With concerns running high in respect of the long term impact of pesticides on the environment, public discomfort regarding chemical pollution of waterways, and increased legislation restricting the transportation, use and storage of hazardous substances, there has never been a better time for greenkeepers to take stock of their spraying practices.

Surveys by university researchers have shown that on average, spray operators overlap their chemical applications by 25% to 30% more than the manufacturers' recommended rate. This is an alarming fact from both an environmental view and in terms of wastage and cost. In addition, the potential damage that can occur to fine turf if double dosing takes place under conditions favourable for damage puts this area into the high risk category.

Yet surprisingly, though the chemical debate has been with us for years and more people are worried about the role of chemicals in recreational areas, greenkeepers in the main still rely on sight and 'experience' when it comes to judging the application of sprays. Judging the correct application of solutions comprising 99% clear water is very risky: spray becomes almost invisible when applied to grass, making it impossible for the operator to follow the spray line accurately, causing an inevitable overlap.

In the past the practice of drawing chains behind the sprayer to mark bout width margins on the turf has been tried with little success. Anyone who has seen chains snaking across a fairway and knocked off line by every hump, hollow or twist will soon realise that the chain does not reflect the true spray margin and can be almost impossible to see.

Another method, originating from the agricultural industry, uses a special piece of equipment which produces in a transportable tank a foam mixture that is pumped out of pipes at the ends of the boom. This foam is dropped as 'blobs' - at intervals behind the sprayer - with the object of marking the position of the spray boom width. Though clever in its conception, this method rarely works well in practice due to factors such as variability of time the 'blob' takes to disappear (golfers do not take kindly to seeing fairways and greens festooned with foam balls) and the lengthy set-up and clean down time. There is also a significant investment in the initial capital outlay and on-going maintenance. Even if it could be argued that 'blobs' give the operator some guidance on spray bout width, it does not identify any 'skips' or misses due to uneven ground or reveal problems due to faulty spray equipment.

It may have been argued in the past that the chain or 'blob' method of identification was better than nothing. However, neither alternative has widespread appeal and both have their detractors, who see them as flawed.

In the early 1980s some greenkeepers on the other side of the Atlantic, fed up with the 'blob' or chain methods, were obtaining industrial dye products in an attempt to colour their spray solution, which could then be seen by the operator during application. However, many of these were found to be unsuitable—they caused not only long-term staining of the grass, adjacent walkways, fencing and stone...
Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

AROUND THE GREEN

MIDLANDS
June was bustin’ out all over at Great Barr GC on the 4th, with the morning round of our Summer Tournament interrupted by a heavy hail storm, which left the course white in a matter of minutes. There were several players in ‘the hunt’ after the eventful morning round, the afternoon being more enjoyable as the weather improved.

In the event a winner emerged in the guise of Ted Evans, with Steve Wood a close second. The Gross prize was won by Paul Luffman.

The course was in excellent condition and a credit to the greenkeeping staff. For this we thank Great Barr GC, also for granting us the use of course and clubhouse and for catering that was second to none. Finally, a thank-you to our trade friends for supporting us so well.

Our next tournament will be at Edgbaston GC on August 20th and we look forward to meeting all of you again.

Best wishes go to Thos Thomas on his new job as head greenkeeper at Great Barr GC.

DEAN CLEAVER

SOUTH WEST
'Drought? does anyone remember a drought? Certainly in the Cotswolds the last six weeks have been a total wash-out. My neighbour (a keen gardener, few of us left!) was spotted staggering around his lawn with an umbrella, retrieving his garden sprinkler.

Knowle on June 5th for our match Greenkeepers v Secretaries, was another fine example of a summer’s day with incessant rain and a strong wind. But, as they say, it’s an ill wind etc. etc. and the weather obviously upset the secretaries more than the greenkeepers, (you don’t get cold winds and driving rain in nice warm offices or bars!), and thanks to our super-sub Chris Light, the head greenkeeper at Knowle, who came in with the best score of 36 points, we greenkeepers managed to beat the secretaries by just 11 points.

Thanks were also due to Chris, Kevin and the rest of the Knowle staff for the outstanding condition of the course and to the Club itself for the warm hospitality extended to both teams. We are also extremely grateful to Derek Holloway for organising the match and to Monro Horticulture for providing every member of the winning team with a prize.

