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**SHARING A GOOGLE PAGE**

It's always nice to know who your neighbours are. With a few minutes to spare, amid the hectic activity which always accompanies the run up to Harrogate Week I thought I'd check out Google and see where BIGGA ranked on it and with which other websites we shared a page.

It was pleasing to discover that under BIGGA we ranked in the top two places, with the main — soon to be relaunched! - British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association site, and the second which takes you directly to the BIGGA Greenkeeper International pages on the site.

Just below our two is an intriguing site called BIGGAFISH.com, which when visited proves to be no more than a single page with the word BIGGA above a black leaping fish on a mustard coloured background with the words "Coming Soon". We'll wait with bated breath. Gettit!

After BIGGAFISH comes the BIGGA Central Section site, again a good result for them, followed by a site called biggabush.co.uk. Now, it's not what you might think but instead I believe it's a music orientated site and the home page invites you to sign up to their mailing list.

Welcome to BIGGA comes next and you'd be entitled to expect another way into your favourite Association's website. Nope. BIGGA is a Jamaican soft drink — "I'm a Jamaican and I drink no soft drink. I drink bigga" is the phrase which hits you on the home page!

Sirdar Bigga - Sirdar Yarn UK is next which offers you a fabulous choice of knitting yarn for any jumpers or scarves you might want to run up during the cold winter months ahead.

Then up pops The Official J Bigga Website - J Bigga Music Videos which offers downloads and spoof videos etc. Definitely attracting the younger end of the surfing activity which always accompanies the run up to severe drought and heavy foot damage throughout the Open competition. Much of the course had recovered naturally and Craig supported the view that fescue dominated areas were far more resilient than many people believed.

The cultivars were selected for fineness of leaf, shoot density, disease resistance and their natural ability to survive drought and low nutrient inputs. Musica and Carioca chewings fescue combined with Cezanne slender creeping red fescue, featured heavily in the mixtures. Craig

**ROLAWN LAUNCH TEESIDE INITIATIVE**

Rolawn, Europe's largest turf grower and leading topsoil supplier, have formed a business partnership with Joseph Parr (Middlesbrough) Ltd, Teesside's leading independent builder's merchant. Under the new arrangement, Parr's will act as a key distributor for Rolawn covering the Teesside region.

Cedric McMillan, Rolawn's Sales and Marketing Director commented "The association between the two companies is ideal as we share the same principles of quality and service". David Anderson, Joseph Parr's Managing Director added "We believe the partnership will provide customers with the key benefit of being able to source materials from a single local supplier".

**SPRAYING BOOKS NOW EVEN BETTER**

BCPC (British Crop Production Council) has revised and fully updated its best selling sprayer operator books. Field Scale Spraying (formerly Boom & Fruit Sprayers Handbook) and Small Scale Spraying (formerly Hand-Held & Amenity Sprayers Handbook) now include up-to-the minute guidance on such important topics as nozzle selection, equipment choice, safe working practices, calibration and much more.

The Field Scale book is clearly focused on the multitude of sectors where hand-held equipment or small amenity boom sprayers are employed including parks, golf courses, forestry and gardens, pavements and other hard surfaces, nurseries and glasshouses.

The books have a new editor, mechanisation expert Bill Basford. "At the end of the day safe and effective spraying comes down to the skill and expertise of sprayer operators," he says. "Whether you're new to spraying and yet to obtain your Certificate of Competence or an old hand, I think you should find these new books helpful."

For more information visit the BCPC website at: www.bcpc.org/bookshop.
SOIL RELIEVER COMES OUT PUNCHING

Southern Green, manufacturers of the only USA built deep tine aerator - The Soil Reliever, have appointed JSM Distribution as their exclusive distributor for the UK markets (exc. Ireland).

Southern Greens' Vice-President of Sales, Jeff Lawson, comments "It is very pleasing for Soil Reliever to have such a strong, structured, service orientated distribution company such as JSM promoting our range of deep tine aeration equipment"

JSM Distribution takes up their appointment in full from January 1, but is already supporting current users with replacement parts and tines, and technical support. They will also be exhibiting at BTME 2007.

NEW AREA MANAGER FOR SCOTLAND

Tacit have announced the appointment of Robert Rees as their new Area Manager for Scotland.

In his new position Robert will be responsible for development and execution of Tacit's business strategy in Scotland and the provision of a range of quality products on a bespoke level while tailoring the service to the individual needs of each golf course.

Before joining Tacit Robert had worked for SGM as an Area Manager for the south of Scotland. He has been in land related industries for 30 years and the golf industry for the past 18 including four years at Gleneagles.

GRASS IS GREENER AT MYERSCOUGH

The resources of Myerscough College's Sportsturf and Mechanisation department have been boosted thanks to a kind donation of equipment.

Mr Frank Moore, a leading innovator in his field, has donated thousands of pounds of machinery to the College for students to use. Mr Moore, from Beaminster in Dorset, is well known for designing the Moore Mower and has now retired after a long and successful career. He created the ride-on lawnmower to reduce machinery operators' exposure to vibration. The Moore Mower is a unique product on the market and has been particularly popular due to regulations introduced in July 2005 to protect employees and the self-employed from health problems caused by exposure to vibration. It is currently used by organisations such as local authorities to mow around graves and in sports fields and playgrounds. An engineer by profession, Mr Moore has worked for companies including Howards, designing and producing rotovators and agricultural machinery, as well as setting up his own business.

The Moore Mower is just part of the equipment donated to the College by Mr Moore, also donated were a prototype model and his research and development work, which will be useful for Sportsturf and Mechanisation students at the College in understanding a range of mechanical design processes and systems.

Brian King, a Lecturer in Sportsturf at Myerscough College said: "This equipment will be of great value to our Higher Education students as a raw material for their research. The machinery has a market value of over £20,000 so we would like to thank Mr Moore for his generous support for Myerscough College."

SOFTWARE DISTRIBUTORSHIP

Developers of Grounds Management Software, Punctus, have announced that Intelligent Greenkeeping Solutions Ltd will be distributing its market-leading product Punctus Greens in the UK, Ireland and Scandinavia.

Punctus Greens is an electronic diary and office manager. It makes the daily organisation and management of Golf Courses easier by managing men, equipment and materials. Five to ten minutes are usually enough for daily inputs. These cover all common areas: personnel, course maintenance, machine maintenance etc. The resulting reports provide an excellent basis for communication and decision-making.

(Nominate your Unsung Heroes)

Don't forget to nominate your Unsung Heroes. Greenkeepers and Groundsmen who do a superb job and put in that little bit extra. This is your chance to put them forward and get them recognised. Nomination forms are available from the Pitchcare website, the Nov/Dec issue of Greenkeeping magazine and Lynda at Terrain Aeration. If you're pushed for time call her on Tel: 01449 673783 and she will do the paperwork for you. The closing date is December 9.
NEW APPOINTMENT

Water engineering specialists Autoflow Systems have appointed Ashley Proctor as company director following the departure of Jon Mawson. Ashley has over 11 years experience working within the sports turf industry and is looking forward to his new challenge after progressing through the ranks from irrigation installer, service engineer and irrigation designer. His new position will involve the day-to-day running of contracts combined with the pricing and designing of irrigation and pumping systems.

Jon Mawson’s departure comes after 14 years with the company and he will be missed by customers and colleagues alike.

Managing Director David Flawn exclaimed, “Ashley comes with a wealth of experience and his technical knowledge gained over the years will prove to be a welcome positive asset to this new position”.

IRRIGATION USAGE A SUCCESS

The British Turf and Landscape Irrigation Association’s revised educational programme is proving to be a great success.

Held at the Thistle Hotel, Brands Hatch, Kent, adjacent to the world famous motor racing circuit, the BTLIA Foundation Certificate Module was aimed at assessing actual irrigation system performance and efficiency and then relating these operational criteria to the turf management environment. The effects of different climatic conditions, soil types, turfgrass species, and micro-climates surrounding golf green complexes were considered in the assessment.

Part of the course provided experience of golf irrigation auditing, including a practical session at West Malling Golf Club, where the attendees set out water collection devices and gathered data such as precipitation rates and coverage uniformity that was subsequently used to produce an irrigation schedule that matched the system to the turf characteristics and conditions.

The British Turf and Landscape Irrigation’s new educational programme is set to continue with other modules of the Certificate and Diploma Courses being offered in the near future.

BOLD NEW APPROACH

The Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT) has called for a new approach to wildlife conservation by launching its 25 year vision for Scottish wildlife: "Natural connections - a vision for re-building Scotland's wildlife."

Speaking at the launch, SWT's Chief Executive Simon Milne said: “Our vision is about taking a bold approach to protecting our natural heritage. More often than not our attention is focused on individual, threatened, species; we now need action at a wider scale and create wildlife-rich landscapes with networks of habitats. Our wildlife is one of the most sensitive indicators of environmental health and the effect of climate change is already becoming apparent. If we are to meet the many challenges facing wildlife we must strive towards establishing expanding communities of native species across large areas of Scotland.”

As a recent review has shown, the UK is still far off meeting its target of halting biodiversity loss by 2010 and in fact 39% of habitats and 27% of priority species are still declining across the UK. As Milne continues, “Traditionally we thought we could protect wildlife in special ‘nature reserves’, such places will continue to be important but in the face of climate change they will not be enough. Whether on land or at sea, wildlife does not observe artificial boundaries. Wildlife in small, often isolated pockets of habitat is often prone to extinction and the ability of species to adapt and find a home in isolated patches of habitat diminishes. We must therefore be ambitious in our approach, tackling the threats to wildlife at multiple scales, from the species to the whole ecosystem. We now desperately need conservation at a landscape-scale if we are to give our threatened wildlife the breathing space it needs to survive. This is why SWT has launched its 25 year vision at such a crucial time in wildlife conservation.”

Fred Edwards, President of Scottish Environment LINK (a forum made up of 36 member bodies representing a broad spectrum of environment organisations), said: “The Scottish Wildlife Trust is to be congratulated in putting ecosystems at the heart of their vision. The recent consultation by Scottish Natural Heritage on its strategic framework (Making a difference for Scotland’s species) is important as it prioritises resources. We however must understand that by trying to fix one element we won’t solve a bigger environmental problem. It is time that the government, local authorities, conservation organisations, landowners and politicians acknowledge that an ecosystem approach to conservation bringing together all contributing components, is the only way to truly re-build Scotland’s biodiversity in the longer-term.”

Backed by a membership of over 28,000 and with a portfolio of over 120 reserves, SWT calls for government to give real recognition of the economic and social value of our environment. To provide sufficient financial support for landscape-scale action as well as ensure that a strategic approach is taken to tackling ecosystem threats. It also calls for greater integration of wildlife-friendly approaches to farming, forestry and land management practices as well as the more urban and rural greenspaces where people can enjoy and appreciate nature.

BIGGA VS COMBINED SERVICES GOLF MATCH

The third annual scratch golf challenge match between BIGGA and the Combined Services held at North Berwick GC on October 16, produced a nail-biting finish on the 18th hole. In the last match the BIGGA four-ball pairing of Stuart Taylor and Douglas McIntosh needed to win the hole to half their match and win the overall match, both having putts of under four feet for birdies, only to see the Combined Services pairing of Marshall Scott and Steve Davies hole from about 15 feet for a birdie to secure the win to save the Combined Services from a second successive defeat.

Earlier in the day the morning foursomes had finished level, as did the afternoon four-balls, so the overall result was a very creditable half with five points to each team. The golf throughout the day was of a very high standard, with some very close matches, particularly in the afternoon four-balls.

Our thanks go to the North Berwick GC for hosting the match, played on the outstanding links course superbly presented by Stuart Greenwood and his staff. We were particularly pleased to welcome Stuart and the Club Secretary, John Douglass, to the after match dinner. Our thanks to the BIGGA team for playing with such commitment and skill, and to the Combined Services team for playing the match in such good spirit.

The BIGGA team was Steven Lamb, Kenny Mail, Brian Heggie, Kenny Stirling, Ian Mawer, Brian Storey, John McLoughlin, Stuart Taylor and Douglas McIntosh.

Match Secretary, Peter Larter
PS - Apologies, due to technical problems there is no team photograph.

HELPING CUSTOMERS TEE OFF ON TIME

Golf car dealer, T H White has joined forces with Calor, the UK’s leading supplier of Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) to promote LPG golf cars to country clubs.

T H White, authorised distributor of Ransome Jacobsen golf cars, has teamed up with Calor to encourage golf clubs to add cleaner, more convenient LPG golf cars to their fleet. As an added bonus, customers purchasing four LPG golf cars will get 500 litres of free Calor LPG.

The campaign offers customers 500 litres of free Calor LPG on the purchase of four E Z GO golf cars. For further information about the campaign visit: www.calor.co.uk
A tool to groom your bottom line - Toro Financing.

For more than 90 years, Toro has partnered with turf care professionals like you to create the world's most appealing landscapes. Toro is committed to providing innovative, reliable equipment to make your job easier. Now Toro introduces a product to help your bottom line: Toro Financing. Designed specifically for turf care professionals, Toro Financing can help you acquire the equipment you need to create picturesque, playable landscapes - and stay on-budget.

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MARK MAIN

Murray Golf Club and north greenkeeping has lost one of its fine young greenkeepers. Only 22 years old and in his 4th year apprenticeship with us, Mark was an extremely loyal, pleasant and hard working colleague with an assured future ahead of him. His untimely death occurred while travelling to attend Elmwood College where he was studying for his Level III Greenkeeping. As a lifelong Aberdeen Football Club fan he often travelled this road which makes his loss all the more upsetting.

Mark played most of his golf out of the neighbouring Hopeman Golf Club and regularly took part in the North Section outings and National tournaments, he was keen and competitive and frequently picked up some sort of silverware!

We up here will all miss his laid back but professional manner, his quick wittedness and his football friendly banter.

We are shocked at his loss and extend both our comforts and condolences to his family.
George Paterson

NATURAL SOLUTION

Picturesque Highlands’ golf club Royal Dornoch, has made a major investment in the quality of its championship and recreational links courses with a five-year exclusive deal for both Toro machinery and irrigation.

Under the new agreement, the club has acquired a comprehensive range of new Toro machines including tees, greens and fairway mowers, Workman utility vehicles, a ProCore 648 mowers, Workman utility vehicles, a ProCore 648 and a Hydroject 3010 aerator.

ANOTHER BRAID COURSE FOR SWAN

The 1897 James Braid designed course on the Kent outskirts of London is about to begin a renovation programme under the direction of Howard Swan and James Edwards of Swan Golf Designs, International Golf Course Architects, based in Essex.

It is likely that works to the course will start this autumn with a bunker renovation exercise.

Howard Swan adds: “I am very pleased to be able to work on another James Braid course, adding Dartford to the likes of Middlesbrough, Workington, Old Fold Manor and, of course, the highly acclaimed renovation and restoration to Goodwood. We shall, as ever, look to sensitive and sympathetic treatment of the course and Braid’s design philosophies and intent in bringing the rather lovely, if modest, course at Dartford, to the present day.”

MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR GOLF COURSE

After a two year break STRI is returning to Harrogate week during the BTME/ClubHouse exhibition. The two-day course for Secretaries, Chairman of Green and those involved in managing golf courses has been completely revised with a new format. The first day takes place in Harrogate at the Holiday Inn. Focus will be on current issues affecting: Turfgrass Management, Managing the Golf Course, Golf and the Environment.

Programme topics include plant nutrition, turfgrass protection, mechanical operations, optimising pace, the disturbance theory, how to benchmark and improve your golf course, water efficiency, responding to the effects of climate change, new diseases, the impact of fertilisers and pesticides.

On the second day a coach will transport delegates to STRI’s Head Office and trials grounds in Bingley for the morning and then on to a golf course for a walkabout session, covering both agronomy and ecology, in the afternoon. The coach will return delegates to Harrogate at around 4:30pm.

Attendance will qualify delegates for BASIS, BIGGA CPDC’s and Master Greenkeeper Certificate points.

The cost of the two-day course is £325 per person plus VAT. This includes: two days training with course notes, refreshments and two lunches, all transport, a copy of STRI’s best seller ‘Care of the Golf Course’, pre-registration and entrance to the exhibition.

Full details and programme can be viewed and downloaded at www.stri.co.uk

To book please Tel: 01347 833833 or book on line at: www.harrogateweek.org.uk

OLD SCOTTISH RIVALS DO BUSINESS

Stewartsturf Limited has recently announced the sale of its Sports and Amenity Business, Stewart and Company Seedsmen Ltd to Richard Aitken Seedsmen Ltd.

These two old rivals formed in 1894 and 1964 respectively, have been the mainstays of the industry in Scotland for generations. Richard Aitken said he was delighted to have purchased Stewarts with all the connections, history and relationships involved. “We can now move forward expanding the quality of service that we offer to our customers in Scotland and England,” he commented.

For his part, Graeme Forbes of Stewartsturf said: “following our decision to concentrate on our turf growing business we enjoyed the successful management buyout of our contracting business to Sportsmasters UK Ltd in July. For our Sports and Amenity Business we could not have found a more appropriate buyer than Aitkens whom we have always held in great respect, both as a business and a family.”

CLEAR AND CONSISTENT RESULTS

Clear and consistent results are now being obtained from the mixture synergy work, currently being conducted at the STRI on behalf of Barenbrug. Recent visitors to the demonstration plots were members of the RTF Turf Group who saw first hand the effect that one species or cultivar can have on another within a mixture.

Eight different Barenbrug mixtures, all with RTF as a component, were sown last October and are now providing the company and the RTF Turf Group with valuable information on mixture synergy and its importance in mixture formulation.

Barenbrug’s Jayne Leyland said: “Twelve months on we can now see clear and consistent differences in the mixtures. They are providing us with invaluable data for future mixture formulations. It is very important that we maximise the benefits of an innovative cultivar such as RTF and develop the best mixtures to maximise its outstanding attributes.”

The four members of the RTF Turf Group, who are accredited to grow RTF turf in the UK, are Inturf, Lindum Turf, Q Lawns and Tillers Turf.

RTF Rhizomatous Tall Fescue (Festuca arundinacea) is a remarkable species, which through its amazing rooting depth capability can tolerate both drought and waterlogging. RTF increases this capability by producing underground stems (rhizomes), offering unrivalled recovery and tensile strength, plus the added benefit of incredibly fast establishment when laid as turf, which could be critical in terms of water conservation.

RTF Turf Group members check the mixture synergy demonstration plots at the STRI. Left to right - Chris Carr, Q Lawns; Barenbrug’s Jayne Leyland; Alex Edwards, inturf and Stephen Fell, Lindum
HELPING TO SAVE SUMMER-HIT LAWNS

Green-fingered garden lovers from across the South East have been turning to one Suffolk company in their hundreds - after one of the warmest summers on record.

With the clocks officially signalling the end of a particularly warm British Summertime this weekend, Sovereign Turf managing director David Waring says the unprecedented weather prompted huge sales of his new drought-tolerant turf product.

Introduced late last year, Xeris was created after extensive research into Britain's changing climate.

It called upon the experience of Sovereign's Portugal-based sister company - helping to produce a grass of high visual and textural quality without the need for regular rainfall. The knowledge was adapted to meet the needs of Britain's climate trends.

David said: "Without a doubt, gardeners all over the South of the UK have been waking up to the impact of our changing climate."

"The Met Office confirmed recently that England saw the warmest extended period since records began more than 350 years ago."

"That heat takes its toll on our lawns and can leave the garden looking in a really sorry state by the time we head toward winter."

David added: "I think the greatest concern anyone has when they seek out a drought-tolerant turf is that it will look and feel less appealing than real grass.

"We've always been conscious of that fear, so we've gone out of our way to ensure that our product is exceptional - both to look at and feel."

TRADE OPEN DAY

Cannons Turf hosted a Trade Open Day in Lincolnshire on October 25, inviting visitors, many from the golf sector, for a tour of the turf, irrigation facilities and to view the Trilo 110 BV turf harvester.

A Nearest the Pin competition was held during the Open Day.

ABU DHABI GC TO GET UPGRADE

Abu Dhabi Golf Club - home to the Abu Dhabi Golf Championship, the first event of the PGA European Tour’s International schedule taking place in January next year - is to get a further upgrade to enhance the playing and spectator experience.

Abu Dhabi Tourism Authority (ADTA), which owns the championship, the largest annual sporting event in the UAE capital, has charged its tourism asset development arm, Tourism Development and Investment Company (TDIC), with enhancing the club’s entrance, including major approach landscaping, improved directional signage, and further course improvements to challenge the world’s best golfers.

"The aim is to continually refresh the championship experience for all involved,"

explained Mubarak Al Muhairi, Director General, ADTA and Managing Director, TDIC. "This year's inaugural championship attracted a very enthusiastic spectator base which we hope to retain and build on for January 2007. To do that, and in order to enhance the experience, we must continue to invest in necessary asset improvements."

The club upgrade will be accompanied by a series of course revisions aimed at increasing the degree of difficulty for a field of some 120 European Tour players.

"The revisions will extend the course to nearly 7,400 yards and will involve adding championship tees on several holes and lengthening others, creating new bunkers to frame fairways and greens and to ensure we can create fair, but challenging pin positions," said Ahmed Hussein, Chairman, Championship Committee.

"The improvements are already underway with the work being carried out with as little disruption as possible to Abu Dhabi Golf Club members and guests who play the course for the 51 non-tournament weeks of the year."

The Abu Dhabi Golf Championship will run from January 18-21 and has a US $2 million prize fund.

NEW APPOINTMENT

Vassgro Amenity of Bedford is pleased to announce the appointment of Mark Ellis as Technical Sales Representative. This appointment is greatly welcomed within Vassgro, as it will add another dimension to their business promoting a range of products to key customers in Beds, Bucks, Herts, Cambs, Northants and N London.

Mark has 15 years experience in the fine turf industry having worked previously as Golf Course Manager at Stocks and Mentmore GCs in Hertfordshire.

Mark has a long history with BIGGA and continues to support the Association. Mark can be contacted on: 07894 194922 or: 01525 403041 or emailed: mark@vassgro.co.uk

AUTOGUIDE GETS MOORE FOR ITS MONEY

Autoguide Equipment has announced its purchase of the manufacturing and marketing rights of the Moore Mower with immediate effect.

The Moore Mower designed by industry veteran Frank Moore, has been added to the growing range of specialist mowing machines manufactured by Autoguide.

The mower is a 36in (90cm) cut ride on cylinder mower offering grass collection with the ability to empty the box without leaving the driving seat. The unique high tip, forward dump grass box allows discharge into containers up to 1.15m (45") high - or onto a compost heap.

Commenting on his new acquisition Autoguide Managing Director Richard Robinson said: "The adding of the Moore Mower to our range confirms our commitment to offer our customers a range of British built equipment for the niche market. We are very pleased that Frank Moore has entrusted us with his product and intend to provide a first class spare parts and service back up to old and new customers."

Richard Robinson (L) with Moore Mower Designer Frank Moore at this year's Saltex

Autoguide Equipment has announced its purchase of the manufacturing and marketing rights of the Moore Mower with immediate effect.
GOLF TAKES THE LEAD

David Golding, GTC’s Education Director, invites golf club employers and greenkeepers to have an input into the review of the work-based vocational qualifications, N/SVQ Levels 2 & 3.

The GTC has had representatives at meetings arranged by the Lantra Sector Skills Council to review the current Sports Turf work-based qualifications. It is important that our sector is well represented at these meetings to protect the content of these increasingly popular awards. Regular readers of the GTC articles will know how important we see skills training within the range of turf programmes and qualifications. The review group initially reviews the skills employers require to maintain, supervise and manage a golf course or sports facility.

At this stage I should point out that the VQ’s are Sports Turf and developed for both greenkeepers and grounds persons, it just so happens that our specialist sector have adopted the VQ’s while the other “side” of turf have not.

Personally I believe this is a shame as there is such similarity in the professions however, the GTC has a responsibility to golf and we must remain focused on encouraging the employers we represent through the English, Scottish and Welsh Golf Unions to invest in staff training.

BIGGA is well represented at all meetings relating to development and the reviews of turf qualifications, with leading training providers in attendance the GTC ensures the group work towards ensuring employers needs are met in the standards.

The National Occupational Standards (NOS) are reviewed on a regular basis to ensure the range of skills required by employers are identified.

In simple terms the group looks to the skills required by a greenkeeper right through to the manager.

Having identified the long list of skills these are then grouped to develop vocational qualifications and awarded a N/SVQ Level which the Governments accreditation authorities Qualifications & Curriculum Authority (QCA) and the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) approve.

While there is a Level 1 qualification, this includes a broad range of horticulture skills and can be useful for certain learners, I would suggest to the majority of staff either starting off as greenkeepers or spending the majority of their work maintaining the golf course, the Level 2 Sports Turf is the qualification they should be registered on.

It should be noted that the apprenticeship for greenkeepers embraces the N/SVQ Level 2 Sports Turf as well as the key skills of numeracy, literacy and communication.

The current Level 2 Sports Turf includes all the skills a greenkeeper should be competent in as well as the knowledge relating to each skill.

The level of knowledge and understanding required within a vocational qualification is often overlooked, however, please be reassured that the turf review group ensure all the basic information required is included.

The GTC, as the basis for the Level 2 review, invite comments on the current Training Manual sometimes referred to as the Black Book, which has been the main recording document by GTC Approved Training Providers since its introduction in 1994.

If you have any comments on the GTC’s Training Manual please contact me direct.

The Level 3 Sports Turf is where the group is suggesting a mix of more technical and supervisory skills are brought together and aimed at providing employers with at least a person competent to supervise the maintenance of the golf course and the first line of management.

The list of skills grouped into units include Managing Information, Estimating resource requirements, Health and Safety, Irrigation, Drainage, Create grasses and planted areas, Managing sports turf areas.

In addition to the above, the review group are recommending at least two optional units be included at Level 3 - Carry out an ecological survey of the golf course and Plan the maintenance of equipment and machinery.

