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Nostalgic visit

In 1975, aged 12, I was given my first real experience of live professional golf when my dad took me to Carnoustie to watch The Open. I had a wonderful day. We sat by the side of a green watching the great players play through and I filled an autograph book with names, some of which were household and some of which weren't.

I'd already started playing the game, after a fashion, and could recall Gary Player winning The Open at Royal Lytham the previous year but it would be fair to say that my appreciation for the game of golf started with that day out at Carnoustie. That appreciation has been quite significant in my life as I've spent the last 13 years working in the golf business.

With that in mind, together with the fact that my brother and his family now live in the town, you can perhaps see how much I'm looking forward to The Open's return to Carnoustie later this month.

But however delighted I am it barely registers on the clapometer if measured against the pleasure Links Superintendent John Philp and his team will derive from it.

The Mission, that John chose to accept, when he arrived at Carnoustie from St Andrews in 1986, was to return the course to a condition that would enable the Championship to come back.

He achieved that several years ago but the frustrating additional delay was brought about by other factors outwith his control... including the lack of a quality hotel.

If you look at the cover of this issue you will see that the hotel has arrived, just in time. Together with the superb course conditioning supplied by the greenkeeping team, it should ensure that Carnoustie doesn't have such a long wait for its next Championship.

And that's exactly as it should be because the famous five who have won at Carnoustie have all been, or become, legends in the game. There was the Silver Scot, Tommy Armour; Sir Henry Cotton; the "Wee Ice Mon," Ben Hogan, whose one out of one Open record ensured Carnoustie's legendary status; Gary Player; and Tom Watson, whose play-off win against Jack Newton kicked off his magnificent Open record.

Talking with John Philp you can't help but become wrapped up in his enthusiasm for the business and the genuine love he has for his own links. He knows every blade of grass, every nuance, every problem past present and potentially future, while his thoughts on influencing golfer's strategy would be enough for a magazine all of their own.

He deserves a successful week. One where the top players play to their best and hog the top of the leader boards and the weather shows off the course to its best advantage.

The week will also see the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support team in action and with 115 bunkers to attend, in addition to their divoting duties it could be as busy as it is enjoyable for those lucky enough to be on the team.

Editor: Scott MacCallum
It's not very often we take something away from a product to improve it. But that's exactly what we've done to new improved Clovotox and Supertox 30.

The active ingredient, mecoprop, has been trimmed down and reformulated to create new, super-efficient mecoprop-P.

Of course they'll do everything they did before - and more. Both Supertox 30 and Clovotox have improved turf safety and Clovotox can now also be used to control plantains and buttercups.

New improved Clovotox and Supertox 30, your lean, clean weed control machines.
The Association’s high quality colour magazine, Greenkeeper International, is the vital title for golf course maintenance professionals - and anyone involved in any way with the fine turf industry.

The award winning magazine brings you the news and views from experts across the globe, presented in a bright and easy to read format.

We tackle the issues of the moment, whilst keeping an eye on new developments which point the way for the future. A strong education element makes the magazine essential reading for practitioners of the greenkeeping profession.

Greenkeeper International is the natural choice for readers and advertisers alike. BIGGA members receive a copy as a benefit of membership, or you can take out a subscription.
BIGGA practises what it preaches

BIGGA's achievement of attaining the Investor in People standard, which came just nine months after making the commitment to aim for it, was formally recognised by the official presentation of its plaque.

"That we achieved the standard so quickly is a tribute to the systems in place and the quality of the staff who operate them and, coupled with our impressive new headquarters, shows that BIGGA is growing in stature," said Executive Director Neil Thomas.

The Investor in People plaque was presented to BIGGA by Roland Harrison, Chairman of York and North Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce, at a lunch attended by BIGGA staff and Averil Jenkins, of North Yorkshire Training and Enterprise Council, who assisted in BIGGA's progress towards the Standard.

Charity trek a whizz for Stephen

A Senior Greenkeeper at The Buckinghamshire is about to face a challenge that would have all but the most energetic feeling guilty about how little they do with their time.

This November 24-year-old Stephen Lack is to trek 100 kilometres through the Himalayas of Nepal to raise money for Whizz Kidz, a charity which supports children who cannot walk unaided.

"I will be in a group of 60 trekkers and the route takes us through rarely visited hillside villages in the foothills of the mountain range close to the border with Tibet and reaching a height of 13,500-feet," explained Stephen, who has pledged to raise £3,500, the average cost of a specially adapted child's wheelchair.

Stephen has been at The Buckinghamshire for about 18 months having previously worked at Loch Lomond and St Andrews.

"In preparation I'm cycling to and from work which works out at 80 miles a week while in the weeks before I leave I'll do some more intense work including swimming gym work, Tae-Kwon-do and trekking," said Stephen who with some spare time on his hands after his move south, decided to do something positive.

