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Wildwood used to be yellow, wet and miserable. Now this Surrey golf course is a real gem. We report on the people and the practices behind the transformation

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There’s a million dollar hole in the “World’s Most Outrageous Tournament” – but turf maintenance is never considered in this extraordinary New Zealand competition

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Looking across Donnington Grove, past the temple, to the 14th century Gate House Tower

WIN £50 CASH IN OUR BUYER’S GUIDE COMPETITION; TURN TO PAGE 54
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Greenkeeper gets new job in education

BIGGA's chairman of education, Huw Parry, has got a new job - in education. Huw, head greenkeeper at Bristol and Clifton GC, has been appointed lecturer in greenkeeping and golf course management at Cannington College, Bridgwater, Somerset.

He took up his new post on September 1 after 20 years in greenkeeping and said he's looking forward to the new challenge. "With all my work in education, I see it as a natural development," he said.

As well as serving on the education sub-committee, 37-year-old Huw has also been liaison officer for Pencoed College and was on the working party that produced the GTC training manual. His father is a teacher and his elder brother is a university lecturer in New Zealand. Their subjects are history.

"I'm sad that my work on the education committee has come to an end, I've thoroughly enjoyed it, but this is an exciting opportunity and I hope it will be a role model for other colleges to get someone from industry involved in furthering greenkeeping," he said.

Race ace to buy golf course

Racing driver Nigel Mansell plans to buy Woodbury Park Golf and Country Club, near Exeter. A price rumoured to be around the £2m mark is believed to have been agreed.

Sausage theory to reduce algae

Want to control algae growth in your course's lakes and ponds? Try a straw sausage. That's the advice from Contimex, the distributors for Christmas Tree Packaging Netting in the UK. They claim that studies have shown that barley straw packaged in netting (like a large sausage) and submerged is an effective method of controlling algae. As the straw decomposes in the water, chemicals are produced which limit and control algae growth. Fine mesh netting is recommended over large mesh netting as it contains the straw better, it is easier to handle and small fish are less likely to get gilled in it and subsequently drowned. Tel: 0825 766135.

Derek has crate plans

The Belfry's Derek Ganning, pictured left, rose to new heights during Sisis Equipment's Grounds and Greens seminar at Newmarket. The previous speaker, Wembley's Steve Tingley, left the vertically-challenged course manager a beer crate to stand on while he described plans to improve the Brabazon and Derby courses in the hope of getting the Ryder Cup back there in 2001. Barkway Park GC's head greenkeeper, Ken Stewart, had a productive time at the seminar, too - he won a pocket TV.
Why autumn is always a season to relish

The advent of autumn sees the climax of a number of our major events. Once again the final of the Hayter Challenge Tournament is upon us and this year's final will take us to Pannal Golf Club in Harrogate.

This is rightly regarded as one of North Yorkshire's finest courses and I am sure that those members who have reached the final will enjoy the experience of playing there. How successful the tournament has been again this year. The original concept of this tournament back in 1988 was as a means of establishing an identity for our newly formed regions and to encourage members to think regionally as well as in section and national terms. I believe the formula has worked and continues to do so.

Competition to qualify from section to region to national final is fierce. At the final qualifiers compete for a regional team prize and to encourage members to think regionally as well as in section and national terms. I believe the formula has worked and continues to do so.

The Hayter team, enthusiastically led by Kim Macfie, is fiercely. At the final qualifiers many of you will be aware of the contribution Alan has made to the cause of greenkeeper education over many years when he was a member of the Greenkeepers Training Committee. He was also instrumental in the development of greenkeeper training at Askham Bryan College. We wish Alan and Molly a long, healthy and happy retirement.

**BIGGA in focus**

**BY NEIL THOMAS**

Students applauded

At the beginning of October the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year award climaxes with the national final at Aldwark Manor. This award has grown in significance with the expansion of greenkeeper training in recent years so much so that in 1993 for the first time regional finals were necessary to make selections for the national final. This process has been repeated again this year. Awareness of the award has increased with each passing year and students have a target to aim for which can only encourage their application and determination during their college courses.

