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WIN ONE OF TWO CUTTER & BUCK POLO SHIRTS!
Summer's on the way and you can really stand out from the crowd with a Cutter & Buck designer polo shirt.
See the 'Turftime Teaser' Competition on page 52

FEATURES

May 2003
Your next issue of Greenkeeper International will be with you by 9 June 2003

REGULARS

News
Pages 4, 5 & 6

Education
Ken Richardson outlines just how much BIGGA puts into greenkeeper education and gives updates on many of the Association's events and competitions.

Membership

Continue to Learn - Pea annua Control:
Where are we Now
Nick Christians, University Professor, Iowa State University, gives an update on where we are in the battle to rid our courses of the old enemy.

Managing a Golf Course
The first of a series of five articles detailing duties of the modern day Course Manager.

Talking Heads
Six top Course Managers or Head Greenkeepers answer questions on budgeting.

New Products

Features Listing
Helping you track down some of Greenkeeper International's past articles.

As I see it...
BIGGA National Chairman, George Brown, is in the middle of Scotland's driest and warmest spring in years... and it's causing problems.

FEATURES

Playing Your Cards Right
Scott MacCallum travelled to Cardrona Golf & Country Club to meet Robert Hogarth who has met every challenge that has been thrown at him.

Rooting for Success
Following on from the article they did last year, Mick Higgins and Peter Jefford look beneath the surface and try to clear up the ambiguity and confusion surrounding the issue of rootzones.

Ready but not Rough
Roland Taylor looks at the development of the rough mower.

Arm Yourself for the Mole Invasion
Golf courses across the UK are preparing themselves for an explosion in the mole population by training staff in pest control techniques.

To Rebuild or not Rebuild
Robert Laycock looks at the options facing you when a green is failing to perform.

A Golf Course Pilgrimage
Malcolm Peake goes on a golfing pilgrimage and comes back with concerns for the future of the game.
SO NEAR YET SO FAR

Did you watch The Masters? Silly question. If you have any interest in golf whatsoever, of course, you watched The Masters. Well, those of us connected with the greenkeeping profession in Britain nearly had a lot to celebrate, didn’t we?

Rained out on the Thursday and it was looking good. News of muddy spectator walkways, people falling on Augusta’s famous undulations and sneaky lies and it was looking even better. But, what do you know, the weather improved and before you knew it the awful conditions were no longer the story and the fact that a Canadian left hander won and not Tiger was taking all the headlines.

Yes the Augusta Syndrome nearly didn’t happen in 2003. Augusta National and the Georgia weather almost did a passable impersonation of Sludgecombe Pay and Play during a wet weekend in November... but it didn’t. The green staff did an outstanding job, no doubt putting in enough hours during the week to have a Working Hours Directive inspector foaming at the mouth, and pulled it off.

So while you nearly avoided the April and May headaches which go along with Augusta Syndrome, I’m afraid you didn’t. Instead you may well get additional grief.

Greens were submerged under five inches of rain one minute and putting at the speed of light the next, so how many learned members might just pipe up, “Look at the rainfall Augusta took and they still had their greens lightning fast the very next day.”?

The fact that Augusta can call upon a technologically advanced and highly expensive under green system to suck moisture away doesn’t come into it.

Having said all that at least we haven’t had to cope with the dreadful weather of the recent past. The prolonged dry spell has hopefully enabled you to get on with many of the jobs the soggy conditions of recent times have prevented you from doing and produce a level of spring course presentation of which you can be proud.

In addition to the weather The Masters didn’t get an easy ride, with Martha Burk’s sex discrimination protest against Augusta National Golf Club hitting the headlines. There is a better than even chance that the same type of protest will fill the British newspaper columns in the run up to The Open at Royal St George’s with the R&A taking the flak.

I won’t take sides on what is a complex argument but what I will say is that it will perhaps deflecting attention away from a potentially more damaging problem affecting the game. Golf is currently at a low but what I will say is that it will perhaps deflecting attention away from a potentially more damaging problem affecting the game. Golf is currently at a low

Rosie joins the Association

BIGGA has appointed a new Sales Manager to lead the Association’s sales team and maximise money raising opportunities within the industry.

