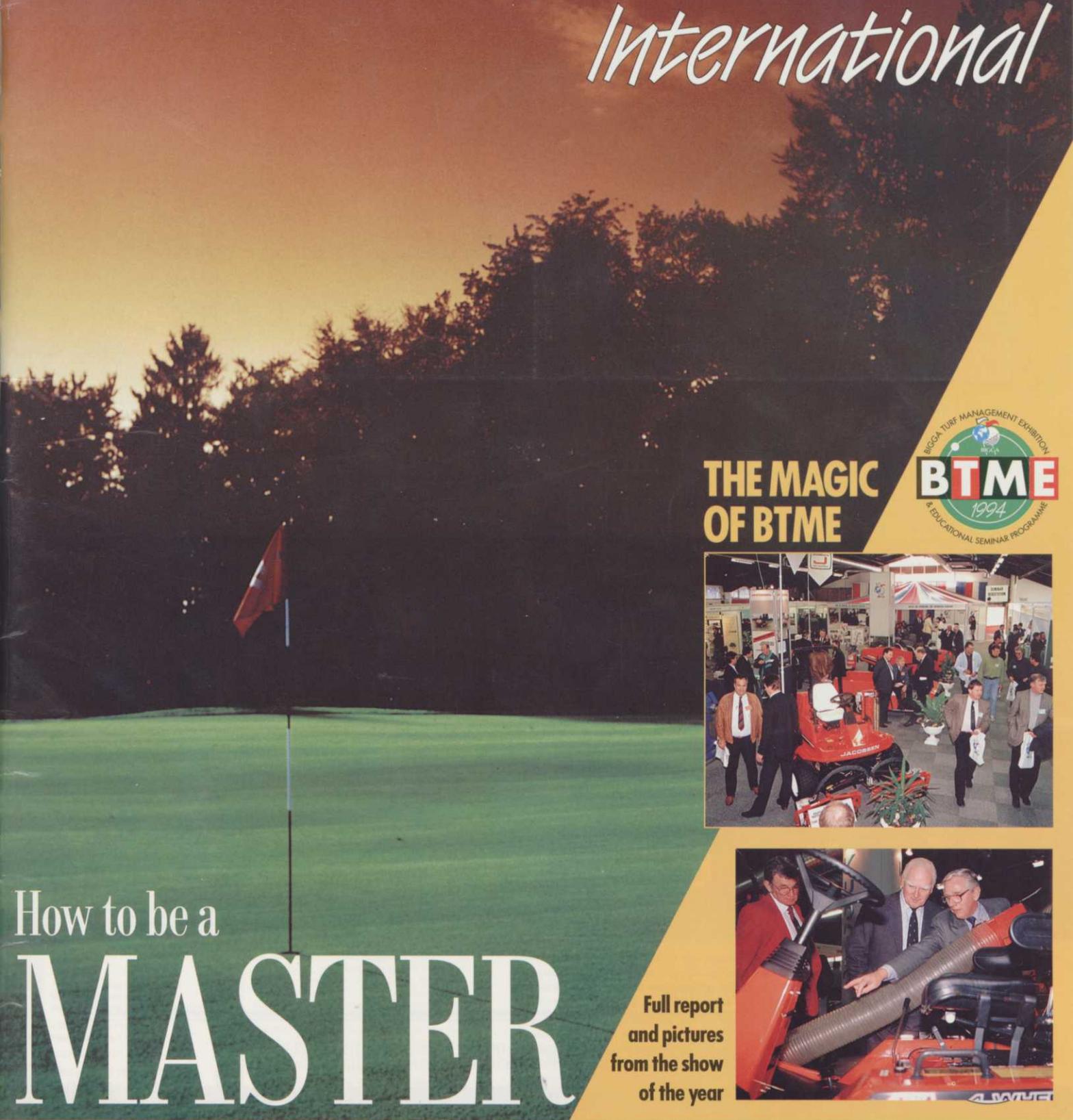


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Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Aine,
York, North Yorkshire YO6 2NF

EDITOR

Chris Boiling
Tel: 0347 838581 • Fax: 0347 838864

DESIGN/PRODUCTION EDITOR
Tim Moat
Tel: 0904 610611 • Fax: 0904 643074

SALES AND MARKETING MANAGER
Bill Lynch
Tel/Fax: 091 413 7218

SENIOR ADVERTISING SALES EXECUTIVE
Carol Dutton
Tel: 0347 838581 • Fax: 0347 838864

SALES AND MARKETING ASSISTANT
Louise Lunn
Tel: 0347 838581 • Fax: 0347 838864

PRINTING

Hi-Tec Print, Unit 7, Universal Crescent,
Houghton Road, North Anston Trading
Estate, Dinnington, South Yorkshire S31 7JJ
Tel: 0909 568533 • Fax: 0909 568206

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Golf Greenkeepers Association

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by Peter Shaw and the winning photograph in a Farmura competition. More details on Page 7

Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

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All write now

New editor Chris Boiling launches an award scheme to encourage you to contribute to your magazine.

THE PHOTO on this month's cover was taken by a greenkeeper. The crossword is compiled by a greenkeeper. There are a couple of articles by greenkeepers. But I want more.

This is your magazine, so why don't you all make it your goal to contribute at least one article, idea, letter, photo or news story this year. That will give me more time out of the office, so I can come and sample your courses.

To encourage you I'm launching two new awards this issue – the Greenkeeper International Writer of the Year Award and the Greenkeeper International Photographer of the Year contest. Any greenkeeper who has a word or image published in the magazine this year will be eligible.

As well as a trophy there will be a prize, but I've only just started in this job so I haven't had time to source something suitable. But it will be worth winning.

The winners will be selected by the magazine sub-committee and the work of all the shortlisted candidates will be exhibited at the 1995 BTME – for all your colleagues to admire.

The American magazine Golf Course Management runs its own editorial awards and the winner, Thomas Christy, a golf course superintendent in Oregon, collected his prize at this month's International Golf Course Conference and Show in Dallas.

His winning article was called 'Redesigning Equipment Washdown Pads'. In it, Christy described an innovative system that he devised for wash water containment and recycling. The system was inspired by regulations put into effect by the federal Clean Water Act and local water-use restrictions enacted as a consequence of the Western drought. And I hope it has inspired you. I shall look forward to hearing from you ALL at some point this year.

Working towards the next millenium

In the course of this column I will report from time to time on Board of Management matters and I believe a particularly important decision was taken at the recent December meeting. 1994 has been earmarked for the preparation of a five year plan which will take the Association through to the second millenium. Throughout 1994 there will be the opportunity to review the workings of the Association after seven years of solid growth and achievement. Whilst the plan will be initiated from your Headquarters there will be a full consultative process through the Board of Management to Regional Boards and Section Committees and then back up through the structure. I would urge each individual member who has something to say to make his views known to his Section Committee by contacting his Section Secretary – and the earlier the better!

Apart from looking at policies and programmes to take us forward from 1995, the review will examine the structure of the Association as established through the Constitution from Board of Management through regions to sections. Changes may be necessary to the Constitution. If so they need to be well thought out and capable of standing the test of time. The Constitution is fundamental to any organisation and whilst ours has served us well during the last seven years it may well need a little fine tuning now to ensure a viable structure for the Association into the next century. There has been much discussion of late concerning the composition of the Board of Management, on how long Board members should serve and an increasing awareness of the demands made on Board members. At regional level the increasing amount of paperwork is a concern and there is a need for a uniformity of approach amongst Regional boards. In line with the Constitution sections continue

very much as independent units but this does cause variations in standards and overall administration. I wonder, after seven years, how many sections have actually formed their own bye-laws as provided for in the Constitution? There is a need for a common approach and one area which I know John Pemberton intends looking at closely in 1994 is the preparation of section accounts, still too often a loose and haphazard annual event. Many areas then to be addressed.

Apart from specifics, the benefits of such a review and the creation of a plan which can then be updated annually are many. Some



BIGGA in focus

BY NEIL THOMAS

of you may be aware of recent problems within the structure of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. There the fundamental issue concerned a large organisation which was perceived to be losing touch with its members. As one GCSAA member put it '...The Board needs to know what the people in the field are doing, and the people in the field need to know what the association is doing... It's a sign of opening up for the members out in the field'. Now here we are talking about an organisation over sixty years old. By comparison we are very much at the fledgling stage. However, after making allowances for size and tradition, some comparisons are valid. I have long since been aware of the

need for BIGGA to provide within its structure the opportunity for any member to make his views known, and for that member to have the confidence that those views will be listened to, respected and, where appropriate, acted upon. With our membership now well past the 5,000 mark we need to examine the democratic processes we have in place to ensure that they will serve our members well in the future. BIGGA is a members' organisation established not for the benefit of its officers or staff but for its growing membership and it is they who must ultimately determine the future direction of the Association.

During the early months of 1994 your senior management team at Headquarters will initiate the review and five year plan. Regions and Sections should be submitting ideas for consideration as soon as possible. After consideration by the Board of Management, the initial draft will be circulated to Regions and Sections in early summer with a view to comments being forwarded to Headquarters by the beginning of September. It will be incumbent on Regions and Sections to widely canvass the views of members at section level. During the autumn period a final plan will be drawn up for approval by the Board of Management and ratification at the 1995 Annual General Meeting. It will be a year of opportunity, a chance for objectivity, a time when we can consolidate our achievements but be innovative and initiate policies and programmes which will enhance our development. If, through this exercise, we can improve our structure and administration as well as set future goals then we will be strengthening BIGGA and ensuring that greenkeepers both now and in the future will be well served by a forward-looking, professional Association. Like me, I hope that you, the members, will look forward to the challenge.



BIGGA Staff Profile **JOHN PEMBERTON** Administration Manager

The man with day to day financial control of BIGGA's affairs is a former company accountant and computer and systems manager – with a passion for classic motorcycles! John Pemberton, who is married with one boy and two girls, owns a Triumph Bonneville which puts him on slightly firmer ground than his sporting interests when he was younger. "I was a keen oarsman in my teens and twenties," he says. "On several occasions I competed in and completed the UK's – if not the world's – longest rowing race of 21 miles from Lincoln to Boston. It involved negotiating locks by lifting the boat out of the water." John relaxes these days by "trying" to play golf, walking, squash and DIY "by necessity".



NEWS

Boiling in the hot seat

Keen golfer Chris Boiling is the new editor of Greenkeeper International. He took up the position just before the hugely successful BTME.

Greenkeeper International is the sixth magazine the 34-year-old newspaper trained journalist has edited. Immediately prior to the BIGGA post, he was editor of the award-winning Sports Boat International, Waterski Illustrated and Jet Skier magazines.

He has also written for Today's Golfer and Golf News.

GOT A HOT NEWS STORY FOR US? CALL CHRIS BOILING AT THE NEWSDESK: 0347 838581

Greenkeeper's charity drive

One-legged Dennis Archer, the course manager at Whitchurch Golf Club, Cardiff, raised more than £1,000 for charity by go-karting. He survived 29 laps during the Renault Disabled Karting Championship and although he didn't win any of the races he did collect a prize as the highest individual fundraiser. Nearly three-quarters of his £1,000 76p total came from greenkeepers. "This is sufficient to pay for up to three car conversions allowing disabled persons to drive again," said the 57-year-old manager who lost his leg last June due to a blocked artery.



Jack's all right after hip op

Jack McMillan, head of the McMillan clan of greenkeepers, receives his MBE after 48 years in the business. When we phoned to congratulate him, his wife Rita said he was recovering in hospital from a hip operation. He'd been waiting two years for it. Jack is well known in greenkeeping circles having been chairman of BIGGA in 1988, head greenkeeper at Sunningdale for ten years and having fathered five sons, all of whom are greenkeepers. His one daughter works for BUPA, so now he's got something to talk to her about.

FLYING DIVOTS

■ BIGGA's education officer, Debbie Savage, is leaving the Association after five years. She is moving south to Cambridgeshire. Debbie leaves with our best wishes for her future.



■ BUNKERS IN THE FORM of giant's footsteps and a giant in the rough at the end of the fairway are some of the unusual features that await the first greenkeeper at a course just being built in south-west Holland.

The 18-hole Efteling Golf Park is the latest development at the Efteling theme park. It will be opened in 1995. A practice area including driving range, three short holes and practice greens are due to open in June.

