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Bringing perfection to play.
Our thanks must also go to Frodsham GC's President, Rob Andrew and Lady Captain, Hilary Welsh for taking part in our tournament and for making us feel so very welcome. Congratulations go to Russell Lewis, of Northop, who was the winner of the Hi-Speed Rose Bowl for the best gross of 74 and also to Haydn Jones, of Chirk, who with a best nett of 70 was the winner of the Richard Campey Trophy. Colin Davies was the worthy winner of our nearest the pin competition on the 5th being only 14 inches from the cup. In fact if there had been two nearest the pins Colin would probably have won both since he was only four inches from a hole-in-one on the 9th! The winners and runners up of the three divisions are listed below, however, at the time of writing I have not been able to contact all concerned to confirm which three from each division will be representing the Section at the Regional Final on July 9 at Matfen Hall, Northumberland.

Cat 1:- Andy Peel, Russell Lewis, Darryl Davies, Steve Roberts, Dave Parry, Trevor Johnston. Cat 2:- Dave Evans, Graham Timmis, Les Parry, Matthew Pooley, Ken Jones, Dave Proctor. Cat 3:- Haydn Jones, Don Rowlands, John L Jones, Emyr Rowlands, Peter Sproston.

Our thanks to our sponsors on the day, Hamish Macfie of Hayter, Acorn, Gem Professional, John Osman, Monmersteeg, Walker Engineering, Richard Jones of Motrac and especially to Richard Campey and Paul Shaw of Hi-Speed Oils whose trophies we played for.

We can now look forward to our Autumn tournament which is now confirmed at Abersoch GC on October 8. Our Section has now grown to 146 with the addition of 3 new members, Carl Rogers, from Chirk GC, and Gareth Hughes and Ellis Mostyn, from The Plassey GC.

Cleveland
A meeting of assessors was held at Middlesbrough Municipal GC in April, chaired by Internal Verifier, Tony Mears. In attendance was Tony Milan, lecturer at Houghall College, Durham, who was very helpful in explaining about training and assessment and how to judge your young trainees with evidence. He made it all sound so easy. We are now preparing for another assessor training day so if anyone is interested please contact Tony Mears.

Castle Eden GC are rebuilding a bridge at the par 3 6th hole. They have also reconstructed the 14th green on a porous base root zone and laid their own turf. They have also planted 600 trees. Glenn Baxter, Head Greenkeeper at South Shields GC, and his staff, have reconstructed the 3rd and 9th tees plus a number of greenside bunkers.

Hartlepool Head Greenkeeper, Alan Evans and his staff, have been busy improving paths using red track material which looks beautiful. He also told me that his greens have been disease free for the past seven years and he has used no fungicide. Congratulations Alan, I wish I could say the same!

North West
Our annual tournament with the North Wales Section was played at Hill Valley GC on Wednesday April 16. The weather was great with sunshine from start to finish. The course was in lovely condition thanks to Andrew Minshall and his staff. The result was a halved match which means North Wales retain the GEM Trophy for a further year. I would like to thank Hill Valley GC for allowing us courtesy of the course and their excellent facilities. Thanks also to GEM for sponsoring the day once again.

The next golf competition is the summer meeting at Lon- gridge GC, on Wednesday June 25, and all applications must be received by Friday June 20. Send your cheque for £15 made payable to BIGGA N/W to:- Bill Merritt, 255 Uting Avenue, Chulmone, Liverpool, L4 9RB, telephone 0151 284 4416. Soup and sandwiches will be served between 12 noon and 1pm and the tee is available from 1:30 pm. The evening meal will be followed by a prize presentation. The draw for the support team at The Open has now been done at HQ and obviously some will be disappointed but it was all done on a fair basis. To those of you who have been lucky enough to be picked out of the hat I am sure you will enjoy the experience and I will see you at Troon on July 16.

Anyone with any news, views or queries please contact me on 0151 724 5412.

Northern
This year's Spring Tournament was held at Wakefield GC. Although the forecast was not too good, the rain held off apart from a quick shower around early afternoon.

