a USGA specification rootzone. The main plots received either low, medium or high fertiliser inputs and 16 separate commercial product treatments were applied within the individual sub-plots. These were randomised within each main plot, with applications repeated at ten to 20 day intervals between May and November 2002. Irrigation was applied on four occasions and aeration took the form of a single solid tine treatment and two light surface treatments using a Sarel-type roller. The whole of the trial area was subjected to simulated golf-type slip wear equipped with golf shoe studs and measurements were taken on a monthly basis. Live grass cover was assessed visually and the rooting depth from surface was measured. All of the results were subjected to a statistical analysis of variance and the results are outlined below.

Two products only produced a significant enhancement in turf colour, both however contain nitrogen (NPK 5-2-10) and this, particularly in the plots within the main plot supporting a lower fertiliser rate, is to some degree to be expected. In most cases, the visible assessment of turf cover showed no statistically significant effects from the microbial treatments when compared to the control. However, one treatment containing the above NPK fertiliser did produce a significantly greater density of cover in relation to the control. Towards the end of the trial, significant effects on visible turf cover were noted from two products providing greater live grass cover than the control.

The results for root depth measurements in all soil rootzones showed no significant effects either from fertiliser application or through microbial treatments.



In summary, the only effects on turf quality were obtained for the depth of turf colour and turf density. This was affected primarily by the fertiliser programme but two treatments containing some fertiliser did augment colour depth slightly. One product on one assessment date did produce a ground cover of 74% in comparison to 64% for the control.

IPM

Much of the hype around organic stimulants repeatedly calls for "use in conjunction with an intensive cultural maintenance programme" – an IPM strategy, for want of a more meaningful description.

Most greenkeepers tend to work towards creating an environment where slower-growing fine-textured grasses are favoured, the "Acid theory", reducing the pH to acceptable "acidic" levels. Microbial products work best at pH values between 5.0 and 8.0, raising the pH to accommodate microbes would inevitably lead to greater nutrient availability (due to the microbes breaking down thatch!) which in turn would lead to slower green speeds through increased grass growth. Microbes added to the surface are light sensitive, so applications are advised in conjunction with aeration to ensure microbes enter the rhizome. With top dressing, research has shown that only 5% of the material enters the hollow core holes (assuming 50 mm spacings), so 95% potentially stays on the surface. Why should microbes work differently? A short period under high light conditions will effectively kill the microbes. It is therefore likely in such circumstances that it is the aeration work that is creating any visual improvement to the turf.

One could strongly argue that with adequate spiking, growing conditions will improve without the use of "beneficial microbe" products. If your problem is of a physical nature then it would make sense that a physical solution is necessary.

Clearly, environmental and site-based characteristics are so variable that it is difficult to make a definitive and qualitative judgment as to the benefits or otherwise of these products, although all of the available research does give quite a strong reserve to the overall benefits of microbial stimulants. To satisfy your desire once and for all, it may be possible to undertake small scale trials on a replicated basis but great care will be required as inconsistencies are not what managing putting surfaces is about. I have seen greenkeepers applying different stimulants at different rates which, on one course, resulted in a serious decline in turf quality and major disease problems on six greens which almost left him without a career. Trials therefore must be subtle and not overly impacting on putting or playing quality. Any trials should continue for at least one full growing season and assessments made for turf colour, root depth and incidence of disease. Nutrient status should be checked before, during and upon completion as was the case with the STRI trials. When considering purchasing micro-stimulants, ask:

- What research has been undertaken on the product and was this in-house or independent?
- Was the research field-based or laboratory-based?
- What was the nature of the growing medium and is it compatible with that of the golf club?
- Were statistical analyses used and how many replications were made?

KEEPING THE BALANCE

A healthy rootzone consists of 45% mineral, 3-5% organic, 20-30% air-filled pore space and no more than 20-30% water-filled pore space. This will provide an adequate growing medium for soil microbes. They are present and will fill all available niches. More importantly for Course Managers is just how the rootzone is being maintained and in this respect it is all about "keeping the balance". Thus, we must look much more widely other than relying on soil stimulants or other quick-fix solutions. We need adequate sunlight, the drying effects of the wind, carefully monitored irrigation and nutrition, and sensible mechanical and cultural practices carried out during favourable ground conditions when the soil is growing vigorously. This is an extension of IPM techniques that when considered in relation to creating grassland buffer zones, ecological corridors for invertebrate and other wildlife movement, and a balance between putting surface conditions and the wider environment would be best thought of as holistic management.

Holistic management and ensuring a package of cultural techniques and an effective IPM approach will be an essential component of future golf course management, possibly seen by many as a step backwards into the historic past when such practices were commonplace. We are, to some extent, being seduced by the hype and this is out-pacing the basic science, leading to unreasonable expectations of what can be achieved without evidence to back up the claims.

YOUR LETTERS ARE NEEDED!

Send to: Scott MacCallum, Editor, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF, or email them to: scott@bigga.co.uk

A Great Help

I thought that I would write to thank BIGGA for all of the help, support and guidance that the Association afforded me over the past year. In a recent editorial in Greenkeeper International there appeared to be some debate over the fact that BIGGA was not a union and if this were to be the case then greenkeepers could be better looked after. Scott refuted this.

I would like to express the fact that everyone at BIGGA did their upper most to support me during my redundancy situation. From the moment that I contacted BIGGA to ask for representation at a series of consultation meetings the support was total.

Everyone at BIGGA helped me to get through a difficult time and successfully back into work, as a greenkeeper. During the consultation process BIGGA helped to form rational arguments to support my claim that the redundancy could be avoided. During the meetings Rachael Palmer sat at my side, after propping me and correlating evidence to support me. Rachael intervened where necessary and worked towards supporting me in formulating my arguments. Rachael taped all of my meetings with the Golf Club and witnessed my then Club Secretary described the job of Head Greenkeeper as "hardly rocket science". At this point Rachael sternly defended both greenkeepers and myself. Her professional attitude, assistance and diligence were invaluable throughout this process.

During the period of my unemployment numerous things were done to assist me in trying to secure a job. Rachael was extremely useful in correlating all information and sent it to General Legal Protection. This of course is the company that deals with our legal issues.

Through this company a solicitor from Langleys was appointed to represent me, after I had been made redundant. Through him a settlement was made between myself and my previous employer concerning the redundancy issue. This I could not have afforded to do on my own, and to that end I was not required to pay anything, as BIGGA were picking up the legal expenses.

Rachael also arranged for forms to be sent off allowing me to claim back part of the costs for my subscriptions to BIGGA from the Inland Revenue.

In Ken Richardson's capacity as Education and Training Manager he allowed me to apply for the higher education training fund that is sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen. This request was duly granted, and allowed me to complete the final year of my HND Turf Science and Golf Course Management course.

I have now completed this successfully and I was the awarded the Ernest Jones Award from Myerscough. This award goes to the top HND student for a turf course.

The award of the scholarship came at a time when I could not have afforded to pay for the final year myself. Allied to this the college selected me as their representative for the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year and I am currently in the final.

These are just some of the reasons why I believe that being a member of BIGGA gives excellent value for money. I believe that the organisation does look after its members extremely well. As my case demonstrates. I do not believe changing the nature of the organisation will lead to greater support, as it is already high on their list of priorities.

For years I never utilised my membership to its full, simply because I never had reason to use it the way I have over the past year. It gave me great comfort to know that during my tempestuous time that the whole of BIGGA was standing shoulder to shoulder with me. Reason enough, I believe, to be a member.

It is reassuring that at the point of need there is someone there able to assist and represent us, as individuals and the whole of the greenkeeping industry.

On a final note please accept my sincere thanks for selecting me to be the National Finalist for the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year. It was a most unexpected surprise to be chosen, bearing in mind the calibre of the other contestants, some of whom I met after my interview at the Hilton Hotel.

