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Lightweight, precision balanced design provides fingertip control. Durable puncture proof tyres will not mark greens.

These booms enclose the spray within a flexible shield preventing the escape of pesticide particles into the environment. Because the spray is contained, the undesirable effect of drift, operator exposure and public hazard are greatly reduced.

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By containing the spray a greater proportion of the droplets hit their intended target. This improved coverage ensures greater spraying efficiency, more economic use of chemical and a better end result.

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Reader Reply No. 1
**SEPTEMBER 1996**

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**Start of the Finnish**

Golf is very much a growth sport in Finland and despite a long non-playing season, its golf courses are second to none. In the first of a two part feature, Scott MacCallum looks at the way maintenance is tackled at eight golf courses. 

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**Week of the Hayters**

A full preview of the inaugural Hayter International Cup and the Hayter Challenge Final, plus full lists of the competitors taking part. 

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**Seacroft goes down a storm**

BIGGA's 1996 National Tournament, in association with Miracle Professional, was a resounding success with many taking part claiming it to be “the best ever”. 

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**From cows to birdsies**

Not too long ago, Tom King's life revolved around dairy farming. Now he's a Course Manager after setting up a new addition to the Edinburgh golf scene. 

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**BIGGA in focus**

Neil Thomas discusses the formation of the new Essex Section in the context of BIGGA membership in general. 

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An American greenkeeper's verdict on the support team's efforts at The News. 

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**Education**

Have you got what it takes to progress in your career? asks BIGGA Education Officer Ken Richardson. Details of the supervisory management courses are listed plus there's a reply paid card to register your place. 

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**Cover**

Laulaarki Pehrungskogolf in Finland, just one of eight courses featured in this issue. Picture by Scott MacCallum.
**WE SAY**

**Perceptions of BIGGA membership**

I recently attended a meeting in Bury St Edmonds where some 50 greenkeepers had gathered to consider the formation of a new Essex Section.

It was a meeting where the situation was complicated by the fact that many of those present who were interested in joining the proposed new section were currently members of the long established East Anglia Section. In a wide-ranging discussion it was clear that the arguments had been well thought out and that members attending had come prepared and done their homework. I was impressed with the concerns expressed by those present, whatever position they were taking in the debate, to ensure that the best interests of the Association and particularly the East Anglia Section were served. There was no friction but much understanding. The outcome was a decision to proceed with the formation of an Essex Section which will become operative following the East Anglia Section’s AGM in November.

Certain members currently serving on the East Anglia Committee will step down at the AGM with a view to taking up places on the new Essex Committee. They in turn will need to be replaced and a letter has been sent to all East Anglia members making them aware of the situation well in advance of the AGM. It is essential that two viable, forward looking sections emerge closely with both the East Anglia and the new Essex Committees to ensure that all is in place by the time of the East Anglia AGM and members are encouraged to make any observations or comments to Headquarters or locally over the next few months. So far this has been a most encouraging exercise reflecting very well on members who are determined to see the Association develop and continue on a growth curve.

In writing of these developments it is pertinent to consider the enthusiasm and commitment of members throughout the Association. In broad terms, I would suggest that they fall into three groups. You at local level will know far better than me which of these groups encompass your colleagues and yourself.

1. The first group are the really dedicated ones. Visible at section, region and national events, they are always eager to be involved, ready to take on new tasks, prepared to serve on committees and give freely of their time in the BIGGA cause. They have a clear perception of BIGGA’s aims and aspirations and see the professional benefits of being part of and active in the Association.

2. The second group is supportive of BIGGA and willing to contribute to the ongoing development of the Association. Their work and family commitments militate against them being involved in BIGGA to the extent that they and the Association would wish but they do attend BIGGA events and contribute in varying measures to BIGGA’s cause.

3. The third group are relatively disinterested members, perhaps joining BIGGA as “the thing to do” under coercion from colleagues or because the club wishes its greenkeepers to be members. To them BIGGA magazine is a welcome benefit of membership as is the membership card if they are golfers. Little thought is given to the benefits of the legal protection and insurance services unless they suddenly find themselves in need of them, whilst education is often a neglected area.