The ecology unit will require the candidate to walk the course to identify plants, animals and habitat types, report on the condition of the environment and record the data.

The planning of equipment and machinery maintenance will require the candidate to prepare a maintenance schedule/plan whether the work is carried out “in-house” or by an outside servicing agent.

The Advanced Apprenticeship includes the N/SVQ Level 3 Sports turf as well as the numeracy, literacy, communication and IT skills.

The consultation process will be co-ordinated by the Lantra SSC - www.lantra.co.uk - but if you would like to discuss the present Sports Turf vocational qualifications please do not hesitate to contact the GTC direct.

The management standards have recently received accreditation and a new Level 4 Sports Turf qualification is now available.

I will discuss the revised Level 4 qualification in detail in a future article. Finally, both the QCA and SQA in partnership with industry through Lantra are ensuring that all other qualifications relate to the National Occupational Standards.

For the Sports Turf sector this involves the GTC being involved in with Lantra and the Awarding Bodies, City & Guilds/NPTC, SQA and Ed Excel to ensure all awards are relevant for our sector.

The formal qualifications for greenkeeping range from N/VQ’s-Apprenticeships (work-based), to the National Certificate/Advanced NC, Certificate of Higher Education/HNC, Higher National Diploma/Foundation Degree and the B.Sc and Masters Degree which are the college/university based programmes.

The GTC staff and Board representatives will be in attendance at the Harrogate Week exhibition - so please come and visit us, but before that enjoy the festive season!

You can contact David direct at the GTC on Tel: 01347 838640 or email: david@the-gtc.co.uk

GTC is supported by:
Ken Richardson discusses the department's latest projects.

What with the results of the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition being announced and the build up to Harrogate Week continuing, it has not been easy for Sami and I to find time to work on our current project, the development of the AGCS/BIGGA Safety Management System.

The BIGGA Golf Environment Competition

As the results of the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition are announced, I would like to reinforce our gratitude to the four sponsors. Ransomes Jacobsen, Scotts, Syngenta and Course Care without whose support, this, extremely worthwhile competition could not continue. The full results appear elsewhere in this magazine but I would like to congratulate Bishhouse Bay Golf Club on becoming the National Winner. The Environment Competition prizes will be presented during Harrogate Week.

Harrogate Week 2007

Last month's article concentrated on Half-Day Harrogate Week Workshops and I intend to look at seminars this month.

With just 49 days left to the start of Harrogate Week, that's just 29 working days, places on the Harrogate Week Workshops are few and far between. However, there are still places on the Seminars, where there is something for everyone. The programme has continued to develop and we have added a seminar presented by the R&A that will take place before the Opening Session on Tuesday, January 23.

This half day session will look at two areas, the Turfgrass Climate Map and the Open Road to Sustainability.

The interactive climate map shows where warm or cool season grasses are most appropriate and the Transition Zone where often, difficult choices have to be made with regard the most sustainable turfgrass selection. The map is linked to text on the R&A Best Practice web site (www.bestcourseforgolf.org) that describes the turfgrass species in detail.

The Open Championship at Hoylake last July was considered to be a great success. The R&A Golf Course Committee has produced a DVD that highlights the sustainable nature of the course. With footage taken both from the Open itself and again nine weeks after Tiger Woods picked up the Claret Jug for the third time, this DVD considers the recovery achieved after hosting a major golf event. See this new resource at Harrogate.

The morning continues with the presentation of awards to Master Greenkeepers, to prize winners in the Golf Environment Competition and to those who have gained diplomas in Continuing Professional Development.

This session will be followed by 'Making an Exhibition of Yourself' - a presentation by Frank Newberry. Frank is well known for his exuberant flamboyant approach to presentations and his talk will give an interesting spin on how to get the most out of your visit to Harrogate.

Seminars continue in the afternoon with Dr Kate Entwistle taking a close look at integrated pest management. Kate will be showing us how the accurate identification of problems is the key to successful situations.

Seminar, presented by Mike John will help you to cope in these situations. Mike has had a great deal of experience on both sides of golf club management and he will use his experiences in Canada, the USA, Sweden, Holland, Germany, Spain and Hong Kong. All four sessions are Free of Charge to all greenkeepers, secretaries, golf club officials and Health and Safety Advisers.

Thanks to sponsorship from Ransomes Jacobsen (logo) and cooperation between BIGGA, the AGCS, greenkeepers, secretaries, golf club officials and Health and Safety Advisers, the launch of this Internet resource will take place at Harrogate. Come along to the Queens Suite at 3pm on Wednesday, January 24 to see if it can help you at your golf club.
Rachael and Gemma would like to welcome 39 New Members to the Association and this month will talk about an important change to the Legal Helpline Scheme.

Renewal Packs

The December and January renewal packs are on their way out to those of you who renew at this time of year. Included in your pack is an application form for you to pass on to anyone interested in becoming a member and a newsletter detailing any changes to your membership.

For those of you who pay your own subscriptions you will also find a direct debit mandate and a tax relief form to assist you in claiming tax relief on your subscription. You are able to do this because BIGGA is recognised by the Inland Revenue as a legitimate professional body.

To make renewing even easier you can now pay for your subscription over the telephone.

If you have not received your pack or have any queries regarding your membership please do not hesitate to call Gemma on: 01347 833800.

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY...

A Fond Farewell

I just wanted to say a few words to you all, as I will be leaving the Association for pastures new on December 8. Thank you to you all for making me feel so welcome and for putting up with me on my many visits to regional and section events. It is down to you that I will be leaving the Association with many happy memories. A special thank you also to all those who have served as Section Secretaries in recent years, for your help and ideas. I wish you all well for the future and only hope that I have the good fortune to work for such a friendly industry again.

BIGGA welcomes...

Scottish Region
Matthew Baird, Central
Cullen Fraser, North
Brian Mccarthy, Central
Robert O'Donnell, North
John Wilson, Ayrshire

Northern Region
Jonathan Roberts, North West
Greg Wellings, North West

Midland Region
Luke Fogarty, BB&O
Matthew Howes, East Midland
Wayne Oseman, Midland
Robert Reeves, BB&O

South East Region
Wayne Aris, Kent
Richard Gugacz, Essex
Michael Hind, Sussex
Liam Somers, Surrey
David Suggart, Essex

South West Region
Darryl Gardner, South Wales
Luke Halstead, South Coast
Graham Hattie, South Coast
Vincent Ley, South Coast
Luke Longstone, Devon & Cornwall
Robert Patrick, South Coast
Adam Payne, South West
Clive Staddon, South West

International Members
Philip Lane, Spain
Paul Monaghan, Germany

Student Members
John Caversley, North West
Rob Jones, North West
Andrew Knott, North West
Will Law, North West
Ian Lucas, South Coast
Allan Macdonald, East Scotland
Michael Slater, Devon & Cornwall
Matthew Thomas, South West

Associate Members
David Binks, Midland
Ceri Davies, South West
Andrew Eckley, South West

Golden Key Members
Mark Keyset, East Anglia
Mark Robinson, Sheffield

December's Membership Draw Winner

Just introduce one or more new greenkeeping members to BIGGA and your name will be placed into a monthly draw to win a £10 Music Voucher. Our congratulations go to Angus MacLeod of Newport Golf Club.

General Legal Protection (GLP) has provided members with a good quality service for several years and many have benefited from the advice given and legal help provided. In reviewing the scheme the Association has identified an alternative company (Arc Legal Assistance) that it feels will be able to improve on the level of service through their agents Irwin Mitchell Solicitors.

Irwin Mitchell are a leading legal practice with national cover, including Scotland, and through their bespoke call centre in Sheffield they will be able to offer advice and assistance on any aspect of the law for the member and anyone in their household. Please remember that advice is not just available on matters of employment law but also covers many of the everyday situations in which we can find ourselves.

With effect from 1st January 2007 the helpline service will be transferred to Arc although GLP will continue to give legal advice and assistance relating to incidents that occur on or before 31st December 2006. It is important that all potential claims for which GLP may be liable are reported to them without delay. All incidents arising after 31st December will be the direct responsibility of Arc.

Contact Details:
Before 1st January 2007 - General Legal Protection Freephone 0800 019 2569

From 1st January 2007 - Arc Legal Assistance Freephone 0800 177 7891

Full policy details of the cover with Arc will be sent out to members as they renew however, anyone requiring a copy before that time should contact Gemma by telephone: 01347 833800 or e-mail: gemma@bigga.co.uk
Close, but not quite the part!

Only genuine Toro parts will give the performance you've come to expect.

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Barnsley-based Elvis lookalike, Craig.
50 Years of Greenkeeping

It's unusual, nowadays, for an individual to find a career and industry they enjoy enough to spend 50 years of their life working within.

Les Easthope of Hillsborough Golf Club, Sheffield, is set to retire this December after 50 years service. He left school at 15 and went straight into an Assistant Greenkeeper position. GI found out why Greenkeeping can be a career for life...

What age were you when you started greenkeeping?
"I came to Hillsborough straight from school at the age of 15."

What was your last position at the club?
"I have been an Assistant Greenkeeper for all the 50 years I have worked here."

What first attracted you to the industry?
"I wanted to work outdoors, having gone to look down the mines when I was at school - I didn't fancy that."

What is it about greenkeeping that you enjoy the most?
"Fresh air and also you get to perform a wide variety of jobs. I also enjoy working on the machinery."

Do you play golf? If so, what is your handicap?
"No, I've never had time to play anybody at the club since I first started working there."

It's unusual, nowadays, for someone to stay in the greenkeeping industry for so long. Why have you chosen to stay in the same career and golf club for 50 years?
"It's been a big part of my life, having never been married you can say I have been married to the job."

Do you feel a certain sense of loyalty to Hillsborough GC?
"Yes they showed a lot of loyalty to me when I first started work there, so it is only right for me to do the same."

You must have seen a few greenstaff come and go at the club, have your fellow greenkeepers contributed to your staying at the club?
"Everyone who has worked with me I have got on well with, it is very strange now, when I first started it was sickles to cut the tee banks now its ride on mowers, it was overgreens to cut the greens and now its ride on triple mowers, and its gone from wheel barrows to four wheeled trucks - all the changes I have seen have definitely been for the better."

Will you spend some time playing on the course, now that you have retired?
"No, with having arthritis in my back it is now difficult to walk but I will make time to come and see the greenstaff."

What would your advice be to someone thinking about getting into the greenkeeping industry?
"It's now a good career for someone who is willing to work hard and listen to any advice given to them."

How do you plan to spend your retirement?
"I will be spending time doing jobs in the house and garden."

GI has begun a new feature, finding out what greenkeepers get up to in their spare time.
Here's something you didn't know about me...

When and how did you get introduced to dancing?
"When I got divorced eight years ago I was introduced to dancing. I was single at the time and it was a great way of meeting people, especially females."

What is it about dancing that appeals to you?
"It's a great way of keeping fit, meeting people and socialising. It's fun, energetic and a stylish partner dance. It is now the fastest growing partner dance in the UK. It is easy to learn with over 1000 moves and you can dance to any style of music from 1950s right up through to today's hot rhythms."

Where does it take place?
"It takes place all over the country, but I dance regularly in Nottingham. But at weekends I can be dancing all over the country from Blackpool Tower to Hammersmith, London."

How many years have you been dancing?
"Eight years."

Have you entered any competitions or do you intend to?
"I have been entering competitions for five years and am the reigning Scottish Champion, which I won in September in Edinburgh. I am also part of the UK Team Champions from Nottingham which we have won for the last two years and I have been a UK Finalist many times."

Have you been following Strictly Come Dancing?
"Yes, I am a keen follower of Strictly Come Dancing and have been lucky enough to dance with two of the professional lady dancers from the series, Nicole Cuttler and Erin Bourg."

Do you or your fellow greenkeepers have an unusual hobby?
If so, get in touch, email: melissa@bigga.co.uk or tel: 01347 833800.

Name: Graeme Macdonald
Age: 48
Club: Newark GC
Position: Head Greenkeeper
Hobby: Ballroom Dancing
FALSE ASSUMPTIONS

I write to point out some of the false assumptions in the article written by John Jinks (Osprey Irrigation) published in the October issue of GI.

The main premise of the article is that irrigation consultants present a significant additional expenditure to the project cost of an irrigation installation, "adding a further 10% or so to the total bill".

Firstly, while I can't speak for our competitors, I can assure you that our fees to design and specify an irrigation system are considerably less than half the amount asserted by the author of the article.

The second fallacy, which is inferred by the article, is that a design submitted by a contractor, distributor or manufacturer is somehow "free".

The reality is that a free design submitted by a contractor is no such thing. The cost of producing that design has to be covered somehow. In the case of a contractor the cost is built in to the quotation to supply and install the system. In other words it is a buy-now-pay-later design.

To some this might sound an attractive proposition, especially considering that if the project does not go ahead it has not cost the client any money to get an irrigation design. However this method of procurement is not so attractive when the full picture is revealed.

For every five "buy-now-pay-later" designs that a contractor, distributor or manufacturer produces and submits to the customer, he may be successful on at best one of those bids. This is because some projects never go ahead and some projects are lost to competitors (no contractor wins every job they bid on). So when covering the cost of the irrigation design in a bid, the contractor has to cover the cost not only of the design pertinent to that particular project but also the designs that never got built or were lost to competitors.

In the bad old days of when the industry was predominantly based on "free" design and build, for every 10 irrigation systems that were installed perhaps 50 designs were actually produced, most ending up in the dustbin (I have witnessed projects where, over a period of time, seven separate irrigation designs were solicited for a golf course).

Somebody has to pay for the cost of those discarded designs. Since there are no irrigation design charities producing free designs and since in business the customer pays for everything the cost of these rejected designs is paid for in higher construction costs, which is ultimately paid for by the industry's end-users.

Actually what a customer gets with this model of procurement is a "get-one-now-pay-for-five-later" design.

When hiring an independent irrigation consultant the client pays for only one irrigation design, the one pertinent to their project. So even if a consultant was only half as efficient or competitive at producing an irrigation design as the "free" design and build model, he still works out at less than half the cost of the so called "free" route.

There are obviously many more advantages to hiring an independent engineer to design an irrigation system. These are too numerous to include in this letter but explained in the FAQ section of our website www.iriplan.net.

Yours sincerely,

Giles Wardle BSc. MSc. MIAgrE. ASIC.
iriplan Ltd.
Consulting Engineers - Irrigation Drainage Soil & Water

YOUR LETTERS ARE REQUESTED!
Send to: Scott MacCallum, Editor, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Aine, York Y061 1UF, or email them to: scott@bigga.co.uk.

GREENS SPEED! OR DO THEY?

The daftest question any greenkeeper will hear is, "What speed are your greens?" It's obvious to us all that the green has no speed at all, 'it never moves', but most of us will answer by giving a stimpmeter reading. What we don't say is that the stimpmeter measures the resistance of the grass, not its speed. The less resistance the grass offers, the further the ball will roll. The problem that we keep to ourselves is that if we lower the grass's resistance for too long it's more prone to drought, temperature, disease and insect stress.

Loss of leaf blade is the greatest stress that grass faces, yet in the last 20 years, we have started to cut lower, more frequently and more efficiently than we've ever done before. We've moved from the Troon Open of 1962 when it seems the greens were cut at 1/4 inch (6mm) twice in the week, to today when many courses are cut at 3mm at least daily and often double cut, for ordinary members' play. These modern mowing practices are extremely stressful to our greens, so why is it being done.

The answer given is that golfers want fast greens at any cost and it is our duty to give it to them! This might be acceptable if the speeds we are providing at these low heights were pleasing the leading golfers, but from a recent trade survey it appears that many greenkeepers feel they need to provide greens one foot quicker than at present. I'm worried what they might do in future to get that extra foot and even then will we satisfy the demand for speed? or will it simply increase? We've had very mild winters in the past 10 years and I fear what would happen to our greens cut low and stressed if we return to cold ones, or have another foul spring like this year.

Most golfers don't care about speed and few understand it. One asked what that was in feet and inches when told the stimp reading, so why should we stress our greens to please those who may never be satisfied. The lower we cut our greens the less resistance they have. Is this what we want?

David Woodbyrne
Southerness Golf Club
MANAGING WATER RESOURCES

Water is one of the most precious of our recyclable resources, as well as being a source of natural beauty and recreation. The concept of water as a natural resource, which must be carefully managed, is becoming increasingly important as global needs continue to increase. With global demand for fresh water doubling every 20 years, competition for this resource will continue to increase in future years.

Yet the amount of water used is not our only concern. Water quality has also become a critical issue in recent years. The spotlight has been turned onto the turfgrass industry in recent times, as course managers and greenkeepers are well aware, with some people saying that turfgrass management may be negatively impacting upon water quality.

For golf courses, water quality is often linked to fertiliser and pesticide usage, and any loss of these chemicals into water systems. So what is it that often makes people think negatively about water and water quality in relation to turfgrass management?

Nutrient concentrations at natural levels are essential to maintain diverse aquatic ecosystems. Nutrients are regularly applied onto intensively-managed turfgrass swards, and some people feel that this may be lost through leachate or run-off and contribute to pollution of water supplies.

This negative image has been particularly given to golf courses, because streams, ponds and lakes often border golf course fairways and greens and public perception may be that there is pollution potential. These water features are an important part of the aesthetic component of golf courses and are often used to increase course challenges. Much of this bad publicity is speculation but as greenkeepers are well aware there has been a lot of concern from the public over water quality in recent years. These rootzone types are very beneficial to golf courses and thus fish-kills, as well as loss of ecological diversity and foul smells.

Nutrients can come from many sources, such as fertilisers applied to golf courses, agricultural land, home lawns, erosion of soil and sewage treatment plant discharges.

Fear has also been expressed regarding human health issues resulting from polluted water. Of all nutrients, phosphorus and nitrogen are probably the two most widely talked about in water quality issues. Phosphorus is probably the most limiting element for algal growth, since many blue-green algae are unable to utilise atmospheric N2. Trials carried out on nutrient leaching from turf at Michigan State University, in the United States, showed that:

- sandy soils are more prone to leaching losses than clay soils
- nitrogen losses can be reduced by applying nitrogen in smaller amounts on a more frequent basis
- in putting green construction, mixing peat moss with sand significantly reduced nitrogen leaching compared to pure sand rootzones during the year of establishment

It is known that large applications of N, particularly from soluble sources, may be leached through golf greens by heavy rains or irrigation before the nitrogen can be taken up or fixed. For the protection of human health, the National Surface Water and Drinking Regulations and the European Union require that nitrate concentrations in raw water intended for human consumption and in drinking water must not exceed 50 mg/L NO3 (or 11.3 mg/L expressed as nitrogen). Concentrations of phosphorus in most soil solutions should not lead to environmental problems. However, some sandy soils require special precautions to avoid pollution because of low phosphate buffering properties and extensive use of irrigation.

SURFACE RUN-OFF

The water available for surface run-off is the portion of the precipitation which is not lost via evapotranspiration and does not penetrate the surface soil to infiltrate into groundwater. Several factors affect surface-loss of nutrients and pesticides including: (i) amount of precipitation; (ii) soil moisture content previous to rainfall; (iii) time of chemical application; and (iv) fertiliser type applied. Trials carried out by Shuman (2002) showed that:

- the first rain event after a fertiliser application will produce the greatest nitrogen leaching compared to pure sand rootzones during the year of establishment
- nitrogen losses can be reduced by applying nitrogen in smaller amounts on a more frequent basis
- in putting green construction, mixing peat moss with sand significantly reduced nitrogen leaching compared to pure sand rootzones during the year of establishment

Having said all this, I feel that turfgrass facilities, be they golf courses, sports pitches or parks, are vital to protecting fresh water resources. Turfgrass areas are green belts that, particularly in built-up areas, in a sense offer safe environments for many forms of wildlife. Numerous golf courses have strategies in place to protect water quality while consequently maintaining top-class playing surfaces.
The general public can forget that turfgrass managers often strive to protect water resources. This is clearly evident with the decline in the amount of nutrients applied to many turfgrass areas in recent years. Coupled with this there has been a drive to finding ways to reduce required nutrient inputs. Turfgrass and soil scientists have come up with novel nutrient management approaches such as the use of live bacteria and fungi in nutritional programmes, which are claimed to increase nutrient uptake. Turfgrass varieties with pest resistance and tolerance to stress are often used. Integrated pest management through the use of natural predatory insects has become on many golf courses common practice. Some courses have created buffer strips using plants such as reeds along water ways in order to trap sediment and act as natural filters. It is easy for people to forget other management practices that have been implemented by the turfgrass community.

As a PhD student at Michigan State University, I have had the privilege of seeing first-hand some of the strategies that are being implemented in the United States by golf courses in the fight to ensure that they protect the environment by reducing mains and well-water usage. I have visited many courses in the state of Michigan with my supervisor at Michigan State University, Professor Kevin Frank, and have seen how numerous golf courses are actually collecting water run-off from the parking lots and roads in many towns and cities, water which would otherwise end up in sewage treatment plants at an additional expense. The collected water is channelled into very large settling ponds on the golf courses, which can hold millions of gallons of water and are directly linked to large ponds or lakes which the golf courses use for irrigation water.

In fact, I am at present helping Professor Frank to carry out research on measuring the quality of the water in collection ponds on various golf courses throughout the state of Michigan. The goal of the research is to study if the water contains any pollutants from the parking lots, etc, which may negatively impact upon the turfgrass performance.

In Michigan, the weather is normally around 35°C during the summer months, yet many golf courses are able to store enough water during the winter and spring so that well and mains water may not be required up to and including August, with the saving of millions of gallons of water and thousands of dollars in water bills.

I am sure that there may be some people thinking that the water requirements in the UK and Ireland would be much less than, for instance, in Michigan. However, it is very important to remember that as the world population increases, and thus demand increases, more scrutiny on water usage by turfgrass systems will occur.

The turfgrass industry has had its fair share of bad publicity regarding water pollution, yet I believe that properly-managed turfgrass systems are a very important component in the constant struggle to maintain clean, non-polluted water supplies in the future. In fact, research indicates that when fertilisers and pesticides are properly used, the chances for movement of these chemicals into water sources from turfgrass systems is minimal. Many turfgrass managers are doing excellent jobs in preventing pollution of water bodies under their management. However, in my opinion, water usage and regulation will become a critical component in turfgrass management in the years to come.

Tim Butler is carrying out research in the area of turfgrass nutrition for a doctorate degree at both University College Dublin, Ireland, and Michigan State University, USA.

Summer Battle Gains PGA Headquarters

By John Stevenson

In March 2005 I was approached by the new Irish company - Carnoustie Holdings Ltd - about the Superintendent position at Golf de Fontenailles, which is situated about 40 minutes southeast of Paris. The course is 15 years old and consists of 27 holes. 18 of which make up the Championship course.

The course was taken over from Japanese company - Taiyo, who also had Golf de Clement Ader and Golf des Aisses, which were sold off around the same time. Fontenailles had massive inputs for the first few years, which even included tarmaced roadways made through the forest areas and was recognised as a top golf course in France. From around 2001 there started to be big financial difficulties and eventually the last two years saw no finance at all, resulting in a big decline in the condition of the golf course. At this time I was positioned at Golf de Joyenval on the west side of Paris.

As I made several visits early in the season, around April, before I had signed the contract, there started to be a worry about the irrigation system which needed major work doing in the pump station - to the value of around 25,000 euros. Due to the takeover process and the person responsible for the maintenance at the time, the greens began to decline rapidly each time I visited. Handwatering was being done with a galvanised tank with no pressure at all, at a rate that was impossible to keep up with the 27 holes. The temperatures were around 25°C and some greens were only getting watered every three or four days, which wasn't enough. At the start of May I signed the contract for the Superintendents position, as it was an absolutely fabulous site. Having a month's notice to work in my existing job, I had to settle for weekend visits. The next month was a horror, as each time I visited the greens appeared worse, due to no irrigation system and temperatures rising. By the end of May I was distraught. I was going to start a job in 10 days and there were 15 greens that showed burnt areas like you've never seen before. At this stage I was starting to have second thoughts as I thought that any kind of revival was impossible. I knew that 12 of my 27 greens were fine but I didn't know what I was going to do with the other 15.

Each weekend in May the members appeared more and more angry and were more and more doubtful of any revival. There were two major blocks for me that made me think it would be impossible. Firstly, after the lack of Japanese funds there had been no aeration three staff kept on to maintain the course, which resulted in no mechanical verticutting. (PHOTO 1). The other problem was that there was no aeration in three years that resulted in a thatch layer of around three inches - this made a block on the surface. The other problem was that there was no aeration equipment on site or verticutters to control the thatch. (PHOTO 1).

On June 7 I got a call from Fontenailles to inform me that they'd hired an irrigation company to get the system up and running. I was satisfied and began to have a glimmer of hope but I knew the light at the end of the tunnel was a long way away and that this situation was the rise or fall of my career - as bad news travels fast. After exceptional experiences working at Oakland Hills for the 1996 US Open, and Valderamma for the 1997 Ryder Cup and World Championship, plus irreplaceable experiences at the Pinehurst resort, I started to think that even with the difficulties, pressure and levels demanded, I have never been faced with a situation as difficult as this.

June 13 and my first day at work, where do you start? The first thing I thought was there is a massive concern for the greens - that is a negative topic. I thought lets do something good and quick to get people talking positively while taking care of the negative. With the fairways starved I thought I'll put some ammonium sulfate at 15g m2 to give them a quick response. Not wanting to take the risk with the irrigation system until I had time to check it all, I waited for the first rain. The result was brilliant. I bought new flags and flagpoles and tidied up and pruned the trees at the front entrance and the hotel entrance, which gave a good first impression. The members started to talk a little more positively and I went to work with my major problem. (PHOTO 2).