Keith Scruton, Head Greenkeeper, Colne Golf Club

The late David Halford

It is with great regret to hear the news of David Halford passing away from this life recently. David always had a cheery smile whenever I bumped into him at the various trade shows and had a very dry sense of humour which he used to great effect in his own inimitable way. I was fortunate to have David teach me machinery at Myerscough college during 1978-81. He had a good knack of getting the main points across but not all the students found his tact and humour to their liking. He had exceptional knowledge in his chosen field. There is no doubt he was a unique character. I was one of the many students who passed through his own machinery renovation club where we would strip down these rusty old relics and with lots of love and hard work, turn them round into new looking, pristine machines. It has been one of a personal joy to track down, some years ago, the collection of restored machines that now sit in a barn at the National Trust property at Trerice House, near Newquay in Cornwall. This, among other achievements, will remain testament to David's success in this business. Hopefully all the data he collated on the machines may appear in a book of some form so that as time passes by there is a good record of an important part of the early heritage of greenkeeping. He will be greatly missed by all those whose lives he touched.

David Haskell-Craig MG, Course Manager, Maidenhead Golf Club

Many Thanks

I would like to pass on my thanks to the many greenkeepers who made up the Support Team for this year's Open Championship at Royal St George's.

Not only did the Support Team perform their duties professionally during the days of the Championship, they also aided me in preparing the bunkers before play got underway in the morning.

My staff and I enjoyed meeting some old faces and some new faces in the BIGGA marquee and we look forward to the next time we meet.

Once again many thanks to the Support Team for their invaluable time in helping the green staff at Royal St Georges.

Neil Metcalf,
Head Greenkeeper,
Royal St George's Golf Club



SCOTTISH REGION
Peter Boyd
Tel/Fax: 0141 616 3440

Ayrshire

As in previous years the Scottish Region once again offers a subsidised package deal for BTME 2004.

The package includes coach to Harrogate, entry to all Seminars and Exhibition and three nights bed and breakfast in ensuite twin rooms in the Moat House Hotel, Harrogate on January 20, 21 and 22, 2004. Package costs: £163. Partners are welcome at a cost of £138 for travel and accommodation.

Banquet tickets cost an extra £35 per person.

For booking form contact Peter J. Boyd, Scottish Regional Administrator, 10 Meadowburn Avenue, Newton Mearns, Glasgow G77 6TA. Contact Tel/Fax: 0141 616 3440 email: biggascotland@aol.com
Peter Boyd

North

New members to report are Graham Farquharson, Huntly GC; Darren Hexley, Muir of Ord GC; Muir Ross, Ballindalloch GC; Mark Tudhope, Boat of Garten GC; Fraser Brown and Marc Macgregor Afford GC. Welcome to the Section lads.

Any greenkeeper interested in courses run by BIGGA, should contact Dougal Duguid on 01224 740320. Around eight to ten per course are required to make it worthwhile to run. Health and safety and chainsaw courses are examples of the subsidised courses available.

The Open went very well for the BIGGA team involved, and thanks go to John Pemberton and the rest of the team for the organisation of the whole thing. Also congratulations to Neil Metcalfe and his team for the condition of the course and the smooth running of the of the intense maintenance required once the tournament starts. You will notice that the extreme amount of walking required leaves all the greenkeepers involved looking like athletes, as the photographs in the magazine suggest.

Also congratulations to Gary Gruber who begins his new job as Head Greenkeeper at Skibo Castle GC. Gary is formerly of Dornoch GC.

Not much else to report this month so hopefully all your courses are looking good and the summerr was not too unkind.

The Section outing was held at Hazelhead GC, on September 9, and we had a turnout of 70 which meant the the day was a success. Our thanks go to Stuart McBain, the Courses Manager, at the complex for turning the course out so well and to his staff for all their hard work. It is a course I had not played before and I thought it was a lovely course with some great holes and is well worth another visit. Thanks also to the bar staff and in particular the lady members of the golf club who spent their day cooking our meals and making sure everthing went smoothly. Also to the committee for all their hard work in making the event run smoothly. The prize winners were as follows:

Scratch

1. G. Tough Letham, Grange GC, 70; 2. G. Mitchell, Newmachar GC, 74.

Class 1. 1. J. Urquhart, Tain GC; 2. B. Wood Westhill GC; 3. C. Mackay, Forres GC. Class 2. 1. W. Craig, Kirriemuir GC; 2. J. Swanson GC; 3. S. Robertson, Craigie Hill GC. Class 3. 1. D. Duggan, Fortrose GC; 2. K. Anderson; 3. B. Strachan, Auchmillill GC. Apprentice Trophy. 1. B. Brooks, Newmachar GC; 2. A. Nixon, Fortrose GC. Veteran. 1. A. Grant, Retired; 2. J. Geddes, Ellon GC.

Trade. M. Dennis, Rigby Taylor. Guest. T. Sullivan, Craigie Hill GC. Committee Trophy. S. Sullivan, Craigie Hill GC. Best nett Mclean Trophy. W. Craig, Kirriemuir GC. 36 hole Best veteran. A. Grant Retired. Longest Drive. Class 1. K. Thomson, Moray GC. Class 2. A. Shade, Spey Bay GC. Class 3. G. Asher, Kemnay GC. Nearest the Pin. G. Mellis, Muir of Ord GC.

Sweep. 1. W. Craig, Kirriemuir GC; 2. J. Urquhart, Tain GC; 3. D. Duggan Fortrose GC; 4. B. Brooks, Newmachar GC. BIGGA Blazer. K. Anderson, Newmachar GC.

200 Club Draw. £30, C. Forbes, Peterculter GC; £30, A. Mackintosh, Peterculter GC; £30, J. Geddes, Ellon GC; £100, A. Williamson.

Congratulations to all the prize winners and the first time winners, in particular, A. Grant, formerly Fraserburgh GC, who has never won anything at anything. Nice to see that.

The Section AGM will be held at Peterhead GC on October 16. It will take the form of a normal outing this year and the AGM will take place straight after the golf is over. Hope to see you there.

Congratulations to Jimmy McCormack, of Kirriemuir GC, whose trek up Mount Killamanjaro will take place in January next year. Jim has raised a lot of money already in sponsorship but there is still plenty of time to raise more, any member willing to sponsor Jim can do so by sending a cheque made out to the Anthony Nolan Fund to Jim at Kirriemuir G.C.

If anybody has anything they would like put in the magazine then please phone me on 01997 420155 and I will put it in the next report.

Iain Gunn



East

Welcome to this month's column, October already can anyone tell me where the year has gone. The last thing I knew it was April and now it is the autumn. Ok, on with the news from the section. The Summer Tournament at the Glen GC in July was cancelled due to lack of numbers as has been the norm for the last few years. The Committee has therefore decided that there will be no future Summer Tournament which is a sensible move as people are too busy in the summer and do not have time to attend outings as we are all very busy with our clubs and competitions. The annual Dinner Dance will be held on Saturday, December 6, at the Kilsplindie House Hotel, Aberlady with tickets now available. So let's see Members and your Guests come along for a very enjoyable evening. All information, tickets, room availability, prices etc from our Secretary Steve Dixon on 0131 6603965 (home), 0131 443 0235 (work) so please call Steve as soon as possible as rooms are on a first come first served basis so we hope for a big turnout at the highlight of our Section year. The Section Invitational Tournament will be held on Wednesday 8 October at Eyemouth Golf Club. The date of this Tournament was changed due to it being too close to the Autumn Outing at Cardrona on September 11, so the Committee decided to rearrange this fixture to the later date. Results for both the Autumn Tournament and the Invitational Tournament will be in the next month's or month after's Section news. The Committee are just putting together some winter lectures on various subjects. These include Machinery Maintenance, Coshh, Fepa, Risk Assessments, and Health and Safety. Details etc of all the above will be with you all very soon. Myself and Steve Dixon will be on the BIGGA stand at the Scotsturf Exhibition at Ingilston on November 5 & 6 so we hope to see you on the stand on one of the days. Well that's it all till next month when we will have results from the Cardrona Tournament and possibly The Invitational as well. If anyone has

any info of people on the move, births, marriages etc or anything of interest please let me know so I can put it into this column in the coming months.

So don't forget, the usual number's on the back of your fixture card and I would like to hear from you about anything. So that's it all till next time .

Chris Yeaman



West of Scotland

Welcome to this month's Section news.

