NEW COURSE CARD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HOLE</th>
<th>FRONT NINE</th>
<th>HOLE</th>
<th>BACK NINE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>East Berkshire Golf Club</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Portstewart Golf Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Doonbeg Golf Club</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Queenwood Golf Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Hanbury Manor G &amp; CC</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Royal Aberdeen Golf Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Hendon Golf Club</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Royal Lytham St. Annes GC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Henley Golf Club</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>St. Andrews Bay Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Marriott Sprowston Manor Hotel</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Southern Gails Golf Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Moor Park Golf Club</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>The Grove</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Northwood Golf Club</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Tandridge Golf Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Palmerstown Golf Club</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Woodbury Park</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

INSTALL CONFIDENCE, INSTALL RAIN BIRD®

• Do you have complete confidence in your irrigation system? Rain Bird does.

• For more than six years the Rain Bird Maxi Windows operated Stratus™, Nimbus™ or Cirrus™ computer control system has been installed in Europe.

• A Rain Bird Stratus™, Nimbus™ or Cirrus™ control system has been installed on over 100 Golf Courses in the UK and Ireland, together with Rain Bird EAGLE TM sprinklers.

• In fact more than 400 Rain Bird Maxi systems have been installed in Europe alone.

• All Rain Bird systems are installed and maintained by highly experienced contractors with technical support and backup provided direct from Rain Bird.

• A future course is under development to include Llanwern Golf Club, Cumberwell Park Golf Club, Romford Golf Club and Stover Golf Club due for installation this year.

Rain Bird Europe S.A.R.L.
900 Rue Ampere
B.P. 72000
Aix-en-Provence, Cedex 3
FRANCE
Phone: (33) 4 42 24 44 61
Fax: (33) 4 42 24 44 72

Rain Bird U.K./Ireland Sales
Phone: 01273 891326
Fax: 01273 891327

Rain Bird U.K./Ireland Technical Services
Phone: 01283 841023
Fax: 01283 841024
If you are employed as a greenkeeper, at college studying greenkeeping, or involved in any way with the fine turf industry, then BIGGA membership could benefit you. To find out more about membership, fill in this card and send it to us today.

Yes, I'm interested in joining BIGGA. Please send me details of:

- Greenkeeper Membership
- Associate/Company Membership
- Corporate Membership
- Student Membership

Subscription includes magazine
Subscription includes magazine
Subscription includes 4 magazines
Subscription includes magazine

Name:

Mailing address:

Postcode:

Work Tel:

Email:

Golf Club/Company/College:

Position at Club/Company/College:

British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Aine, York Y061 1UF
Tel: 01347 833800  Fax: 01347 833801  Email: membership@bigga.co.uk  www.bigga.org.uk
BUSINESS REPLY SERVICE
Licence No. YO 331

Membership
BIGGA HOUSE
Aldwark
Aine
York
YO61 1UF
Introduction

The official monthly magazine of the British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association, Greenkeeper International, provides a wealth of information and insights for professionals in the golf course maintenance industry. This issue features articles on field of dreams, new products, turf quality, and emissions, among other topics. It also highlights the activities and achievements of the British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association (BIGGA) and its members. The magazine is a valuable resource for anyone involved in golf course management and maintenance.
We are halfway through the “Major” season and, what do you know, Tiger Woods is halfway to the Grand Slam. It used to be considered all but an impossibility. The original Grand Slam, as completed by Bobby Jones, in 1930, comprised the US Amateur, US Open, British Amateur and Open Championship, but only Ben Hogan had previously got close to the modern day slam of Masters, US Open, Open Championship and USPGA Championship winning three and, in the same year, Jack Nicklaus, one in time to play in the USPGA. Tiger has made the impossible, seem possible, even probable.

He became the only man to hold all four at the same time when he won the 2000 US Open, Open Championship and USPGA Championship in June but only the Masters in 2001 but some, not me I hasten to add, considered this to be an “imperfect” Slam as they hadn’t been won in the same calendar year.

This year, having perhaps suffered a mental reaction to that imperfect Slam and gone a few Majors without winning, he is back on form and has already clinched the Masters and the US Open and he will tee up at Muirfield as overwhelming favourite.

That is not just because of his phenomenal ability but the fact that, even those who would consider themselves to be closest to him in terms of talent - Duval, Mickelson, Garcia and Els - seem to capitulate when they go head to head against the Tiger in a Major.