Many thanks to County Crops for providing sponsorshp for this event and to Glen Hardcastle for attending on their behalf. Thank you to Wakefield GC for kindly hosting the event at a time when finding clubs that will give courtesy to greenkeepers is becoming more difficult to find. Thanks also to Stewart Marston and his staff for presenting the course in such good shape and to the catering staff for feeding us so well.

The results for the day were as follows:

Well done to all the lads for qualifying and good luck in the Hayter Regional Finals at Matfen Hall on Wednesday July 9.

Again may I remind people wishing to play in future golf events that if I have not received their deposit at least seven days prior to the event we can not allow you to play. Unfortunately this is happening too frequently by people who put their name down with a rep or somebody else and expect to pay and play on the day. It will not be accepted any longer. At the Spring Tournament the section lost out by people who said they were going to come, then on the day sent an excuse along with a third party. Meals that have been booked still have to be paid for.

Finally anyone with any news or information that may be of interest for future magazine inserts please contact me on Tel: 01484 – 519829

Around the Green

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- Simple tine design
- Leaves playing surface in superb condition

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URSES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

TRADE & ASSOCIATE:- Kevin Kinzer 94-24-70

Walter Woods

Mowbray GC. The 1st tee has
been reserved from 3.45 pm and
will forward you a entry form.

Comment From Walter Woods

We purchased our first Verti-Drain back in 1983 and very
quickly bought a second. Both these machines have
which we require are to survive.

B B & O

At the time of writing this article we had received 40 entries for
the first golf day which was the maximum allowed. It looks like we
are carrying on where we left off last season. A full report of all
the day's action will be in
next month's article.

The draw for the Rigby Taylor Foursome has been made and I
will be posting every competitor a full copy of the draw in due
course.

Having nothing to report this month I will tell you a strange
but true happening at Badger-
more recently. For those of you
who are squeamish, read no fur-
ther!

During the prolonged dry spell
back in April I was carrying out
some irrigation with hose-pipes
and static sprinklers. On this
particular morning I was water-
ing the practice green. I con-
nected the hose to the irrigation
point and cranked open the
valve which was about 100
metres from the green. As I went
inside to inspect the sprinkler there
was nothing coming out, not a
drop. It had to be a blocked noz-
se so I turned the valve off and
inspected the sprinkler. As sus-
pected it was a blockage but not
with a stone or debris, but with
a small frog! The poor little
blighter had only crawled up
into the hose pipe for some sleep
only for me to blast a few hun-
dred gallons of water up its rear
end! Needless to say it did not
survive!

Anyway, back to business. I
will be attending a Regional
Board Meeting soon so if any-
body wants details of subjects
discussed then give me a call
and I will oblige.

Finally if you have changed
your address recently then don't
forget to inform Head Office so
we can put towards the building fund so
we don't miss out on any mail
shots.

Lindsay Anderson

Mid-Anglia

A talk was given to around 20
members of the Section in early
March by Bruce Jamieson, for-
mer Director of Agronomy with
Aplin & Rogers, and all his team for their

time and effort and to Wellingborough

Midland

The Spring Tournament was
held at Harbourne GC, on April 24.
The day was an excellent
success and a good time was had
by all. Many thanks go to Har-
bourne GC, especially the green-
staff who presented the course in
such great condition under some
diverse weather conditions
leading up to the tournament.

The winners were as follows:-
the Gross Cup went to Tony
Choose and the nett prizes went to
M. Jones, J. Chesnert and G.
Hunt. The trade prize was won by
Acorn Equipment.

I would also congratulate all
the players who qualified for the
Hayter Regional Final to be
played at The Warwickshire on
June 26. Good luck to you all.
Can I also thank our sponsors for
the Harbourne day - ET Break-
wells, County Crops, Ruffords
and Grass Roots Trading?

For those members who are
playing in the Rigby Taylor Dou-
bles or the Ritefeed Matchplay
Singles may I remind you that
the first round for the Doubles
has to be played by June 27 and
the singles by July 18. The Sum-
ter Tournament which will be
held at The Worcestershire GC
on July 7 requires those intend-
ing the Section can contact me and I
will forward you a entry form.