It is impossible to hazard a guess as to how many members fall into each group. The more who gravitate to group 1 the better but realistically many will fall into group 2 and serve BIGGA to the best of their abilities. The concern must be for those in group 3 and the need for them to become more active and involved, not only for BIGGA’s sake but also for their professional development. Much can be done at local level to change attitudes and in the years ahead I would hope that group 3 declines in numbers with a corresponding increase in members who can be categorised in groups 1 and 2. As a member, in which group would you honestly categorise yourself? If it is group 3 then perhaps there is cause for thought.

---

**Contract in Algarve**

Bill Haworth, Chairman and founder of Watermation, seen here shaking hands with Mr. Sander Van Gelder, owner of the prestigious Vale do Lobo Course in the Algarve, on the signing of the contract to provide automatic irrigation to the new Royal Course, which is presently under construction and expected to be finished this autumn.

The Royal Course has been created on new land adjoining the existing nine holes of the Yellow Course which itself has undergone updating and re-construction. Great care has been taken by the architect however to retain the famous “cliff top” hole which has been in play now for over 30 years. It was decided to replace the irrigation on these original nine holes and design a completely new 18 hole system for the greens, tees, and fairways. This comprehensive scheme will require over 800 sprinklers throughout the course.

The irrigation system will have all the latest technology from Watermation including the TW2 irrigation controller complete with remote control operating in conjunction with PC central control. The sprinklers are the Watermation GR2 and GR3 models.
As I see it...
BY DEAN CLEAVER
BIGGA CHAIRMAN

I t doesn’t seem any
time at all that I was
talking about our time
in Lytham at The
Open and now here I
am looking back at
the National
Tournament at
Seacroft Golf Club
in Skegness.
I must say it was
time to see so
many families
there and I am
sure everyone, of
all ages, enjoyed
themselves. It
was also good to
see an
international
flavour to the event with Thorbjorn Raun
and Alan Brebion of Denmark and France respectively
playing. It was particularly pleasing to hear how much
they got out of their BIGGA membership.
I would like to thank the Seacroft for the excellent
hospitality afforded to us and, in particular, Head
Greenkeeper Richard Hardie and his team who had the
course in first class condition. Bearing in mind the
weather we have all had to contend with over the last
18 months it was absolutely superb.
Congratualtions to all the winners and I would
personally like to thank all the sponsors and, in
particular, Miracle Professional for their support,
without whom the prize table would not have been the
superb spectacle it was.
September is going to be a busy month for me. It
begins with Saltex, then I’m off to Sweden to deliver a
talk at the Swedish Greenkeepers Association
Conference. I get back on the Friday and then on the
Saturday we have the Hayter International and Hayter
Challenge tournaments at West Lancs and Fairhaven
golf clubs.
The Hayter International is a unique event and I am
looking forward to meeting everyone involved. I am
Captain of the Rest of the World team and I’ve already
contacted Bernard Gallacher for some tips on
captaincy.
I am sure the events will be a great success and
immense credit must go
to Kim Macfie and Hayters
who have been instrumental
in ensuring their success.

Paul takes the cup

Paul Rennie from Andover, who has just successfully
completed his studies on the
National Certificate Horticulture, Greenkeeping and
Sportsground Management
Course at Sparsholt College, Hampshire has been awarded
Kings Worthy Parish Council Prize given to the student
who has produced the Best
Major Course Project.

Sod growers to stage demonstration days

On October 10 and 11, especially
for sod growers, demonstration
days will be organised by the
French Sod Growers Association
in cooperation with Nannings v
Loen by the Netherlands.
The demonstration will take
place in the northern part of Hol-
land. Latest developments and
appliances will be demonstrated
like "De Hy Tek" machine with
automatic stacking system and
the "Brouwer Rollmax" sod har-
vester.
Manifold manufacturers and
suppliers will demonstrate all the
essential devices required for an
efficient sod cultivation.
This unique occasion provides
you with the opportunity to
become fully apprised of the latest
European advancements in sod
cultivation.
Further detailed information
will be readily provided by Nan-
nings v Loen BV, the Netherlands.
Telephone: 00 31 33 4564 550,
Fax: 00 31 33 4564 433.