I hope that you have all found entry forms coming through in order and if any of you have slipped through the ‘regular entry’ system and would like to have forms, please give me a call on 0285 651908.

Finally, congratulations to Laurence Pithee on becoming Britain’s first ‘Master Greenkeeper’. Laurence tells me it was eight months hard slog to prepare for the written exam, which he described as ‘tough but fair’. Another first for the South West.

PAUL WORSTER

SCOTTISH REGION
The Scottish Region Championships were held at Alloa GC on June 25th, the previous weeks having been the wettest recorded in June for decades and many Clubs were forced to postpone events due to torrential, almost tropical downpours and cloud-bursts that could flood a course in minutes. June 24th was a dry exception and so on the 25th it was with a sense of trepidation that we arrived to black skies and the Ochil Hills barely visible through mirk and gloom.

However, 9.30 came and the first 3 ball away to nothing more than a light spitting of rain and high hopes. Ha, fooled again! By 10.30 the rain was a constant downpour with the 14th green – viewed from the clubhouse – looking more like a curling pond in summer than a golf green.

All eyes on ‘youre truly’ as a mini-conference took place with head greenkeeper Duncan Peddie. Suspend play was the verdict.

On again by 11.40, the troops were still not convinced. Duncan Peddie and assistant Alec Nimmo, with the able help of Kevin Brunton (Souters) and Andrew Memmuru (STS), both ex-greenskeepers, checked the greens. Our grateful thanks to you, lads. Was the Reg. Admin. right? of course he was, for by mid afternoon it was shirt sleeves a la sunshine finish for everyone.

Though finishing later than planned, it turned out an excellent day and we were soon ready for the presentations, made perfect by the gracious attendance of Allon Club Captain, Alan Goodwillie, who on this, their centenary year, presented each winner with a copy of the Club’s history.

Exactly 100 golfers took part in the tournament, which may be a record. Originally 109 players were drawn but the conditions seemed to make some of our respected trade members a bit under the weather and unfit for play!

We must thank Alan Goodwillie and his council for their courtesy in hosting the Championship, also club secretary, Alan Frame and green convenor Jackie Vetch, who joined us for our day. To Margaret Harrison, club manageress, and her staff for friendly service, hospitality and delicious meals and Duncan Peddie – happy birthday Dunc to you and your crew for the excellent condition of the course.

The trophy table at The Scottish is a sight to behold. So many marvellous trophies to win and each containing a voucher contributed by our Scottish patrons – all generous to a fault.

On a personal note, my thanks to Cecil George and Jimmy Neilson for their valuable assistance and to my wife, Edna, for her hard work and support in dealing with 100 golfers. It was good to have old friends amongst us including Joe McKean, whose golf was curtailed by an accident with his caddie car (we hope you are healing nicely Joel), and George Hampton, ‘laughter is the best medicine’, eh George? As usual, George donated a generous prize as did Kevin Brunton of Souters.

It was a long day but one to be remembered. Let us herald the Scottish Champion for 1991, Gordon Moir of Fraserburgh, with a scratch 75. Well done Gordon. Further results were: Best nett; Wilson Morrison (Royal Aberdeen) 70. Best head greenkeeper: Duncan Peddie (Alloa) 80-9=71. Best assistant: Stewart Crawford (Ratho Park) 79-7=71. Best apprentice: Neil Chrichton (Tulliallan) 80-8=72. Veteran: Harry Diamond...
June 19th saw 39 competitors take part in the Iseki regional finals, played over Keswick GC in the Lake District. Qualifiers had travelled far and wide to attend, but it was Jimmy Richardson’s team of 12 men from the North East that took the bulk of awards, including the section team prize. Receiving an engraved salver as section secretary, Jimmy was pleased to see that his team took all three places in category 1 and second in category 2 – a fine result and an indication of what can be done when you’ve time to practice!

For results:

(Ayr and Bellaisle) 78-5=73. Team: North Section. Trade: Stuart Syme (Reekies) 76-2=74. Guests: Jackie Vietch (Peterhead) 95-20=75. 2nd Brian Hillen (Drumpellier) 98-20=78. 3rd Steven Frost (Royal Aberdeen) 100-20=80.