■ ANOTHER JACKLIN IS SET to make his mark on the European golf scene. But unlike his father Tony and his elder brother Warren, 24-year-old Bradley isn't too hot with a set of clubs. He's more at home with hole cutter and rake. Bradley, who has just spent two years on a turf management course at Michigan State University in America, has joined the Volvo tour as an agronomist and works as part of the greenkeeping support team.

■ FORMER RYDER CUP player Brian Huggett's latest project - an 18-hole course at Orchardleigh House near Frome, Somerset - is due to open at the end of the summer. Work stopped three years ago when the picturesque parkland estate went into receivership.

■ BROTHERS MIKE AND Jonathan Hinch have taken over as managing directors of H Pattison & Co and will oversee its relaunch.

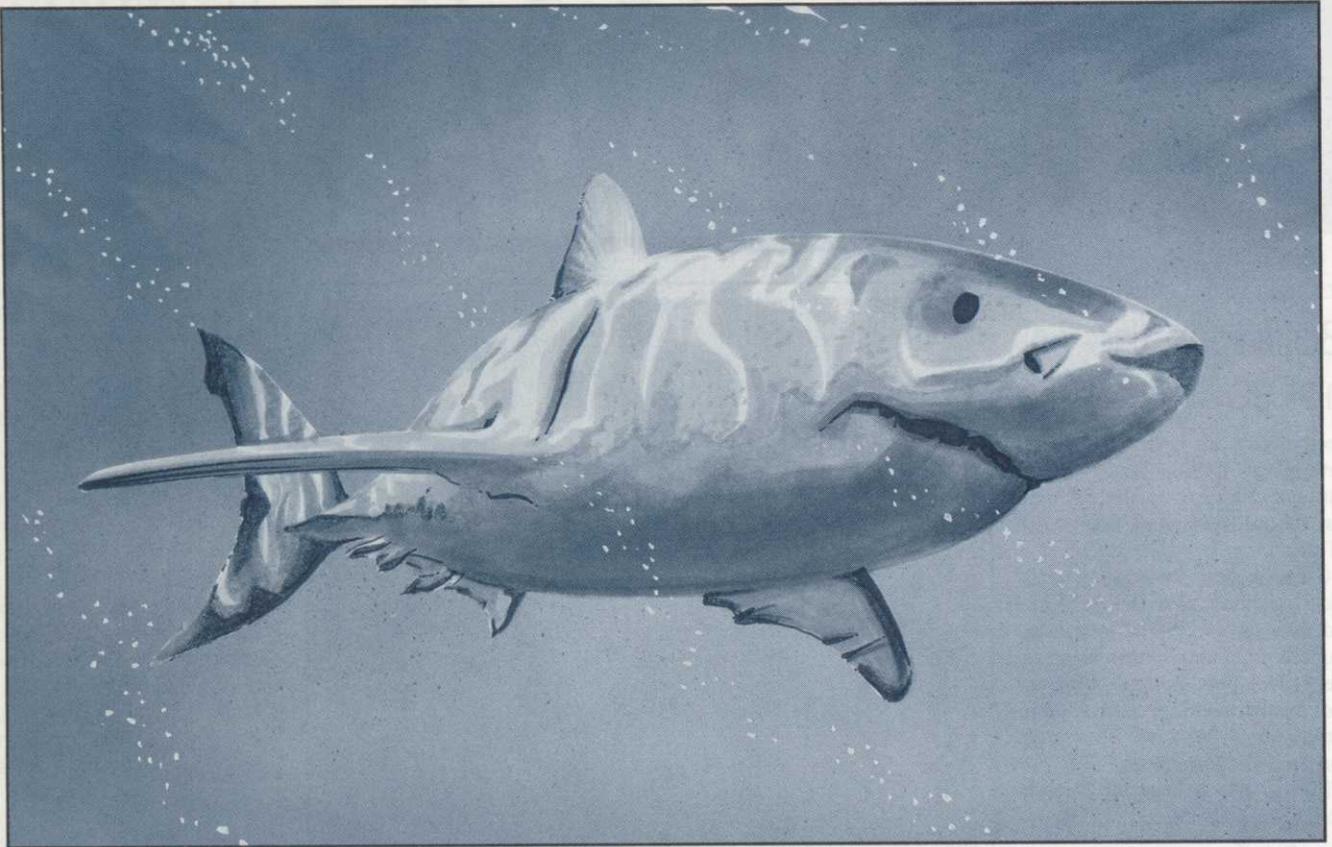
At the recent BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition they launched five new products including a winter tee mat in a steel frame, a divot box, a tee console with a new model ball washer, a ball dispenser and a ball collector. Seven more new products are in the pipeline, they said.



Toro gets load of bull

This is one piece of bull Graham Dale, managing director of Lely (UK) Ltd, doesn't mind receiving. It's the Toro Bull, an award which Toro gives to recognise "the best all-round performance" among its international distributors. Presenting the award is Ted Riley, Toro sales and marketing director for Europe.

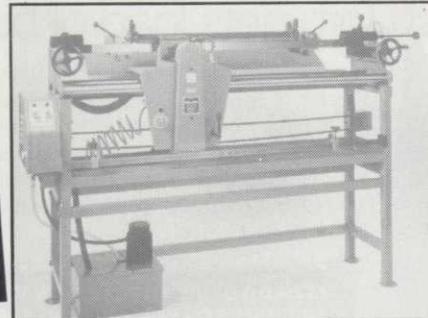
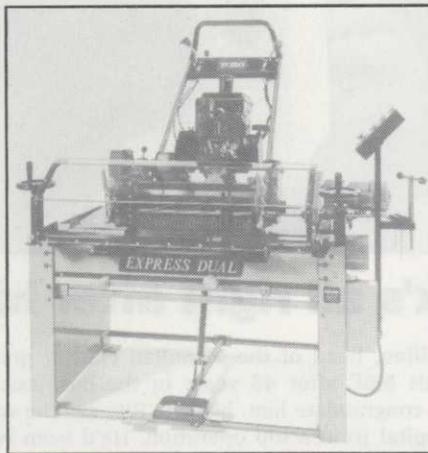
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NEWS

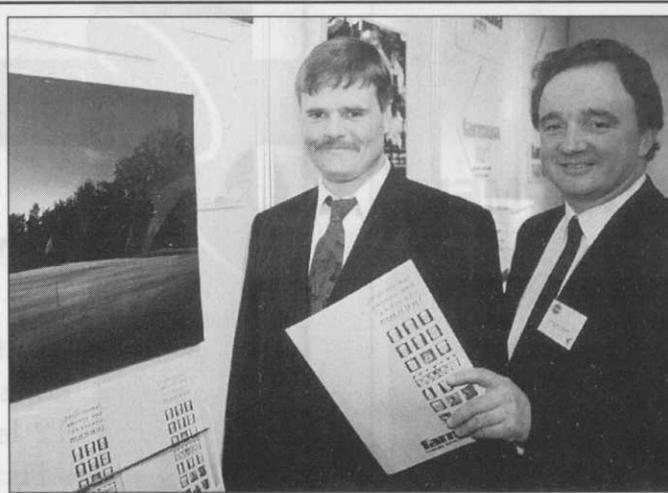
European ecology unit set up

A new European ecology unit has been set up by the European Golf Association, Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews and PGA European Tour. The aims of the European Golf Association Ecology Unit, which will be based in Brussels from April, are:

- to improve the image of golf through ecological interests;
- to encourage a higher standard of environmental performance from the golf development industry and golf course managers;
- to provide a serious contribution to the European environmental debate; and
- to ensure that the development and management of golf courses in Europe are not impeded by excessive, inappropriate environmental restrictions.

The programme, which is funded for an initial period of three years, has been developed in recognition of the need for the leading golfing bodies in Europe to present a coordinated approach to environmental issues.

The unit will be headed by British ecologist David Stubbs of Environmental Golf Services. He has spent the last seven years specialising in golf-ecology issues and is experienced in matching golf and conservation interests.



Peter in the picture

British greenkeepers working in Europe claimed the top two prizes in the Blazon/Farmura 'Better-Way-To-Spray' photographic competition.

Peter Shaw (left), course manager of the Munchen-Riedof Golf Club in Germany, took the first prize with the photo on this month's cover. His prize was an expenses paid trip to attend the GCSAA Convention in Dallas, USA, and £1,000 of free Farmura products for his course. He is pictured with Farmura's Jonathan Harmer.

Second prize of £500 worth of Farmura products went to Arnold Phipps-Jones, course manager at Limburg Golf and Country Club in Belgium. Third prize - £250 of Farmura products - was won by Peter Dawson, course manager at Wanstead Golf Club. More than 100 greenkeepers entered their views of 'Summer on the golf course'.

John Deere figures leap for '93

John Deere's managing director, Alec McKee, reports a good '93 and is hoping for more market share in '94. "UK sales were significantly higher in 1993, as a result of several new product launches, particularly the 455 lawn and garden tractor and the 1145 front mower," he said.

"We expect further market growth in 1994," he added.

The parent company has reported worldwide net sales of more than \$1 billion for the first time since the company set up its amenity business in the mid-1970s.

FLYING DIVOTS

■ DON'T WORRY IF YOU missed the big BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition in Harrogate, there are two more BIGGA shows to look forward to this year. Organised by BIGGA regions, the shows look set to ape the success of the main event. The shows are Westurf, organised by the South West and South Wales Region and Southurf, organised by the South East Region.

Westurf will take place at Long Ashton Golf Club, Bristol, on April 27 (tel: 0803 844056) and South Turf will be staged at Motspur Park, south-west London on June 29 (tel: 0342 850875).

■ Here's a man who's not letting the grass grow under his feet. Ian Backhouse has been appointed amenity product manager for Sharpes International with responsibility for the development of the company's Designer Range of amenity grass mixtures.



■ A MEETING OF REGIONAL Administrators and Section Secretaries will be held at BIGGA's Aldwark Manor HQ on February 22 and 23. The seminar is designed as an update as well as providing the opportunity for informal discussions on the development of the Association.

■ THE TOP 10 GOLF courses in Ireland, according to a poll carried out by the Irish Golf Institute, are:

- 1 Portmarnock
- 2 Royal Portrush
- 3 Ballybunion
- 4 Royal County Down
- 5 Waterville
- 6 Mount Juliet
- 7 The European Club, Co Wicklow
- 8 County Louth
- 9 The K-Club (Co Kildare)
- 10 Killeen, Killarney

■ WEED CONTROL seminars, organised by herbicide specialist Nomix-Chipman, are to be held throughout the country from February 15-March 3. The impact of new legislation will be highlighted. For full details contact Nomix-Chipman on 0272 574574.

Stirling effort pays off

Stirling Golf Club's James Easton, pictured right, a part-time student at Elmwood College, Cupar, took the prize for the HNC in golf course management (first year) and the Carnoustie Golf Links Award, which was presented for the first time this year. Ian Grant, chairman of the Scottish Tourist Board, handed over the prizes. Also given awards for greenkeeping were full-time student Paul O'Neill (Scotvec National Certificate in Greenkeeping) and part-time students Joseph Scriven of Callan GC (first year), Gordon Haughie of Southernness GC (second year) and Peter Haggarty of



Helensburgh GC (third year). David McOwat of Charlton GC, Fife, received the Distance Learning prize for the Scotvec National Certificate in Greenkeeping Supervision. The St Andrews Links Trust Award went to Scott Patrick of Ladybank GC for the best practical work in greenkeeping, and Rupert Lawrence of Verulam GC, St Albans, took the Gleneagles Challenge Trophy for the best project in greenkeeping.

● Pictured, back row, from left: James Easton, Gordon Haughie, David McOwat and Peter Haggarty. Front: Rupert Lawrence, Scott Patrick and Paul O'Neill.



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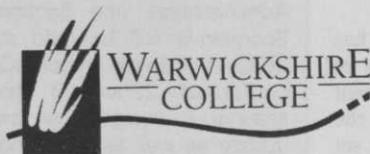
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Change may be the name of the game in the world of golf as new clubs, new schemes and new courses develop rapidly. But there's also a place for constancy. Malcolm Huntington paid a visit to one such organisation, Easingwold Golf Club in Yorkshire, where continuity is a driving influence...

There were some prestigious jobs going in last month's Greenkeeper International: Royal Birkdale, St Pierre, the London Golf Club...

But Jeff Waind, pictured right, head greenkeeper at Easingwold Golf Club near York, wouldn't swap his course for any of them. He loves his job. And he's been doing it for 25 years.

