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LARGEST EVER INTAKE OF MASTER GREENKEEPERS

The elite club at the top prestigious Master Greenkeeper programme received its largest ever intake when BIGGA announced the names of six Course Managers and Golf Course Superintendents who had earned the right to don the much sought after blazer.

The new intake takes the total number of Master Greenkeepers around the world to 28. Four of the six were presented with the blazers and plaques by BIGGA President Sir Michael Bonallack and BIGGA Chairman, Elliott Small, in Harrogate International Centre's Royal Hall with the remaining two being presented with the same during the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's Show in Dallas next month.

The four are Stuart Cagle, Superintendent at Old Oakland Golf Club, in Indianapolis, where he has been since 1987; Geoff Coggan, an Englishman abroad, who is Superintendent at the Great Outdoors Recreational Vehicle, Nature and Golf Resort in Titusville, Florida; Walter Montross, who is Superintendent at the Westwood Country Club in Virginia, where he has spent the last 10 years, and David Murdoch, Course Manager at Liphook Golf Club in Hampshire, a Scot "abroad", who has been a greenkeeper for 15 years.

The remaining two are Brian Sullivan, Superintendent at the Belair Country Club on Sunset Boulevard, Los Angeles and John Gasper, Country Club of the Desert, California.

The Master Greenkeeper programme is in three stages - the accumulation of 200 credits based on experience, qualification and continuing educational development; a course visit carried out by existing Master Greenkeepers and a two part written exam. The programme has been running since 1990.

TAM O'BIGGA

Those who enjoyed Kerran Daly's epic poem, Tam O'BIGGA, which appeared in the BTME catalogue may have felt it got off to a little bit of a slow start.

Unfortunately due to a production error the first line was missed off.

The first verse should have read:

When conference day is wearin' late
And we're a' oot in Harrogate
Gie'n chat in Yates's bar
While supping down another jar
The boys are limbering up for Jimmy's
Where they can strut their funky shimmies
And in the heat-hazed, flights o' fancies
Fantasise one-night romances
The night wears on, the girls get sweeter
Steadfast souls begin to teeter
Their spirits roused by sideways glances
They vastly over-rate their chances
Throu' heaving crowds Tam sallies forth
To charm the lasses from up North
But long before he meets his quarry
He knows tomorrow he'd be sorry
Tam wakes from his deceitful dream
And turning left instead of right
He wanders oot into the night

Apologies to Kerran and I hope you enjoyed BTME 2001.

The entire poem - minus that first line - can be seen in both the BTME catalogue, and also on our website at www.bigga.org.uk/btme
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NEW FOLIAR TREATMENT
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Lindum Plant Nutrition launched a foliar treatment which aids photosynthesis. Protosyn is a liquid, organic compound which encourages healthy cell division, respiration and energy conservation in turf.

By providing complete amino acids, proteins and carbohydrates which are usually deficient in turfgrass in intensive use and under stress, Protosyn improves the sward's photosynthetic efficiency, thus helping the plants to help themselves. As with all Lindum Plant Nutrition products, this new foliar treatment is designed to be incorporated within a total turf programme which Lindum create on an individual basis for each client, following extensive soil analysis.

TEXTRON DEBUT LIGHTWEIGHT TOP DRESSER

The Turfco SP-1530 TM truck-mounted broadcast top dresser made its UK debut on the Textron stand. Ideal for greens that will not accommodate a towed top dresser, the SP-1530 TM provides unparalleled power for fast and light applications. It can be easily coupled to a four-wheel Cushman Turf-Truckster using a few simple mounting brackets and connectors.

The hydraulically driven conveyor belt and twin spinners provide a uniform application at any speed, with the spinner angle easily adjustable for maximum penetration. The distribution pattern is variable from 4.57m – 9.14m enabling the majority of greens to be covered in just two passes.

A large hopper ensures fast loading using a front-end loader and one operator can do the entire job for the busy greenkeeper that's fast and cost-effective greens management.

SISIS UNVEILS LATEST ADDITIONS

TWO NEW PRODUCTS COMPLIMENT SISIS RANGE

The new SISIS Rotorate is a thatch remover for regular routine use but also has the capability to work deeper when required, while retaining the finesse of the SISIS Auto-Rotorate and leaving a clean cut groove. The maximum working depth is 45mm.

The Rotorate 600 incorporates the SISIS Rotorate contra-rotation principle, whereby the reel rotates at high speed against the direction of travel. The blades therefore cut upwards holding the machine to the ground to maintain a regular working depth. A range of interchangeable reels is available.

