Martin, Ormeau, 3. Ken Henderson, Allen Park, and the Visitor's prize went to David Irwin, from Benburb. Once again, many thanks to Kilkeel GC for having us there and also the catering staff for setting up another fine meal that was promptly wolfed down by all.

Our sponsors for the day were J E Coulter Ltd. Unfortunately other commitments and short notice meant no J E Coulter's representatives were there, but they put up some fine crystal for the winners. Many thanks for your continued support at these events and we'll try to give you more notice next year.

At the Kilkeel event we were privileged to have the company of Scott MacCallum, Editor of the BIGGA magazine, and Tracey Maddison, Membership Services Officer. Scott and Tracey were in the province visiting a few of our finest golf clubs like Malone, Clandeboye and Royal County Down. The Course Managers were each interviewed about their course, on what they have done to their course and how they perceive greenkeeping and the future of greenkeeping. Hopefully over the coming months we will see these articles printed in the magazine. I believe it was Scott's first time in the province. I hope you enjoyed your stay and will hurry back. Maybe next time we'll introduce you to the delights of the Guinness family.

Congratulations to Eamon Farrell, who moves from First Assistant at Stakis to Course Manager at Massereene GC. Also congratulations to Mark Farrell, also from Stakis, on his appointment to City of Derry GC as Course Manager. Well done lads and I know it will go well for you. New members to our region are Kyle Irwin, Head Greenkeeper at Lurgan and also Stuart Davidson from Portstewart GC.

Our next event will be held at Castlerock GC on 2nd August. Tee off times and arrangements will be posted to you nearer the time. See you all at Castlerock.

Iain Harrison.

It can drive its 6" tines, solid or hollow, at a faster rate than any other aerator, which makes it the perfect machine for high speed runs down the fairway and for even shorter work on the greens.

The new Mustang joins the market-leading range of Verti-Drains that have outsold and outperformed all competitors for the past 20 years.

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But one word of caution. The new Mustang is fast; so fast that you may get done in a flash.

Contact us now for further information or a demonstration of the new Verti-Drain Mustang on 01428 661222. Charterhouse Turf Machinery Ltd, Weydown Industrial Estate, Weydown Road, Haslemere, Surrey, GU27 1DW. Tel: 01428 661222. Fax: 01428 661218.

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Aventis, formerly Rhône Poulenc, is the only amenity company in the UK involved in research and development of new compounds to protect the nation’s sports turf. Scott MacCallum investigated...
worked out of a factory in Wandsworth, London, producing products like Bismuth Salts, ethers and collidions. French company, Rhône Poulenc, became involved in 1927 when the companies began working jointly, however, they continued to trade as May and Baker for many years. A move to Dagenham preceded the move to Ongar which was made in 1953. In 1989 the May and Baker name was replaced by that of Rhône Poulenc before the recent change to Aventis which came about by the "marriage" of the French, Rhône Poulenc, to Hoechst Schering, of Germany, (and in the UK Rhône Poulenc merged with Agrevo) which produced a global total $20 billion company boasting a total of 95,000 staff, from which the European arm of the Environmental Science Sector is now run from Ongar.

"On the whole we are still associated with the name Rhône Poulenc but some people still remember us as May and Baker but we are working towards making the Aventis name familiar. That process started at Harrogate this year. "It is making people realise that all the same products, like Rovral Green, are there but under the Aventis name. The labelling is different but the products are the same," explained John. Ongar was actually a farm in a previous life. On site, as well as a 150 strong commercial team, is the research and development teams who carry through the painstaking process of bringing a new product to market. Much of the process is now done by robots - such as producing the rows and rows of mini test plots and the spraying of these with chemicals and potential new products. "We spray up to 30,000 plots a week and of these 0.1% are considered worthy of moving forward to the next stage in the process to see if they are effective against specific species," explained Caroline Rutherford, Research Biologist, adding that this process alone, as well as glass house trials, can take three years. The next stage involves field trials on a well appointed site to the rear of the office buildings. This allows the researchers to assess potential new products under more realistic conditions.

