Amazingly, some species of fungus are hugely beneficial to your turf.

Mycorrhizal fungi develop a mutually beneficial relationship with turf roots for effective nutrient exchange, and increased resistance to drought, insect pests and disease.

As a result, turf associated with Mycorrhiza tends to be healthier.

You'll be pleased to hear then, that Rovral Green leaves these 'friendly' fungi completely unharmed.

You'll also be glad to know that Rovral Green is still as effective as ever at controlling the harmful species like Fusarium, Red Thread and Dollar Spot. No wonder it's still the UK's No 1.

Rovral Green - it thinks for itself.
Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

The Fund provides the key to the future for greenkeeper, golfclub and game. Individuals and companies can join the Golden Key Circle and Silver Key Circle. For details, please contact BIGGA on 01347 833800

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Company Tel: Head Office
Advanta 01259 302500
Amarine Ground Care 01579 351156
Aventis 01277 391114
Avonmore Amenity Products 01934 809860
Berhard and Company Ltd 01786 811600
Charterhouse Turf Machinery Ltd 01481 661222
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John Deere Ltd 01469 869041
Kubota UK Ltd 01844 214646
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PGA European Tour 01344 824861
Rainbird 01272 881236
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Robins 01904 686961
Scotts Turf and Amenity 01483 410210
Stylo 01274 111911
Teles Ton Turf Care 01473 270066
The Toro Company (Lely UK) 01202 319967

Silver Key Circle Company Members
Company Tel: Head Office
Ernst Die & Sons 01254 930331
Lambert/Ranch UK Ltd Group 01315 246 1313
Sais Equipment Ltd 01625 503030
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January 2000

Regulars

News Pages 7, 8, 10

12 Letters

15 Learning Experience
Learning Curves. Ian Miller, of Otley College, gives an insight into modern learning techniques

18 Education
Ken Richardson announces the results of the BIGGA Essay Competition while he also passes on some important information about BTME; training courses; a wonderful scholarship opportunity and noise reduction legislation

20 Membership Update

24 Talking Heads
Six distinguished Course Managers give their views on “Best ofs”

34 Around the Green

64 Sandy McDivot
Future Happiness. Sandy McDivot gives his thoughts on what to expect in the new Millennium

66 Features Listing
Helping you track down some of Greenkeeper International’s previous articles.

66 As I see it...
Gordon Child signs off after two years as Chairman but not before he has some strong things to say about the Valderrama Declaration and says goodbye to an old friend
Well, it's arrived and, what do you know: nothing has changed. Here we are, the first people in living memory to set foot in a new millennium and unless we take a look at the calendar we wouldn't even know it.

In many ways, though, that's quite reassuring. Everything is just as we left it back in the good old 1990s. The January Sales are in full swing, our computers work - hopefully - and we have Harrogate to look forward to in a few week's time.

There is a need to commemorate the occasion, however, and we have chosen to display every single Greenkeeper International cover since its inception in 1991 on this our Millennium Issue cover. Each cover will hopefully hold a memory for someone, and apologies for those of you whose favourite have been obscured in some fashion.

Another salutary lesson it gives us is how quickly time marches on. I'm sure I won't be the only one of us who looks at particular cover and thinks "It can't be that long ago!" I'm still coming to terms with the fact that I've now edited more than 50 Greenkeeper Internationals.

This month is the first when your favourite magazine will be in full colour. Until now there have been certain pages, at the front and the back of the magazine, that were purely black and white but now they have gone, and we have the option of brightening up every one of the pages. It is part of an on going process of making changes and improvements to the magazine, much as happens with BTME.

The old adage - wouldn't it be great if we had the odd new adage occasionally - "If it ain't broke don't fix it" doesn't apply to BTME because, despite its undoubted success over the last 11 years, we have always striven to build and make changes if we felt it could add something extra to the occasion.

This year we've got a superb new hall, giving much more space as well as a new entrance to the Show. This means more exhibitors with bigger stands for you to visit; we've got a career's clinic for the first time; some of the finest speakers ever to grace a platform and the Beatles - well The Bootleg Beatles, who are the nearest thing to the real thing, who will be appearing at the traditional banquet in BIGGA's own Cavern Club - Hall D!