Rosie Hancher brings with her extensive experience in sales and arrives at BIGGA having most recently worked for Barker Brooks Media, in Harrogate, who specialise in publications in niche markets.

In her four years with Barker Brooks, where latterly she was Managing Director, the company worked for the DTI and the Foreign Office; published its own magazine and organised and ran conferences, shows and Award Ceremonies.

“|I am delighted to have joined BIGGA and to become heavily involved in the sales side of the Association. It is what I love doing and what I’m good at,” said Rosie, who is married with two young children.

Having started at the beginning of April, Rosie is already enjoying the benefits of working at BIGGA HOUSE.

“I love working in the countryside, rather than in a town, and it means I can be in the gym before work instead of being stuck in a traffic jam,” said Rosie, who lives in Ripon, a few miles from Aldwark.

She will be in charge of galvanising the Sales team, whose tasks include selling stand space in the Harrogate Shows, advertising in the magazine, website and directory as well as identifying and creating sponsorship opportunities.

“We will be going all out to maximise turnover of the Association in order to increase the benefits we can pass on to BIGGA members. These aren’t empty words. This department will make a real difference,” said Rosie.

“I would also value comments from members on the magazine and any improvements which might be made or subjects you’d like covered. I’d then pass those ideas on to the Editor.”
SUCCESSFUL DEFENCE

On 3 April 2003 our annual match against the Secretaries Association took place at Prestwick St. Nicholas GC, Prestwick. We were defending the trophy we retained at Haddington last year.

Before play commenced the Secretaries decided that it should be full handicap allowance. As it was the Secretaries turn to host the event we had no choice in the matter but to agree, however we still felt we had been conned.

As the results came in the Secretaries' tactics seemed to be paying off, as after seven matches we were trailing, but with strength in depth we went on to win the last three matches and to clinch victory by 6 points to 4.

Our thanks to the Captain and Committee of Prestwick St. Nicholas for the courtesy and facilities and best wishes to the club's Secretary Tom Hepburn in his year of office as Captain of the Secretaries Association, Scotland.

Congratulations to Head Greenkeeper John MacLachlan and his staff for providing us with a course in such excellent condition.

Next year it is our choice of venue and hopefully we will be able to return to a links course in early April.

Peter J. Boyd, Regional Administrator

STAR ENDORSEMENT

Top golfing star Laura Davies is following in the footsteps of Britain's best greenkeepers after becoming the proud owner of a Toro Greensmaster 1000 pedestrian greensmower.

The four-times world number one, with 64 title wins, including four majors, under her belt, purchased the mower to cut a small golf green she's constructed at her home near Woking, Surrey.

Laura is out on her green between tournaments, practising to keep her putting razor sharp.

It was David Whitaker, MG Course Manager at Wisley Golf Club, who recommended the Toro Greensmaster to Laura. He laid the turf for her green and regularly checks it over so it's in tip-top condition.

"Wisley recommended the mower to me because they have always achieved great results with Toro, and the mower I used to have really wasn't giving me the finish I wanted. Good support and service was also very important to me, and Toro dealer John Shaw Machinery is giving me all the help I need. This is certainly one of the best greensmowers out there, so I'm delighted to own one," said Laura.

ELECTRONIC ACCESS

The STRI and the Turfgrass Information Centre have combined in a joint effort that provides electronic access to back issues of the Journal of Turfgrass Science. This agreement will enable TGIF users to go directly from a citation/abstract to the full text of the article for all Journal of Turfgrass Science.

STRI produces the Journal of Turfgrass Science to facilitate dissemination of turf related research results, while the TIC serves to index the literature of turf, using TGIF to direct users to appropriate research in a vast array of publications, including the Journal of Turfgrass Science. This agreement will enable TGIF users to go directly from a citation/abstract to the full text of the article for all Journal of Turfgrass Science issues published prior to 1999. Electronic full-text availability will be for all years from 1929 up to the last three. In addition, current subscribers to the STRI will also have access to the electronic back-file via the STRI website homepage.