"We only come this way once, so it must be good to enjoy the job you do," said Jeff, when I talked to him in his comfortable room at the end of one of his workshops alongside the 18th fairway.

The rain poured down, the fairways were flooded and, like many places, the course was closed, so he had time to reminisce about his life at the club.

"If you enjoy your job, you stick to it. I have been very happy here and have no intention of applying for another post elsewhere.

"If they will have me, I want to be here for the rest of my working days. In any case, it would be too much of an upheaval.

"My wife Carol works in Easingwold and so does our daughter, Tina, so I can't imagine I could possibly be happier anywhere else," said the contented Waind, who was born in Thurnscoe, near Doncaster, 49 years ago, but has lived most of his life at Yearsley and Easingwold.

It is a far cry from early working days after he had left Easingwold School.

"I worked at Thornton Lodge Farm and then had a couple of years on the dustbins with North Yorkshire Council."

It was at that time that John Knowlson, who was Easingwold's chairman of greens at the time, asked him to work part-time with Charlie Tennant and George Banks.

"I liked it so much that when I was asked if I would take over the job full-time in 1968, I jumped at the chance.

"I was on my own when the club was only nine holes, but once they started building the new nine in 1973, they took on more staff and we now have four."

Waind has carefully overseen the growth of those nine holes, which had been laid out by golf course architects, Hawtree, and



Here for life

watching them develop has been one of his greatest joys.

Are there any changes he would have made with the benefit of hindsight?

"No, I have to say that with the 96 acres of land to be used, the people who have been associated with the club over many years have made good use of it. "The course drains very well because it's on sandy soil and we have never had any major problems, or any returfing to do over the years.

"We have a fair number of rabbits on the course and they do some damage, but we try to keep on top of them by one means or another..."

Naturally, he has seen a lot of changes over the years, the development of specialised machinery being one of the biggest. "We used to cut all our greens with a walk-behind 14" lawnmower, now we have Toro triples which cost a lot of money, but do a very good job.

"We also have water sprinklers on all greens and tees and also on one or two fairways.

"I would say this has been one

of the biggest time-savers. It's all a far cry from the days when we used to come down in the middle of the night to move the hosepipe. Now the water is all metered in any case."

Like most dedicated greenkeepers, he often works longer than the 39 hours prescribed, but he has no complaints about that.

"If you have a job to do, you just get on with it."

Jeff's favourite hole on the 6,285-yard course is the 13th, a 171-yard par 3 across a lake to an elevated green.

So does he ever fancy actually playing golf on the course he has carefully tended over 25 years?

"Not really. I spend a lot of time at the club, so you could say my wife is a golf widow of another kind. I don't think I could spend all night and all day here," he laughed. "But I have been known to hit a few balls down the practice ground near the 18th, although I haven't had time to do that for 18 months."

● Picture courtesy of the Yorkshire Evening Press

FLYING DIVOTS

■ TWO OF THE BIG NAMES in turf and grass equipment, Iseki and Massey Ferguson, have agreed plans to co-operate in the British and Irish markets. This means MF's grass equipment division is now the exclusive distributor for Iseki products in the UK and Ireland.

The two companies have been working closely together for some time. They have a joint venture company in Australia, Massey Ferguson Iseki (Australia) Ltd, which was formed in 1992, and they have a collaborative agreement for the manufacture of tractors. MF builds and supplies high horsepower tractors in Iseki livery for the Japanese market and in return MF has access to compact and small horsepower tractors built by Iseki to MF specification, styling and colours.

■ GOLF COURSE ARCHITECT Martin Gillett wants to attract families with the complex he's designed at Longlands Golf Park, Sidcup, London. When the site is completed it will boast putting greens, mini golf, driving range, practice facilities and a nine-hole par 3 course. The driving range is a bit different in that it is fully contoured with target greens, bunkers and pond. The course also features water, bunkers and landscaping not normally associated with a par 3 course. Mr Gillett believes more facilities like this should be developed to allow access to the game at an affordable level.

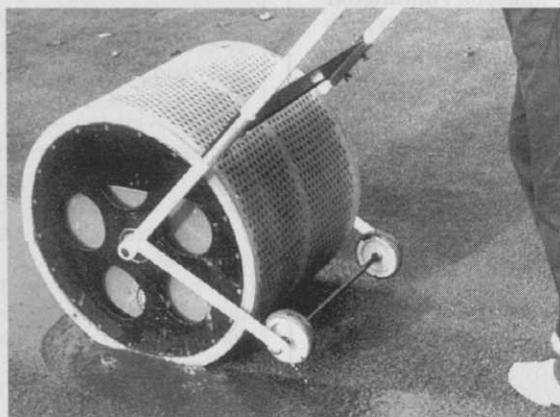
■ Bucks-based Risboro Turf - Jacobsen UK's top dealer - has appointed Shaun Armstrong as sales manager for Herts, Beds and Middlesex.



■ COLLIER TURF CARE (Distributors) Ltd will be holding its annual open day/seminar at The Hotel, Norwich, on Thursday February 24. To get your ticket call Andrew Harding on 0603 870944.

■ FRASER GROWN LAWN Professional Ltd has opened new turf nurseries at Sealand, Chester. Tel: 0244 660901.

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Masters

What is the Master Greenkeeper Certificate?
How do you get it? Why should you want one?
CHRIS BOILING investigates

Why would two Americans who are at the top of their profession and who are fast approaching their 50th birthdays want to sit a six-hour written exam to gain a British qualification?

The answer is that BIGGA's Master Greenkeeper Certificate is fast becoming the highest greenkeeping qualification in the world. It takes longer to complete than the American CGCS programme and, as the Americans who have taken both say, it is tougher.

Forty-seven-year-old Terry Buchen, who runs a "very, very, very private" course in Ohio, said he took it because "It's an international award and it's very well received. The response has been overwhelming. Golf Course News ran a story last April. The response was ten times more than I got when I picked up the US award."

His boss was so proud of his achievement that he paid out \$1400 for Terry and his wife to come to Harrogate to collect the award.

Terry picked it up with two British greenkeepers – David Whitaker and Anthony Davies. This means, four years after the launch of the Master Greenkeeper Certificate, there are now eight Masters, three of whom come from America. Another American is well on his way to collecting the award – so is a Swiss greenkeeper and four from Southern Ireland.

Ninety-four greenkeepers have registered for the award, 60 of whom are still on stage 1. On average it takes about two years to get it, and you have to put in a lot of work. So why do they do it?

Terry Buchen said "I've been a certified golf course superintendent in America since 1978. I think there's over 1,000 of us now. I was one of the first 200 and I've been a member of BIGGA since 1984. I enjoy reading Greenkeeper International and when the Master Greenkeepers Certificate

came up I was interested in it but I didn't think I'd be able to qualify because the standards were set very high. But that made me more determined to check it out.

"Once I found out my educational background was OK – I only have a two-year degree, I thought I'd have to have a four-year – but because of all my experience I did qualify."

"I think the big thing was it was an international award and BIGGA is very well thought of by Americans. The stand that they have at the National Convention every year is very well received. It was another mountain to climb and it was very fulfilling taking the written exam that had no true or false questions and no multiple choice – you can guess at a lot of the things on the American test but not on this, it's strictly essay questions. Very tough but very fair."

To prepare for the examine he had to brush up on his fescues and how courses are maintained in the UK which, in any case, he believes is the right way. "I think the way they're maintained over here is the right way. In America they're too lush, too green and too soft. In the UK you have non-irrigated fairways. Golf is played on grass not on colour. We way over do it and spend far too much money on it. In the UK it's the playing conditions that matter not the colour. In the US it's the colour that's most important."

Fellow American **Robert Maibusch**, 36, course superintendent of Hinsdale Golf Club in Illinois, first read about the Master Greenkeeper Certificate in Greenkeeper International after picking up a copy on the BIGGA stand at the GCSAA convention in Las Vegas three years ago. "My interest in the Certificate was as a personal challenge at first," he said. "The work leading up to the exam forced me to go back and review everything I'd ever learned and it

of their craft



Terry Buchen receives his Master Greenkeeper Certificate from Lord Griffiths at the BTME. Looking on, in the front row, are fellow recipients Anthony Davies, left and David Whitaker

was very rewarding. The exam itself was difficult but fair. The preparation is where the benefit is."

Bil Montague, who has spent 20 years at Oakwood Club, Kirtland, Ohio, was the first American to hold both a CGCS and Master award. He got interested in the scheme when he visited the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition a few years ago. "I joined up and then became determined to be the first American to be certified. I had reached a point where I still needed an educational challenge. It just seemed like a good thing for me to do," says the bearded 46-year-old.

The two British greenkeepers

honoured with Terry Buchen at the '94 BTME are much younger than the Americans. They're both aged 32. **Anthony Davies** is head greenkeeper at Prestbury Golf Club near Macclesfield and **David Whitaker** is course manager at Wisley Golf Club in Surrey.

Anthony told Greenkeeper International: "After receiving the first ICI Greenkeeper of the Year Award in 1990, my greens chairman, Dr James Gardiner, asked me what else was there? I said, 'Well, there's this new Master Greenkeeper Certificate.' I was told to go for it, I wanted it and I got it. It's a great achievement and I'm very proud of it."

For David, who also has a consultancy business, the reason was very simple: "I wanted to have the highest qualification in greenkeeping." The benefits are: "The golf course are very pleased, it's raised my esteem in golf and I get better recognition from my employers."

The award is based on three things: experience, ability and education. To gain a Masters Greenkeepers Certificate you need all three - in abundance.

"It is a highly meritorious award," according to BIGGA's executive director Neil Thomas. "Now four years old, it must rank as one of the Association's greatest achievements to date..."

THE CERTIFICATE

To become a Master Greenkeeper you need to 'pass' three stages. You 'pass' by collecting 'credits'.

■ Stage 1 is based on education and experience and you'll need 200 credits before you go on to the next stage. Examples of credits include: 15 credits for phase 1 City and Guilds Certificate of Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management; 54 for phase 2 (two years), 24 for phase 3 and 24 for phase 4, and there are bonus points if these are taken at an 'approved college'. Scotvec students get six credits per 40-hour module and three per 20-hour module (up to a maximum 102). You can also collect credits by attending BIGGA-organised seminars, courses and conferences. You also get four credits for every year in greenkeeping.

■ For stage 2 two course managers/head greenkeepers visit your course during the growing season, assess it and ask you questions.

■ Stage 3 consists of two three-hour papers: 1) A case study; 2) Five questions requiring essay-style answers..

The certification process begins with receipt of a completed application form and a cheque for £10 to cover admin costs. To go on to stages 2 and 3 you will have to pay a further £150.

Application forms are available from BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Aine, York YO6 2NF.

ROLL OF HONOUR

There are now eight Master Greenkeepers:

- Laurence Pithie was the first
- Robert Maibusch, Hinsdale Golf Club, Illinois
- Gordon Irvine, Mill Ride Golf Club, Surrey
- Bil Montague, Oakwood Club, Ohio
- Kerran Daly, Salisbury and South Wilts Golf Club
- David Whitaker, Wisley Golf Club, Surrey
- Anthony Davies, Prestbury Golf Club near Macclesfield
- Terry Buchen, Double Eagle Golf Club, Ohio

TERRY BUCHEN lives in the only house at the Double Eagle course in Ohio. He says the Tom Weiskopf/Jay Morrish course is "a very, very, very private club."



There are only 50 men's lockers and 16 ladies lockers for the 35 local members and 67 national members. The 7100-yard par 72 course boasts four sets of yardage markers on each hole, permanent yardage markers buried below the turf on the tees and a total absence of portable tee markers. Members can tee off where they like seven days a week. "So we don't violate the rules of golf we have two permanent tee markers below the turf so we can mow over them. A lot of people tee off within two club lengths behind," says Terry. The course is a designer's dream: four of the holes have two fairways and all the par 3s and 5s play in different directions.

Terry comes from a family of golf course superintendents and has grown-in 11 courses. He is also a former assistant agronomist on the US PGA Tour. His job was to set up all 47 tournaments on the regular tour, which meant visiting each course four-eight weeks in advance.

"Sixty percent of my job was agronomy where I'd visit with the golf course superintendent and go around the course and the other 40 percent was administration."

But it took its toll on his health and he was forced to leave. "I got pneumonia and had to have half my left lung removed. I just wore myself out. I travelled 300,000 miles each year for two years, home 27 days the first year and 33 days the second year. Fortunately I was single in those days."