After a great time in Canada, I’m back! Busily setting up for a qualifier for The Open. The news below comes courtesy of Bert Watson, who revived the match described.

SURREY

Finally, best wishes to Neil Crichton, who leaves Tulliallan to take up a position in Dorset. Hope you’ve got your passport Neil!

A special thanks also to our sponsors, especially Peter Powell and Steve Broad, who after a tough day travelled to Woburn to make the presentation. At the end of yet another excellent year of work by the staff of Ayr Technical College, the greenkeeping team prepared a good test of golf, with Mr & Mrs Wallace in fine style and to the limit. Thanks to them all and to the Club for making us feel so very welcome.

I’m sure competitors will agree that Tim Jones and his staff prepared a good test of golf, with Mr & Mrs Wallace setting up in fine style and to the limit. Thanks to them all and to the Club for making us feel so very welcome.

A special thanks also to our sponsors, especially Peter Powell and Steve Broad, who after a tough day travelled to Edinburgh immediately after the event. Finally to Bert Cross, who acted an official starter before playing a round himself – Thanks to you all.


On a final note, the Iseki final at Hillside will see regional team captains playing for The Regional Prize. With Hillside on home territory and with us having the youngest team captain, I feel sure we’ll be in a good position to win. So team, keep practicing.

HOWARD MCDADDEY

SURREY

After a great time in Canada, I’m back! Busily setting up for a qualifier for The Open. The news below comes courtesy of Bert Watson, who revived the match described.

On Tuesday June 4th it finally happened. The match Greenkeepers v Secretaries at Tyrrells Wood GC, 14 a side with the sun shining, a warm day with no wind.

Results: Billy McMillan and Tony Witt beat Frank Moore and Barry Morgan 6/5. Don Major and Billy Machin beat Bob Moore and Barry Morgan 6/5. Terry Smith and Mike Power beat John Watson and Peter Watson 7/6. Robert Green and John Green beat Tony Kelly and Pat Howard 4/2. John Belcher and Robert Belcher beat Frank Moore and Barry Morgan 3/2. Yvonne Stimpson and David Kirkham finished all square with James Pevalin and John Wood. Our only losing match was that of Brian Turner and Gordon Smith against Tyrells Wood secretary, Paula Humphries and Stephen Manning, when they did the honourable thing by accepting defeat. Thus the greenkeeping team won 5 of 7 with one half.

I should like to thank Tyrells Wood GC for ensuring the re-instatement of a match that had lapsed over the past few years, the Club caterers for laying on a splendid meal, my staff for producing a course which met with approval all round, and most of all to Tyrells Wood Secretary, Paula Humphries, without whose help the event would not have been possible.

Thanks for this report, Bert. Others, please contact me on 025 125 42587 with any news.

PHIL BALDOCK

ARYSHERE

At the end of yet another excellent year of work by the staff of Ayr Technical College, the greenkeeping students were presented with their trophies and certificates at a special invitation day. I was especially pleased to have three of my own Kyle and Carrick staff receiving awards. It’s also nice to see the more experienced men still willing to go through the college system and doing so well.

Trophies were awarded to: Brian Porteous (New Galloway GC) The BIGGA Cup for Best Student plus Employed Cup. Gordon Kirkpatrick (Kyle and Carrick/Dalmling GC) The Y.T. Cup for Best Student. Stuart Hogg (West Kilbride GC) Y.T. Cup for Runner Up. (Stuart used first aid knowledge gained at Ayr College to assist with a broken ankle injury on West Kilbride beach and was commended by the hospital concerned.)

Steven Ross (Kyle and Carrick/Dalmling GC) Employed Cup. Colin Smith (Kyle and Carrick/Dalmling GC) Y.T. Cup.

I have just enjoyed an excellent day of golf at the Scottish Regional Tournament at Alloa and proved the old saying: ‘beware the wounded’. If I can win a prize carrying a duff leg and back then there’s hope for the rest of you yet!

DUNCAN GRAY

WEST SCOTLAND

By courtesy of the captain and committee of Lenzie GC, the West Section held their spring out over the Lenzie course. It was a fine day and considering the later April date the course was in excellent condition.