Finally I would like to wel-
come the following new mem-
bers:- Trevor Askew, Andrew
Smith, Nicholas Lewis, Wayne
Smith, Robert Pain, Ian Robert-
son, Thomas Houghton, Patrick
Teegan, Robert Benamore, Tracy
Stephens and Patrick Cosby.
Jonathan Wood

Deep aeration on an intensively used golf course is vital if the grasses
which we require are to survive.

We purchased our first Verti-Drain back in 1983 and very
quickly bought a second. Both these machines have
been working on a continuous basis providing
excellent results and utilising only a
minimum of spare parts.

Comment From Walter Woods
St. Andrews Links Golf Course supervisor

THE EFFECT IS SHATTERING

Charterhouse

Deep aeration on an intensively used golf course is vital if the grasses
which we require are to survive.

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quickly bought a second. Both these machines have
been working on a continuous basis providing
excellent results and utilising only a
minimum of spare parts.

Comment From Walter Woods
St. Andrews Links Golf Course supervisor

Deutsch Course Throughout the World

Greenukeeper International June 1997 33
The Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC), in conjunction with the Sports Turf Research Institute (STRI), have developed a new initiative to enhance greenkeeper training.

The STRI are established as one of the most respected authorities on turf grass maintenance and management throughout the world. In partnership with the GTC it has developed a “book” which will give a firm foundation to all those involved in the maintenance of sports turf.

The book is available exclusively from the GTC for just £85 including postage and packing.

For all enquiries about greenkeeper training call the Greenkeepers Training Committee on 01347 838640.

Our next golf event is to be held on August 22 at Arkley GC over 27 holes.

Paul Lockett

East of England

The Rigby Taylor Cup and the Hayter Qualifier took place at Holme Hall GC. This venue was much talked about within the Section and after my 101 mile drive to get there I was not disappointed. Jim Birkett, Head Greenkeeper, had the course in superb condition – helped by fairway irrigation.

Unfortunately Jim could not play as he is recovering from a car crash but he is well on the mend and back at work. Hope you are playing soon.

The winner on the very hot day was Brian Robinson, Belton Woods, 94-25-69; 2. was John Hewson, Market Rasen, 93-22-71; 3. Graeme Macdonald, Ryston Park, 75-3-72. Trade member winner was Phil Wilkinson, nett 62.

The Spring Meeting was held at Copthorne GC on May 1. Unfortunately I was unable to attend but I have been told it was a good day. The weather was glorious and Mike Gould has the course looking great.

The results were as follows:

The summer meeting will be held at Haywards Heath GC on July 19. Finally I would like to send best wishes to Chris Allen who was taken seriously ill and is in St Georges Hospital, Tooting. We’re all thinking of you Chris. Colin Cathie

KENT

On April 29 we held the Hayter Qualifier at The Ridge GC. We had a reasonable turnout of 39 golfers including seven trade members and on a breezy, sunny day we played a course that is only four years old. Despite drought conditions the course was in excellent condition. Congratulations must go to Ray Malt and his staff for presenting the course in such good condition.

The scores for the Hayter were:
- 1. J. Wakelin; 2. M. Haver; 3. H. Morgan. The Driving Force Leisure longest drive results were:
- 1. F. Belton; 2. P. Hirst; 3. A. Arthur.

Many thanks must go to Hayter for their continued sponsorship and to The Ridge and their catering staff for the hospitality inside.

The Section would also like to thank the following for their agreement to sponsor our golf and raffle prizes for the coming season:
- Gem Professional
- Parker Hart, Driving Force Leisure
- Avoncorp, Rigby Taylor
- Barmonset, Ritefeed, Farmura
- Kings, Scots, CMW, Paice and Sons, John Shaw, Bio-Lube, Bournes and Godfrey's

The next golf day is at West Malling in July, details will follow soon. If anybody has any news please contact me on 0860 260240.

Huw Morgan

SUSSEX

The Spring Meeting was held at Cophorne GC on May 1. Unfortunately I was unable to attend but I have been told it was a good day. The weather was glorious and Mike Gould has the course looking great.

The results were as follows:

The summer meeting will be held at Haywards Heath GC on July 19. Finally I would like to send best wishes to Chris Allen who was taken seriously ill and is in St Georges Hospital, Tooting. We’re all thinking of you Chris. Colin Cathie
have tried this and I am sure I speak for all there that it was very informal just the right tone and I thank Jack most sincerely for his time and trouble for being there. We may try it again.

