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Membership Photocard update

A big thank you to all of you who have been quick off the mark and have already sent us your photograph. Although you won’t be receiving your new card until next year, this has given us the opportunity to scan your photograph and file it in your record ready for reproducing onto your new card when you renew.

If you missed last month’s Membership Update, as from 1st January 2002, BIGGA’s Membership Department will be issuing plastic credit card size Membership Photocards (at no extra cost to the member). This will not only provide you with an extra form of ID but will continue to promote the professional image that the Association has achieved. To start preparing for the launch of the new card, BIGGA need a photograph of each of you! If you have a passport size photograph please send it to Tracey or Susannah, Membership Services Department, BIGGA, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alce, York YO61 1UF.

Don’t forget to write your full name, date of birth and membership number on the back. Alternatively, if you have mastered the art of digital cameras why not send us a photo by email to tracey@bigga.co.uk or susannah@bigga.co.uk.

2002 Membership Renewal form with a difference...

Because of the new Membership Photocard, next year your renewal form will be different. For convenience your renewal form will continue to have your personal and Golf Club details already printed, however, you will need to check that these are correct. To help us ascertain education and training needs, we have asked you to complete a section on education and training and for convenience this will be a tick box section. Most importantly, to process your membership you will need to return your form with a passport size photograph of yourself, with your name, date of birth and membership number written on the back. This can be the photograph on your current membership card, or send us the whole card. Finally it is important that you sign the form in the space provided. The form has been designed for easy completion and should only take a few minutes to check and complete.

Leisurewear that’s well worth a look!

BIGGA now offer you a fantastic choice of BIGGA logo Leisurewear

Cutter & Buck Classic Polo Shirts
Available in sunflower with navy trim, and navy with cream trim, sizes from 40” to 48”. £34.95 inc. VAT, plus post and packing. Sizes Medium, Large, XL or XXL available.

Peter Scott BIGGA logo Jumpers
Available in three styles:
1. Round neck, available in navy and charcoal, sizes from 40” to 46”, larger sizes available on request. £29.95 inc VAT, plus post and packing.
3. V-neck long sleeve, available in navy only, sizes from 40” to 46”, larger sizes available on request. £29.95 inc VAT, plus post and packing.

Slazenger Baseball Caps
Available in khaki with navy peak, one size fits all with adjustable strap. £12.95 inc VAT, plus post and packing.

BIGGA Members Lapel Badge
BIGGA have introduced a new “Members” enamel lapel badge. Available to all members at the special rate of £2.50 inc VAT, plus post and packing.

The new BIGGA logo merchandise can be seen at the BIGGA stand at the Saltex Show on 4/5/6th September. For further information contact Tracey or Susannah in Membership Services.

August’s Monthly Membership Draw Winner

Just introduce one or more new greenkeeping members to BIGGA and your name will be placed into a draw to win a fantastic BIGGA sportswatch. Our congratulations go to August’s winner, Alastair Logan of Galgorm Castle Golf Club.

Scottish Region
Edwards Coulthard, Cleveland
Christopher Courtman, Northern
Paul A Greeth, Northern
Robert A Hemo, Northern
Thomas Knox, N West
Colin Jones, Sheffield
Owain H Jones, N Wales
James Kershaw, Northern
Joanne Kershaw, Northern
Paul Nelson, Sheffield
Simon Saynor, Sheffield
Steven Walker, N West
Timmy Ward, Northern

Midland Region
Justin Adshead, BB&O
Jonathan Aston, Mid Anglia
Ben Brown, BB&O
Paul J Creasy, Mid Anglia
Stephen J Donaghey, E Midlands
Mark R Faulkner, BB&O
Luke Freewell, Midland
Derek Gaining, Midland
Paul Hardin, West
Gregory J Lambury, Mid Anglia
Alastair McPherson, BB&O
Philip C Newman, Mid Anglia
Paul A Swift, BB&O

South East Region
Nicholas Bartos, Essex
Rodney D Beattie, Essex
Philip R Carmack, London
Stephen W Coote, London
Daniel P Hughes, Surrey
Philip G T Hunter, Surrey

Sun & Rain Waterproof Suits
Available in navy consisting of a jacket with matching trousers with a drawstring waistband. Sizes from 40” to 46”, larger sizes available on request. £29.95 inc VAT, plus post and packing.

