IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL GREENKEEPER MEMBERS

If you are a Greenkeeper Member of BIGGA, then as part of your membership, you can take advantage of the 24 hour, 365 day a year Legal Helpline, as can any member of your family who live with you.

Please note that from January 1, 2000 a new freephone number will be in operation

FREEPHONE 0800 068 1893

This service has been extended to include all Greenkeeper members within EU countries

Staying ahead of the field...

A seed mixture is as good as its blend of proven grass varieties. But we believe in the right mix of expertise and service too. With scientists on our IGER breeding programme developing new and improved varieties all the time - and our direct-to-market fieldforce helping you specify the mixtures you need - you can rely on British Seed Houses.

Make sure you pick the right mixture.

British Seed Houses Ltd

SEEDS SERVICE SOLUTIONS

Warrington 01925 654411
Lincoln 01522 868714
Bristol 0117 982 3691

Authorized Import Agent
Evenproducts Ltd
Evesham, Worcs
Tel: 01386 41212

Keep Your Course in Top Condition with Hunter Golf

Maintaining a golf course is a major responsibility. A Hunter Golf irrigation system can lighten your workload while improving playability from tee to green. Hunter Golf features Viking Decoder and Genesis Central/Satellite controllers, reliable Hunter rotors and valves - and the innovative technology that makes it all easy to operate. See the complete Hunter Golf product line at the BTME Show.
Multigreen controlled release fertilisers have been specifically formulated to give you stronger and healthier turf all the year round while saving you time, materials and labour.

- One application provides continuous nutrition for a whole season
- Polymer coating ensures steady release and reduced leaching
- Potassium is derived from potassium nitrate, the preferred source for fast uptake and prevention of 'black layer'
- Choice of formulations for greens and fairways

Fertilisers and Turf Maintenance Products

Haifa Chemicals Ltd
Horticulture Division
Leaders in Plant Nutrition
Tel: 0181 952 2552 Fax: 0181 952 0551

Headland
Amenity Products
Tel: 01799 530146 Fax: 01799 530229
Scott MacCallum travelled to North Wales to meet a man and machine with quite a story to tell...

A little piece of history

In 1932 Rhos on Sea Golf Club on the coast of North Wales, close to Colwyn Bay, took delivery of the first Ransomes Overgreen to leave the Ipswich factory. Sixty-seven years later that same Overgreen - No B301 - was wheeled out, in pristine condition having been renovated by the club's owner, to celebrate the club's centenary and the 50th anniversary of Head Greenkeeper, Aneurin Hughes', arrival at the club.

That bare fact shows a level of continuity that would be the envy of most clubs. More so when you consider that in the 100 years the club has had just two Head Greenkeepers. Hughie Evans became the club's first Head man in 1908 and held the post up until 1959 when Aneurin took over. As Aneurin edges towards his official retirement age next March, the third Head Greenkeeper has been appointed. Diana Blundell, the daughter of club owner Frank Lithgow, has a steep mountain to climb if she is to be judged on longevity, but having spent time at Mere in Manchester, she brings with her the modern day skills required to do the job at the turn of the millennium.

As Aneurin admits, "She's got a lot more qualifications than I have."

The fact that the first Ransomes Overgreen found its way to North Wales was down to the club's then owner, J.B. Biear, who arrived at the club as club professional just after the first war. "When the club came up for sale in the early 20s he bought a good share of it and by the 50s he'd bought about 90% of the shares," explained Aneurin.

"He was a very advanced, forward thinking man in terms of engineering as he had been a Chief Engineer in the Royal Navy and at the club whenever anything new came out he'd try it and if it liked it, he'd buy it. This was also the case with fertilisers which he brought to the club and weedkillers. He was one of the first to try weedkillers. He also worked closely with R.B. Dawson, of Birley, on greenkeeping matters."

Remarkably the Overgreen was still in regular use up until the early 1970s by which time it had more than earned its retirement which it spent in Mr Lithgow's store.

"It was a shame when that was stopped," he said, adding that it was in the mid 60s when golf increased in popularity that he noticed etiquette standards beginning to drop.

As far as greenkeeping is concerned Aneurin can recall mixing his own fertilisers from hoof and horn and dried blood.

Getting back to cutting greens every day in the summer. It was in part due to the home made fertilisers boosting the grass to the extent that they grew by quarter of an inch a day.

"Mixing fertilisers was much more interesting and there was much more of a challenge to it than there is today," Rhos on Sea has gone back to a more organic approach in the last five years.

"We starved everything for at least 12 months to get rid of all the chemicals. It did look terrible but the club decided to bite the bullet."

The moment when the Overgreen was wheeled out was an emotional one for Aneurin.