My first concern was to check all the sprinklers on the greens that were lacking really badly. Going through the first three or four greens was no problem, and then all of a sudden there was a big drop in pressure, until eventually a cut off. I ran down to the pump station to find that the pumps would no longer run on automatic, but manual. The pump station is a type PEME with a jockey pump that gives 30m3 an hour and the two main pumps which each give 60m each. With still no dejointer installed I decided not to fiddle as the electrical wardrobe was like a time bomb and there are wires dangling everywhere. I decided to call the company back to fix the problem and continued my tests with the jockey pump on manual. The company came back and fixed the problem with another two wires added to the time bomb. After my testing of all the irrigation system there were 25 sprinklers either to be replaced or installed, as they were non-existent. The next step was to get the pump station in security. We had had a quote for 7,000 euros to be installed by a company. After

On June 13 I got a call from Fontenailles to inform me that they'd hired an irrigation system until I had time to check it all, I waited for the first rain. The result was brilliant. I bought new flags and flagpoles and tidied up and pruned the trees at the front entrance and the hotel entrance, which gave a good first impression. The members started to talk a little more positively and I went to work with my major problem. (PHOTO 2).

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journey, please let it be something I can solve as tomorrow is Sunday, no one works in
fertilising with this heat but maybe they would suffer more if I didn't. Then there was
another lock for the well pump house.

25°C, I would use a Scotts fertiliser with a high slow release at a low dose of 10g/m². which I figured was finished and the greens were now stressed. I was worried about
started to get yellowing. I figured there was a shortage of food and after speaking to

Towards the end of July some of the greens that had stayed in decent condition
started to get yellowing. I figured there was a shortage of food and after speaking to
my assistant the greens were last fed in March with a relatively soluble material,
I applied it only to note two days later temperatures soared up to above 30°C and we
went to the satellite to test it. There was nothing, I verified a second one to make sure
it was not an isolated problem but there was nothing. I went to the pump station to
find it had dejointed. You think to yourself, I've done the right thing by making it
secure but it's backfired. I started to go through all the normal tests to find out what
the problem was. All the pressures on the outside of the tank were fine. All the pumps
on manual worked fine and when put to the off position would stop. Then testing the
pump on automatic there was a main pump that would not shut off once started
which would eventually cause the whole system to dejoint. An electrician was brought
to find the problem. After his diagnosis a wire had moved position. The next month
would become a nightmare as we were getting our cabling sabotaged by an outside
party. There must have been six or seven situations in the pump station where wires
had been pulled out of place or moved, or disconnected. With tiredness playing a big
part - at first I thought it was the vibrations that were causing the wiring to dislodge
but as time went on this became inevitably impossible. I decided to make plans of

every electrical wire as to where it was connected and also change the lock on the
pump station. Everything at this stage settled down until a very hot weekend of
around 35°C-37°C. In the morning my assistant called me to say the irrigation cycle
had shut off about an hour into its cycle and also the well pump had stopped feeding
the lake which had caused shutdown. He had looked in the electric box to find wires
had been disconnected and he couldn't find the solution. I set off and prayed on the
journey, please let it be something I can solve as tomorrow is Sunday, no one works in
France and it's scorching. I went to the office to get my plan and the work I'd done
with the plans saved my bacon. The well pump functioned so I let it run for a few
hours and came back early morning to get some water on the greens and bought
another lock for the well pump house.

Towards the end of July some of the greens that had stayed in decent condition
started to get yellowing. I figured there was a shortage of food and after speaking to
my assistant the greens were last fed in March with a relatively soluble material,
which I figured was finished and the greens were now stressed. I was worried about
fertilising with this heat but maybe they would suffer more if I didn't. Then there was
the heavy thatch. I made the decision that when maximum temperatures went below
25°C, I would use a Scotts fertiliser with a high slow release at a low dose of 10g/m². I
applied it only to note two days later temperatures soared up to above 30°C and we
had to water heavily for the dry areas which resulted in a pythium outbreak which
was rarely due to excessive watering and thatch. Not every choice or decision we
make will work but always know the consequences and have the solution ready. I saw
it very early and sprayed with fosetyl-al, which cleared it up.

Now was the time to purchase aeration equipment that was essential, as the
greens had taken a knock back with all the electrical difficulties, this was a critical
stage. I purchased the new Toro procore 648 aerator, which I used on its closest
spacing to alleviate as much thatch as possible as I had only tried one verticut as I
thought the stress would be too much. When I arrived here they were mowing all the
greens at 3.7mm that I moved up to 5mm from the first day to allow for better
photosynthesis and recovery. The aeration went great and then I verticut only the
major worn areas I thought may not recover. On some greens there were spotty areas
that needed reseeding. These areas were raked with a leaf rake seeded with pencross
and topdressed. (PHOTO 3). These works all went really well. All I needed now was
the irrigation to stay working. After the seed had been out for three days, I got a call
from the hotel to say I had a visitor. I drove over and entered the hotel to find a
gentleman dressed in a military style uniform who turned out to be from the water
police, he had come to place his heavy restrictions on water use. Just as I felt I'd got
my head above the surface of the water, someone's come and stood on it and pushed
me under. At this stage I really thought I was not destined to get out of this situation. I
could water from 8am-8pm and only the greens. Heavy fines are implemented if the
rule was broken but I thought I needed four or five syringe cycles in the day to keep
the seed moist. I decided to purchase some pennmulch that really helped me retain
the moisture during the day. The restrictions actually passed quite quickly and after
a fortnight I managed to see big stands of pencross growing, at this stage I really felt
the battle would be won. (PHOTO 4). I was granular fertilising the seeded areas once a
week with predominantly slow release fertilisers but also a little soluble, the results
were impressive and only two greens had to be put on temporary greens through all
this.

Just after catching my breath we would run into more problems, which involved
heavy damage to the course but this time it was by wild pigs. (PHOTO 5). Another
part - at first I thought it was the vibrations that were causing the wiring to dislodge
but as time went on this became inevitably impossible. I decided to make plans of

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Over 200 exhibitors covering the entire industry
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A magnificent Media Centre
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A painfully easy Park and Ride

EDUCATION 21 - 25 January 2007
EXHIBITION 23 - 25 January 2007
www.harrogateweek.org.uk

Time You’ll Treasurer Forever

To turn the modern day phrase on its head when you’ve wasted time on something you’d rather not have been doing - "That’s x amount of my life I’ll never get back" - for those of you who attend Harrogate Week 2007 it will prove to be a case of "That’s a week of my life I’ll treasure forever." From an educational, commercial and recreational perspective you can be sure that it’s time well spent.

The most comprehensive education programme that BIGGA has ever put together will get the brain going into overdrive, while four halls packed with exhibitors representing every element of the fine turf industry should ensure plenty of assistance with those difficult purchasing decisions. After a long day in the lecture theatres and the Halls where better than the restaurants and bars of Harrogate to share experiences and laughs with friends and colleagues?

And it’s as valuable for the Harrogate rookie as it is to the experienced campaigner. Attend Harrogate Week and you can be sure you will leave with many more friends and acquaintances than you arrived. That equates to more shared experiences and more potential solutions to the types of greenkeeping problems that plague greenkeepers at every golf club in the country.

You’ll never spend time more wisely.
Exhibitor List 2007

Abbott (MI) Ltd
Acorn Golf (UK)
Advanced Drives & Paths Ltd (Netlon)
Advanta Seeds UK Ltd
AFT Trenchers Ltd
Air-Eze Ltd
Air-Seal Products Ltd
Aitkens Sportsturf Ltd
Allett Mowers
Ametry Land Services Ltd
Arden Lea Irrigation Ltd
Askham Bryan College
Association of Golf Club Secretaries
Avant Tecnco UK Ltd
Badcock Services Ltd
Barcham Trees Plc
Barenbrug UK Ltd
Bathgate Leisure
Bayer Environmental Science
Bellwood Trees
Bernhard & Co Ltd
Bioiberica
Blec Landscaping Equipment Co Ltd
BMS - Europe Ltd
Border Sports Services Ltd
Boughton
Bowhayes Trees Ltd
British & International Golf Greenkeepers Assoc
British Seed Houses Ltd
BUPA Cash Plan
Campey Turf Care Systems
Careers’ Clinic
Charles Mador Chartered Architects Ltd
Charterhouse Turf Machinery Ltd
Cheeseborough - Since 1872
Club Car - Ingersoll-Rand
Complete Weed Control Ltd
Course Care
DENNIS
Di Turfcare Equipment Ltd
DLF Trifolium Ltd
Dryject
Dryspell Irrigation Solutions
Duncan Ross Sports Turf Drainage
Dunweedin Ltd
Eagle Promotions Ltd
East Durham & Houghall Community College
Econoplasts Ltd
Ecosolve Limited
Elmwood College
Environmental Turf Technology
European Golf Machinery
European Turfgrass Laboratories Ltd
Europipes (UK) Ltd
Evenproducts Ltd
Fairway Credit
Farmura Ltd
Fleximas
FMW Distinct Ltd
Foley United
Gambetti Barre UK Ltd
Garfitts International Ltd
GCASA
Gem Professional
Gibsons Garden Machinery Ltd
Golf Course News International
Golf Tee Signs
Graden (R & K Kensett Ltd)
Greenkeepers Training Committee (The)
Greenkeeping Magazine
Groundsman Industries
Hardi Limited
Harrogate Week Re-bookings
Headland Amenity Ltd
Hoggs of Fife Ltd
Hunter Grinders Ltd
Hunter’s Promotions Ltd
Huxley Golf
Imants BV
Indiflow Ltd
Institute of Groundsmanship
Internet Cafe sponsored by Pitchcare.com
Inturf
Irri-Supplies
ITT Lownara UK Ltd
JB Corrie & Co Ltd
JK Inc Ltd
Job Shop
John Greasley Ltd
JSM Distribution
Kawasaki Motors UK
Ken Whites
KNW Training
Korec
Landscape & Amenity Product Update
Lasteck UK Ltd
Lawn Master UK Ltd
Lawnkeeper
Lindum Seeded Turf Ltd
Links Leisure Ltd
Little 3 Creative Solutions
Lloyds & Co Letchworth Ltd
LS Systems
Major Equipment Ltd
Massey Ferguson
MeteeGroup UK Ltd
Myerscough College
New Holland
Normandy Sports CMC Ltd
North Staffs Irrigation
Novozymes Biologicals
Ocmis Irrigation
Olleau Glas Teo
On Course
OnCourse Software-SYSteem Epani AB
OptimizeGolf
Orkney Seaweed Co Ltd
ORM Professional Products Ltd
Pentagon Amenity Marketing Ltd
Pro-Tine
PSD Agronomy Ltd
Rain Bird Europe S.A.R.L.
Range Servant UK Ltd
Readysheen Co Ltd (The)
Reaseheath College
Reco
Revaho UK Ltd
Rigby Taylor Ltd
Rivendell
Rotary Lift UK
Safety Kleen
Sand daM
Saxon Industries
Scotts Company (UK) Ltd
Sheltos Sportsurf Drainage Solutions
Sheppy HumberPalmer
Sherriff Amenity Services
Speedcut Contractors Ltd
Steelmaster Products
STRI
Sub Air Systems/Turf Breeze Fans
Symbio
Synergy Products Ltd
Syngenta
Tait
Telbot Farm Landscapes
Techneat Eng Ltd
Tenax UK Limited
Terrain Aeration
Thorntrees Amenity Ltd
Tildienet Ltd
Tillers Turf Company Ltd
Tomlin (DW)
Toppsport
Toro Irrigation Products
Tower Sport Europe
Trilo (UK) Ltd
True Surface by Turfline
Tru-Turf Equipment
Tuffa UK Ltd
Turfcare Solutions Ltd
Turfdry Ltd
Turffit Ltd
Verde Sports Ltd
Vitax Ltd
Waste2Water Europe Ltd
WBB Minerals
White Horse Contractors Ltd
Whitemoss Eco Supplies Ltd
Wiedenmann UK Ltd
Writtle College
Yamaha Motor (UK) Ltd

Companies listed in red are new to Harrogate Week
List correct as 28/11/2006
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Call us today for a demo
It seems Harrogate isn’t just famous for its annual BTME and Clubhouse Exhibitions! A pleasant spa town situated south east of the Yorkshire Dales, Harrogate is famous for its tea shops and Turkish baths, and is also associated with the great English crime novelist Agatha Christie, who “disappeared” there for a few days in the 1930s. Melissa Toombs takes a look at what Harrogate has to offer.

**WINE & DINE**

**Le D2**
7 Bower Road  
Tel: 01423 502700

Run by the two D’s – David and Dominique – Le D2 offers excellent food, freshly made using local ingredients.

**Raj Put**
11 Cheltenham Parade  
Tel: 01423 562113

The Rajput is a family run business, specialising in regional dishes from Rajasthan, Goa, South India, Delhi, Punjab and Mumbai (Bombay).

**Damn Yankee**
4 Station Parade  
Tel: 01423 561424

Established for over 30 years, The Damn Yankee serves freshly prepared American food – and plenty of it. Choose from homemade burgers to authentic fajitas.

**Cattlemen’s Association**
17 Cheltenham Crescent  
Tel: 01423 561456

This popular eatery is a meat lover’s paradise, with steaks on the regular menu up to a huge 20 oz! Vegetarian options and kids meals are also available and the restaurant has recently changed its opening hours to include lunchtimes.

**Chez La Vie**
92 Station Parade  
Tel: 01423 568018

Chez La Vie offers a range of classical Mediterranean dishes and a wide range of wines from all over the world.

**Loch Fyne**
Town Centre House, Cheltenham Parade  
Tel: 01423 533070
Salsa Posada
4 Mayfield Grove
Tel: 01423 565151
The Salsa Posada serves up an enjoyable authentic Mexican feast. The menu ranges from nachos to burritos and chimichangas.

The Jinnah Spice Club
The School House, Cheltenham Parade
Tel: 01423 563333
This restaurant is renowned for its exotic Asian food, using the freshest ingredients, prepared by expert chefs.

WHERE TO PARTY

Mansions
14-18 Kings Road
Tel: 01423 531896
Four great rooms...four nights a week. Free entry all night on a Thursday and drinks from £1.

Carringtons
90-96 Station Parade
Tel: 01423 525551

Cardinal Sins
9-11 Station Parade
Tel: 01423 701737
Thursday DJ's – Frambo and Russ (I-Rok)

Ministry of Sound Mini Bar
1 Royal Baths Complex, Parliament Street
Tel: 0870 0494900
Minibar residents every night with guest DJ's, one off promotions and the creation of the best club space in town.

Flares
46-48 Parliament Street
Tel: 01423 566576

THINGS TO DO

Odeon Cinema
East Parade
Tel: 0871 2244007

Harrogate Theatre
Oxford Street
Tel: 01423 502116

UK Super Bowl
Tower Street
Tel: 01423 529191

Old Bell Tavern
6 Royal Parade
Tel: 01423 507930

Alberts
4 Albert Street
Tel: 01423 568446
Alberts serve food all day from noon in the non-smoking dining area, as well as in the less formal bar area. From a latte to one of the many beers, to a cocktail or a bottle of wine from an extensive list, Alberts has it all.

Montpellier
14 Montpellier Parade
Tel: 01423 817248

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Bluetooth enabled phone with 2 mega pixel camera, large high quality screen with stereo speakers also boasts MP3 player and video ringtones. This phone takes a memory card for additional storage.
What will I see?
The modern face of the industry. Your only difficulty may be having enough
time to take it all in! The industry’s major players will be showcasing the
latest equipment, technology and innovations all under one roof, many of
them reserving their new product launches for the exhibition.

Who will be there?
Anybody that’s serious about the turf management industry and club
facility management. Whatever your particular interest, you’ll find it
covered during Harrogate Week, an event that combines both elements of
turf management and clubhouse management.

Why should I visit Harrogate Week?
Your time is valuable, a single visit to Harrogate Week will save you hours
of exhausting and frustrating research. Instead of having to make endless
telephone calls or search the internet, you can meet the people you need
to meet face to face. You can see the products, equipment and service
providers, take away relevant literature, arrange site visits, and discover
those new ideas that are the lifeblood of the turf industry and club
management.

What special events will there be?
The Continue to Learn educational programme is larger than ever, with top
speakers addressing topics of interest right across the industry spectrum.
They will help you be a part of an efficient business by offering a wealth of
learning opportunities for you to take back to your team.

What else is on offer?
A visit to Harrogate Week will enable you to get all the answers you need.
BIGGA is committed to the continual growth of the event, enhancing the
whole experience for visitors and exhibitors alike and creating the greatest
show on turf. New for 2007 is the introduction of a free Park & Ride facility,
visitors will be able to park at the Great Yorkshire Showground and take a
shuttle bus to the show.

Admission to the Exhibition is FREE of charge to all visitors. For more
information and to register today visit www.harrogateweek.org.uk.

Internet Café
The BIGGA Internet Café, supported by Pitchcare.com, will help you to
keep in touch with the outside world while you are away from home.

Job Shop
The Job Shop will be promoting job opportunities from all aspects of the
industry.

The Media Centre
The Media Centre has relocated to the front of Hall A and will offer much
improved facilities. Exhibitors will be encouraged to display press
information on their new launches and general company information while
anyone wishing to hold a press briefing can book a slot with Scott
MacCallum (scott@bigga.co.uk). Audio visual facilities will be available in
the Media Centre. The more informal area within the Centre is used as a
meeting area and general Exhibition base for the press. Helpful staff are
always on hand to ensure that a friendly welcome is the order of the day
and pass on messages where required.

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always on hand to ensure that a friendly welcome is the order of the day
and pass on messages where required.
"Men are only as good as their technical development allows them to be"  
George Orwell (1903-1950)

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Would like to invite you to a **free** seminar

The Majestic Hotel, Harrogate
Monday 22nd January 2007
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Jim Turner (highly acclaimed GCSAA speaker) will present on some of the latest technology that is now available to you. He will also look at ways in which new chemistry and cultural practice can be used to achieve the best results within an ever-tightening budget.

We are delighted that Jim will unveil 5 of our exciting new products as well as introduce the updated version of our surfactant technology.

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Lunch will be served at 12.30pm and the seminar will finish at 4.00pm. Please use one of the contact points below to register yourself for both the seminar and lunch. Please also inform us of any special dietary requirements.

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LS28 6QN

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Fax - 0113 256 9111
Email - sales@towerchemicals.co.uk

I look forward to seeing you at what promises to be an informative, humorous and exciting start to 2007!

David Goldstone
Managing Director
The BIGGA Stand
The BIGGA staff will be on hand to give advice and information on all Association matters. Visit the BIGGA Stand for a chat and the chance to meet all the people you only ever talk to on the telephone.

Services provided on the BIGGA Stand include:

Membership
The Membership Services staff will be on hand to give you information on the different types of membership available, the benefits of being a BIGGA member, provide application forms, direct debit and tax relief forms. You can renew your BIGGA membership (no renewal form is necessary) and update your personal and golf club details. The Members Handbook will also be available to visitors to the Stand.

The Continue To Learn Education Programme
The Continue to Learn programme, supported by The Greenkeepers Training Committee, includes a varied, comprehensive workshop and seminar programme, aimed at greenkeepers, groundsmen, their supervisors, golf course managers, sports ground managers, club managers and others working in the turf industry.

BIGGA is pleased to welcome the Professional Golfers' Association to the education programme, where they will present The United Kingdom Coach Certificate (UKCC): The Impact on the PGA and PGA Professionals.

Exhibitor Presentations
Exhibitor presentations will be given by some of the exhibitors at BTME and ClubHouse and will offer additional opportunities to keep up to date on topical issues. Most of the presentations are included in this brochure, however further details will be published in Greenkeeper International and on the Harrogate Week website (www.harrogateweek.org.uk)

Merchandise
A range of BIGGA merchandise will be on display and can be ordered during your visit.

Greenkeeper International
Staff from the Sales Department will be on hand to provide copies of Greenkeeper International or discuss advertising and sponsorship opportunities available with the Association.

Careers' Clinic
Tuesday 23, Wednesday 24 and Thursday 25 January 2007
Exhibition Halls, Harrogate International Centre

Follow in the footsteps of many greenkeepers who have used the services provided at the BIGGA Careers Clinic to find that next job, improve your prospects in your current job or to negotiate your salary package. You will be able to book a private consultation session at the Careers Clinic during BTME & ClubHouse.

The Banquet
Thursday 25 January 2007, The Majestic Hotel
7.00pm - 7.30pm

A highlight of Harrogate Week is the very popular Banquet, held in The Majestic Hotel. With pre-dinner drinks available in the North Lounge from 7.00pm, guests will be seated in the Main Dining Room at 7.30pm.

The 2007 programme has been extended to include more one-day workshops including a Sward Improvement Workshop presented by the R&A and additional half-day workshops featuring intermediate computer skills.

The Association of Golf Club Secretaries and the English Golf Union are, once again, working together with BIGGA to present a full day of seminars and two workshops specifically aimed at golf club managers, golf club secretaries, and golf club officials. The STRI are also returning to the Continue to Learn programme presenting a two-day course on Making the Most of Your Golf Course.
What's On, Where and When

Sunday 21 January 2007
10.30 - 17.00 Health & Safety for Greenkeepers .................................................. Queen's Suite
10.30 - 17.00 Moving into Management ................................................................. Queen's Suite
10.30 - 17.00 An Introduction to Golf Course Design ............................................... Queen's Suite
10.30 - 17.00 Every Drop Counts - Use Water Wisely .............................................. Queen's Suite
10.30 - 17.00 A1 Assessor Award .............................................................................. Queen's Suite
10.30 - 17.00 Working With People Who Cause You Stress!!! ................................. Queen's Suite
10.30 - 17.00 Budgeting - Making Numbers Count .................................................. Queen's Suite
10.30 - 17.00 Coaching in the Workplace - Continuing Professional Development Award .............................................................................. Queen's Suite
10.30 - 17.00 Drain Before the Rain ......................................................................... Queen's Suite
10.30 - 17.00 Update Workshop to the A1 Assessor Qualification .............................. Queen's Suite

Monday 22 January 2007
9.00 - 17.00 Health & Safety for Greenkeepers (day two) ...................................... Queen's Suite
9.00 - 17.00 Moving into Management (day two) ...................................................... Queen's Suite
9.00 - 17.00 An Introduction to Golf Course Design (day two) ................................ Queen's Suite
9.00 - 17.00 Every Drop Counts - Use Water Wisely (day two) .............................. Queen's Suite
9.00 - 17.00 A1 Assessor Award (day two) .............................................................. Queen's Suite
9.00 - 17.00 Environmental Management .............................................................. Queen's Suite
9.00 - 17.00 R&A Sward Improvement Workshop .................................................. Queen's Suite
9.00 - 17.00 Effective Communication .................................................................... Queen's Suite
9.00 - 17.00 Are Your Finances Below Par? .............................................................. Queen's Suite
9.00 - 17.00 Making the Most of Your Golf Course (STRI) ...................................... Holiday Inn Hotel

Tuesday 23 January 2007
9.00 - 17.00 BTME & ClubHouse Exhibition ......................................................... HIC
9.00 - 17.00 Careers Clinic ....................................................................................... HIC
9.00 - 17.00 Making the Most of Your Golf Course (STRI) (day two) ...................... STRI, Bingley
9.00 - 17.00 The United Kingdom Coach Certificate (PGA) .................................... Queen's Suite
9.30 - 12.30 The Basics of Microsoft Word ............................................................ Queen's Suite
10.15 - 10.45 The Importance of Soil Analysis in the UK and the Rest of the World .... Queen's Suite
10.30 - 12 noon Opening Session and Presentations - Making an Exhibition of Yourself .............................................................................. Queen's Suite
11.00 - 11.30 The Scientific Approach to Drought Management ............................ Queen's Suite
11.45 - 12.15 Product Compatibility and Tank-Mixing for Efficient Turf Maintenance .............................................................................. Queen's Suite
12.30 - 13.00 It's Hardly Rocket Science ................................................................. Queen's Suite
13.15 - 14.15 New Strategies to Prevent and Correct Localised Dry Patch .......... Queen's Suite
13.30 - 16.30 Intermediate Microsoft Word ............................................................ Queen's Suite
13.30 - 16.30 So You Want to Get Sued? ................................................................. Queen's Suite
13.45 - 14.45 I'm not Difficult, Everyone Else Is! ...................................................... Queen's Suite
14.00 GTC Training Providers Seminar ................................................................... Holiday Inn Hotel
14.30 - 15.00 Rephlex - Safely Reducing Soil and Irrigation Water PH and Carbonate Levels .............................................................................. Queen's Suite
15.00 - 16.00 Pesticides and Amenity Turf - Developing a Sustainable Approach .............................................................................. Queen's Suite
15.15 - 15.45 Trees Down to a Tee ........................................................................... Queen's Suite
16.15 - 17.15 Greencast - Interactive Decision Support and Disease Control ........ Queen's Suite
16.30 - 17.30 Women's Forum .................................................................................. Queen's Suite
### Wednesday 24 January 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.00</td>
<td>BTME &amp; ClubHouse Exhibition</td>
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<td>9.00</td>
<td>Careers Clinic</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.00</td>
<td>The United Kingdom Coach Certificate (PGA)</td>
<td>Queen's Suite</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.30</td>
<td>Basic Agronomy</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.30</td>
<td>The Basics of Microsoft Excel</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.30</td>
<td>Speed of Play</td>
<td>Queen's Suite</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.45</td>
<td>The State of Greenkeeping in Canada</td>
<td>Queen's Suite</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.30</td>
<td>A Drive to Thrive</td>
<td>Queen's Suite</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.30</td>
<td>Course Set Up for a Qualifying Competition</td>
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<td>11.15</td>
<td>Golf in Sweden - Working Against the Odds</td>
<td>Queen's Suite</td>
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<td>11.15</td>
<td>Sources of Funding for Golf</td>
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<td>12.00</td>
<td>Finding a Cure for Itchy Feet!</td>
<td>Queen's Suite</td>
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<tr>
<td>13.30</td>
<td>Intermediate Microsoft Excel</td>
<td>Queen's Suite</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.00</td>
<td>Professional Career Development</td>
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<td>14.45</td>
<td>The Winter Sports Pitch Evolution</td>
<td>Queen's Suite</td>
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<tr>
<td>15.00</td>
<td>Dispute Resolution in a Golf Club</td>
<td>Queen's Suite</td>
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<td>15.00</td>
<td>Master Greenkeeper AGM</td>
<td>Queen's Suite</td>
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<tr>
<td>16.00</td>
<td>Why Your Club Should be Climbing the Sustainability Ladder</td>
<td>Queen's Suite</td>
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<tr>
<td>18.00</td>
<td>BIGGA AGM</td>
<td>Queen's Suite</td>
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### Thursday 25 January 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>9.00</td>
<td>The United Kingdom Coach Certificate (PGA)</td>
<td>Queen's Suite</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.30</td>
<td>The Basics of Microsoft PowerPoint</td>
<td>Queen's Suite</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.30</td>
<td>Agronomy for Golf Club Officials</td>
<td>Queen's Suite</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.30</td>
<td>Drought, Drainage and Conservation - Aeration's Role</td>
<td>Queen's Suite</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.45</td>
<td>Keeping the Customer Satisfied - Green Speed</td>
<td>Queen's Suite</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.15</td>
<td>Save Money - Variable Speed Pumps in Irrigation</td>
<td>Queen's Suite</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.45</td>
<td>Keeping the Customer Satisfied - Golf - Just a Game?</td>
<td>Queen's Suite</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.30</td>
<td>The Right Turf for the Right Job</td>
<td>Queen's Suite</td>
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<tr>
<td>13.15</td>
<td>Maximum Benefits From Organic Inputs</td>
<td>Queen's Suite</td>
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<tr>
<td>13.15</td>
<td>Keeping the Customer Satisfied - We’re In The Happy Business</td>
<td>Queen's Suite</td>
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<tr>
<td>13.30</td>
<td>Intermediate Microsoft PowerPoint</td>
<td>Queen's Suite</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.30</td>
<td>Keeping the Customer Satisfied - Media Skills</td>
<td>Queen's Suite</td>
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</table>
WE OFFER A COMPREHENSIVE AND FREE HOTEL BOOKING SERVICE FOR HARROGATE WEEK 2007

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Wells House, 8 Cold Bath Road, Harrogate HG2 0NA
**AFT TRENCHERS**

Stand: B11

Visit us on Stand B11 for information on our range of trenching, drainage and backfilling machines. As well as the versatile AFT45 compact tractor trencher, we manufacture the famous, original Wizz Wheel® slitting trenchers plus the popular AFT100 chain trencher for larger sportsfield and fairway tasks. Added to this we can offer the AFT Sandbander for installing sand filled slits plus the Multi-Use Trailer, which can carry out a diverse number of operations around a golf course or sports facility. We can provide a complete solution to your drainage requirements, big or small.

