CROSSWORD

Across
1. 2000 film starring Mel Gibson and Helen Hunt (4,5,4)
9. Make work, put into service (7)
10. Lengthen the duration of something (7)
11. Gardening implement; immoral man (4)
12. Claimed by oneself, usually without justification — soi-disant (4-6)
15. Communist official assigned to indoctrinate the military (9)
16. Jewelled headdress (5)
18. Informal, often pejorative word for money (5)
19. — City, formerly Saigon (2,3,4)
20. Lacking thought or emotion (10)
22. Equipment used to join together two draft animals (4)
24. Test of local knowledge? (3,4)
25. Islamic spiritual leader (7)
26. Climbing plant also known as old man’s beard (10,3)

Down
1. Alcoholic drink consisting of Scotch and green ginger wine (6,3)
2. Extremely enthusiastic (4)
3. Viennese dish of deep fried breaded veal cutlets (6,9)
4. 1989 Holly Hunter film, a send-up of beauty contests (4,11)
5. Of heavy traffic, such that slow-moving vehicles are almost touching (4,2,4)
6. Be of use (5)
7. 2240lbs in the UK, 2000lbs in the US (3)
8. Course of academic subjects (10)
13. Extreme form of rock music inspired by thrash (5,5)
14. Written works (10)
17. Feeling that arouses active hostility (9)
21. Venomous snake noted for expanding its neck skin to form a hood (5)
23. Muslim pilgrimage (4)
24. Set to rivalry or opposition (3)

QUICK NINE-HOLE QUIZ

1. In golf what is the name given to the grassed area between the tee and the green?
2. In which game would you find cover point, silly mid off and square leg?
3. Who at the 1984 Olympics, won the 100m, 200m, the print relay and the Long Jump?
4. Which sport featured in many of the Beach Boys earliest hits?
5. Which sport uses asymmetrical bars, rings and a pommel horse?
6. Who won Wimbledon every year from 1976 to 1980?
7. Which Grand Prix team’s world champions have included Emerson Fittipaldi, Niki Lauda and Alain Prost?
8. What is the name of the method of training a horse to carry out a set routine of movements?
9. Which sport was originally called Mintonette?

MONSTER SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 4x4 box contains the numbers 1 to 9 and the letters A, B and C.

SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 9 box shape contains the numbers 1 to 9.
BIGGA LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Dear BIGGA

Please could I pass on my thanks to all the many friends, colleagues and associates, not just at BTME but also from various parts of the world, for their warm and kind words. During these past 55 years, I have been most fortunate to have worked, and been in the company of likeminded greenkeepers and golf enthusiasts, sharing experiences and knowledge of various golf course management programmes – sometimes through attending seminars and more often than not, over a pint of two!

To be awarded this honour is a most flattering and humbling experience, especially to follow in the footsteps of Sir Michael Bonallack OBE; Jack MacMillan MBE; and Walter Woods BEM. Indeed it has been a most fascinating journey.

Thank you all so much.
George Brown
Turnberry Golf Course & Estate Manager

MISLEADING GRINDING ARTICLE?

After reading an article ‘is relief grinding essential to achieving the perfect cut?’ in the December issue I felt slightly confused and questioned my own beliefs and practices.

I felt the writer was writing for their own gains and did not even mention the importance of maintaining a quality bottom blade, which is the most critical aspect of ensuring the perfect cut.

I strongly disagree with certain aspects of the Charmian Robinson article especially that one needs to spin grind units every four weeks, I personally grind my greens units once a year in the spring and maintain ‘no contact’. However, I do occasionally use a bottom blade facer to ensure that my bottom blades are kept in tip top condition. Also I should add that I apply in excess of 130 tons of top dressing onto 0.75 hectres of greens so there are many occasions that the units could lose there sharpness.

I do appreciate the many benefits that were mentioned in the article. However, it has been my experience that by maintaining bottom blades and running no contact between my cylinders and bottom blades I have actually enhanced the benefits to my turf and cutting equipment and given additional ones.

It was good timing that the STRI have published an article reviewing the principles of ‘no contact’ and ‘back lapping’ which can been seen on their website, or the January magazine. They concluded ‘that running mowers using the ‘no contact’ method of setting up the cutting units and using grinding to maintain sharpness was an improvement on the ‘back lapping’ method.’

Thanks
Graeme Gallimore
Devon & Cornwall

Please email your letters to Scott MacCallum, scott@bigga.co.uk or Melissa Jones, melissa@bigga.co.uk