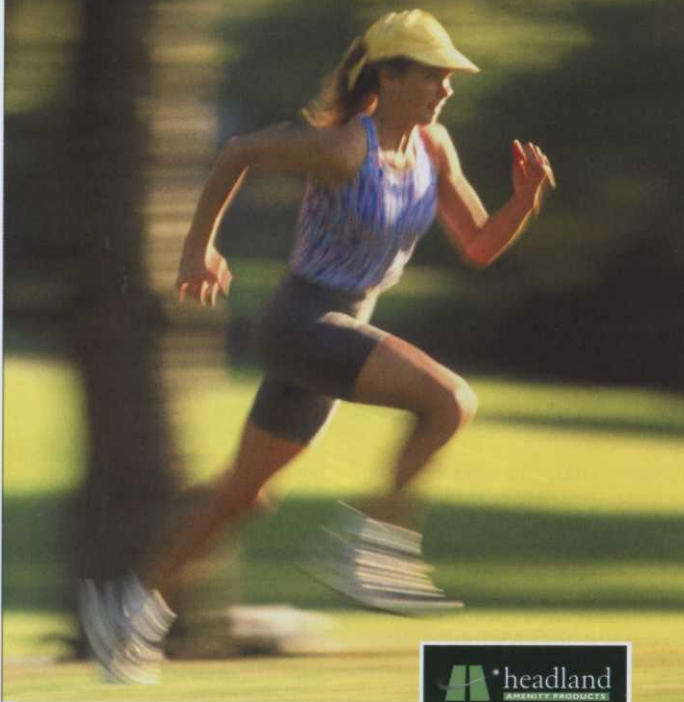


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www.silsoe.cranfield.ac.uk

Tracey and Susannah from BIGGA's Membership Services Department, would like to wish all existing members and prospective new members a very Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Make your New Year's resolution...

... to bring your passport size photograph to Membership Services on the BIGGA Stand at the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition (BTME) on Tuesday, January 22; Wednesday, January 23 or Thursday, January 24!



Tracey (above)



Susannah (right)

Tracey and Susannah will be on hand to deal with all your Membership Services queries, should you wish to :-

- Renew your existing membership
- Join BIGGA
- Bring a passport size photograph of yourself
- Obtain information on the different categories of Membership
- Change your personal details i.e. home address, Employer details etc
- Check your membership status
- Obtain replacement renewal forms
- Collect Tax Forms
- Ask questions regarding General Legal Protection
- Ask questions regarding Personal Accident Insurance cover
- Obtain information on the Direct Debit Scheme



Whatever your query call onto the BIGGA stand and visit Membership Services.

Also on the BIGGA stand you will have the opportunity to purchase quality clothing from the popular BIGGA leisurewear range, made by Cutter and Buck, Peter Scott and Sun and Rain, all branded with the BIGGA logo.

The BIGGA stand will also have for sale, copies of all the educational/training videos BIGGA has produced, plus the following three popular books, Practical Greenkeeping by Jim Arthur, Golf Course Presentation by John Hacker and George Shiels and A Practical Guide to Ecological Management of the Golf Course, written by STRI Ecologist R. A. Taylor. Not to mention the very useful BIGGA Field

Guides (FREE to members on production of your membership card).

There will be something for everyone so why not visit the BIGGA Stand in Hall Q Stand Q69.

Important news for all Greenkeeping Members

As from January 1, 2002, the following changes to the Personal Accident Insurance Scheme apply to all Greenkeeping Members, regardless of their membership expiry date.

The Scheme will be insured by the Royal SunAlliance Group and excludes the first 28 days of any period of incapacity. Claims arising from war and terrorism are excluded. For full details contact Membership Services.

January'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 January's winner, Joseph Findlay of Royal Portrush Golf Club



BIGGA welcomes ...

A warm welcome is extended to the following new members ...

Scottish Region

Stewart Addison, North
 David Ball, East
 Raymond Leach, East
 Barry Nichol, West
 Brian Williams, Central
 Michael Wilson, Ayrshire

Northern Region

Matthew Corfield, N West
 Barrie Crolla, N West
 Mark Dingle, N West
 Gary McGowan, N West
 Christopher Robinson, N East
 David Scott, N West
 Peter White, N West
 Paul Worsencroft, N West

Midland Region

Luke Brimfield-Smith, BB&O
 Martin Burbanks, BB&O
 Martin Downend, BB&O
 Stevan Grass, Mid Anglia
 Daniel Haynes, E Midland
 Marc Kelly, BB&O
 David Lawton, Midland
 David McGregor, BB&O
 Daniel Newman, BB&O
 Andrew Ryder, E Midland
 Kevin Steppings, BB&O
 Andrew Turnbull, Midland
 Michael Walker, Midland

South East Region

James Cole, Kent
 Rhys Evans, Surrey
 Richard Johnson, Surrey
 Neil Simpson, London
 Peter Thurlow, Essex