Stuart Ashworth has
joined the staff of
Amenity Technology as the
company's Technical Sales
Manager for the UK and
Europe.
Previously Stuart worked
in the North East of England for
Rickerby Ltd as Technical Sales
Representative and following
his appointment will be
moving to the South West of
England.
Following Saltex he will
commence an intensive
training course on all products
available from Amenity
Technology.
The wear and tear your tees suffer all year round puts a premium on turf with outstanding powers of recovery. That's why you should use Medallion turf from Rolawn.

It's ferocious rooting power ensures maximum penetration - ready to play weeks, even months, earlier. And Medallion turf is ideal for repair and renewal: order as much or as little as you need.

TRY BEFORE YOU BUY: contact your local Rolawn depot for a FREE sample and see the difference for yourself in days. We have depots nationwide - to find your nearest, call 01904-608661 and ask for Customer Services.

Call us today and find out why greenkeepers throughout the country rely on Rufford for quality and service second to none.

Tel: 0161 877 8550
Fairway House, South Stage, Broadway, Salford Quays, Manchester, M5 2UQ.
Fax: 0161 877 8554

Consistency of the growing medium is the key to superior greens and tees, which is why Rufford place such importance on the uniform particle size and the quality of all our sand/soil products from Rootzone mixes to Top-dressing mediums.

With Rufford you know they must be the best, because:
- Materials are constantly checked.
- All dressings are heat treated.
- Uniform particle size.
- Soil analysis service.
- Guaranteed quality.
- Professional advice.

Of course, achieving such consistently high quality products is only possible when the technical aspects of each sand/soil mix is under the tightest control. Again an area in which Rufford is uniquely qualified, not only operating our own quarries, but with in-house laboratories constantly monitoring their output.

Rufford Top Dressing Supplies

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<td>Especially blended for golf tees &amp; fairway divots</td>
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Differences... and similarities

Brad Owen, pictured, of the Augusta National Greenkeeping Staff, made his first visit to the UK to work as a member of the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support team. He gives his impressions of his visit...

Tom Lehman said it best with a single word, “Wow”. Although he probably said it with a good bit more emotion, the same word can describe my trip and impressions. It was quite an experience to see up close and be part of “The Open” for the first time. To be inside the ropes and walk with the players gives you a better understanding of how the player attacks the course and how the course can fight back. It also was unique to walk the course from the player’s perspective in the early part of the day and then to see behind the scenes maintenance in the late evening. The maintenance that so many people take for granted, or are not even aware of, is very interesting and I was surprised that it was not discussed more by the media.

There are many differences in philosophies concerning the maintenance of turf for a major golf tournament between England and the US but the most important philosophy is very similar to any other major tournament. That is, to provide a fast, firm and difficult challenge for the golfer that puts a premium on a well played shot and anything less is a take away shot. Other similarities include some of the goals of BIGGA and our Superintendents’ Association and those include: projecting a professional image and furthering the education of its members along with educating the public on just what the superintendent’s job is all about. During our stay in Blackpool, BIGGA proved to be a very good host as did many of the people we met along the way. I would strongly recommend this experience to anyone who appreciates golf and turf grass management. A big thanks goes out to BIGGA for making this trip a reality.

Finally, I found it interesting to see a course such as Royal Lytham St Anne’s that was obviously a model for so many American courses that try to imitate the links style course (even if it is inland just a little bit!). You can read all you like and look at pictures all day but you really need to see it up close for the best impression. The very first course I worked on was designed by Jack Nicklaus and he incorporated many features such as the mounding, small bunkers and elevated tees along with penalising rough in his design.

Come to the show FREE!

Here’s part two in our competition where you as a Greenkeeper can go to BTME 97 ABSOLUTELY FREE! Together with the BTME, the Learning Experience 1997 will provide a varied and informative education programme. The workshops have been so successful they have been expanded to four in the programme. These hands-on training opportunities cover golf course design and construction, surveying and levelling, communication with golf course committees and the magic of greenkeeping. The National Education Conference starts on Monday January 20.