Beginning this month with an apology from myself to John Scott senior formerly of Nairn Brown Machinery.

Back at the Spring Outing in May at Hilton Park GC, John was presented with a gift from the Section for all his hard work and support over the many years to the Section. Unfortunately your letter John, thanking members in the Section past and present for the warm welcome and gift received at the Spring Outing, was never presented to me to express your thanks via our Section news. It has only come to light recently that your letter was sent to my club and unfortunately it has been misplaced. Again apologies John on not conveying your letter of thanks. Best wishes and health on your retirement and I hope this makes up for the delay!

On August 18, The Norrie Whytock Trophy took place at Auchterarder GC. A small team volunteered to enter and were as follows: Fraser Ross, Renfrew Golf Club; Colin Black, Glasgow Golf Club; myself, Cathkin Braes Golf Club, and Brian 'Another booby prize' Bolland. Yes, yet again another booby prize for your mantelpiece Brian! Sorry Brian, had to mention. Unfortunately our Section finished in last place from all of the Sections throughout Scotland. Congratulations go to the North Section who came out on top on the day. Very big thank yous to Archie Dunn and crew for presenting an excellent conditioned course for this event; Peter Boyd for his excellent organisation in yet another successful event and, last but by no means least, David Drummond, of Bayer Products, on sponsoring the day and supplying and presenting the prizes. The committee will be on the look out for some new talent to do better

next year!

After the success of last year's AGM at Nairn Brown's Facilities, this year the format will be much similar held this year at Haggs Castle Golf Club on October 21 in conjunction with Hamilton Bro's demonstrations of Kubota, Toro and Charterhouse Equipment which will be on show from 10.30am – 12.30pm. A buffet lunch will be provided from approximately 1pm and following lunch Tom Dunlop, of Kubota UK Ltd; George McDonald, of Lely UK, and Richard Heywood, of Charterhouse Machinery will do small presentations on their specialised products. Our AGM will follow this at approx 2.30pm. Do try and come along and express any views, concerns, ideas you may have in the future development of our Section.

This year's annual dinner at the Formidable Victorias Night Club will take place on November 28. Tickets are already on sale and can be obtained from Gavin Jarvis, Secretary, or Fraser Ross, from Renfrew GC. Tickets are going fast so don't be disappointed. Please try and get any ordered tickets paid as soon as possible as this will greatly aid administration for what is the highlight evening of the year!

Next month. Results of Autumn Outing and Scotsturf Exhibition. Any news for the article contact 07774 420427.

Douglas McIntosh

Central

We're back! I'll bet you all thought that you were safe and that you wouldn't have to read any more of my drivel, sorry. Section news, well tough I have decided to come out of summer recess and bring you up to date with everything that is happening in the Section. Seriously though, no one ever sends any news items which they could share with other members (every Section appears to have this problem). It's your magazine. Use it!

Congratulations go to Section members David Leith and Paul Conway who were both successful in the Scottish Tournament at Turnberry also to Glen Campbell and Kenny Stirling for their achievements in National Tournaments. Congratulations also go to Michael Love on his appointment as Head Greenkeeper at Grangemouth Golf Course. I don't know anything about Michael at the moment but I do know that he is coming to the Autumn Tournament so we will have the opportunity to meet him then.

By the time you are reading this, the Autumn Tournament at Ailao Golf Club will have taken place so I will give you a full report on the winners in next month's magazine.

The AGM will take place on the 30th of this month at Gleneagles and everyone should have received notice of it by now. If you are attending for what is guaranteed to be an excellent day, please return your form for catering purposes.

As I mentioned in the first paragraph, no member contributes to Section news so if anyone is dissatisfied with the way the section is being run this meeting is your chance to come along and have your say on what you think should be happening within your Section. Who knows, you may even be elected onto the committee then you can really change the world!

The date of the proposed lecture/workshop has not been finalised as of yet, but as soon as it is you will be notified.

Winners of Club 2000 prizes so far this year are M. Baxter, M. Graham, T. Adamson, P. Boyd, D. Leith, J. Meiklem, B. Rook, D. Gardner, R. Barron, S. Pearson, J. Bone, A. Dunn, G. Lorimer and A. Crawford. No doubt you have all received your allocation of tickets for next year's draw and are rushing to send your cheques before I send you your personal reminder (February magazine!). As I have said many times before this is the Section's only fund raising event, so please give it your support. If not, please return your unsold tickets as other members may manage to buy/sell them. You may not believe this but a number of members do purchase more than their own allocation of tickets in an effort to support the section.

John Crawford



NORTHERN REGION

North West

The Section news this month is mostly about what did not happen, with a little of what did happen. Firstly, the Regional final to be played at Middlesbrough Golf Club on Wednesday, August 13, had to be cancelled owing to lack of support. Each of the Sections in the Northern Region had a team of six players who had qualified at their Spring Tournaments. The names of all the qualifiers had been submitted to me, and starting times and all relevant information was sent to each secretary to be posted to all qualifiers. As time drew on towards August 13 Secretaries started to inform me that they could not find a team, although each Section had six qualifiers, and the end result was that the only two Sections who had a team were the North West and the Cleveland Sections. It was impractical for the competition to continue so unfortunately it was cancelled.

A lot of work went into arranging this match by both myself and the Northern Region Chairman, Ian Holoran, who had booked the course, purchased BIGGA coasters for all the players and arranged meals for 50. I had purchased medals and had arranged for a sponsor for the day. This is not good enough, when members say they will support something they should go through with it. I have come to the conclusion that the Regional match which I started when I was Chairman has run its course and, regrettably, I have decided not to continue to arrange it anymore due to lack of support.

Also on August 13 the "Roses" match should have been played at Cleckheaton Golf Club, Northern Section area, and I had left arrangements for this in the capable hands of North West Chairman, Mike Davie. Mike did his best to get together a team of 12 and almost did it. Although he had ten by the Friday before, by Monday seven had cancelled leaving him without a team. I understand that there are a lot of pressures on greenkeepers these days getting time off, but if you are unsure of being able to support something let the organiser know in plenty of time in order to allow further arrangements to be made. Now that I have got that lot off my chest I will continue with some good news.

On Wednesday, September 3, the Whitelaw Bowl was played for at Penrith Golf Club and what a great day we had. The weather was great with sunshine all day long and the course as usual was in lovely condition with credit to David Forsythe and his staff, including, I am sure, Marshall Monkhouse, who actually won a prize this time.

There were prizes for the best four in each division and the coveted Whitelaw Bowl was won by Stephen Campbell, Course Manager at Appleby Golf Club. Many thanks go to Penrith Golf Club for allowing us courtesy of the course; the greens staff for that little extra effort; the caterers for a magnificent meal and Rigby Taylors for sponsoring the day. The next event will be the President's Cup and AGM at Wilmslow Golf Club on Thursday, December 4. Applications to Bill Merritt, The Lodge, Beacon Park G.C. Beacon Lane, Dalton, Wigan, WN8 7RU including a cheque for £20 payable to BIGGA N/West Section.

That's it for now but if you have any comments please give me a ring on 01517 245412 or 07761 583387.

Bert Cross



North Wales

Welcome to October in the greenkeeping calander, only so many weeks now before Christmas and the nights are drawing in. Have you booked your hotel accommodation for Harrogate yet? If not I think it may be all booked up by the end of this month so get on the phone or www.reservationshighway.com The BTME show just gets bigger and better each year and there is so much to see now, it can take you two full days just to get round it. The Section may once again be running a coach and this will be discussed at our next committee meeting in November so anyone interested please give us a call to let us know if you would like to go.

The Irish Turf Show is on next month November 13 & 14 in the Royal Dublin Showground (RDS) a Bi-annual show and always a good trip as you can catch a cheap return flight from Liverpool on Ryan Air or jump on the sea cat from Holyhead and get accommodation at a very reasonable rate in the city centre where I believe there are one or two pubs you can get a pint of Guinness. Also the 'Dart' train takes you past (RDS) into the city.