Harrogate will also see Gordon Child step down as BIGGA's National Chairman. He's held the post for two years and by any measure has been a wonderful ambassador, as well as a tireless worker, for the Association during that time.

He and Marion, whose own input to the Association during the past two years has also been invaluable, can now look forward to a retirement that has been well earned. They will do so with the best wishes of everyone ringing in their ears.

Editor: Scott MacCallum
Best quality,
best service,
best seed.
Best talk to
Advanta.

The highly acclaimed MM sports turf mixtures and the Designer landscaping range are the flagship amenity brands from Advanta Seeds UK. The same high quality seed, proven cultivars and technical ‘know-how’ all remain unchanged to ensure unbeatable performance in the field.

For the best known seed - best talk to Advanta.

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BTME VISITOR HOTLINE 01347 833833  BTME EXHIBITOR HOTLINE 01347 833800
Environment Award for Sand Moor

Sand Moor Golf Club in Leeds was the recipient of a special BIGGA Environment Competition award recently.

The club had made a strong bid for this year's BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, in association with Amazone and Grass Roots, thanks to the commitment and dedicated hard work of Head Greenkeeper, Bobby Barnes.

However, a couple of days after competition judge Jonathan Hart-Woods, met up with Bobby to be shown the work done at Sand Moor the respected Head Greenkeeper died suddenly.

It was to honour Bobby and the rest of his team that Rod Baker, Managing Director of Amazone Ground Care; Bob Taylor and Jonathan Hart-Woods of the STRI, and BIGGA Chairman, Gordon Child, travelled to Leeds to present the club with a plaque in recognition of the fine environmental work that had been done.

Rod Baker, who the previous month had presented Temple Golf Club, in Berkshire with the National Award, was equally delighted to be making the presentation to Sand Moor.

"Golf is not bad for the environment and here it provides an environmental haven in the middle of an urban society," he said.

With the encouragement given by the award Sand Moor Captain, David Hughes said they would be definitely entering the competition again in 2000.

"We are extremely proud of what Bobby and the rest of the staff have done at Sand Moor." Also present from the club was Acting Head Greenkeeper John Daniel, Chairman of Green, Robin Kilburn and Club Chairman Clive Wilkinson.

Students get the point of grinding workshop

Grinding your cylinder mower to give optimum cutting performance was the topic of a recent workshop at Greenmount College. A large number of students and local greenkeepers attended the workshop delivered by Express Dual Educational Berhard and Company.

The workshop which was organised by Neil McLaughlin, of Greenmount College, demonstrated the use of the Express dual 2000 to grind cylinder mowers.

Stephen Bernhard discussed the importance of a planned maintenance programme and correct cylinder grinding to ensure first class performance from mowers. Slides showing the damage caused to grass by different blades gave some food for thought.

Evaluating the day David Morris lecturer in mechanisation said that the students were captivated by the lively and informative presentation.

Neil McLaughlin was delighted with the attendance and the quality of training provided. "It is always beneficial to see machinery operated by experienced machinists and to talk to the experts, we greatly appreciated Berhards visit to the College."

A new look for some familiar faces

In the autumn of '98, the idea for Pentagon Amenity Marketing was conceived and now, some 18 months on, the business is ready to become a trading reality. Pentagon is a new face but one you will recognise because it already deals with the majority of the UK's landscape and turf professionals. Pentagon consists of Stewart's in Scotland, Alpha Amenity (formerly County Amenity) in the North of England and Midlands, Collier Turf Care in East Anglia and Driving Force Leisure in the South.

"Pentagon was created and exists to reduce the distance between customer and supplier. After a decade's experience working for CI (in which ever guise!) I noticed that national distributors found it difficult to offer the same service nationwide as they could local to their depots. In contrast, regional suppliers offered a more efficient service to their customers, but often lacked the support and buying power of their larger competitors. With a combined sales force numbering 22, four main distribution points, Pentagon will be able to trade as local suppliers but have the strength and support of a national scale distributor," explained Clive Heginbotham, Business Director of Pentagon Amenity Marketing Ltd.

Pentagon has now put together a portfolio of new products sourced from across Britain and Europe, some of which you will know, others you may not.