The joint support of Toro, Lely UK Ltd and the PGA European Tour in providing three outstanding awards has been instrumental in the success of this scheme. The first prize providing an<...>
The Halliloo golf course, currently under construction in Surrey, has had three underground reservoirs built. The concrete reservoirs, pictured below will be able to hold a total of 20,000m³ of water. When the course opens next year the reservoirs, designed by Booth Concrete Ltd, will be invisible to golfers and will not affect the use of the ground surface.

Greens are wrecked in salt spillage

Goswick Golf Club greens staff have been relaying two greens after salt contaminated the irrigation system.

Authorities are investigating how salt got into the stream from which the Berwick-on-Tweed club draws its water.

Several other greens have been affected to varying degrees, but not as severely.

A river gate a mile and a quarter from the course which prevents water coming in at high tide was wedged open - possibly the work of poachers in search of salmon.

"It's a real setback because the course has been in superb condition - we're just praying for rain because we can't use the irrigation system until we're sure the salt water problem has cleared up," said a club spokesman.

Seed founder dies

The founder of Gerson Grass Seed, Frank Gerson, has died following a short illness. He was 73.

Students collect prizes

Andrew Boyce, pictured below left, receives the BIGGA Shield for Best Practical Student at Sparsholt College, near Winchester. Andrew, from Bath, has been studying on the National Diploma Horticulture Golf Course and Sportsground Management course and hopes one day to become a course manager on a major course. His tutor said: "Andrew's award reflects not only his ability at Sparsholt but also a creditable performance during his middle year placement at Lansdown Golf Club, Bath, as assistant greenkeeper."

Andrew was presented with the shield at a ceremony in Winchester Cathedral, where the guests included Lord Wakeham, Leader of the House of Lords and Lord Privy Seal, and Lord Sainsbury, president of the college.

At the same ceremony James Haywood of Owslebury, Hants, also pictured, was presented with the Rufford Cup for top student on the National Diploma Horticulture Golf Course and Sports Management course. He is now working at Barshaw municipal golf course and associated sportsfields in Paisley, Glasgow.

FLYING DIVOTS

Martin Smith, the head greenkeeper at Porters Park in Hertfordshire recently rushed to help a damsel in distress. A lady member came into his office crying, "Help me, please, I've had an accident on the practice ground." But visions of another player lying unconscious after being hit by a wayward shot were misplaced. The distressed female had, in fact, got her new graphite-shafted 3-wood stuck in a tree!

Acorn Equipment has appointed a new sales rep for the North West. Andy Powell, formerly with Richard Campey machinery, will be driving to courses in Acorn's new mobile equipment van. Tel: 0378 162162

A conference on vegetation and slopes (stabilisation, protection and ecology), organised by the Institution of Civil Engineers, is to be held at the University Museum, Oxford, on September 29-30. Price is £205.95. Tel: 071 839 9503/5.

The opening of the Brian Huggett-designed Park course at Orchardleigh, in Somerset, has been postponed until the spring. The park, one of two 18-hole championship layouts originally planned for the 420-acre estate near Frome before the receivers moved in three years ago, had been due to open late this summer.

Turf Irrigation Services Ltd (TIS), the UK's largest Toro dealer and installer, has opened a new office in Beckenham near Bromley in Kent. Tel: 081 6584030.

Rhone-Poulenc Environmental Products has appointed two new distributors - Eden Park Ltd for London, Middlesex, Kent, East Sussex and Surrey and Driving Force Leisure for the Home Counties.

£500,000 is being spent improving facilities at Castle Coombe, bought recently by hotelier Giuseppe Pecorelli.
It's a helluva test. The weather was bad and I think everyone did well to get round. If low-handicappers are struggling, high handicappers have to be struggling even worse. It's a long course and a good test.

— greenkeeper Malcolm Lathan

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