Anyone who has been to Wisley Golf Club knows that **DAVID WHITAKER** is a master of his craft. After a long apprenticeship at Baildon Golf Course in Bradford, he went to Rawdon Golf and Tennis Club as head greenkeeper. At 27 he was growing-in a Pete Dye designed American-style course in Switzerland. A great experience for his next project - Wisley.



● Where's Anthony's photo and details? We're doing a big thing on Anthony Davies and Prestbury in a few issues time, so we'll tell you how great he is then.

LET US SPRAY

CHRIS BISHOP

looks at safer spraying on golfing areas

Over the last five years the type and range of conventional spraying equipment available to greenkeepers has transformed the operator's life. Long gone are the days when application of chemicals could be done by any old sprayer and operator. The Food and Environmental Protection Act (FEPA) has ensured that areas of concern have been highlighted to those people going through the relevant training courses to hopefully make our environment a safer place to work and live.

In this article I shall be briefly dealing with the safe storage of chemicals on golf courses but primarily on the revolution that has recently transformed the older "basic" type sprayers into the types of modern equipment on offer today - with no reference to Controlled Droplet Applicators (CDA equipment).

As a result of the recent legislation, many golf courses have needed to upgrade their storage facilities and possibly reduce their stocks of toxic materials. Along with this the required levels of stock control and application records are needed to ensure the operations comply with the "Good Code of Practice" and are readily available for inspection should they be required.

Permanent buildings are not necessarily required and provided the storage is well ventilated, safe and secure, fire and frost proof and able to contain chemical leakage - a purpose built portable cabinet or store may be an alternative. It is also worthwhile pointing out here that the siting of the store often needs careful consideration to ensure other inflammable materials such as fertilisers, fuels and oil are not located in adjacent areas.

Several manufacturers provide purpose built cabinets for safe lockable storage for up to 200 litres/kg of material which could well be all that is needed - why not let the suppliers keep the larger quantities on their shelves until they are needed? Purpose built cabinets are also available for larger quantities and can range in size from 440-1300 litres. These purpose built stores have the advantage of instant use and can be dropped off on site.

All chemical stores should have clear access not only for delivery vehicles and your sprayers but also for fire tenders should they ever need to be called. The location would also need to be closely sited to a water filling area which ideally needs to have a catchment tank to retain spillage should it occur.

Storage of empty containers must also be provided in a separate



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AD REF 56

An example of the popular 'de-mount' system here fitted to a three wheel truckster - showing hose filling securing alarm



lockable area ideally adjacent to the chemical store to hold waste packaging prior to correct disposal.

The inside of a chemical store needs to be well lit to provide good visibility for reading labels, etc. Bear in mind here that if windows are used they should ideally be positioned on the north side to prevent sunlight fading the labels.

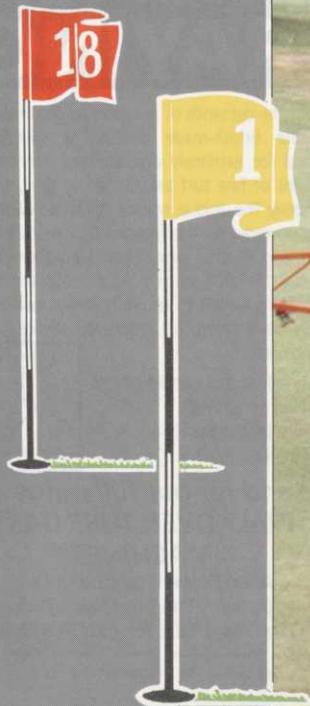
Should vandalism be a problem, it would necessitate the windows being barred or covered in mesh secured on the inside to prevent easy removal and also allowing opening of the window when required. Security lighting or alarms can also be linked up to nearby premises if required but, with any luck, the lack of advertising signs may simply deter the casual theft. The only recommended external signs now used are "No Smoking" and the triangular black and yellow

caution exclamation mark. Fire extinguishers of the correct type need to be readily accessible but current recommendations regarding this are that if a fire cannot be put out easily without risk to the person concerned, simply shut the doors and ring the fire brigade - how far is your telephone from the store and is it clearly marked and accessible?

Design of personal protective equipment (clothing) and the materials now available needs to be covered separately by another article but the correct storage and cleaning also needs to be considered. The PPE operators are required to use needs to be stored nearby the actual store but NOT inside it. This area must also be well ventilated and have adequate hanging space - a separate area from where the operator leaves his personal clothing. Within this same loca-



BIGGA's first turf management training video 'Setting the Standard' has been acclaimed throughout the industry for its informative approach to tackling the ins and outs of spraying on the golf course. Copies are available from BIGGA HQ for £18.75 (members) or £23.75 (non-members) including postage. Call BIGGA for more details on 0347 838581.



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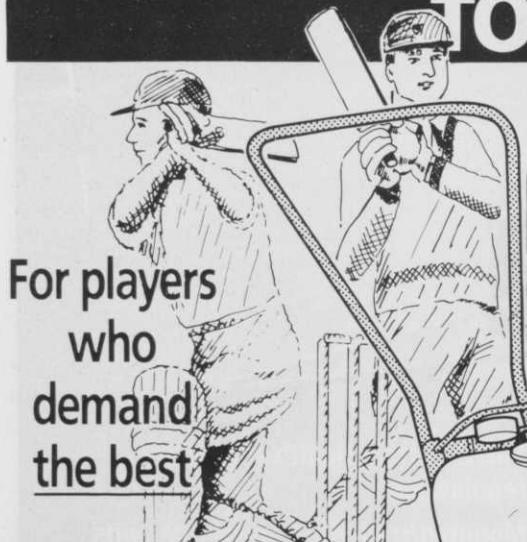
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LET US SPRAY



The triplet snap-fit interchangeable nozzle body fitted with diaphragm valves

tion, washing and cleaning facilities must be provided with hot water and soap being the bare minimum. A first aid kit of the relevant size and type must also be provided and its location clearly marked from outside the building.

All of these measures help to provide the operator with a safe place of work but we need to examine how the engineers have produced safer equipment to provide more accurate and efficient chemical application.

If we start with the knapsack sprayer range, the designs of tanks have been changed considerably and because the tanks are now virtually all plastic and are formed by blow moulding, intricate shapes have been used to make them more comfortable to wear. Weight has also been considered and the big companies offer 15 or 20 litre options. To reduce operator contamination, the internals of most tanks will now house the hand operated pumps plus the adjustable reset pressure relief valves. However, these are often still difficult to adjust when the sprayer is full and they only control *maximum* pressures – not ensuring *even* pressure and therefore even application.

Overcoming this problem is the recently introduced "Spray Management Valve" which can be positioned between the nozzle and the on/off trigger control on the hand lance. This unit acts as a one way valve which will only open when the set pressure is achieved in the spray line. Once open, any excess pressure is managed down to the set pressure – the valve closing if pressure drops below it. Three colour coded units are available, designed to control pressure to one, two or three bar and the unit is also non-drip.

With the addition of a boom kit fitted with 4 nozzles, knapsacks can be used to apply material to wider areas. However, these larger areas may necessitate more water which, rather than carrying, may well be better covered using a barrow type sprayer – a diaphragm pump being powered by single or three phase electrical motor or a 3 hp petrol engine.

Once this size of boom is reached, greens could well be covered using a lightweight 4m boom on a pedestrian controlled 2-wheeled trolley with a trailing hose – several manufacturers currently offer examples of this size, powered by units at one side of the green to save compaction.

The next stage on would probably lead the way to ATV mounted equipment – either electrically driven roller vane pumps from the bike's 12 volt battery or possibly a trailed unit operated by its own 5 hp donkey engine, driving a diaphragm pump, mounted on a purpose built chassis with break-back booms of widths up to 4 m. These provide relatively cheap units which have accurate forward speed indicators and good manoeuvrability whilst giving minimal compaction – typical tank capacities up to 120 litres. These units will also make better use of an ATV which many golf courses operate for other purposes.

The next slightly larger range of units would now extend into the "de-mount" type units which many golf courses may currently be using. Designed to be quickly and easily attached/detached to the flat bed of 3 or 4

wheeled turf truckster power units, these have been substantially modernised in the last two years to bring them fully up to date with the current legislation. A typical unit uses the trucksters p.t.o. to drive either roller vane or, more commonly now, diaphragm pumps which supply hydraulic agitation to a 300 litre tank and 2 or 3 sectioned 6 or 8m boom fitted with break-back systems.

Many of our local golf clubs combine the use of a "de-mount" for greens and tees with the use of either compact tractor mounted or trailed units for use on fairways and all three of these types of unit could well have special option type builds – the more progressive manufacturers being only too willing to tailor-make units for specialist requirements. Examples of these "options" range from the size of tank, i.e. from 100 litre – 3,500 litre (trailed of course!), to the type of nozzle selected i.e. a single or triplet, snap fit nozzle body, fitted with diaphragm non-drip valves, easy filter rinse and colour coded tips!

Automatic systems are now available to ensure a constant application rate is maintained even when tractor speeds vary on gradients and of course ideal when on older power units with no speedometer or perhaps the hydrostatic drive compact tractor with no "cruise control" override device!

Constant pressure to any of the two or three supplied booms can be maintained with the addition of balance valves to ensure even application when only operating one or two boom sections at any one time and self cleaning main line filters are available to save on operator contamination.

Spray guns and hose reels can easily be added onto the boom outlet supplies for drenching or spot treatments. Colour dyes are sometimes added to the spray material being applied to ensure accurate bout matching but even here foam blobbing kits can be added to a sprayer as an alternative.

When examining the range of tractor

mounted sprayers available, the range of pump outputs needs examining but probably the most advantageous changes have taken place in the layout of controls and additional equipment – these being adjustable to ensure they are close to the operator for easy access or you have the additional option of having them remotely controlled allowing the rear window of cabs to be closed. Tank sizes are one of the most important considerations, as although many smaller compact tractors may well have limiting hydraulic lifting capacities, weight transferred to the rear wheels on large capacity tanks can be a problem with compaction, even with the more modern "flat topped" grassland tyres. It is also important here to mention that correct front end weighting needs checking if the tractor has four wheel drive.

Boom design has now been perfected to provide lightweight easy to handle sectional units all fitted with some kind of break-back device with the option of boom suspension systems on the larger units. Boom widths vary between 12 – 24m and hydraulic folding can also be fitted on many of the larger units – all will be fitted with easy boom height adjustment systems.

The largest trailed units fitted with floatation tyres are available but will not often be owned by many golf courses. However, there are some purpose built self propelled machines available if you have the money. These high output units will be fitted with all the latest flow meters and automatic monitoring systems which can actually now provide computer print outs showing application rates applied to certain areas – ideally suited to a spray contracting professional – perhaps we shall see more use of contractors being employed for large scale operations!

Obviously the range of options is very extensive. It is pleasing to see that the progressive manufacturers will tailor-make a spraying unit to your specific requirements. The trouble is that this will obviously all be available "at a price" but you must also be aware that "bolt on" additional equipment may be all that is required to bring your spraying units up to current legislation requirements. As a result the manufacturers offer the following components which are readily available and relatively easy to fit:

- Low level suction type filler units. (Many of these will be self cleaning and can also be used for empty container flushing.)
- Protective clothing lockers.
- Storage cages for chemical containers.
- Separate clean water rinsing kits.
- Triplet diaphragm type anti-drip nozzles.
- Calibration kits.

From a personal point of view, I welcome the advances that the manufacturers have provided us with. We all have a duty to ensure that our sprayers do get regular maintenance, updating and replacement – the same as any other piece of greenkeeping equipment – and although new machines can be extremely expensive, the trend to safer and more efficient sprayer operation can only aid our advancement towards a safer environment for us all to work in and enjoy.

● Chris Bishop is Machinery Section Team Leader at Oaklands College, Hertfordshire.



Above: Kim Macfie from Hayter's with BIGGA chairman John Crawford and the VIP guest;

Left, Lely (UK) Ltd's Graham Dale with Lord Griffiths on the Lely/Toro stand

Right: with ICI Professional Products' Roger Mossop

PICTURES BY TIM MOAT

The sixth BTME was opened by the Rt Hon the Lord Griffiths MC, captain of the R&A and president of the MCC, who called it "a fine investment for golf" and said the Royal and Ancient Golf Club was "proud to be associated with BIGGA's progress." He also recalled his early days in golf, 60 years ago in Wales, when the greenkeeper's main skill was "the ability to keep sheep off greens". BIGGA's president, Viscount Whitelaw, was unable to attend this year because he was speaking in the House of Lords against the Police Bill. For him and all the other members who were unable to attend, we present our Harrogate photo album and spotlight some of the new products that caught our eyes.