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check out the latest chat from the greenkeeping industry

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One of our members has been put up for a bravery award for saving a motorist when a car passing his golf club hit a tree and rolled over. Peter Sproston of Sutton Hall heard the noise from his office and ran 150 yards to the road to pull the man out of his car. He was ok, but Peter nearly had a heart attack as that was the furthest he had ran in the last 10 years! The lads say Peter has gained a nickname as 'Clubhouse Pete' but I think this is a bit of jealousy as one day they may become Course Managers and have all the paper work and input to the club as well as the course that this job now demands. The Local Fire Brigade praised his heroics and put him in for the award. Well done, Pete!

Our Autumn Tournament was played on the 1st and the results will be in next month's issue. This was our AGM brought forward and your new committee will be announced along with details of our Christmas Tournament to be held at Abergele GC.

If any of you would like to get together for a Darts, Pool or Snooker evening during the winter months please give the committee a call and we will get one arranged.

Pat MacAteer, of Nefyn GC, had a trip in September to see the John Deere factory in Chicago, USA. I think he was trying to get one over on Bronco, from Porthmadog, who went to Spain last year with Toro. If any of the machinery people would like to take me on a trip, I am thinking of replacing my electric flymo next year?

Any news or views give us a call. Home: 01925 263394
Fax: 01925 269622 Mobile: 07778 162162 e-mail:
acorn@golf@supanet.com

Mesen Cymru

Andrew Acorn



Northern

The next tournament is our Autumn meeting and AGM sponsored by Bob Wild Grass Machinery. This is at West Bowling golf club on the 16th October. All bookings for this event are to be forwarded to Steve Heaton. His home address is 31 Hillcrest Avenue, Silsden, West Yorks, BD20 9NH Tel-01535 655764. The tee off time for this event is from 9.30am. The AGM will be held between the golf and the evening meal at around 4pm. It would be very encouraging if we could have a big turnout for the AGM as a couple of the committee members are wishing to step down in the next year. Is it not about time you did your stint for your Section committee?

The dog racing night at Pontefract is filling up very well. This is taking place on Friday, October 24. All details can be obtained from any committee member.

I was hoping to be telling you all of our Section's victory over the North West Section in the Roses tournament, but unfortunately they chickened out at the last minute. We were left with the lovely Cleckheaton golf course and food at the 11th hour but after many frantic phone calls and much help from Graham Greenwood we managed to cobble another team together. A great time was had by all on the day with the victors being the cobbled together team by five to one.

A special mention must go to Mike who came from Longridge Golf Club, as no one in his Section had told him they were not turning up (shame on you!). I hope we all made you welcome and you enjoyed the day. Thanks to Cleckheaton GC for hosting the day and to Jeremy and his team for a great course. We are indebted to Pattersons and Graham for their sponsorship and help on the day.

After watching some of the Walker Cup on TV last weekend I cannot write these notes without heaping praise on Philip Baldock and his greens team who produced a fine golf course and a great test for both teams. Ganton must be very proud of you all.

New members to our Section and Association are Keith Ratcliffe, from Cookridge Hall; Jamie Fletcher, from Howley Hall, and Simon Rothwell, from Bradley Hall. May I extend a warm welcome to you all and hope you use your Association to the full.

That's all for now, I will tell you of the goings on at Invitation Day at Wetherby next month.

16 Westwood Ave, Eccleshill, Bradford, West Yorks, BD2 2NJ. Tel: 01274 640739 Mobile: 07976876264 E mail:
Dthackray@aol.com

Dave Thackray





MIDLAND REGION
Peter Larter
Tel: 01476 550115

East of England

The annual match played between the East of England Section and the East Midland Section took place at Beedles Lakes Golf Club.

The score was 4-1 to the visiting team East of England. This is the second year in a row our Section has won the Barenbrug Shield and we hope to defend it back on our home soil next year.

We would like to thank Jane Leyland, of Barenbrug, for donating some great prizes.

While we are on the thank you trail, thanks must go to Ian Needham, Head Greenkeeper, for the excellent presentation of the course and also to Les Emery for the hospitality given by all at Beedles Lakes Golf Club.

East of England players results: -Fred Cobb and Gary Cooper, lost; Ian Batty and Alan Buckley, won; Les Howkins and Stuart Clayton, won; Adi Kitchinson and Russ Moody, won and Graeme Macdonald and Phil Gates, won.

Thanks to our side for making the long trip a success day and thanks also for all who stood in on short notice.

Longest Drive went to Graeme Macdonald and Nearest the Pin went to Antony Bindley.

Graeme A. Macdonald



Mid Anglia

The Summer Tournament was held at Mentmore Golf and Country Club in August. We played the Rothschild Course and it was superbly presented by Chris Brook and his team. A big thank you to Boughton Loam for sponsoring the day and also to the other trade members for their support.

The results of the day were as follows: 1. Nigel Phelan, 40 pts; 2. Kevin Armstrong 36 pts (on countback); 3. Steve Mason, 36 pts. Best trade member. Mark Day, 37 pts. Longest Drive. Chris Slimm. Nearest the Pin. Clive Parnell (Trade). Clive donated his prize to Lee Rance as he also had 36 pts.

Everyone on the committee would like to see more of you attending the golf days, this is a good way of meeting new people in the same line of work while playing new courses.

Hope to see you at Berkhamsted Golf Club on Friday, October 10 which will also include the AGM after the presentation of trophies.

Steve Mason



Midland

I've heard some great unwitting statements in my time and one was presented very recently via Mr R. Writtle, of Penn, during a conversation regarding the now passed fishing event. RW: "I don't like fishing". SM: "Why?" RW: "I had a bad experience with a 20lb carp". SM: "What?" (I managed to contain myself). RW: "When seven, my father caught a large carp and after landing such promptly saw fit for me to meet his prize at pectoral fin level, within the net!. It was almost as big as I". SM: "What, you were violated by a carp?". (I was beside myself, and most grateful that I did not have a kidney infection). The learned doctrine, "engage brain before mouth" comes to mind.

The Autumn Tournament was held at Halesowen GC on September 8. Our thanks to Tim Dorrell and his fine team for preparing the course so finely. A most enjoyable day was had by all. Well done chaps. The results of the day were; Best Gross. M. Cutler. Nett Results: 1. M. Cutler; 2. E. Stant; 3. M. Hughes; 4. V. Gilroy; 5. T. Livingstone. Our thanks to Amenity Technology for sponsoring the fine prize table. Nearest the Pin: D. Dorrell. Longest Drive: L. Swann, both of which being kindly sponsored by W.B.B. Products. Trade winner: T. Cheese.

I would like to welcome three new members to our Section. D. Healy, L. Murfin and N. Thornley. Should any require an entry form for the Christmas Tournament at Enville GC on December 9, or any other information on the events the Section runs, please have no hesitation in contacting me on: 07816 410552. Looking forward to your support and input.

Don't forget folks, our AGM is also to be held at Enville GC at 4.30pm on December 9. All are obviously welcome, and indeed without input your wishes

cannot be addressed. Those not participating in the golf, but wishing to join the meal party please inform R. Thomas on: 07775 581615. Please attend. Your counsel is of great importance.

Now for some excellent free educational opportunities. Kim Blake, Course Manager at Fulford Heath GC, is a part-time GTC Liaison Officer for Worcestershire and Gloucestershire. Anyone requiring information on A1 Assessor training, L12 Coaching qualifications or for further information on the G.T.C., or any other Trainer courses please contact Kim on: 01527 524217 or: 07791 056259. Such is being funded by the R&A and the ESF, European Social Fund.

The Scotts Doubles has now reached its finals. The victorious couple of pairs being E. Stant & P. Woodham and S. Mucklow & V. Gilroy. The final was played at Wentworth on September 18. It's all right for some, and yes I am somewhat jealous. Hope you had a great day gents.

Now for something I love reporting. Karen Lee, mother of Richard, Andrew and Nicholas, and also the long suffering wife of Vince, was 40 on September 20th. You must be an angel putting up with Vince for 15 years of marriage. Vince would not change you for the world. The Section wishes you many happy returns, Karen.

Until next month. Take care. Don't forget "here comes Leafville"!

Cheers.

