**US-UK study: It is greener on the other side of pond**

**By ANDREW OVERBECK**

SANTA ROSA, Calif. — The top American golf courses earn twice as much and spend twice as much on maintenance as their U.K. counterparts, according to a survey by novice architect Bettina Schrickel.

Following a year comparing the maintenance practices of 25 of the top golf courses in both the United States and the United Kingdom for her graduate thesis in golf course architecture at Merrist Wood College in Surrey, England, Schrickel has published the findings of her study.

"Some of the numbers really surprised me," said Schrickel. "For example, the large gap between the financial income of the clubs, the maintenance budgets and the number of greenkeepers."

Of the American courses that she visited, the average income was $2 million, the maintenance budget was $970,000 and the number of greenkeepers was 18. Comparably, U.K. courses had an average income of $800,000, a maintenance budget of $340,000 and an average of eight greenkeepers. Further, annual membership numbers were close with an average income of $800,000, a maintenance budget of $340,000 and an average of eight greenkeepers. Further, annual member...