"It was thrilling. Mr Lithgow had reground and sharpened the blades, repainted it, given it a good decoke, cleaned the points and the plugs and it started first time. I cut the 18th green with it a few times before it went back into storage. To me it is priceless."
Six of the country's top men give their views on some of the things they consider to be "Tops"

You're the tops

Compiled by Malcolm Huntington MBE

1. What do you think has been the single greatest invention the greenkeeping industry has seen?

1. Apart from the obvious lawn mower, I would consider the aeration machine the most important invention for golf turf maintenance.

1. The hydraulic triplex mower - when mine are running well. With one of these and a range of attachments, more tasks can be completed more frequently with less labour.

1. The strimmer as it has helped to save many man hours on the general tidiness of the course, leaving time for other important jobs.

1. Power driven aeration equipment - hollow coring and core harvesters, slit-tiners, verti-drain and hydrojet.

1. Hydraulics for mowers and virtually every piece of equipment.

1. The lawnmower! Seriously, I think the best to be the verti-drain in recent times. Compaction is one of the biggest problems on courses and a machine which helps to relieve this, generally with little disturbance, would be a worthy addition to anyone's machinery fleet.
2. Sandy McGregor, my first boss at Montrose Links. He gave me my first chance in greenkeeping and I am grateful for that. He quickly made me realise that there is an awful lot to do in this job other than cutting grass.

3. Shaig Logan, of Muirfield. He prepared the course for four Opens to the highest standards. However, when you see some of the equipment he had to use at Haggs Castle a few years back. Staff at Haggs Castle a few years back. Staff at Haggs Castle a few years back.

4. Free advice is exactly what you pay for it. If it's not broken don't fix it - from Alex Moore, my Deputy at Royal Portrush.

5. Alan Brown.

2. There are two - Dave Dewar for his guidance and support throughout my 15 years at St Andrews.

3. Hankley Common. A beautiful heathland course with the best greens I have played on. The club also has one of the most enlightened attitudes to greenkeeping, greenkeepers and course management.

4. Do not leave important duties or tasks until tomorrow, as the next day's circumstances may have changed, ie weather, staffing levels, vandalism. And... never have an affair with the Captain's wife!

5. Sandy McGregor, my first boss at Montrose Links. He gave me my first chance in greenkeeping and I am grateful for that. He quickly made me realise that there is an awful lot to do in this job other than cutting grass.

2. Old Tom Morris, about whom I have read so much. He was Keeper of Greens at St Andrews from 1865-1904 and has a reputation lasting more than 100 years, despite working without resources. How many of our top people will be talked about in 100 year's time?

3. Difficult question, but it would have to be Pebble Beach in California because of its design, lay-out and location.

4. If a job is worth doing, do it well - Dave Dewar.

5. A paper presented by Jim Moore, of the USGA Greens Section, on Water Management. He presented himself and his subject very professionally and kept the audience interested throughout by getting them to participate. He made the subject interesting and humorous and explained it in a simple manner.

2. My dad, Rex Ballock, who achieved results without many of the resources available to us now, such as a reasonable budget, modern machinery and well-trained staff. Closely followed by Ian McMillan, at Hankley Common, a very good greenkeeper with a progressive attitude to management.

3. Cyprus Point, California, for all round setting and quality in a naturally beautiful area - and Sun City, for its achievements in very difficult surroundings.

4. Grass roots do not grow in the soil, they grow in the spores of the soil, which makes me realise the importance of aeration.

5. In the United States, James Beard on theory. In the United Kingdom, Walter Woods and Jack McMillan on practical theory and greenkeeper oriented skills and for all mentioned previously. Plus, mixed with his own brand of humour, George Brown on Turnberry.

2. I greatly admire people who work on The Open venues, but Turnberry in 1994 looked superb, so I guess, George Brown.

3. Any British links course, as they are beautiful, peaceful and beside the sea. This is where the best golf is played in my view.

4. Grass roots do not grow in the soil, they grow in the spores of the soil, which makes me realise the importance of aeration.

5. A seminar on irrigation water analysis I attended at the GCSAA show given by Dr David Kope and Dr Clark Throssell. It was eight hours long, but it never got tedious. They involved the audience and encouraged dialogue and debate between fellow superintendents. It was excellent.
The AM3300 is the world's first front cylinder mower with rear collection system. That makes it the state of the art as we enter the 21st century.

Kubota is the state But what

The new Kubota B1410 is the multi-purpose tractor that does it all – all year round and all round your grounds. That makes it the state of the art as we enter the 21st century.

SEE US AT BTME STAND No. A35
The G18 GlideCut is the world’s first triple cylinder through-cut rotary mower with an integral rear grass collector. That makes it the state of the art as we enter the 21st century.

of the art in 1999.
comes next?

During 1999, Kubota introduced new products like these - each characterised by innovation, each driven by a massive investment in research and development.

But that was then. This is now. And already Kubota is developing the next generation of products for the next millennium, investing millions of pounds in innovative compact tractors and ride-on mowers that make your job easier.

There’s no argument about which company will be No 1 in the UK into the next millennium.

What comes next? Watch this space...
Incredible!