Ted Stiles

Essex

Tuesday April 22, 1997, saw the inaugural golf day of the newly-formed Essex Section of BIGGA – the Spring Trophy at Chigwell GC incorporating the Hayter Qualifier.

A very successful day made all the better by the superb weather, the help of the young lady from the Secretary’s Office who acted as starter, the presentation of the course by Alan Sharp and his staff and the quality of the catering provided on the day.

We were pleased to welcome our Regional Administrator, Derek Farrington, for the day and we hope that he will join us again soon.

Another guest was Nick Gadsby, the Captain of Chigwell GC, who joined us for the evening meal and kindly presented the prizes.

The results were as follows:


I would personally like to wish the best of luck to all our qualifiers in the Hayter Regional Final at Ham Manor GC on Friday June 27.

Once again our thanks go to Hayter for their continued support of this tournament, Avencrop Amenity for their sponsorship of prizes for the day, the many trade members for their donations for raffle prizes and everyone at Chigwell GC for making us feel most welcome.

Wednesday May 14 saw a good turnout for another evening lecture at Writtle College. Roger Levett and Jeff Taylor, of Johnson’s Seeds, and Andy Cawley, from Dow Elanco, gave very informative presentations and the subsequent question and answer session and continuation of conversations in the student bar is always productive.

Congratulations to Dave Rand, who has moved from Thorpe Hall GC to Rochford Hundred GC as Deputy Course Manager, and to John Sinclair, who has returned from Burnham GC to Thorpe Hall as Head Greenkeeper where he was previously Assistant.

Finally the results from studying those questionnaires that were returned have now been correlated and I can assure you that these will be most helpful to the Section committee in the future running of our Section. The Section has made a good start, let’s keep it going.

Mick Fance

South West and South Wales Region

Paula Humphries

Tel: 01363 82273

South Coast

Our Spring Tournament was held at Broadstone GC on Monday April 28. At the time of writing this report I have not got the full details of the results. What I can tell you though is that B. Emberly won the scratch prize and trophy and J. Martin the handicap prize and trophy.

The qualifiers for the Hayter Regional Final to be held at Burnham and Berrow GC on June 11 are as follows:- Division 1:- G. Payne; P. Fitzjohn; L. Miller; B. Emberly; T. Gadd. Division 2:- J. Martin; D. Norman; P. Wentworth; N. Stephenson; S. Privett. Division 3:- A. Doolan; A. Archer; A. Ridout; D. Friend; S. Cutler. Congratulations to all the qualifiers.

The weather at Broadstone was perfect and we had a fine summer day in Spring which can’t be bad. The course was in fine condition and thanks go to Ady and his team for all their hard work. Thanks also to the cutters who did a first class job in keeping the players well fed and watered during the course of the day. Our thanks also go to the Captain, Committee and members of Broadstone GC for allowing us the courtesy of their course and clubhouse for the day. Last but not least our thanks go to the sponsors for the day namely Huxleys Grass Machinery and our very own President, Jim Fry.

Mark Webb has stood down from the post of Tournament Referee.
Organiser. His place has been taken by Tony Gadd. Our thanks to Mark who has done a grand job over the past two years.

Our next golf meeting will be the Summer Tournament at Bramshaw GC on Wednesday August 6. All applications along with current handicaps should be sent to- Tony Gadd, Cherry Trees, Lymington Road, Milford on Sea, Hants, SO41 OQL, telephone 01590 643746. The format for this Tournament will be a Four Ball Better Ball Stableford. Members may play with another greenkeeping member from another course or he can bring a golf member from his own Club ie Captain, Committee Member, Greens Chairman, Secretary etc. All entries are to be with Tony 10 days before the Tournament ie first post on Monday July 28. Details of Mr price for the day are not known as yet.

