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Now that the snow and the ice have disappeared and spring has arrived, travelling to work has become a great deal easier and as a result journeying minds have been much freer to roam — well, mine has been anyway on the 45 minute journey to BIGGA HOUSE each day.

This morning I found myself thinking about colours — it might not be the brightest, but one thing I do possess is an eclectic brain. I was studying the array of differently coloured cars that were either ahead of me or coming in the other direction. York and its outskirts can be a short surf over some of the car manufacturers’ websites reveals some spectacular colours — Moondust Silver; Tungsten Blue; Grenadine (reddish) Avalon (light bluey); Chilli Red; Nayar (blueish), Limina (orangey); Grenadine (reddish) Avalon (light bluey); Chilli Red; Nayar (blueish), Limina Orange and Crono Yellow, to name but a few.

Now you can get every colour under the sun and many fancy new ones that haven’t ever appeared in a rainbow.

A short surf over some of the car manufacturers’ websites reveals some spectacular colours — Moondust Silver; Tungsten Blue; Grenadine (reddish) Avalon (light bluey); Chilli Red; Nayar (blueish), Limina Orange and Crono Yellow, to name but a few.

WELCOME FROM THE EDITOR

Scott MacCallum
Editor

As I say, these are just the musings of a bored motorist with a bit of time to kill. I’m sure there are 101 reasons why it’s a daft idea — not least the chaos and congestion it would cause in paint shops throughout the industry — but, hey, if Newton hadn’t let his mind wander to apples falling from trees; or Einstein hadn’t started messing with E=mc²; or Mr Rubic not fiddled about with his cube, where on earth would we be?

Cayman Blue or Astral Black, or chose to order your new fairway triple in Blazer Blue, Citrus (pale green) or Dacuma Grey. You could tie it in with your own golf club colours or offer a colour option to a company willing to pay sponsorship — a la Formula 1!

Ah, I hear you ask, but how would the different manufacturers be able to identify themselves if not by colour, as is the current practice?

Well, and this shows just how much I was thinking about this, they could develop badges along the lines of their road going cousins.

I’m sure they could easily come up with a range of iconic badges to match Rolls Royce’s Spirit of Ecstasy, or the VW badge, so beloved of the Beastie Boys in the 1980s. Before long you’d only need to glance to the front of the machine to confirm the manufacturer of that magnificent Tungsten Blue utility vehicle or the Decuma Grey mulching mower.

As I say, these are just the musings of a bored driver
A look at what’s inside the magazine this month

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PowerPlay Golf, the new two-flag version of golf, has announced plans to team up with Kingarrock, Scotland’s spiritual home of hickory golf, to create a fascinating event which blends the old and the new.

The PowerPlay Golf Kingarrock Hickory Cup will be staged at the “hickory only” nine-hole Kingarrock golf course in Cupar, Fife, in June.

“While we have built a course which honours hickory golf, and although we insist that only hickory equipment and the Kingarrock ball are used, we believe we are also forward-looking in that we aim to give modern golfers a new experience,” said Kingarrock Hickory Golf Owner, David Anderson.

“Both Kingarrock Hickory Golf and PowerPlay Golf are 9-hole golfing experiences, so on that simple level we are a great match,” said PowerPlay Golf co-founder and ex Walker Cup Captain, Peter McEvoy OBE.

The PowerPlay Golf Kingarrock Hickory Cup is open to anyone with a handicap. Half of everyone’s entrance fee of £20 will be donated to the Erskine charity, which cares for ex-Service men and women. Prizes will include original hickory golf clubs for the top three returns.

Competitors should call Kingarrock Hickory Golf on 01334 653421 or email michelle@kingarrock.com to register and reserve their time for the 1st tee. Entries close on 21st May 2010 and are accepted on a ‘first come – first serve’ basis.
Success at Seaford College

Following the success of an Open Day at Fulford Heath GC, a second day, at Seaford College in East Sussex, was organised by R&K Kensett Ltd, in conjunction with Arun Mowers.