The new products will be shown at BTME 2000 and will include a range of fertilisers, equipment, speciality paints, biological treatments, and a range of products designed to complement the 'natural' approach to turf management.

BIGGA AGM

The 2000 BIGGA AGM will be held in the Majestic Hotel Ballroom at 3-5pm, Wednesday, January 19. Membership Cards must be produced to gain admission.

Taking a gander at new leaflet

Just published, The Management of Problems Caused by Canada Geese: A Guide to Best Practice, describes in detail the biology of Canada Geese and also the problems that they can cause. The booklet, which will be of use to people managing public amenity areas, recommends integrated management strategies, combining habitat modification and population control.

The species can be hunted in the open season - 1 September to 31 January (or 20 February on the foreshore). During close season Canada Geese are protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. However, under the Act, licences can be granted to control adult birds and/or their eggs. Licences are issued by both the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions and also by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (for agricultural situations).

Covers are available from the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions, European Wildlife Division, Room 902, Telgate House, Houlton Street, Bristol, BS2 9DJ; Tel. 0117-967-9903.

Nick gets set to cover Midlands

Scotts UK Professional has appointed Nick Martin to the Turf and Amenity sales team to cover the Midlands.

Previously employed in a sales capacity with Scotts Main Distributor E T Breakwell, Nick has also gained experience as a Golf Course Manager with The Vale Golf and Country Club and studied to National Diploma level at Penshore and Hindlip College. Nick is an active member of an off road racing team, participating in events all over the UK and is a keen cricket and squash player.

Stolen Sisis

A Rover Shredder 112 was stolen from SISIS Scottish Depot in Falkirk on 21 November. If you are offered one for sale from an unorthodox source SISIS would like to hear from you. Please Call Keith Verrigan on 01625 503030.
Par Aide UK
Par Aide UK has become the official distributor of Range Servant Driving Range equipment and will be undertaking the servicing of all existing equipment. For more information contact Andrew Lofting Tel: 01424 818008.

Matt moves on to Bioseed
Bioseed Probiotics has appointed Matt Maryon, former Course Manager at Yeovil Golf Club, to its the sales team from January 2000. Matt will be covering the South West, South Wales and South Midlands.

"Leaving greenkeeping was a difficult decision, however a new direction brings a new challenge. I am really looking forward to working with the team and developing my role and area with Bioseed. The Company offer great products and ideas and are totally committed to the Sports turf industry," he said.

We'll be right back after the break...
That's exactly what one of our Greenkeeper Members did! Craig Pennycuick, Head Greenkeeper at Winterfield GC, famous for his tattoo of the BIGGA logo, is a keen Sunday League footballer, unfortunately, one fateful Sunday he found himself involved in a bad tackle which resulted in him breaking his leg.

Craig was obviously off work for some weeks, but what he didn't realise was that he could claim for being off work under the Personal Accident Insurance scheme. Craig was aware of the scheme, but didn't think he was covered.

Steve Dixon, Craig's Section Secretary, checked with Craig to see if he was claiming and pointed out that it didn't matter where the accident took place, he was entitled to receive payments while he was off work.

So, Craig contacted the insurers immediately; they sent him a form to complete with his Doctor's signature, he returned it and within days he had a cheque arrive through his door.

So the moral of the story, if you are a Greenkeeping Member, you are covered for any accident you have, whether at work, home, holiday or even playing football! If you find yourself off work because of an accident, contact the insurers straight away!

Thankfully Craig is back on his feet and is now playing it safe and is refereeing instead. Is that safe these days?

Barenbrug gets set to lead the way
Barenbrug is the first seed company to announce double testing of grass seed mixtures destined for turf production.

Quality testing of seed delivered to Barenbrug's warehouse has been the norm, as with most other seed producers, for many years. Barenbrug decided 12 months ago that this alone was not good enough so it introduced random testing of the mixed turfgrass seed using the same controls and independent testing houses as previously. This extra test has been of great interest to Turf Grower customers, so much so that the company has announced that the experiment will become a standard procedure for all turfgrass seed orders. Bags of Barenbrug Turf Mixtures will carry a yellow label confirming this.

"Turf Growers can now gain further confidence from the stringent controls and extra check we have put in place," said Alan Lomas, Sales and Marketing Manager.

