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No longer do you have to keep spraying the same patches of weeds, year after year.

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Which one is best for your weed problem...

Keep your eye on the ball with

Bastion T & Greenor
March 2002

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Visit www.bigga.org.uk and check out the latest chat from the greenkeeping industry

TIME TO TALK
FOR GREENKEEPERS BY GREENKEEPERS CHAT GREENKEEPERS

March 2002 Greenkeeper International 3
Why, oh why, oh why?

There are occasions in the middle of the night when questions pop into my head and refuse to budge until I’ve given them due consideration. Granted, not all of them have a definitive answer, and some of them don’t deserve an answer at all, but they are there nonetheless, nagging away at me and preventing me from returning to the land of nod.

I’ve decided that the best thing to do is to open them up to you, the readership, so you can share my torment.

Unfortunately there is no prize, but if you do come up with an answer to any of them I’m sure you’ll be viewed upon with increased respect by your friends and colleagues while you could set yourself up as an amateur physiologist.

Why does your putting always go when you’re nailing your iron’s?

Why do all BIGGA members work at clubs where the club down the road has the better greens?

Why are there more Championship golf courses than there have been Championships?

Why do so many people assume that other people’s job are much easier than they actually are?

Why does someone always call up to enquire if you’d ever consider setting up your own course?

Why does someone always call up to enquire if you’d ever consider setting up your own conservatory just as the What Happens Next? round in Question of Sport is about to start?

Why do supermarkets have these stupid revolving doors which never work?

Why do people who skate on the outside lane of dual carriageways before turning left at the roundabout, always get away with it?

Why is it only those people involved in football who ever say “To be fair...” and then proceed to slag someone off as in “To be fair, he’s always been a bit of a donkey”, or the variation. “He’s always been a bit of a donkey, to be fair?”

Why did someone put Sod’s Law on the statute book?

Why do so many people assume they can go first while the rest of us waste time complying by the conventional art of queuing?

Why are politicians the only people who ever use the phrase, “To be perfectly clear on the matter...”

Why does time always go faster when you’re running late?

As I said I don’t expect a stream on answers landing on my desk just the knowledge that you might well be wrestling with the same thoughts as I am now make me feel a little bit better.

Why in the Winter Olympics, do they give fancy names to things like Luge, Skeleton and Bob and then proceed to throw a dark veil over whatever they’re supposed to be talking about?

Why does your putting always go when you’re running late?

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St Andrews Links sign up with Toro

St Andrews Links has chosen Toro greens and tees mowers to maintain its six historic courses at the world’s most famous golf complex.

Toro irrigation products have been in use at St Andrews since 1998, with each course now using the fully automated Toro SitePro Central Control System.

Now St Andrews Links Trust has strengthened its relationship with Toro by entering into a five-year preferred supplier agreement for a range of greens and tees mowers.

Links Superintendent Gordon Moir heads a team of 51 staff who maintain Europe’s largest golfing site and the home of golf.

“We put the Toro mowers through an exhaustive evaluation programme alongside other manufacturers during the spring and summer of 2001. The feedback from a large majority of the greens staff was that Toro tees and greens mowers were the best overall, for equality of cut and ease of operation.”

During the early part of this year, St Andrews has taken delivery of 20 Greensmaster 1000 and 14 Greensmaster 1500 pedestrian mowers, 13 Greensmaster 3230-D ride-on machines and three Reelmaster 3100-D Sidewinders.

As part of the deal, St Andrews Links Trust will receive comprehensive back-up, service and parts supplied by Toro local dealer George Henderson, plus full training for its operators and maintenance staff.

“The greens staff are really looking forward to the arrival of the new mowers and I am confident that working closely with Toro will bring success for both parties,” added Gordon.

A two day conference providing an opportunity to review current research on amenity grasses and discuss related topics affecting the performance of grasses in the UK and Europe.

Organised by the STRI the conference programme includes a Conference Dinner on the first day with a visit on the second day to STRI in Bingley for a tour of the cultivar trials which are part of the Grass Testing Programme at STRI.

