Grass Cutting Equipment

**Grass Cutting Equipment**

- **Gerson Grass Seed**
- **Quality Amenity Grass Seeds & Wild Flowers**
  - 119 Holloway Road, Birmingham B1 1QP
  - Tel: 021 631 2303
  - Fax: 021 633 0291

**Problem Areas? Scan-Seeding is the Answer**

Our unique, mulch-free hydroseeding system will solve your seeding problems on difficult areas such as banks, slopes or where soil erosion may occur. The unique Scan-Binder soil stabiliser ensures that the seed stays in position until germination and establishment.

Call us now for more details and a quotation on 0372 749909

(U.K.) LEIMITED

**Franchises available**

**Irrigation**

**Irrigation Control**

Design • Supply • Install • Service

Installation and Service of Impact and Gear Drive Sprinkler Systems throughout the UK

- England
- Scotland

Winsted, Cheshire
Milnathort, Kinross
Tele: 01460 559927
Fax: 01460 653528

Irrigation under Control

**Turf Irrigation Specialists**

We offer full design, installation and After Sales Service

Hortech Systems Ltd, Hailgate, Holbeach, Spalding, Lincs PE12 7LQ

Tel: 0406 425613

**T. & G. Turf Irrigation Services**

38 Halfpenny Lane, Knaresborough, North Yorkshire HG5 ON5

Tel & Fax: (0423) 864963

Full member of B.T.L.I.A.

**A National Irrigation Service**

Free consultation and design service

Suppliers of quality products for all types of irrigation

Local installation and maintenance throughout the UK

Specialists in the refurbishment of existing irrigation systems

For further information telephone 0460 241939

**O.C.M.I.S.**

Design and service you can trust

**Waterman**

Manufacturers, designers and installers of GOLF COURSE IRRIGATION FOR 24 YEARS

Tongham Road, Aldershot, Hants GU12 4AA

Tel: 0252 336838
Fax: 0252 336808

**Making Sure Your Golf Irrigation System Isn’t a Handicap.**

Head Office and Technical Support: 109 Chapel Road, Hest Bank, Preston, Lancs, PR4 6RU

Tel: (0772) 813571
Fax: (0772) 815885

**Midland Irrigation**

An Independent Irrigation Company

2 Fairburne Way, Great Barr, Birmingham B43 5AS

Tel: 021 336 1246
Fax: 021 337 6769

Design • Supply • Installation • Service

Full member of BTIA

**Midlands IRRIGATION**

An Independent Irrigation Company

2 Fairburne Way, Great Barr, Birmingham B43 5AS

Tel: 021 336 1246
Fax: 021 337 6769

Design • Supply • Installation • Service

Full member of BTIA

**Automatic Watering Systems for Sports and Leisure Grounds**

Glen Heat & Irrigation

Pinchbeck, Spalding, Lincs.

Tel: (0775) 722327
Fax: (0775) 725444

**Hunter Irrigation**

Full range including Valve-in-Head from S.G.I. Sales

6 Stuart Road, East Ham, Ilford

Tel: 01858 463153
Fax: 01858 410085

NOW YOU HAVE A CHOICE!

**GT Group**

Least Cost Waterproofing of Lakes and Reservoirs

- using lining membranes and associated geosynthetic materials.
- Comprehensive service available to owners/architects/consultants and contractors

GT Group, Nags Corner, Wiston Road, N. Lincs. COCHESTER CO6 4LT

For technical and sales enquiries Tel: (0206) 262976
Fax: (0206) 262998

**Mower Spares**

Mower Accessories LTD

Manufacturers of high quality lawnmower blades and cylinders. Suppliers of spares and accessories.