The new SISIS Tigirake, hydraulic scarifier, has been designed for fast, effective, thatch removal on golf greens, tees and approaches.

The twin scarifying units give a working width of just over a metre. The entire machine floats on a front roller, and each individual unit floats independently across the width of the machine. It therefore follows undulations maintaining the depth of cut and eliminating scalping.

There are four interchangeable reels available thatch removal reel; vertical cutting reel consisting of close-pitched triangular blades for light scarification during the growing season; brush reel to remove light surface debris and lift grasses prior to mowing; combined reel with thatch removal blades interspersed with brushes to remove thatch efficiently, with the added benefit of a brushes finish.

The angle of "throw" is adjustable for wet or dry working conditions. The large capacity collector tips for emptying or can be removed. The support legs slot away during work.

TORO AIM FOR A BLAST WITH LATEST SIDEWINDER LAUNCH

The Groundsmaster 3500-D Sidewinder from Toro is a rotary mower with cutting units that can be shifted to either side of the machine to provide an overhang for trimming grass edges such as bunker rims and fringes. The machine is fitted with rollers and producers and landscape contractors. In golf, its use is primarily for surrounding mowing, trim work in roughs and for stripping around the clubhouse and other desirable areas.

The GM 3500-D's innovative cutting system comprises three individual, 27in floating decks with front and rear rollers which follow ground contours to virtually eliminate scalping. The deck overlap configuration prevents grass streaks in turns and on banks.

Versatility is provided by an adjustable width of cut, which allows the machine to be set up for three different cutting widths – 68in, 70in and 72in – by simply changing a bolted assembly. A 68in set-up gives additional protection against grass streaking on banks or when turning; while 72in provides more productivity on non-gilly terrain or for straight-line cutting.

The Sidewinder system enables the decks to slide 12in left and right of centre. This provides a 12in overhang on either side of the mower at a 68in width of cut. At the 72in cutting width, the overhang available is 14in. Height of cut is adjustable in quarter-inch increments from three-quarters of an inch to four inches. The Toro GM 3500-D is fitted with a Kubota 35hp turbo diesel engine and has permanent three-wheel drive for both mowing and transport. Mowing speed is factory set at 6mph, but is adjustable, and the unit can travel at up to 9mph in transport.

The all-new Toro Groundsmaster 4000-D is a powerful lift rotary mower that is highly manoeuvrable and produces a superb, high-quality cut.

The machine is being introduced to meet the demand from those customers who prefer a large-scale rotary that is highly manoeuvrable and produces a superb, high-quality cut. The machine is being introduced to meet the demand from those customers who prefer a large-scale rotary with a three-deck configuration. Toro says that the new GM 4000-D has been specifically designed to cater for five key customer requirements identified after extensive research. These are power, cutting performance, trimming capability, traction and operator comfort.

Therefore the unit has been given even more power than competitors' equivalents with a Kubota turbo diesel, 2-litre engine, developing 35hp (42kw) and providing plenty of power for a variety of cutting conditions.

On cutting performance, the focus is on the quality of cut, mowing capacity, ground following and after-cut dispersion of the clippings. Rear discharge decks are fitted for even dispersion of cuttings for a clean after-cut finish. For even cleaner cutting management and added safety, these can be converted by customers to Toro's Guardian Recycler design simply by bolting on baffles and kickers.
With front, centre and rear power take-offs, the Agrokid is equipped for the broadest range of applications. Speeds of 540 and 1000 rev/min plus ground speed for rear-mounted equipment, and 1000 and 2000 rev/min for front and mid-mounted machines means the Agrokid will earn its keep all year round. Combined with Deutz-Fahr’s quality engineering and reliable technology, the Agrokid guarantees maximum economy because of its unbeatable utilisation potential.

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For more information contact your Deutz-Fahr dealer or e-mail info@sdf.co.uk

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NEW FAIRWAY MOWER FROM JOHN DEERE

Featuring a 32hp liquid cooled diesel engine, hydrostatic transmission and power steering, John Deere's new 3235B lightweight five gang fairway mower was unveiled at the show. The machine offers higher capacity hydraulics, larger wheel motors and a maximum engine output of 38.3hp, with electric fans for quieter operation on golf courses and other amenity turf areas. There is a new ball joint and yoke design on the mower's standard cutting units, for improved grass collection. New reel motors and a new bedknife to reel adjustment, coupled with a new triple pump, increase the overall cutting performance.