The years 1989-1998 are currently online. Subscribers to the Turfgrass Information File can access these materials at http://www.turf.lib.msu.edu/. Subscribers to STRI can access these materials via the STRI homepage at http://www.stri.co.uk/books/journal.

The process of adding earlier years is underway, and is anticipated that the entire run back to 1929 will be available within this calendar year. Subsequent years, such as 1999, will be added once three years have passed.

NEW MAN AT LELY

Lely UK has appointed John Pike as Business Development Manager for turf maintenance machinery, for south and south-west England.

John previously spent most of his career selling the Flymo range. He lives in Wimborne, Dorset, and enjoys water skiing, power boating and clay pigeon shooting in his spare time.

SALES BOOST

Sales to Norway have significantly increased for Hunter Grinders Ltd after participating in an Export Explorer mission to the country 12 months ago assisted by Trade Partners UK, the government body dedicated to providing UK companies with global expertise on international trade and investment.

The increase in sales of grinding machines to the Scandinavian country marks the beginning of a greater understanding and participation in trade relations with the region. The Newcastle-based company is one of only three manufacturers worldwide of specialist grinding equipment for cylinder mowers used on fine turf in golf courses, parks and other landscaping schemes.

"The growth in the Norwegian and Scandinavian golf industry alone represents a potential market worthy of the interest and investment required to promote Hunter Grinder products," said Keith Cann-Evans, Managing Director:

"Although our equipment has been successfully sold around the world, we are only just beginning to establish a global network of distributors. Trade Partners UK programmes such as the Export Explorer allow us to establish links with new markets more cost effectively."

THERE HE GOES!

BIGGA National Vice Chairman, Andy "Coulthard" Campbell, is the envy of many after winning a superb ride-on lawnmower Go-Kart at Harrogate recently.

Andy, Course Manager at the De Vere Carden Park Resort, won the grass cutting kart in a raffle on the Wolf Proline stand and the prize, which will make Andy even more of a hero in his son Cameron's eyes, was presented to him by Wolf Proline, Sales Manager, Clive Pearson.
NEW ROLE FOR KIM

Kim Macfie has agreed to join David Jenkins Turfcare Equipment Ltd as a non-executive Director. For nearly 20 years Kim was Sales & Marketing Director for Hayter Limited where he gained great respect for his knowledge of the industry and his ability to work with his Dealer distribution network.

David said that he was delighted that Kim had agreed to be part of the team and felt sure that Kim's enthusiasm, wide experience and knowledge of the market would be of immense value to the Company.

"It is always of benefit to any organisation to stand back from the day to day operations and have a dispassionate and detached examination of its direction. In a new Company this is doubly so but difficult to do. If I can help David by bringing some focus from the outsiders view, I will be happy, and look forward to witnessing the success he deserves," said Kim.

SUPPORT FOR NTF

Toro has sponsored the first 'In Pursuit of Excellence' conference by the National Turfgrass Foundation - a new charity-based organisation that helps fund education and research into turfgrass science, sports and recreational grounds maintenance.

"Toro was delighted to support the conference. The Foundation's activities complement our own commitment to support the advancement of turf professionals," said Toro distributor Lely's Jeff Anguige.

The event in Southport, Lancashire, was aimed at professionals," said Toro distributor Lely's Jeff Anguige.

The event in Southport, Lancashire, was aimed at sharing knowledge gained by the Foundation from its workshops and study tours. Top international speakers gave lectures and ran seminars for over 300 greenkeepers, groundsmen and turf consultants from 17 countries who attended.

The Foundation is run on a voluntary basis by Martyn Jones and Louise Clegg. Martyn is a turfgrass maintenance specialist who, until a year ago, was Head of Turf Science at Myerscough College, in Preston, Lancashire.

"We approached Toro because of its long-standing involvement in education and research," said Martyn.

FERTILISER USAGE SURVEY

A survey of fertiliser usage conducted by Jim Arthur and sponsored by the R&A produced the following results together with comments supplied by Jim Arthur himself.

