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Getting to Kingsknowe you

Nestling on the outskirts of Edinburgh and managed by staunch BIGGA supporter Willie Blair, lies city course Kingsknowe. David White examines this 'wee gem' - when he eventually manages to find it......Pages 17-19

Managing water effectively

David Hemstock looks at the science, rather than the art, of using water for effective golf course drainage......Pages 8-9

Hayter Challenge Tournament

Heavy rain failed to dampen enthusiasm for the eagerly anticipated final of the prestigious Hayter Challenge Tournament......Pages 10-12

Students line up for glittering prize

It's time once again for the Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award and eight hopefuls prepare for battle......Pages 14-15

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Cover Picture:

Mike Hughes demonstrates the swing that won him top spot in the Hayter Challenge Tournament.
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n nine hole family course at Bondhay complements the existing driving range and the new 18 hole course, which opens in 1994.  

Cedric Johns has been appointed by the British Turf & Landscape Irrigation Association as its press officer. Involved in the UK irrigation market since its early days, his knowledge and journalistic skill will be utilised to improve standards of technical awareness - both in the industry and in the education of potential end users responsible for sports turf.

Speaking of CJ's appointment, BTTLA chairman Paul de Rhames said "with him on the BTTLA team we plan to step-up our professional presence in the market and broadcast the message that high standards of irrigation design, installation, its use and the conservation of water should be taken seriously by our industry and end-users alike."

The Toro Division of Lely (UK) Ltd announced recently a programme of nationwide Workman Field Days, where the acclaimed Workman 3000 maintenance vehicle, left, will be demonstrated and made available for personal test drive; including the use of a wide range of attachments. Full details of the programme may be obtained from Toro dealers. Already well underway (it started on 13 September), the programme is proving most popular with greenkeepers and will continue until 29 October.

Driving Force Leisure have appointed David Murphy, latterly with Sta-Brite Supplies, as their rep. for Herts, Beds, Cambs, Northants and Warwicks.

The Irish Golf Greenkeepers Association is holding its first Turf Maintenance Exhibition in early November. This will bring together in Dublin suppliers of materials and services, both Irish and international, and will be the essential event for greenkeepers and those who maintain sports and leisure facilities throughout the UK and Ireland. The dates are 4-5 November and the venue is the Royal Dublin Society Showground, Ballsbridge, Dublin, which is easily accessible. Details and invitations from Fairlink Ltd., 58 Clonard Court, Balbriggan, Co Dublin. Tel: +353 1 8411362. Fax: +353 1 8412934.

As a finale to their full time year of study, 15 National Certificate Greenkeeping students from Elmwood recently took a week long study tour to the Rhone – Alp region of France.

Based at the 'Lycée Horticole' they also visited France's oldest course, Golf Aix les Bains founded in 1913, and the six year old layout at Correncon en Vercors, which at over 400 ft is under snow for four months of the year. (During this time the head greenkeeper works as a ski instructor). The 36 hole Golf Club de Lyon, and the nine hole Golf I' Abbaye were also visited during the study tour. Aspects of the design and layout and turf maintenance were discussed, and compared to the students studies at Elmwood.

Of course there was also time to relax; two of the clubs visited offered free use of their practice area. A free day enabled a look round Grenoble, then there was the coffee and croissants, warm sunshine, cool beer, alpine scenery... All things considered a successful tour was enjoyed by everyone.
Be on the ball this Christmas - settle all your present-buying problems with exclusive, top quality BIGGA merchandise! Fill Santa's sack with a whole range of goodies shown on this page. Choose a smart BIGGA blazer or perhaps a stylish rainsuit. You can buy with confidence because each item has the BIGGA seal of approval – and a BIGGA logo too!

**Glenmuir Sweaters**

Here's a favourite garment that makes an ideal Christmas gift – for a man or a woman! These quality sweaters come in a variety of sizes and colours – we have a number in stock at reduced prices. Please ring Samantha Flint at BIGGA HQ on 0347 838581 to find out what's available. Also we can rush to you before Christmas any of the colours listed in sizes 36"-50" at £28.95 including post and packing.

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**Greenkeepers' Cap**

Keep the snow off with this smart, recently introduced greenkeepers' cap available in blue complete with BIGGA logo. Similar to baseball caps, it is fully adjustable. Special price for Christmas of £6.50 including post and packing.

**Books**

- **ALL YEAR ROUND GOLF** – Principles and methods required to achieve this ultimate goal, by Jim Arthur with Barry Cooper and Brian Pierson. 172 pages of no-nonsense advice on practically every aspect of golf course construction and maintenance £29.95 inc p&p.

- **MANUAL ON GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTION, TURF ESTABLISHMENT AND CULTURAL PRACTICES** by Dr James Beard £22.00 inc p&p.

- **GOLF COURSE PRESENTATION** by John Hacker and George Shiel, 48 pages packed with a realistic and practical approach to this vital topic £7.95 inc p&p.

- **SPECIFICATIONS FOR A METHOD OF PUTTING GREEN CONSTRUCTION** edited by William H Bengeyfield £2.50 inc p&p.