The Himalayan Challenge is headed by Doug Scott CBE, the first Briton to conquer Everest.

"I've always had a strong desire to visit different countries and the Nepal Himalayas has the most spectacular mountains on earth. There are many positive factors resulting from this challenge but more importantly are the benefits of freedom and independence that the children get from the specialist equipment the money is used for. Anyone wishing to support Stephen in raising money for Whizz Kidz should contact him at The Buckinghamshire Tel: 01895 835727 Fax: 018895 834723.

Stephen is training hard for his 100km trek through the Nepal Himalaya

The heather questionnaire sent out by the STRI Ecology Research Unit has prompted a flood of response from UK golf clubs.

The questionnaire is part of an R&A sponsored research initiative to assess the distribution and status of heather on UK golf courses.

The STRI is delighted with the rapid response rate and encouraged by the number of people phoning to express their support and willingness to participate in the survey. A number of enthusiastic club secretaries have already volunteered their golf course for the detailed survey work planned for the second year of the project.

The heather questionnaire is part of a two year project that it is hoped will eventually help to safeguard a nationally important habitat that is currently in decline. The project also provides the golf industry with the opportunity to demonstrate their environment and conservation credentials to a wider audience. Many people outside the industry are unaware of the levels of commitment to environmental and ecological management of many of the UK's golf courses. This project will help to heighten awareness.

For those golf clubs who have not yet received a questionnaire, a copy can be obtained from the STRI Ecology Research Unit. Please contact Jonathan Hart-Woods for further assistance or information.

Great response to Heather questionnaire

Promotion for John at RP

John Hall, of Rhone Poulenc Amenity, has been promoted to Amenity Market Development Manager based in the company's Ongar office having previously been Contract Public Utilities Customer Manager. In his new role he will be responsible for both the marketing of the company's existing pesticide brands and the development of new products.

Practical Greenkeeping

The newly re-published Practical Greenkeeping by Jim Arthur is available to all greenkeepers and interested parties from BIGGA HOUSE. "It is an excellent book and we have agreed to a re-print and I wrote to all the colleges to let them know of its availability," explained R&A Secretary Sir Michael Bonallack, who wrote to all greenkeeping colleges explaining that the book promotes sensible greenkeeping practices and should be made available to students.

"Jim Arthur's book promotes sound greenkeeping practices and the colleges should use it as part of their teaching tools," he added.

While carrying Jim Arthur's name the book, in addition to containing Jim Arthur's philosophies on greenkeeping gathered and honed from a lifetime in the industry, is a collection of views and writings from well known and respected experts in many different fields of the game including Donald Steel, Neil Baldwin, Barry Cooper, John Allbutt and Jim's own son, Richard Arthur.

Authenticated copies of the book are available from BIGGA HOUSE priced £29.95 plus £3 p&p.

July 1999 Greenkeeper International 7
Kirstie Limb is the newest member of the BIGGA HOUSE staff, filling the recently vacated post of Membership Services Assistant.

Kirstie has just finished an English degree course at Ripon and York St John College in Ripon having previously worked for a computerised labelling company in her native Cleveland.

Her north east roots account for her otherwise incomprehensible decision to support Middlesbrough, a fact she advertises through a sticker in the back of her car.

“My boyfriend is a huge Gazza fan but I quite like Dean Gordon and Brian Deane,” she revealed, and she gets along to the Riverside whenever she can.

In her spare time, 27 year-old Kirstie enjoys walking her dog, Dena, while a couple of years ago she also donated some bone marrow through the Anthony Nolan Bone Marrow Trust.

“I am looking forward to my time with BIGGA as it is a lovely place to work,” she said.

Mark Anderson has joined Weed Free as Contracts Manager as the company prepares to expand, following major new investment.

An ex-Estates Manager at Selsdon Park Hotel where he was responsible for over 64 hectares of amenity turf including an 18 hole golf course, grass tennis courts and croquet lawns, Mark brings business knowledge as well as turf care experience to the company.

At Newbury Racecourse golf club where he was Head Greenkeeper, Club Manager, Secretary and Barman, rolled into one, and was in charge of everything including the budget, Mark, 38, has had first hand experience of Weed Free’s contract spraying services from the customer’s point of view.

Having just returned from three months in Europe, Mark is excited by the large potential market across the Channel, where he observed that due to the laws surrounding the application of pesticides, many Greenkeepers are afraid to spray.