The conference will interest all Turfgrass Breeders and Evaluators, Turf Scientists and other Turf Professionals. A panel of eight speakers will present 10 conference sessions including contributions from Dr Daniel Thonogood and Sheena Hughes, Duller Turfgrass Breeders from IGER; Arthur Wolleswinkel, Principal Turfgrass Researcher from ISA Papendal in the Netherlands and Mogens Toft Jensen, Head of Marketing & Product Management for the DLF Trifolium Group.

The Full Package including accommodation is £205 per delegate. Further details can be obtained from Anne Wilson Tel: 01274 363131

The Canadian Golf Superintendents Association has appointed Ken Counisneau, CAE, to succeed the Vince Gillis CAE, who retired in January. Ken brings to the CGSA strong association management experience, both in managing internal administrative functions and external relationships with government and stakeholders.

Russell Mellor joins the Swan team

Russell Mellor (centre) has moved to Swan, after 25 years with Kubota.

"After 25 years seeing the Kubota business grow and prosper I am now looking forward to a new challenge at Swan," said Russell.

"Ted Mitchell has given me the opportunity to join the Swan team and I am delighted that I will be working with a company that has shown continued growth and service to the market they serve."
Communications Director for Wardle

Wardle Consultant Engineers Ltd has expanded its management team with the appointment of Stephen Baker as a director of the company. Steve, 42, joins the team as Communications Director and brings with him over 20 years of marketing experience.

"As we continue to expand I knew there would come a point when we would need to really address some of the fundamentals in this industry and that requires a fresh marketing approach," said Giles Wardle, Managing Director.

"Our client list has tended to reflect the premium end of the market in the UK and abroad, with clients such as The Gleneagles Hotel, Carnoustie Links, The Turnberry Hotel, Royal Lytham & St. Annes Golf Club and Cherokee Plantation Links, South Carolina. "This has always given the industry two major misconceptions about Wardle; firstly, that only the top clubs can 'afford' to work with consultants and secondly that irrigation consultancy represents an additional cost. We aim to inform the industry at large that most clients of ours actually save money by using us because we ensure true competition between bidding contractors who are all tendering for the same design and specification, drafted by us to meet the unique needs of the site and the client consulting Engineers Ltd," said Giles.

Ocmis joins the Mansell team

Woodbury Park Golf & Country Club, the 27 hole golfing complex owned by former Formula 1 World Champion, Nigel Mansell, is to undergo a complete irrigation refit during the first half of 2002. Ocmis Irrigation (UK) Ltd have designed and will install the new greens and twin row fairway irrigation system for the 18 hole championship course and 9 hole acorns course. Using Rain Bird Eagle Series electric valve in head sprinklers on the green and fairway areas and the Rain Bird Nimbus II map based PC control system with both Freedom radio remote control and Freedom-pad remote control (based on a handheld Compag ipaq).

The heart of the system comprises a variable speed pumping station, which will deliver over 22000 gallons of water per hour through 25 kilometres of medium density polyethylene pipeline, which ranges from 315mm to 50mm in size. A majority of the pipe installation will be undertaken by one of a number of large vibratory moleplough machines owned and operated by Ocmis, minimising disruption and scarring.

Expansion set to continue for ETC

ETC has recently moved its location to Tilstone Fearnall in Cheshire to facilitate a further expansion programme. The new location includes a modern workshop and extensive storage facilities for the wide variety of reconditioned and new grass maintenance machines supplied by ETC.

"The improved facilities will mean better levels of stocking of a wide range of second hand equipment," said Managing Director, Andy Smith.

He added that ETC is now in its seventh year and has grown steadily year on year.

Matt swaps pucks and whistles for balls and pins

Matt Folka, a golf enthusiast with an added passion for ice hockey, has become Mere Golf & Country Club's newest greenkeeper. Canadian, Matt was a professional International Ice Hockey referee and has continued his passion for the sport in this country where he is a professional referee for the Ice Hockey Superleague.

Matt will use his 12 years experience in greenkeeping to help maintain Mere Golf & Country Club and will report to Mere's Course Manager, Paul Hyde, and Course Superintendent, Stuart Boyce.