So is he a guaranteed winner at Muirfield, a course where the cream has invariably risen to the top? Well no, golf is probably the only sport where the top player in the world loses far more tournaments than he wins - a wonderful season, even for the likes of Jack Nicklaus, would always have been regarded as five wins out of probably around 22 events - although Tiger’s strike rate is significantly higher than that.

It only takes one hole to dent severely an Major challenge - do you recall Tiger’s impossible 8 at Carnoustie in 1999 which cost him the Championship challenge? - do you recall Tiger’s impossible 8 at Carnoustie in 1999 which cost him the Championship challenge?

To set up this complicated, it’s BIGHA’s Futures Sub-Committee that is set to meet twice a year under the chairmanship of Elliott Small and its members will remain modern technology to work as groups between meetings on agreed topics. The first topics being considered are the Development of the Profession, Education and Training and Communication with the Industry and the Game. Recommendations from the Sub-Committee will be subject to Board of Management consideration and approval.

Members are welcome to convey their individual views to members of the Sub-Committee on the above or any other relevant topics. Members of the Sub-Committee are: Elliott Small, Chairman - Tulliallan Golf Club, Richard Andrews - Highgate Golf Club, James Brathwaite - Long Ashton Golf Club, Andy Campbell MG - CGCS; De Vere Carden Park, Jonathan Cleland - Heleburn Golf Club, Euan Grant - St Andrews, Duncan McGilvray - Potters Bar Golf Club, Billy McMillan - Mannings Heath Golf Club, Huw Morgan MG - Wildernesse Golf Club, Andrew Pledger - The Hertfordshire Golf Club, John Ross - Laleham Golf Club, Peter Wisbey - Woodhall Spa Golf Club.

Chartershawe maps out its future in detail

Philip Threadgold, a founding Director of Chartershawe Turf Machinery, has announced plans for the company’s future development and expansion.

Philip, who for the last five years has been working for the company’s parent, Redexim Chartershaw, setting up the North American operation, took over at the helm of Chartershawe this January.

Speaking at a press lunch in The Reform Club, London Philip said, “Chartershawe Turf Machinery should be seen as a group of four mini-companies operating within the grounds care and landscaping sphere. As with any diverse operation, some people only know us for one of our ranges or products. We are strongly associated with the Verti-Drain, which has become a generic term for deep aeration, but in fact we have no less than 60 other products in the Professional Turf Machinery Division! We aim to project an image that better reflects our breadth and depth, which means significant, positive changes. That’s why we feel as if we’re looking far ahead to the 22nd Century.”

He has already implemented plans to move Chartershawe forward, while maintaining operational control of Redexim Chartershaw USA.

“My job, aided by my dedicated staff, is to integrate and maximise our resources, and exceed customer expectations. I have modified our field staff operation, so that sales people are now responsible for all products within their regions, rather than covering the whole country with just one line, as before. This means dealers see only one representative instead of three, and maximises efficiency. Our staff also relish their additional responsibilities.”
**Golf’s Environmental role gets boost from Minister**

Scottish Golf took another step forward as the European leader in the field of environmental management of golf courses at Gleneagles Hotel recently.

The event was organised by the Scottish Golf Environment Group, where the Deputy Minister for Environment and Rural Development, Allan Wilson, announced a new strategy for Golf and the Environment. The Group is funded by Scottish Natural Heritage, the SGU, the R&A and the Scottish Greenbelt Foundation.

“Scotland is endowed with over 350 golf courses - areas of permanent green space within cities, in green-belts, along our coastlines, buffering nature reserves. These golf courses provide a very important function in the conservation of Scotland’s rich natural heritage, particularly in protecting areas from other forms of harder development. However, we are increasingly in need of golf courses to find ways to assist in the conservation of wildlife and habitats. We need clubs to consider the needs of wildlife in their management and where possible to provide new habitats. I am pleased to say that many golf courses are taking this forward,” said the Minister.