The agenda was a mixture of machinery demos and talks by several experts; Simon Watson, of Syngenta; John Noyce, of Scotts; the STRI’s Dr Ruth Mann on the results of the STRI trials using the Graden Contour Sand Injection and Charles Henderson, on Organic Matter Control.

Keith Kensett spoke about Enviromist sprayers and the CDA process. Approximately 60 turf professionals from golf and cricket clubs, private schools and colleges attended.

Success at Seaford College

Freezing conditions over winter have sent Terrain Aeration back to Sittingbourne and Milton Regis Golf Club, in Kent, to rectify a pan layer caused by perma frost on nine of the 18 greens.

Head Greenkeeper, David Horne, who was one of the first turf managers to use the terralift machine when it arrived in the country in 1987, says that the frost affecting his older clay lined push-up greens about seven to eight inches below the surface.

“One once the thaw starts the surface softens but if you insert an 8 inch screwdriver into the turf it hits a frosted pan which isn’t going to let water permeate through. You’ve got to find something that will get through it.”

David, like greenkeepers all over the country, has had his spring maintenance programme put back because of the weather.

TERRALIFT TREATS PERMA FROST PAN
Three final year BSc Hons turfgrass students, Paul Cook, Joshua Webber and Matthew Byers, at Myerscough College, were charged with organising an event for the benefit of their fellow students from all disciplines and years.

Given that these students are potential future managers it’s not surprising that sustainability was chosen as the theme for the day and as the college, the R&A and BIGGA are committed to actively promoting sustainable resource management all three organisations were happy to support the event.

Phillip Russell, Assistant to the Director of Golf R&A, got the day underway with his overview of the R&A and its promotion of sustainable management. John Fry, Social Scientist and Myerscough lecturer, then gave his audience much food for thought with a piece on the Globalisation of Golf and the pressures surrounding the game today.

BIGGA’s Tracey Madison delivered a membership presentation with particular reference to students. The final session of the morning was the introduction of the Gingerbread Men – a group of greenkeepers from North Wales and Cheshire with a passion for sustainable management who collude to share ideas, promote best practice and generally spread the word.

Lunch was provided to sustain the attendees through the afternoon workshops. For these, groups were formed of mixed disciplines and study years. The groups were given different technical problems and scenario’s to solve along with a gingerbread man to bounce ideas off, pick their brains on topics covering ecology, species conversion, communication and reduction of chemical and fertiliser inputs.

In case that wasn’t enough there was a video quiz and a “Looking to the Future” questionnaire which was mediated at the end of the day by Dr Andy Owen, BSc Turfgrass Course Leader at Myerscough.

A huge thank you once again to everyone involved who helped make the day possible.

Picking the Brains of a Gingerbread Man

Ian Mackay

It is with great sadness that I announce the death of Ian (John) Mackay formerly of Sisis equipment. Looking on many years of our great friendship, I can think of so many good times spent on the golf course, at seminars, Harrogate trips and holidays to name a few. I first met Ian as a young apprentice back in the early 80s when he called on our boss at the time, Archie Macmillan. We had purchased one of the first Sisis hydromains and I was the one who had to use it. My muscles are still strong to this day.

It wasn’t until I became Head Greenkeeper at Renfrew that we became buddies. He taught me so many things about aeration the values of hard work and life in general I will be forever grateful.

Away from work he liked to play golf and was a member at Erskine Golf Club. I think his favourite part of the round was a vodka and tonic at the 19th. He was a family man and loved spending time with his wife, Sylvia, and son, Graham, of whom he was so proud.

He was a very witty man telling his many stories and jokes which were all true. His true passion on life was his football team, Glasgow Rangers, and he was an ardent follower.

Sylvia and Graham would like to thank everyone who attended Ian’s funeral it was a great strength at such a sad time.

Ian Mackay - remembered with a smile.