The turn-out of some 60 members and guests was very pleasing, with our membership now standing at over 130 and is still on the increase. The committee look forward to seeing this upward trend continue, especially at our Autumn Meeting at Cowal GC, Dunoon, on September 19th.

The results were as follows: Scratch: Stuart Taylor (Glasgow) 72. First class: 1st: Alistair Can-

ELLIOTT SMALL

Brian Porteous (centre) poses with trophies, together with, from left, George Brown, Harry Diamond, Jim Paton and Duncan Gray (Cogwell) 82-9=73. Second class: 1st: David Montgomery (Drumpellier) 82-12=70 (better inner nine). 2nd: Stuart Perston (Renfrew) 81-11=70. 3rd: Sandy Brawley (East Kilbhill) 89-17=72. Third class: 1st: Alastair Fraser (Renfrew) 98-25=73. 2nd: Neil Henry (East Kilbhill) 101-26=77. 3rd: Stuart Cameron (Cawder) 96-20=76. Trade prize: Alan Stevenson (Souter of Stirling).

The section will hold the annual dinner at Sloans, Glasgow on September 8th, with tickets on sale at the Autumn Meeting. There will be three speakers: Peter Lloyd from the Scottish PGA, Stuart McCartney, chief reporter for The Daily Star, and one speaker has still to be confirmed.

GORDON KERR

LONDON

The London section held its second competition of 1991 at Porters Park GC on June 4th. This 18 hole Stableford was won by Ted Dickinson of Hatfield and County GC with 38 points (on count back) from Martin Smith of Porters Park GC. In third place came Daniel Branson, also from Porters Park GC, with 32 points. Best guest was Tony Kelly with 38 points.

The course was in superb condition, and our thanks go to Martin Smith, whose enthusiasm never seems to falter, and his team of fine greenkeepers. The competition was well supported by our trade members: Parkers; Euroturfcare; Sta-Brite; CMW and Pattisson. Our thanks to them all.

The National Conference for 1992 will be held in Cirencester from 27th – 29th March. Greenkeepers considering attending would do well to make a strong effort.

ANDREW PHILLIPS

NORTH WEST

In June I had the pleasure of meeting both David White (the editor) and Tom O’Brien (the head greenkeeper) at Royal Birkdale for a preview of the course prior to The Open Championship. Tom and his staff are doing a grand job and the course is a credit to them year round. I really cannot imagine how Tom manages to keep so cool, when vehicles loaded with scaffolding are pulling in, and the usual peace of the course is shattered, but he does, and is a credit to our profession.

Beautifully manicured fairways and greens could be viewed from almost every sand dune and even the menacing bunkers looked tidy with their deep faces closely mown. For my part I just drank in the whole scene and admired the work of some true professionals.

Can I remind you that a team of 16 is required for the Roses Match on Thursday August 22nd. Any player with the ‘killer’ instinct can con-
53 >«* tact me on 051 724 5412. One point I must make is that in the North West alone almost 70 members have ...

Will all members please note that in order to avoid a clash with the Iseki finals, the Autumn Meeting at ...

Our June meeting was held at the delightful Pycombe Golf Club, with 24 members battling out against old man ...

Our next golf date is Invitation Day at York Strensall. I have encountered a problem with the Roses Match, the list of players/members who wished to play having disappeared from my computer. Please call me for this event - August 22nd at Crossland Heath - which is sponsored by our friends from Pattissons.

Prizes were also distributed for the lowest 'surviving' score from both morning and afternoon, these being won ...

Finally, congratulations to Steve Goode on his appointment as head greenkeeper at Scrattope.

The grapevine has been working overtime in recent weeks, with Stanley West - who were Ransons dealers for the South West - going into receivership and Monro Amenity Care, closing. We shudder to think of the future and wish for supporting us by bringing in John Allbutt - I am sure other sections would find a similar evening most worthwhile.

I now hold a comprehensive range of official BIGGA merchandise and these may be ordered by calling me on 0274 590463.

The fresh winds and showers at Blankney proved an ideal test of golf for our Purdy's Trophy in May. The course was in first class order and had more grass than most of us had experienced during the cold, dry spring. Conditions made for a tight competition with both Richard Owens and Don Dykes returning net 71's. On this occasion Don took a bow to youth - losing on count-back, with Richard retained the trophy for the second time in succession. This competition also gave us our qualifiers for the Iseki regional final.