S West & S Wales Region

Adam Bridgewater, Dev & C'wall
 Sarah Hack, S Coast
 Sean Jarvis, S West
 Andrew Marsh, S Coast
 Paul Nicklen, Dev & C'wall
 Nicholas Offer, S Coast
 John Pettifer, S Wales

Associate Members

William McIntosh, North
 Marshall Muirhead, Central
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 Robert De Martin, Northern
 George Attwood-Harris, Midland
 David Bush, Sussex
 Michael Shields, Kent
 Norman Smith, Surrey
 Christopher White, Essex

Corporate Members

Lee Flynn, E Midland
 Keith Harrison, E Midland
 Jim McGlinghey, E Midland
 James Robson, E Midland
 John Allen, Surrey
 Alan Abel, S Wales
 Richard Minton, S West
 Roger Turner, S West

Student Members

Andrew Brandie, North
 Stephen Dunlop, Northern
 Graham Steele, N West
 R Steele, Midland
 Edward Edwards, E Midland
 Robert Coughlan, Essex
 Paul Garman, Sussex
 Jaey Goodchild, London
 Brian Plume, Essex
 Mark Grace, Central

Neil J Reid, Central
 Philip Fazackerley, N West
 Terence J Tibbert, London

International Members

Ian Ouwerkerk, Holland
 Hans Favre, Sweden
 Magnus Olofsson, Sweden
 Dean Piller, Canada

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If you've got an email account why not send an email to the membership department, where we can place you into our exclusive members email address book. We can then keep you up to date with membership news and events as they happen.

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 susannah@bigga.co.uk

Back Lapping

A LOOK BACK TO A DECADE AGO FROM GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

Take a time-honoured look back through the pages of Greenkeeper International from a decade ago



JANUARY 1992

Sand Green Construction

In an article on Sand Green Constructions in Great Britain, Tim Colclough of the STRI asked is there a place for them and is there a need for them? Conclusions were based on research following a three year trial on the fertiliser nutrition of sand greens carried out at the STRI and sponsored by the R&A. Tim concluded that the combination of research work and site experience leads us to believe that generally there is no place or need for pure sand greens in this country. The only mitigating circumstances which could contradict this conclusion may arise due to a complete lack of suitable local materials and a tight construction budget.

In the news

Tom O'Brien, Head Greenkeeper at Royal Birkdale Golf Club for the past 14 years would be retiring in 1992.

Howard Swan had been admitted to the regulating body for golf architecture, the British Institute of Golf Course Architects, as a full member. He had founded the British Association of Golf Course Constructors in 1980 and for five years, until 1990, was Chairman of the National Turfgrass Council.

Phil Baldock was moving from Hankley Common to take up the prestigious position of Head Greenkeeper at Royal Portrush. Today Phil is Course Manager at another top course - Ganton Golf Club.

David Wood, Head Greenkeeper at Holtye Golf Club, then a Phase 3 student at Plumpton College, had gained the rare distinction of being the first greenkeeper to gain the prestigious Top Student of the Year Award - The City and Guilds Silver Medal - awarded by none other than the governing body itself, The City and Guilds of London Institute Examination Board. Today, David is Head Greenkeeper at Hever Golf Club.



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Top dressing, bunker renovation and material handling are physically intensive tasks involving the movement of bulky and heavy materials. Kevin Marks visited Kings Hill Golf Club in West Malling, Kent, to see how Course Manager Duncan Kelso approaches these important disciplines.



THE BRAND NEW HEAVIES



Right: The modern and stylish clubhouse at Kings Hill is situated close to one of the major housing developments

Below: Duncan Kelso, Course Manager



The Kings Hill development at the former West Malling airfield in Kent is a mixed commercial and residential project based around the concept of combining work (offices), rest (homes) and play (golf course) to provide a high quality of life in a single location.

The golf course was constructed in 1995 and was opened in October 1996. It is a proprietary club, privately owned, and managed by Kings Hill Golf Ltd, with a management team that consists of three people:

the Club Manager, Margaret Gilbert, the Golf Professional, David Hudspith, and the Golf Course Manager, Duncan Kelso. It is run on a membership basis, but is not directed by the members.

Duncan, a BIGGA member, has complete control of the premises and the course. He sets his own budget, subject to the approval of the American owners, and signs his own cheques and has a huge degree of autonomy, probably more than most Course Managers in the UK.

The course was designed by a UK architect, David Williams, and construction took just over a year with seeding commencing in autumn '95 followed by a growing-in period during the spring and summer of 1996.

Tees and greens have been constructed to USGA standards and the course has been sown with fescue and bent grasses. It is over 6,700 yards long, a par 72 and includes 60 acres of woodlands and some heath land.

The entire 200-acre course is situated around a central area of

THE BRAND NEW HEAVIES



Top: The hand held remote control unit enables the operator to monitor the operation at the working end of the machine

Above: Large volumes of material can be accommodated in the 4 cubic yard capacity hopper

Top right: Low ground pressure is achieved utilising a four-wheel axle and 31 x 15.5-15 turf tyres

woodland, with the startlingly modern clubhouse located close to one of the housing developments on the north side of the course.