He went on to say that on the evidence of previous work, and the content of the new strategy, the golfing sector in Scotland was a leader in the field of environmental management. He announced the day the Minister, along with representatives from the main golfing and environmental organisations in Scotland, reinforced this message - that golf courses can be developed and managed in harmony with nature - for the benefit of golfers. Duncan Weir of the R&A also gave a presentation which recognised the ongoing support of the R&A. Following the launch of the Strategy, Environmental Excellence Awards were presented to four courses: Mortonhall Golf Club, Edinburgh; The Duke’s Course, St Andrews, Fife; Perisherston Golf Club, West Lothian and Fortune and Rosemarkie Golf Club, Inverness-

They followed on from Elmwood, Glenalves, Kilmacolm and Linlithgow who were among the first 12 in Europe to receive the Award in 2001.

The Environmental Awards are both a national and international award through the links between the Scottish Golf Environment Group and Committed to Green. It means that when awards are made in Scotland they are to a standard that is matched across Europe.

Many other courses across Scotland and throughout Europe are now working towards this standard. Cochrane Castle, Peebles and Ralno Park Golf Clubs received Environmental Certificates in recognition of their progress.

Details of the criteria to be met and further information on the Scottish Golf Environment Group can be obtained from Jonathan Smith on 0131 660 9480 or e-mail: scot-golf.wildlife@virgin.net.

**Meyscough Foundation Degree in Sportsturf Science**

Continuing its tradition of innovation in the development and delivery of education and training in sportsturf, Myerscough College, near Preston in Lancashire, has successfully validated a new two year foundation degree in Sportsturf Science and Golf Course Management.

Building on the success of its well established Higher National Diploma, the Sportsturf Department at Myerscough will offer the Foundation Degree from this September. Underpinned by a sandwich placement period, the qualification is targeted at those individuals seeking to develop operational, technical and management careers in sportsturf.

Crucially, the course will allow successful candidates to “top up” to Myerscough’s full Degree award (already firmly established as the only specific sportsturf degree in the UK) - with an additional year of study and two “new bridging modules” aimed at supporting those “Honours” year students undertaking sportsturf research.

Colin Stanfield, Sportsturf Programme Leader at Myerscough said, "We are extremely proud of our provision for Sportsturf here at Myerscough, and our students are provided with wonderful facilities. A new 2 hectare sportsturf trial site is currently under development here, which will allow our students to benefit from hands on experimental and research work in close collaboration with the industry”.

**SW/Wales Course Management Trophies**

These are being held at Cumberwell Park on August 7, Salisbury & South Wilts on August 31 and Tredgar Park on August 28. Entry is by invitation and if you have not received one and would like to enter please contact Paula Humphries on 01288 352194.

**Hayter’s new MD**

Derek N. Boulton is the new Managing Director at Hayter, taking over from the recently retired Tony Bourke. The appointment was announced by James C. Pelletier, CEO of Murray Inc.

The new MD has had wide experience in the management equipment industry, particularly in the automotive and diesel engine industries. He has held various senior positions with Cummins and Komatsu Cummins Engine Co. and has managed operations in the US, Africa and Japan among others. He served his mechanical engineering apprenticeship with British Leyland and holds Diplomas in Management Studies and Mechanical Engineering from Teeside Polytechnic and Bromsgrove College. In addition he received his MBA from INSEAD, Fontainebleau, one of Europe’s leading business schools.

He is married with four sons and intends to relocate from the US to Bishop’s Stortford at an early date.

"In the last 55 years” said Kim Macfie, Sales & Marketing Director of Hayter, "we have played a fine role in the advancement of golf and sportsturf machinery. We are looking forward to building on the achievements of those who have served the Brabazon Course at The De Vere Belfry, one of Europe’s leading business schools.

**John Deere awarded official supplier status**

John Deere has been given official supplier status for the 2002 British Open at Muirfield. This means Deere is supplying course maintenance equipment for three of this year's major international golf tournaments in the UK – in addition to the Open, the Brabazon Course at The De Vere Belfry is being maintained by John Deere machines for both the Benson & Hedges International and the Ryder Cup.

John Deere’s first Open as preferred machinery supplier was at last year’s championship at Royal Lytham & St Annes. As part of a large fleet of course maintenance equipment, three of John Deere’s new 3235B fairway mowers fitted with fairway tender conditioners (FTCs) were used without grass boxes, due to the efficiency of the FTC reels in cutting and collecting the fairway grass in one pass.

---

**Royal Inverdivot GC...**

*Strip Cartoonist of the Year www.tonyhusband.co.uk*
The Grand Old Man of Golf, responsible for the modern look and design of the Old Course at St Andrews, watched over the delivery of the new batch of mowers to the Home of Golf, today.