65 Forncett Street, Sheffield S4

Tel: 0742 765825
Fax: 0742 765855

**Netting**

**T.L. Dynamics**

- Germination Sheets
- Frost Protection Sheets
- Target Nets
- Perimeter Netting
- Ball Stop Netting
- Rain Covers
- Mobile and Static Netting

Available from all good distributors

Longbrook House, Ashton Vale Road, Bristol BS3 2HA

Tel: 0272 669684

**BTME 1995**

25-27 January 1995, Harrogate, Yorkshire

Details from Louise Lunn at BIGGA on 0347 838581

**Lake Construction**

**GT Group**

Least Cost Waterproofing of Lakes and Reservoirs

- using lining membranes and associated geosynthetic materials.
- Comprehensive service available to owners/architects/consultants and contractors

GT Group, Nags Corner, Wiston Road, N. Lincs. COCHESTER CO6 4LT

For technical and sales enquiries Tel: (0206) 262976
Fax: (0206) 262998

**Mower Spares**

Mower Accessories LTD

Manufacturers of high quality lawnmower blades and cylinders. Suppliers of spares and accessories.

65 Forncett Street, Sheffield S4

Tel: 0742 765825
Fax: 0742 765855

**Netting**

**T.L. Dynamics**

- Germination Sheets
- Frost Protection Sheets
- Target Nets
- Perimeter Netting
- Ball Stop Netting
- Rain Covers
- Mobile and Static Netting

Available from all good distributors

Longbrook House, Ashton Vale Road, Bristol BS3 2HA

Tel: 0272 669684

**BTME 1995**

25-27 January 1995, Harrogate, Yorkshire

Details from Louise Lunn at BIGGA on 0347 838581
Sam Moreton & Sons
Turf Tyre
Turf Tyres of all makes to fit any machine. Wheels made to customer requirements.
Enquiries: 0926 632269
Fax: 0926 632923
Orders: 0926 613737
Nationwide delivery service

Vertidraining Hire

Midland Turf Aerating Service
• Verti-Draining • Hollow Coring with Ryan GA30
• Core Collector • Deep Slitting • Top Dresser • Over-Seeder • Tractor Hire
• Competitive prices • Professional nationwide service
Tel/Fax 01922 417567
Charles Frost

Alder Root Golf Club
VERTIDRAINING
Competitive rates and prompt service throughout the North West
For details contact: Ernie Lander on 0925 291919 or 0831 446817

Parker Hart
Verti-draining, hollow coring, conventional and hydro-seeding throughout the South East
Complete range of turfcare machinery available for hire
Competitive rates
Reliable equipment
Experienced operators
Call Karen or Anne
081 337 7791

Sowerby Hire
(Solihull)
Vertidrain, Moore Sportsfield
Over-Seeder, Verti Over-Seeder for Greens & Tees, Toro Aerator, Case Trenchers & Sportsfield Slitters etc.
Contact: Doug or Ron Johnson
Tel: (01564) 772597
Fax available

E&S Sportsground Contractors
We're No.1 for Vertidraining, Hollow Tining and Core Collection
For competitive rates and a professional service, contact
RICHARD VEITCH
0734 795454
The Fairways, King Street Lane, Winsorsh, Wokingham, Berkshire RG11 5AX
Fax: 0734 795353

Parker Hart
Verti-draining, hollow coring, conventional and hydro-seeding throughout the South East
Complete range of turfcare machinery available for hire
Competitive rates
Reliable equipment
Experienced operators
Call Karen or Anne
081 337 7791

Herofield Hire
Vertidrain, Moore Sportsfield
Over-Seeder, Verti Over-Seeder for Greens & Tees, Toro Aerator, Case Trenchers & Sportsfield Slitters etc.
Contact: Doug or Ron Johnson
Tel: (01564) 772597
Fax available

PETER MANNINGTON
Specialist Verti-Drain Contractor for the South For greens, tees, fairways and sportsgrounds Experienced operator, competitive rates and reliable service
Phone Peter on 0580 200205 or Mobile 0850 612061
Sheeplaw Farm, Church Street, Ticehurst, East Sussex TN5 7DL

Don't Miss
The Show of the Year!
Call Louise Lunn at BIGGA on 0347 538581 for an information pack

Worth DRAINING
Vertidraining and Hollow Coring Hire with the Ryan G.A. 30
Contact Peter Bloodworth

£50 TO YOU!