1. TYPE OF COURSE
   Links 15%; Heathland 13%; Downland 10%; Parkland 50%; Others 5%.

2. TYPE OF FERTILISER USED
   Nitrogen only (chiefly 8:0:0) 15%
   Nitrogen and Potash (no phosphate) 50%
   § Complete (NPK) 35%
   Note: * This was mainly N2 only with one dressing of potash annually, though a few fed potash all year.
   § There were considerable variations with a very few feeding heavily all year (Feb-Nov) However, an estimated 50% used one only NPK dressing - the commonsense formulations being 10:2:10, though some used more.

3. TONNAGE PURCHASED
   All figures have been adjusted to total per 18 holes. They relate to use for all areas, tees, fairways, approaches etc. and not just greens. Note also that many returns showed in the group between 1-3 tonnes as being much nearer 1 tonne than 3.
   Under 1 tonne 21%
   1-3 tonnes 70%
   Up to 5 tonnes 7%
   * In excess of 5 tonnes 2%
   * One club admitted to using 24 tonnes per 18 holes, but few known recognised larger users replied to the survey.

4. AREAS FED
   It was not possible because of incomplete returns to assess how many clubs fed fairways as a routine - but deduced from 91% using up to 3 tonnes, we can safely assume very few.

5. FIRST APPLICATION
   No consistency but a few stated February/March most in (late) April.

Very few of the 91% using up to three tonnes used fertiliser in autumn, most stopped early August (sometimes sooner).

6. FUNGICIDES
   There was a direct relationship between heavier fertiliser use and high fungicide bills. The average of all respondents was £2450 per annum. However, a few used over £10,000 p.a. and one £24,000. Eliminating these, the average fell to £180. But it is noteworthy that 22% used either nothing or under £250 p.a. on fungicides.

7. RELATIONSHIP OF BUDGET TO SIZE OF CLUB
   There was no direct relationship. Many 36 hole complexes used less than 3 tonnes p.a. per 18 holes, while one 18 hole club admitted to using 24 tonnes p.a. of fertiliser.

CONCLUSION

The majority (65%) of respondents use no phosphatic fertilisers. The link between poa annua invasion-dominance and phosphatic fertilisers has been known and accepted for 90 years, with too many lapses, encouraged by advisers and fertiliser companies using just a little phosphate - and regular use of potash - will bring in poa in weeks and reverse years of its discouragement by using N2 only. This particularly applies to the use of NPK autumn fertilisers.

The recession, increasingly making itself felt, means budgets must be pruned, which does not imply lowering standards. The one thing fine turf does not need is either water or feeding over very limited levels. These figures confirm my personal observations over many years and, more to the point, are agreed by fertiliser distributing agents as being in line with their experience and records.

J. H. Arthur

SECRETARY TO GOLF COURSE COMMITTEE NAMED

Steve Isaac has been appointed to the new position of Secretary to the R&A's Golf Course Committee.

"This appointment reflects our belief that golf courses throughout the world should be presenting themselves in the best possible condition and be working to the highest ecological and environmental standards," said Peter Dawson, Secretary of the R&A.

"We are therefore delighted that Steve Isaac, a highly experienced and widely travelled agronomist, will be joining our team in St Andrews."

The Secretary to the Golf Course Committee, reporting directly to Duncan Weir, will be responsible for developing management strategy guidance on all aspects of the golf course paying particular attention to the use of water and chemicals, climate change, planning of new courses and levels of play.

BUDDING GLASS MASTERS

SISIS have appointed two new regional dealers to promote and sell their range of mowing equipment, and to offer a first-class after sales service.

Mitchells are appointed to cover the Midlands and have branches throughout the area and C & O Tractors Ltd at Blandford in Dorset are appointed to offer sales and service in Dorset, Wiltshire and South West Hampshire.

THANK YOU

BIGGA would like to thank the estate of the late Doug Bell, Northern Regional Administrator, for the donation of Doug's library of golf books to the BIGGA library.

DOUBLE DEALING

Steve Isaac, 41, gained a BSc (Hons) in Applied Biology from Liverpool Polytechnic in 1983. For many years he has worked for the Sports Turf Research Institute (STRI) and recently has been based in Blairgowrie in the position of Area Manager for Scotland and Ireland.