The move was designed to support the highest level of course presentation, St Andrews Links Trust, which is responsible for the six public links courses at St Andrews, has awarded a five years equipment contract to Scottish Grass Machinery (SGM).

The delivery of the new equipment was overseen by Old Tom Morris, played by actor David Joy, who was custodian of the Links at St Andrews for over 40 years until 1902.

The 50 St Andrews Links Trust greenkeepers still base their working practices, and methods on the principles of Tom Morris. Morris was influential in developing the present shape and form of the Old and New Courses, and is remembered for using sand to encourage the fine grasses that characterise the world famous Links. It is this same turf that the SGM supported equipment has been brought in to maintain, with the machines being used to cut around 250 acres of fairways twice a week, with the grass ranging in height from 9mm to 14 mm.

SGM will supply the Trust with a major conference of equipment, including: Jacobsen LF3400 Fairway Mowers; Jacobsen AR250 Semi-Rough Finishing Mowers; Ransomes rotary mowers and trailed gang mowers; Ryvair green and fairway aerators; Cushman general purpose trucksters and top dressers for greens and fairways.

Gordon Moir, Links Superintendent at St Andrews Links Trust, said, "Through this agreement the Trust has secured the use of what we believe to be the best fairway mowers for our courses, the Jacobsen LF series, supported in the field by Scottish Grass Machinery personnel. We believe that the Trust has secured a deal which will benefit all golfers at St Andrews."

David McInroy, managing director, Scottish Grass Machinery added, "It is a real feather in the Scottish Grass Machinery cap that our customer-focused approach in providing the right equipment, finance and maintenance packages has been rewarded with a significant new contract at the home of golf."

### Old Tom watches over Textron delivery

The Grand Old Man of Golf, responsible for the modern look and design of the Old Course at St Andrews, watched over the delivery of the new batch of mowers to the Home of Golf, today.

The move was designed to support the highest level of course presentation, St Andrews Links Trust, which is responsible for the six public links courses at St Andrews, has awarded a five years equipment contract to Scottish Grass Machinery (SGM).

The delivery of the new equipment was overseen by Old Tom Morris, played by actor David Joy, who was custodian of the Links at St Andrews for over 40 years until 1902.

The 50 St Andrews Links Trust greenkeepers still base their working practices, and methods on the principles of Tom Morris. Morris was influential in developing the present shape and form of the Old and New Courses, and is remembered for using sand to encourage the fine grasses that characterise the world famous Links. It is this same turf that the SGM supported equipment has been brought in to maintain, with the machines being used to cut around 250 acres of fairways twice a week, with the grass ranging in height from 9mm to 14 mm.

SGM will supply the Trust with a major conference of equipment, including: Jacobsen LF3400 Fairway Mowers; Jacobsen AR250 Semi-Rough Finishing Mowers; Ransomes rotary mowers and trailed gang mowers; Ryvair green and fairway aerators; Cushman general purpose trucksters and top dressers for greens and fairways.

Gordon Moir, Links Superintendent at St Andrews Links Trust, said, "Through this agreement the Trust has secured the use of what we believe to be the best fairway mowers for our courses, the Jacobsen LF series, supported in the field by Scottish Grass Machinery personnel. We believe that the Trust has secured a deal which will benefit all golfers at St Andrews."

David McInroy, managing director, Scottish Grass Machinery added, "It is a real feather in the Scottish Grass Machinery cap that our customer-focused approach in providing the right equipment, finance and maintenance packages has been rewarded with a significant new contract at the home of golf."

### New National Turfgrass Conference

Cranfield University at Silsoe and the National Turfgrass Information, a newly formed charitable trust, have, with the aim of funding research projects and raising awareness of turfgrass research, have joined forces to stage a major conference.

Entitled ‘In Pursuit of Excellence’ the conference will be held at the Southport Theatre and Floral Hall Complex, and the Prince of Wales Hotel in Southport from November 18-21.

Martyn Jones, originator of the NTF and organiser of the Conference, announced that, “The Conference has been designed to augment the education programmes provided by BIGGA and the IOG by focusing on the results of recent and current research into a wide range of turfgrass topics. Delegates from all backgrounds who wish to keep abreast of the latest developments will receive up-to-date information from internationally renowned authors, researchers and experts from all over the world. This is the largest programme to date and will feature 25 speakers, sharing their vast knowledge on 36 topics.”