Northern Ireland
Harry Coghlan
Northern Ireland

Next month … August’s latest members

International Members
Lars M Westlund, Norway
Johan Buth, Sweden
Randal Gai, USA

Associate Members
Blair S Cornthwaite, Far East
Paul Sargeant, S Wales

Student Members
Andrew Fraser, East
Greg Sutherland, Ayrshire

Richard Barker
Vice Chairman
Name: Richard Barker
Association Position: Vice Chairman

How long have you been a member of BIGGA?
Since the beginning in 1987

Where do you hope the Association will be in 10 years time?
With an improved profile and greater recognition among other golfing bods

For what would you most like to be remembered?
For leading a 36 hole scratch tournament in the morning after a round of 71, for which I won a prize

For what would you least like to be remembered?
For adding an 88 in the afternoon, for the worst score of the day

Why did you take on a more involved role in the running of the Association?
I wanted to put a little something back into an Association which had provided me with a lot of help and education over the years

Name one thing which would improve the Association?
More active support from members at grass roots level and continued expansion into Europe

What is your claim to fame (None, not acceptable)?
Playing eight rounds and six holes - 150 holes in total - in one day and raising over £1,000 for a local charity

Describe BIGGA in 15 words
More active support from members at grass roots level and continued expansion into Europe

You may have heard their names mentioned in conversation, or even seen them in print, but have you ever wondered who the individuals are who help BIGGA to run so smoothly as the leading Association in the fine turf industry? Read on…

Tracey and Susannah from BIGGA’s Membership Services Department, would like to welcome almost 70 new members to the Association and update you on the new Membership Photocard
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.

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Greenkeeper International 1997.

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

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Ivy Mill, Longton Road, Stone ST15 8TB.

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If you are choosing a quality irrigation system...
BTME 2002 sees a superb innovation designed to make attending the Show as an exhibitor or a visitor far easier than ever before ...

**Major new developments to the BTME microsite**

As part of BIGGA's existing website - bigga.org.uk - a BTME Microsite has been added to make pre-registering for the Show, booking accommodation, and reserving stand space, just a few clicks away. It also means that exhibitors can have their stand and company information available to everyone much earlier than in the past, while visitors can familiarise themselves with the show layout months before they arrive in Harrogate.

In a new departure for 2002 and in response to the queues, which were a direct result of the record numbers who visited Harrogate last January, everyone - who attended BTME2001 - will be pre-registered for BTME2002.

If you didn't attend January's show, however, or your personal circumstances have changed - new job or residential address for example - you can pre-register using the Microsite.

### Pre-registration

Simply click on the Pre-registration option in the navigation bar at the left hand side of the page. You'll then go to the pre-registration page where you will find a number of ways in which you can sign up for your free ticket. By clicking on the email link, you will open up a separate page containing an easy-to-use form. Fill this in, click the submit button, and there you are. You will receive confirmation that your form has arrived and that your registration will be processed.

Please note that all badges will be mailed in early January 2002.

**Exhibitor information**

The new BTME Microsite gives so many added benefits for exhibitors.

Existing exhibitors can list contact information for themselves, plus 100 of their new launches or general company details. These are then activated by microsite visitors who can click on the relevant stand within the on-site Show map. Visitors to the site can then individual company websites using this advanced function.

Potential exhibitors can identify an available stand and click on it to learn the size and cost - as space only or with shell scheme. If they wish to proceed, they can then fill in an online form and reserve that stand for themselves. Easy!

The site also includes an online accommodation booking service, up to the minute information on the Education Programme and important information about the social side of the week.

For the very latest BTME2002 news and event information visit: www.bigga.org.uk
Immaculate greens are the product of sheer hard work, which is why the new Mule Diesel 2510 is the envy of the fairways. Built for the toughest terrain, the Mule gives you more power, performance, load capacity and fuel efficiency and, with its low-ground pressure qualities, you won't leave any divots.

- 23 hp, 3 cylinder, 4-stroke, liquid cooled, diesel engine
- Automatic variable speed transmission
- Dual mode differential for rear axle
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Find out how Express Dual and Anglemaster, the world’s fastest mower grinders, can dramatically improve your golf course, cut costs and save time...

Call 01788 811600 today!
Dr. Ruth Mann explains how the problem with Chafer Grubs could soon be a thing of the past...

Chafers: Have they met their match?