Sean McDade



East Midlands

The 2003 BIGGA Golf Management Trophy, (sponsored by Scotts) was held at the delightful venue of Kedleston Park, courtesy of Kedleston being the reigning champions. The day was a very hot dry summer's day with a big winning score forecast to win the competition. The day started at 1pm with 19 teams in a shotgun start Am-Am format, with the eventual winners being Kirby Muxloe GC who amassed 84 points, closely followed in second place by Wollaton Park GC with 83 points, and with 81 points in third place was Drayton Park GC.

The winning team consisted of David Mayfield, Captain; David Ritchie, Greens Chairman & Vice Captain; Brian Woodcock, Club Manager, and myself as Head Greenkeeper. On behalf of BIGGA I would like to thank Kedleston Park for hosting the event; the caterer for a superb meal and Dave Leatherland and his staff for providing us all with a great golf course. Also I would like to thank Peter Larter for all his hard work in helping run the tournament and to our very generous sponsors Scotts.

On August 13 at Beedles Lake GC we hosted the annual East Midlands v East of England Section Golf match. Once again the course was set up in pristine condition by Ian Needham and his staff, which was to the liking of The East of England Section as they won by 4 games to 1. Our only winners were the Beedles Lake boys, Les Emery and Ian Needham.

The rest of the team were as follows. Steve Goode, Greg Skinner, Antony Bindley, Adi Porter, David James, Mark Bindley, Jamie Bedford and Kevin Kinzer.

There will be a more detailed report on the Autumn Tournament in next months edition, but so far we have only 18 members.

Antony Bindley



BB&O

Has the rain started yet? As I write this in late August I manage a golf course turning to dust. We do not possess fairway watering so I have finally seen just how dry Maidenhead Golf Club can get and the word "dustbowl" springs to mind. Having played a few other courses I see everyone is fighting the good fight. Knowing the vagaries of the English weather you could by now be getting the canoes out for course check.

Our Invitational Competition held at the Buckinghamshire Golf Club had a good turn out of 44 players. We all had an excellent day, which will be remembered for many years because it was like playing golf in high-season Delhi. The mobile drinks machine could not come round quick enough and with highs of 35C in the shade we certainly drank vast quantities. Having said that, everyone enjoyed the day with the course in great condition. Well done to Steve Hook and his team who were up against the odds in such weather. The day was sponsored by Headland with Johnny Beck, from Sheriffs Amenity, erecting a halfway house to serve the punters a barbie burger and drinks. Thanks to Ian Richardson for raising the prizes on behalf of Headlands and offering a friendly hand at the halfway house. I invited Scott MacCallum down from BIGGA who helped with sorting out the scores as people

returned from the field so many thanks to Scott for all his help. Results as follows: 1. Jason Brooks and Len Hancock, Burnham Beeches GC, 40pts; 2. Steve Gardner and Stan Chandler, Flackwell Heath GC, 39pts; 3. Brian Payne and Charles Wigginton, Burnham Beeches GC, 39pts; 4. Mitch Stewart and Andrew Chaundy, Henley GC, 37pts. Trade prize, Colin White and Barry McCloskey, Avoncrop Amenity, 38pts. Longest drive, Steve Gardner. Nearest the pin, Charles Wigginton.

Our next competition will soon be upon us with this years Turkey Trot being held at Frilford Heath GC on Thursday, November 20, at a revised starting time of 9am. Please note this is different from the fixture card. This event is played with teams of three with the best two scores counting. Please could you send your entries to me at the new address of: 7, Erskine Close, Pamber Heath, Tadley, RG26 3EP. You can phone me on 07778 765021. The cost is £25 and includes coffee to start with a seated meal to round off the day and give out the prizes. Avoncrop Amenity will sponsor this event. You may remember this Section sponsored John Bevan in a Charity Golf Day, which raises money for the Macmillan Nurses Fund. The day was a great success with over £6000 raised so well done to John and numerous other greenkeepers who entered this competition. The cheque was presented at Weston Park GC on August Bank Holiday.

Please come along to the AGM meeting at the Springs Golf Club on October 22 at 6.30pm. We need more volunteers to form a new committee who will continue to take the Section forward. Come and meet some of the new faces already in place since the last article. John Scoones, Course Manager at Caversham Heath GC, will be the new Secretary for the BB&O Section. Mitch Stewart, Deputy Course Manager at Henley GC will be Treasurer and Ray Clarke, from Harleyford GC, will be the new Chairperson. If you have even the slightest inkling to do some good through committee then let's have you come forward at the AGM or simply ring me for a chat before then.

The present committee has now booked all four events for next year's golf fixtures that will be released at the AGM. Just a quick 'Well Done' to the epistle printed by my good colleague Guy Woods for homing in on the general apathy that exists with our members to join in on social or golfing events. Hopefully by letting off steam, Guy, you may just prick a few consciences so that all your hard work organising your events do not go to waste.

David Haskell-Craig



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Devon and Cornwall

Not much happening this month although I was fortunate enough to qualify for the John Deere World Team Championship at the Belfry. A big thank you to John Deere for putting on such a fantastic event, to Bevan Tattersall and his greenstaff at The Belfry. The course was in immaculate condition despite the horrendous weather and also thanks to Mike Blair, of Rochford Garden Machinery.

Our first Autumn meeting will be held at Truro Golf Club in Cornwall on Wednesday, October 22, and hopefully, you should already have had your entry forms. Could I ask you all to please send your entries back to me by the closing date - October 15 - as this makes it much easier for me to organise everything before hand. I look forward to seeing you all at Truro.

Steve Evans



South West

I am smiling as I write this report having just completed our course maintenance week, verti-draining, coring, topdressing etc. One bonus of the dry weather - at least it's great for working in dressing. "Hark. What is that I can hear?" "Just when they were good you have ruined them". Bless them. Don't you just love comments like that along with some old favourites "Green side up", "Can you do my lawn next" and "Why aren't all the holes filled?"

At this point the shovel can seem like a glorious weapon but you smile, nod and wave with a jolly non committal laugh. All part of the greenkeepers burden. Anyway, I digress. Congratulations to Sam Kennedy, from Bowood, you have won the highly coveted prize of a free trip to BTME. Sam's letter was the only one we

received in response to our appeals as to why you think you should win the trip. It also happened to be a great letter. Thanks Sam and enjoy your free trip.

We wish Paul Jenkins every success in his new venture and congratulations to his successor Matt Coles, the new Course Manager at Lillybrook Golf Club.

It would be great if you could give me some feedback on some courses I am hoping to run in conjunction with Training Express. They are: Health and Safety Competent Person, Risk Assessments and COSHH Assessments and I need roughly six to ten people to make it worth while. There are still four places for the Frank Newbury Presentation to Committee two day seminar here at Bath GC, December 3 & 4. Cost subsidised by BIGGA, £70.50 for two days including lunch. Come on is that good value or what?

As a closing note I would just like to congratulate the Course Manager at Ganton for the presentation of his course for the Walker Cup. It was so good to see another traditional course used to our advantage. What a great win by our lads. This is where the future of our game lies to coin a phrase 'back to basics'.

Contact 01225 483486, 078123 80936

E-mail - greenkeepers@bathgolfclub.fsworld.co.uk

P.S. If you're reading this Graham Prosser of the Northern Ireland section, we break at 10.00 am at Bath Golf Club and we would look forward to seeing you for a cup of tea and a chat!

Guy Woods



South Coast

It's been a fairly quiet month again with not too much to report on. Moors Valley again hosted the Region's Scott's Management Trophy. Ian, Shane and their team prepared the course magnificently for the field and the scoring reflected just how good the course was. As always many thanks to Moors Valley for their superb hospitality and particularly to Desmond Meharg for all his help in ensuring the day ran so smoothly. The Greenkeeping team, ably led by Ian and Shane, must be congratulated for all their hard work. Moors Valley gets better and better every year and has matured into a wonderful course. To Scotts, a huge vote of thanks for their continued support.

The day was rounded off with a presentation to Paula Humphries from our Section as she has now officially retired. Paula has done a great deal for the South West and our presentation was a small vote of thanks for all her hard work and effort.