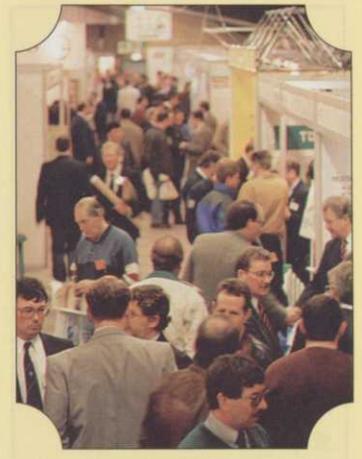
BIGGA



Len Breakwell of ET Breakwell Ltd receives his plaque to recognise his contribution to the Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund's Golden Key circle



Gordon Irvine, ICI Premier Greenkeeper, receives his plaque



THAN EVER!





Leading the way in Europe

■ BIGGA's role as a key player on the international stage was highlighted at the second European Forum held at the Old Swan Hotel, Harrogate, during the BTME. More than 50 delegates attended the meeting and listened to speakers from Sweden, Holland and Norway. We may not share the same language but, it seems, we do share the same sort of problems. What also came out of the meeting was that BIGGA is the largest and best organised of the European associations and with 261 international members in 31 countries it has a very important role to play in future developments.

■ The Agricultural Engineers Association says many people in the turfcare industry would like to see just one exhibition. If the success at Harrogate is anything to go by, the BTME should be that exhibition. As BIGGA's executive director said at the AGM: "We are committed contractually to Harrogate until after the 1996 exhibition and we intend to go on presenting our case that if there is to be one major show then Harrogate may well prove to be the ideal venue."

■ Harrogate looked more like Harrods on sale day when the exhibition opened. Long queues formed at the pre-registration desk, prompting organisers to rethink the system for next year.

■ One driver was so eager to get in that he crashed his car outside the entrance on the first day.

■ On the other hand, one well known marketing manager walked in half an hour after the show had closed. *It's only a two and a half day exhibition, you know!*

Industry applauds BTME: 'I don't think I have seen the halls so full...' 'Another success...' 'Superb...'



Attendance up at the only show that counts

If you're a greenkeeper, course manager or are, in some way, connected with golf, there was only one place to be last month – Harrogate and the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition.

We're not the only ones thinking that. More than 6,000 people visited the show – 1,200 up on last year. And exhibitors were besides themselves with joy at the contacts they had made and the business they had done.

● Ransomes' sales manager, Chris MacGowan, said: "It's the best show, it's the only one that counts nationally."

● Kim Macfie, Hayters sales and marketing director, who had the

largest stand there, told BIGGA: "It was another success... you must take considerable pride in the knowledge that it was so successful."

● Jonathan Franks, amenity grass seed manager, British Seed Houses, said: "I don't think I have ever seen the hall so full on the first and second days and we were very impressed that so many delegates came from so far afield."

● One of the busiest men there was BIGGA chairman John Crawford. Everywhere we went, he was there ahead of us shaking someone's hand or making a speech. Afterwards, when he'd

caught his breath, he said: "Everything went smoothly."

● David Smith of Atterton & Ellis Ltd simply put it this way: "It was superb."

● Richard Fry of Marketing Link Associates summed it up by saying: "You now have the best exhibition, the best magazine and the best training videos."

And it wasn't just the exhibitors who were pleased. Ian McMillan, course manager at Hankley Common Golf Club, Farnham, said: "The atmosphere was very good amongst the trade and members. The fact that the show has grown in stature through difficult times is a credit to the organisation."



Two of the winners of our £600 BTME competition are pictured with BIGGA chairman John Crawford. Colin Mackay (left), assistant greenkeeper at Cruden Bay GC near Aberdeen, won return rail travel, three nights' accommodation and entry to all the education seminar sessions. Nigel Buxton (right) assistant head greenkeeper at Cavendish Golf Club, Buxton, Derbyshire, won a single night's accommodation and entry to all the seminar sessions. Second prize winner Harvey Tribe, first assistant at Henley Golf Club, couldn't make it.

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Rave reviews for career video

■ A new video aimed at encouraging youngsters into greenkeeping was launched to rave reviews at the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition. Master Greenkeeper Anthony Davies, head greenkeeper at Prestbury Golf Club near Macclesfield, said: "It was absolutely first class. Very professional."

Fellow Master David Whitaker, course manager at Wisley Golf Club in Surrey, said: "It's great. It's exactly what the industry needs."

The 15-minute video, entitled Keeper of the Green, is

narrated by Peter Alliss, was filmed at Reaseheath College in Cheshire and features action footage of Nick Faldo and Ian Woosnam.



It starts with Old Tom Morris explaining how things have changed since his day. Students and working greenkeepers explain what it's like today and how professional it has become. Terry Buchen, a top US golf course superintendent and Master Greenkeeper, said: "I thought the Old Tom Morris part was great and I thought it was a neat way to promote youngsters to get into greenkeeping. We need something like this in the US." Duncan McGilvray, course manager at Letchworth Golf Course, said: "I thought it was excellent and I'm quite hard to please. The students came over well."

The video, which cost £27,500 to produce, is available on free loan for careers nights and college/school talks, can be obtained by writing to the Greenkeepers Education Unit, Aldwark Manor, Alne, York YO6 2NF. Tel: 0347 838640/0347 838581.

Five year plan could mean Harrogate option for future of the National Education Conference

Change of AGM venue brings record turnout

It wasn't just the BTME at Harrogate attracting record crowds, there was a record turnout for BIGGA's AGM as well.

Nearly 230 members attended the meeting at the Old Swan Hotel – a huge increase from the 42 at the '93 meeting at the Royal York Hotel. The reason for this greater participation was because, as most members wanted, the AGM was held during the BTME instead of in the spring.

BIGGA's Board of Management is also considering moving the National Education Conference to Harrogate and holding it prior to the exhibition. "The cessation of sponsorship after the 1992 conference coupled with a downturn in the number of delegates attending has led to a substantial deficit situation," BIGGA's executive director, Neil Thomas, told the gathering.

However, one of the objects of the Association, as set out within the Constitution, is to arrange an international Annual Conference. "This is an important event therefore and should continue," Mr Thomas added.

So, after this year's conference at the University of Warwick, April 8-10, alternative options will be assessed. If the conference is moved to Harrogate, it is likely to replace the popular workshop programme. But, in any case, the intention is to develop these as part of the local training initiative.

These are matters being looked at by the Board of Management as

part of a five-year plan which will take the Association up to the year 2000. "The Association is now seven years old and, particularly during the last year, it has become apparent that we need to examine our structure and our future policies and programmes," explained Mr Thomas. "Our rapid growth has contributed to the necessity for review."

He encouraged all BIGGA members to contribute to this review by contacting their section secretaries. "BIGGA remains very much a members' organisation and it is you who must ultimately determine the future direction of the Association," he told delegates.

'The 1993 BTME did much to enhance our standing both within the game and the industry'

The aim is to bring the five-year plan to the 1995 AGM for ratification.

One of the key areas for debate is the funding of BIGGA's education and training programme. At the moment the programme, which has brought us the 'Setting the Standard in Spray Application' and career videos and will shortly bring us a booklet on weeds, pests

and diseases, is funded largely by companies within the industry. But new sources need to be found if the fund is to grow, especially since the now separate Greenkeepers Training Committee has made it clear that it will no longer provide direct funding for BIGGA's educational programmes.

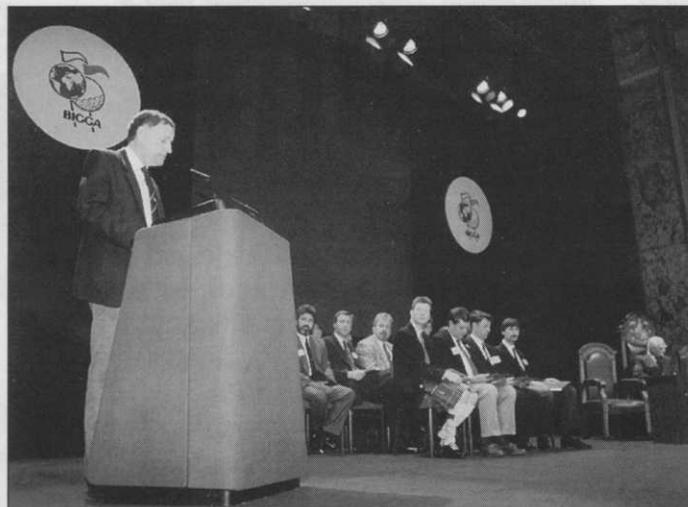
The review will also look at the role of trustees. This was decided at the Board of Management's December meeting. Prior to this meeting the South West and South Wales Region had put forward a motion, to be discussed at the AGM, to replace one of the existing trustees with lawyer Douglas Dagleish, the new president of the Scottish Golf Union.

A week before the AGM, one of the existing trustees, Peter Wilson, wrote to BIGGA chairman John Crawford advising the board of his decision to stand down. "Irrespective of this, the Board felt the appropriate course was to review the situation rather than make an appointment which would be for a four-year period," said Mr Thomas afterwards.

The South West and South Wales Region felt the appropriate action would be to adopt the proposed candidate to replace Mr Wilson. In the end this motion was defeated 2:1 pending the outcome of the review.

As well as looking forward, the AGM also looked back at the successes of 1993. Highlights of the year were:

- the BTME opened by Prince Andrew "which did much to enhance our standing both within the game and the industry," according to the executive director;
- Westurf, the first show organised by a BIGGA region;
- the start of the Hayter Challenge Tournament;
- the Open at Sandwich;
- the National Tournament at Dunbar; and
- the success of greenkeepers at the Kubota Challenge at the Belfry. "Our team presented themselves professionally both on and off the course which is important for the image of the Association when other golfing bodies are participating," said Mr Thomas in his annual report.



Neil Thomas, speaking at the opening of the BTME. Later, at the AGM, he told members of the Harrogate option for the National Education Conference

NEW PRODUCTS LAUNCHED AT THE 1994 SHOW

■ Rhone-Poulenc launched a systemic fungicide called Vitesse (French for 'speed'). It is being promoted as the only systemic which starts working immediately on contact with the turf. Product manager Sion Price said: "It is the only turf fungicide with the powerful double action of two active ingredients – carbendazim, a systemic fungicide which is rapidly taken into the plant to give protection from within, and iprodione, a proven contact action fungicide which forms a protective layer against disease attack." Vitesse is recommended for application during the growing season and is designed to combat a range of turf diseases including fusarium patch, red thatch, Timothy leaf spot and anthracnose. Tel: 0277 301115

■ Barenbrug's head of breeding, Gerard van 't Klooster, the man behind top varieties such as Barcrown, Baruba and Bargreen, introduced his latest creations – slender fescues Barlander, Barlotte and Barskol, and Chewings fescue Baroxi. Tel: 0359 70766

■ SISIS Equipment showed two new products – the SISIS Autospred for greens and tees and the SupaTurfman, a wider version of the AutoTurfman. The Autospred is powered by a 5hp engine, has a hopper capacity of 0.26m³ (9ft³) and a spreading width of 83cm (33ins). The hopper is plastic coated to resist corrosion and the main wheels are 'slicks' to reduce ground marking. The SupaTurfman is a heavy-duty aerator with a working width of 355mm (14ins). A new feature is the incorporation of quick release fasteners permitting the tines to be changed without spanners. The SupaTurfman is powered by a 5hp petrol engine. Tel: 0625 503030

■ Kubota's latest compact tractor, the 30.5hp ST-30, took pride of place on its stand. Designed and developed specifically for grass cutting, it weighs 875kg, is 2720mm long and has a 1600mm wheel base. Power comes from a



Simon Hannam, a technical adviser with the Inturf Group shows off the company's latest installation machine. The lightweight machine has a synchronised feed which places the turf precisely onto the rootzone irrespective of the forward speed of the machine. The TIM system is operated by Inturf's team of greenkeeping staff as an in-house service. Tel: 0759 304101

four-cylinder diesel engine. The lift capacity of the £12,200 plus VAT ST-30 is 800kg.