In 1983, an article appeared in the Sports Turf Bulletin concerning pests in turf. Chafer grubs (also called white grubs) were included only as a minor pest in the British Isles, although, at this time, they were causing major damage on continental golf courses. Since this article, chafer grubs seem to have been appearing with more regularity, sometimes being an incidental pest and sometimes causing severe damage. This year, perhaps due to a rather mild winter, chafer grubs have become a major pest on some golf courses.

Chafer grubs can be identified by their creamy white bodies with a swollen tail end that is usually darker due to the intestinal contents and lie in a characteristic comma shape (Fig 1). They have three pairs of brown legs and a distinctive shiny brown head with large chewing jaws. They lie just below the turf surface and feed on the roots. As the roots are severed the turf becomes prone to drought in dry weather. They like to live in sandy soils and thatchy areas with adequate moisture as they can easily move up and down the soil profile. They are most commonly found in roughs, semi-roughs and fairways. They also favour less disturbed areas, such as the sides of bunkers or infrequently used championship tees. Adult females do not tend to move over vast areas. This can lead to the same areas being infested year after year. So far, they have been found from Guernsey, Cornwall and Devon up through East Anglia across to the West coast of Wales and as far North as Cumbria. At this point I have no reports of chafers in Scotland, although I suspect it is just a matter of time before they begin to appear.

We have five species of chafers, the cockchafer, garden chafer, summer chafer, brown chafer and Welsh chafer. The two species that seem to be commonly found on golf courses are the cockchafer and garden chafer. The cockchafer is the largest species. Adults have black heads and reddish-brown wing cases. They are nocturnal, emerging in May and June. The female burrows back down into the soil to lay eggs which hatch 5-6 weeks after laying (around July). Cockchafer grubs take three years to mature and can grow up to 48 mm in length. Therefore, any grubs found actively feeding in springtime, will be cockchafers.

Garden chafers are thought to be the most abundant species on golf courses. The adults are smaller with a metallic green head and reddish-brown wing cases. Grubs are also smaller (around 18 mm when fully grown) and only take one year to mature. The grubs feed from hatching around July until late autumn when falling temperatures cause them to burrow down the soil profile and hibernate. They do not resume feeding in the spring as cockchafers do, but pupate and emerge as adults in May and June.

Small grubs do not really cause much damage to the turf, unless they are in very large numbers. In such cases, they can weaken turf leaving it prone to increased injury from wear and tear and environmental extremes. Also, once they have grown quite large, small numbers of grubs can kill areas of turf which then encourages the influx of weed grasses and broad leaved weeds. On golf courses, feeding grubs do not tend to be the major problem. Birds and small mammals searching for juicy grubs can rip up large areas of turf, leaving unsightly scars. To moles and badgers chafer grubs are a delicacy and so they may be encouraged to take up residence in chafer infested areas, causing more problems.

There are no chemicals approved for the control of chafer grubs at the moment which presents a major problem in itself. It has been proposed that physical control methods could be attempted, such as heavy rolling to squash the grubs when they are actively feeding just below the surface. However, research carried out at the University of Kentucky showed that liming, fertilisation, heavy rolling and aeration had no effect on chafer grub numbers over four years. Aluminium sulphate applied just before adults emerged did reduce grub numbers, perhaps showing that, similar to earthworms, chafer grubs do not like acidic conditions.

One control measure currently available in the British Isles is parasitic...
Nematodes. Nematodes are microscopic round worms. Just like fungi and insects there are "bad" species that parasitise turf leaving the area weak and prone to drought damage and 'good' species that parasitise other turf pests. Heterorhabditis megidis is a good species of nematode as it searches for and kills chafer grubs. This nematode naturally occurs in our soils but the numbers are not large enough for chafer control. It is also specific and so does not affect other beneficial insects or animals and humans. The nematodes search for chafers in the soil and enter them through natural openings such as the mouth and anus. Once inside they release a bacterium that multiplies and kills the chafer in a couple of days. The nematodes then feed on the bacteria and reproduce releasing more nematodes into the soil to begin the search again. However, nematodes do not come without their problems. At initial application the soil temperature must be 12°C or above for activation. The nematodes are destroyed by ultra-violet light and high temperatures and so are best applied in early morning or evening when it is not too hot or sunny. The turf needs to be well irrigated after application to wash the nematodes into the soil and kept moist, but not flooded, for two weeks as the nematodes need a film of water for movement. The nematodes may be easily washed into the soil on areas with short grass, such as greens and tees. However, on areas with long grass like fairways and roughs there have been problems with getting the nematodes into the soil.