On a recent trip to the West Country I was fortunate to have lunch with Jim Arthur and Gordon Child. Although Jim is not in the best of health he is as sharp as ever and had much to say about the industry at the moment. The revised edition of Practical Greenkeeping is now available and has 180 extra pages. It really is a must read and is an excellent reference book for students. The book has been written by renowned specialists and covers every aspect of golf course management. Copies are available from the STRI, BIGGA HOUSE or from Jim himself. If you wish to buy a copy you can always contact me.

It was good to see Gordon Child in excellent health after his recent illness and he is as busy as ever within the industry. Next month I will have the annual match against the South West to report on and also the Autumn Tournament and AGM. The usual contact details for me tel: 01202 661106 mobile: 07966 386232

e-mail a.mccombie@ntlworld.com

Until next month

Alex McCombie



SOUTH EAST
Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260 956

Kent

Another month has passed and I hope that you are all well.

I will get straight on with the information from the guest golf day that was held at Lydd GC on August 21. The course was in great condition and we would like to thank Simon Grand, Course Manager, and all of his staff for producing an excellent course. We would also like to thank the catering and clubhouse staff for all of their

efforts and the great food which we were privileged to have.

Onto the results: 1. Gary Branchett and Michael Wigston, 35pts; 2. Duncan Kelso and Ian Mitchell, 30pts (on count back); 3. Derek Farrington and Tony Englefield, 30pts.

As the scores may indicate, the wind was blowing and the water features came into play, at one stage I thought I might run out of golf balls and I know other competitors had the same thoughts.

We would like to thank Ernest Doe and Sons for the on-course refreshments and John Shaw Machinery for the free bar in the clubhouse. Driving Force Leisure, Scotts, Ernest Doe and Sons and John Shaw Machinery all provide prizes for the Competition or the raffle. Thank-you all for your sponsorship of the event.

I hope that you all have a good month and the weather is favourable for what ever you have planned.

Phil Belton

Essex

Finally our first away day out of the countryside of Essex got under away (after two years of organising) with us visiting the beautiful setting of Bocket Hall for our Autumn Tournament. With 56 players enduring one of the hottest days of golf I can ever remember, finding some shade and drinking plenty of fluid in between each shot was the order of the day.

Thanks to Bocket Hall in particular, Lindsey Smith, John Wells and the friendly hospitality shown by all of the staff. Congratulations to John Moorehouse and his greenkeeping team for having the course in excellent condition and despite the recent work to the greens (which showed to some guests that their clubs are not the only ones to carry out this type of work during the height of summer) it did not effect the scores.

We would like to thank the following Banks Amenity; Collier Turf Care; Driving Force Leisure; Ernest Doe & Sons; Gem Professional; P. Tuckwells Ltd; Rigby Taylor; Sheriff Amenity Services; Sovereign Turf and Symbio for sponsoring the day and on producing an excellent prize table.

Overall Winner. Geoff Smith 38 pts (back 6). Cat 1. 1. Steve Crosdale, 38 pts; 2. David Beale, 35 pts (back 9); 3. Dan Wilson, 35 pts. Cat 2. 1. Craig Serafin, 37 pts; 2. Graham Gallimore, 34 pts; 3. Scott Bibby, 33 pts (back 9). Guest. Neil Gale, 40 pts. Trade. Neil Peachey, 38 pts. Nearest The Pin. Dennis Smith (yes the D. Smith). Longest Drive. David Beal.

Do not forget our first winter and spring training course gets underway with a two day Tractor Driving Course, November 4&5, at the Essex Golf & Country Club.

The cost per candidate is £70.50(Inc vat), includes training, test as well as coffee/tea & biscuits and lunch each day.

To book your place please contact me on 01245 603131 or 07984867939.

Martin Forrester

East Anglia

Well, they don't come much better than that. I'm referring to a really lovely English summer day on a beautiful English golf course namely Aldeburgh in Suffolk. The course was in excellent condition, as ever, thanks to Mark and his team. The hospitality was first rate. They even replaced 'Lyndon's window' since the last time we were there!

The main sponsors for the day were; John Deere, Ben Burgess and Tomlinson Ground Care. The prizes were presented by Glen Ogalvie, the Club Captain, to Messers Peter Howard and Chris Bushell, 36 pts. Neil Worger and Scott Thompson, 36 pts. Ian Willett and Mervin Lambert, 36 pts. Nearest the Pin on the 8th, Peter Howard. Nearest the pin on the 17th, Mark Day. Longest Drive on the 7th, Neil Johns. Longest Drive on the 18th, Morman Fenwick. There was a split decision over the Loo Seat between John Morley Smith and Mark Ballitwell. I think Mark won (or lost however you look at it) by taking many shots from a bunker.

We must thank the trade for their loyal and generous support and they are:- Bartram Mowers; Rushbrook & Sons; Sisis; May and Baker (Brian was wearing a coat supplied by them, No wonder it had a hole in it!) I digress; Tacit; CMW; Sherriff; Ransomes Jacobsen; Atterton & Ellis and Collier Turf Care. Did I mention you all to ask myself? How I forgot Rigby Taylor.



Our thanks once again to George Gadney, Aldeburgh Secretary, and all at Aldeburgh Golf Club for such a marvellous day.

Thought for the day, 'A good drought will not harm a good course. If only we could convince the members of that. Bring back black and white televisions.'

Mick Lathrope

Surrey

It's early September and the rain, apart from the 12mm at the end of August, still hasn't arrived. So much for Merlin Willmott's prediction of monsoons. I just renew my seaweed, cut off my rheumatic toe and give the old witch who lives at the end of our street a good slap. Her ability to forecast the weather was no better than mine and I hate dancing under a full moon especially in the nude. Your khaki courses with little green dots will have to remain the fashion unless mother nature decides otherwise or your committee buys wall to wall irrigation.

Surrey and Sussex sections had a head to head confrontation at Copthorn Golf Club on August 28 but, despite the home advantage, 12 Surrey stalwarts held the opposition to a conclusive draw. Even the powerful pairing of George Barr and Ian Semple could not prevail over an enthusiastic and unbeatable Surrey team (names available on request). We look forward to next year's match on home ground and a decisive victory.

David Andrews, due to circumstances that are becoming more and more prevalent in this industry, has resigned and left Purley Downs Golf Club after 25 years of loyal service.

Brian Willmott



Ach Eye.

Good weather for wearing your kilts. Yesterday I played golf at Portstewart Golf Club in the BIGGA qualifier. Conditions were perfect and so was the course and clubhouse hospitality. Many thanks to Bernhard Findlay and Portstewart Golf Club. The day was sponsored by Coburns, many thanks to them (I went to buy a Mars bar but William had bought the lot and wouldn't give me one!). Joking aside, we may be competitors in business but it is great that we all get on together so well. Thanks again Coburns.

It was good to meet Peter Boyd from the BIGGA Scottish Region, over to meet us and to encourage relations with our two groups.

I enjoyed playing golf with Noel Crawford, from RCD, and Michael Feeny, from City of Darry. I don't know why I carried my golf bag round when I could have carried Noel's and watched him play, I probably walked twice as far as he did.

Well, I now know the secret to good golf. Emmett Curran had an enormous Prawn sandwich, chips and a "Diet" Coke before play and he won the day. Michael King, from RCD, came second and they will represent Northern Ireland over in England. Well done and good luck, couldn't have been a better choice.

Results: Qualifier. 1. Emmett Curran, Downpatrick, 72 nett; 2. Michael King, RCD, 73 nett. Stableford. 1. Micky O'Neill, Fortwilliam GC; 2. Trevor Stuart, Royal Portrush GC; 3. Mick Webber, Portstewart GC; 4. Noel Crawford, RCDGC; 5. Peter Boyd, BIGGA Scotland; 6. Eamon Crawford - RCD GC; 7. Paul Lappin, Kirkistown GC. Longest Drive, Mick Webber, Portstewart, (and not BEN DOVER as listed). Nearest The Pin. Ken Henderson, Allen Park GC.

Congratulations to Paul Lappin again, Golfer of the Year.

I called to see my friend Vinny Magill, at Cairndhu GC, recently and as he walked towards me I noticed him limping I said Vinny you have a funny walk "I hope you don't mind me saying so" but you have one leg shorter than the other, he said I do mind you saying, in fact I think you have a down right cheek (Tommy Cooper Story). I played three holes while there and lost two golf balls, I told him. He said "It's a good job you didn't play 18" (true).