**BERNHARD & COMPANY**

Stand: B31

Visit stand B31, to see Express Dual and Anglemaster from Bernhard and Company. Focusing on ease of use and operator safety, grinders are now offered with touch screen panels.

Manufactured to the highest standards including colour-coded machine function, digital indication of grind angles and straightforward design - Express Dual and Anglemaster are now easier than ever to use.

With Bernhard and Company you achieve the best possible results with less operator effort and more efficiency.

Visit stand B31 to find out more and to arrange for a free demonstration.

**EAGLE PROMOTIONS**

Stand: C43

Eagle: the best choice for your club’s marketing collateral – Signage, Course Guides, Scorecards. From St Andrews in Scotland to Santana in Spain, Eagle is the leading provider of quality marketing collateral for over 1,500 golf clubs; Superior course and clubhouse signage – timber or rock, with zinc, bronze, and now our new range of polished granite tee plates to suit every style of course and clubhouse Innovative yardage guides – from the new Eagle Eye photographic style to traditional designs. The widest range of scorecards – from tailor-made to off-the-shelf in four, six or more page formats Bag tags and green fee tickets – designed to project your club’s branding EGU approved course measurement and certification. Clubs like dealing with Eagle: contact us on 0044 (0) 1883 344 244, or e-mail us at info@eagle.uk.com.

**GROUNDSMAN**

Stand: A10

Groundsmen Industries specialise in Turf Aerators and Turf Cutters. The incredible Turf Multi Cutters are without doubt the most complete range of Turf Cutters available anywhere. Blades from 12 to 18inch cuts plus Mole, De-compaction and Trench Blades. Budget priced 2 wheel drive and high traction 4 wheel drive units, plus newly launched Hydro Drive with Reel Insertion Attachment (RIA) to bury dripper pipe for irrigation or cables. See the time proven Pedestrian and Tractor Mounted Turf Aerators and Accessories. Core and Collect in one pass with the Flexblade Core Collector now available separately in a three point linkage frame.

**INDIFLOW**

Stand: B28

Indiflow will be presenting Re-Phlex, the new revolutionary soil and irrigation water conditioner. With the increasing use of alkaline bore-hole water more turf managers are facing the challenges that come from decreasing water quality and associated high soil pH.

Re-Phlex will safely reduce pH, carbonate and bicarbonate levels without the use of toxic or corrosive harsh mineral acids. Indiflow will also be presenting its new Magnum wetting agent range of liquids, pellets and “One Shots,” along with a full irrigation “one stop” equipment supply catalogue.

**LASTEC UK LTD**

Stand: C40

Lastec’s new 2261 Articulator is the world’s first 1.5m (61”) commercial articulating mower. This zero turn radius ride-on mower features three fully articulating 535mm (21”) decks and a unique modular baffling system that allows for true rear or side discharging as well as a mulching capability. The new machine incorporates the latest developments in Lastec’s patented Articulator technology which, since its introduction in 1990, has transformed rotary mowing on uneven or undulating terrain.

Powered by a 22hp Yanmar diesel engine and built to the highest standards in 4mm (3/16”) steel plate, the 2261 Articulator has been developed specifically for the commercial and local authority mowing markets. Lastec, now internationally recognised as the mower manufacturer of choice for golf courses, believes that the introduction of a rear discharge facility to the established Articulator specification opens up significant new opportunities for the company.

**MASSEY FERGUSON**

Stand: A23a

Massey Ferguson are pleased to continue their support of BIGGA with an enlarged stand for the 2007 BTME & Clubhouse exhibition. Massey Ferguson will feature a selection of tractors including their “NEW” highly acclaimed Dyna QPS series from 32 to 46hp, with “on the button” gear selection and power shuttle, a must for those intending to aerate or use a loader. An optional factory fitted cabin enhances this tractor. The ‘NEW’ 20hp 3cyl Diesel 2-seater utility vehicle with selectable four wheel drive and fully independent suspension, will also be on display. If you are intending to purchase a new tractor or utility vehicle, then look no further than Massey Ferguson, the name you can trust with a nationwide dealer network and a committed specialist Groundscare sales team, always ready to assist.

**NOVOZYMES BIOLOGICALS**

Stand: A29

Novozymes Biologicals and its Plant Care division will be again present at BTME with its innovative range of biological products for the turf industry. Novozymes Biologicals is the leading biological company for turf care, with bio stimulants, microbial and mycorrhizal products, organic fertilisers, aquatic specialties and biological fungicides.

Hugh Frost, Technical Manager for the UK market, will be pleased to welcome you onto the stand to discuss these products, and to show you field results.
RAIN BIRD

Stand: A7

Why do 7 out of 10 Golf Courses in Europe choose Rain Bird? May be it is because you have direct contact with an irrigation specialist or because you receive the best service or even it is just for our ‘Intelligent Use of Water’. Whatever the reason call in to the Rain Bird stand to see the large selection of golf and turf sprinklers and accessories or have a demonstration of our PC based Central Control Systems. Rain Bird is committed to developing more reliable and efficient irrigation products for all applications from golf to landscape areas to sports pitches.

SYNGENTA

Stand: B33b

Syngenta is a research and development based manufacturer of world class; control, growth management and decision support products for the turf industry. Innovation in the delivery of high quality playing surfaces and improved plant health are at the core of the business.

GreenCast is a unique web based decision support and disease management system designed specifically for turf managers and a class leading new generation fungicide will be launched at BTME.

There will also be opportunities to discuss the use of Primo MAXX following a tremendous reception from professional turf managers in 2006 as well as Syngenta’s market leading fungicides; Heritage and Daconil Turf.

RIGBY TAYLOR

Stand: C23

Rigby Taylor, a BIGGA Golden Key Member, will be displaying their Premier-HG and Guardian granular fertilizers and Microflow-CX liquid fertilizers.

Also featured is the Breaker family of wetting agent products and Mascot soil conditioner products including Activate-XL, a soil microbial biosimulant that also helps in degrading thatch. Mascot chemicals featured include Masalon fungicide and Gallup HiAktiv Amenity glyphosate.

Rigby Taylor, a seed agent in its own right, will be featuring their 2007 Mascot grass seed range which exclusively incorporates cultivars from TopGreen SAS, one of Europe’s major seed research companies. This includes Greenvie, a new strong creeping red fescue that is No:1 in the STRI 2007 list for shoot density.

TORO IRRIGATION

Stand: M21

Toro Irrigation is unveiling its innovative new Golf Decoder Controller (GDC) irrigation control system for golf courses, as well as other applications.

The new system uses modern technology to provide a low-cost decoder system using a single 2-wire path. Its performance and flexibility enables irrigation consultants to design irrigation plans without the need for complicated calculations. The system is easy to install, simple to use, and flexible enough to meet contractor and greenkeeper needs.

Users can choose between two versions. The stand-alone system accommodates up to 200 stations and features a new easy-to-use programming interface. The PC-based system uses Toro’s SitePro central computer system and can accommodate up to 3,200 stations, pump station integration and sensor input decoders.

SCOTTS

Stand: B34

Scotts is launching three new turf products at the show. Sierraform GT is a powerful and well-balanced range of fertilizers for golf greens, containing both slow-release nitrogen and potassium. This delivers the dual effect of even plant growth and a stronger plant more resistant to external stresses.

Effect is an iron liquid containing seaweed which uses slow-release technology to ensure a gradual release for up to eight weeks. It also has an almost immediate effect of greening the turf while hardening the sward to help withstand stress.

The new Greenmaster Organic range of granular fertilizers is a mix of organic and natural ingredients that delivers essential nutrients and stimulates soil microorganisms in one treatment.

TOWER SPORT EUROPE

Stand: C42

Tower Sport is delighted to announce the unveiling of the next generation of advanced chemistry.

As well as preventing dry patch by stripping the non-polar humic acid content from the soil correct OAR’s will now attack fairy ring as well as save you water consumption.

Also unveiled is Chaperone, a spray adjuvant that will give you a quicker and broader control of fungi.

As well as the above there are three more new and exciting products launching both injectable and sprayable Ph reducer as well as a moss killer.

Tomorrow’s chemistry brought to you by today’s proven experts!

SYMBIO

Stand: B9

Setting your objectives for next season? Playing Surface Consistency _ Species Composition Change _ Fine Grass Promotion _ or are there specific problems to tackle? Thatch Reduction _ Dry Patch Management _ Disease Reduction, then start with your soil’s life. Symbio’s biological approach to these objectives will weight the balance in your favour while reducing your consumables costs.

We are also launching ColdStart to assist turf managers overcome inconsistent early season growth. Come and meet your regional Symbio technical manager who will explain this vital addition to quality turf management and assist you in achieving your turf management objectives.

TRILO ULTD

Stand: A32

TRILO have been manufacturing top quality vacuum sweepers for over 40 years.

There are now 30+ models, all of which have a range of accessories and all have particular specialities.

We have the huge BL960/BL740/BL400 blowers and vacuum units like the unbeatable SU40B & SU60 truck loaders, the SF150 which mounts on most utility vehicles, the SG200 for compact tractors, the SG400 high tip, multifunctional unit which can scarify/flail/brush and collect in one pass, the SG700/400 with the 3-piece 2 metre flexible scarifier, also available as a 3-point linkage unit. We also manufacture and supply the TRILO scarifier/Rail collectors and Top-dressers and Green Clipper electric mowers for large grass areas. For Sales, Parts, Service and Hire contact TRILO UK Ltd 01638 720123.

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HIGH PH?
REDUCE YOUR SOIL OR IRRIGATION WATER pH
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Re-Phlex is a new revolutionary state of the art acid replacement system. Re-Phlex replaces products like nitric acid, liquid sulphur and out performs urea-buffered sulphuric acid without the use of toxic or corrosive harsh mineral acids.

- REDUCE YOUR TURF pH
- revolutionary spray application
- blended with soil surfactants for improved water penetration
- reduces soil bicarbonates
- sulphur free formulation will not aggravate black layer

To request further details please e-mail: growth@indiflow.co.uk
Tel: +44 (0)118 971 0995
Fax: +44 (0)118 971 0990

www.indiflow.co.uk
Lower Farm Barns, Wasing, Nr Aldermaston, Berkshire, RG7 4NG. UK
How to Get to Harrogate

Rail:
Harrogate is served by the main line stations in Leeds and York. Trains run approximately every 30 minutes at peak time. Harrogate International Centre is a 10 minute walk from the station. Taxis are available outside the station and will cost around £3.50.

For further information on rail services to Harrogate contact National Rail Enquiries on 08457 48 49 50 or visit www.nationalrail.co.uk.

Air:
Leeds Bradford International Airport www.lbia.co.uk
Leeds/Bradford airport is approximately 12 miles from Harrogate. Taxis are available at the airport at a cost of approximately £18. You may wish to visit the following websites for flight information.
www.flybe.com • www.jet2.com • www.airsouthwest.com

The "Bus 2 Jet" 767 service links Leeds Bradford International Airport with Harrogate town centre. The service runs every 90 minutes between 0615 and 2245, with an average journey time of around half an hour. For further information on this service please contact Harrogate & District Travel Ltd on + 44 1423 566061 or visit www.bus2jet.com

Manchester International Airport www.manchesterairport.co.uk
Manchester International Airport is situated halfway between London and Edinburgh, 75 miles from Harrogate. Public Transport links are available 24 hours a day offering services to Harrogate via Leeds or York.

Coach:
National Express www.nationalexpress.com
National Express is the UK’s largest scheduled coach network, offering several services a day to Harrogate from all over the UK.

Car:
From M1: Leave at Leeds and take the A61 to Harrogate, approximately 15 miles. Harrogate International Centre is signposted.

From M62: Leave at Leeds and take the A61 to Harrogate, approximately 15 miles. Harrogate International Centre is signposted.

From the South A1(M): Leave the A1(M) at Wetherby and take the A661 to Harrogate, approximately 10 miles. Harrogate International Centre is signposted.

From the North A1(M): Leave A1(M) at junction 47 and take the A59 to Harrogate, approximately 8 miles. Harrogate International Centre is signposted.

Parking:
www.harrogate.gov.uk
Underground car parking is available at Harrogate International Centre, however, places will be limited and because of this we would encourage car sharing wherever possible. Please use lifts from the car park to level 4 (ground level) for the reception area and Exhibition Hall.

HIC underground car parks are open on an individual pay basis at the following times:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Tariff</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sun 21 Jan</td>
<td>Closed</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 22 Jan</td>
<td>0800 - 2000 hours</td>
<td>£ 3.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 23 Jan</td>
<td>0800 - 2000 hours</td>
<td>£ 5.50</td>
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<td>Wed 24 Jan</td>
<td>0800 - 2000 hours</td>
<td>£ 7.50</td>
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<td>Thur 25 Jan</td>
<td>0800 - 2000 hours</td>
<td>£10.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 26 Jan</td>
<td>0700 - 1800 hours</td>
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Harrogate Town Centre Car Parks
MULTI-STOREY: Victoria • Jubilee • West Park
SURFACE LEVEL: Odeon • Park View • Montpellier Shoppers • West Park

All town centre car parks are open 24 hours. Charges apply all days at all times (including Public Holidays). Free parking for Blue Badge holders and motorcycles.

Pay and Display parking is in operation in most town centre streets in Harrogate. Charges and restrictions apply on Sundays and Bank Holidays in all parking areas unless otherwise stated.

Sea:
Direct Ferries www.directferries.co.uk
Direct Ferries are part of Direct Ferries Ltd, an online travel provider based in the UK offering ferry crossings to the UK from the continent. Registered agents of the ferry operators are listed on the website, they sail to 14 Countries and 54 ferry ports on over 60 routes.

North Sea Ferries, from Rotterdam/Zeebrugge to Hull, 59 miles from Harrogate.

Park & Ride:
From the A1M: exit A59 towards Harrogate. Follow the ring road to the Great Yorkshire Showground (A661).

BTME & ClubHouse provides a FREE Park & Ride service from the Great Yorkshire Showground to Harrogate International Centre on Tuesday 23, Wednesday 24 and Thursday 25 January 2007.

If you are planning to drive to Harrogate, this service will help you avoid the traffic problems in town and save you looking for a parking space.

The journey from the Great Yorkshire Showground to the HIC normally takes around 10 minutes but does depend on traffic conditions.

The shuttle service will run at the following times:
• Tuesday 23 January 8.30 am to 5.30 pm
• Wednesday 24 January 8.30 am to 5.30 pm
• Thursday 25 January 8.30 am to 4.30 pm

Secure overnight parking is available Tuesday and Wednesday nights at no cost. However, drivers should note that access to vehicles will not be allowed outside the above operating times.
NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Please note that the Annual General Meeting of Members of the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association has been rearranged as follows:

Date: Wednesday 25th January 2007
Time: 6.00pm
Venue: The Queen's Suite, Harrogate International Centre, Harrogate, North Yorkshire

Turf Maintenance Lifts from Rotary Lift

Slider block bearings of Tivar® 1000 polyethylene are self-lubricating and maintenance free

Benefits:
- Highest rise available in the market with extended height models
- Lift can accommodate both three and four-wheel turf equipment
- Can also be used for golf cart maintenance
- Unique design permits easy access to reels and hydraulic systems
- Two cylinder design for greater dependability and smoother operation
- Can easily be converted to lift passenger cars and light trucks

Rotary UK Ltd
Tel: 01787 477711

VISIT US AT HARROGATE WEEK STAND M6

Get in contact with us now for our new 2006 catalogue.

Or visit our new website at www.golfcoursesigns.co.uk for the latest offers and news.
Are you a regular attendee of Harrogate Week? If so, why?

Yes I like to attend every year, it is a good time of year to consider buying new machinery for the new Season, we either have some budget left or in the new financial year have some new budget to spend. It is a good opportunity to network with Dealers, Manufacturers and other amenity professionals, being based in Halifax the Harrogate show is our local exhibition.

No last year was the first time I'd attended.

Irregular/occasional and dependant on other commitments.

I am a regular attendee because I believe it is one, if not THE, best shows in the trade.

Yes I do regularly attend Harrogate week, I attend so I can keep up to date with the latest techniques and technology, and see what is new in the market place. It's all very well reading about new products, but I find being able to check out all that's new, in the flesh, is better.

Yes I am, because I think I've been a guest speaker and workshop tutor since about 1995.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Which company stands are you hoping to visit and/or do business with during the week?</th>
<th>Which courses have you booked on and how do you rate the Continue to Learn Programme as a whole?</th>
<th>Is there anything BIGGA could do to make Harrogate Week better?</th>
<th>What is you favourite memory of Harrogate Week?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I am Looking forward to Seeing Alpha Amenity, Pitchcare, Scotts and meeting up and discussing new opportunities with training and Health and safety Providers.</td>
<td>The Seminars that I am intending to attend are on Tuesday “Product Compatibility and Tank Mixing for efficient turf maintenance” and “Its Hardly Rocket Science” Pesticides and Amenity Turf Developing a sustainable approach, both Seminars are areas that I am working within in the Amenity sector with a particular interest in Quality and Environmental management systems. It also allows me to obtain NRASo and Basis CPD points for my personal professional development.</td>
<td>For me perhaps a little more emphasis on the amenity sector although I do appreciate it is mainly a golf course and fine turf show.</td>
<td>Last year I was really impressed with Dr Karl Danneburger’s presentation on Primo Maxx Growth Retardant, which inspired to undertake a trial using Growth retardants to establish wildflower colonisation with amenity grass areas along the Hebble Trail in Calderdale.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The ones that are relevant to the subjects I teach at college, mostly greenkeeping related subjects to collect the most up to date information on products etc. to keep my teaching notes up to date!</td>
<td>None at present, as I don’t know for certain what dates I am attending yet.</td>
<td>Nothing I can think of as I have only been there once, the problem with car parking has been dealt with the shuttle service on offer this year.</td>
<td>Meeting up with past students and present employers, seeing what they are up to now and putting faces to a names.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Irrigation companies - Architectural Firms - Equipment Manufacturers - Suppliers various.</td>
<td>None at present.</td>
<td>It is a broadly based programme that allows delegates to choose their preferred options.</td>
<td>General optimism for the way ahead.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I try to visit as many stands as possible especially the machinery and over the years I’ve done a great deal of business.</td>
<td>I have not booked any courses but I rate the Continue to Learn programme very highly.</td>
<td>I am sure there are many out there who are better qualified than I am to answer this, and I am sure they will say yes. After all, it is their show and they should be proud to be a part of it. They should also get off their bottoms and do something instead of criticise.</td>
<td>Having been associated with BIGGA and Harrogate for more years than I care to mention, there are far too many memories. I have met and kept in touch with so many people over the years that the memories will last a lifetime, and I will meet many of them again in January - and hopefully for years to come.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I would have been there this year, however my wife is expecting our second child on the 18th January and I felt that it would have been terribly selfish of me to have booked some time away. But if she decides to produce our child early I may try and pop up for the day to have a walk around.</td>
<td>I have not booked anything from the Continue to learn programme, because of the reasons given above. The program as a whole is improving each year.</td>
<td>The amalgamation of BTME and Clubhouse has improved the stature of the show, to make Harrogate Week better; to keep improving the education side and try and entice the major exhibitors back to attending every year.</td>
<td>Meeting up with contacts and friends, and sharing best practices.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Well, I’m not there as a purchaser as such as I’m a training provider. I ran the Career Clinic last year and was guest speaker with Andy Campbell on Managing Finance.</td>
<td>My delegate have told me that what I do has been well received and since we have moved to the Queen’s Suite the lectures have been brilliant - the programme as a whole is marvellous but unfortunately I’m so busy I cannot attend any other courses.</td>
<td>BIGGA could look at attracting people from other industries, as the world of sport is a huge place. We could widen the audience by not just focusing on golf and trying to incorporate cricket, bowling greens, tennis and the Royal Horticulture Society.</td>
<td>I love meeting up with old friends. One of the fondest memories I have was at the Banquet at the Majestic Hotel. The guest speaker one year was a Scottish gynaecologist and I was expecting his jokes to be on that subject, however he told various golf related jokes and had us all in stitches. It was a good laugh.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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A Long Time Coming!

For the first time in its 10 year history, a Scottish club has won the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition. Brighouse Bay GC near Kirkcudbright in Galloway, have scooped this year's prize with one of the most holistic and deserving entries ever. Lee Penrose reports...

The course forms one of the principal attractions within the larger Brighouse Bay Holiday Park and is managed by a team of only four greenstaff under the guidance of Head Greenkeeper, Richard Davis. Owned and managed by Tom and Evelyn Gillespie, the overriding policy for the whole site states; “We at Brighouse Bay Holiday Park are endeavouring to become the most environmentally sustainable tourist resort in the United Kingdom.” Having already achieved the 'David Bellamy Gold Award' for sustainable tourism 10 years in a row, they can’t be far off!

The club have previously been the recipients of two BIGGA Scottish Regional Winners Awards. These prizes have largely been awarded for the progressive environmental management throughout the clubhouse and associated complex, in addition to the excellent outreach and communication with the surrounding communities. Recently completed and ongoing projects in these areas include; construction of a reedbed for wastewater treatment, use of solar panels on clubhouse/leisure club, onsite production of compost from green waste, use of grey/recycled water for course irrigation, energy transfer technology in clubhouse/leisure club, creation of environmental signs and booklets for visitors and a comprehensive recycling programme involving almost all arising waste streams.

2006 saw a tremendous improvement in the nature conservation side of the Club’s application with a significant number of habitat enhancement projects on the course. The 18 hole course nestles beautifully into its dramatic cliff top setting and appears to be timeless in character despite being only seven years old. The development of appropriately sited and managed deep rough grassland contributes to its air of naturalness while providing home to breeding skylark, adder and a host of other wildlife. Gorse has become a dominant feature of the...
A Long Time Coming!
central section of the course in recent years as it has developed into a mature to degenerate plant and marched aggressively through the high quality acid-grasslands. A strong gorse management programme has now been put into place in order to retain good quality specimens in the correct places while restoring grassland where appropriate.

Complete species lists of all flora and fauna (including a comprehensive mollusc list) have been professionally compiled so as to provide a basis for ongoing management and a record of the value of the course for local wildlife. The club have also engaged the services of the Scottish Golf Environment group to undertake an 'Appraisal of the Landscape and Cultural Heritage' of the course which recognises and provides management advice on all aspects of archaeological interest. One of the most important features highlighted within is the extensive network of dry stone walls (known locally as dykes) which provide outstanding habitat for specialist birds, reptiles and several types of lichen.

The most northerly golf course on mainland Britain is the proud title held by the Runners Up in the Winners region, Reay GC. Managed by a 'team' of one greenstaff (plus an extra man in the summer!), the traditional link course sits adjacent the sea 12 miles to the west of Thurso in Caithness. Do not be fooled, however, into thinking that such a modest club only contribute to the environment by accident. Proactive grassland, stream and dune management, composting and scrub removal are all excellent on course projects that are emphasised to the local community and tourists by nature walks and wildlife leaflets available. Perhaps Reay's best asset however is the minimal input approach to the whole site. Traditional greenkeeping and maintaining the status quo mean that this course is one of the most truly 'sustainable' in the UK.