Book your Spring 2000 Hollow coring with us by the end of January, and you'll only pay £750 for 18 Greens INCLUSIVE OF TINES

All our operators are skilled Golf Greenkeepers

NATIONWIDE SERVICE

AERATION UK
Tel: 01905 359130 Fax: 01905 357980
Marten Croft, Worcester WR5 3TJ

If you are choosing a quality irrigation system...

With 30 years experience of providing sports turf irrigation systems our specialist company is completely independent of a brand manufacturer. Each bespoke system is designed by our qualified engineers to the highest specification and according to the individual requirements of the course, and with thorough knowledge of the products produced by the top manufacturers we are in the best position to provide top of the range service care.

Our portfolio includes: Woodsome Hall, Sherwood Forest and Royal Lytham St. Annes.

"The important aspect in choosing the specialist equipment is to choose the right sprinkler and controller rather than the make"
Greenkeeper International 1997.

At the end of the day the system has to work. Ours do - Beautifully.

Call us to arrange a free consultation on 01785 812706
Ivy Mill, Longton Road, Stone ST15 8TB.

...be sure its from a quality irrigation company
Roland Taylor takes a look at the kind of jobs not necessarily on your job description which can have you stretching high wide or low!

Those awkward jobs

For many readers looking after a golf course not only entails matters greenkeeping it often encompasses what amounts to estate management. This involves being responsible for a wide variety of other aspects including trees, hedges, wild flower and natural sites, watercourses and ornamental areas. In addition, car parks and paths may also come under a Course Manager's control.

To maintain all these areas can absorb a considerable amount of extra labour and time, so any jobs need to be carried out as quickly and efficiently as possible. Today there is usually a piece of outdoor power equipment that will simplify and speed up a task, so it is worth looking around when at the planning and scheduling stage of these operation.
Trees
These need attention from time to time, such as pruning, shaping, or removing dead or infected timber. Cutting back high branches can often present a problem. If a ladder or platform is used, in the interests of safety more than one member of staff should be present, thus tying up labour. Access might also be a problem, making the use of these types of structures impractical. One solution could be long armed pruners - these can reach heights up to 14ft. While they will deal with smaller branches when it comes too thicker ones a saw is needed. Although some pruners have the facility for fitting a saw attachment, the task of cutting branches at the full extension is not easy. In the last few years manufacturers have come up with another answer - powered pole pruners. These are small chainsaw cutting heads mounted at the end of a long drive shaft with a lightweight two-stroke engine to provide power. There is a choice of guidebar lengths suitable for dealing with most branches. Lengths of shafts vary between models, the average being about three metres. Longer than this and the unit could be unwieldy and difficult to operate.

If the branches to be removed are very thick then it is best to use the services of a professional arboriculturist. Once the timber is on the ground it can be quickly sawn up using a small chainsaw. The operator of this piece of equipment will need to be fully trained in its correct use, plus all safety aspects relating to it.

Another method of dealing with material from tree maintenance, plus naturally fallen branches, is chipping. Chippers come in all shapes and sizes so there is one to suit virtually every application. This is an ideal form of disposal as the results can be left under the trees, used on paths or as weed suppressant on ornamental areas.

Hedges
Apart from shaping and giving a tidy appearance trimming also encourages new growth to thicken the hedge, especially low down.

There are plenty of hedgetrunners available and these come with a wide choice of blade lengths, the longest being 42 inches. Single or double-sided cutting systems are available. Where the hedges are high, then some form of ladder or platform has in the past been necessary. These can slow the operation down and require more labour. An alternative, especially if the run of hedge is short or a ditch in front makes access difficult, is the latest introduction - extended hedge trimmers. These consist of a long shaft with an articulating head on to which is mounted a reciprocating cutterbar. This system enables the blade to be set at different angles to accommodate the shape of the hedge or bushes. The units can also be used for cutting a ditch side or riverbank.

On the edge
Keeping edges trim, especially around bunkers, can be a very time consuming operation, but there are now plenty of machines available to make this job faster. The units are generally based on a vertical cutting blade with depth control and the speed at which the operation is carried out depends on how fast the operator walks. On some models the cutting head can be swivelled for trimming that feather of grass found around course furniture, walls and path edges.

Water courses
Because of the microclimate these create, vegetation thrives and tends to be lush and if left soon restricts the flow of water. Where there are long runs of ditches or streams, a flail mower on an extended arm can be used, but because a tractor is involved the banks must be sound. An alternative is a brushcutter or clearing saw. As these can be used on other areas around the course, they are a valuable addition to the machinery store. For clearing water courses, the backpack models can be an advantage as they give the operator more flexibility especially in restricted areas. There are various cutting heads available for dealing with most of the brushwood and vegetation likely to be encountered in these areas.

Tree planting or fencing
From time to time, replacements have to be made, and digging holes for these takes time and often a lot of effort. The earth drill or auger makes