In all adds up to a costly process with the expense involved in developing a new active ingredient come in at a cool £60 million. "Even then we have to make our return over a remarkably short space of time," explained John. After the initial three years of screening the patent is registered and three years after that the first registration is sought from the relevant bodies: in years four to six factory construction takes place with the first sales taking place in the fifth year. Break even from a financial standpoint is not reached until year 13 is reached and the final chance to reap any rewards from a successful product disappears when the patent expires in year 20.

"We continue to work with the Regulatory Bodies in a long term investment programme, in order that we can gain approvals for new compounds and adhere to environmental regulations. However, strange as it may seem Aventis is right behind the tighter legislation. "At the end of the day it makes the products we produce much safer so it is of benefit to the customer. We are certainly pro it because we are keen to protect our end user as well as the environment." Another part of this safety conscious approach is the BACCS scheme which Aventis has introduced in conjunction with the BASIS and the Crop Protection Association, formerly the BAA.

"This is an advanced contractor certification scheme which encourages contractors to meet certain criteria before becoming accredited. Hopefully, it may mean that when jobs are put out to tender it is not the cheapest option which is chosen but a person who has been adjudged capable and qualified to do the task," explained John. Further details can be obtained from Alan Horgan, Contractor and Utilities Customer Manager. It's all part of Aventis' on-going policy of development both in providing new and exciting products with safety and conscientious environmental stewardship at the hub. This all helps a greenkeeper’s ability to sleep soundly at night... but doesn’t exactly help me with my recurring nightmare!"
Saxon add two new Baroness models

Two new Baroness mowers have been added to Saxon’s range of mowers.

Cable-driven cylinders coupled with hydrostatic transmission give the Baroness Greens Triple many advantages. The cutting width, from three, nine-blade cutting cylinders is 152 cm. Cut height can be precisely set between 3.5 - 10 mm.

Cable drive has the advantage of allowing a consistent and precise clip-rate and because there are no complicated linkages to cope with, the cutters can quickly be removed and replaced for maintenance without tools or accessories – and without the risk of oil leakage.

The benefit of hydrostatic transmission is also apparent on the foot platform where just two pedals control travel and mower raise and lower functions.

The Baroness Greens Triple Mower's versatility can be increased by the addition of groomer units and there is the option of a brush unit platform where just two pedals control travel and mower raise and lower functions.

Available as a two or three-wheel-drive the Heavy Duty Triple gives manoeuvrability and its low centre of gravity provides stability on slopes.

Hydrostatic transmission provides single pedal travel control and the cutter unit mounting allows the multi-directional movement essential for accurate contour following. Three 162 mm diameter, seven-blade cutting cylinders give a cutting width of 150 cm.

For further information: Tel 01488 689400.

Greenkeeper International takes a look at some of the latest products and services available to the greenkeeping professional

Latest spraying developments from Hardi

The new Groundwater Directive is now fully in force, and to ensure that operators fully comply with this the standard specification for Hardi Jazz, Manx, Boss and Hero Amenity sprayers has been uprated.

One aspect of the new Groundwater regulations that particularly affect amenity sprayer operators is the disposal of tank washings. To fill the sprayer tank with up to 800 litres of water and then spray this back out over the fairway or other areas previously sprayed is time consuming at the very least.

For this reason, all Hardi Jazz and Manx mounted, Boss demount and Hero trailed sprayer models are now fitted with a tank flushing nozzle. Where this is fitted, only 1% of tank capacity is needed for flushing, which not only saves a considerable amount of time and water, but also means that less area is needed for flushing out the tank.

Where, for instance on smaller amenity sprayers, chemical induction hoppers are not offered then the direct filling hole on the top of the sprayer must be no more than 150mm from the ground or a step.

In addition the reach from the rim of the hole and edge of the tank should be no more than 300mm. Pump capacity will not be considered by the HSE as an acceptable reason for not fitting a chemical induction hopper.

For this reason Hardi Manx mounted, Boss demount and Hero trailed sprayers are now all fitted as standard with a 25 litre capacity chemical induction hopper. This incorporates a measuring scale, lid and wash down ring, which ensures that after filling any remaining chemical is flushed from the hopper.