In the North of England, St Annes Old Links were successful in only their second application to the competition in securing the regional title. An excellent individual project in the creation of a large practice tee utilising waste spoil from other onsite work was the highlight of this year's entry. As with all other winners in 2006, a holistic recycling policy is well in place with other important projects such as relict heathland restoration and scrub control on the golf course. Down into the Midlands; Notts (Hollinwell) Golf Club secured the regional title for the third year running. The club are widely recognised for their extensive heathland creation and specific habitat management on the golf course and have been highlighted in previous years of the competition for the construction of reedbeds for wastewater treatment.

Royal St Davids GC, in Harlech, have won the South West and Wales Region in their first year of entry, and stayed off some very stiff competition this year in historically the weakest region. Working closely with The Countryside Council for Wales and STRI in maintaining the Site of Scientific Interest (SSI) which covers some 95% of the course, the club are undertaking extensive grassland management trials in order to develop the most appropriate techniques in maintaining a good quality sward for both wildlife and golf.

The South East Region has previously hailed more overall winners that any other in the history of the competition. 2006 again saw some extremely strong entries from a range of golf clubs. After much deliberation by the judges, the public pay and play Rookwood Golf Course in West Sussex were finally chosen as regional winners. Owned by Horsham District Council, the course is managed sympathetically for wildlife with buffer zones developed around all water bodies for breeding water fowl. In 2006 when concerns about golf courses using excessive water for irrigation made national news, Rookwood took it upon themselves to put a few ill-educated pessimists straight and produce a series of signs and leaflets about the strict water use policy on the course. The promotional materials that contain the tag line 'Using water wisely' are professionally produced. What is more, they have been displayed in high profile areas, on the roadside at the entrance to the course, on the
course and in the pro shop and club house leaving no-one who passes or visits the course in doubt that the club is fully committed to water conservation.

Water use features strongly in the ‘Best New Initiative’ prize in the 2006 competition also. The Grove Golf Centre in Herefordshire (not to be confused with its namesake in Hertfordshire) have recently installed a collection and treatment system, which will capture all water used in the clubhouse and surroundings, in addition to rainwater landing on roofs and hardstandings. The water is treated via an underground series of chambers before passing through a reedbed and into a storage lake and used for course irrigation. This makes the club completely self-sufficient in terms of course irrigation and moreover makes each litre of water paid for work twice as hard!

Guildford GC have clinched the coveted Best New Entrant Prize this year for their excellent conservation work on the course. Restoring relict heathland on a presently wooded golf course, forms a large part of the greenstaff’s annual workload and involves assisting in maintenance of a nearby nature reserve in return for heather seed/turves. An outstanding project emphasised to the judges is the Club working closely with Surrey Wildlife Trust in placing 30 dormouse boxes alongside the 8th hole. Over the last year the Mammal Recording Officer has recorded two mating pairs - pretty good for a species named on the IUCN Red List and the subject of a UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

All in all, 2006 has been another excellent year for the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, Brighouse Bay finally came out overall winners, however they were pushed all the way to the last by one of the regional winners. The competition is consistently getting harder to judge as the clubs involved in sound ecological management has risen from a small percentage to a majority. The full list of clubs achieving a prize or highly commended certificate is printed below, which I hope highlights the fact the competition is open to all clubs irrelevant of size or history and that no biased is placed on prestige...only effort and attitude.

As always, I would like to offer the sincere appreciation of all involved with The BIGGA Golf Environment Competition to our generous sponsors at Ransomes Jacobson, Syngenta, CourseCare and Scotts. If it were not for the support of these environmentally progressive companies, the Competition would not be sustained as the most prestigious annual environmental event in golf.
Co-sponsoring the competition for the first time this year are Course Care and the company are proud to be associated with BIGGA and sponsor the Environment Competition.

They see environmental issues as a priority and do as much as they can to protect the environment by recycling, taking their environmental responsibilities seriously. They manage a Waste Transfer Station at their Keighley base and are fully licensed by the Environment Agency (licence No. EAWML/65417). They operate in an environmentally responsible way and, for instance, have installed purpose made plant and equipment to process and recycle much of the collected waste. Currently 95% of the waste collected from golf and turf management customers under their Waste Away scheme is recycled. This includes the many thousands of plastic chemical containers. Instead of taking them to landfill, they are turned into chips, which are re-processed and turned into useful rot proof items for use around the course; fence posts, seating, walkway, sleepers etc. Many other products are recycled and include; waste oil, aerosols, filters, fluorescent tubes, batteries, redundant plastic wheelie bins and window frames, old oil tanks, etc.

With the advent of the new WEEE regulations (waste electrical and electronic equipment), they have expanded their waste management services to include items such as old fridges, computers, TV’s and monitors, printers, radios and phones etc. They are encouraging waste reduction through recycling and composting by customers too. Their new composting machines will turn grass clippings, twigs, branches, leaves, green kitchen waste and all that cardboard from the pro-shop into compostable material.
Tyre specialists will typically carry a wide assortment of both new and used tyres, the fatter perhaps providing a more economical means of kitting out a little-used but still viable item of equipment.

What Can A Tyre Specialist Do For You?

You would not ask for seed mixture or top dressing advice from a tyre specialist. So why is it we often ask tyre specialists to supply a tyre as opposed to seeking their recommendations? James de Havilland discusses...

First things first. It is all too easy to assume that a tyre wholesale company or fitting outlet is also a tyre specialist. The reality is that it can take some shopping around to find someone who really understands your needs and can source the right tyres. By the right tyres, incidentally, that means more than just supplying the correct size and tread pattern. Although they all have being round and black in common, tyres can vary hugely in what they can offer.

Buying replacement tyres for an existing item of equipment should be easy enough. A like for like replacement will typically be a sensible choice. This will apply particularly to ride on mowers. Most designs do not really allow for a different size of tyre to be fitted. That is not to say a 'better' alternative brand may not be available, but in most cases the same type and size of tyre to the original will remain the best choice.

It is when looking at other equipment, to include trailed equipment and tractors, that a bit of lateral thinking can help. A good example is an old four tonne capacity trailer used for odd jobs in winter. Fitted with rock hard tyres, the trailer has restricted use. The right wheel and tyre combination, however, could see the same trailer used to ferry materials around the course year round behind a suitable shod tractor.

Modern mowers will typically be supplied with tyres optimised to suit their application, with little room for alternatives. Tyre design and size availability does change, however, so it may be worth checking with a specialist if seeking alternatives, particularly on an older model.
You cannot tell which of these tyres will be the best for working on turf simply by looking. Different carcass strengths and construction methods will influence load bearing capacity and inflation pressures. It is better to seek advice than try and become a tyre expert.

Buying a new set of wheel rims and tyres for an old trailer may seem a bit extreme, particularly with modern flotation rubber costing as much as it does at present. Weigh up this cost against the cost of investing in a new trailer or alternative such as a utility vehicle however, and the sums can start to make sense. The trick is to see what is on offer.

**RADIAL VERSUS CROSS PLY**

If a tyre supplier blankly states radial tyres are superior to those with cross ply construction, then you all you need to know is that they are not a specialist. Although radials may well suit modern cars they are not always right for equipment that operates on turf. Indeed the Goodyear Terra Tire, which many would argue set the ‘flotation’ ball rolling back in the 1970s, was and remained a cross ply until production ceased in 2005. (Goodyear sold its agricultural division in the US to Titan Tire).

Frankly the tyre's construction is not something to be concerned about. What is far more relevant is the tyre's ability to do a specific set of tasks. So instead of asking for a radial tyre to fit a certain make and model of tractor, the better approach is to outline what the tyre will have to do.

**SELECTING THE RIGHT TYRE**

There are two elements to this. The first is to determine what existing tyre and wheel rim are fitted. If these are not doing what is asked of them, identify what the problem is. In most cases it will be that the tyres footprint and inflation pressures are incompatible with working on certain areas of the course.

At this stage, the solution will seem to be obvious. Fit as large a set of tyres as possible onto the existing rims. As long as the diameter of the tyres matches those of the originals, the axle ratios on 4WD equipment should remain the same. The problem is that this is actually more difficult to achieve than may at first be appreciated.

An alternative approach is to consider what the machine in question is used for. In the case of a tractor, it can pay to retain the original wheels and tyres and take a second approach; purchasing a new set of wheels to go with what may be purpose designed flotation tyres. A good tyre specialist will be able to come up with a broad choice, offering recommendations that could allow a 45hp tractor to have a large enough footprint to safety work on the greens.
At Fieldens we have tyres, wheels and the experience to keep your machines moving whatever the conditions without damaging valuable playing surfaces.

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What Can A Tyre Specialist Do For You?

A wide, small diameter rim is the key to fitting the tyres with the lowest ground bearing pressures. A specialist will be able to come up with a wheel and tyre package to suit specific demands. This level of flotation may simply not be achievable with tyres that will fit the original rims supplied with the tractor. Of equal importance, retaining the ‘old’ wheels and tyres for other duties, such as loader work, will help enhance the life of the flotation tyres. A set of tyres can easily outlive the original tractor if only used on turf and not hard surfaces.

GEARING UP TO SWAP OVER WHEEL SETS

Although one set of wheels and tyres for a given vehicle may well suit a course where there is enough equipment to be reserved for certain duties, being able to swap wheels to suit a specific task is a viable alternative. A decent jack and air tools can make removing and fitting replacements much easier, perhaps 20 minutes with practice.

There is also no reason why certain wheels cannot be swapped between different equipment. A wide set of top dresser tyres could well fit a trailer. The trick is to think how tyres can be mixed and matched.

NO NEED TO STICK TO ONE MAKE OR DESIGN

There is nothing in the rulebook that says it is wrong to mix different brands or patterns of tyre between axles. A tractor can have a set of Galaxy rubber on the back with Titan tyres on the front. As long as the rolling diameters marry up on 4WD axles to prevent torque wind up, there will not be a problem. In some instances, running the ‘wrong’ tyre combination may be fine if the driven axle up front is not engaged.

FIND A SPECIALIST AND STICK WITH HIM

As mentioned at the outset, there is a difference between a tyre specialist and a tyre supplier. The latter will be able to source and fit tyres you choose. A specialist will be able to offer advice and come up with tyres to meet specific needs. If you know what you want and know what new tyres are coming onto the market, a tyre supplier will be fine. For the rest of us, it is better to ask a specialist to help out.

With thanks to Dick Anderson, R H Claydon Ltd (www.rhc.co.uk) and Les Moreton, Sam Moreton and Son (www.farmerstyre.co.uk).

Tractor manufacturers will offer a choice of standard tyres, with dealers perhaps offering a further set of alternatives. But it is tyre specialists who may come up with the best package. Before selecting a tractor, see what tyres are available to fit. Remember also that front driven axles need tyres compatible with those at the rear.
Perhaps it's as we get older, but it seems as though modern day living involves looking for labour saving opportunities, or it could even be that we're lulled by marketing gurus into thinking that all self respecting golfers should travel in style.

I'm referring to the fact that more and more golf clubs are offering buggies as an option and that as a result more and more clubs are looking to build cart paths to accommodate them and reduce wear on the playing surface.

Paths are what could be described as a necessary evil at modern day clubs. It can be hard to make them look attractive but they do an important job and with buggy hire a potentially lucrative revenue stream for clubs finding a way of integrating them into the layout of the course is becoming increasingly worthwhile.

Not every golf course is capable of coping with a cart path. Space is an obvious issue. Many courses were built even before cars were a popular form of transport never mind buggies to transport golfers around a golf course and with that in mind, space around greens in particular was not built into plans for any future path. Heath and Safety issues are also key, with slopes often rendering paths and buggies unusable - courses split by roads and devoid of tunnels or bridges are also not conducive to buggy golf.

If a course is deemed suitable for four wheeled travel as well as the more traditional two legged variety a path is much the best way to ensure damage to the playing areas is kept to a minimum. Giving free rein to buggies can cause erosion in some areas and compaction in others while, although it sounds all too obvious, a path is far in away the best way to ensure golfers stick to a prescribed route.

If a cart path has been identified as an option to explore the next decision is what it should be made from and there are several options to look into.

Woodchippings or shell can be ideal for some clubs for footpaths but not so good for cart paths as retaining the materials within the confines of the path is extremely difficult.

Concrete or paving is much more efficient and long lasting but is expensive to lay.

Other options include artificial turf which assists in blending the path into the rest of the golf course.

"Verdeturf is an 18mm open pile artificial grass, which is UV and colour stabilised. The tufted pile of the grass is to be filled to within 2-3mm off the surface with kiln dried sand. This sand holds the grass in place, eliminating the necessity for nails or other fixings. The sand also protects the tufts from spiked shoes and provides a natural appearance to the finished installation," said Beth Lucas, of Verdeturf.

The company also produces Super Verdegrass which does not require a sand dressing so should be held in place with either all-weather adhesive or galvanised nails. Super Verdegrass can also be used for covering bridges, where the weight of the sand in the Verdeturf may be too heavy. It is also very popular on areas near the clubhouse, where a non sand filled product is preferred," said Beth.

Tenax tackles the problem of erosion with their GridLock pavers. These are injection moulded cellular structures which hold the stabilising material in place preventing any further erosion.

"Manufactured from HDPE, GridLock is resistant to oil, chemicals and extremes of temperature and has the strength to withstand loads in excess of 170 tonnes per square metre," explained Michael Carr, of Tenax
"You can lay the on top of existing materials. I think it was over shell at Bognor and it will work beautifully while they are great for areas around the clubhouse and any soggy parts of the course," explained Tom, who said he’d coloured chippings in his rockery at home.

So there are options out there for any club looking to improve their golf course from a health and safety or revenue generating perspective.

Thanks for Verdegrass, Tenax and Castcrete Ltd for their co-operation with this feature.

Installation of the interlocking pavers is easily carried out with very little ground preparation required since the pavers are simply laid on to a 25mm sub-base of sand or other granular material. St Neots GC is one of the clubs in the UK which has gone down the GridLock route.

Another material which is finding favour in modern day path production also carries environmental credentials in that it owns its existence to recycling.

Rubber chippings produced for old tyres reduce the wear of buggy tyres, are quiet and once they have been laid compact to make a solid surface - although they are not suitable for sloping areas.

"They can also be coloured to blend in to the surroundings," said Tom Brooker, Director of Castcrete Ltd.

"We sold an initial batch of half a tonne to Bognor Regis Golf Club and they came back once they’d tried it and bought another nine tonnes and then a further five after that," he explained.
The Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992 (PPEW Regulation) came into force on January 1, 1993 with the main requirement being that personal protective equipment is to be supplied and used at work wherever there are risks to health and safety that cannot be adequately controlled by other means.

Ok, so protective clothing is essential when working within the greenkeeping industry, but there are so many new and exciting innovations in workwear that nowadays you don't have to look stupid to be safe!

Melissa Toombs looks at workwear legislation and four of today's best brands.

Interestingly, PPE is defined in the Regulations as 'all equipment (including clothing affording protection against the weather) which is intended to be worn or held by a person at work and which protects him/her against one or more risks to his/her health or safety'. This is important, as some employers in the greenkeeping industry have thought that waterproof and warm clothing is not classed as PPE. An employer cannot ask for money from an employee for PPE, whether it is returnable or not.

To ensure adequate protection is afforded to employees, risk assessments should be carried out and equipment carefully chosen and supplied by the employer. Ask your PPE supplier for advice if you are unsure, as various options may be available depending on the nature of the risks involved. All equipment purchased, however, should be 'CE' marked and comply with the Personal Protective Equipment Regulations 2002.

Risk assessments should include the following six main hazard areas.

- Eyes - Hazards: Chemical or metal splash, dust, projectiles, gas and vapour, radiation. Options: Safety spectacles, goggles, faceshields, visors.
- Head - Hazards: Impact from falling objects, risk of head bumping, hair entanglement. Options: A range of helmets and bump caps.
- Breathing - Hazards: Dust, vapour and gas. Options: Disposable filtering facepiece or respirator, half or full face respirators, air-fed helmets, breathing apparatus.
- Protecting the body - Hazards: Temperature extremes, adverse weather, chemical or metal splash, spray from pressure leaks or spray guns, impact or penetration, contaminated dust, excessive wear or entanglement of own clothing. Options: Conventional or disposable overalls, boiler suits, waterproof jackets and trousers, specialist protective clothing, e.g. Hi-vis clothing, spraysuits, chainsaw wear.
- Hands and arms - Hazards: Abrasion, temperature extremes, cuts and punctures, impact, chemicals, electric shock, skin infection, disease or contamination. Options: Gloves, gauntlets, mitts, wristcuffs, armlets.
- Feet and legs - Hazards: Wet, electrostatic build-up, slipping, cuts and punctures, falling objects, molten metal and chemical splash, abrasion. Options: Safety boots and shoes with protective toecaps and penetration resistant mid-sole, gaiters, leggings, spats.

N.B. Hearing protection and respiratory protective equipment provided for most work situations are not covered by PPEW Regulations because other regulations apply to them. Training is essential for those using PPE and should include reasons for use, how it is used, repaired or replaced and its limitations. Maintenance of PPE is important. It should be properly stored, cleaned and kept in good repair. Replacement should be in accordance with manufacturers requirements, e.g. Helmets, which are used daily and exposed to sunlight, have a realistic life span of about two years and should be replaced after this period, irrespective of any signs of wear or damage.
SAFETY EYEWEAR FOR GREENKEEPERS

The peace and tranquillity of the golf course early in the morning may seem a strange place to be concerned about eye protection - but health and safety issues surrounding greenkeeping are a major concern. When you have to work all day every day in all weather and light conditions - sometimes with golf balls flying towards you - then it's reassuring to know that today's safety eyewear is not just stylish and comfortable. It has been engineered to the highest safety standards and can actually enhance vision in poor light.

Nowadays, all safety eyewear used in the work environment has to meet rigorous European safety standards. You might be familiar with the oft-quoted code EN 166 1F. It sounds impressive - but what does it actually mean?

Effectively each group of numbers tells you just how good these products are - EN designates the European Safety standard that is certified for the product. 166 is the designation for eyewear. 1F tells you that the glasses are grade 1 optical quality - and 'F' is a level of impact protection - this test standard demands the lens can withstand a ball bearing fired at 80mph without shattering. Now isn't that good to know when you are in the firing line out on the fairway?

Amazingly safety eyewear is engineered to performance standards that may put expensive performance sports sunglasses to shame. This is best illustrated by looking at some of the top models on the market today.

SAFETY GLASSES: BEST BUYS

Course Care's bestseller is the Course Care Eyeshield - the superb safety spectacle. Available with clear, amber or brown lens and approved to EN 166 1F KN, these glasses feature:
- Impact protection up to grade F
- Ergonomical design, good field of vision
- Soft temple arms with spring effect
- Adjustable length to five positions
- Integrated brow, side and cheek guards and simple lens replacement.

BIGGA Regatta Safety/Sun Glasses provide complete protection against speed particles for your eyes. Features include:
- Soft touch
- Non-slip frame/arms
- Lightweight polycarbonate construction
- Full UV protection

Supplied with a drawstring microfibre pouch, which doubles up as a cleaning cloth. Regatta Safety/Sun Glasses cost £15 per pair or £25 if supplied with a protective case and three pairs of interchangeable lenses for varying sunlight strength - available from BIGGA HQ

Sometimes, budget is the main pre-requisite for safety glasses - and here Exor stands head and shoulders above the crowd. For the price you get a superb specification. The wraparound style provides unsurpassed all-round protection. The arms adjust for both length and angle - so Exor can be personalised to fit heads of all shapes and sizes. Here too the grade one lenses come in every variation you need - clear, grey sun lens or orange for low light levels. The glasses are still approved to EN166 1F and there's even a free neck cord to help ensure you don't forget which hole or fairway you left them on!

Safety glasses offer superb impact protection - but some jobs demand total wraparound protection - mixing and using herbicides for example. This is where goggles are so vital. There's no compromise with Chemor.
- The head strap is easily adjustable for a secure fit
- The lenses are anti-scratch on the outside and anti-fog on the inside
- They can even be worn over prescription spectacles

 Specify Chemor for your safety goggles and you can be confident that it gives splash and airborne droplet protection - one size really does fit all.

One final word on safety eyewear - lenses. Today's safety eyewear lenses are highly sophisticated and offer remarkable levels of protection. They are probably far superior to many sunglasses. Clear lenses don't just protect against impact - they can be anti-scratch, anti-fog - or both! They also give 100% protection against harmful UV radiation. This menace may be lurking unseen even on overcast days.

Yellow and orange lenses enhance vision in poor light - and grey sun lenses filter out intense light to make working in bright conditions so much more comfortable - again while blocking harmful UV radiation.
WINTER WARMERS

The Course Care Driza-Bone Greenkeeper Suit is high quality, waterproof, breathable, lightweight and practical.

Features include:
• Fully taped seams
• Double layer fabric
• Concealed hood, cuff and waist adjustment.

Normally selling at £120 plus VAT, readers can purchase the suit (while stocks last) at only £85 plus VAT.

The First Base Cap is a ventilated, attractively styled bump cap offering an affordable degree of head protection. Available from Course Care in navy or green, the cap costs £13.85 plus VAT.

Showa has been a pioneer in the design of coated knit gloves for 25 years. They specialise in the creation and manufacture of gloves, building their development process around innovation and ultimate quality. This gives the wearer greater safety, greater dexterity and greater comfort, thereby reducing the need for wearers to remove their hand protection. Gloves pictured cost £2.99 plus VAT from Strathallan Safety Supplies.

GET DRESSED FOR WINTER
Strathallan Safety Supplies in Fife has discovered how well Mascot® comply with the needs and demands of greenkeepers. Some of their most popular products among greenkeepers are the Genova Pilot Jacket (£66.80 plus VAT) and the Savona Parka Jacket (£92.24 plus VAT), in combination with the Wolfurt Overtrousers (£41.99 plus VAT). All three of these products are waterproof, windproof, breathable and tough.

Made with porelle membrane sandwiched between two textile layers, these SealSkinz gloves are 100% waterproof and breathable and designed to offer excellent grip and dexterity in wet conditions. Retailing at £22.50, BIGGA offer a discount price of £16 + £1 p&p to members.

Blåkläder products are designed with the latest technical fabrics that offer the wearer excellent durability and strength together with the comfort and freedom of movement required for working garments. Trousers in cotton or harder wearing polyester/cotton can now have Cordura® knee pad pockets and functional pockets for extra tools, pencils and mobile phones. Winter jackets are made with Blåkläder’s “WabTech” fabric which is waterproof, windproof and breathable. Based on many years of experience of making working clothes for those harsh Swedish Winters, Blåkläder are promoting the three-layer principle for working outside in the cold winter months. This includes:

1). A base ‘wicking’ layer that wicks any moisture away from the skin and regulates body temperature.
2). An intermediate layer that wicks the moisture further away from the body and insulates against cold thereby maintaining your body heat.
3). A breathable outer layer that protects you from the cold, wind and rain and releases the moisture so it can evaporate on the outside.

Arco were approached and asked if they wished to contribute to this article but declined the invitation. BIGGA members are entitled to a 20% discount on certain Arco products. See this month’s buyers guide for other workwear specialists.

The combination of these Mascotex® products generates a fully waterproof set that keeps you warm and still allows the body to transport perspiration away from the skin.

The Mascotex® products are certified according to the norm EN 343, the European standard for wind and weather protection.
MANAGING ENVIRONMENTAL PRESSURE

By Henry Bechelet

WAY OF THINKING
“Changing The Nature of Your Greens” introduced the idea of greenkeeping as environmental management. The article gives an understanding of the nature of the grasses and it shows how to select the finer species by setting the environment correctly. For the finer grasses to flourish they need the environmental pressures to be managed properly. This way of thinking has become known as The Disturbance Theory.

A NEW WHEEL
Traditional greenkeeping method has always sought to use stress to encourage the finer grasses. But, it is now a markedly different world from the days of Old Tom and we have to adopt slightly different strategies when creating our putting surfaces. Modern golf demands year-round play and ever-quicker putting surfaces and our industry has provided us with an arsenal of super effective machines designed to help us satisfy the situation. As a result, the pressures impacting on our turf are more intense than ever. It is becoming more and more difficult to favour the finer grasses but it is not impossible. This theory aims to bring greenkeeping for the finer grasses up-to-date for everyone’s sake.

PRESSURE’S ON
You’ll be pleased to know that modern day environmental pressure now comes in the forms of disturbance and competition as well as stress. To achieve the finer grasses you just need to understand both the nature and impact of all of these pressures and then use them properly. Success is reliant on your powers of observation as well as your skill as a greenkeeper.

STRESS ACTUALLY...
Stress is more precisely defined as the environmental constraints to growth. This may include droughting, starving, shading, drenching, freezing, soil compaction and potentially soil acidity and salinity. They are all the elements that restrict the growing environment. Environmental stress can be used to progressively select desirable species from those less tolerant. The problem with stress is that it comes in many different forms that each exert different types of selection pressure. So, when thinking and talking about stress we need to be clear about its exact nature and individual impact. Stress tolerators aren’t necessarily tolerant to all stresses and so salinity can kill a drought tolerant plant. (see the article “The Salt of the Earth” for more detail).

NOW NOT STRESS
Disturbance is the physical damage occurring within the environment. This is particularly pertinent for golf greens, which rely on regular mowing as its fundamental preparation treatment. As you can imagine, regular disturbance imposes a huge selection pressure on the environment. Quick growing weeds are the natural beneficiaries if there is too much damage and too often. Naturally slow growers find it hard to recover. Disturbance includes wear, disease, pitch mark damage as well as the mechanical treatments. The articles “Do Not Disturb” and “Is Verticutting Necessary” cover the issue of disturbance in relation to the surface preparations.