Our thanks must go to Tony Fox for his excellent organisation and for the warm and friendly hospitality that is the norm at this Lincoln Club.

The Iseki regional final was held at Belton Park on June 24th and although we had a reasonable blow and odd showers the scoring was excellent.

I must congratulate our member, Graeme Patrick, in qualifying, with David Salisbury and Charlie MacDonald both achieving reserve slots. Charlie returned a gross 73 nett 69.

Our thanks must go to Tony Fox for his excellent organisation and for the warm and friendly hospitality that is the norm at this Lincoln Club.

Our enthusiasm for the Iseki final, and to our team, who after listening to my 'let's do it to them before they do it to us' pep talk, managed to win the team shield. Our thanks again to P J Flegg and Devon Garden Machinery who look after us so well.

The first qualifying Section Committee Members golf competition, sponsored by ICI, was held at Moor Hall GC on June 20th. Open to committee members only, the event was won by Mike Hughes from the Midlands section with the team event going to David Heads and Barry Holt from BB&O sec. Dave Siddon of ICI presented the prizes and thanked Richard Minton - also of ICI - for organising the competition, Peter Woodward - course manager at Moor Hall - for excellent playing conditions, the indoor staff for a fine meal and finally Moor Hall GC, its captain and committee, for granting courtesy of the course. The regional final of the Iseki Championship was held on June 24th at Belton Park GC, Steve Broad of Broad Spectrum giving thanks to Belton Parks' captain, Keith Findley, for the courtesy of the course and to head greenkeeper Colin Swingler and his staff, for the excellent playing conditions. Tony Snaith of Iseki presented the winners prizes and wished qualifiers good fortune in the finals at Hillside on September 12th.

The section team prize was won by the East Midlands and the individual prizes were:


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COURSE MANAGER

This is a new appointment with full responsibility for the management of an 18 hole golf course in a magnificent setting overlooking the Clyde estuary and Loch Lomond. The successful candidate will be fully involved in the planning and execution of expansion and development anticipated in the near future.

Applicants must be experienced in all aspects of course management with the proven ability to control and motivate staff.

Salary is negotiable in accordance with qualifications and experience. Accommodation or relocation assistance will be offered to the suitable candidate.

Applications in writing with full CV and references should be sent to:

The Secretary
Helensburgh Golf Club
25 East Abercromby Street
Helensburgh
Dunbartonshire G84 9JD

THE GREENOCK GOLF CLUB
invite applications for the position of

COURSE MANAGER

Applicants should have thorough knowledge of modern greenkeeping techniques in particular in relation to moorland turf and wide experience of use and maintenance of machinery, equipment and watering systems. Ability to manage staff and organise and participate in work programmes will be essential.

Greenock Golf Club has 27 holes and has a progressive attitude to conditions of employment and course development.

Salary: £15,000 circa. No accommodation.

Applications in writing with details of age and experience to:

The Secretary,
Greenock Golf Club,
Forsyth Street, Greenock,
Renfrewshire PA16 8RE

GRASS TECHNOLOGY INTERNATIONAL LTD
AGRONOMIST

This up and coming company in Golf Course design and consultancy require a suitably qualified agronomist to enhance its present team.

The successful applicant should be qualified in soil science, turfgrass management, disease and weed identification and all other agronomic facts relating to golf course advisory work.

The successful applicant will be expected to travel extensively throughout Great Britain, Ireland and Europe. Conditions of employment and salary will be negotiable. Apply in writing with full CV to:

Mr E. B. Connaughton B.Sc
Grass Technology International Ltd
Cunningham Road
Springkerse Industrial Estate
STIRLING FK7 7SL

KOSAIDO GOLF COURSE-HOTEL-RESTAURANTS
invites applications for

FIRST ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Applicants should have a minimum of five years practical experience and further college training will be given where suitable.

Single accommodation is available for this senior position.

Please write to Mr D. McLellan, Course Manager, or telephone for an application form.

London Kosaido Co. Ltd.
Longmoor Road
Liphook
Hampshire GU30 7PE
Telephone: 0428 724555