He will work with the Committee to offer best-practice professional advice and information to architects, golf associations and federations, planners, government agencies, golf clubs, greenkeepers and other relevant groups.

Steve Isaac, 41, gained a BSc (Hons) in Applied Biology from Liverpool Polytechnic in 1983. For many years he has worked for the Sports Turf Research Institute (STRI) and recently has been based in Blairgowrie in the position of Area Manager for Scotland and Ireland.
Toro quality doesn’t cost, it pays.

Flex 21
The top of the range Toro Flex 21 walk-behind greens mower flexes with ground contours to virtually eliminate scalping and give a perfect cut.

Greensmaster 1000
With a 21 in cutting width, this popular walk-behind greens mower follows ground contours to achieve a close, consistent cut.

ProCore Aerator
This highly-productive aerator gives the best performance on greens – plus tees and fairways too.

And irrigation too...
Toro offers a complete range of innovative, high quality irrigation products and systems, including upgrade controllers, to help grow and maintain the best turf.

If you're one of those who thinks that the price tag of a quality Toro product is beyond your pocket – think again. The Toro Greensmaster 3250-D will not only give big savings in running costs, less down time and labour charges, but match-perfect play too. Toro machines are the cost-effective choice, being less expensive in the long run. So for best value, it really pays to take a closer look at Toro. Just call 01480 226800 today.

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A Huge Investment by BIGGA

Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson, trumpets the amount the Association does for greenkeeper education and outlines some of the projects that are currently underway.

BIGGA has continued to invest, heavily, in greenkeeper education and training over the past year. The total spend is over £150,000, which means that we are spending an average of £25 per greenkeeper member on education, training and development.

This year has seen the largest, ever, subsidy to Regional Training, thanks to contributors to the BIGGA Education and Development Fund. Continue to Learn, at Harrogate, in January 2003, featured speakers from around the world and delegate fees started at £0, as some of the Seminar sessions were free of charge.

Working alongside the GTC and the GCSAI has enabled us to produce and distribute a careers CD ROM, which describes careers in greenkeeping and golf course management to those thinking about their future.

Thanks to a number of sponsors, we have been able to run the Golf Environment Competition, the Student of the Year Competition and the BIGGA Higher Education Scholarships Scheme, plus issue Machinery and Work Equipment Training Guides to all Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers.

Regional Training

The Autumn 2002 and Spring 2003 Regional Training Course Season is now over. Our initial plan was to run 28 courses but we have had to cancel nine. However, we were asked to run an extra 12 courses, making 31 courses altogether, which attracted 256 delegates.

Regional Courses at Manchester and Luton, again, attracted delegates from around the UK and Europe. Courses have included Basic Computer Skills, Soil Science, Abrasive Wheels, Chain Saw, Manual Handling, Health and Safety Awareness, Budgets and Finance, Presentations, First Aid, Essential Management Skills, Coaching Skills, Project Management, Reel Sharpening, Presenting a Professional Image and Further Management Skills.

The Education and Development Fund also supported the Scottish Education Conference, the Midlands Region Conference and the South West Region Conference. It is now time to begin planning Regional Courses for Autumn 2003 and Spring 2004 and Regional Administrators and Section Secretaries have been asked to bid for training in their Regions and Sections. However, we can arrange training on most subjects in all areas for members of BIGGA. All we need is the type of training required, a location where the training can take place and a minimum number of delegates e.g. four delegates for a Chain Saw Course, six delegates for a management skills course. The cost of courses will be held at the incredibly low rate of £30 (+VAT) for a one-day course and £60 (+VAT) for a two-day course.

Moreover, as each day of training costs £800, the cost for ten delegates is £8,000 each. This means that each day of training is subsidised by at least £50. Therefore, you need to attend only two days of training per year to recover more than the cost of membership.

Make sure that you get the training that you need, at a location that is convenient to you, at a price that is way below the commercial rate, by contacting your Regional Administrator, your Section Secretary or by contacting Ken or Sami at BIGGA HOUSE.