■ Turfmech Machinery has added a rear-mounted blower to use with compact tractors. The TM300 is designed for clearing leaves, litter and other debris. Price is £1,870. Tel: 0889 271503

■ Hayter introduced two new hydraulic trailed gangmowers – the five-gang TM529 and the seven-gang TM729. Both are fitted with large specification tyres which allow towing speeds of up to 50mph, although there is a legal limit of 20mph on the larger TM729. These units also have suspended axles which isolate and protect the heavy-duty chassis and all moving parts from ground generated loading. Other features include a separate hydraulic pump for the lift system, an automatic valve which stops the cylinders when a cutterhead is raised. Hayter also introduced a triple ride-on mower, the Beaver T224, and a hydraulic five gangmower, the TM520. Tel: 0279 723444

■ John Deere was showing off three new machines – a lightweight fairway mower, a diesel-engined version of the 2243 greensmower and a two-seater utility vehicle. John Deere claims its new 32hp 3235 fairway mower offers "twice as much power to the reels as competitive makes, and the highest rate of clip on the market". Height of cut can be adjusted from 3/8 to 1 3/8in or 3in. The new 2243 greensmower is aimed at greenkeepers who have large areas of greens that need to be mown daily. This machine is equipped with three 22in, 5in diameter, nine-blade offset cylin-

ders which cut the tracking wear on greens caused by regular mowing by 50 percent, according to the distributors. This is done by changing the direction of travel on alternate days. Height of cut can be varied from 3/32 to 3/4in. For all load-carrying operations there are the John Deere Gator 10hp 4x2 and 18hp 6x4 utility vehicles. Ground pressure is said to be 7psi at full load. Their respective payloads/towing capacities are 408kg/340kg and 544kg/544kg. Both models feature Kawasaki petrol engines.

■ Hardi launched the Brush Master, which has been on extensive trials on golf courses in southern England during the past 18 months. It is designed for switching (dew removal) before play commences, brushing in after normal applications of top dressing, and filling in holes after coring and top dressing. Price is £1995 plus VAT. Hardi also exhibited its new range of trailed turfcare sprayers called Uniflex. The Uniflex trailed chassis is designed to suit tank sizes of 200 and 300 litres whilst still providing low ground pressures due to wide wheels. Prices from £2200 plus VAT. Tel: 0455 233811

■ Two new Victa products were shown on the EP Barrus stand. The PRO500 is an 18in steel deck push-along mower featuring Victa two-stroke engine and a disc and two swing blades to protect the crankshaft. Price: £287 plus VAT. The VP44P brushcutter has a 40cc engine, Sure-Tap professional head which controls the length of cutting line released when the centre knob is tapped and two-stage anti-vibration handles. Price: £379. Tel: 0869 253355

■ Sports Ground Irrigation exhibited the new valve-in-head golf models from Hunter Industries and the full range of PGM lawn sprinklers with colour coded nozzles. Also on show was a new version of the CIC 1 controller. Tel: 0858 463153

■ Jacobsen launched a new Autofertil grass cuttings recycling system. This system enables grass cuttings to be reused as fertiliser and nutrient for courses, completing the biomass cycle and doing away with unsightly mounds of grass cuttings. Two sizes of machine are available. Jacobsen also introduced a new systems vehicle available in two models with either a 23hp Kubota diesel engine or 34hp Ford petrol engine, both giving a 2800 lb total rated capacity. Tel: 0536 417777

■ Sharpes International launched its 1994 booklet featuring two new varieties – Elegana, a perennial ryegrass, and Miracle, a smooth stalked meadow grass. Tel: 0529 304511

■ Symbio showed its new product, Green Circle, which "reduces fertiliser applications and reduces or eliminates the need for fungicides". Symbio uses 'Biofixation', a process whereby the bacteria and microscopic fungi found in healthy soils are fixed onto a specially developed natural mineral support. The microbes in Green Circle are claimed to break down fibrous thatchy material thereby improving drainage through the sward. Consequently the nutrients released by decomposition are fed down into the rootzone, stimulating deeper root growth. Tel: 081 669 0011.

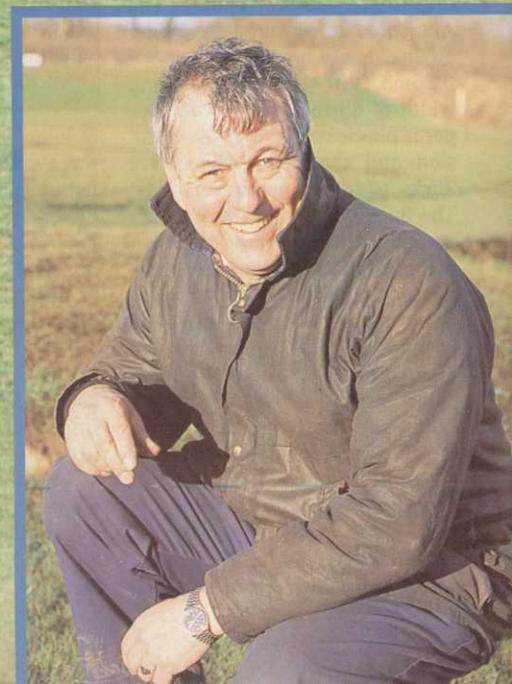
■ Land and leisure consultants ADAS were offering golf clubs six-monthly course 'health' check-ups. They will examine the course to pinpoint trouble spots and log the results in a report. The project is designed as an early-warning system for club managers. Tel: 0623 846742.

■ Below: Philip Langdon and Peter Madden on the Watermat stand



Malcolm Henderson, pictured below, a former golf professional turned head greenkeeper, tells STEVE VERRILL how he transformed Malton and Norton Golf Club from a modest nine holer into a superb 27-hole parkland course.

Photographs by TIM MOAT



Hole with a view: looking down on the Yorkshire market town of Malton

Malcolm's YORKSHIRE



Nestled in a corner of North Yorkshire more famous for its racehorses than golf courses lies a remarkable greenkeeping success story.

Every greenkeeper worth his salt would leap at the chance to design his own course but sadly few ever get the opportunity. Usually it is the greenkeeper who has to make the best of someone else's baby be it beautiful or otherwise.

So Malcolm Henderson, head green-

keeper at Malton and Norton Golf Club, can – and does – count himself a fortunate man. Malcolm's design skills have turned what started life as a modest nine holer into a superb 27-hole parkland course.

Malcolm must rate as one of BIGGA's more unusual members because he is also a qualified professional golfer and until three years ago was employed as both club professional and head greenkeeper.

Yet despite his playing talents, Malcolm's

first love has always been greenkeeping, a vocation which gives him immense satisfaction.

Job satisfaction can manifest itself in a variety of ways but for Malcolm it comes from seeing golfers out enjoying the fruits of his labours.

Malcolm, 51, learned his greenkeeping trade as an eager 15-year-old at the illustrious and exclusive championship course at Ganton near Scarborough. But tending

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'He has carved out a layout for the thinking golfer'



greens and playing on them ran hand-in-hand in Malcolm's youth and after passing his PGA examination at Lilleshall he was appointed as professional/head greenkeeper at Malton and Norton.

Among his first tasks was to design and build a new nine holes, which are now the front nine, aided by the late Malcolm Roberts, chairman of the greens committee.

That this first venture was a success is there for all to see and the fact that the club is attracting record numbers of visitors is a testament to this modest greenkeeper's artisan artistry.

He has carved out a layout for the thinking golfer from the heavy Yorkshire meadowland

constructing a course that many a famous designer would be proud to put his name to.

It kicks off with a marvellous 564 yard par five and sweeps up and over the rolling countryside providing not only challenging golf but a panoramic vista across Malton and along the Vale of York. Greens are big and slick, despite having to work with some of the coarser meadowland grass varieties, and the course is studded with impressive mature chestnut and oak trees.

Such has been the popularity of the course that Malcolm was called upon three years ago to design a further nine holes with the assistance of greens committee chairman Bob Mansell.



The brief for the new nine was to match the class and excellence of the existing 18 with a budget of around £8,000 a hole. The job was duly completed to budget and the new course opened for three months last

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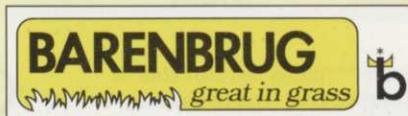
Although 'Highland' browntop bent is generally acceptable for most UK situations, for very fine turf such as golf and bowling greens the STRI now advises finer and denser cultivars like Heriot and Bardot.



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* The STRI 1994 list shoot density figures.



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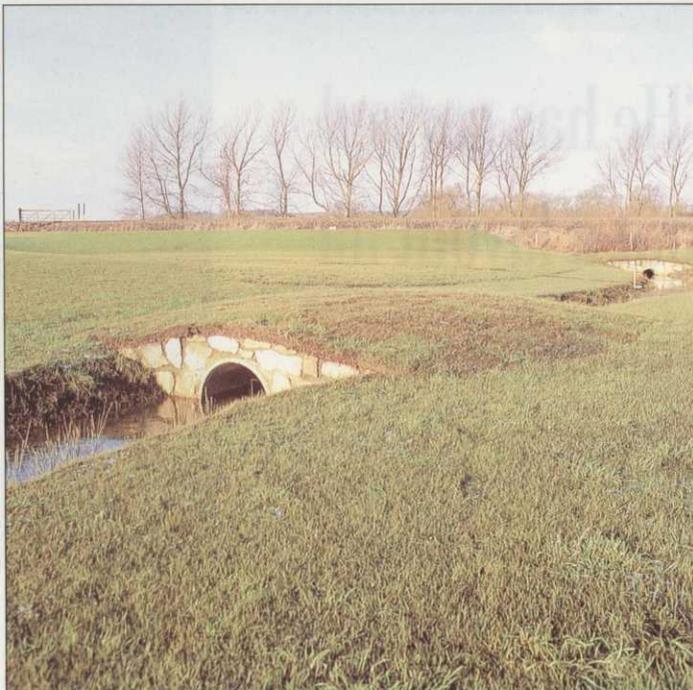
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summer and will go full time this spring.

The course was hewn from an unappetising piece of land – part agricultural, part jungle. It now bears Malcolm's trademark of large undulating greens and big impressive tees with plenty of space for the daily repositioning of tee markers.

The new nine involved the improvement of two ponds and provided the opportunity to bring about Malcolm's favourite innovation – a superb Watermation system. The whole course is kitted out with the computerised watering system which incorporates Malcolm's pride and joy – a pump and filtration system which automatically draws water out

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'Tree planting programme is now paying dividends'

of a naturally supplied pond and replenishes storage tanks some 1000 metres away. "It really is a fabulous system. It allows me to programme all the various stations, either greens or tees, to come on at whatever time I want for a duration of up to 99 minutes," said Malcolm.

"My usual set-up is for the system to start at 1am for five or six minutes at each station and because the pump starts two minutes before the start time the water pressure is the same for each green or tee.

"The system was installed by T and G Installation Services of Ripon at a total cost of £40,000 but it has proved to be a great investment and has certainly paid for itself over the last couple of years."

While on the topic of good investments, the club's tree planting programme has also started to pay dividends. About 60 trees which were planted more than 10 years ago have recently been transplanted throughout the new course giving a mature feel which belies its infancy. In the best Yorkshire traditions the exercise also saved the club at least £12,000 with trees costing less than £2 at planting now worth more £200 each.

"It has worked a treat and is such a simple operation. We used a contractor to transplant the trees and the whole operation took just four days in total," said Malcolm.

"Three hydraulic spades are slipped underneath each tree, it is then lifted out and dropped into a pre-dug hole. So far it looks to have been 100 per cent successful."

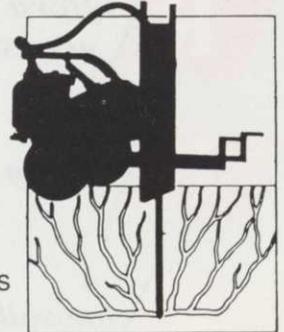
One tip is to make sure you incorporate a water feeder pipe down to the roots. Malcolm gives each tree about 40 gallons of water once a fortnight during drier conditions.

"I can certainly recommend transplanting. It allows you to do the impossible and actually buy in time to give the course maturity." ➔

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'Investment in drainage has made my life easier'

Shortly Malcolm and his four strong team will begin their spring maintenance programme in earnest, the biggest job being the spreading of about 80 tons of Rufford top dressing on the greens.

The Malton course is built on a heavy sub soil which can cause drainage difficulties so the greens get a good dose of sand.