Keen to be part of a young, growing business, Mark’s arrival is in line with Weed Free’s preference for staffing the company with turf professionals, as the Proprietor, Mike Seaton is himself an ex-Groundsman.
New MD receives Future Leaders Award

Harold C Pinto, Managing Director of Ipswich based Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products, has been named a winner in the Future Leaders of Wisconsin StarStream Award scheme. The programme recognises outstanding business achievement and honours those individuals destined to be the top leaders of tomorrow.

Commenting upon the accolade he said, "I'm very proud to receive this award as it supports my belief that leadership and success come from teamwork. You can accomplish much when you enlist the help of others."

Mr. Pinto won the award in the category of 'companies with over 500 employees.' Winners were also named in the categories of 'companies with less than 500 employees' and 'governmental/non-profit organisations.' There were eleven finalists in all, selected from 120 nominations.

Craig aims for Local Authorities

Craig Brisley has joined the UAP Amenity team of turf specialists. Craig who has been with UAP for some time working in the 'Special Products' division has been appointed as Amenity Local Authority Specialist covering the south of England. He will be responsible for developing both the Local Authority and contractor sections of this very important specialised amenity market.

1999 Volvo PGA Championship

BIGGA were pleased to have been invited by the PGA European Tour to help out for the second year at the prestigious Volvo PGA Championship held at Wentworth at the end of May. Organised by John Pemberton who is based at BIGGA Headquarters the BIGGA Support Team consisted of 80 members whose ages ranged from a 19 year-old apprentice greenkeeper to those who have retired from greening.

Over the final two days of play the BIGGA team members were each allotted a game which they walked round the course with, raking any bunkers found by the players. Undaunted by the prospect of rain on Sunday, and at one point carrying not only a rake but also a squeegee just in case, the team provided a valuable service which was greatly appreciated by the PGA European Tour, the Course Manager, Chris Kennedy, and also the players. The involvement of the BIGGA support team helps keep play continuous by leaving the caddie free to concentrate on the game. The team members were also on hand to help the resident greenkeeping staff in the event of bad weather such as that which caused a delay in play on the Saturday evening. Although giving up a day off those who took part were rewarded with the opportunity to see some exciting golf at very close range and experience the thrill of walking up the 18th fairway inside the ropes not to mention the odd mention on TV!

John would like to thank all those who were involved for their enthusiasm and support and in particular Mark Ellis and Neil Whitaker who patiently manned the 1st tee check point for the two days. Thank you is also due to the PGA European Tour for providing the BIGGA team with luncheon vouchers, season tickets, a Cutter & Buck shirt and a baseball cap.

Chris receives unexpected presentation

Chris Kennedy, Courses Superintendent at The Wentworth Club had star billing during the prize presentation for the Volvo PGA Championship. Just before the trophy was presented to Champion Colin Montgomerie, David Garland, European Tour Director of Tour Operations, announced that The Wentworth Club wished to make a presentation to Chris in recognition of his 10 years at the club and the 10 Volvo PGA Championships and 10 World Match-Play Championships for which he had prepared the West Course and that he was probably the best Course Manager in the country.

Chris was then presented with a Cup in front of the huge galleries by Elliott Bernard, Chairman of The Wentworth Club.

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New post Flows toward Ian

Hampshire based pump manufacturer Flowtronex Europe has appointed Ian Hazleton as regional Sales Engineer for the North of England and Scotland.

Ian, who lives in Buckinghamshire, brings with him a wealth of experience honed from 10 years working in the industry.

Sales Manager Adam Booker said: "He will be a valuable addition to the team, working closely with existing customers and supporting new business.

"The new appointment is an exciting development in the expansion of Flowtronex as it is the first time we have had a permanent representative in this region. Customers will have the benefit of a personal service as well as advice and information when they need it."

Flowtronex Europe specialises in the design and manufacture of water pump systems for the turf irrigation, water and building industries.

Royal Inverdivot GC...

by Tony Husband

Just how water logged is your course?

See that lake?

That's the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th fairways

July 1999 Greenkeeper International
Spray away - the safer way

In response to the new enforcement of the Ground Water directive G & AE Wilson who supply and manufacture sprayers and related products for the amenity sector have developed a kit for fitting to sprayers to enable greenkeepers/groundsmen and sprayer operators keep within the law.

The Groundwater directive removes the right for the sprayer to be cleaned out in the yard unless the yard has been registered as a washings disposal site, which will involve paperwork and a registration cost and also a yearly cost. The directive has been developed to reduce the contamination of groundwater and will be enforced by the Environment Agency.

The cleaning kit, which is an alternative to land registration, enables the sprayer to be cleaned inside with an internal rinsing nozzle, and also externally around the nozzle bodies, where chemical residue may also be. This means the sprayer can be washed down in an area where the sprayer has been working - which is acceptable with the Environment Agency, and means you don’t have to register your yard. The kit also gives visual reassurance that you are looking after the environment and are taking steps to eliminate ground water contamination.