Finally our condolences to Ken Henderson with the recent loss of his father.

Any information contact me Tel: 07774 789111.

Graham Prosser



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ASHFORD MANOR GOLF CLUB COURSE MANAGER

Ashford Manor has a history since 1898 of providing one of the most challenging courses in Middlesex. Built on a free draining gravel base the private members owned club enjoys golf through out the year and seldom closes during wet periods.

With this respected history, the club is seeking to create a new senior position for a Course Manager who will be part of the club's continued re-development and restructuring programme. The successful applicant will form an intrinsic part of our management team and will have direct access to our General Manager.

At the current time, the club is enjoying the investment of an irrigation system, a woodland policy and full consultation with a top Golf Course Architect and Agronomist who have been instrumental in setting up the way forward for course improvements at Ashford Manor.

The position offers the opportunity to implement the current policies and introduce the successful applicants' personality and skills into the long term planning of the club's course policy.

The qualifications we are looking for will be a successful and proven green keeping track record of at least 10 years along with team leadership skills.

Salary and conditions of employment are negotiable. Accommodation is not offered with this position

Apply in writing along with your current CV to;

The General Manger, Ashford Manor Golf Club, Fordbridge Road, Ashford, Middlesex TW15 3RT
Tel: 01784 424644 Website: www.amgc.co.uk Email: secretary@ashfordmanorgolfclub.fsnet.co.uk



The Nairn Golf Club

Has a vacancy for an experienced

GREENKEEPER - MECHANIC

Must have a sound Practical Knowledge of all types of machinery and Golf Course Equipment.

Further Training opportunities exist for the right candidate.

Must be aware of Current Safety Requirements.

Remuneration Negotiable.

The Closing Date for Applications is Friday 7th November 2003.

Applications in writing including CV to:

The Course Manager, The Nairn Golf Club,
Seabank Road, Nairn IV12 4HB



ernest/DOE

PARTS SALES PERSON

Ernest Doe, a large multi franchised agricultural, horticultural and construction dealership covering the south east is looking for a keen, enthusiastic parts sales person for their Esher, Surrey branch. Criteria required for this position is as follows:

- Experience with computerised stock systems and machinery parts
- Self motivated with good communication skills
- Saturday morning working on a rota basis

If you are interested in the above post, have after sales experience and are able to work alone and as part of a team, please write with full CV to:

Mr Phil Bush, Branch Manager, Ernest Doe & Sons Ltd,
Portsmouth Road, Esher, Surrey, KT10 9AD



Workshop Engineers

Due to continued growth and expansion we require additional engineers for our busy London area workshop to service/maintain ground care equipment.

The successful applicants will enjoy the many benefits offered by a prosperous, expanding company. Experience in the agricultural/horticultural engineering industry would be a distinct advantage.

Please apply in writing enclosing a current CV to:

Mr Stephen Shaw, Contract Service Manager, Select Contract Maintenance, SGM House, Belleknowes, Inverkeithing, Fife, KY11 1HZ



**SCOTTISH
GRASS
MACHINERY**

Field Service Engineers

Due to continued growth and expansion we require additional field service engineers for Scotland to service/maintain ground care equipment.

The successful applicants will enjoy the many benefits offered by a prosperous, expanding company. Experience in the agricultural/horticultural engineering industry would be a distinct advantage.

Please apply in writing enclosing a current CV to:

Mr Les Westwater, Customer Support Manager, Scottish Grass Machinery, SGM House, Belleknowes, Inverkeithing, Fife, KY11 1HZ.



Waterers Landscape Plc

Waterers Landscape is the biggest private landscaping contractor in the UK employing some 600 staff. We require the following staff based at Staverton Golf Course near Daventry.

1st ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER - COMPETITIVE WAGE

Candidates will have at least five years previous experience preferably on a championship course plus an NVQ 2 in Greenkeeping or equivalent. You will be able to deputise for the Head Greenkeeper attending greens committee meetings and organising tasks and staffing as required.

General duties include grass cutting, preparation of greens, tees and bunkers and general grounds maintenance. Candidates should be well presented, punctual and reliable.

Please apply to Beverley Hodgson: 0800 389 0666



**GARFORTH
GOLF CLUB**

GREENKEEPER

A vacancy has arisen for an experienced greenkeeper, to join the existing team at this well renowned Club situated east of Leeds.

Closing date: 24th October 2003

Apply in writing with CV to:

C. Garnett (Head Greenkeeper), Long Lane, Garforth, Leeds LS25 2DS

Greenkeeper
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FOR ALL YOUR RECRUITMENT NEEDS!

Call Cheryl Broomhead or Katie Davies
on: 01347 833800 or email: sales@bigga.co.uk

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Course Manager • Head Greenkeeper • Deputy Head Greenkeeper
Assistant Greenkeeper • Sales Representatives and Sales Managers
Engineers, Technicians and Mechanics

LLANYMYNECH GOLF CLUB DEPUTY COURSE MANAGER

The deputy course manager would work closely with the course manager and deputise in his absence.

The position would be suited to a candidate who:

- Has a minimum of 5 years experience in greenkeeping.
- Would be qualified to HNC or NVQ Level 3 with PA1, PA2 and PA6.
- Have experience of current Health & Safety Regulations.
- Show knowledge in machinery and irrigation maintenance.
- Be enthusiastic, highly motivated and committed.

See us on www.llanymynechgolfclub.co.uk. Applications by 20th October

Please apply in writing with full CV including current salary to:

Mr D Thomas, Club Secretary, Llanyrnech Golf Club, Pant, Oswestry Street, Shropshire, SY10 8LB Tel: 01691 830983

ROYAL BLACKHEATH GOLF CLUB

Invites applications for

QUALIFIED ASSISTANT GREENKEEPERS

Royal Blackheath Golf Club has immediate vacancies for Qualified Assistant Greenkeepers to play a major role in the Club's continuing development.

Minimum 2 years greenkeeping experience

Applicants should be qualified to NVQ Level 2

Ongoing industry training will be provided

Excellent opportunity for a determined, career-minded person

First class conditions and extremely competitive salary

Applications in writing with full CV

Gavin Kinsella, The Head Greenkeeper, Royal Blackheath Golf Club, Court Road, Eltham, London, SE9 5AF

Feature listing from October 2001

October 2001: Major Award for Walter Woods; Royal Portrush GC; Portstewart GC; Irrigation; Soil biodiversity; Leaf collection systems; Scotsturf preview; Saltex review

November 2001: BIGGA National Championship review; Environment Competition winner; Spraying; Toro Awards Preview; Cutting regimes; Dyke GC

December 2001: Toro Award Winners; Southern Gailes GC; BTME preview; Specialty equipment; Thatch removal

January 2002: Walton Heath profile; Greenkeeping in Denmark; Moving materials; A first for Andy Campbell; New products

February 2002: Harrogate 2002 Review; Drainage; Castlerock GC; Trees; Recycling; TurfTrax profile; Barn Owl special report

March 2002: Donnington Valley profile; Utility vehicles; Essay competition winner; Irrigation; Seeds; Sandy McDivot

April 2002: Heyrose GC profile; Bernhard's Scholarship; De-stress your greens; COSHH assessments; Rootzones and topdressing; Maintenance facilities; Essay competition

May 2002: BIGGA Report; Nematodes; Caldy GC profile; Multi-tasking machinery; Bunker Sand; Essay competition; Fijian GC profile; BIGGA Minimum qualification

June 2002: Finding Fungi; Greetham Valley GC profile; Tyres; Calabria GC profile; Lakes and Ponds; Poa Annuu - Jim Arthur

July 2002: Open preview; Turf; Steve Isacss; Emissions; Grinding; Rotary Mowers; BTME preview; Sandy McDivot

August 2002: BIGGA Golf Day; Open review; Talking Heads - Education & training; Trees; Dr Kate Entwistle; Pwllheli GC; Weather; Compact Tractors; Saltex preview