Westurf has been and gone again. It was good time for meeting old friends again from the other Sections. Our National Chairman was there along with Neil Thomas and some of the attractive ladies from Head Office. However this day belonged to Gordon and Marion as this was their last Westurf. A presentation was made to them by the Chairman of the Region, Richard Whymran. This was in recognition of all the hard work they have put in over the years. Without them Westurf would never have existed. They are Mr and Mrs Westurf. Thank you Gordon and Marion. Enjoy your retirement and put your feet up, you deserve it.

Ken Lodge

Devon and Cornwall

Westurf was the place to be on Wednesday April 30 as visitors to the show were greeted with a lovely warm sunny spring day. It was nice to see so many of you at Westurf to support the Region and wish Gordon and Marion a happy and enjoyable retirement from the post of Mr and Mrs BIGGA in the South West & South Wales. Westurf is an important event for all greenkeepers within the South West and South Wales Region as it not only gives us the opportunity to view all the latest products available to maintain our courses in first class condition, it gives the Region the opportunity from the proceeds of Westurf to offer you its members a subsidised Regional seminar and trip to the BTME show and educational seminars at Harrogate. The Region has also given grants to all our GTC approved local colleges and grants to members to complete their college course.

Unfortunately the English Golf Union held a workshop in Cornwall for Secretaries, Chairman of Greens and Head Greenkeepers on the same day as Westurf which could have jeopardised the show, so we are grateful to all who attended the show in your numero bumer. Hopefully in the future BIGGA can work more closely with the EGU so events such as Westurf, Regional Seminar and Section events do not conflict with the excellent workshops put on by the EGU. Surely it makes sense not to duplicate on educational talks, but work together to achieve the best greenkeeping education available.

Back to the show which saw an increase in exhibitors on last year. Many of the exhibitors were offering prize draws and of course there was the Region's holiday voucher to be won. Visitors to the show also enjoyed watching all the latest maintenance equipment being demonstrated in the brilliant sunshine.

There was a big Westurf welcome for our Chairman, Pat Murphy and the Executive Director, Neil Thomas and not forgetting the hard working HQ girls Janet and Jenny who helped in the BIGGA tent all day. Also we welcomed Paula Humphries, our new Regional Administrator to her first of many shows.

All in all Westurf 97 continued to consolidate its position as a superb local turfcare show with most of the trade delighted with enquiries on the day.

To mark Gordon and Marion's last Westurf in charge I presented them with a matching decanter and biscuit barrel as a thank you from the Region for all the hard work they have put into running the Region over the last 10 years.

Finally I would like to wish our Hayter Qualifiers the very best of golfing luck at this year's Regional Final to be played at Burnham and Berrow GC on Wednesday June 11. Richard Whymran.

South West

The Hayter Challenge took place at the magnificent Orchardleigh GC on a pleasant Monday afternoon. A small but select group took part in this annual fixture to see who could reach the next round which takes place at Burnham and Berrow on June 11. With five people qualifying from three handicap groups, it was a keenly contested affair with some people displaying a superb golfing prowess despite their handicaps. The said handicaps will of course be reviewed.

The winners of the three divisions are:- Cat 1: J. Keenaghan, 68; Cat 2: A. Knight, 67; Cat 3: J. Coverdale, 61. James collected his prize without a hint of shame!

Our thanks must go to Sally Jane Coode, of Orchardleigh, for allowing us the use of their course and to Gary Cashman and his staff for presenting the course in its usual superb condition, with the pincress greens especially coming in for a great deal of praise. Our thanks also go to Hayters for their sponsorship and donation of the first prizes and to BS Mowers for providing the other prizes. A most enjoyable afternoon was had by all.

Education now and anyone wishing to do a PA2 spraying course please could you contact Noel Stevens direct on 01452 526111. Noel, the course tutor, will arrange a time and location convenient to yourself and will also sort out the examination to follow.

Westurf took place on April 30 on a delightful day and reports were generally encouraging. There appeared to be quite a good turn out although greater numbers would always be appreciated. Congratulations to Marion and Gordon Child for their superb organisation of this, their last Westurf. Their expertise and experience will be sadly missed although let's hope their smiling faces will be seen at future shows. Gordon has helped the South West Region hugely over the years with his tireless enthusiasm and we are all greatly indebted to him. We wish him and Marion all the best for the future and hope to see them regularly.