Among the line up of speakers are Dr Stephen Baker, Professor Joseph Vargas, Jr, Dr Alan Gange, Professor Al Turgeon, Dr Kate Entwistle, Professor Karl Danneberger, Stanley Zontek, Professor Bill Adams and Professor Peter Dernoeden.

Presentations cover a range of subjects, including recent research from Newcastle upon Tyne on enhancing drainage rates by the use of electrokinetic geosynthetics, and details of a UK golf green construction specification. The effectiveness of plant growth regulators and the emergence of new diseases are other highly topical subjects.

Environmental management of links and turf will be a major theme, with stress management will be of particular interest to some greenkeepers. Turf managers who wish to undertake an advanced education or who would like to learn how they might contribute to turfgrass research will also benefit enormously.

“Those who have attended similar programmes will be aware of the tremendous knowledge that can be gained, not only directly from the presentations but also from socialising with the speakers and fellow delegates during out-of-conference hours. Greenkeepers will also have an opportunity to discuss ‘The Vintage Years’ with Walter Woods, OBE and Jack McMillan, MBE. In addition to the comprehensive learning programme, entertainment has been arranged for each evening to help delegates and speakers relax in preparation for the following day,” said Martyn.

For further details contact Martyn Jones on Tel. 01995 670675 or email: NTFoundation@aol.com.

### Promotion for Textron's Glynn

Glynn Patrick, who recently rejoined the Textron group as Sales Director for Europe, Middle East and Africa, has been appointed Executive Director, Sales and Marketing.

As part of this co-ordinated drive to achieve market domination of these sectors, his new post includes responsibility for Product Management and Communications & Promotions. He will also deputise for Managing Director, Steve Chicken when business commitments result in his absence from the Ipswich head office.

“Wal Dermot Moore, Textron's Sales Director, said, "I am relishing the challenge of taking the business forward and building on the success of our corporate branding initiative, where "we have successfully positioned our orange Jacobsen equipment exclusively in the golf sector, while our green Ransomes brand provides a full range of specialised products for our municipal clients," said Glynn.
Available October this year

Tillers Rootzone Turf

If you're planning to turf your new greens, talk to us now.

Our new Rootzone Turf produces firm, fast, free draining greens. It ensures compatibility with the rootzone used in your construction. And avoids the problems of layering and soft, waterlogged greens associated with normal turf.

Tillers Rootzone Turf will be available this October. It's grown on three commonly specified rootzones:

1. USGA spec rootzone from Prestige, using sand from Messingham, plus peat.
2. USGA spec rootzone from Banks, using sand from Leighton Buzzard, plus Fensoil.
3. 1742 Grade rootzone from Rufford, using sand from Messingham, plus soil.

A full particle analysis for each rootzone can be supplied on request, or visit our website. The grass used in our rootzone turf is a Barenbrug 50/50 bent/fescue seed mixture, giving a bent dominated sward at maturity.

Custom-grown Rootzone Turf

In addition we can grow any mixture of grasses on any rootzone to match your individual specification. But you do have to plan ahead as it takes 6-8 months from sowing to delivery.

Trouble-free establishment

Maintained at a height of 8mm, all Tillers Rootzone Turf is regularly top-dressed with the same rootzone that it's grown in. This produces a dense, firm sward that can be brought into play within a short time after lifting and relaying. Compared to washed turf, root damage is kept to a minimum, leading to healthy, trouble-free establishment.

Main agent Rigby Taylor

Tillers Rootzone Turf can be ordered now through our main agent, Rigby Taylor. Please call your local representative, or Freephone 0800 424919. Or contact us on 01652 678000.

Further information is available on our website at tillersturf.co.uk

Tillers Turf

Growers of fine turf

Tel: 01652 678000 www.tillersturf.co.uk
That Old Chestnut

When Duncan McGilvray wrote his original letter late last year, he hoped for a response and he's had some. However he also knows the vast majority of the membership never even read it, as witnessed at a recent seminar at Carden Park.

It's that old chestnut apathy again. Look at the job section and throw the magazine to one side. Well at least we have a mag and that's because we have an Association, one that was formed by determined men for the betterment of us all. Look how far we've come in such a short time. BIGGA was formed at exactly the right time when it comes to putting in place to safeguard us in a litigious society.