You're at the end of the Buyers' Guide section — if you haven't found the ads with the 3 symbols in yet,

Try Again:
It Could Be Worth
QUALITY REBUILT GROUNDCARE MACHINERY
• Gang Mowers • Triple Mowers
• Cylinder Mowers • Aeration Equipment • Scarification & Collection Equipment • Nationwide Delivery
Export by Arrangement
EFG GARDEN MACHINERY
Tenterfields Business Park, Luddendenfoot, Halifax HX2 6EJ.
Tel: 0422 882165
Fax: 0422 886014

Machinery For Sale

QUALITY REBUILT GROUNDCARE MACHINERY
• Gang Mowers • Triple Mowers
• Cylinder Mowers • Aeration Equipment • Scarification & Collection Equipment • Nationwide Delivery.
Export by Arrangement
EFG GARDEN MACHINERY
Tenterfields Business Park, Luddendenfoot, Halifax HX2 6EJ.
Tel: 0422 882165
Fax: 0422 886014

Ransomes Commander 3500DX
6 knife fixed heads From £25,000

Ransomes Parkway 225 6 knife fixed heads From £15,950

Ransomes GT Champion vertigroom units and grass catchers From £7,500

Ransomes Motor 180D 7 knife floating heads with grass boxes From £8,975

Ransomes Greens Pro 56 with transport wheels From £3,500

Ryan Turf Cutter 16" Heavy Duty...From £5,900

Cushman TD1500 top dresser From £3,400

Jacobsen Greensking petrol and diesel
Ransomes Hydr Mtd 5
Jacobsen diesel 3WD Tri-King
Toro GM 3000D
J Reg Ransomes 213D

Jacobsen, Toro, Ransomes and Sabo Roberine Triple Mowers available
Other tractors and machinery in stock. Telephone or fax for further details.

Tel: 0260 224568
Fax: 0260 224791

Turf irrigation specialists
We supply:
• Manual or automatic pop up installations
• Mobile or static sprinklers
• Subterranean porous hose systems

Irrigation for:
• Golf Courses • Bowling Greens • Football Pitches
• Cricket Squares • Riding Areas
• Public Amenities and Gardens

We offer full Design, Installation and After Sales Service

FOR ADVICE AND NO OBLIGATION QUOTATIONS PLEASE CONTACT:
Hortech Systems Ltd, Hallgate, Holbeach, Spalding, Lincs PE12 7LG
Tel: 0406 426513

Tomorrow’s Technology Today

Trees

LARGE TREES
IDEAL for GOLF COURSES

Many varieties
Nursery seconds
From £3.00
Ramswood Nurseries
Tel: 0925 821002
Fax: 0925 821022

Business Opportunity

COMMISSION AGENTS

Well established Company with a recognised product range requires Commission Agents to call on Golf Clubs in Wales, Northern England, Midlands, East Anglia and Southern England.
Kindly telephone: 0858 464346

Job Shop

RECRUITMENT

Forest Pines Golf Club
We are inviting applications for the position of
HEAD GREENKEEPER

for a new golf course in South Humberside due to open in May 1996. Forest Pines Golf Club is located in a beautiful woodland close to Scunthorpe and is designed to Championship standard. Applicants must have formal qualifications and a proven track record in all aspects of course management. The successful candidate will be responsible for overseeing the growing-in of the new course and will be expected to recruit other greenkeeping staff as required. Excellent terms and conditions (negotiable).