The trade appeared to be very pleased with the way things went. It may not be quite as busy as Saltex or the BTME but there were many genuine enquiries about their products and future support looks assured.

Before closing and still on the subject of retirement, Peter Cox from Long Ashton, a stalwart of the greenkeepers tour and section committees retires after 25 years of loyal service. We all wish Peter a long and happy retirement and look forward to seeing him on a regular basis at future tournaments.

Marc Haring

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GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL June 1997 37
Don’t fall foul of change in law

I have felt it important to write with some important information which should be of interest to BIGGA members.

New Regulations regarding Special Waste became law on September 1, ’96. These new Regulations define Special Waste as waste from a private garage with a floor area exceeding 25 square metres or which is not used wholly or mainly to accommodate a private motor vehicle. This last point also raises questions regarding storage.

The Regulations allow for “clean” empty containers to be treated as commercial waste. The definition of “clean” however is very complex and will vary according to the active ingredient. United Nations research shows that even after “30 washings” out the containers are still contaminated. Plastic containers absorb their contents and therefore it is unlikely that any such container can be “clean”.

The Environmental Agency and Health and Safety Executive are the enforcing bodies of the Regulations, not the Environmental Health Department of your Local Authority. Never remove or deface the label from the pesticide or any container, it is illegal and the contractor should refuse to accept any unmarked container. There is only one sure and safe way – dispose of your containers as Special Waste, then you are guaranteed that you have complied with the law.

Duncan Stewart
Envirogreen

For further information or a leaflet on the above Tel: 0345 125398.

Unauthorised use of name...

When the STRI undertakes commercial research for manufacturers, STRI Terms and Conditions state that: “The name or logo of STRI shall not be published by the client or used in any technical literature or advertising or promotional material without the prior written consent of STRI.” The advertisement carried on the back page of the May issue of Greenkeeper International comprised an advert on Drencher placed by Amenity Technology. This material was used without the prior permission of STRI and therefore Amenity Technology will be solely liable for any action brought by competitors on the basis that the advertisement is unfair. We have taken up this matter with Amenity Technology. The purpose of the STRI Terms and Conditions is firstly to protect the name of the STRI and secondly to ensure that information based on STRI trial results is used in a fair and equitable manner.

Dr P M Canaway
Chief Executive
STRI

...Sorry for the mistake

Amenity Technology would like to apologise to the Sports Turf Research Institute for any embarrassment caused by contravention of the Institute’s terms and conditions in the advertisement which appeared on the back cover of the May issue of Greenkeeper International.

As a company we accept that we should not have mentioned the STRI’s name in the advertisement without the prior consent of the Institute and will, of course, ensure that Amenity Technology abides by the terms and conditions in all future promotional material.

Carl Grome
Director
Amenity Technology

Overwhelmed by kindness

Since moving to the south west and into the Devon & Cornwall Section of the then BGGA, I have found a warm and genuine welcome from all Section members and trade which I still find hard to take in. Even after 16 years of putting up with me and my Fatherland, the friendship remains as strong as ever. So when BGGA was formed in 1987 and I was asked to take on the duties of Regional Administrator for the South West & South Wales Region, I could hardly refuse.

Having a full time job the task would have been daunting but for the help of Marion, but the success of the Region is not just down to us. Without the cooperation and support of the Region’s Board and Section Secretaries, the Region’s success would have been limited.

Westurf is a fine example of what can be achieved with a bit of effort and good relationships with members and trade. Having decided to stand down as administrators after this year’s Westurf it was nice to have a warm sunny day – like the very first year – to remember it by, and to make it complete we were overwhelmed by the kindness shown to us. Our thanks go to all the people who contributed to our presentation.

In my new capacity we hope to find time to visit all Sections and therefore keep in touch with many of the friends made over the years. Meanwhile we wish the Region and our new Administrators continued success.

Gordon and Marion Child

Please contest this proposal


It is with regard to teeing areas and it is proposed that, with effect from 1 January 2001, all distance points shall be positioned on tees so that they are not less than four yards in front of the rear of the tee. This is in place of the current two yards and my concern is that on small medals, or tee grids, where, because of the topography of the land (or other reasons, SSSI etc) you would be unable to extend the tee size and this would place even more wear on the front of already overused tees.