Indeed you may have noted the irony that one in four adults in the UK have some land of over 190 more teams planning to state that none of its members need this kind of support. This is simply blinkered and ill informed.

I work with many young (and often older) Greenkeepers who require extensive support in Literacy and Numeracy. Some of these students do not know how to form a sentence or produce a simple letter using standard layout.

I spend several lessons at the start of each academic year teaching students the basics of the metric system so I can cover areas such as calibration later in the course.

A need for Ken's Key Skills Corner

After reading the responses to Ken Richardson's article on grammar basics, I feel that I must respond in Ken's defence. I simply fail to understand why Ken has been attacked. Those attackers are obviously unaware of the fact that one in four adults in the UK have some kind of literacy problem (Government figures). For representatives of the industry to state that these dealer organised competitions are architecturally flawed? Many students do not know how many millilitres are in a litre or how many square metres are in a hectare.

I feel that this is because they have learned the imperial system can forget it, as most students have no concept of the imperial system at all. I have extensive contacts within Further Education Colleges and they all report similar problems.

One of the fastest growing areas of provision in F.E. Colleges is for basic skills and must serve to indicate the scale of the problem in all sectors of UK industry. The government has invested heavily to raise standards of I.T., Application of number and Communication skills.

Indeed you may have noted the recent television advertisements encouraging people to seek help in improving these key areas.

For Greenkeepers to accuse Ken of dumbing down is outrageous, how are we expected to encourage people to seek help if they believe that they are stupid and should have learnt these skills when at school.

Those with high levels of literacy who find such articles condescending should simply ignore them and get on with their own lives and not interfere with those who try to offer some small degree of help to others.

I would like to end by saying, "Well done Ken", I hope you continue to offer support to those in our industry who are academically less able and in doing so raise the standard of education for all.

Andres Wight, Lecturer in Greenkeeping Studies, Oaklands College, St. Albans Herts

Conversational bunker issue receives response

Andy Law's article "Shifting Sands" in May's Greenkeeper International raises some controversial issues.

Firstly, why must bunkers be visible? There are bunkers all over the world with blind bunkers: does this mean that they are architecturally flawed? And what about bunkers on our links courses that are basically holes with sand in the bottom?

Secondly, I cannot agree that bunker sand should "be light in colour". May I suggest that the current desire for light sand was sparked by the high profile television coverage of American venues such as Augusta National. (Incidentally, this also increased the pressure on greenkeepers for faster and faster greens.)

Up until about 20 years ago, there were very few inland golf courses in this country with light coloured sand. Personally, I would like to see a return to tan coloured sands which are not only less obtrusive, but conceal contamination better that light sands, and at the same time remaining perfectly visible to the golfer.

It never rains – it pours!

Last year, the Greenkeeping Support Team at the PGA Volvo Championship really earned their free shirt and cap in 2001 by slogging it out in 80 degrees plus. This year they were warm enough but manageable because they carried out their duties (as well as a rake and a squeegee) wearing waterproofs. It precipitated down!

Saturday wasn’t too bad, pretty wet but interspersed with sunny spells, but Sunday. Let me tell you about Sunday. The first ominous sign was when Craig Small, from Chris Kennedy’s Greenkeeping Team, delivered 30 squeegees to our tent.

At first it seemed that Chris had been over cautious, early matches were returning with the squeegee being reported as “something extra to be carried and never to be used”.

Wishful thinking if ever I heard it! Sure enough it rained steadily for a while and then came the first downpour. Not too bad, just a hailstorm turning nicely to torrential rain. The greens however were up to it and only minimal work with the squeegees was needed. Play continued without a problem for about half an hour or so and then came the second tremendous downpour. Greens started to be washed, bunkers started to flood. Chris Kennedy and his Staff were magnificent. And so were the Support Team, no panic, just hard work at a speed.

All available Members (those who had finished their matches) and anyone else available in our tent was armed with a squeegee and dispatched to distant parts of the course to drain bunkers and to keep the greens playable. I would add at this point that there wasn’t one single moan, even though wives and girlfriends were abandoned and everyone got on with it and helped.

The results stand for themselves, despite such rain the Championship finished more or less on time and the viewing public were hardly aware that there had been such problems. A brilliant achievement all round and I know that the PGA European Tour Tournament Director, David Garland, as well as Course Manager, Chris Kennedy, would like to use these columns to pass on their appreciation to the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team. Well Done!