Nematodes are being successfully used in gardens here but as yet we have no information regarding usage on golf courses in the UK. However, in Denmark, nematodes have been successful on greens and tees but not on fairways, possibly due to the nematodes failing to penetrate the long grass and thatch. They are expensive for treating large areas. The aforementioned golf course in Denmark spent £25,000 treating the whole course. However, work carried out by Imperial College, Berkshire on garden chafers infesting a golf tee showed that the grubs aggregated under grassy areas. They suggested that this may be due to the female laying eggs which hatched in batches and the grubs did not move far from their preferred food source of grass roots. The grubs were less associated with bare areas or areas colonised by broadleaved weeds. Therefore, spot treatment of grassy areas infested with chafer grubs may be possible.

Research is required here to determine whether nematodes are successful at treating chafer infestations on golf courses and if the longer grass on rough areas presents a major problem in preventing nematode penetration into the soil. If, and when, this research occurs we will let you know the outcome! Other research at STRI, such as our Pests and Disease Survey 2001, will help to determine which years chafers cause the most damage and if they are slowly moving North into Scotland as we suspect. Therefore I would like to remind all greenkeepers about returning their questionnaire. There is no time limit on these and the more we receive the better the results we can give you. If you have not received a copy of the STRI questionnaire please contact me.

Dr. Ruth Mann is the Turfgrass and Plant Pathologist at STRI. Ruth and the rest of the STRI team can be contacted on 01274 565131; e-mail info@stri.co.uk; or visit our website www.stri.co.uk
Wild things

A golf course is ideal for developing areas of wild flowers, but if these floral features are to continue to flourish, they need to be carefully managed. If left to their own devices the dominant species will eventually crowd out the other plants. Most of the wild flowers found in today’s mixtures originally thrived in old meadows where farmers grazed livestock and had made hay. This meant, that periodically the top growth was removed and any nutrients which would have produced were returned to the soil. Strange as this may seem, it encouraged many species, especially the rarer varieties to survive. The removal of the cut material is critical for another reason: left on the surface it suffocates the plants underneath.

When establishing wildflower areas, this scenario has to be created and managed. It is not just a matter of cutting and mowing, but one of planning and timing. This is a sure-fire way to failure.

Preparation of the site is similar to that for most seeds, but there are important differences. A fine weed free seedbed is necessary if healthy germination is to occur. The soil should be low in nutrients. In areas known to have high fertility, annual weeds need to be eradicated with a systemic herbicide and then allow the ground to remain fallow for a season. There are two alternative methods: use synthetic or remove the topsoil. Whichever one of these is used the final seedbed needs to be cultivated to a depth of 10cm with a fine surface finish.

Sowing can take place any time of the year as long the right seeded conditions can be created, but the best time is from mid August to the end of September.

The seed will need mixing thoroughly to ensure an even distribution of the different species of wild flower. Recommended sowing rates are 5gms per m2 for mixtures containing grasses and 0.5 to 1 gms per m2 for pure wild flower. Broadcast the seed and follow by raking or harrow to a depth of 5 mm. Finally, roll with a ribbed roller to cover the seed and ensure its contact with the soil particles. There are machines on the market that will do both in one operation.

If the mixture is made up of small seeds, this can be bulked out with silica sand or ground barley at a ratio of 4:1. Irrigation is not recommended and can actually take the seed out of the mix.

The seeds have germinated and everything is looking good, so what next? Bearing in mind this is like growing a crop, it is necessary to remove weeds from the mixture. As herbicides cannot be used, an alternative is necessary and this is where mowing comes in. In the first year begins in March or April depending on conditions. Cut down to a height of 5cm every two months or when the sward reaches 15cm. It is important that all the cutting materials are removed.

The final cut will be between September and October. Something else that needs to be taken into account is that any persistent weeds, like docks will require spot herbicide treatment or removal.

By the time the second year comes round the wildflowers should be well established and the mowing regime is completely different. Between March and April the first cut and collect should be carried out leaving the sward at a height of 5cm. The second cut is done at the same height at the end of the flowering season, which can occur somewhere between August and October depending on climate. A further mid season operation may be required in the autumn.