Machinery and Work Equipment Training Manual

Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers in the UK, Ireland and mainland Europe should be receiving their copy of the Machinery and Work Equipment Training Manual sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen by the end of this month. The printing has been delayed due to a number of factors beyond our control but printing is now complete. If your copy does not arrive by the end of May then please contact BIGGA House.
Thanks to continued support from the R&A, plus sponsorship from Scotts UK Professional and Syngenta Professional Products we have, again, been able to run the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition. Application forms have been sent to more than 100 golf clubs but there is still chance for you to enter. Simply contact BIGGA House and ask for an application form or download a form from our website.

Increased sponsorship has led to a greater number of prizes, with the winner receiving a Scotts Weather Master weather station and a cheque for £2,000. At the other extreme, the Best Newcomer will receive a cheque for £500.

Environmental Awards for Golf Operators

They say that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, which seems to be the case with an award from the Friends of Conservation called the Environmental Awards for Golf Operators. Supported by the UK Travel and Tourism Industry, Friends of Conservation have launched a competition to encourage wildlife friendly practices on golf courses. The first prize will be a cheque for £2,500. All submissions need to be supported by a recognised local wildlife/environmental/conservation body. Further details can be obtained from Friends of Conservation, 16-18 Denbigh Street, London, SW1V 2ER, 020 7828 4856, e-mail: info@foc-uk.com. Their website is: www.foc-uk.com

The entry deadline for entries to this year’s Toro Student of the Year Competition is fast approaching. Entries should be returned to BIGGA House by 9 May. Judging will commence, in Edinburgh, on Monday 30 June. If you wish to nominate a student greenkeeper and have not received an entry form, contact BIGGA HOUSE as soon as possible. Entry forms can also be downloaded from our website: www.bigga.org.uk

More than 20 greenkeepers are seeing the benefit from BIGGA Higher Education Scholarships which are supported by Ransomes Jacobsen. Courses being studied cover the full range of higher education from NVQ Level 4 to MSC. Funding is available for those starting courses in 2004 so why not take the plunge by asking for an application form to plan the next move in your career development.

INDISPENSABLE!

Thatch-Away SUPA-SYSTEM + True-Surface Rollers

The essential combination for fast and healthy greens!

"Swing-Open" Units  Verticutter  Sarel Roller  Groomer  Scarifier  Star Slitter  Rotary Brush  Deep Slicer

Agronomists all over the country are recommending golf courses to use the Thatch-Away SUPA-SYSTEM and True Surface Vibratory Rollers to improve the quality of their putting surfaces.

The results speak for themselves!
If you haven’t seen them in action yet, just ask for a FREE demonstration on your course
They do just what they say!

GreenTek

INNOVATIVE TURF CARE MACHINERY DESIGNED TO SAVE YOUR TIME!
Rachael and Gemma from the Membership Department would like to welcome 107 new members to the Association and introduce a wider range of benefits to members.

**IMPROVED INSURANCE QUOTATION SERVICE**

For the past few years BIGGA has made an insurance quotation service available to its members. This service, in conjunction with Heath Lambert Affinity Partnerships, is now expanding and offers a wide range of products. For an immediate quotation of any of the following please call 01603 828255

The range of products available to members consists of:

**PERSONAL LOANS**

Unsecured personal loans are available up to £25,000 at highly preferential rates from a variety of providers.

**MORTGAGES**

A panel of mortgage providers who are able to offer unique products tailored to meet your specific requirements.

**LIFE ASSURANCE**

There are two types of Term Insurance cover available, providing protection to meet your needs.

- Level Term Assurance - which provides a tax-free cash lump sum in the event of the death of the life assured during a specified period (the Term)
- Decreasing Term Assurance - sometimes known as a Mortgage Protection Plan, this policy is designed to pay off the outstanding amount of a repayment mortgage as it reduces over time, by clearing the remaining mortgage in the event of death within the term.

**HOUSEHOLD INSURANCE**

Insurance cover is available for buildings and contents, with a discount on the overall premium for insuring both the buildings and contents in a combined policy. Cover automatically includes new for old replacement of items, and the optional instalment plan means that you can spread the cost of your premium.