The Greenkeeping Centre was built two years ago and is located in the central woodland. Being in this central position it offers five access points onto the course, which alleviates heavy wear on any particular route. It also results in fast access to the farthest points on the course.

The 6,000 square feet facility comprises a large storage shed, engineering workshop, chemical/fertiliser store, greens' staff rest room and changing facilities, refreshment area and Course Manager's office. As you would expect from a modern, forward thinking manager there is a host of IT equipment and Duncan's office houses the computer controlled irrigation system along with PCs and

software that provides a host of personnel and management information. Facilities have much improved as prior to the opening of this new centre, the greenkeeping team of nine were based in the airfield's former Control Tower.

Duncan runs a variety of equipment from three major manufacturers - Textron for top dressing and aeration, Toro (ride-on fairway and rough mowers) and John Deere (Gator utility vehicles, pedestrian mowers and compact tractors).

However, the main reason for my visit was to obtain Duncan's views on topdressing and bunker renovation and take a detailed look at how he is using one of his latest items of capital expenditure - the Turfco CR-10, a combined loader, top dresser and material handler.

Duncan is a great believer in the

need for top dressing and throughout the season will top dress the greens with a light dressing every three to four weeks. He also cores twice a year on greens and twice a year on tees - in March and in August - but will increase this if necessary.

As any greenkeeper will appreciate, top dressing is a time consuming task, requiring the material to be loaded at the storage site, then transported to the relevant part of the course, then shovelled into a top dressing machine, then applied to the tee or green. And this is exactly how Duncan's team undertook this task, using a 2-tonne trailer to transport the material to the dressing area. It was a three-man operation and took the team 12 hours to core and top dress all 18 greens. This involved four hours of overtime per man and proved to be not only a physically



intensive operation, but an expensive one as well. The physical aspect of the work ensured that the task was looked upon as a chore; it did nothing for staff morale and the team suffered from the fatigue aspect the following day.

An alternative was to look at a larger capacity, high-lift trailer that could deposit straight into a top dresser, eliminating the need to shovel the material by hand.

However, at a demonstration of this type of trailer, the equipment did not work well with wet materials and still needed manhandling. So there was no advantage, as three men were still needed for the operation.

It was obvious that some form of specialist material handling equipment would be necessary and Duncan sourced a possible solution and took the opportunity to view it

at Saltex last year. Although it appeared that it would do the job, it wasn't versatile enough. Then, as he was passing the Textron stand, he happened to see the Turfco CR-10 and stopped to speak with Scott Kinkead, one of the directors of the family-owned company.

"It was by chance that I noticed the CR-10 at Saltex. It's a versatile, combined loader, materials handler and top dresser and appeared to be exactly what I required. A demonstration was arranged and the CR-10 joined the fleet here at Kings Hill," said Duncan.

"The 4 cubic yard capacity is excellent and the self-cleaning hopper design means that a wide variety of materials can be handled. The 4-wheel axle results in low ground pressure and because of its versatility and speed, top dressing can now

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THE BRAND NEW HEAVIES



Right: Old bunker sand can be broadcast onto adjacent fairways, saving a journey back to the storage facility

Below: The cross conveyor with swivel action deposits materials exactly where they are needed



be done in 6 hours with just two men. A major saving in both time and expense. Hand shovelling has now ceased, which is good from a health and safety point of view and the reduction in sheer physical effort has had a positive impact on staff morale.

Duncan's philosophy is that you can never do enough on a golf course, so with the labour and time savings made there's more time to tackle numerous other tasks. One of those tasks is bunker renovation and again the CR-10 has proved invaluable.

No matter how efficient a bunker drainage system is, over time debris will build up and drainage will deteriorate. The main cause is the deluge-type rainfall that now appears to be more common in the UK. More run-off from surrounding areas is generated by this type of rainfall resulting

in silt, leaves, grass and other debris collecting at the lowest point of the bunker, which over a five-year period results in standing water in the bunker and the need for a renovation programme.

As most of you reading this will appreciate, there are around 2000 tonnes of sand in the bunkers of a typical golf course and the normal renovation process will be to pile the sand into the centre of the bunker, either by hand or mechanically, backhoe it into a trailer, then transport it to a storage/recycling area somewhere within the boundaries of the course.

New drainage pipe work is then installed, new sand is transported to the bunker and deposited directly into the centre if access is possible, or deposited at the side, close at hand. This is then spread, again either mechanically or manually. It takes 2

days per bunker using this traditional approach.

Disposing of the old sand always presents a problem, but with the CR10 the old sand can be used as top dressing on the adjacent fairway using the twin spinners that are an integral part of the machine. This saves a journey back to the storage site and speeds up the operation.

The real benefit becomes apparent when the bunkers are refilled. Sand is loaded into the hopper, and is then transported directly to the bunker edge. Using the swivel action conveyor system, the sand can be deposited in various positions around the bunker and then spread with a mechanical bunker rake or by hand. The time saving and reduction in physical effort is enormous – two of the largest bunkers at Kings Hill were refilled in one afternoon!

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