"We slit the greens every month in winter to about seven or eight inches to aerate and aid against compaction and every other year we vertidrain but that was carried out last year. Once the greens have been deep slitted we shall spread up to four tons of dressing made up of 50 per cent sand and 50 per cent soil on each green.

"We use a Sisis green slitter on the back of a compact tractor and then once the dressing dries we brush it in. Usually the whole process takes about four hours per green.

"The greens are principally meadow grass because they were cut out of the fields at the turn of the century and we have just kept on with them. It is rougher grass than we would like. We haven't the finer grass that new courses have but we use turf groomers on the back of Jacobsen machines everytime we cut which helps the grass grow finer."

Once the growing season starts, usually mid-April, Malcolm will treat the greens and approaches with a mixture of lawn sand and moss killer. Tees will be repaired where necessary and those on the short holes will be top dressed.

Fairways will get a little pick-me-up in April from an outfield fertiliser and any bare patches will be turfed over.

Malcolm explained that an investment in drainage had made his task easier. "Flooding of fairways was quite a problem until about eight years ago when we installed plastic drainage system backfilled with stone on the 9th, 10th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th fair-

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ways. It was certainly money well spent."

Worms have never been a problem on the original course but Malcolm will be spraying greens, tees and fairways on the new nine in May using Castaway Plus through a Hardi sprayer.

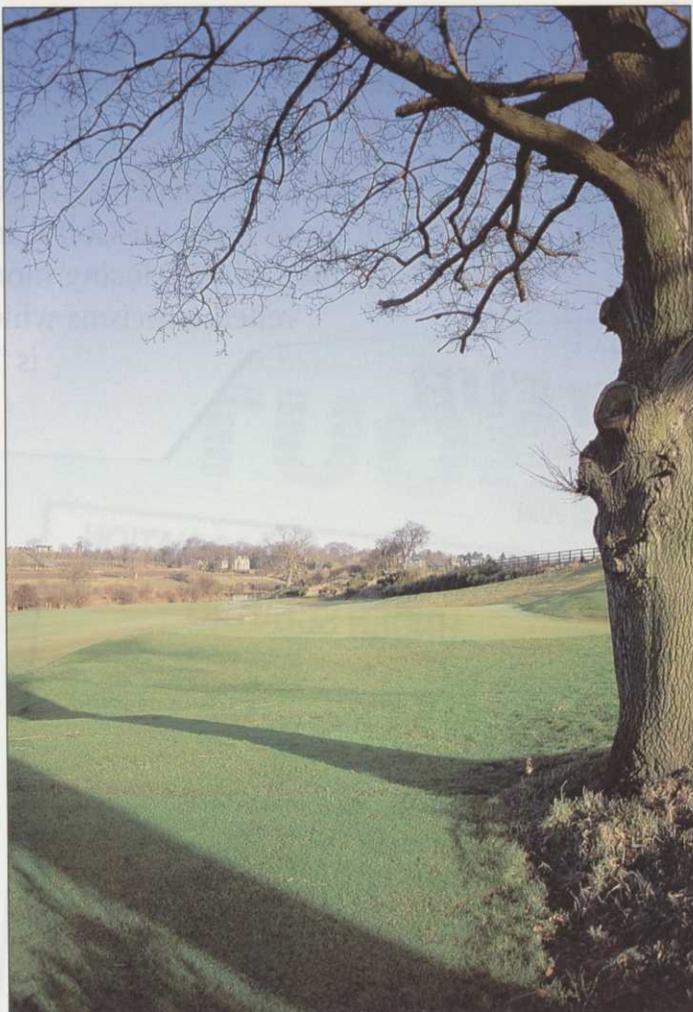
Moles have also made their unwelcome presence felt on the new course but a few poisoned worms dropped into their underground runs should take care of them – but don't tell the lady members.

It looks like being a busy time for Malcolm, who after playing less than half a dozen rounds over the last three years, is keen to re-start his playing career – as an amateur. He has applied to to be released from the PGA and expects his amateur status to be confirmed in July.

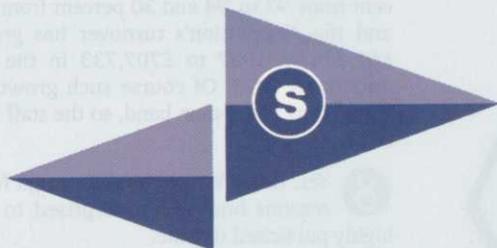
"I am quite looking forward to playing with a handicap – about eight or nine will do nicely," said Malcolm with a gleam in his eye.

Equipment at Malton and Norton Golf Club

- 1 x Ford Compact tractor 1910 4WD
- 2 x Massey Ferguson tractors, one with power loader
- 1 x Massey Ferguson Compact 1010
- 2 x Jacobsen Greensking with turf groomers
- 1 x Ransomes 171 Greensystem
- 1 x Ransomes 180
- 2 x Allen Nationals
- 1 x Jacobsen motor bunker rake
- 1 x Lloyds gang mowers for fairways
- 1 x Ransomes gang mowers for semi rough



NEW for 1994

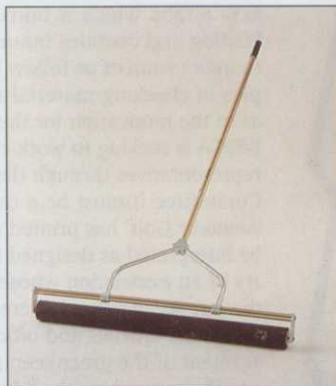


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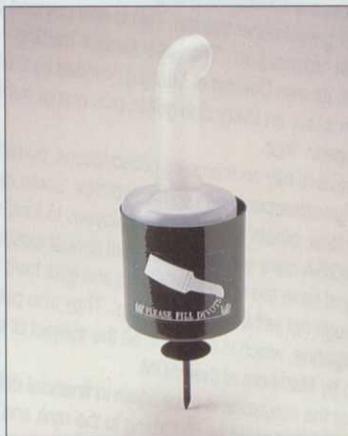
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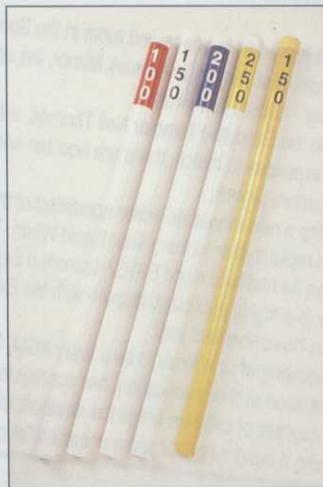


The Yankee Roller Squeegee is gold anodized aluminium with stainless steel shafts running in bronze "oilite" bearings. Quickly removes water from any surface. Handle is 50" (1.3m) long **36" (91cm) head width with Standard Roller for Putting Greens.**
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£452.00 set (46 white markers, decals, caps and sockets)
Driving Tool: £41.00
Individual Markers: £7.94
PVC Ground Anchors: £2.85

EGU attacks BIGGA

The English Golf Union has launched a surprising attack on your organisation. In the January/February edition of Amateur Golf it implies that it has grown too quickly and that the magazine is losing money. It is wrong on both counts. There are other veiled criticisms which we have answered below, but the big question is 'Why have they done it?'

FEBRUARY 1994 - 35

AMATEUR GOLF
January/February 1994

GREENKEEPER'S ASSOCIATION UNDER SCRUTINY

British Greenkeepers, long regarded for their agronomic skills, have not until recent years acquired a reputation for enhancing their image, a pathway begun when the R & A funded and unified their three independent Associations in 1987 with clear objectives aimed at improving greenkeeper education.

The American Golf Course Superintendents had taken this path some 60 years previously, the fact that in greenkeepers here had a great deal of catching up to do was never in dispute, it was a question of how it could be done and how quickly. It is the latter part of the equation that would appear to be the cause of present problems.

To expand too quickly has been the down fall of many organisations. In the case of the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association, the annual funding from the R & A believed to be in excess of £25,000 has run its full term as have grants from the Home Unions.

There has also been a substantial change in one of BIGGA's prime functions, that of greenkeeper training. This is now covered by an entirely separate organisation - The Greenkeeper Training Committee, with its own Director of Training, funded by the Home Unions through a levy on every club golfer, plus grants from the R & A and PGA European Tour.

BIGGA now have to rely on members subscriptions, currently around £52 for head greenkeepers and £45 for deputies. Some clubs pay these annual fees, others expect their employees to fund their own.

In addition BIGGA have set up a successful annual exhibition at Harrogate, and have the support of grants and gifts from the turf grass industry, though not without certain strings. They also publish a monthly magazine, which is certain to be the subject of some close questioning by Members at their AGM.

The fact that the magazine is once again in financial difficulty is not in dispute, what could be disturbing to the rank and file greenkeeper members is the expected Association reported loss of £29,000.

Since BIGGA moved from one rented room in the Sports Turf Research Institute at Bingley to Aldwark Manor, the administration has like Topsy - Grow'd and Grow'd.

In addition to the Executive Director Neil Thomas, with an executive salary and expenses to match, there are now ten additional staff on the headquarters payroll.

This includes a new magazine editor appointed at the beginning of January to replace their former editor David White. White resigned the position he had held since BIGGA launched their own in-house magazine in a highly publicized dispute with the Executive Director in November last year.

Fore-shadowing what is likely to be a lively AGM, Neil Thomas writing in current issue of their publication, has reacted to what he admits are varying degrees of criticism within the structure of the Association by expressing a need for better communication "at grass roots level".

1 What problems? BIGGA's showcase, the BTME, gets better and better each year, the magazine is a market leader and membership keeps growing.

2 There have been no direct grants from the Home Unions to BIGGA.

3 The GTC is not entirely separate as there is a great deal of collaboration between BIGGA's education unit and the GTC, as was seen with the new career video premiered at the BTME. BIGGA's in-house training programme continues to develop.

4 Not just successful, hugely successful (see this month's letters page).

5 Amateur Golf, what do you mean? No doubt the companies within the industry who support BIGGA would welcome an explanation of these 'strings'.

6 Well, we dispute it. Figures presented to members at the AGM showed that the magazine made a substantial profit and made a significant contribution to the growth of the Association.

7 Yes, it has *grow'd* and *grow'd*. Membership has *grow'd* 404 percent from 1278 in '87 to 5,162 in October '93, BTME has *grow'd* by 74 percent from '93 to '94 and 30 percent from '92 to '93, and the Association's turnover has *grow'd* from £61,258 in 1987 to £707,733 in the first nine months of 1993. Of course such growth can't be handled by a one-man band, so the staff has *grow'd* to 11.