The 3235B fairway mower is available with a choice of 12.7cm diameter seven blade standard, or 17.7cm diameter eight blade ESP (extra strength and precision), cutting units. Five and 10 blade ESP units are also available. The patented RFS (rotate for service) feature means the cutting units can be rotated and presented for easy servicing.

Overall mowing width is 2.34m, and the two front outer reels fold up to give a transport width of 2.2m. Height of cut ranges from 6.4 to 76.2mm, depending on model.

Further standard features include patented hydraulic down pressure on the reels, for good grass coverage, cutting unit control closely, on board backdappening and simple reel speed adjustment. Options include four wheel drive, roll-over protection and John Deere's new FTC (fuel tank fire conditioner) with rear roller power brush attachments. These provide a better, cleaner finish by grooming, recutting and dispersing grass clippings more evenly, particularly in wet conditions, without leaving unsightly clumps of grass on the fairway, and by reducing thatch build up.

Base price of the 3235B is £29,301 with seven blade standard reels and £30,741 with eight blade ESP reels.

NEW FAIRWAY MOWER AT HARROGATE

KUBOTA LAUNCH THEIR MOST POWERFUL ROTARY MOWER

The most powerful-ever Kubota ride-on rotary mower made its UK public debut at BTME. Known as the F3560, the new model extends Kubota's F Series front mower line-up to four machines rated at 81hp, 25hp, 30hp and, now, 35hp.

The F3560 ride-on front mower is powered by a highly fuel-efficient Kubota ET-VCS (triple vortex combustion system) 35hp diesel engine, renowned for its low levels of noise, exhaust and vibration. The F3560 has as standard single pedal hydrostatic transmission, tilt column, power steering and shaft drive to its three-bladed 1.83m (72in) cutter deck. Mowing height is quickly adjustable from 25 to 102mm (1 - 4in).

Sharing all the key features of its F Series stablemates, the F3560 is designed to operate for long hours on large areas of grass across level or hilly terrain. Its tight turning circle, compact dimensions and low centre of gravity make it equally well suited for work on banked ground and amongst trees and similar obstacles. A safety rollbar, weather cab or safety cab are all available.

Other important features include a hydraulically-actuated, oil-immersed PTO clutch which ensures smooth cutter engagement, minimising shocks and maximising clutch and drive line life. For optimum cooling efficiency and operator comfort, air drawn through the radiator is force-fed into the engine chamber before being discharged to the rear of the machine, keeping hot air away from the operator.

BERNHARD'S NEW GRINDER

Bernhard and Co introduced its most advanced rotary blade grinder, Rota-Master at the show. An essential tool in the workshop this machine, once set up, can be left to complete the grinding cycle alone - due to the unique automatic infeed with auto cut-off.

Features include a quality balancer and automatic traverse with easily adjusted travel stops. With blades held securely in place both ends can be ground at the same time almost eliminating the necessity for post-sharpen balancing.

Operators benefit from Rota-Master's ergonomic work height and built-in dust collection system - which has the added advantage of an attachment to vac out the working area. The grinding operation occurs away from the operator for added safety.

UPDATED SEED CATALOGUE

Barenbrug UK launched its new catalogue at the show. For the new Millennium the publication, Amenity Grass Seed and Wildflower Mixture 2001, is double the size of its predecessors, now being in A4 format and 40 full-colour pages.

It details all the company's products and services with a colourful, pull-out Mixture Selection Guide which makes choosing product quick and easy, while throughout the catalogue, panels spotted with helpful hints and technical information. Highlighted in the brochure are Barbizon and Barfelix, two varieties of a brand new species for Barenbrug, namely tall fescue. Specially bred for UK conditions, trials have shown these to be ideally suited for stressed soccer grounds and other facilities, being wear tolerant, disease resistant and even able to withstand waterlogging.

TEXTRON UNVEIL HANDY CONTROL SYSTEM

Also unveiled at the show was the Ransomes Super Certes walk-behind mower with MotivairTM, the new servo-control system for pedestrian mowers.

MotivairTM is easily identified by its distinctive profiled handgrip incorporating the engagement trigger and safety collar. The handgrip design provides the best user comfort possible, while complying with stringent safety legislation. A gentle squeeze of the trigger allows the vacuum operated servo-control system to engage the drive clutch. This new design provides an exceptionally smooth take-up of power with almost effortless operation and providing the user with a comfortable working platform.
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North

One new member to welcome to the Section this month, Ryan Ross from Royal Aberdeen. We look forward to welcoming him to future outings along with the other members of Royal Aberdeen GC.