While it may not be a problem on more recent designed/constructed courses we certainly have a number of Medal tees, as I am sure other well established courses have, that only measure eight to 10 yards from front to back and to lose that two yards is losing up to 25% of the teeing area.

Also to have to remeasure the course and provide new distance markers could prove an expensive operation for no great apparent benefit. I would hope BIGGA as a body would consider lobbying the Council of National Golf Unions to abandon this proposal and retain the status quo.

Gordon A Moir
Head Greenkeeper
Eden Course, St Andrews
Requirements for golf clubs and greenkeepers

by Tony Rees MIOSH, Health & Safety Consultant & Senior Instructor with ATB-Landbase Training Services

The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (C.O.S.H.H.) regulations originally came into force on 1 January 1988. Since then several amendments have been introduced until today the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (Amendment) Regulations 1996.

The COSHH regulations seek to control exposure to hazardous substances which arise out of or in connection with work which is under the employers control.

So what is a hazardous substance? To be subject to the COSHH regulations a hazardous substance must arise out of or in connection with work which is under the employers control. The substance can be solid, liquid, gas, fume, vapour or a micro-organism and can endanger health by being absorbed or injected, through the skin or mucous membranes, inhaled or ingested.

Substances listed in the regulations as being hazardous to health are:

- All those substances for which the Health and Safety Commission has approved an Occupational Exposure Standard (OES).
- A substantial concentration of dust of any kind.
- Any micro-organism which can cause illness.
- Any other substance which is not listed in any of the above categories but which has similar potential effects.

As we can see from the above the COSHH regulations apply to all hazardous substances with the exception of:

- Lead - so far as the Control of Lead at Work Regulations 1980 apply.
- Asbestos - so far as the Control of Asbestos at Work regulations 1987 apply.
- Substances which are only hazardous because of one or any combination of the following - radio-activity, explosive properties, flammable properties, high pressure, high or low temperature.
- Substances administered as part of a medical treatment or in the course of research.
- Substances found below ground in a mine.
- Micro-organisms which do not arise out of or in connection with work which is under the employer’s control (respiratory infections caught incidentally from fellow employee’s)
- Asphyxiants - these must purely be asphyxiants and non-toxic.

We have so far looked at what constitutes a hazardous substance. Now let’s look at what the regulations say we must do.

Regulation 6 - An employer must make a suitable and sufficient assessment of the risks associated with hazardous substances connected with work under his control and review the assessment when necessary. The employer must also inform employees of the assessment and keep written records of all but the simplest assessments.

To comply with this we need firstly to list all the substances we have on site. We need then to ensure that we have Product Health and Safety Data Sheets for each substance. Our suppliers, by law, must obtain these. If we have substances on site but no data sheets then we must obtain them.

We should then decide if any substance on site is no longer used. If unused substances are on site we should dispose of these safely. This disposal must be done through a recognised source eg local authority or waste disposal company. We must not just tip them down the drain, bury them or put them out with the general waste.

Once we have established which substances we still use we can then go on and carry out our assessment. This must take into account the substances that we use; the way in which we use these substances; who uses these substances or could come into contact with them; where we use these substances; when and how often we use these substances; what safety precautions we are taking when using these substances and how we sort and dispose of substances and packaging after use.

Next month we will look at how actually to carry out an assessment as required by the COSHH Regulations.

Further information on courses and consultancy contact ATB-Landbase Training Services - Jean John, 01282 617466 or Tony Rees, 01686 622799.
Hugh Tilley concludes his three part look at aeration with an examination of a selection of slitters currently on the market.

Least complex and mechanical of all aerators - and most inexpensive to buy and run are slitters, and many greenkeepers use these as part of their routine management for aeration, thatch suppression and opening up the surface for drainage.

Most designs are simply a set of flanges with slitting tines bolted to them and mounted on bearings within a frame. Both tractor and turf maintenance vehicle (TMV) mounted models are produced and some - mainly for fairways, are trailed.

Some machines are made so that extra deadweight can be added, such as water, concrete blocks, or other means, but some can be fitted with a hydraulic rams so that they press themselves into the ground. One model has a movable weight which can used to concentrate weight over the slitting rotor for increased penetration.