To enable existing Hardi sprayer users to comply with these regulations, upgrade kits are available for retrofitting. Excluding fitting, a 25 litre capacity chemical induction hopper costs £450 and the tank flushing nozzle kit costs £250.

For further information tel: 01455 233811.

Turn of speed given to new Renaula

A number of product specification changes have been made to the Renault Groundsman range to provide users with increased comfort, greater output and accuracy of operation.

The 52hp to 76hp Renault Pales Groundsman has been subject to a number of cab improvements. The gear lever, range selector and mechanical splitter, in addition to the hydraulic spool valve controls, have all been moved to the right of the operators seat, so that they fall conveniently to hand.

Certain operations, such as when using a hydraulically driven topdresser, require a consistent hydraulic flow to ensure that accuracy and evenness of spread is maintained. For this reason Renault Groundsman models can now be fitted with a dual hydraulic system. This provides a dedicated hydraulic circuit through which such equipment can be operated, which is independent from the steering and other hydraulic functions.

Where the tractor is being used over the fairway or other areas previously sprayed the risk of oil leakage.

Golf industry gets a host of new caddies, thanks to Trojan

Trojan Trailers have expanded their range of industrial trailers. They have introduced a "no frills" model of the Greenkeeper’s Caddy called the Greenkeeper’s Caddy Cadet. In addition there will also be a new comprehensive range of tandem Axle Beaver Tail trailers. Sizes will be from 10ft. x 6ft. to 16ft x 7ft. Weights from 2000Kg to 3500 Kg gvw. There will have a choice of different loading methods, ie: Ramps, Spring Assisted Mesh Loading Tailgates etc.

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GOSTA TRAINING LTD; Unit SE Clydeway Centre, 45 Finnieston Street, Glasgow, G3 8UJ. Contact Chris Bothwell, Tel: 0141 234 2772 Fax: 0141 234 2635

OATRIDGE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, Broxbourne, West Lothian, near Edinburgh, EH52 0NH Contact Steve Miller - Tel: 01506 554379 Fax: 01506 553733. HNC in Golf Course Management: Full time Certificates in Greenkeeping, Block and Day Release. SOV Level II and III (GTC Manuals) and Modern Apprenticeship, SVQ in Ground Care Machinery, full range of Amenity Horticulture and Landscaping courses at HNC, Certificates and SOV Level II. Short courses: FEP, Chainsaw, Forklift. E-mail OATRIDGE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE EDU@onm.com


EAST DURHAM AND HOUDHALL COMMUNITY COLLEGE, Houghall, Durham DH1 3SG. Contact Tony Milan, Tel: 0191 398 1251.

CITY COLLEGE MANCHESTER, New Road, Baguley, Manchester M23 9QO. Contact Martin Walford, Tel: 0161 967 1527, College website http://www.ccmc.ac.uk. Part time courses leading to NVQ L2 and L3 in Sports Turf Management and Decorative Horticulture. Also RHS General Diploma, Cert. Arboriculture and FEP Spraying courses.

MYERSCUGH COLLEGE, Bilsborrow, Preston, Lancashire PR3 9RY. Tel: 01772 862222 Fax: 01772 862222 Email: mailroom@myerscough.ac.uk, website: www.myerscough.ac.uk.

REASEHEATH COLLEGE, Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 6DF. Tel: 01270 625131 Fax: 01270 625665 Email: brianj@reaseheath.ac.uk, website: www.reaseheath.ac.uk.
Full time First Diploma Horticulture (Sportsturf Option) - 1 year; National Diploma Horticulture (Sportsturf Option) - 2 years; BTEC Higher National Diploma Golf Course Management - 3 years. Part time: HNC Golf Course Management with Open Learning option. NVQ Levels 1-4 Greenkeeping with Fast Track options. IQC courses also.

SHIPLEY COLLEGE, Saltaire, BD18 3JW, Tel: 01274 757292 Email: enquiries@shipley.ac.uk. Courses offered: NVQ Level I, II, III and IV in Greenkeeping by Day Release. Also Pestcide Spraying (FEP) and Chainsaw operation short courses available.