Previously, Matt spent seven years as a fire fighter with Maple Ridge fire department before taking up a greenkeeping position at the prestigious Swan-e-set Bay Golf Club in Vancouver.

He then moved to England 1996 and worked at Hayton and Prescot Golf Course in Merseyside until he was appointed by Mere Golf & Country Club in Cheshire. Continuing his career development, Matt is currently studying for a NVQ Level II qualification in amenities sports turf.
Amazingly, some species of fungi are good for your turf. Mycorrhizal fungi develop a mutually beneficial relationship with turf roots for effective nutrient exchange, and increased resistance to drought, insect pests and disease.

You'll be pleased to hear then, that Rovral Green leaves these ‘friendly’ fungi completely unharmed.

But Rovral Green is as effective as ever at controlling the harmful species like Fusarium, Red Thread and Dollar Spot. Rovral Green - it thinks for itself.

Harmless to beneficial fungi - still effective against disease.
**R&A look for equipment restrictions**

The R&A has written to golf equipment manufacturers seeking their comments on proposed changes to golf ball testing procedures, and possible restrictions on clubhead size and club length for clubs other than putters. The R&A is proposing to update the current golf ball test for overall length for clubs other than putters.

"The underlying principle of the proposal is to test balls efficiently, with modern equipment and in a way which accurately reflects how Tour professionals are hitting the ball today," said David Rickman, Rules Secretary of the R&A.

As for clubhead size, we are concerned that recent submissions of driver heads for conformance rulings show a significant increase in clubhead size. While these large headed clubs may be 'substantially different from the traditional and customary form and make', there is also the possibility that such clubs may offer undesirable performance benefits," said David.

The R&A is also concerned that increases in club lengths might lead to increases in driving distances. It therefore feels it may be appropriate to introduce a maximum length for clubs other than putters.

At present the R&A is not proposing numerical limits on clubhead size or club length. Instead, it is conducting independent research in these areas and seeking the views of manufacturers on the introduction of finite limits.

**Elland Road visit for D&C members**

A group of Devon and Cornwall Section members took the opportunity of visiting Elland Road, home of Leeds United on the eve of BTME. The took in the Leeds -Arsenal match on the Sunday and followed it up with a tour round the stadium.

**The young ones ...**

Last month we said that Richard Barker was the youngest ever National Chairman at 37.

Unfortunately we were mistaken. That honour is still held by Roy Kates, the 1992 National Chairman, who was elected to the office at the tender age of 34.

**A student's perspective of Harrogate**

Phil Sharples, of Cannington College, took 12 students to Harrogate and reports back on what they found.

A visit to Harrogate proves to be a very important part of any students' education while at Cannington College whether they be studying at NVQ level or Higher National Diploma. For many this trip proves to be a valuable and worthwhile insight into our industry that, of course, cannot be simulated in the college environment.

With the depth and breadth of equipment, manufacturers, seminars and ancillary products available for viewing and discussion the experience cannot be beaten, and it's all under one roof!

For many students this is the first real chance they have to meet and chat with industry professionals, whether they be greenkeepers, Course Managers, agronomists or sales representatives. It also proves to be an ideal and neutral ground for meeting Course Managers wishing to interview or chat to students about their particular golf course, the possibility of work placements with them and allows all to gain a deeper insight before taking the, what seems at the time, big step.

Students are also encouraged to pick up literature, brochures and flyers that can be used to reinforce future assignments and projects. This year the hospitality of the podium to receive a special award for Outstanding Service to the Grounds Maintenance Industry recognising his company's 340 years of service in the industry sector, followed soon after by Keith Sutton, from Burrows (GM) Ltd of Preston, Lancs, who collected a similar award as his company celebrated their 50th anniversary in 2001.

**Textron host Dealer Awards at Harrogate**

Svenningsens Turfcare-Scandinavia, of Kastrup, Denmark and Lindkoping, Sweden, has won the Textron Distributor of the Year Award for 2001.