All you have to do to stand a chance of winning one of the three superb prizes is to answer six questions – there were two last month, two in this issue, below, and the final two plus the entry form appear in October’s issue.

SEPTEMBER QUESTIONS
1. Name BIGGA’s Education Officer?
2. What date does the National Education Conference start?

Don’t miss your chance to attend the largest indoor turf management exhibition in Europe.

For more information about BTME 97 contact James McEvoy or Louise Lunn on 01347 830581
The Hayter FM514 is a purpose-built 5-gang mower that's equal to the challenge of any course. Since no two golf courses are the same, the FM is designed to adapt. Unique 26” floating heads follow the ground contours closely for a superb finish.

Ground holding is gentle but firm. Wide front axle, broad tyres and variable weight transfer system give traction with minimum turf or soil damage.

And behind it all is the sheer power of a Kubota 35hp engine. With ‘on-demand’ 4-wheel drive transmission and differential locking you have total mastery.

Call now to arrange a demonstration
The third full week in September could quite easily be renamed Hayter Week because during that time both the inaugural Hayter International Cup and the Hayter Challenge Final will be played at West Lancs and Fairhaven respectively.

The culmination of 25 sectional qualifying events and five regional qualifying events plus qualifying events in both northern and southern Ireland sees 63 greenkeepers converging on Fairhaven Golf Club in Lytham St Annes for the 1996 Final of the Hayter Challenge.

The event, which goes from strength to strength, will this year be run in conjunction with the inaugural Hayter International Cup which has brought a truly international field together for the Best of the World v The Americas competition at West Lancashire Golf Club earlier in the week.

Once the spoils have been divided out the entire Hayter International Cup field will travel to Fairhaven and play their own singles event, the Hayter International Medal, in tandem with the Hayter Challenge competition.

West Lancs GC is no stranger to BIGGA and Hayter, having played host to the 1995 Hayter Challenge, and such was the warm welcome afforded to everyone by the club and the superb course presented by John Muir and his team it was the ideal venue to host what is likely to become a firm favourite on the greenkeepers' calendar. It will be a biennial event with the United Kingdom and the United States sharing the duties of host.

Fairhaven, on the other hand, is a new venue for Hayter but such is the quality of the golf course it is sure to become an immediate favourite.

"The finalists are going to find it tough, it's 6883 yards off the back, and if the wind blows it can be quite tough," explained Head Greenkeeper Peter Simpson.

The course comprises two loops, an inner and an outer, and as a result the wind can get you from any angle and unlike some courses, which offer up some shocks in the shape of hidden hazards, at Fairhaven what you see is what you get.

"Fairhaven isn't really a links, it's a semi links but all the links characteristics are there but with trees as well. You get the best of both worlds as it's probably the most picturesque of the four local courses," explained Peter.

Peter (32) and his team of five have a rolling programme of revetting the bunkers.

"We have around 126 bunkers and we've done about 65 so far."

Looking round the course you can see that he is not making any false boasts. The course is magnificent with a little touch of Woodhall Spa or Sunningdale about it.

It has been a busy time for Peter and his team as the course was used as a final qualifying course for the Open Championship at nearby Royal Lytham & St Annes while Peter returned to Lytham, where he began his career, to assist with the daily preparation of an Open venue which received universal acclaim at the end of a less than perfect spell of weather.

"I started at Lytham as a YTS trainee and was kept on and learned the ropes under Jimmy MacDonald. It was a terrific place to work and I felt that if I didn't move in 1991 I probably never would," explained Peter, who went to Huntercombe near Henley-on-Thames before returning to Fairhaven in December 93 and becoming Head Greenkeeper two years ago.