Congratulations to Richard Ewan, of The Nairn GC, on the birth of his first child. Richard is also to be congratulated along with Stuart Hogg and Kevin Fowler of Fortrose and Rosemarkie GC, who, with myself became the first students to complete the SVQ Level three on fast track satisfying the industry.

I would like to thank Elmwood College for providing this course and Hoo Parry and Allan Clark in particular for helping us through it. Hopefully we will be the first of many.

This year’s 200 Club tickets should be sent out shortly and we are grateful to Ray Warrender and Barclay Ross for sponsoring it in the year 2000.

Please help our organiser, Stewart McIlvan, by sending in your numbers but we all hope we can sell all the 200 Club numbers.

Well nothing to report this month so you should have your Christmas pudding, nothing to do, so I have decided to write the Section notes. This is not a chore I enjoy, because other than the weather conditions, a good Christmas pudding is the only thing I think about, not having any news sent to me. However, we did have an excellent seminar in the North West on the 7th December and at Tow Law Golf Club. The Seminar was well attended with 70 Delegates and six speakers.

The first speaker was Alistair Beggs, turf grass agronomist with the STRI, his talk was on Pest and Disease Management, highlighting the problem of controlling pests and disease, due to the lack of chemicals available, many of which have been taken off the market because of Health & Safety Regulations. It looks as though we are going to have to re-visit old methods, so I suggest that you get some of your old books out and read them for some of the old timers’ remedies.

Bill Powell, Business Development Manager with Marks & Spencer, then told us all we needed to know about stakeholder values, which was more interesting and which more young greenkeepers should look into.

Ken Richardson, BIGGA’s Education and Training Manager, then updated us on greenerkeeper education, and what is new. Some of the education courses aren’t that new, like regional courses which are not so well attended. Apart from these courses there are many other things to organise. Tow Excellence in Greenkeeping; Golf Environment competition; Toro student of the year competition, and much more. Ken also reminded us about the library at BIGGA HOUSE, where you can borrow books free of charge, posted to your home. There are also six courses you can purchase at £14.95 each.

Bob Taylor, Senior Ecologist with the STRI, gave an interesting talk about the benefits of being environmentally friendly, Bob is also an ecologist to the R&A undertaking ecological assessments on the Open Championship courses and also judges the BIGGA Environment Award & Ronnie Bunting, of Kilmacolm GC, extending his growing list of achievements by qualifying for the Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping and Maintenance at the Scottish Award in the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition. I would like to offer both my congratulations and that of the Section committee to you both and look forward to hearing about your experiences during both the competitions and about Jonathan’s visit stateside as part of his prize.

Hopefully 2001 will be just as successful if forward thinking clubs continue to allow their staff to further their education within the industry.

I would also like to extend a warm welcome from the Section Committee to our newest members, Gary Anderson and James Muir Melville and to the Section members, the Committee would like to thank both Kirkcaldy GC and Milngavie GC for the courtesy of playing their courses.

The 100 club will again be run this year with three draw’s made throughout the year. The numbers will be drawn both the spring & autumn outings and a further draw will be made at the Section AGM.

Tickets will be on sale soon from committee members so book early to avoid disappointment.

One other golfing date to note is the Heald Greenerkeepers/converters match to be played at Helensburgh GC on April 5. I am sure Ronnie Miles, last year’s winner, will already be planning and getting the course into fine condition to defend his club’s coveted trophy.

As Gavin mentioned in December’s Section news the Scottish Open format Competitions will be held at Luder College, Dunfermline on March 6. All Section members who have the opportunity to attend this event should as in the past both the venue and the quality of speakers have been of the highest standard.

Well all that is left to do is wish you all a successful season. I look forward to seeing all the usual faces at the outing and hope that a few new faces come along to see what are always very enjoyable days. All the best. If you have anything of interest to write in the column please phone me on 0131 622 4949.

Brian Bolland

East

Well nothing to report this month - as normal, everything is very quiet after Christmas, New Year, and, of course, BTME at Harrogate.

Hopefully I will have some stories to report from BTME or maybe some photographs, or someone might send me something to put in my article next month.

The Committee is, as present, putting the finishing touches to the Fixtures Card for next year so you should have your Fixtures Card soon. Let us know if there is anything you would like to see us doing. As you will all know the annual dinner dance was cancelled last year due to lack of numbers but we all hope we can resurrect it in some form this year, maybe at a different time or a different format. Please let us know what you want because it’s your Association. If you don’t, the dance will bite the dust just like our skittles nights and summer matchplay competitions. Come on, the Committee needs to hear from you! The annual dinner dance will be held at Royal Aberdeen GC, who, with myself became the first students to complete the SVQ Level three on fast track satisfying the industry.