Please write enclosing your C.V. to:
Mr David Middleton, Briggate Lodge Inn, Ermine Street, Broughton, Brigg, South Humberside. DN20 0AQ

Hortech Systems Ltd
Hallgate, Holbeach, Spalding, Lincs PE12 7LG
Tel: 0406 426513

Harry Camper

Toro 3000 petrol c/w greens units and verticut units £5,250
EX DEMO LESCO 3000, 3WD c/w greens units and turf groomers £9,950
Selection of Ransomes, Jacobsen, LESCO and Huxley Gangmower

JACOBSEN DISTRIBUTORS
Largest selection of professional used and reconditioned grass machinery in the Midlands
Jacobsen Greensking petrol and diesel
Ransomes Hydr Mtd 5
Jacobsen diesel 3WD Tri-King
Toro GM 3000D
J Reg Ransomes 213D

Contact
CHRIS BRYDEN
0777 704275
EVENINGS: 0602 209401

Trees

HENRY ROYLE
For 750ml Line Marker
Aerosols
at very competitive prices
Backlapping Paste
– silicon carbide
course, medium, fine
Heavy Duty Floor Paint
Phone: (01772) 745038
and ask for Henry Royle

G E Adamson Grass Machinery
Ransomes 213D triple mower £3950
Ransomes Gangs 3 set Magna or Sports
– new cylinders £2500
Ransomes 180D Triple floating or fixed units £3500
Sisis Auto-Turfman – new engine, choice of tines £875
Iseki TU300 Hydro 24HP tractor turf or agr/irres – 913 hrs £4500
Compact Tractors and Machinery
All prices inclusive of transport but subject to VAT.
Tel/Fax: 0995 640180

Trees

LARGE TREES
IDEAL for GOLF COURSES

Many varieties
Nursery seconds
From £3.00
Ramswood Nurseries
Tel: 0925 821002
Fax: 0925 821022

Trees

HENRY ROYLE
For 750ml Line Marker
Aerosols
at very competitive prices
Backlapping Paste
– silicon carbide
course, medium, fine
Heavy Duty Floor Paint
Phone: (01772) 745038
and ask for Henry Royle

G E Adamson Grass Machinery
Ransomes 213D triple mower £3950
Ransomes Gangs 3 set Magna or Sports
– new cylinders £2500
Ransomes 180D Triple floating or fixed units £3500
Sisis Auto-Turfman – new engine, choice of tines £875
Iseki TU300 Hydro 24HP tractor turf or agr/irres – 913 hrs £4500
Compact Tractors and Machinery
All prices inclusive of transport but subject to VAT.
Tel/Fax: 0995 640180

RECRUITMENT

Forest Pines Golf Club
We are inviting applications for the position of
HEAD GREENKEEPER

for a new golf course in South Humberside due to open in May 1996. Forest Pines Golf Club is located in a beautiful woodland close to Scunthorpe and is designed to Championship standard. Applicants must have formal qualifications and a proven track record in all aspects of course management. The successful candidate will be responsible for overseeing the growing-in of the new course and will be expected to recruit other greenkeeping staff as required. Excellent terms and conditions (negotiable).

Please write enclosing your C.V. to:
Mr David Middleton, Briggate Lodge Inn, Ermine Street, Broughton, Brigg, South Humberside. DN20 0AQ

G E Adamson Grass Machinery
Ransomes 213D triple mower £3950
Ransomes Gangs 3 set Magna or Sports
– new cylinders £2500
Ransomes 180D Triple floating or fixed units £3500
Sisis Auto-Turfman – new engine, choice of tines £875
Iseki TU300 Hydro 24HP tractor turf or agr/irres – 913 hrs £4500
Compact Tractors and Machinery
All prices inclusive of transport but subject to VAT.
Tel/Fax: 0995 640180

Trees

LARGE TREES
IDEAL for GOLF COURSES

Many varieties
Nursery seconds
From £3.00
Ramswood Nurseries
Tel: 0925 821002
Fax: 0925 821022

Trees

HENRY ROYLE
For 750ml Line Marker
Aerosols
at very competitive prices
Backlapping Paste
– silicon carbide
course, medium, fine
Heavy Duty Floor Paint
Phone: (01772) 745038
and ask for Henry Royle