**Hayter Competitors**

**SOUTH EAST**
- Clive A. Archer, Broadstone GC
- Alan Crichton, Kington GC
- Gordon Child - Captain

**SCOTTISH**
- George Mitchell, Newmacher GC
- Robert McKay, Prestwick St Nicholas GC
- Colin Hopper, Doncaster Town GC
- John L Jones, Abergele & Pensarn GC
- Bob Lupton - Captain

**NORTHERN IRELAND**
- Brian Mulholland, Lisburn GC
- Patrick Devlin, Belvoir Park GC
- Lee Eager, Knock GC
- Paul McBlain, Royal Belfast GC
- Craig Posnett, Belvoir Park GC
- Eric O' Neill, Portestewart GC
- John Cuffey, Clandeboye GC
- Joe Bedford, Luttrellstown Castle GC

**SOUTHERN IRELAND**
- Joe Bedford, Hollystown Golf G&CC
- Gerry Bryne, Luttrellstown Castle GC
- Paul Fitzgerald, Beech Park GC
- Martin O' Shea, Castle Corner GC
- Maurice Clarke, Corrstown GC
- Brendon Harman, Elm Park GC
- James McGuinness, The Island GC
- John Plummer, The Grange GC

**MIDLANDS**
- David Leatherland, Kedleston GC
- Peter Holford, Kings Norton GC
- Graeme MacDonald, Ryston Park GC
- Richard Clarke, Trentham GC
- Mark Cutler, Edgbaston GC
- Steven Heap, Rothley GC
- John Hewson, Market Rasen & District GC
- Roger Williams - Captain

**HEAD GREENKEEPER PETER SIMPSON: BEST OF BOTH WORLDS AT FAIRHAVEN**

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The impressive clubhouse at Fairhaven

"I knew I preferred links courses before I went south," he explains, "but going to an inland course just cemented what I really felt."

During the Open Qualifying the Fairhaven course record was broken by Justin Leonard - who won on the US Tour a couple of weeks later - with a 64 when it was hot and there was no wind but perhaps the main story of the qualifying event was also produced at Fairhaven. It came from Paul Eales, Lytham's Touring Professional, who birdied the final five holes to qualify right on the limit.

"The last five holes include three par fives, a short par four and a little par three and by birdying them all he fulfilled his ambition to play in The Open at Lytham," said Peter.

Ironically Peter could have been playing in the Hayter Challenge Final as well as preparing the course.

"I won the Sectional qualifier at Morecambe but had to pull out of the Regional Final because of the Open Qualifying so it was unavoidable." He is looking forward to welcoming not only the 63 Hayter Challenge finalists when they arrive but also the International competitors.

"I am looking forward to the event. It's been a good year for us with the Open Qualifying and now this. It's good to see the Hayter event snowballing and it's nice to have been chosen for the final."

"Hayter International teams for International Cup"

**Americas:** Samuel T. Williamson, Ojai Valley Inn and CC, USA; Jim Dusch, Atlanta National GC, USA; Robert Heron, Beacon Hall GC, Canada; Douglas Meyer, Cedarbrook G&CC, Canada; Ricardo de Udaeta, Olivos GC, Argentina; George Renault, Burning Tree Club, USA; Dean Morrison, Calgary G&CC, Canada; Paul McGinnis, Moon Valley CC, USA; Alejandro Young, Las Praderas de Lujan, CC, Argentina; Randy Nichols, Cherokee Town CC, USA; Thom Charters, Bayview CC, Canada, and Gary Grigg, Royal Poinciana GC, USA.

**Rest of the World:** Coome Bergareche, San Sebastian GC, Spain; Fredrik Gioa, Ljunghusen GC, Sweden; Andreas Kauler, Club sur Vahr, Germany; Derek McJannet, Sherwood Forest GC England; Ignacio Soto Alarcon, Pineda GC, Spain; Peter Schumacher, The Grange GC, Australia; Peter Frewin, Windlesham GC, Australia; Michael Ochon, Bro Balsta GC, Sweden; Ian Buckley, Northop Country Park Golf, Wales; Matthias Ehser, Clubcolf Duren, Germany; Alexander Reid, Letham Grange GC, Scotland; Brian Mulholland, Banbridge GC, Northern Ireland.