AND NOT LEAST
The final environmental pressure is competition. This is the battle between plants to survive and possibly assume dominance within the environment. Some plants have evolved to naturally assume dominance given the right conditions. The bents and fescues will do this if you let them, BUT their competitive edge will struggle to exert itself if the stress/disturbance are overriding. Constant hacking will not allow plants to force themselves on the situation. You need to ease the wider pressure to let the stronger better nature of the finer grasses take over. “Competitive Edge” takes a look into this area.

ALL IS EVERYTHING
These pressures do not act in isolation, they work together to all create the nature of the growing environment. As turf managers, we simply need to move towards the environmental balance that is suited for the desired species. We have to use the weather when it comes.

Of course this isn’t going to be easy. We already know that the innate pressures are naturally high and with the golfers level of expectation the environment is usually intense. Who said it was going to be easy? Believe me that all you need to do is understand the
pressures acting on your environment and work to direct them in a positive way. Take heart from all the greenkeepers who are already on the road and heading forward. This is the early days of the Disturbance Theory.

AN ENVIRONMENTAL YEAR

Let me quickly run through the seasons to give you an idea on how to think in a Disturbance Theory way. To recap on the ideas of CNYG; for the finer grasses to flourish we need to minimise disturbance and control beneficial stress to let competition take hold. Overseeding is required to continually improve your starting point. Simple stuff. We minimise disturbance through considerate winter management and with our year-round mechanical maintenance. To reduce the level of disturbance pressure we can cut fertiliser and irrigation inputs and so minimise the need for aggressive verticutting and mowing. We can play with droughting as a beneficial stress against the annual meadow-grass given the chance. The vegetation will soon change if you manage the environmental pressures considerately. Here’s what you need to do...

SPRING

In spring we need to boost growth sufficiently to generate recovery growth and allow the early season surface preparations to take place. The use of sulphate of ammonia feeds will bring acidity stress to bear against the annual meadow-grass if chosen. Verticut and scarify to prepare the surfaces by all means but don’t go over the top. Top dress to prepare your surfaces without getting too aggressive. Minimise disturbance within reason and growth.

SUMMER

Once you have created your surfaces, try to keep them quiet so that their playing qualities don’t quickly grow out and constantly require regular aggressive verticutting treatments to get them back. Top dress and roll/iron to create firm, fast and true surfaces rather than constantly verticutting and scalping. Use ironing to add the polish. You must also prevent the development of dry patch stress with spiking, the use of wetting agents and focused irrigation. With this in place you can confidently exert drought pressure towards the end of summer (given the chance) to weaken the annual meadow-grass in preparation for the late summer/early autumn overseeding programme. Rather than burning out the annual meadow-grass why not try for a touch of easier anthracnose? Minimise disturbance and control stress to let competition take hold later in the summer.

AUTUMN

Prevent undue weakness moving into autumn with the use of a low NK plus Iron turf hardener. Really remove thatch at this time because the meadow-grass isn’t seeding into the gaps. This is the natural time to overseed to get more of the good stuff in. Always use top rated seed. Renovate while growth is strong to bring quick recovery and get the fixture list organised well enough to allow a couple of weeks minor disruption afterwards. A late Captains day can ruin your plans for the year. To overseed properly it really needs to be carried out with a couple of months establishment growth still available. Connect the seed with the soil at the correct depth. Top dress to perfect the playing surfaces for a prolonged autumn playing season. Take care with the establishment. Raise the height of cut and continue to vibratory roll or hand mow to maintain playing qualities through until the end of the season. Disturb only for overseeding sake and minimise all else as growth tails off. Raise the height of cut early. Always prevent disease disturbance through integrated control methods as they aim to favour the finer grasses anyway.

WINTER WEAR

Winter play can be very damaging. The wear disturbance is magnified at this time as plant growth tails off and the turf has less strength to recover. Try to keep the players off when they are damaging the surfaces. Simply provide decent alternatives and they won’t grumble too much. Also, do not be stupid with your cutting height at this time of year, it might be the difference between long-term success and failure. Greenkeeping isn’t about making friends at times but its better in the long-run Vibratory rollers can still help if dovetailed with aeration. Don’t disturb the surfaces with aeration if ground conditions aren’t right. Enforce pitch mark repair. Only verticut at this time if you want annual meadow-grass. Minimise disturbance. Minimise disturbance.

THE WAY FORWARD

So much of greenkeeping is about the attitude of the head man. If you want the finer grasses you have to try to understand your own turfgrass environment and be prepared to manage the pressures properly. Dogmatic recommendations aren’t much help but they can help you stay focused in the right area. It is very simple; we want to create an environment that is more suited to the development of the finer grasses. To be successful in this approach you just need to be alive to any opportunities that will allow you to manipulate or regulate the pressures. This isn’t rocket science, it just means you tuning-in better to the environmental conditions. You can do it. If you are patient enough then the finer grasses will come. Give yourself five years and stop fretting. Be confident enough to make the finer grasses happen and it will make your life easier. Better surfaces for longer in the year. No pressure from me.

Henry Bechelet is the STRI Turfgrass Agronomist covering North and Eastern England. Henry may be contacted by email at: henry.bechelet@stri.co.uk or via: www.stri.co.uk

Henry Bechelet is the STRI Turfgrass Agronomist covering North and Eastern England. Henry may be contacted by email at: henry.bechelet@stri.co.uk or via: www.stri.co.uk
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FREE SUBSCRIPTION TO GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL
A monthly copy of the Association’s award winning magazine delivered free to your door, keeping you up to date with all that’s new in the industry.

BIGGA LIBRARY
The BIGGA Library boasts over 650 books available to borrow for up to six weeks. The only cost is that of returning the book to HQ.

BIGGA REFUND OF FEES SCHEME
Members may apply for an 80% refund of education and training fees up to a maximum of £350. Conditions apply. Call 01347 833800 for an application form.

BIGGA REGIONAL TRAINING
BIGGA provide quality education and training courses at a minimum cost thanks to the support of Golden and Silver Key Members who contribute to the Education and Development Fund. Call 01347 833800.

DISCOUNTED WORKWEAR
BIGGA have teamed up with ARCO, the leading supplier of workwear, safety clothing and maintenance products to offer members 20%* discount off a choice of goods. Call 01482 611773.

*Discount not available on selected products.

CAR LEASING
Driving a brand new car couldn’t be easier. Bigga has teamed up with Lex FreeChoice to offer an exclusive scheme which allows you and your family members to drive the car you’ve always wanted at a price you can afford. Call 0800 419 930 and quote BIGGA.

CAR RENTAL
BIGGA have enrolled in National’s Affinity Leisure Programme that offers members exclusive rates on car and van hire in the UK and on international car hire in over 80 countries. Ring 0870 191 6950 and quote A099084 for UK Car hire, A099085 for UK Van Hire and 8573290 for International Car Hire.

INSURANCE QUOTATION SERVICE
A quotation service is available to members on a wide range of insurance products. Call 01603 828255 and quote UniBG0306.

NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES
When you join you are automatically given membership of one of the 27 sections around the country. As an active member you can attend golf days and other social events on a regular basis enabling you to network amongst others in the industry. Look at the ‘Around the Green’ section for contact details.

BIGGA WEBSITE - www.bigga.org.uk
Exclusive access to the Members area of the website. Interact with other greenkeepers on the bulletin board or check out the latest recruitment vacancies in the industry. For Greenkeepers and Student Members only.
BIGGA is actively involved in raising the Standard of Greenkeeper Training. The Association is a member of the Greenkeepers’ Training Committee and strives to enhance the level of education though various means, including Section, Regional and National workshops, seminars and conferences.

The range and quality of training now available throughout the UK means that there is a training course for every greenkeeper. This should improve the quality of greenkeeping and help to produce better quality golf courses to the benefit of all within the industry.

Golf Course Managers should ensure that their staff are trained to the highest standards. This begins by selecting a training provider that meets the criteria laid down by the GTC. There is a clear link between education, training and economic success and all clubs should invest in the education of their staff.

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

Training providers guide
Available courses guide
The guide overleaf is not exhaustive and a full list of GTC approved training providers can be obtained from the GTC. The Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC) are continually reviewing the approved status of training providers offering greenkeeper training courses. Anyone with a query regarding greenkeeper training should contact the Greenkeeper Training Committee at Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Aline, York YO61 1UF, Tel: 01347 838640 or visit their website at http://www.the-gtc.co.uk
SCOTLAND

LANGSIDE COLLEGE
Rutherglen Campus,
Buchanan Drive,
Rutherglen,
Glasgow, G73 3PF
Contact: William O’Neil
Tel: 0141 272 3823
Email: wonell@langside.ac.uk

WALES

PENCOED
Pencoed, Bridgend, Cardiff, CF35 5LG
Contact: Paul Discombe or John Sullivan
Tel: 01656 302672
Fax: 01656 302601
Email: pfdiscombe@bridgend.ac.uk
Web: www.bridgend.ac.uk

ENGLAND

ASKHAM BRYAN COLLEGE
Askham Bryan, York, North Yorkshire, Y023 3FR
Contact: Central Admissions
Tel: 01904 772211
Email: enquires@askham-bryan.ac.uk
Web: www.askham-bryan.ac.uk

BERKSHIRE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
Hall Place, Burchetts Green, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 6QR
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BRIDGWATER COLLEGE CANNINGTON CENTRE FOR LAND-BASED STUDIES
Cannington, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA5 2LS
Contact: Course Enquiries
Tel: 01278 441234 Fax: 01278 444363
Email: enquiries@bridgewater.ac.uk
Web: www.bridgewater.ac.uk

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Email: enquiries@myerscough.ac.uk
Websites: www.myerscough.ac.uk
Myerscough College, Bilsborrow, Preston, Lancashire PR3 0RY
**HADLOW COLLEGE**

Tonbridge, Kent, TN1 0AL  
**Contact:** Sally Flanagan  
Tel: 0500 551434 / 01732 853164  
Email: enquiries@hadlow.ac.uk  
**Website:** www.hadlow.ac.uk  
**Information:** NVQ's, Apprenticeships and Work Based Learning courses available in Amenity Horticulture (Sports Turf), Amenity Horticulture (Landscape) and Production Horticulture. We also offer a range of short courses for example, Health and Safety, COSHH, Chainsaw use, Welding and Pesticide Applications. Additionally, full and part-time courses at different levels in Horticulture and a variety of other land-based subjects are available.

**MERRIST WOOD CAMPUS OF GUILDFORD COLLEGE**

Worplesdon, Guildford, Surrey GU3 3PE  
**Contact:** Keith Harrison  
Tel: 01483 884136  
Email: kharrison@guildford.ac.uk  
**Website:** www.guildford.ac.uk  
**Information:** Part-time courses: NVQ Level 2 Sports Turf college day release and workplace visits/assessments. Level 2 First Diploma college day release, for those without qualified workplace assessors. NVQ Level 3 Sports Turf on-line, Level 3 National Award college day release for those without qualified workplace assessors, HNC Turfgrass Science and Management college day release over 2 years, HND day release 1 extra year plus a Top-up BSc Degree for HND graduates part-time over 2 years, Foundation Degree in Sports Turf Science (subject to validation) plus various short courses including BTUA Irrigation Certificate Course, throughout the year. Please contact us for up-to-date listings, qualifications and advice. Open evenings are held regularly at the Campus.

**MYERSCOUGH COLLEGE**

Bilsborrow, Preston, Lancashire, PR3 0RY  
**Contact:** Stewart Brown  
Tel: 01995 642222 / 642305  
Fax: 01995 642333  
Email: mailbox@myerscough.ac.uk  
**Web:** www.myerscough.ac.uk  
**Information:** Full time courses; BSc (Hons) Turfgrass Science, Foundation Degree Sportsturf Science - (Including an Online option by Distance Learning), National Diploma, National Certificate and First Diplomas in Sportsturf, Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship.  
Part-time courses NVQ Level 2, 3 & 4 Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Maintenance (Work-Based Training). All higher education courses can be accessed on a part time basis: FdSc / BSc Turf Science: FEPA Short courses. NPTC Certificates of Competence in the safe use of Mowers and Turf Care Equipment.  
Carrers mornings monthly on Saturdays.

**OAKLANDS COLLEGE**

St Albans Smallford Campus,  
Hatfield Road, St Albans,  
Hatfieldshire, AL4 0JA  
**Contact:** Andrew Wight  
Tel: 01727 730708  
Email: andy.wight@oaklands.ac.uk  
**Web:** www.oaklands.ac.uk  

**PLUMPTON COLLEGE**

Ditchling Road, Plumpton,  
Lewes, East Sussex BN7 3AE  
**Contact:** David Blackmur  
Tel: 01273 890454  
Fax: 01273 890071  
Email: enquiries@plumpton.ac.uk  
**Web:** www.plumpton.ac.uk  
**Information:** Foundation Degree in Horticulture (Sports Turf specialism).  
National Diploma in Amenity Horticulture, National Award (Garden Design), First Diploma in Horticulture. Part time courses: NVQ Level 1; NVQ Level 2 in Landscaping and Sportsturf; NVQ Level 3 Landscaping and Sportsturf; NVQ Level 4. Also available are RHS Certificate and RHS Advanced; IOG National Technical and Intermediate National Diploma. Short courses are also available for FEPA spraying and chainsaw. Bespoke courses to order. Centre of Excellence for Horticultural Technologies (CoVE).

**REASHEATH COLLEGE**

Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 6DF  
**Contact:** Gareth Phillips or Chard Spicer  
Tel: 01270 613236  
Fax: 01270 625665  
Email: enquiries@reaseheath.ac.uk  
**Web:** www.reaseheath.ac.uk  
**Information:** Foundation Degree and Higher National Certificate in Golf and Sports Turf Management; National Diploma in Amenity Horticulture with Sports Turf; NVQ levels 2 & 3 in Sports Turf; Apprenticeships; NPTC Qualifications.  
On-site facilities include a commercially operating golf course, football and rugby pitches, Crewe Alexandra training grounds.

**WARWICKSHIRE COLLEGE**

Moreton Morrell Centre,  
Warwick CV35 9BL  
**Contact:** Andrew Turnbull  
Tel: 01926 318285  
Fax: 01926 318300  
Email: atumbull@warkscol.ac.uk  
**Information:** Greenkeeping Courses: Foundation Degree Sports Turf Management (2 years full-time, 3 years part-time), NVQ Level 2 & 3 Day Release and Work-based Options, NPTC Level 2 National Certificate Sports Turf (1 year full-time, 2 years part-time), City & Guilds Advanced National Certificates (Sports Turf), BTECH First Diploma Sports Turf. Short courses: Spraying Certificates (PA1, PA2), Chainsaw and tree felling, Tractor Driving, Mowing Equipment, Turf Maintenance Equipment.

**WRITTLE COLLEGE**

Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 3RR  
**Contact:** The Registry  
Tel: 01245 424200  
Fax: 01245 420456  
Email: info@writtle.ac.uk  
**Web:** www.writtle.ac.uk  
**Information:** SPORTS TURF PROGRAMMES: Foundation Degree- Sports Turf and Golf Course Management Honours Degree- Sports Turf Science & Management Higher Certificate- Sports Turf Management NVQ Level 2 & 3- Sports Turf OTHER PROGRAMMES: BSc (Hons) & FdSc Horticulture BSc (Hons) & FdSc Landscape & Amenity Management BSc (Hons) Horticulture with Business Management BSc (Hons) International Horticulture BSc (Hons) & FdSc Horticulture Crop Production FdSc Landscape Construction MSc/MA International Horticulture MSc Horticulture (Crop Production) MSc Postharvest Technology MA Landscape Architecture MSc Landscape Management First Diploma, National Certificate, National Diploma- Horticulture NVQ Level 2 & 3 Landscaping NVQ Level 2 & 3 Service Engineering (Agricultural & Groundcare Machinery) C&G Service Engineering Progression Award SHORT COURSES: NPTC Chainsaw, Health & Safety plus many more.
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Gloucestershire
GL18 1LG

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Fax: 01531 828968
Email: info@polybed.co.uk

www.polybed.co.uk
In the Shed

Greenkeeper International brings you ‘In the Shed’, a puzzle page to keep you entertained when the weather forces you in or for when times are slow.

CROSSWORD - Compiled by Anax

ACROSS
1 Stockpile (4)
3 Misaligned (3,2,5)
10 Communicated by gesture (9)
11 Vertical part of step (5)
12 Grand statement subsequently shown to be incorrect (6,4,5)
13 Hormone which accelerates oxidation of sugar (7)
15 Greek god of light, brother of Artemis (6)
17 Soft, often translucent paper (6)
18 Having made a will before death (7)
20 Not likely to cause offence (15)
23 Indian dish of vegetables deep fried in batter (5)
24 Italian nationalist who conquered Naples and Sicily (6)
25 System by which employees take time off work to attend college etc. (3,7)
26 Star Trek race with watchword “Resistance is futile” (4)

DOWN
1 Irish republican movement (4,4)
2 Animal toxin (5)
4 State of disorientation (9)
5 Stares (5)
6 Establishment once described by its governor as a “penal dustbin” (8,6)
7 The smallest continent (9)
8 South African garment of animal skin (6)
9 Cocktail – anagram of tisane’s liqueur (7,7)
14 Mentally unsettled by long confinement (4,5)
15 PC protection software (9)
16 Answering (8)
19 Tanning salon equipment (6)
21 Knave, scallywag (5)
22 Domed Eskimo structure (5)

ANSWERS TO ALL THE PUZZLES ARE SHOWN ON PAGE 74

ANAGRAM
Daniel Craig is the latest actor to take on this role.

DEMONS JAB

QUICK ‘NINE HOLE’ QUIZ
1. What is the 6th planet from the Sun in our Solar System?
2. Alan Shearer is the highest goalscorer in Premiership history. Who currently is second on the list?
3. Which river flows through York?
4. Sergio Garcia is still the youngest. Who in 1993 at 51 years and 20 days became the oldest player to take part in the Ryder Cup?
5. Which of these names does not belong to one of Santa’s reindeer?
6. Who in his test debut this summer took three wickets before lunch on the first day, including a double wicket maiden in his first over of the day?
7. Name the England international who in 1985 as a 13 year old chorister sung backing vocals on Tina Turner’s “We Don’t Need Another Hero”?
8. In the book title, who does author Laurie Lee have cider with?
9. Adele Jones and Becky ‘Pink’ Williams have just represented Britain in Japan at World Championships in which sport?

SUDOKU
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 to 9.

Supplied by www.dailysudoku.com

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE
Look closely at the pictures below and try and spot the difference between them. You should be able to spot six!
NEW PRODUCTS

ZERO-TURN MOWERS
Reco has launched the Typhoon ZT mowers in three basic specifications – the non-collecting Typhoon ZT, the Typhoon 300 ZT with 300-litre collecting hopper, and the Typhoon 700 ZT, which has a 700-litre hopper and is also available in a 190cm high-tip version.

For more information telephone Reco on: 01480 455151.

SUB COMPACT TRACTOR
Kubota is delighted to announce the introduction of the all-new BX2350 sub compact tractor into the UK and Irish markets. Building on the legacy of the popular BX2200 which has been available in the UK since 2000, the BX2350 is a "ground up" replacement that offers even more power, durability, versatility and is packaged in a new stylish, user friendly design.

For further information contact the freephone enquiry hotline on: 0800 0231111 or visit: www.kubota.co.uk

RECYCLED RUBBER
Castcrete are currently making rubber chippings from recycled car tyres, to be used in buggy paths and walkways. The product has proved especially effective in and around the T box.

One tonne can be used to cover 50 square metres at 2 inches deep.

For further information please call: 01293 515353 or: 07768 602420.

SNOW CLEARING BLADES
The new Vario 3300 and Snow Master 3400 from Wiedenmann UK, are ideal rake blades for contractors and local authority use and can be front mounted to tractors of up to 50hp and 25hp respectively.

For more information contact Wiedenmann UK on: 0141 814 3366.

NEW HB1180 HYDRAULIC BREAKER
Bobcat has launched the new HB1180 hydraulic breaker attachment.

The new HB1180 is part of the Bobcat family of 80 series hydraulic breakers, designed to meet customer requirements for improved performance, efficiency and reliability, while maintaining familiar Bobcat advantages, such as ease of mounting, versatility and maximum productivity.

The Bobcat® HB1180 hydraulic breaker is approved for use on Bobcat skid-steers (models S220 through S300), compact tracked loaders (models T250 through T300), the A300 all-wheel steer loader and Bobcat 337, 341 and 435 mini-excavators.

Like the rest of the range, the HB1180 breaker is intended for concrete and general demolition work. It features a new internal design with fewer moving parts, reducing overall service time.

For more information visit: www.bobcat.com

GOLF SIMULATION
GolfSim is a new company specialising in the hiring of golf simulators for corporate entertainment and promotional activities. Other uses include private hire, coaching, product launches, team building and exhibitions.

Contact James Greenfield on Tel: 01553 767685 or visit: www.golfsimulation.co.uk
AUTO-STACKING TURF HARVESTER

The new Brouwer RoboMax 1200 auto-stacking turf harvester, supplied and supported by UK distributor, Turfmech, saves time and labour. The Brouwer RoboMax turf harvester's computer-controlled robotic arm stacks five turf rolls at a time onto a pallet. Each layer of turf is stacked automatically at 90deg to the one below to ensure a secure, tightly packed load.

For more information visit: www.turfmech.co.uk

NEW TURBO VERSION

Bobcat has launched the new turbo version of the company's Toolcat 5600 Utility Work Machine.

The turbo-powered Toolcat 5600 model incorporates a new mainframe and front work group including a new lift arm, tilt linkage and lift and tilt cylinders, providing more efficient lifting capability and reduced tilt rollback.

For more information visit: www.bobcat.com

TURF TYRES

Turfmaxx are delighted to announce that a new improved tread compound has been developed with large-scale contractors and councils in mind. It will be added to their range in 2007 and will offer up to 15% improved life.

The Maxxis Professional Municipal C165/S is a multi-purpose tyre and serves all applications where bullet-proof Kevlar® is not a requirement. It also fits compact tractors.

Further details on Maxxis turf tyres are available from: www.maxxis.co.uk

GRITTING MACHINE

The modular design of the new Combi Spread 5000 from Wiedenmann UK makes it a versatile gritting machine, which can be rear mounted to tractors with 20hp or more.

For more information contact Wiedenmann UK on: 0141 814 3366.

BEAUTY COMBINED WITH EFFECTIVE AERATION

Leading water quality management specialists Otterbine, have launched a new range of large aerating fountains designed to provide a cost effective solution for those requiring large decorative spray patterns combined with effective aeration.

The company says the best method of dealing with poor water quality problems such as algae, foul odours, and even dead fish, is to introduce much-needed oxygen into the water.

For more information visit: www.otterbine.com

NEW RANGE OF COMPACT TRACTORS

JCB Groundcare has launched five new compact tractors - set to become the flagship models of its specialist range for the grounds maintenance industry.

The robust new tractors - which span from 23 to 54 horsepower - are ideal for use by grounds maintenance contractors, landscapers and greenkeepers around golf courses, parks, sports and amenity grounds, smallholdings and equestrian centres. They power numerous attachments enabling operators to perform many grounds maintenance tasks in addition to their primary role of grass cutting.

For more information visit: www.jcb.com
News from the Chief Executive

Some of you may have read in the national press that the Marston Group of hotels has been bought by Q Hotels for the sum of £180m. Q Hotels (formerly Quality Hotels I am led to believe) include in its existing portfolio the Queens Hotel in Leeds, Forest Pines Hotel and Golf Club, Scunthorpe and the Westerwood Hotel and Golf Club, Glasgow. Marston Hotels own and operate Aldwark Manor Hotel and so, by default, we have a new landlord of the land upon which BIGGA house sits. I have no immediate concerns over our tenancy that has a further 990 plus years left to run, in fact a change in ownership will hopefully bring a change in attitude towards our previous attempts to convert the Association into a limited company.

Harrogate Week dominates much of everyone’s time at HQ and I am pleased to report that all four exhibition halls are full with the exception of two small spaces that I am confident will soon be taken. Bookings for the education programme are ahead of the same time last year and I know from my travels to various regions over the last few weeks, that there is a big push by members to attend Harrogate for at least one day.

I applaud the efforts being made by Regions, Sections and members in order to demonstrate their support for this vital event in the Association’s calendar. Please remember that it’s not just for greenkeepers, bring along your Secretary/Manager, your Chairman of Green or your groundsman friend or contact. There is something for everyone both in the exhibition and in the ‘Continue to Learn’ programme.

The Association’s accounts for the year ended on September 30, 2006 and have produced a satisfactory surplus for the period and any member wishing a copy before the AGM should contact either your Regional Administrator, Section Secretary or Tony or Stephen at HQ. I would draw member’s attention to the fact that the timing of the AGM has changed from 5.15pm on Wednesday, January 25, 2007 to 6pm on the same day and will continue to be held in the Queen’s Suite at Harrogate International Centre.

Rachael Palmer who has efficiently run the Membership department for the last four and a half years, has decided to accept the offer of another job and will therefore be leaving in early December. I would like to thank Rachael for all her hard work and wish her every success in her new position. This naturally leaves Gemma and her colleagues under significant pressure until the staffing level can be rectified and I would ask for some patience from members at what is traditionally the busiest time of the year.

Finally I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. It is hard to believe that as I write this there are only five weeks left of 2006!

John Pemberton

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Harrogate Week 2007

The Scottish Region once again offers their members a subsidised package deal for Harrogate Week 2007.

The Package includes: Entry to Continue to Learn Seminars (seven in total); three nights Bed and Breakfast in en-suite twin rooms on 23rd, 24th and 25th January, 2007 in the Holiday Inn, Harrogate, (formerly Moat House Hotel).

Package cost: £261.00. Accommodation package only £156.00.