The wash down kit comes complete with a 30ltr clean water container, two 3 valves, internal cleaning nozzle, external washdown pistol, and all the fittings for fitment, at a price including fitting for £89.00 + Vat.

For further details, Tel: 01904 738533 or 0966 520057.

If you want to get ahead, then get a mat

The Isoplant Tree Mulching Mat has been launched into the amenity market by PG Horticultural Ltd.

The mats, which suppress weeds, retain moisture and give an ideal environment for three to four years, are made from wood fibre and are totally degradable.

Available in different shapes, dimensions and thicknesses, the mats are fixed in place using bamboo pegs and once wet they become bonded to the ground taking the shape of the soil surface.

For further information Tel: 01379 678515.

Fairway to spot weeds from Vitax

Weedfree aerosols from Vitax have crossed over from the retail to the amenity market, thanks to the ingenuity of greenkeepers. Commonly used on greens and tees, the product, which has always been considered too labour intensive for use on fairways, has now been combined with divotting.

Ian McMillan, who as Course Manager at Hankley Common prepared the club for its win in the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, in association with Amazone and Rhone Poulenc and who was the Toro Excellence in Greenkeeping winner the same year has six members of staff who divot the fairways once a month from April to September.

“We always, as far as is reasonably possible, hand weed our greens. However, this would be far too laborious on tees and fairways. Basically, the weed population generally does not justify an overall spray which would cost money. By using Weedfree aerosols as we divot, we know what we’re hitting, and essentially, we are not using herbicides unnecessarily.”

Ray Malt, Head Greenkeeper at The Ridge Golf Club, has taken the idea one step further. With four greenstaff, spot weeding the fairways is out of the question, which led him to employ the members.

“We have two divoting evenings a year and it usually takes 15 members two and a half hours to do all the fairways. Because the Weedfree aerosol is available on the retail market I knew it was safe to give them a can each, and during our first session last month (May) they seemed to cover the ground in the same time. We obviously won’t have been 100% effective, but if we have got 50% or 60% of the weeds that marks a huge improvement. Afterwards, we all had a beer and a sandwich, Ray commented.

For further information: Tel: 01530 510060.

New cylinder mowers from Kubota

Kubota has announced the launch of its very first range of ride-on cylinder mowers.

Known as the AM Series, the all-new triple cylinder machines are the result of worldwide customer research and evaluation carried out by Kubota over the past decade. The initial two machines in the new AM Series now being introduced in the United Kingdom and Ireland are manufactured totally by Kubota and represent the first in a new generation of technically-advanced ride-on cylinder mowers designed from the ground up to meet the demands of professionals into the 21st century.

Both models have a number of exciting design elements which will make them serious contenders within their respective market areas. They also share the safety features, build quality, user-friendly design, reliability, performance and value for money that have been the hallmark of Kubota’s products since 1922, when the first Kubota engine was produced.

Introduced commercially in Japan in 1998, the AM3300 is a rugged ride-on triple cylinder mower with an optional rear hopper grass collection and emptying facility.

This system makes the Kubota AM3300 the only ride-on cylinder mower in Europe able to collect and dispose of cut grass without the operator having to leave the driving seat.

Powered by a low noise, low emission 33hp four cylinder Kubota diesel engine, the AM3300 has single pedal hydrostatic transmission, automatic, self-selecting four-wheel drive and a flat floor operating platform laid out and equipped to provide exceptional comfort, convenience and ease of use.

All mowing functions are actuated by a combination of push buttons and single-lever joystick control. Customers can choose from five or seven blade 200mm (8in) diameter cylinders giving an overall mowing width of 2.03m (80in).

Other features of the self-steering, fully-floating cutting units include individual lowering, in-situ backlapping, hydraulic weight transfer and a choice of full width grooved or sideoffset front rollers, the latter being ideal when cutting longer grass.

AM3300 operators wanting the convenience of grass collection with single lever hydraulic emptying from the driving seat can specify a 420 litre capacity high-dump rear hopper, force-filled via flexible pipes and grass collection manifolds connected directly to the three cutting units.

This collection and emptying system provides fast, fatigue-free mowing, collection and emptying for areas where a high workrate and visual appearance are equally important. It also reduces long-term scraping requirements and the risk of yellowing, disease and moss build-up beneath uncollected clippings.

The second machine in Kubota’s new AM Series is the AM1800 - a compact ride-on triple cylinder mower ideal for regular maintenance of open and more confined areas of grass.

The AM3300 ride-on cylinder mower is available for demonstrations and sale from 1 July, to be followed by the AM1800 in August. Both the AM3300 and AM1800 machines will be exhibited on the Kubota stand at Saltex 99.