BROOKSBY COLLEGE Brooksby, Melton Mowbray, Leicesters LE14 2LJ situated on the A607 between Leicester and Melton Mowbray. Contact Ann Hurst, Jo Lees Tel: 01664 434291. Day release Level 1 - 4, Greenkeeping, includes GTC training manual. Short courses available in arboriculture/chainsaw work, FEP, Spraying and machinery maintenance.

BROOMFIELD COLLEGE Morley, Ilkeston, Derby DE7 6DN Contact Admissions Officer. Tel: 01332 836900. NVQ Level I and Level II, Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping) Block Release course. Two years duration presented in 12 one-week blocks following guidelines of GTC Training Manual. NVQ Level III gained by 9 x 3 day blocks or day release or APL, service also available. Also available TOLI, Pesticides, Chainsaw and First Aid Training.

DE MONTFORT UNIVERSITY, SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE, Caythorpe Court, Caythorpe, Grantham, NG32 3EP Contact: Student Admissions. Tel: 01476 558121. website: http://www.dmu.ac.uk. BSc (Hons) Advanced Horticulture, Diploma Horticulture; Certificate and Diploma in Turf Irrigation; FEPA Short Courses. Also RHS General and Diploma, Cert. Arboriculture and FEPA Spraying courses.


RODBASTON COLLEGE Rodbaston, Penridge, Stafford ST19 5PH. Contact Nigel Potter. Tel: 01785 712009. Course offered: NVQ Level 1, 2, 3 and 4 by Day Release. EPA and chainsaw training.

WARWICKSHIRE COLLEGE, Royal Leamington Spa & Moreton-in-Marsh, Moreton-in-Marsh, CV35 9BL. Contact: Brian Cook Tel: 01902 316228. Email: enquiries@warwick.ac.uk. Greenkeeping Courses: HNC Sports Turf & Golf Course Management (Day Release 2 year Programme); NVQ Level 2 & 3 Block Release and Workbased Option (we come to you); two year NVQ in Horticulture with Turf Option: IQC Intermediate Diploma (Learning course) in Turf Irrigation. Short Courses: Introductory to Turf Culture; Computing for the Greenkeeper; Various throughout the year - ring for details. FEP, Chainsaw Certification; TOLI. First Aid also RSH General and Diploma.

BERKSHIRE COLLEGE Hall Place, Burchett's Green, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 6QR Tel: 01628 824444 Fax: 01628 824995 e-mail: enquiries@berkshire-col.ac.uk, website: www.berkshire-col.ac.uk.

BRUNSBURY COLLEGE, Brinsbury College, Pulborough, West Sussex RH20 1DL. Tel: 01798 735000 Fax: 01798 752222 Email: student.services@brunsbury.ac.uk. Full time courses: BTEC National Diploma Landscape Studies (Greenkeeping option), BTEC First Diploma in New Entrant Horticulture (Greenkeeping or Landscaping options), City & Guilds National Certificate Horticulture (Greenkeeping & Sportsground Management). Part time courses: NVQ Level 3 Sports Turf Maintenance (block or day release). NVQ Level 3 Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Maintenance option), Institute of Groundstudies Intermediate Diploma; plus various short courses, including Chainsaw, Brushcutter/Strimmer, PMA, PA6/A, PA9/A, PA7/A, etc.
WIN £50!

Simply look through all the products and services in our guide and name the companies which follow the following telephone numbers refer to:

a. 01865 331479
b. 024 7685 1202
c. 01858 464346

Write down your three answers on a postcard and send your entries to: Know Your Numbers, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Aine, York Y061 1UF.

Entries to reach us no later than Tuesday, July 18, 2000. The first correct entry drawn will receive a cheque for £50!

The judges decision is final. No correspondence will be entered into.

This competition is not open to BIGGA staff or non-members.

Last month, Ian Baudains, of Hereford, correctly identified all three telephone numbers.

Our congratulations and a cheque for £50 are on their way to you!