Chris Yeaman

Central

Will the following members please return their allocation of “Club Screens” as they should have been sold or returned to me by December 31 2000.


This month’s Section news folks!

John Crawford

February 2001 Greenerkeeper International 49

North West

Boxing Day, full of turkey and Christmas pudding, nothing to do, so I have decided to write the Section notes. This is not a chore I enjoy, because other than the weather conditions, a good Christmas pudding is the only thing I think about, not having any news sent to me. However, we did have an excellent seminar in the North West on the 7th December and at Tow Law Golf Club. The Seminar was well attended with 70 Delegates and six speakers.

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Competition. After lunch Tom Rickerby, Chairman of Greens Committee at Lancaster Golf Club, talked about the role of Chairman titled, "A Personal View" with good points raised.

Martin Jones, head of Turfgrass Science at Myerscough College finished the day with a talk on "Climate & Golf Courses." This subject is very topical at the moment because of the dreadful weather over the last 12 months. The weather changes so quickly, as I am typing these notes - from freezing to snowing, so at least it will keep the golfers off the courses. Many thanks to all the speakers, thanks to Penrith Golf Club, and to the caterers for a magnificent buffet. Not forgetting Doug Bell, the Regional Administrator, who arranged the day.

Some dates to remember: Mere Seminar, Thursday March 22; Spring Tournament, Mere Golf And Country Club - Monday April 23; Summer Tournament, Mottram Hall Golf & Country Club - Tuesday, June 12.

Once all the fixtures are finalised you will receive a fixture list for the year.

Any news, views and complaints, you can contact me on, Mobile-07761583387 or 01517245412.

Bert Cross

Northern

Well done to Bob and Katie Hartborne as they are are now the proud parents of a little girl, Emily Rose who weighed in at 7lbs. Unfortunately she looks just like Bob, but never mind, I am sure it will be a passing phase!

Congratulations also to Jim Brown on his appointment as Course Manager at Penwortham GC, over in Lancashire.

We welcome Paul Marc, from Harrogate GC, and Roger Heeley, from Meltham GC, as new members.

There is no other news at the moment, but if anybody as any then let me know. My address is 67 Asquith Avenue, Morley, Leeds, LS27 9QS; Tel: 0113 2383188: mobile 07790 678572, Email:andy_smith21@hotmail.com

Andy Smith

North Wales

Apologies for the following column being late and a month out of date, but there seems to have been a mix up at HQ. Please get in touch with me if you have anything I can write about as I am not on Committee anymore so I need to be contacted - all my contact numbers are on your diary of events leaflets.

Yet again it’s rain, rain, rain – I wish I was in Spain instead I’m watching water going down the drain… pain!

The lecture at the College in November was attended by 73 delegates which was absolutely fantastic and made all the effort so worthwhile. Thanks go to Trevor Chard, of Lely UK, Andy Jones and Glyn Hughes, of Major R Owen, for an excellent overview of routine maintenance versus expensive breakdowns. An extra thank you to Majors for sponsoring the refreshments (the mince pies were great). Thanks also to Derek Green, Course Manager at Royal Liverpool, who educated us on bunker construction. It also served to give warning to those members playing in our Christmas tournament the type of revetted faces awaiting the wayward shot. Never failing to get a locomotive engine into the talk, we were treated to a number of impressive South African sunset shots to end an excellent day. The next lecture is on Wednesday 10th January at the College, on Course Design and Plantings, starting 2.30 pm - see you there.

The annual coach to Harrogate was run again on Wednesday 24 January. This year things were different. Forms were sent to the section and a £10 refundable booking fee was be requested, so if you booked and got on the coach you got your money back. However if you booked and didn’t turn up, you forfeited the cash. This had to be done so we knew what size coach to book.

The Christmas tournament at Royal Liverpool was played in lovely conditions and the course was a credit to Derek Green and his staff. All the work now being done is amazing and will hopefully get the course back into open reckoning.

Our thanks go to the Captain, Council and members of the Club for allowing us the honour and pleasure of playing such an auspicious course and to the catering and bar staff for providing such splendid after game meals and refreshments.

The results were Shaun Pritchard, Llanymynech 38 pts, who retained both the Toro Trophy and the Bill Lawson Shield for the best under 21 (he is still only 19), Allen Lewis won...