To obtain booking forms contact the Regional Administrator, Peter J. Boyd on: 0141 616 3440 or 07776 2422120 or email: pj.boyd@btinternet.com

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Ayrshire

Hello everyone, hope you’re all well and prepared for the Christmas season! I think most of you will just be wanting the grass to stop growing for Christmas, there seems to have been a definite shift in the growing season with temperatures not rising till later in the spring and sustained growth continuing much later into autumn.

Our Patrons’ Award winners this year are: Duncan Gray, The Pines, and Gordon Haughie, Southerness. Well done guys and enjoy your stay in Harrogate. You could probably pass on the Jim Arthur book to your apprentice greenkeepers as I’m sure you both know it all by now eh?

The Annual Scottish Conference will be held at Ladder College Dunfermline on March 6. This has fast become a very popular event so get back to Peter sharpish if you don’t want to miss out.

Goswick GC, at Berwick-upon-Tweed, will host the Scottish National Championship on June 21. Yes! I’m sure the powers that be ken that’s in England but must figure if it’s okay for them to play in the Scottish Football Leagues then surely we can visit for a round of golf. Controversial?

A total of 12 were present at the AGM on Halloween. It was unanimously agreed that Derek should continue as Secretary, while Stephen Higgins takes on the Chairmanship. Vice-Chairman will be myself, as Stevie boy managed to track me down at the Troon Beer Festival and after a couple of pints of Skullsplitter there’s not much I wouldn’t say no to… apart from the obvious, obviously!

Additions to the committee are Frank Clarkson and Duncan Gray.

Our 12 aside golf match vs the Northern Irish lads went ahead on October 20 at Irvine GC. The weather was good with no wind and the course well prepared. However after a grueling afternoon’s play the visitors proved too strong for us and went on to win 4.5 to 1. All participants enjoyed the day and our thanks go to Derek Wilson and the committee at Boge’s for allowing us use of the course and facilities. Well done also to Terry Crawford for his part in organising their trip over. There will definitely be a rematch in County Down next year so I’ll keep you informed of dates as they arise. So congratulations to the Irish boys but don’t get to attached to that magnificent Shield!

A big thank you also to George Brown and General Manager, Stewart Selfie, for getting the tourists a game at Turnberry the following day. I’m sure there were a few cobwebs blowing across the links after a night out in Ayr.

That’s it for now so have yourselves a merry little Xmas and happy New Year alright!

Denis Tweddell
07939 104701 or denis.t@hotmail.co.uk
Central

I would like to start this month’s news by congratulating Stuart Greenwood on his appointment to Scottish Chairman, and also to thank Iain Barr for all his support to the Region during his time in office. There is a lot of work carried out throughout the Association, by the members, in office, on a voluntary basis and in an attempt to meet the needs of our members. If you are unsure about any aspect of the Association’s work, or have some suggestions to make, I would encourage you to contact your local Section committee and raise the matter. This is the most constructive way to deal with things and ensures that concerns at local level can be communicated to Regional boards and upwards to National level when necessary. Likewise we will endeavour to keep you informed, and will be only too happy to assist you in any way we can. The Association is strengthened by open communication, and uniting together to help our fellow greenkeepers.

Recent new members to the Section are: Matthew Baird, Elmwood GC, James Bledge, Kingsbarns, Brian Marmon, Gleneagles Hotel, and Martin Turna, St Andrews Links. Welcome to the section and we look forward to meeting you at future events.

Congratulations to John Philp - Carnoustie, Innes Knight - Kingsbarns and Euan Grant - The Old Course, and all their respective teams for hosting another successful Alfred Dunhill Links Championship.

The autumn outing was contested over Dunfermline GC, Fifeiran. The turnout was excellent, especially as it coincided with the aforementioned event, and many of our members come form the courses concerned. The course was in excellent condition, and with the very pleasant weather and the excellent hospitality in the clubhouse, it made for a very enjoyable day. Many thanks go to Kenny Duncan and his team, and the club, for a memorable day.

Congratulations to the prize winners as follows; Scratch - Kenny Stirling, Kingsbarns; Handicap - Michael Love, Grangemouth. 1.1 Kenny Mitchell, St Andrews; 1.2 Kenny Duncan, Dunfermline GC; 1.3 David Gray, Lochgelly. 2.1 thanks go to Kenny Duncan and his team, and the club, for a memorable day.

The Guest Prize went to C. Murray, from Grangemouth, and the Trade Prize to Peter Taylor. Thanks are also due to the Patrons, and to Peter Boyd, Regional Administrator. Their continued support ensures the success of these events. Many thanks to Jim Finlayson, a trade member, who despite not feeling at his best, helped with the organisation of the day and met all golfers returning to the clubhouse.

The Section’s educational events continue. The combined event with Club Managers Association of Europe at Murrayshall was very informative, and it was good to hear different perspectives on future trends in Golf. For your diary note the following future events: Thursday, December 14 at 7pm, Seminar at Elmwood GC - topic: The influential Head Greenkeeper / Course Manager, presented by Frank Newberry. March 28, 2007 at 3pm - topic: Rules presentation, Presented by Grant Moir, R and A rules official.

Before you read this another evening event with Richard Windows, our Regional STRI Agronomist, will have taken place. These events are free for our members.

I was fortunate enough to attend the Business Management Institute International Conference at Fairmont, St Andrews, at which our colleagues had been invited to speak. Neil Ballyingall, Fairmont, St Andrews, Scott Fenwick, Gleneagles, Euan Grant, St Andrews, and Ken Siems, Loch Lomond, all delivered very informative and entertaining presentations to a truly international group of Club Managers, who were very impressed.

Your committee is keen to arrange as many of these events as you need, and to provide relevant learning opportunities for our members. Please give them your support and let them know what you want. By the time you are reading this our AGM will have come and gone. More news next month.

To keep up to date and in touch, visit our website. www.biggacentralsection.org.uk

All the best,
Andrew Mellon

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East

I ended last month’s report by stating I was paying a visit to sunny Crete, what a joke! The weather was horrendous, but as usual the hospitality of our Greek friends was fantastic and made up for the disappointing weather conditions.

The Section AGM was held on Wednesday, October 25, at Ratho Park GC with, once again, an extremely poor turnout being recorded. The new committee is a follows: Chairman - Graeme Wood, Vice Chairman - Stuart Ferguson, Secretary - Kevin Hodges, General Committee - Jimmy Neilson and Tom Murray.

The committee is currently looking for enthusiastic volunteers to fill the positions of Match Secretary and Education Convenor.

One of the key issues raised at the AGM was the pressure placed on Course Managers by their employers, who often have totally unrealistic expectations of what can be achieved. As a current employer I appreciate there is always two sides to a story but, more than often not in our industry - Golf Clubs pay scant regard to employment law! After the AGM, three teams of three played 12 holes and the winners were the Chairman’s team comprising G. Wood, T. Murray and J. Darling. On behalf of the Section I would like to thank Ratho Park for granting us courtesy of the course and to Richard Atkien Seedsmen for sponsoring the days events.

West Linton GC has recently purchased a heart defibrillator and is the first club in the Borders region to do so. The reasoning behind the idea came about when one of the members had a heart attack and passed away in the club’s car park. Those present felt so helpless that a decision was taken to purchase the machine literally talks the operator through the process of trying to restart the heart.

The cost to the club has been reduced by a donation of £1000 this year and a promise of £250 next year from the Chris Yeaman Junior Charity Fund.

In the last week of October, 10 members of staff, three of whom were greens staff, received training in the use of the machine. As most of the attendees were locals and the golf club is near the village, it is also anticipated that the machine will be of service to the local community.

The big news this month is that Berwick GC (Goswick) have been awarded the BIGGA Scottish National Tournament in 2007. This, as a direct result of all the hard work put in by George and his team, and the fact that they have been very loyal supporters of BIGGA Tournaments over the years.

I would also like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Section, to offer many congratulations to Mark Pagan, Head Greenkeeper at Eyemouth GC, and his wife Caroline, who are celebrating the arrival of their new baby son, Jack, who was born on October 22.

West Lothian Golf Club Report

One man’s commitment to home grown talent paid dividends when he won a top prize in the small employers Section of the Modern Apprenticeship Awards 2006.

Alan Gibson - on behalf of West Lothian GC, Bo’ness - scooped the award in the Scottish Modern Apprenticeship programme, which celebrated the achievement of individual modern apprentices also showcasing the commitment and contribution made by employers and training providers in the industry.

He won first prize in the “employer of modern apprentices - acknowledging the commitment and support of employers” category for small businesses.

“Golf is a valuable part of the ever growing leisure industry and it needs good greenkeepers to secure its future,” said Alan, who was nominated by Oatridge College, which along with his employers, supports his work with trainee greenkeepers.

“Scotland is proud of its golfing heritage and equally proud of the course it has to offer,” he added. “But without highly skilled greenkeepers, the industry would have to look elsewhere for skilled professionals.”

“I believe that home grown talent is best and I would encourage all course and club managers and committees to look at the training opportunities...
available through schemes such as modern apprentices under my care during that time," he said.

"I have been fortunate to have retained three of my former apprentices - one of whom, lain Marshall, is now my deputy and two others, Jeff Ryce and Wayne Meikle are assistants."

His First Apprentice, Richard McLuckie, took over his own course Linlithgow Golf Club in 2000, and was promoted to General Manager in 2005, while others have moved on in greenkeeping to course such as Dalmahoy and Gleneagles.

On reaching the final three in the awards - which are sponsored by Scottish Enterprise and Highlands and Islands Enterprise - Alan was interviewed by a member of the judging panel who visited the golf club and also spoke to staff.

"As a golf course manager, I feel I have a responsibility to the sport in which I work to ensure its future is in safe hands by producing young professionals ready to meet the challenges of maintaining their own golf courses," Alan said.

Television star Stephen Jardine, hosted an award ceremony at the Sheraton Grand Hotel in Edinburgh in October, where Deputy Minister for Education and Young People, Robert Brown, congratulated the winners.

The Managing Secretary, Ian Osborough, said that the club was honoured that Alan Gibson, their Course Manager, had received this award on behalf of the club. His commitment, enthusiasm and expertise over many years in bringing through our Apprentices to a very high standard, were to be commended. They reflect on the club, but more to the point, reflect the high caliber of the course manager that we have. He should be justly proud of his achievement.

After my negative comments earlier in this month's report, it is nice to see a Course Manager being awarded for his efforts and more importantly being appreciated by his employers.

Until next month.

Don't work too hard!

Mike Dooner

North

How's it going folks? No sign of any hard weather yet. As I write this report it is November 6 and it is 16 degrees outside with bright warm sunshine. Global warming seems to be upon us. My only concern is that clubs will now try and prolong the golf season and want normal conditions without any autumn renovation work done until the end of the year. Has anybody had this request from his or her committee yet?

I have a feeling this mild weather will bring another epidemic of leather jackets later this year.

Chris Murdoch, from Murcar GC, is now a father after his partner, Kerry, gave birth to an 8lb girl recently. Well done to them all and we wish them well for the future.

The AGM for the Section was held at Royal Aberdeen GC in late October. There was a reasonable turnout of 27 members, which meant we were able to have a Stableford competition. A good day was had by all with the weather being fairly kind overall. There seems to be a trend now even with the outings that the numbers are dropping and there appears to be a lack of interest in the Section. Over the past few years there is a hard core of the membership that attend the outings wherever they are, but it would be nice for the committee...
to see more members from further afield attend to swell the numbers and ensure that the Section continues to progress over the coming years.

Results from the AGM: 3.1 - Niall Bruce, Montrose Links; 3.2 - Hugh McLatchie, Peterhead; 2.1 - George Simpson, Oldmeldrum; 2.2 - Billy Graig, Kirriemuir; 1.1 - Robert Patterson, Royal Aberdeen; 1.2 - Kevin Thompson, Moray; Trade Winner - Raymond Warrender, Alpha Plus Groundcare.

200 Club: £30 - Wilson Morrison, £30 - Kevin Fowler, £30 - James Piece and £100 - Dale Robertson.

Two new members to report this month: Calum T Fraser, Apprentice at Tain GC, and Robert O’Donnell, Head Greenkeeper at Oldmeldurn GC. Colin Forbes, from Peterculter GC, has moved on and taken up the post of Head Greenkeeper at Aboyne GC. We wish him well in his new appointment.

The next thing on the horizon will be BTME at Harrogate, which I’m sure, will be well attended.

Not much else from me this month, if you have any stories let me know and I will print them as it can be quite difficult to find new and interesting things to talk about each month.

Cheers,
Robert Patterson, Royal Aberdeen GC

West
Welcome to this month’s report. Congratulations to Gerry Bruen, a former West Section member and committee member. Gerry recently got married to Lindsay, the Section wish you all the best with your future together and hope you are enjoying life in Ireland.

Our autumn outing was held at Haggi’s Castle GC the weather wasn’t too good on the day but Robert McClery and his staff had the course in first class condition well done to all concerned. To Captain, Donald Ross, who presented the prizes many thanks for allowing us courtesy of your course and your warm hospitality. The winners on the day were: Scratch - Stuart Taylor; 1 - Scott Mcketirick; 2 - Neil Maclennan and 3 - Graeme Ferguson. Trade prize went to Alistair Taylor and Longest Drive to Andy Peace.

The winner of the new Daval Two Round Trophy was Scott Mcketirick, well done to all the prize winner and many thanks to the trade for donations of prizes, last but not least the hard work of the committee but in on the day.

Welcome to new members David Moles and Mathew Salmon, we hope to see you at some of our future events.

This years AGM was held at Drumpellier GC and there were 28 members in attendance. There were several points brought up which will be discussed at our next committee meeting and reported on in the next Greenkeepers report, Brian Hillan, the Course Manager at Drumpellier, had arranged a fun golf day after the AGM was finished 16 members played and had a very enjoyable day.

The course was in first class condition and considering the weather over the past couple of months this was no mean feat, please pass on our thanks to your captain and committee.

Also I would like to thank Stuart Aird, of Soutars Sports, for sponsoring the day.

The Committee for 2006-2007 are: Douglas Macintosh - Chairman, Eddie McGhee - Vice Chairman, Fraser Ross - Past-Chairman, Gavin Jarvis - Secretary, Stuart Taylor - Education, Gordon Hovat - Match and Handicap, John Barr, Derek Duthie, Brian Boland. Committee members, Brian Hillan - New Member.

On a personal note it has been a pleasure to have been the West Section Chairman for the past two years. I would like to thank Brian Boland for proposing me as his Vice Chairman and big thanks for his continued hard work on behalf of the Section and we’re happy he has decided to stay on.

To all other committee members for there help and support which has been first class, also to Gavin Jarvis for his continued hard work and to Peter Boyd, our Regional Administrator, for keeping me along the way.

On the Education front we are arranging a trip to the new course being built at Loch Lomond, the Carrick, members will be notified as soon as dates are confirmed.

Please try to come along which should be a first class day.
Well that’s all for now, please get in touch with any news.
Fraser Ross, Renfrew GC
Mobile: 07970 366 355

North East
On October 25 we held the Section AGM at Tynside GC, as usual there was a very poor turnout, six people at least made the effort - my thanks to them, also to the Regional Administrator, Peter Larter, who travelled almost 400 miles on his round trip.

Well next year the AGM will most likely be at the autumn competition and that will be held in October, and before the prize giving, then we will at least have better turnout.

I don’t know if any of you realise but it will be my 25th year as the Secretary of the Section and dogsbodgy, and I’m seriously thinking of making next year my last, it’s now time for a change. Now I know they’re a few moaners out there and so here is your chance to have a go at running the Section.

If anyone is interested just get in touch with me or the rest of the committee - being: Russ Black or Steve Pope.

Talking about retirement Brian Udobg, of Tynemouth GC, is retiring in May next year, as is John Moutrie, of Hexham GC.

Congratulations to Tony McLure, of Whickham GC, on winning the scratch 36 hole National Greenkeepers Championship recently played for in October.

Jimmy Richardson

Cleveland
By now several of the proposed meetings and get togethers should have taken place. Firstly, the indoor football competition should have been played at Middlesbrough FC’s wonderful training complex at Hurworth. Teams from the North East Section, TSL and the ‘Boro groundstaff were hoping to wup the Cleveland Section’s Galacticos. This is a description of the size of our back four (Pembo and friends), nothing to do with the quality. Reports in the next issue but I hope it was played in good spirit! Thanks to Boro for the opportunity to play in this fantastic venue. Secondly the TSL quiz should have been fought out with the groundsmen at Mount Oswald GC. Have we defended our title?

Lastly, the Section AGM should have taken place on November 28 - I hope this was well supported, as our turnouts seem to be dwindling. It’s your Section - please help by supporting all meetings if you can.

The ‘Night at the Dogs’ took place on November 10. 13 Section members attended ably supported by Alastair Whitey, from Lloyds. A good night was had by all and the lads didn’t report too heavy losses. Many thanks must go to Brendan Brown, of Notube, for kindly sponsoring the minibus.

Finally, it will soon be Christmas again. Where does the time go? May I take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones a happy and peaceful festive season. It will soon be time to start thinking about BTME at Harrogate. The TSL bus will be going on the Wednesday as usual. Please book your places with Karen in the Turfcare office on: 01207 505837. Pick up points are usually Morpeth GC, City of Newcastle GC, Chester-le-Street GC and finally the old ‘Cock of the North’ site on the A167.

All the best
Any news to TC or: 07831214879
Terry El Prez Charlton
Sheffield

Another year coming to an end, unfortunately I don’t have a lot of news to end the year with. This year has been one of quite a few retirements from within the Section and another to add to the list is Les Easthope, from Hillsborough GC. Les has basically worked at Hillsborough since he left school - after all that loyal service I think you deserve a long and enjoyable retirement Les, all the best from everyone in the Sheffield Section.

We will be running a trip to the new Wembly Stadium (yes it will be finished!) next year in October, so I will keep you informed of dates etc when we have definite details.

Finally may I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

John Lax

North Wales

A big thank you in advance goes to Conwy GC for hosting our Christmas golf tournament, held on December 5. A full report will be in the January issue.

Talking of January and only a matter of weeks to go now before the annual show, the industries biggest one! the BTME in Harrogate, as usual the Section has organised the bus to take you up there. This year it has been kindly sponsored by Danny Tomkins of Tower Chemicals - if you wish to go use this facility please contact Jez on: 07876 776265 at your earliest convenience as spaces will go quickly so don’t miss out - book early £5 for members £10 for guests - The bus will be leaving a bit earlier this time to give you a full day up at Harrogate, especially for you older folk who like to have the extra time to visit Betty’s tea shop for your afternoon scones and cream and as it is going up early it will also be coming back at a more reasonable time leaving around 5pm.

Congratulations to Gareth Woosnam who over at the Ryder Cup, was told by Arnold Palmer that he was better looking than his brother, Ian, as he exchanged his glass of champagne on the balcony of the ‘K’ Club for a pint of the black stuff Gareth’s first trip to the Emerald Isle with all the family, being the first time over there to give his brother a few tips (see results in previous issue Oswestry BIGGA Tournament as to why!).

Well short and sweet this month, but one little golfing tale to end with; I had the pleasure of being invited to go on a two day trip over to Belfast and play golf at the legendary Royal County Down Golf Links, as golf books write it as one of the world’s top courses. The date unfortunately clashed with me moving house and I was unable to go, but none the less a four ball team of guys who will not be named for embarrassing reasons elected to go, flights were found on Ryan Air, but as it was a busy commuter time slot they came in a little more expensive than was expected, but never mind it was Royal County Down after all, a hire car was dually booked from Belfast airport to drive the 40 minute trip and the Course Manager there found them a good hotel close by and this was also booked, so all in place and looking forward to the challenge ahead tackling the famous links and watching the narrative Ronan Rafferty video of how to play each hole, the scene was set. They decided to all sleep over at the person’s house who was closest to Manchester Airport so they could have an early start for the 6am flight, now who ever it was that set the alarm clock was not in the good books with the rest of the guys? Arriving late at the wrong terminal then getting to the correct terminal five minutes after the flight had closed did not bear well, especially as the weather that day was glorious in Northern Ireland.

But the weary travellers were not to be dashed and with a friendly phone call to the Kerry bros down in Harlech an alternative tee time was booked and the long drive back to Wales started. Still feeling a little down, a pick me up call to the Kerry bros down in Harlech an alternative tee time was booked and when they decided the format of 10p birdies and 20p bits for the game, all was better... I believe Dave Austin won, Andy Peel was second and Stuart Yarwood and Andy Ralphs were tied 3rd.

East Midlands

I start this month’s report by offering the Sections congratulations to Gavin Robson and his team from Burton-on-Trent GC, for hosting a successful National Championship. The weather preceding the Championship could only be described as awful and I, for a fact, know that Gavin had been working hard and looking forward to hosting the event for many months prior and it wasn’t easy to show off your efforts with such poor weather beforehand.

However, with the help of a few extras a couple of days before, the course looked immaculate and to everyone’s delight the sun shone for the two Championship days bar the odd shower, and everything worked out fine.

Coupled with a warm welcome and some fine hospitality, the Championship was a great success for all those who attended.

Congratulations to all the prize winners and to all that worked so hard to make it so enjoyable. We hope the Nationals will soon return to the East Midlands.

It’s with great sadness that I close this report, passing on the Section’s condolences to Past BIGGA Chairman, Paddy McCarron, whose wife, Beverly, recently passed away.

After a short illness, John Carter, known to greenkeepers in the Norfolk area - having started his career there - and also the Leicestershire area, passed away in early November at the age of 45. The Section’s thoughts are with his family at this sad time.

Richard Barker

Midland

Some years ago I tried to introduce “Thought/Ioke of the month” to which £10 would be awarded to the provider, and such published within our notes. To date I have not received any. So I would like to try again, but with “Excuse of the Month”. I shall start you off with a genuine one (honest). Get this: “I couldn’t make it to Saturday because I was in such a deep sleep (drunk?) that I didn’t wake up, the wife tried throwing six pans of cold water over me, but I still didn’t wake. Sorry Tony.” No, it wasn’t me! If anyone had thrown cold water on me I would be at her Majesty’s pleasure! Just ask John Wilkes. He by the way has just had a little boy.

Our old friend, Craig Beet, and his delightful fiancée, Simone Smith, have just been wed. Wonderful wedding (I nearly had tears, steady now), super reception at Hagley GC. We all wish you both the greatest of happiness for the future.

On October 19, we played our annual match against the East Midlands Section. I’m afraid that we lost the match by two points, if Gashey (five up after six) had won his match in the afternoon, such would have been a draw. I carried him in the morning, and then won my match in the afternoon (I’m fed up with Mike knocking me out off the Scotts Doubles). Sorry mate, it had to be done! As always the match was carried out in the best of spirits and was very enjoyable indeed, great hosts. Our thanks to Kirby Muxloe GC for their hospitality, and Tony Cheese/Rigby Taylor for organising and sponsoring the event. Congratulations to Antony Bindley and his fine team for an excellently presented course. Looking forward to next year’s match, which is at home (Midland Section, you maggot), so get practising folks. You of course can do such at our events throughout the year!
It gives me great pleasure to welcome two new members to our Section, Ashley Merry (D.H.) of Evesham GC, and Daniel Totney (AG) from the lovely Sandwell Park GC. Also, all the best to Mike Hill on his retirement from Stourbridge. Mike has been a long time supporter of the Section, and has served many a fine course over his service within Greenkeeping. Wishing you all the best Sir. I hear that the shares at the Foley Arms have just gone up. See you in there chap.

This sphere is revolving around the nuclear reactor and that some locations are heated during another part of the revolution. And imagine that this sphere is surrounded by a 30 mile deep mixture of different gases whose concentrations vary both spatially and overtime, and is heated, along with its surrounding gases, by a nuclear reactor 93 million miles away. Imagine also that this sphere is revolving around the nuclear reactor and that some locations are heated during another part of the revolution. And imagine that this sphere is surrounded by a 30 mile deep mixture of different gases whose concentrations vary both spatially and overtime, and is heated, along with its surrounding gases, by a nuclear reactor 93 million miles away. Imagine also that some locations are heated during another part of the revolution. And imagine that some locations are heated during another part of the revolution.

BB&O

November! I recently read this entertaining article on the difficulty of weather forecasting by Bob Ryan, of the Meteorological Society, so here goes. Imagine a rotating sphere that is 8000 miles in diameter, has a bumpy surface, is surrounded by a 30 mile deep mixture of different gases whose concentrations vary both spatially and over time, and is heated, along with its surrounding gases, by a nuclear reactor 93 million miles away. Imagine also that this sphere is revolving around the nuclear reactor and that some locations are heated during one part of the revolution and other locations are heated during another part of the revolution. And imagine that this mixture of gases continually receives inputs from the surface below, generally calmly but sometimes through violent and highly localized injections. Then, imagine that after watching the gaseous mixture, you are expected to predict its state at one location on the sphere one, two, or more days into the future. This is essentially the task encountered day by day by a weather forecaster, and then there is the Greenkeeper?

Welcome aboard to Paul Riching, the new Course Manager for Wexham Park GC - who has recently taken over from Roy Kates. Paul is looking forward to his challenging role maintaining this parkland golf course in Slough, Berkshire. Roy where are you? Don’t forget to keep in touch!

A big character and a big farewell goes to Toro representative the unmistakable John Cockburn who, after over 20 years service with A T Oliver, has retired, John will be looking forward to relaxing and rebuilding his boat, so from all the boys in red, green and orange that you have dealt with over many years, wishing you the very best and have a superb retirement!

The Ribby Taylor Pairs final was hosted at the exclusive Bearwood Lakes GC in Berkshire and competing for the title were Steve Horwood and Miles Wood from Chiltern Forrest GC, and Matt Smith and Simon Mallock from Sonning GC. Congratulations to the Hearted Hoofs, from Sonning, who hammered the elderly Team Forrester with an impressive five and four, also Course Manager Dan Lightfoot and his team for arranging a memorable day for the finalists at Bearwood Lakes GC and Gareth, the RT man, for organising this yearly popular event.