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Pictured at the IoG exhibition, BIGGA chairman John Crawford presents an award for furtherance of greenkeeper education – the BIGGA Education and Development Fund – to Gold Key supporter, Jonathan Harmer of Farmura Environmental Products. This award brings the total of Gold Key supporters into double figures, the presentation marking the tenth donation to the Fund.

Countdown has started to BIGGA’s main event

Harrogate is now only four months away – so read all about it now, make a note in your diary of the dates and get your place booked!

Included in this issue of Greenkeeper International you will find a copy of the Educational Seminar Programme giving details of the workshops and seminars together with a copy of the BTME Newsline. A booking form is also enclosed and as always, please book early especially if you wish to make use of BIGGA’s education and accommodation packages.

At Harrogate, we will be launching the much awaited career video and if it receives as much acclaim as the recent training video, then it is bound to be a success. We have received numerous letters and telephone calls at HQ congratulating us on the professionalism and quality of the video on “Setting the Standards in Spray Application”.

The Toro/PGA Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award is reaching its climax. As you will read on Pages 14/15, the eight finalists will meet at Aldwark Manor on 10/11 October to decide the 1993 winner and runners up.

The ICI Greenkeeper of the Year Award has now reached its next stage and the five regional finalists have been selected. They will now receive a visit to their course by Huw Parry, BIGGA’s Education Chairman together with Richard Minton from ICI.

The five finalists will be featured in the next edition of Greenkeeper International.

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...to the following companies, in recognition of their continued support for the Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund
It's official! According to figures from the National Environment Research Council, we have had a year of awful weather. Four years of drought conditions, which started at the end of 1988 and resulted in depleted water stocks over much of the country, have been countered by last winter's well above average rainfall and a gloomy summer with slightly above average rain, an awful lot of it falling in one of the wettest July months for 30 years.

The bad weather during the summer and autumn of 1992 was instrumental in the financial hardship felt by some new course development projects, adding to the misery of the trough of recession. Earthworks came to a standstill from June onwards for many, and the windows for proper seed-bed preparation and sowing were few and far between.

Judging by the number of enquiries we've received from existing clubs on drainage problems, many established courses had a wet and soggy summer, and soggy time of it over the winter of 1992/93.

It's ironic, of course, that I should have co-written an article for this magazine, ('Too hot to handle', Jan 1992) just before the flood, based on the imponderables of global warming and the implications on drought and water use efficiency. Cue for the weather to hit back; predictably unpredictable in our corner of Europe.

Partly due to this unpredictability, we do have a tendency in the UK to avoid the issue when it comes to long term improvements to water sourcing and storage, drainage and irrigation. We can always be pretty sure that today's problem - drought or flood - is unlikely to last too long, and is quite likely to be solved by one of those characteristic 'mood-swings' in the weather. Install a new drainage system, followed by four years of drought, and you will have members muttering about over-draining (whatever that is) and the essential nature of fairway irrigation.

When dealing with a new course, the opportunity to tackle issues such as water sourcing and storage strategy, the integrated design of drainage and re-contouring, and the efficiency of irrigation really should be grasped as early as possible. We know how important water is, where we need it and where we don't, but it is useful to take a look into the interplay, from cloud or sprinkler to outfall.

In essence, the water which is required in summer for irrigation falls in winter. If the course does not store water in winter for irrigation directly, mother nature does geologically or a water company does for a financial return. If the NRA allows it, and water passes by or through or lies under the course, abstraction and storage is possible. Even interest to the NRA is the fate of drainage water, the constraints on use of this source are less rigorous than some of the others. Rainwater harvesting is a neat idea; i.e. recycling rainfall, avoiding potential pollution problems, making secondary use of a drainage system, but there are problems.

Firstly, if water percolates freely through the soil profile to groundwater, directing it through pipes may not be possible or may not be very fruitful. The type of course with this problem is also the one most likely to have water sourcing problems, unfortunately.

If this is not the case, but the contours do not naturally lead to a useful outfall, it may be possible to lead water away from a natural catchment, around the nose of a hill for instance, to an artificially extended catchment. This is assuming that infiltration of water into the soil is reasonable or that the soil can be manipulated to absorb water rather than allowing it to go, possibly to waste, as run-off.

The proportion of rain which becomes run-off or infiltration depends on many factors: slope, drainage, soil type and compaction status, rainfall intensity etc. On a compact soil, run-off may constitute virtually all of the fate of rainfall, similarly on a sloping site run-off may dominate in heavy rainfall events; this is the basis of the 'American' style, heavily re-shaped, course with swale and gully-pot drainage system which relies on run-off to work.

Run-off would normally find its way into an open watercourse or more permeable area and hence to drains or groundwater. It is quite easy to collect water as run-off in low spots where it lies, but to transfer it to the ideal position may often require pumping, which is better avoided if there is an alternative.