BIGCA goes Stateside for study
Twenty four members of the British Institute of Golf Course Architects spent a week in the south-east of the United States studying historic courses and meeting with USGA Green Section Staff.

The tour, led by BIGCA President Howard Swan and Vice President David Williams, took in the Championship courses at Pinehurst and Augusta National, as well as the Atlanta Athletic Club where the USPGA Tournament will be held in 2002.

The Study Tour was part of the Institute's continuing Professional Development Programme for its membership.

The 24 architects, representing a third of the Institute, came from 14 countries, and among them were nine students from BIGCA Diploma Course.

Advanta uses BTME to launch brand new portfolio
Following a year of corporate restructuring, grass seed breeder Advanta, (formerly Mommersteeg and Sharpe's International), is using BTME to launch its own portfolio of amenity grass seed mixtures. These are being presented as two distinct brands - Advanta MM's and Designer from Advanta.

The mixtures within each range, have been designed to produce high quality, persistent swards, which are tailored to specific end-uses.

"We now offer the most complete range of amenity grass seed mixtures in the UK," says Advanta Amenity Sales and Marketing Manager, Dave Phillips.

"By having two core brands we are providing our customers, who often have very diverse requirements, with the best choice of high quality mixtures they will find in the market today."

Royal Inverdivot GC... by Tony Husband

I think being Greens Chairman is too stressful for you.

Then why have you put your underwater on over your trousers.

He got to go to the club before work there's a Greens problem.

No it's not for you.
Neil Thomas reports...

Since its launch in September 1997, 'Committed to Green' has sought to attract interest among golf clubs. Indeed, across Europe in its attempt to encourage clubs to address environmental issues. In early November a US/Europe Golf Environment Summit met at V&A Ecology Golf Club in Spain and resulted in "The Valderrama Declaration" signed on behalf of the golf authorities by the Royal & Ancient Golf Club, the United States Golf Association and the European Golf Association and endorsed on behalf of sport and the environment community by other major bodies. The Declaration sets out a forward-looking perspective on the golf community's role in initiating and supporting environmental education, research and conservation programmes.

The Federation of European Golf Greenkeepers Association (FEGGA) was represented at the Summit and a report was subsequently made to the FEGGA Annual Conference held later in November in Spain. Implementation of 'Committed to Green' will be through the FEGGA Conference made it quite clear that the present position is not sustainable and the 17 national Associations present unanimously agreed that the programme could not be supported as presently constituted. This was not to say that the Associations do not support 'Committed to Green', far from it. However, there is a lack of confidence, a feeling that national greenkeeping Associations are being ignored and that there is no recognition of the fundamental role of greenkeepers in implementing the programme.

Yet it is greenkeepers and golf clubs who are moving forward irrespective of 'Committed to Green'. There are two measurable awards in this regard. In Scotland, the Scottish Golf Course Wildlife Initiative currently has 230 golf clubs registered with whom it is working, 34 of these have become eligible for the Scottish Golf Course Wildlife Charter, which is presented to clubs who set up and implement environmental management plans.

Within BIGGA the Environmental Award Competition has now completed a successful fifth year with outstanding industry support from Amazone Ground Care. The award is creating environmental awareness among golf clubs and their members as well as creating a focus for greenkeepers to demonstrate the environmental benefits of golf courses. Both these awards should be embraced by 'Committed to Green' which as yet has little relevance I suspect to the vast majority of golf clubs.

FEGGA was therefore authorised by its member Associations to write to the R&A, the European Golf Association and the PGA European Tour, as the three funding bodies of the Committed to Green Foundation, to express its profound dissatisfaction with the present situation and its serious concerns for the future of the programme if the current ambivalence to consulting with the greenkeeping associations is to continue. For its part, BIGGA's Board of Management has determined to make its views known to the R&A in the hope that this matter can be urgently reviewed.

Furthermore BIGGA has decided that, through the pages of Greenkeeper International, it will address these issues and seek the views of the bodies and individuals involved with 'Committed to Green'. We can then highlight the key role greenkeepers have to play in implementing the programme and how this can be successfully achieved by consultation with the greenkeeping Associations and their representation on technical committees charged with evolving and implementing the 'Committed to Green' programme.