Failures can occur especially in the first year and amongst these is that the high levels of maintenance required have not been maintained. All the cut material must be removed. This latter operation can be extremely expensive and labour intensive if the right equipment is not used.

In this country you cannot bank on the weather, and if the past few years are anything to go by, more often than not it’s going to be a wet and thick sward growth. Cutting and collecting can be a nightmare in these situations. Machinery continues to need to be stopped and the system unblocked, thus considerably slowing down the operation. When considering mowers for this type of work there are some important points to take into account. The rotary principle relies heavily on moving grass out of the cutting deck fast, otherwise it quickly builds up and slows down the blade and this compounds the problem and results in the unit finally stalling. During this process, both engine power and fuel are sucked up, plus components are placed under considerable loading.

Bearing all this in mind, the ideal machine is one that gets rid of cut material from the deck fast. The chute needs to be wide and as deep as possible with no obstructions between blade and the back of the collector. In addition, the cutting system has to be designed so that the maximum power is constantly available to the blades to maintain tip speed.

When considering machinery for this type of application, demonstrations should be carried out on the same day in the same conditions, preferably wet, then a true picture can be seen of each one’s capabilities. Cutting dry, fairly short vegetation is relatively easy. It’s the tough, last, wet growth that sorts the men from the boys.

Conclusion

- Get the initial seeded right.
- The quality and purity of the mixtures is vital, so only the best should be used.
- As with most products today, cheapness can be a recipe for disaster as some projects have proved in the past.
- Check the mixtures that you are buying are clean and not just homogenised straight from a meadow. Use reputable companies who specialise in wild flowers.
- Follow the correct mowing schedule.
- Ensure your new mowers are demonstrated in the worst possible conditions, i.e. wet and thick growth.

The wrong equipment can turn it into a very expensive labour intensive operation.

After the first year the maintenance programme is relatively straightforward and a wildflower site will virtually take care of itself, providing the correct mowing programme is carried out. Because suitable conditions are available, other species than those sown will occur.

The key to success is to seek expert advice from day one and ensure you have the right mowers to maintain the site.
Jim Crabbe explains how taking care of drainage issues can reduce course closures when the rains come...

Drain power

Hands-up all those clubs who have tried to hire a drainage contractor this summer, only to be told that somebody beat them to the top of the list. After the wettest autumn and winter since records began at the Met Office, there can be little surprise that drainage has suddenly become a hot topic and a priority for many clubs around the country.

We will all have witnessed the adverse effects that the very wet weather has had on sports turf facilities, many clubs through last winter were forced to close, with surfaces lying under pools of water, causing damage to the sward that would take many months to recover, in fact some establishments are still suffering, and no doubt are now having to placate some very unhappy members, not to mention the revenue that has been lost.

Yet some sporting facilities did remain open and courses and pitches were played upon. How? Because of efficient drainage, and unless you are fortunate to have a naturally free draining facility then a drainage scheme should be a priority.

Effective drainage is vital to all Sportsturf whether an existing facility or a new construction. A system, which has been carefully designed and installed by skilled contractors, will have enabled many courses and pitches to provide a service to its members and attract valuable revenue to the club despite the appalling weather conditions.

In 1998/1999 St Mellion in Cornwall installed an intensive piped drainage system, when the club records began in 1995 1100mm rain fell, since then the club has seen a significant increase in the rainfall, last year an overwhelming 1600mm fell. Despite this huge increase the course was only closed for a handful of days. Simon Marsh, the Course Superintendent explained that had the work not been undertaken it would have meant the closure of the club for some four to five months. The loss of revenue for any business having to 'close shop' for such a period would be catastrophic, according to Simon "the drainage installation has made the world of difference to St Mellion".

So a clear example of the benefits for undertaking the work, but what does it actually involve? Firstly, the design. A site investigation will be undertaken to assess the actual problem and the needs. The designer will work closely with the client to decide upon the intensity of the actual scheme as the selection of drain spacing is often based on experience and soil type as well as the site location and the underlying soils, the sporting activity, frequency of use, and the rainfall. For example the club that relies solely on membership will have to consider the overall value it provides for its members and therefore what proportion of its spending may be allocated to a specific area, whereas the course that has to open its doors at set times for set events cannot afford not to take all the necessary actions to ensure that the course will be available at the required time and not closed due to waterlogging.

The scheme should be suitable for machine installation, pipe junctions should be kept to a minimum in order to avoid blockages and breakdown, and where possible main drains...