G E Adamson Grass Machinery
Ransomes 213D triple mower £3950
Ransomes Gangs 3 set Magna or Sports
– new cylinders £2500
Ransomes 180D Triple floating or fixed units £3500
Sisis Auto-Turfman – new engine, choice of tines £875
Iseki TU300 Hydro 24HP tractor turf or agr/irres – 913 hrs £4500
Compact Tractors and Machinery
All prices inclusive of transport but subject to VAT.
Tel/Fax: 0995 640180

Trees

LARGE TREES
IDEAL for GOLF COURSES

Many varieties
Nursery seconds
From £3.00
Ramswood Nurseries
Tel: 0925 821002
Fax: 0925 821022

Trees

HENRY ROYLE
For 750ml Line Marker
Aerosols
at very competitive prices
Backlapping Paste
– silicon carbide
course, medium, fine
Heavy Duty Floor Paint
Phone: (01772) 745038
and ask for Henry Royle
RECRUITMENT

The Golfclub Mittelland
Oberentfelden
requires a
HEAD GREENKEEPER

We require a qualified Greenkeeper able and experienced in all aspects of turf and machinery to look after a picturesque 9 hole golf course in the centre of Switzerland.

Please apply in writing with full CV to:
GOLFCUB MITTELLAND
Muhenstrasse 52
5036 Oberentfelden
Switzerland

Cuddington Golf Club
require an
ASSISTANT HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicants should be appropriately qualified with broad practical experience and the ability to motivate staff.

Excellent prospects for the right candidate to work with modern machinery in an enthusiastic team.

Accommodation available.

Apply with career details to:
The Secretary
Cuddington Golf Club, Banstead Road,
Banstead, Surrey SM7 1RD

Five Lakes Hotel,
Golf & Country Club
require a
HEAD GREENKEEPER

for their two established 18 hole golf courses.

Applicants must possess appropriate qualifications as well as a proven track record in course management, budgetary control, machine maintenance and irrigation systems.

The ability to motivate and direct staff is essential.

Salary will be negotiable.

No accommodation.

Apply in writing with curriculum vitae to:
Director of Golf
Five Lakes Hotel, Golf & Country Club,
Colchester Road, Tolleshunt Knights,
Maldon, Essex CM9 8HX

Mount Pleasant Golf Course
is looking to appoint a
HEAD GREENKEEPER/COURSE MANAGER

from March 1, 1995

This very popular 9 hole course, established in 1992, is privately owned, with a mix of Pay & Play and membership.

The position would suit an ambitious qualified First Assistant looking for career advancement. Although no accommodation is offered, the course is situated in the centre of an attractive thriving village. They will be responsible solely to the proprietors, resident on site.

Salary and conditions to be negotiated using BIGGA recommended guides.

Please address written applications, with CV, to:
Mr D L Simkins,
Mount Pleasant Golf Course,
Lower Stondon, Henlow, Beds SG16 6JL
**Saffron Walden Golf Club**

**RECRUITMENT**

requires a

**COURSE MANAGER**

for an established undulating 18-hole parkland course.

Applicants should have suitable qualifications and several years experience at a minimum level of Deputy Head Greenkeeper.

The ability to lead, motivate, and organise effectively, an established team of greenstaff is essential.

Requirements include a good working knowledge of irrigation systems, greenkeeping machinery, and Health and Safety regulations.

Salary is negotiable, and accommodation is available.

Apply in writing with full CV to:

The General Manager, Saffron Walden Golf Club, Saffron Walden, Essex CB10 1BX

---

**Millstätter See Golf Club**

Carinthia/Kärnten, Austria

invites applications for the position of

**HEAD GREENKEEPER**

This is a new golf course to be built in the southern-most province of Austria, in one of Austria’s most attractive holiday regions.