To this end we will welcome contributions to the pages of Greenkeeper International in order that a constructive debate can be initiated which we hope will ultimately be for the benefit of greenkeepers and the golf clubs they represent when they decide to seek the 'Committed to Green Certificate of Environmental Excellence'.

Finally one is reminded of the old adage, 'they also serve who only stand and wait', in this case the greenkeepers. The time has surely come for those in charge to stand and deliver.
Cecil George pays a personal tribute to Harry Diamond who died last month...

Harry Diamond 1930-1999

Harry Diamond died at Ayr County Hospital at 5am on Wednesday December 8th, 1999 in his 69th year. To write all that Harry has achieved over the years would fill Greenkeeper International for the next few issues. He was, as we say in Scotland, 'A man of many parts'.

I have known Harry since we were strong young men, both of us being active members of the Scottish and International Golf Greenkeepers Association. His introduction to golf was through caddying as a very young lad. He was born and brought up in Irvine, which is in the very heart of Ayshire golfing country. He opened his own shoe shine after being asked to shine his shoes by a young lad. He could hit a ball from one course to another for five miles down the Ayshire coast.

When one considers there are 16 top class courses within a walking distance of Irvine what could one do but get involved although, in his early days, it was the necessity to bring a few extra shillings into the family purse that took Harry on to a golf course.

Among the many stories he told was of how he caddied for the well known amateur and Walker Cup golfer, Jimmy Walker. Jimmy Walker was not always the smartest of dressers on the course so Harry thought he would tidy him up by starting on his shoes which he polished to a glowing shine. After the match Jimmy blamed Harry for losing him the game. He said that every time he addressed his putt, the glare from the shoes blinded him and he couldn't see the line.

From caddying as a lad it was only a step into greenkeeping where he started as an apprentice at Glasgow Gailes under the Head Greenkeeper, Bert Graham, and the then First Assistant, Ben Moir. There Harry learned the basic art of greenkeeping and, as he said, 'How to take care of yourself and, if possible, avoid the golfers'.

Harry served his National Service with the Scottish Fusiliers, one of the Scottish Regiments who were placed under the Head Greenkeeper, Bert Graham, and the then First Assistant, Ben Moir. There Harry was known as 'Trie Malta Falcon'. I can't recall whether I told him about this alias. If I did he would have laughed for if anyone liked a good story it was Harry. His ready wit and marvellous memory brought tears of laughter to any gathering of friends. He was an avid reader which was obvious from his conversation.

Harry is survived by Jessie, his second wife - they were married in America in the summer of 1998 - his son, Paul, and three daughters, Ann, Linda and Rosemary, and 11 grandchildren, and Jessie's two sons, Kenneth and Allan, who will all find a vacancy in their lives.

The funeral service was held in the Good Shepherd Cathedral, Ayr, there after to Masonhill Crematorium. Both services were well attended by friends. It is a mark of respect for Harry that the Crematorium was filled to capacity and standing.

Our thoughts are with the family in their time of mourning.

What can we say except, 'Well Done' to a life that touched us all.

many committees. His record for service in the Ayshire Section is unequalled, starting back in the SIGGA days right up to the 16th of November when he was on the telephone to me making suggestions of how we could go about helping greenkeepers with their health and mental ailments. This was Harry - always thinking about his fellow man.

In recent years, as well as being active in the Ayshire Section, he was Chairman of the Scottish Regional Board of BIGGA and did three years on the Board of Management as the Scottish Representative where those serving at the time will remember his sound business judgment. I know that if we on the Scottish Board gave him a brief it was carried out to the letter.

After retiring Harry was called back to Ay Council to help finalise the redistribution of work on the Sports Grounds and Golf Courses. He finally wound that up, and was invited out to Malta to straighten out constructional problems they were having with their existing golf course. It ended up with his being the mainstay in putting the whole course into excellent playing condition. For over two years he flew in and out of Malta so many times that he was known as 'The Maltese Falcon', I can't recall whether I told him about this alias. If I did he would have laughed for if anyone liked a good story it was Harry. His ready wit and marvellous memory brought tears of laughter to any gathering of friends. He was an avid reader which was obvious from his conversation.

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