Fraser Ross
Renfrew Golf Club

FOUR NEW TRUCKS FOR BARTLETT

Bartlett Tree Experts has taken delivery of four new company trucks built by Tipmaster, each featuring an on-board 7/41G compressor from Doosan Infracore Portable Power. The trucks are based at Bartlett’s offices at Manchester, Radlett, Guildford and Cheltenham.

The 7/41G portable compressor supplies compressed air at 7 bar (100 psig) and incorporates a 6 kVA generator to provide both compressed air and electrical power from the same machine. The compressed air is mainly used by Bartlett for Root Invigoration work
THE NEW MEMBER OF OUR FAMILY,
THE GROUNDSMASTER 4300-D.
BECAUSE ONE SIZE DOESN’T FIT ALL.

TORO first began manufacturing engines for tractors in the USA almost 100 years ago. Today we produce some of the finest turf machinery, landscaping and irrigation equipment in the world. Like our latest addition to the TORO family, the Groundsmaster 4300-D rotary mower. The Groundsmaster range can cut roughs in record time, providing outstanding results with or without stripes. Contour Plus cutting units closely follow the contours of the ground, delivering a perfect cut even on undulating terrain, and rollers can provide stripes if required. The choice of the country’s top golf courses, the Groundsmaster range is the perfect rotary. So why not contact us today for a demonstration.

Call 01480 226800 or visit www.toro.com
I have just come back from my second visit to the South Atlantic (see GI November 2009). This time I managed to speak to ‘Shotty’ Green, the Greenkeeper at Longwood Golf Course, on St Helena, who has maintained the course for the last six years since retiring as a truck driver. He has not had any formal training and contacts the Islands Agriculture Department if he has any problems.

There are around 100 members, with a joining fee of £6, plus £2 per month. Most of the members are retired and are a mixture of ex-pats and locals.

Machinery used includes a two year old Kubota and an old 18” ride-on greens mower with a roller under the seat.

During their winter, which is equivalent to our summer, the nine fairways are cut every other week, taking three days. In the summer, the fairways are cut once a month.

One of the main problems on the island is lack of rain and the nine greens each has irrigation, but it is only possible to use it if enough water is available in the storage tank. Greens take three hours to cut and are cut once a week all year round.

When asked about other pesticides used on the golf course, Shotty said he didn’t get many weeds on the greens and any that do can easily be hand weeded. Disease does not seem to be an issue although there are many potential pests. Goats can be a problem if they escape from their tethers and sometimes rabbits and feral donkeys. Because the course is an open site people have access to all of the areas and children often ride bikes across the greens.

I asked about feeding the greens and Shotty replied that fertiliser is not available on the island.

After spending a couple of days on St Helena I travelled to Ascension Island to undertake some pesticides training.

Like St Helena, Ascension is a volcanic island and much of it is wasteland of lava flows and cinder cones.

While here I visited One Boat Golf Club, the only golf facility on Ascension Island and designed in 1964 by an American – Dr Bill. The greens, ‘brows’ (see photograph) are constructed of a variable layer of sand bound with recycled oil that comes from establishments from all over the island. Oil is applied every couple of months to ensure a relatively stable playing surface. The landscape around most of the island is volcanic lava without a soil layer, hence the sand and oil playing surface. Traditionally the sand is replenished from one of the islands beaches every five years. Recently though the Island Government has said that this will need to be looked into as most of the beaches are used by turtles for nesting.

It is an 18 hole, par 67 course and visitors who are used to traditional grass courses find it more difficult.

I met their part time greenkeeper, Martin Cranfield, who works on the US airbase as his main job. At any one time there are only around 1000 people resident on the island, most of them like Martin from St Helena 900 miles, or three days ship journey, away. The previous greenkeeper was ‘Ghostie’ Charlie Crowie, who also holds the course record of 52!

Martin told me that nine holes are brushed on Friday, nine on Saturday.

On an average week up to 50 people will play a round of golf, mainly on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays. The 19th hole relies on honesty – a chitty is filled in for each drink and a bill is then presented at the end of the month.