The successful applicant will have the following skills, knowledge and experience:

- Greenkeeping qualifications
- Experience in bringing a course into play and construction experience
- Machinery maintenance
- Budget control
- Knowledge of German would be an advantage, but not a necessity
- A good standard of golf

An attractive salary will be offered including accommodation.

Construction will begin March/April 1995.

If you are looking for a new and exciting challenge and have the necessary self-motivation to make the move to a new country, this is the job for you!

Please apply with full details of career and qualifications to:

G Manson, Staudach 110/2, A9546 Bad Kleinkirchheim, Kärnten, Austria
Tel and Fax (from England): 010 43 4240 8426

---

**The Royal County Down Golf Club**

**RECRUITMENT**

This is a new appointment with the incumbent responsible for the management of a Championship Course ranked one of the 10 Greatest Courses in the World and a second 18 Hole Course both in a magnificent setting overlooked by the Mountains of Mourne and on the shore of Dundrum Bay.

Applicants must have practical experience of links course maintenance and all aspects of course management with proven ability to lead and motivate staff.

Salary is negotiable in accordance with qualifications and experience.

Please apply in writing with full CV to:

The Secretary, The Royal County Down Golf Club, Newcastle, County Down, BT33 0AN

---

**Greatham Valley Golf Club**

requires an

**EXPERIENCED HEAD GREENKEEPER**

For 27 Hole Main Course plus a 9 Hole Par-3 Course

Applicants must be suitably qualified and possess the necessary management and supervisory skills with appropriate greenkeeping qualifications and detailed knowledge of the use and maintenance of modern machinery.

Salary negotiable.

Apply in writing with full CV to:

R E Hinch Esq Greatham Valley Golf Club, Wood Lane, Greatham, Rutland LE15 7RG
BOURNE AMENITY requires two AREA SALES MANAGERS for the areas HANTS/SURREY and ESSEX/NORTH LONDON

Due to continued success and expansion we need committed professionals capable of selling top of the range products into golf courses, local authorities and constructors.

You will be joining a dedicated, enthusiastic team and full product training will be given if necessary. Excellent remuneration package is available including company car.

All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Apply in writing to:
Dick Reid, Bourne Amenity, Newenden, Cranbrook, Kent TN18 5QG or ring for an informal discussion on (01797) 252298

Greenkeeping Section

LECTURER IN GREENKEEPING

(Fixed Term Post – 23 months)

Applications are invited for the above post. Candidates should have a qualification in greenkeeping and recent experience in a golf course and/or groundsmanship situation.

Salary presently from £13,218 to £20,529.

Application forms and further information are available from the Personnel Manager, Elmwood College, Cupar, Fife KY15 4JB, or by telephone (0334) 652781.

The closing date for applications is Friday 20 January 1995.

Warren Golf Club invite applications for the position of HEAD GREENKEPER for an 18 hole links course, situated on the coast, 12 miles south of Exeter.

The successful applicant will be responsible for all aspects of course management and preparation. He or she must have appropriate greenkeeping qualifications and possess the necessary management and supervisory skills to enthusiastically lead and motivate staff, organise work programmes and maintain Health & Safety requirements. A knowledge in the use and maintenance of modern machinery will be required.

Local accommodation is immediately available and the salary is negotiable.

Apply in writing with full CV to:
Mr P G Tomlinson, Manager, Warren Golf Club, Dawlish Warren, Devon EX7 0NF

HEAD GREENKEEPER required by small progressive members club expanding from 9 to 18 holes commencing in 1995.

Salary negotiable dependent on experience and qualifications. No accommodation available.

Apply in writing with CV to:
L Mitchell, Secretary/Manager, UPAVON GOLF CLUB
Douglas Avenue, Upavon, Wiltshire SN9 6BQ

Reading Golf Club HEAD GREENKEEPER required for established 18 hole golf club.

Applications invited from candidates with relevant qualifications and experience.

Terms and conditions negotiable.