Managing Director Niels Svenningsen and Golf Sales Manager, Niels Brems, accepted the silver trophy and commemorative plaque from Glynn Patrick, Textron Golf, Turf and Specialty Products Sales Director, and former Olympic silver medallist, Roger Black, at an evening awards ceremony held at The Old Swan Hotel, Harrogate at BTME. Textron dealers from the UK, Eire and Europe attended the ceremony, which recognised businesses throughout in all areas. Scottish Grass Machinery of Inverkeithing, scooped three awards for UK Service Dealer, UK Parts Dealer and UK Sweeper Dealer, while Araz Ltd, of Israel, won two categories, those of Specialty Products Sales and International Industrial Vehicle Distributor.

"This prestigious award recognises outstanding performance in all sectors of the business, including service, parts, sales and marketing. In a year when we have seen major business development across all our UK and continental European distributors, Svenningsens have demonstrated exceptional performance across all areas of their business and tremendous commitment to the Textron franchise. They thoroughly deserve the title of Textron Distributor of the Year," said Peter Bell, Marketing Director.

Niels Svenningsen returned to the

**Fishwick Hall Golf Club lives up to its name**

Fishwick Hall Golf Club, on the River Ribble lived up to its name recently when the greens were more likely to see fish than birds. Course Manager of the Preston club, Paul Eddlestone, had no complaints when he put up the Course Closed sign as the course disappeared under feet of water bringing back nasty memories for many who had suffered in a similar fashion last year.

**Textron host Dealer Awards at Harrogate**

Svenningsens Turfcare pick up the top award

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A need for continuity calls for a plan

I have recently read the comments of Duncan McGilvary, and agree entirely with his views. Many greenkeepers know have become disillusioned with the industry including myself, having moved abroad in 1995 after starting in fine turf in 1983. I have tackled this same issue as Duncan, with education of the members. The root of the problem starts after starting in fine turf in 1983. I have myself, having moved abroad in 1995 to try and formulate a Course Handling Plan and submit this to the American style.

Barnhard and BIGGA Thanks 1

Bernhard and BIGGA Thanks 1

I write primarily to thank you for enabling our organisation to produce an educational visits through which, several golf course team have enjoyed hearing and reading the literature on a world quite different from ours. I am sure in the coming months there will be many interesting discussions held up & down the country, inspired by the group, on the elements involved in greenkeeping American style. I was pleased to see the BIGGA stand built up to this point, and am glad it, so that Tracey must have been asleep on her feet by the end of the day. We certainly do have a very special relationship with the GCSAA that I feel will continue to grow in the oncoming years. The President of GCSAA, his board members and the President of the local Florida Chapter, Geoff Coggan, deserve a special mention for all their help in making us welcome in their country.

I now understand why you forged close ties with Bernhard & Co to allow some of our members out to America. Sam and Stephen are certainly dynamic, charismatic fellows with strong beliefs on what greenkeepers should be doing to enhance themselves and this industry. They are great trade ambassadors for our Association and I will be thanking them for all their time and effort to ensure our stay was educational, with never a spare moment to rest.

David Winterton, MG.DIM Course Manager, Maidenhead GC

Managers are not getting the respect they deserve

I had been in greenkeeping for 16 years and did enjoy the work very much. I decided at the end of 2001 to leave greenkeeping due to some overwhelming factors.

As the years went by I gained a fairly good insight of the running of a golf club, as far as the committee and senior club officials are concerned. I had been a First Assistant since 1987 and felt that I had played a fairly key part in the upkeep of the course, I did not consider myself to be just an ordinary First Assistant as a lot of the roles I played over the years where certainly more than that! But I shall not go into details. I did everything that was asked of me and that includes getting as well qualified as I possibly could. This includes: phase 2 & 4 City and Guilds with a double distinction, NVQ level 3, pa 1.2 & 6, first aid and a few other related qualifications.

One would think that this plus years of experience would equate to a equally respectful wage packet. Well this was not the case for me at least. I am sure there are others out there in the same position. All one hears as an excuse is "You should move on to get better money and more responsibilities". Well I say phooey to this.

There are only so many jobs out there for Course and Deputy Managers. Golf clubs very rarely promote from within, quite why I really don't understand. Who else is better qualified than a per- son who has all the qualifications and knows the club inside out. Surely it is the way forward to promote your own staff. When the time comes they will move on having gained real experience as a manager, and if all were in the same boat then it stands to reason that when a manager moves on, selection would be far simpler for clubs when appointing a new one. I don't think I have to spell out why this is the case.