To increase the amount of water finding its way into a drainage system, and therefore controlling the control of where it goes to, a more intensive pipe system is needed in conjunction with a permeable top-soil, or some method of intercepting water at the surface is required, by impounding soil infiltration or, by introducing drains and/or slits, grooves etc. with sand to the surface.

The technique for designing a rainwater harvesting system that I use is based on the contour bund (or grip) method used in Africa against erosion on sloping land and sometimes in forestry and moorland drainage. Drains or slits with a highly permeable top-soil could follow the contour with a slight grade to act as water interceptors. At calculated intervals the interceptors connect with a carrier system, which may be sealed to prevent 'blow-out' occurring, which takes the water down the slope to the required place. The flatter the land in question, the easier it is to avoid problems caused by exceptional rainfall events.

I have covered the subject of drainage systems and installation in some detail in another previous article ('Drainage Decisions' Oct. 1992). Basically, purely from a drainage rather than a rainwater harvesting point of view, the system installed initially is usually there to keep the water table below the level of significant root activity as well as to collect areas of water concentration, i.e. hollows, bases of banks, greens, bunkers, springs etc. Operating below the surface layer, this system requires regular aeration or de-compaction treatment on most topsoils.

If these treatments cannot effectively keep water infiltrating through the soil then help may be needed from a 'by-pass' system such as swale slitting - to remove water directly from the surface and transfer it to the carrier system. At the same time, the slit system is acting as a close-spaced soil drainage system, absorbing soil water and reducing compaction potential. This is a key point: pipes and slits may not be there simply to pick up wet spots, a more important role may be to keep soils inherently dryer, thus reducing compaction problems.

If drainage water is being harvested, it is worth directing it to the chosen point with the maximum preservation of head, which might be useful. So, having directed water to a particular point, and solving problems on the way, how is it going to be stored?

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THAT'S THE

REPORT AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY DAVID WHITE

Winners all top, Bill Francis, first in category one; main picture, Chris Hulme, first in category two; and Paul Jackson, first in category three

Hughes won the premier trophy of the Hayter Challenge Cup, with a nett score of 102.5. It was the same golf course for everybody, it just happens that Mike Hughes is the man with the trophy. I've watched Mike quite a bit over the years, impressed always by his workmanlike approach to the game. The moment he bagged a majestic four at the second, after floating a soft wedge that could so easily have found the green into the greenside bunker, splashing out, and ferreting the putt, I knew this was to be his day. That he went on to fire a cluster of birdies spoke volumes for Mike's power of concentration - even he began to fancy his chances

- whilst Midlands team captain, Dean Cleaver, was often at his side, whispering words of encouragement.

Playing the hunch again, I nipped back a couple of holes to watch Bill Francis, a 'banker' for the South East if ever I saw one, finding him well out of character in shooting the rapids, visiting parts of the course best left to wild beasts. On two holes I watched him poke his tee shot into the boondocks, twice marvelling as he recovered with consummate ease. It says something for Bill that he's not given to panic, but it is not fair for an editor to hover at such moments of stress, so I pushed off elsewhere. Later I learned that my hunch was correct again, Bill's score of 107 in category one leading the class by 4.5 shots from Northern Ireland's Jonathan Guest (nice chap, full of strong, vibrant feelings for the occasion) and five less than Jon Moorhouse, the Midlands cornerstone.

Predicting winners in the second category isn't so easy, even practice rounds make 'em edgy, they're the 'anything can happen' brigade. Well, I'm telling you, when I spotted Chris Hulme early in the round, spied him through a camera lens, I couldn't believe my eyes. He has a ten handicap, swings like a three, hits the ball a country mile and is oh so tidy around the greens. Not surprising, then, that he should romp home, leading second placed Matthew Blake (S.W & S Wales) and the ever grinning Owen O'Connor (Fire), by eight glorious shots.

The seasoned reporter (for that matter, the seasoned golfer) must never write off those dark horses in category three, with literally Paul of shots, they often can prove an enormous upset. Whilst it's easy to kid oneself, it's tough to pick a 'banker' from these ranks. Paul Jackson hails from Bournemouth, working and playing at Ferndown, which by anyone's reckoning is a tough old test of nerve. A player holding 19 handicap at Ferndown might easily be a 14 elsewhere, such is its test of severity.

So, was Paul Jackson one of my bankers? I'm sorry to say that he was not, though around the turn at Sand Moor he revealed how lacking my powers of observation had been to miss him - this guy is really hot money, gracious, mellow, with a magnificent vigour and must be regarded as a 'soon to be' candidate for category two, his score of 104.5 almost proving the upset of the day. Unlike Mike Hughes or Martin Scothern, I'll bet Paul can look back over his 27 rounds make 'em edgy, they're the 'anything can happen' brigade. Well, I'm telling you, when I spotted Chris Hulme early in the round, spied him through a camera lens, I couldn't believe my eyes. He has a ten handicap, swings like a three, hits the ball a country mile and is oh so tidy around the greens. Not surprising, then, that he should romp home, leading second placed Matthew Blake (S.W & S Wales) and the ever grinning Owen O'Connor (Fire), by eight glorious shots.

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