Written applications with full CV to:
The Secretary, Reading Golf Club, 17 Kidmore End Road, Emmer Green, Reading, Berkshire RG4 8SG

Burton on Trent Golf Club invite applications for the position of HEAD GREENKEEPER

The course is a mature parkland course, almost 100 years old, in South Derbyshire.

Applicants must be suitably qualified and fully experienced in Golf Course Management and maintenance techniques. The remuneration for this job is negotiable within BIGGA recommendations and includes a house overlooking the golf course.

Please send your application, CV and references to:
The Secretary, Burton on Trent Golf Club Ltd, 42 Ashby Road East, Burton on Trent, Staffs DE15 0PS

Closing date for applications 31 January 1995.
How can I reduce my golf course hazards?

As the owners and managers of a fine 18-hole municipal golf course, we are becoming increasingly concerned by the number of injuries being caused to groundstaff by the occasional misadventure of a golf ball. Whilst we appreciate that the very nature of the game makes it impossible to make all work on the course totally safe, any improvement which we can make to our working practices in order to reduce such incidents would be more than welcome.

It would therefore be very much appreciated if readers could let me know how similar problems have been dealt with on their own particular courses, and as to whether such action has proved successful.

S Packard,
Contracts Supervisor (Horticulture), Tamworth Borough Council, Marmion House, Lichfield Street, Tamworth, Staffordshire B79 7BZ

Day to remember

I would like to convey my sincere thanks to all concerned with the ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year Award held at Aldwark Manor. All the contestants were given a tremendous welcome and made to feel very important.

The Zeneca staff all worked very hard to ensure our stay was an enjoyable one and the memory of this occasion will remain for some considerable time to come. Their commitment to BIGGA and its education must be encouraged to continue well into the future.

Since being chosen as this year’s winner, I have returned to work somewhat as a celebrity, receiving numerous requests for interviews and photo-sessions. I hope that next year will encourage more entrants to this great competition.

Once again, may I take this opportunity to thank all concerned, especially the Zeneca staff, the BIGGA staff and not forgetting the staff at Aldwark Manor.

David Walden
1994 ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year, Yaxley, Peterborough

‘Excellent opportunities’

I would like to bring to your attention a programme provided by the Ohio State University for young and enthusiastic greenkeepers who wish to experience working on American golf courses. The course is titled ‘Ohio International and Agricultural Intern Program’ and its aim is to promote the general interest of international exchange in the field of agriculture.

This program provides excellent opportunities for those who wish to further their education and also to experience the latest greenkeeping methods and techniques found in the American turfgrass industry.

I am currently involved in the Ohio States program and am serving my internship at Cypress Bay Golf and Beach Club, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. I have found that the rewards can be quite substantial for those who are dedicated to the profession as I have recently been promoted to assistant superintendent of golf courses.

For anyone who is interested and for further information, I suggest they contact: Mr Michael Chrisman, Ohio Agricultural Intern Program, Ohio State University, 113 Agricultural Administration Building, 2120 Fyffe Road, Columbus, OH 43210, USA.

Steve Holmes
Assistant Superintendent Cypress Bay Golf and Beach Club

Some of us do care

Re: “Poor consultants”. As a firm of small agricultural consultants, we regularly visit a wide range of golf courses to advise on the planting and management of trees. Always in the back of our minds is the term “consultant” has been diluted by many financial service-type companies and individuals, none of whom are true consultants.

A less favourable definition might be someone who borrows your watch and then tells you the time, but my own definition is a person who is professionally qualified in their own discipline, who has at least five years relevant experience, and who offers a sound practical service.

To date, we have found that all of our work has been warmly received and appreciated by the various green convenors, committees and greenkeepers that have sought our advice, a result of hard work and dedication to the task involved. These courses include Canmore, Bathgate, Westhill, Kingsknowe, Dunfermline, Blyth, Turnhouse, Pitreavie, Heysham, Largs, Saline, Braco, Greenock, Baberton, Blair Atholl, Buchanan Castle, Ralston, Balbirnie and Hilton Park – and a happy bunch they are too.