Derek Farrington, South East RA

In agreement with Ronnie

Having read Ronnie Bunting’s article on environmental management in the April issue of Greenkeeper International I felt compelled to put pen to paper. I was particularly interested in Ronnie’s comments about fusarium and that “leaving it alone” may be an option. I would like to say that leaving it alone is indeed a very good option. I have not sprayed fungicide on my greens for five years on the basis that it is a very expensive, harmful to the essential and beneficial microorganisms and labour intensive.

Ronnie is spot on in pointing these aspects out.

Once the decision to spray no fungicide had been made my club committee were informed and since then this advice has come from the club’s agronomy advisor. What I have observed is that when fusarium attacks come they have become less damaging with every passing year. I believe that sensible maintenance programme has had a strong impact, however, I also believe that the turf on my greens is fighting back and its natural immune system is getting stronger each year. What I do know is that, yes, my greens are left scarred but no more scarred that had I sprayed fungicide upon noticing the first disease patch. Because, as most of us know, if you haven’t sprayed before you see the first few patches you’re only going to spray a curative treatment on your attack and this will not prevent scarring.

You can argue that your scarring will not be so widespread, but maybe, if you leave the disease alone and let the green’s natural defences work it may become strong enough not to need chemical support. It is an important point to remember, you can only prevent scarring if you apply preventative treatments and this means spraying well before any sign of disease.

Don’t be frightened of fusarium, leave it alone and be assured, greens do recover on their own and a sound maintenance programme does ensure as quick a return as possible to full grass coverage.

Andrew Phillips, Head Greenkeeper, Glynhir GC

A sharper cutting cylinder produces healthier, stronger and more attractive grass...

To find out how Express Dual and Anglemaster, the world’s fastest mower grinders, dramatically improve your golf course, cut costs and save time...

call 01788 811600 today!

SHARPER SOLUTIONS...with BERNHARD

www.bernhard.co.uk

BERNHARD AND COMPANY LTD

Rugby England CV22 7DT email; info@bernhard.co.uk

If you’ve got an email account, and want to keep up to date with the latest news and events from the turfcare industry, drop us an email, and we’ll add you to our ever increasing list of online subscribers.

We’ll then inform you of any forthcoming features and events via email.

Simply send an email to: updates@bigga.co.uk

quoting your name and Membership number, and we’ll do the rest - it’s that easy!
BIGGA Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson, highlights the latest education and training available to BIGGA members

Continue to Learn 2003

Plans for Continue to Learn 2003 are progressing well. The programme will again allow delegates to 'pick and mix' various learning options to ensure that all delegates gain the maximum benefit from their time in Harrogate.

The Continue to Learn Programme includes:

Monday 20 January and Tuesday 21 January
Two day Workshops
Golf Course Design 2 with Howard Swan and Simon Gidman. Continue to discover the secrets of golf course design, presented in this hands-on workshop. Note, delegates should, previously, have attended a Golf Course Design 1 Workshop.

I gained a tremendous amount from this workshop.

Howard and Simon are very enthusiastic and I gained a lot of knowledge.

An excellent sequel to Golf course Design 1.

An extended version of last year’s Workshop, Golf Course Environmental Management, with Bob Taylor, Jonathan Smith and Fiona MacIntyre. Learn how to survey your course, how to produce an environmental management plan and how to manage your course with an environmentally sympathetic regime by attending this extended workshop.

Very useful, it made me think.

Had to absorb a lot of information in one day.

One Day Workshop
Soil Science with Dennis Mortram. Introduced at Harrogate, following its success around the Regions, this Workshop introduces delegates to the mysteries of soil science. An ideal first course in soil science or as revision for those who have not studied for some time.

Very good course, easy to follow, straight to the point.

I gained a lot of knowledge from this course.

A good day. Very good value.

National Education Conference
Attend the Conference on both Monday 20 January and Tuesday 21 January or attend either Monday or Tuesday, the choice is yours.

The theme for the 2003 Conference is Golf Course Management.

Monday 20 January 2003
Follows continuity in the theme of Management with Master Greenkeeper, Kerran Daly, describing his Management Style at Gog Magog Golf Club, followed by Tony Mears looking at the Course Manager’s responsibilities for Training and Development. Frank Newberry completes this session by looking at the link between a Business Plan and a Management Plan.