The majority of greenkeepers use their slitters in conjunction with other forms of aeration, or anti compaction programmes. Major concerns are over ripping the turf rather than slitting and the fact that subsequent dry weather can cause the slits to open, this is particularly prone on clay. As a result slitters are mainly used in autumn and early winter.

Slitters are usually able to take several types of blade or tine, but narrower or knife blades are the most usual for golf course use - and these are often designated as “outfield” slitter and usually have larger less pointed tines.

Spacing is entirely dependent upon flange spacing, typically about 150mm, and the location of the blades around the flanges. Replacing the blades can be a time consuming task, although a ratchet spanner or pneumatic wrench will make it faster and easier, however, most of the clubs had seldom had to change blades - and some machines were several years old. As a result tine wear and cost was of little consequence. Where there are alternative spacing options (around the flange) it is vital that the blades are bolted to the correct positions to ensure the correct helical pattern, even penetration and a smoother ride.

Some models are available with rear rollers but most greenkeepers like these to firm and level the turf after slitting and not to control depth.

Without exception maintenance was minimal, nylon nuts on the bolts hold the tines, but some need regular checking for tightness - perhaps because the tine does not have a “seat” on the rotor. A few greenkeepers experienced problems with these working loose, but none experienced any loss of blades. Sealed bearings are used at the ends of the rotor, most being greaseable, but no one said they had any problems with damaged seals or dropping grease. These can be symptomatic of either over enthusiastic or nil maintenance. Fitting the machine to a tractor should be a simple routine, but some tractors need extra weight where wide and/or ballasted slitters are used on the linkage - at least if they are to remain stable.

Sisis Multi-slit at Wrag Barn Golf Club, Highworth - near Swindon
Wrag Barn has two Sisis slitters, an “Airdrain” and a “Multislit”, and uses them extensively over greens, fairways and other areas. Proprietor and Course Manager is Tim Manners and he commented that the machines, which are tractor mounted, have been extremely useful and effective. The Multislit is about a year old, it was bought direct, and it is still with its original slitting tines, although Tim expects to replace tines annually if necessary.

The Sisis slitter was bought following a demonstration at which it gave good account of itself. Tim also added that Sisis has an established reputation - and from personal experience he had always found their after sales service good. Nor are prices unreasonable.

The underlying soil at Wrag Barn is part brash - similar to Cotswold, and part deeper silty loam with a few clay caps on some of the tops.

The fine turf slitter, the Multislit, is usually used on the linkage of an Iseki 320, and without any double acting hydraulics to push the machine in, Wrag Barn use tractor type “Jerry can” weights on the slitter frame when necessary to get the necessary penetration. Normal working depth is 5in to 6in (120-150mm). The Multislit has a 1.36m width and integrated pressure rollers with floating heads. The Airdrain has a 2.44m width and 300mm slitting tines, and is available with an optional (hydraulic) pressure frame.

Slitting of greens is carried out every month during the winter with the main objective of getting air into the roots. The machines are used during the summer when conditions are suitable and there is a need for aeration.

As was expected there have been no mechanical problems and maintenance is quick and easy - checking round and two grease points to grease.

In summary Tim said the Multislit gives good penetration with minimal upheaval and turf disturbance - he was extremely satisfied with it.

Charterhouse Level Spike 2.2
80 at Hindhead Golf Club
Used behind a Ford New Holland 3610, the Level Spike is a 2.2m wide fairway slitter which the club has recently purchased in replacement of an older slitter. David Oliver is course manager at the club, and he commented that the slitter is used as part of an overall programme which includes the use of a Vert-drain annually in autumn. A Huxley greenslitter H84 is used for greens.

The course is basically sandy with a limited amount of sandstone, which can cause some lifting of turf, however overall this is little problem. If any ripping of turf occurs it is at walk-on points where there is a lot of compaction.

The machine was seen as being extremely easy to use and particularly user friendly, and in addition David stated that it was quiet - although the club had at first added weight with concrete blocks in the weight tray and these had rattled, so the greenkeepers had replaced them with wooden blocks and a clamp to keep them firm and quiet. These blocks (3 sleepers worth)