I just hope that in future the word “consultant” does not raise preconceived derogatory ideas from your members. Some of us do care.

Andrew Vaughan, woodland consultant, Eamonn Wall & Co, Dollar, Clackmannanshire
**Speed kills**

Heydon Grange Golf and Country Club opened its first 18 holes last May and another nine are due to open this spring. Formerly farmland, the transformation has come about in 15 months on what course manager Anthony Black calls "a distinctively low budget" – a sharp contrast to his previous project, the golf course at Euro-Disney. But no matter what type of course you're on, players want championship-style quick, slick greens. Here, Anthony calls for a lowering of speed limits – and not just on greens...

As winter draws in and growth slows down, do green speeds.

The need for speed has decimated many a fine sward, and will continue to so whilst there is a pressure to create and recreate "professional tournament conditions" for amateur club events.

It was with this potential dilemma in mind that I tentatively sought reassurance from my proprietor/chief executive prior to my appointment managing construction completion and grow-in at Heydon Grange in Hertfordshire that I would enjoy complete autonomy regarding agronomy.

So, within the parameters of strict development costs and frugal operating budget, we set about bringing a 'links style' layout to fruition on the borders of Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Essex, our 200 acres bordering all three counties.

We opened our first 18 holes on May 14 1994 following an accelerated grow-in; accelerated by the need to be open for business a.s.a.p. With the last seed hitting the ground, the transformation had already rung out – What are the greens like? How fast are they?

We all know that speed kills. A construction project, a grow-in, a 3-litre Turf XXX3Ri can all be driven too fast; and most of us are aware of the danger.

I'd previously worked in France for two years on Golf Euro-Disney, a project driven at breakneck speed with a 12-month grow-in on Pennicross grasses cut to 4.5mm. But business is business and if I could grow-in creeping bent within 12 months then why not any other grass was a recurring question. This other grass was 80% fescue, 20% browntop bent, approximately, give or take 20% Poa annua here and there.

A turf supplier had been 'selected' who would guarantee Poa-free turf, which was presumably why there was no extra charge for the meadow grass content therein... However, as time was against us and the need to achieve deadlines fast approaching – speed being of essence etc – we set about the 'Poa issue' with much vigour, no little frenzy and several pluggers, daisy grabbers, cutlery forks and sharp knives!

By the time we opened this 'fescue rescue' was deemed 95% successful – we're still working on the other 5% – and our first guests and members were, and have continued to be, extremely happy with our efforts and results.

But, you know, opening with fescue is one thing, keeping it is quite another – especially inland.

Which brings me back to speed. Our opening mowing schedule on greens was 4-5 cuts per week at 7mm with no complaints – players being of a forgiving nature in the immediate post-opening honeymoon period. We came down to 6mm in June, 5-7 cuts per week, with our best stimpmeter reading being 9, achieved on days of double cutting for specific events.

By November we had returned to a more leisurely 7mm cutting regime. Next spring we will follow the same procedure, ultimately reaching an all-time low of 5mm. Sward density, vigour and strong root development will be the key factors in determining when and if we lower the blades.

We aim to maintain this regime for the future by ensuring the practice is written into our operating procedures and course maintenance philosophy.

However, I am not naive enough to believe that we will never be faced with the demand for tournament green speeds. As our popularity and roundage grows, prestige events will undoubtedly be held and we shall be delighted to host them – on our terms and at our pace. But because we know speed kills we are in no rush!

The height of success? About 6mm I reckon.

What are your views on...

- Greens committees
- The role of the chairman of green
- Golf course furniture and fittings
- Disputes with bosses
- Getting a water extraction licence
- How to make courses more environmentally friendly
- Relieving compaction
- Using ATVs

If you have anything interesting to say about any of these subjects (or any other subject related to greenkeeping), send a letter to the Editor, Greenkeeper International, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Aine, York Y06 2NF. It will help us greatly as we prepare forthcoming features.