Tuesday 21 January 2003
The theme of Management continues in this session but looks more closely at Managing the Golf Course.

John Nicholson, from John Nicholson Associates, start the proceedings by describing the Course Manager’s role in Tree and Woodland Management. Simon Barnaby, from Scots UK, considers how Course Managers will cope when less and less chemicals are available for Fine Turf. Following the break, Chris Byrd, from Milliken Chemicals, concentrates on the benefits of an integrated foliar feed programme closely linked with the USGA, who considers what to do about Pesticide Runoff.

Dr Richard Earl and Justin Smith, both from TurfTrax Ground Management, start the afternoon session with a look at Aspects of Soil Science and Soil Water Movement followed by Master Greenkeeper, Steve Cook, describing his technical preparations for holding the Ryder Cup at Oakland Hills in 2004.

The final paper of the Conference is presented by Ken Siems, Course Manager at Loch Lomond Golf Club. Ken will describe the Research on Grass Species, recently completed at Loch Lomond.

Watch out for more details in the next edition of Greenkeeper International.

Regional Training
The deadline for the Autumn and Spring series of Region and Section Training Courses is approaching.

If you would like to see a training course in your Section then speak to your Section Secretary, Regional Administrator or contact me direct at BIGGA House. We are planning a range of courses, already, including Essential Management Skills, Tractor Driving, Health and Safety, Pesticide Application, Basic Computer Skills etc.

NPTC Assessors
The National Proficiency Test Conference is looking for volunteers to fill a number of vacancies for assessors. NPTC assessors can be used to assess greenkeepers in a range of skills eg Forestry, Machinery Operation and Pesticide Application.

Anyone interested in taking on this challenging role should send their CV to David Golding at the GTC, Alwah Manor, Alne, York. YO61 1UE.

OnCourse
The powerful organiser which keeps your golf course green!

Golf Club members and owners are continually demanding better quality playing conditions, which brings the roll of Golf Course Managers into sharp focus. Not only are they expected to keep the course in excellent condition they also have to be skilled communicators and personnel managers. Additionally, Golf Club Managers need detailed and well-structured reports on golf course operations, which can be a time consuming task. OnCourse " has been developed to help make all of these things easier.

For more detailed information and a free demonstration CD, please contact

ken@bigga.co.uk 01347 833800

Epani

Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

Unlock the doors to progress through BIGGA’s Education and Development Fund - the key to a great future for greenkeepers, golf clubs and the game of golf.

Golden and Silver Key Membership is available to both companies and individuals.

For details, please contact Neil Thomas on 01347 833800 or via Neil@bigga.co.uk

Golden Key Company Members

Company Tel. Head Office
Bernhard and Company Ltd 01789 611600
Cem Professional 01254 356611
John Deere Ltd 01949 860491
Hayed Ltd 01275 723444
Massey Ferguson (ACDF Ltd) 02478 851292
PGA European Tour 01344 842661
Ribby Taylor Ltd 01304 377777
Scottis UK Professional 01475 830492
Turf Trax Group Ltd 01722 434000

Golden Key Individual Members

Mullie Ewart; P J Hare; B Laughton; A M Rogers; David S Robinson; Stuart Townsend; Douglas Smith; Andrew Corcoran; Andy Campbell M.G.; COCS.

Silver Key Company Members

Company Tel. Head Office
Ernest Doe & Sons 01254 382011
General Legal Protection Ltd 01904 611600
Heath Lambert Group 0113 246 1133
Olina Irrigation 01469 24199
Rainbird 01295 729500
Syngenta Professional Products 0411 813 233 00

Silver Key Individual Members

Chris A Archer; John Crawford; Bruce Cruickshank; Keith Happ; Jeremy H Duguid; John H Fry; J H Greasley; W Roger Jones; Ian A J Mallett; Robert Melvach UK; Richard S Mullens; Elliott R Small; Steven Terney; D.J. Womann; Richard Loveworth; Clive Oxley; David Rutenscheid.

For more information on Silver and Golden Key Association for Turf Managers, please contact

Neil Thomas
BIGGA Education and Development Fund
10 Manor Park, Aldwark, York, YO61 1UF
01347 833800

01273 891326

01204 377477

01204 377777

01475 820492

01722 430400

01254 356611

01344 382011

01904 611600

0113 246 1133

01469 241990

01295 729500

0411 813 233 00

01347 833800