But this apart, I honestly believe that managers are not getting the respect they deserve or are financially reward- ed enough. Golf clubs, in the most part, do not appreciate the stress and diffi- culties involved in the day to day running of a course. Committee's always seem to know best it seems, well at least they think they do! How on earth can a club keep any sort of contin- uity when on an annual basis the committee and captaincy changes. Every year the poor old Course Manager gets barraged with the latest "opinions and great new ideas" from a body of people who all have their own ideals of which 99% is purely because they feel they have to "contribute", and now they are in a position of authority, feel they must be right.

The Course Manager has a policy and that is to maintain the course and manage the staff to his or her best ability. To do this they must be left to their own devices as much as is practical.

There are a lot of excellent green- keepers out there and if clubs want to have great courses then there needs to be a realisation that the course main- tenance crew are essential and must be treated so.

On a final note, I believe that the way things seem to be going, more people will be leaving the trade.

Barney Wright

March 2002 Greenkeeper International · 9
This month Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson, highlights the Spring range of BIGGA Training Courses and launches Key Skills Corner.

**Education and Training update**

The spring range of BIGGA Training Courses is introduced, with courses already completed. I am writing this article in my hotel room after completing a Basic Computer Skills course (yes we do work overtime), which will be followed by similar courses at Berkhampstead and in Aberdeen. We are also running courses on Health and Safety, Chain Saw Operating Skills, Abrasive Wheels Safe Use, Budgets and Finance, Essential Management Skills, Further Management Skills and Communication Skills. All courses are offered at a minimal cost of £30 for one day of training and £60 for two days thanks to contributors to the BIGGA Education and Development Fund. If the course that you want is not being presented in your Region or Section then ask your Section Secretary to contact either Sami or myself with your ideas. We can run courses with a maximum of 4 delegates for Chainsaw Operator and a minimum of 6 delegates for all other courses.

One of the favorite subjects on the Basic Computer Skills courses is how to use the spell and grammar checkers in word processing and the lack of such help on e-mail, Internet and bulletin boards.

If you want to ensure that your e-mail message is spelt correctly and written grammatically, then use your word processor package to help. For example, in Microsoft Word, open a blank document and compose your e-mail. When you have completed your e-mail, carry out a spelling and grammar check. Select the complete text and use Cut to remove text to paste board. Open e-mail and paste document into New mail.

Alternatively, just write 'please see attachment' in e-mail and Attach file containing text. The Cut and Paste procedure can be used in the BIGGA member's bulletin Board.

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

Send an email to either:

education@bigga.co.uk  ken@bigga.co.uk  sami@bigga.co.uk

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**Key Skills Corner**

A major part of NVQs, especially for under 25-year-olds, are Key Skills in Information Technology (IT); Numeracy (Counting) and Literacy (Reading and Writing). Therefore, I thought that it would be useful to highlight some of the rules to be used in written English.

### Capital Letters

Use capital letters at the beginning of a sentence, eg. The cat sat on the mat. In abbreviations, eg. BIGGA. As the first letter in 'Proper Nouns' eg. York, Richardson, Ken, the word I, countries eg. England and days and months eg. March, Monday:

**Here is a test for you to try.**

**Answer next month.**

Welcome to Bigga house, today is Tuesday, the 3rd of March, the next public holiday, in England, will be Easter.

Hint. Using Microsoft Word with AutoCorrect selected through the Tools menu can help with capital letters.

---

**OnCourse**

The powerful organiser keeping 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 administrators 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 make all of these things easier.

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ken@bigga.co.uk  01347 833800

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**Silver Key Company Members**

**Golden Key Company Members**

**Silver Key Individual Members**

Mike Eastwood, J H Fry, J H Owers, V K Rogers, David S Robinson, Stuart Townsend, Douglas Smith, Andrew Cortes

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**Silver Key Individual Members**

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**Silver Key Company Members**

**Golden Key Company Members**

**Silver Key Individual Members**

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**Silver Key Company Members**

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**Epani**