Just another reminder that BTME is only a month away, if you have never been before or haven’t frequented the show for some time. I ask you to give it another thought as the Greenkeeping profession make there way to Harrogate for a greater learning experience and a chance to see what the industry has to offer at first hand, so down your tools and come along to what will be a great show in the heart of Yorkshire.

The BB&O mums have been very busy in the Section, some of the biggest over Christmas presents have arrived early, so here goes and let’s hope I get the spelling right, firstly Madeleine Ava was born to proud parents Steve and Abi Gardner, from Flackwell Heath GC, followed by Harriett Florence Rose to Dan Lightfoot, from Bearwood Lakes GC and yet more news as Lee Bishop, from Burnham Beeches GC, has been extremely busy as wife Jo has given birth to twins, Archie and Max, who have only just arrived. Best wishes and congratulations to you all.

Finally! From all the serving BB&O Committee and your Chairman, Sid Arrowsmith, have a great December and fantastic Christmas.

Mark Day

Harrogate 2007

Symbio have kindly agreed to arrange a coach to travel up to Harrogate on January 23, returning on the 24th. Stopping at various pick up points around the M25 on the way, travel will be free of charge - courtesy of Symbio. Some seats will be available for first time visitors to the exhibition up to the position of deputy, for which the South East Region will contribute towards overnight accommodation.

Please contact Martin Ward on: 07956 898004/martin@symbio.co.uk or Clive Osgood on: 07841 948410/cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk for more information.

South East Regional Seminar

Despite a sudden drop in temperature and one of the highest tides of the season over 100 were in attendance for the South East Regional Seminar held at the Thorpens Country Club on the east coast of Suffolk on November 1.

Following a welcome and introduction by Chairman Ian Willett our Chief Executive, John Pemberton, gave a very informative presentation about The Association past, present, and future with particular regard to the need for all members to support Harrogate 2007. This was followed by Ray Harding, Ecologist to the award whining Thorpeness GC illustrating some of the good work being carried out by Ian and his team at the Club. Dr Kate Entwistle was next with valuable state of the art information on Turf Diseases name changes included! Kate also spent time discussing the increasing problems, some superficial, caused by Nematodes at various sites around UK.
After refreshment at lunch it was time for the duo of Billy and Ian McMillan, who involved the floor in discussion on current topics including thought issues in the south and in particular Sustainable Golf, a subject that probably could have gone on long into the night if allowed. John Grindrod, of Econoplans, was next who talked about recycled products useful to the Golf Industry. The day was rounded off by David Stansfield who gave us a very interesting presentation on some of the course renovation, general revamping and upgrading projects he has been involved with on courses in the UK and Europe.

In conclusion after questions time, the Chairman thanked everybody for their participation on the day, and expressed the region’s thanks to the Sponsors of the Seminar, listed below, who as always were most generous with their support.

The South East Region Seminar 2006 Sponsors were, Atkens; Barenburg; Collier Turf Care; Headland; Lely UK; Rigby Taylor; Scotts; Sheriff Amenity; Tacit; Tower Chemicals.

Clive Osgood, Regional Administrator

Surrey

Sunday, November 5. Bonfire night. The ghost of Guy Fawkes is wandering the dark cellars beneath the Houses of Parliament. He has found the stash of gunpowder he and his fellow conspirators placed there several hundred years ago. Up above in the main chamber a security guard is smoking a cigarette while leaning against a no smoking sign, completely unaware that far below a ghost has, since 1605, year after year, mislaid his tinder box and would have given a whole week’s wages for a loan of the guard’s box of matches.

So much for history, back to the present and our boys have once again donned their football kit, kindly sponsored by ETT, and taken to the field of battle on home ground at Colliers Wood. John Jennings and Adam Watt were the scoring stars in the 2-1 victory against the London Section. John Ross, our Section Secretary, was, I am reliably informed, dressed to kill in a pair of shorts while leaning against a no smoking sign, completely unaware that far below a gunpowder he and his fellow conspirators placed there several hundred years ago.

But now I lie upon my back, my hold on life is loose when I come back in my next life, my choice - you’ve guessed - A MOOSE.

You have probably realised that I was not present at the aforementioned football match for I was on holiday in Canada. The Rocky Mountains were spectacular and the Rocky Mountaineer train journey through them awe inspiring. They had a poem writing competition on the train and the winner was awarded the Order of the Salmon. As this is a slow news month, here's my entry; entitled Boys' Weekend Away.

I thought I'd swim up from the sea, yes me a handsome he-fish I'm swimming up with other guys, and we're looking for some she-fish. We're going back for old times, sake, the journey is worth doing when we arrive and meet the gals it's time to start a-wooing I'll flick my tail and flash my gills to show I'm in condition, so line up chicks, it's time for love, the end of my sex mission.

But now I lie upon my back, my hold on life is loose when I come back in my next life, my choice - you've guessed - A MOOSE.

So much for love in the river, here's love on dry land. Nigel Morris, Deputy at Epsom GC, married Emma on October 21 at Gatton Manor Hotel and Golf Club. Their daughter Jodie was Bridesmaid. Congratulations and best wishes to you three.

After Canada we flew to Hawaii, one of a group of islands in the North Pacific discovered by Capt, Cook in 1778. Geography and history in one sentence. I only mention this because I survived the 2006 earthquake in Hawaii. The full story when next we meet.

Brian Willmott
Order of the Salmon.
Email brian.willmott@hotmail.co.uk

Kent

Welcome to another fun packed edition of your Kent news.

A couple of people moving on to tell you about first of all. Two of my guys at Birchwood Park have decided to move on to pastures new. Richard Burgess has taken up the vacant Deputy Course Manager’s role at West Hove GC in Sussex. Gary Jessop has moved down the road to further his training at The London Club. Best wishes to both of them in their new positions.

Our monthly winter seminars are in full swing now at Hadlow College and the next one is on December 12 between 10am and 4pm. The topic for this one will be “Pre-Stress Management of Turf” which shall deal with how to manage your swards effectively when heading for the inevitable droughts.

These sessions are completely free of charge and anyone from any Section is more than welcome to attend.

Not much else to tell you about this month other than to tell you that in next month’s report there will be news on our AGM and Turkey Trot results. Also who came out triumphant in our long awaited football re-match with Sussex Section.

Merry Christmas one and all.

Rob Holland

East Anglia

Our small, but perfectly formed band, (40ish) made our way to the City of Ely GC. Nice place, well kept by Andrew Baker and his men.

First we were warmly welcomed by a bacon roll and a cup of coffee, then off we strolled through the rough to battle out the prizes and silverware.

The overall winner was Norman Fenwick with 37 pts; 2. Chris O'Dowd, 35 pts; 3. Mark Henderson, 35 pts.


29-38 Section - 1. Mark Keysell, 37 pts; 2. Stuart Robson, 35 pts - (he knows all the George Formby songs and he's got a whippept)

Mark Clements won the putting competition; Longest Driver was Ed Webster and Nearest the Pin was Stuart (Mr Banjo) Robson.

The loo seat was presented to Ian Willett for breaking two trolleys. They don't make them like they used to!

The main sponsors were Tomlinson Ground Care (complete with a dog wearing a John Deere cap) and John Deere.

Other sponsors are as follows: Atkins; Atherton and Ellis; Bartram Mowers; Collier Turf Care; Consultant Clarkson; Headland Turf; Lely UK; Midlube; Rigby Taylor; Sheriff; Sisis; Tacit and Textron.

Thanks once again to the Club Captain, Martin Bright and all at the City of Ely Golf Club, for a smashing day out.

November 1 saw the South East Regional Seminar held at Thorpeness Country Club. Our very own Ian Willett is the Chairman and his first big event went very well with some excellent speakers taking part.

The proceedings were opened by John Pemberton, top brass from BIGGA, on ‘The Way Forward for the Association’, with obvious concerns about BTME.

This was followed by Ray Harding, the ecologist to the award winning Thorpeness GC, with very interesting views on achieving an area of co-habitation between golfers and wildlife - something we should all be striving for.

Then came Kate Entwistle, on turf diseases. Fusarium is no more! Well that's not quite true, they just changed the name to Constantinople.

After lunch Billy and Ian McMillan, who came in at the last moment, gave an interesting talk on drought and sustainable golf. Made you think a bit.

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No here is a challenge. Stand up and talk to a room of hardened greenkeepers about drainage. John Grindrod, of Econoplans, did it, recycling products to make drainage tiles for bunkers etc. Worth looking into.
David Stansfield rounded the day off with an agronomist's view of course renovation. Very interesting, ask Norman!

There were also some trade stands from our sponsors: Atikens; Collier Turf Care; Tower Chemicals; Scott's; Rigby Taylor; Taic; Barenburg; Sherifff (2f's); Headland and Lely UK; where you could have a friendly chat and put the world right.

Our thanks once again to Thorpeness Country Club for an excellent venue and hospitality and to lan for his excellent organisation.

All those who took part deserve a pat on the back. There were a few empty seats but I'm sure they will all be at Harrogate to give the Association the support it needs in this current climate.

Mick Lathrope

SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES

Harrogate Week 2007

The South West and South Wales Region are once again offering members a three-night bed and breakfast package to Harrogate, staying at The Cairn Hotel, arriving on Monday, January 22, departing Thursday, January 25. The cost for this package to BIGGA members is: Single room, £216 per person; Twin room for single occupancy, £240 per person; Numbers are limited and places should be reserved before sending your booking form and payment.

The Region is also offering a package for the Educational Seminars taking place. Members can book all seven seminars at a cost of £105 - this being a total saving of 40%. This saving can only be obtained by booking through me. Should you wish to book individual seminars, this must be done through Sami Collins at Headquarters and the cost will be discounted on a scale according to the number booked.

All bookings both for accommodation and seminars, must be made and confirmed with payment by Friday, December 15.

Booking forms and details will be sent to Head Greenkeepers/Course Managers in October. Should anyone not receiving this information and wishing to book, please contact me on Tel: 01454 270850 or mobile: 07841 948110.

Jane Jones, Regional Administrator

South West

Scary to think that this comes out just before Christmas. The year has gone so quickly, so a huge thank you to all our committee members who made it all work, and to all the clubs and greenkeepers who made our golf days so enjoyable and educational. Thanks once again also to our Patronage Partners - Messers MJ Abbott, Amenity Technology, BS Mowers, Bredy Irrigation, Tower Chemicals, Irritech, Rigby Taylor, Symbio, Rufford, Avoncrop Amenity, and Countrywide Farmers, your sponsorship has made the Section tick - most important. Remember, places at BTME are up for grabs as a result of this sponsorship - write to: Nobby Knight, 17 St Marys Gardens, Hilperton March, no full report this time, but grateful thanks to Nick Reynolds and Nearest the Pin - Andy McDonald.

The AGM was held after the day's golf, and all went smoothly and to plan with no major issues. Once again, major tribute must be paid to your hardworking committee for their efforts during the year.

I'll close by wishing everyone a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Paul Worster
paulw@mgcnw.co.uk
01453 837355.

South Coast

Congratulations to ME! At last, I am a Daddy. Rowan Charles Crowley came into this world on October 29, 2006 at 5.27am, weighing in at 8lbs 12oz. Mother and son are doing fine. We are overjoyed and may I say a big thank you to everyone who has been enquiring as to the event. Sorry it was a bit late (eight days overdue) but all very much worth it.

Our autumn tournament was held at Corhampton GC on Thursday, October 12. As usual, mother nature blessed us with a beautiful, dry day. Excellent conditions for a day's golf. The course was in excellent condition and our almighty president's lecture on Water use; At Cotswold Hills on April 25 is the spring tournament; At Enmore Park on May 17 is Greenkeeper Amateur; Race Night takes place in June - (date from Jon Jarvis); At Cumberwell Park on July 25 is the Summer Tournament and Marc Haring's quiz night; At Farrington Gurney on September 13 is a Match vs South Coast and at Minchinhampton New on October 11, the AGM will take place.

If anyone is interested in hosting a 2008 tournament, or has any local news for this column - please let me know. In the meantime, I'll close by wishing everyone a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Paul Worster
paulw@mgcnw.co.uk
01453 837355.

Back at Minch, the lake and irrigation system installation is in full swing. MJ Abbott have about 15 guys on site - cutting the trenches looks absolutely brutal, but the backfill team are so skilled and dedicated, that after a couple of weeks you can literally hardly see where they've been. So skilled in fact, that we've hardly lost a single member down any of the holes. Kevin Green's lake however is another matter, you can most certainly see where that is. 7850 cubic metres of rock coming out of it and being landscaped into mounds - you can see where they are as well. Our guys are doing the re-topsoiling and seeding so plenty to do there. Getting quite good with a five tonne Takeuchi - only another 5000 cubes and the rest of my life to go. I'm certainly looking forward to the New Year, and switching on my new irrigation next June and seeing something actually work properly for a change. Incidentally, we have a good supply of used nearly-new Tonic Deckers, Logic impact drive sprinklers, and a TW2 with remote - if anyone is interested for spares, give me a shout.

Fixtures will be out soon - dates for your 2007 diary so far are as follows, with special thanks to Roger Davey, Jon Jarvis, and Marc Haring for their ideas and offers.

At Stockwood Vale on February 22 is the winter competition and Roger Davey's lecture on Water use; At Cotswold Hills on April 25 is the spring tournament; At Enmore Park on May 17 is Greenkeeper Amateur; Race Night takes place in June - (date from Jon Jarvis); At Cumberwell Park on July 25 is the Summer Tournament and Marc Haring's quiz night; At Farrington Gurney on September 13 is a Match vs South Coast and at Minchinhampton New on October 11, the AGM will take place.

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Paul Worster
paulw@mgcnw.co.uk
01453 837355.

South Coast
The South Coast Seminar, which Chris Bitten is organising, is taking shape and once again looks to be a fascinating and informative day. Details will soon be distributed to the membership. If you’ve not been to this event before, I strongly recommend attendance.

We would like to wish the very best to Spencer Haynes, who is leaving Hartley Wintney GC to go on to pastures new, maintaining peoples’ lawns and passing on his great experience and knowledge to the domestic market. To both Spencer and his family, our very best wishes for the future and we hope to see you at future golf days.

Well that’s it folks for this month. All I need to do now is to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year. I am now off to go and change a nappy!

Joe Crawley

Devon & Cornwall

Well, our season of meetings has commenced for the 2006/2007 year, the first one was held at Launceston GC on Wednesday, October 11 - which was our AGM. As you will all know by now, at the request of HQ, we have been asked to bring our AGM forward a month compared with previous years. This has not really caused any problems other than the fact that a good many greenkeepers were still finishing their autumn maintenance programme work, which meant that our attendance was rather on the low side compared with past years, however, 45 members attended.

The day commenced with a golf competition sponsored by D O Hunt and Roffeys. The format was a Stableford and in spite of very heavy rain over night - nearly 50mm - the course was in fantastic condition thanks to all the hard work by Grame Gallimore, the Head Greenkeeper and his staff.

The winners were as follows: 1 - Chris Pearson, Newquay GC, 39pts (h/cap 3); 2 - Brian Ridgway, Fingle Glen GC, 36pts (h/cap 14); 3 - Gavin Moore, Launceston GC, 35pts (h/cap 12).

Having indulged in a superb lunch, the afternoon proceedings commenced with the AGM, followed by the prize presentation. We were all pleased to welcome Jane Jones, our Regional Administrator, and of course, our National Chairman, Richard Whyman. The meeting lasted 45 minutes and there were no problems. What really pleased me was that we had some very constructive questions and suggestions from members, which will be on the agenda for our next Section committee meeting, held at Trenhorne GC in November.

At the request of our National Chairman - RE: Having younger members on the Section Committee - it was decided and approved to co-opt Abi Crosswood, from Newquay GC, onto the committee. I am sure you will have read about Abi in Greenkeeper International recently, she was runner-up in the Toro Student of the Year competition. Hopefully Abi will add some constructive ideas to our meetings.

I would like to take this opportunity to correct a mistake in this year’s diary, the meeting at St Enodoc is to be held on Wednesday, March 14, 2007 - not Friday as printed. Last but not least, the Christmas dinner will be at Okehampton GC on Tuesday, December 12, you all know it is very popular, so once you have received your form, please return post haste.

See you all soon and good luck.

Donovan 0 Hunt
Administrator
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British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association, Alwark, Aine, York YO61 1UF Tel: 01347 833800 www.bigga.org.uk
DUNBLANE NEW GOLF CLUB LTD

COURSE MANAGER

Dunblane New Golf Club is a high quality parkland course providing an enjoyable and testing challenge for golfers of all abilities. The presentation and maintenance of the course will provide a real opportunity to an ambitious individual in an excellent working environment. The course is located in an area renowned for its scenic beauty and quality and availability of living accommodation, schools, shops and transport links.

The successful applicant must have a minimum of three years management experience and the ability to manage and motivate the greenkeeping team to maintain and develop the course to the highest standard of presentation.

Applicants must also possess all recognised greenkeeping qualifications up to management level including pesticides handling and must have knowledge of statutory regulations including Health and Safety. A sound working knowledge of machinery and irrigation systems is also required.

Applicants must be good communicators, have IT skills and possess the ability to compile and work within an annual budget and produce management reports.

A competitive benefits package including accommodation is available.

Please apply by e-mail or in writing with a full CV by 5th Jan 2007 to:
The Secretary, Dunblane New Golf Club Ltd., Perth Road, Dunblane, Perthshire FK15 OLJ.
e-mail: secretary@dngc.co.uk.

ILFORD GOLF CLUB

DEPUTY COURSE MANAGER

Ilford Golf Club is a testing 18 hole parkland course, celebrating it’s Centenary Year in 2007. A vacancy has arisen for a Deputy Course Manager. This position would be an ideal opportunity for professional enhancement of an ambitious and driven First / Senior Assistant Greenkeeper.

The Role
You will be a highly motivated, hard working, conscientious turf professional who can work within a dedicated team. You will be able to deputise in the absence of the Course Manager, and be able to make contributions to the short, medium and long term maintenance regimes. Conversant with both modern and traditional turf culture practices, and be mechanically minded and thus competent in machinery and irrigation systems servicing and fault diagnosis.

Requirements
Qualified / working towards NVQ3
Have a minimum 5 years greenkeeping experience.
Hold PA1, PA2 & PA6 Certificates
Good knowledge of Health & Safety Issues.
The ability to play golf would be an advantage.
Salary negotiable according to experience / Qualifications.
Accommodation may be available as part of a package if required.

Please send a C.V. with covering letter for the attention of:
Scott Voss, General Manager at Ilford Golf Club,
291 Wanstead Park Road, Ilford, Essex IG1 3TR.
Closing date for applications 5 January 2007.

WHITELEAF GOLF CLUB

Established 1907
A very scenic undulating 9 hole Golf Course in the Chilterns
Requires an
Assistant Greenkeeper

Qualification not essential although knowledge of aspects of Greenkeeping would be preferred.
Some weekend working is required.
Training opportunities available.
Salary dependent on experience and qualification.

Applications in writing or e-mail detailing past employment and experience to: The Secretary, Whiteleaf Golf Club Ltd, Upper Icknield Way, Whiteleaf, Princes Risborough, Bucks HP27 0LY
For further information please telephone 01844 274058
e-mail: whiteleafgc@tiscali.co.uk • www.whiteleafgolfclub.co.uk

Rudding Park

DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER

We are looking for an individual who has a minimum of 6 years experience in greenkeeping, some of which has been gained in a deputy role, and who is qualified to NVQ level 2 in Greenkeeping. Must have knowledge of irrigation systems and experience in golf course builds/development is preferred but not essential.

The ideal candidate must be organised, able to prioritise tasks, and help implement procedures. Must be experienced in managing and motivating a team and be an excellent communicator and team player. With a flexible attitude and a keen interest in golf, this individual must be committed to maintaining our high standards on the golf course.

Spraying licence, experience in digger driving and chainsaw qualifications would be an advantage.

For an application form or more information contact Joanne Turner on 01423 844 829 or email your CV to: recruitment@ruddingpark.com
Rudding Park, Follifoot, Harrogate, HG3 1JH
www.ruddingpark.com
WILDERNESSE CLUB LTD

invites applications for the position of

COURSE MANAGER

Established in 1890, this Private Members Club is an 18-hole Parkland Course situated near Sevenoaks in Kent. The course has been a venue for Regional qualifying for the Open and has a reputation for being the best inland Course in Kent. The Club has recently invested heavily in modern greenkeeping equipment and facilities to ensure the Course is maintained to its optimum level.

We are looking for a Course Manager of the highest calibre, with a proven experience in managing a dedicated team of greenkeepers. The successful applicant will have to show that they have the necessary experience and ability to maintain a Private Members Club within budget to a very high standard.

The successful candidate will be expected to demonstrate:

• Several years of Golf Club management experience at Course Manager or Head Greenkeeper level.
• Qualified to NVQ/HNC or equivalent, plus spraying qualification.
• A sound knowledge of irrigation systems and machinery.
• Experience of current Statutory Health & Safety Regulations/COSHH.
• Ability to lead and motivate a greenkeeping team.
• The ability to manage resources efficiently and exercise strict budgetary controls.
• Formulate and execute a 5-year Course Policy Plan.
• Good communication skills and IT aptitude.

Salary and benefits, to include assistance with accommodation, will be by negotiation depending on experience and qualifications.

All applications with full CV to be sent by 31 December 2006.
Email to: secretary@wilderness.co.uk

Mechanic / Greenkeeper

Ogbourne Downs Golf Club currently has a vacancy for a suitably qualified mechanic, who has also attained skills in greenkeeping, to join our committed course management team.

The successful applicant will report to the Head Greenkeeper and be responsible for all aspects of machinery maintenance and health & safety in the workshop, as well as carrying out general greenkeeping duties on the golf course.

Ideally the candidate will have a proven career record and experience of working in a golf club environment.

NVQ2, spraying qualification and experience in grinding cylinders would be an advantage.

A brand new drainage system, POLYBED, has recently been launched onto the UK market and finds itself with an enormous amount of interest in the sports and leisure industry.

We look for an individual, working from a home base, who has good negotiating skills with an ability to manage sales volumes and facilities to ensure the Course is maintained to its optimum level.

We are seeking an enthusiastic individual who is suitably qualified to manage and develop a small but hardworking team.

The ideal candidate will be enthusiastic and self directed qualified mechanic, who has also attained skills in greenkeeping, to join our committed course management team.

Salary appropriate to experience.

Applications should email their CV to Julie Boon
Email address: julie@forestdrainage.co.uk

Forest Drainage Products Ltd

Forest Drainage Products Limited is a subsidiary of The Forest Group UK, a leading player in the UK construction industry of heath and safety products.

A brand new drainage system, POLYBED, has recently been launched onto the UK market and finds itself with an enormous amount of interest in the sports and leisure industry.

We look for a self motivated sales person with experience in the leisure industry particularly with groundsmen, greenkeepers and recreational area managers to develop the sales potential of this innovative drainage solution.

The ideal candidate will be enthusiastic and self directed with substantial contacts in the areas designated and a good sales track record in the amenity market.

Computer literacy would be an advantage.

We look for an individual, working from a home base, who has good negotiating skills with an ability to manage sales volumes and margins whilst offering good customer care and service.

The position provides an attractive remuneration package which will include a company car, mobile phone, computer and company pension scheme. A bonus structure is negotiable.

Applicants should email their CV to Julie Boon
Email address: julie@forestdrainage.co.uk
Chairman’s Column

Harrogate Week Sold Out

Season’s greetings to you all. Christmas is always a special time of year when families get together to rejoice. It is the time to put to one side life’s problems and relax recharging the batteries for the year ahead. Our industry will always require us to work at times over the festive period but I am sure you will all find time to relax at some point.

I mentioned families earlier and I’d like to think that as BIGGA members we are one big family pulling together for the benefit of all. The BIGGA families special time is Harrogate week when young and old gather to discuss greenkeeping issues both formally at our excellent conference programme and socially looking around the largest indoor turf trade show in Europe.

I mentioned last month that the board had taken the decision to close Hall Q and I am delighted to inform you that we have completely sold out the trade space within the four main Halls and the educational workshops are filling up very fast - to avoid disappointment I urge you to contact Sami or Ken in the educational department to reserve your place before it’s too late. Harrogate 2007 will see the largest programme of seminars ever held giving you the widest amount of educational opportunities. This year we have also introduced a discount scheme if you book before January 10 you can save up to 30% a massive saving for your club.

During October I was invited to the Danish Greenkeeper Conference held in the beautiful resort town of Vejle in Jutland. This was the Danish Association’s first attempt at holding a two-day conference. The conference was very well attended with around 180 delegates, which represents 30% of their membership, an incredible figure listening to a line up of top international speakers.

The conference also gave me the chance to meet many of our international members who work in Denmark. I have mentioned previously that I am very aware that sometimes our international members feel isolated, so I hope my visit reassured many members that we do care.

Finally, I would like to once again wish you all a pleasant and peaceful Christmas and a successful greenkeeping new year.

Champion of BIGGA

This month I have chosen your staff at BIGGA HOUSE and our Regional Administrators, who, under the leadership of our Chief Executive John Pemberton, work tirelessly on our behalf, which sometimes goes unnoticed. This year has been difficult for the sales team as the downturn in the growth in our industry starts to bite and next year looks like it will be a challenging year. My thanks to each and every member of staff in every department - your efforts haven’t gone unnoticed.

Richard Whymann
Chairman
Water. It's what keeps the world alive. As the world's largest manufacturer of irrigation products, we believe it is our responsibility to develop technologies that use water efficiently. Over the past seven decades, our pioneering efforts have resulted in more than 130 patents. From central control systems and automatic shut-off devices to pressure regulating components and low volume drip irrigation, Rain Bird designs products that use water wisely. And our commitment extends beyond products to education, training and services for our industry and our communities.

The need to conserve water has never been greater. We want to do even more, and with your help, we can. Visit www.rainbird.com for more information about The Intelligent Use of Water.