September 2002: National Championship Preview; Irrigation; Non Grass Cutters; Hawkstone Park; Careers in Greenkeeping

October 2002: Saltex Review; Golden and Silver Key Supporters; Environment Awards; Health & Safety; Sustainable Use of Pesticides

November 2002: Toro Student of the Year; National Championship; Drainage; St Andrew's Bay; Autumn Problems

December 2002: BTME & ClubHouse Preview; R&A Golf Course committee; Dr Kate Entwistle; Pennard GC

January 2003: Beedles Lake Profile; Talking Heads - Chemical Application; Rebuilding Golf Greens; Constructive Advice

February 2003: BTME/ClubHouse Review; Royal Liverpool Profile; Irrigation; Nematodes

March 2003: The Berkshire Profile; Meloidogyne; Overseeding Golf Greens; Talking Heads - Health & Safety

April 2003: Oakmere Park GC; Spraying; Golf Course Security; Bernhards Delegation; Ransomes Jacobsen Profile

May 2003: Cardrona Golf & Country Club; Poa Annuu; Rough Mowers; Mole Control; Rootzone; Green Construction

June 2003: Irrigation; Ransomes Jacobsen Scholarships; Fertiliser; Fairway Mowers

July 2003: Irrigation Water; Greens Mowers; Bent Grasses; Course Management; Rakes

August 2003: Aeration; Open Review; Saltex Preview; Waste Water; Toro Student of the Year

September 2003: Hanbury Manor; Irrigation; Disease; Integrated Pest Management; Communication



All Systems Go



As I write we are right in the thick of it! Golfers, Golfers, everywhere and hardly a blank space on our start sheets! Our Golf Courses have been busier than ever during these past few months, with over 400 Golfers playing most days and the car parks are overflowing, our Sales team has obviously excelled at their job during such difficult times.

It is great to see so many people enjoying themselves, despite a slow start to the season, our courses have been playing well this summer and we are back to playing true traditional Links Golf. The lovely warm summer brings ever-increasing play and it is during these drought conditions that other problems occur such as loss of grass cover and endless divots. Lets say an average golfer would take approx 1.5 divots per hole. Multiply 1.5 by 18 holes = 27 divots per round per golfer, multiply 27 divots by 200 golfers per day = 5400 divots per day, multiply that by 7 days = 37000 divots per week!

One does not have to be Einstein to work out heavily played golf courses on light sandy soils coupled with prolonged dry summers, that we have to have an adequate irrigation system, or soon find out that grass cover would almost be non-existent.

I really enjoyed my recent visit to Saltex, again bathed in sunshine it gave a great atmosphere to the record crowds, it is always great to see so many old friends and acquaintances. Judging by the increasing number of additional manufacturers and companies showing their various displays of equipment just goes to show how strong the Landscaping / Ground Care and Golf Industry is.

I believe Golf is now more popular than ever and we have to change our management programmes to keep up with ever increasing play and legislation. Things are changing all the time especially in my own situation, when I first started greenkeeping I used to push a mower but now I spend most of my time pushing paper!

I have kindly been invited by the Swedish Greenkeepers Association to attend their Seminar Programmes towards the end of September they are celebrating their 25th year with several events and international speakers. The Swedish Greenkeepers have always been strong supporters of BIGGA and our own conferences at Harrogate. Never having been to Sweden before my wife Brenda and I are going to take this as our annual holiday, and whilst I am in that part of the world I will also be visiting some friends and Golf Courses in Finland. I really am looking forward to this break and shall keep you updated on events upon my return.

Recently I spent a couple of weeks celebrating my 65th birthday and 50 years of working, it was a strange feeling going to work with the knowledge that I didn't really have to go, but perhaps I am one of the lucky few who actually enjoys the golf course management and the various challenges that it brings. I will be staying at Turnberry for some time yet, so those that would be after my job are just going to have to wait a while.

George Brown
Chairman

Recruitment



AREA SALES MANAGER

Campey Turf Care Systems, a leading Tractor, Grass Cutting and Turf Machinery dealer for the Sports Turf Industry require an Area Sales Manager for the North West of England.

The successful candidate will have a working knowledge of the industry and will provide excellent support and service to existing and new customers.

They will also be mechanically minded, hardworking, enthusiastic, motivated and have good communication skills.

Excellent remuneration package offered.

Please apply in writing with full CV to:

Ms. J. Middleton, Secretary,
Campey Turf Care Systems, Marton Hall Lane,
Marton, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK11 9HG



Purley Downs Golf Club

Invites applications for the position of

COURSE MANAGER

Purley Downs is a prestigious downland private members club two miles south of Croydon, and we are looking for an ambitious Greenkeeper who can develop every aspect of the 6,400 yard course.

The successful candidate must be fully trained, have at least 5 years experience as a Greenkeeper and have the following attributes.

Ability to develop, lead, motivate and manage a team.

- HNC or NVQ to level 3 with PA1 and PA2.
- Experience in Health and Safety Regulations.
- Budgeting control techniques
- Training requirements.
- A full driving licence, tractor mounted spraying certificate and chainsaw proficiency certificate would be an advantage.

We are seeking someone with initiative and enthusiasm to make improvements to the presentation and playing conditions of our downland course. A handicap golfer would be an advantage.

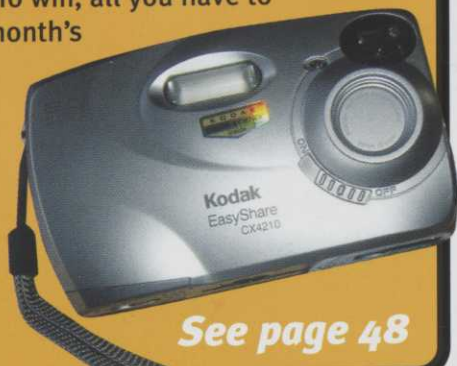
Starting salary in the region of £32,000 with review after 6 months.

Please apply in writing with a full CV and a report on your course management philosophy to:

Secretary/Manager. 106 Purley Downs Rd, South Croydon, Surrey CR2 0RB

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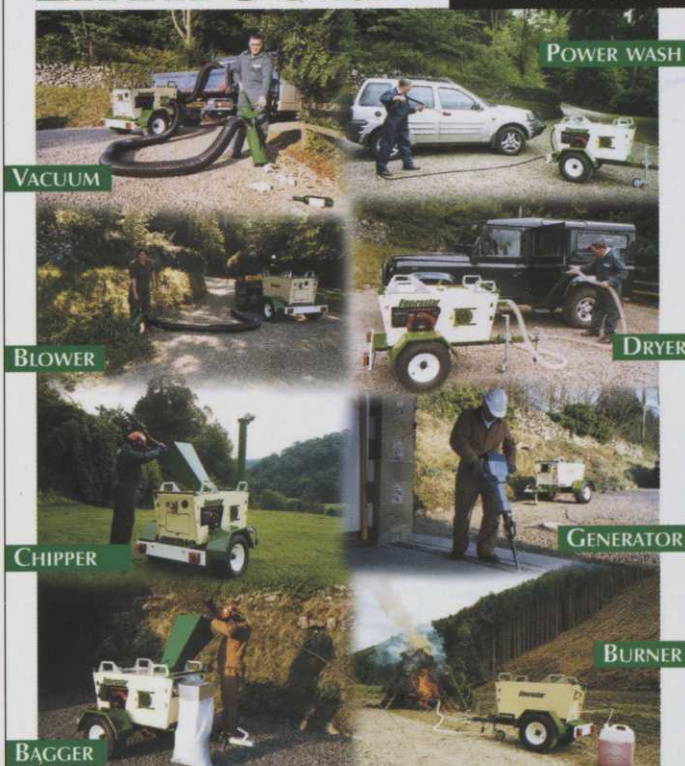
Picture the moment! The Kodak, digital camera features a 2 x zoom with a quality all glass lens, takes high resolution pictures at 2 million pixel quality. A 16 MB internal memory allows many pictures to be taken and stored. The supplied previewing, editing and emailing software is compatible with both PC and Mac computer system formats. To win, all you have to do is enter this month's Buyers' Guide competition sponsored by Greenlink International.



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See page 48

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