8 Yes, David White chose to resign for his own reasons but we are surprised to hear of a highly publicised dispute.

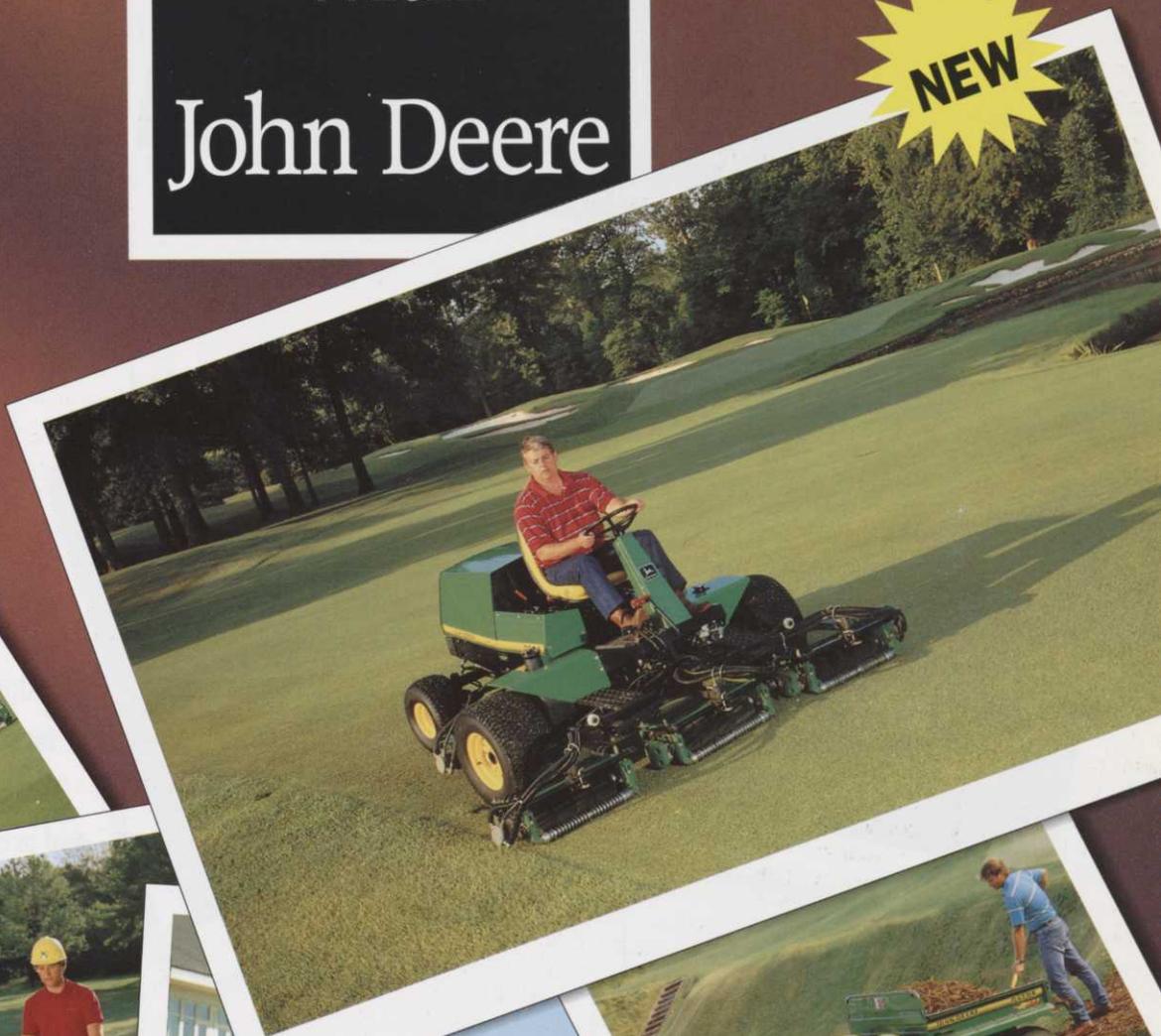
9 The AGM was exceptionally well attended, highly constructive and ended with a whole-hearted endorsement of current direction and plans for the future.

Neil Thomas, BIGGA's executive director, commented:

"I find it extremely disturbing that 'Amateur Golf', the official journal of the English Golf Union, is prepared to publish so-called information on BIGGA's affairs which is untrue, lacking in fact, misleading and contains innuendo. The unwillingness to quote sources or follow basic journalistic principles of checking material must force the question as to the motivation for this article. At a time when BIGGA is seeking to work closely with Home Union representatives through the Greenkeepers Training Committee it must be a cause of deep regret that 'Amateur Golf' has printed material which can only be interpreted as designed to undermine the stability of an association whose dramatic progress over the last seven years is a credit to the partnership of members, officials and officers working for the betterment of the greenkeeping profession as well as to the support received from the R&A and companies working within the industry."

From Tee to Green with John Deere

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The new 3235 Turf System Mower is the latest example of our commitment to your business. Now, you have John Deere products that can literally take you from tee to green. Read more about these products, then contact us soon for a first-hand look.

NEW

3235 Turf System Mower

Quality of cut was the top priority in designing the new 32-hp (24-kW) 3235 Turf System Mower. Your choice of John Deere standard or heavy-duty ESP cutting units deliver the ground-hugging benefits of 22-inch (56-cm) reels regardless of what turf surface you work on.

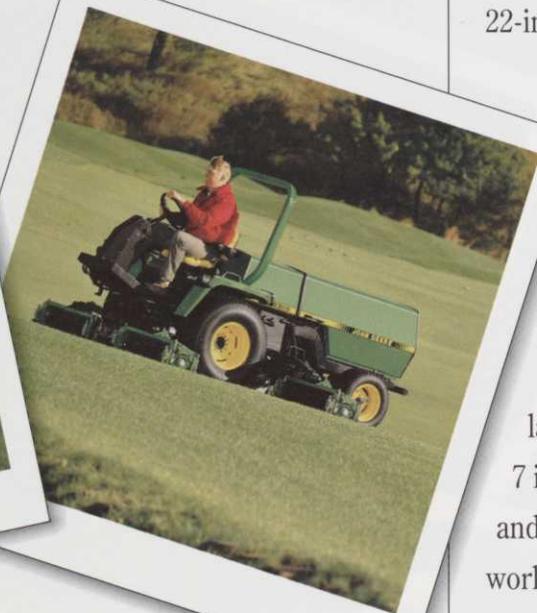
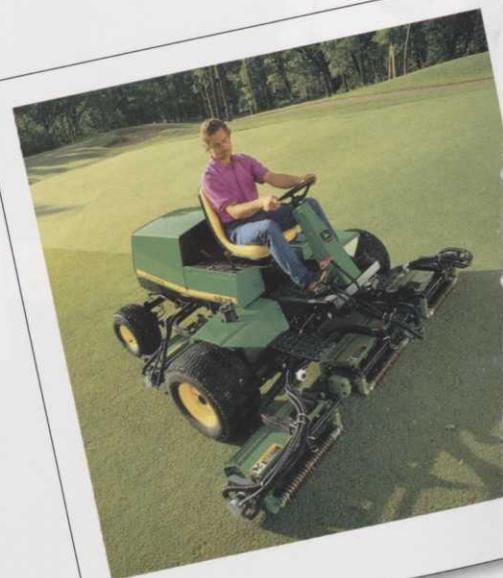
The standard cutting units are 5 inches (13 cm) in diameter and are the logical choice for slow growing grasses. The larger ESP cutting units are 7 inches (18 cm) in diameter and are the perfect choice for work in long grass and wet conditions.

2653 Professional Utility Mower

The 2653 Professional Utility Mower brings the unique combination of superior climbing ability, hydraulic reel drive, and 26-inch (66-cm) cutting units to trim mowing. Important 2653 features include a liquid-cooled 18-hp (13.4-kW) petrol engine, hydrostatic 3-wheel drive, and weight transfer system.

3365 Professional Turf Mower

The 3365 is designed for wide-area mowing where quality of cut is still a priority. John Deere designed and manufactured ESP (Extra Strength and Precision) cutting units provide exceptional performance. Their 30-inch (76-cm) width and 5-gang design combine to deliver a 3.5-metre cut on every pass.



Do With John Deere



2243 Professional Greens Mower

A new diesel option highlights the 2243 Professional Greens Mower this year. This new 3-cylinder, 18-hp (13.4-kW) liquid-cooled Yanmar diesel engine was designed to reduce emissions, reduce noise and increase fuel efficiency. Patented offset design of the 2243 cutting units means 50 percent less tracking wear around the perimeter of your greens. Long-life features include hydrostatic transaxle with enclosed hydraulics, full-length steel frame, simple service access, and O-ring hydraulic fittings.

NEW

Gator Utility Vehicles

Here are two utility vehicles for both on-turf and off-road work. The Gator 6x4 with six wheels and 4-wheel drive has an 18-hp (13.4-kW) liquid-cooled engine for quiet operation and long life. The 4x2 has four wheels, 2-wheel drive, and features a high-torque, 10-hp (7.5-kW) air-cooled engine. Total payload capacities, including 200-lb. (90-kg) operator and passenger are 900 lbs. (408 kg) for the 4x2 and 1,200 lbs. (544 kg) for the 6x4.



1200 Bunker and Field Rake

The 1200's combination of a 10-hp (7.5-kW) high-torque engine and 164-to-1 gear reduction allows it to do as much or more work than expensive hydrostatic alternatives. With its exceptional traction and pulling power, the John Deere 1200 efficiently handles varying conditions and applications. A full range of implements include ground-hugging, 3-section rake with hydraulic lift option, cultivator and front blade. Also ideal for sports fields maintenance.



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Our Locations

Parts distribution centres are located in Milan, Illinois, in the U.S.A., and in Bruchsal, Germany. The Milan centre alone has 41 acres (16.6 ha), or enough

to enclose 38 American football fields. Regional depots are located in 14 cities in North and South America, Europe, Africa, Australia and for the UK and Ireland Nottingham England.

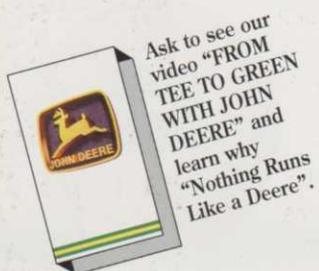
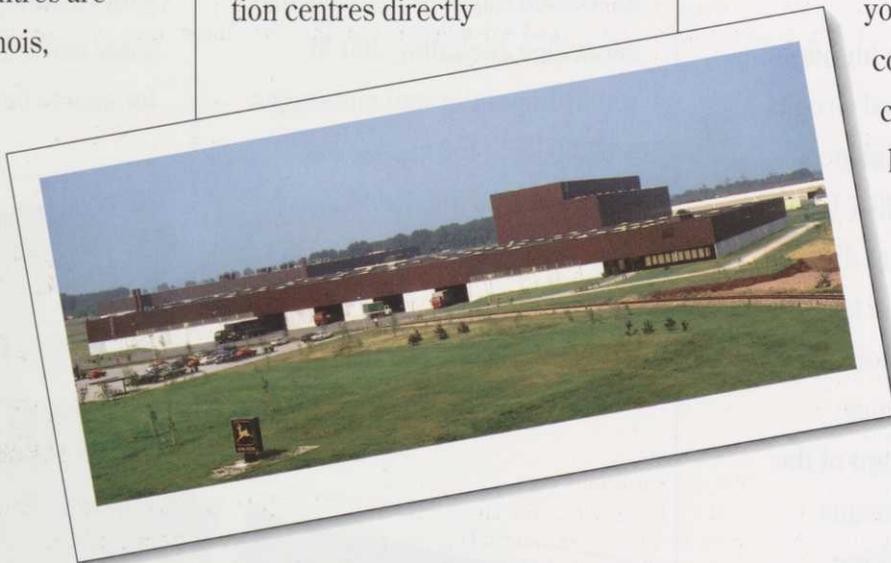
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What is independent financial advice and does anyone need it? If they do, how do they go about finding it and ensuring its quality?

The concept of independent financial advice was established by the 1986 Financial Services Act (FSA), the cornerstone on which investment regulation and investor protection in the UK is now based. The FSA was enacted following a series of financial scandals which highlighted the fact that regulation in the investment markets was not all that it should have been.

One of its main provisions was to 'polarise' the financial services market between 'tied' and 'independent' advisers. Tied agents can only recommend the products provided by the company they are connected with; whereas independent advisers are able – indeed they have an obligation under the law – to provide objective advice upon the whole range of products available.

This distinction is very important. Anyone buying an insurance policy for example, will have well over 100 companies to choose from, each offering a wide range of contracts. There may not seem to be very much to choose between the various offices policies, but insurance policies are normally long term contracts, and, as countless surveys have shown, the difference which results from choosing a contract from a poorly performing life company compared with one from a top performing office can amount to tens of thousands of pounds.

Expert help is essential, both in assessing the precise needs of the individual and then having sufficient in-depth knowledge of the marketplace to be able to select the most suitable product available. This is where the independent financial adviser (IFA) comes in. He is not employed by a company selling financial products so he has no conflict of interest. The IFA's role is to survey the whole market, selecting the best product and company for each client's particular needs.

It is now illegal to advise on investments without being properly authorised. Scrupulous checks are made to ensure that every IFA is a 'fit and proper person' to carry out this role. IFA's such as accountants and solicitors can obtain authorisation through their own professional bodies, but the majority of IFA's will be members of FIMBRA (the Financial Intermediaries and Brokers Regulatory Association).

Financial advice for greenkeepers

There are different categories of authorisation and not all IFA's are able to advise in all areas, so it is essential to ensure that your particular IFA is fully authorised to conduct the type of business that you are interested in. Extra safeguards have been built into the system to protect the public. All clients of IFA's are now covered by compensation schemes run by the regulatory bodies. Additionally, IFA's are required by law to carry Professional Indemnity Insurance giving extra protection to both the company and to the client.

To do their job properly an IFA will want full details of a client's individual situation. They are required to conduct a complete 'fact find' asking questions about age, family circumstances, health, tax status and existing savings, investments and pension arrangements.

The IFA will need to know about your particular requirements. Are you happy for your money to be tied up for a number of years earning higher interest, or will you need ready access? What is your attitude to risk? Do you plan to retire early? If your adviser does not request this sort of information, then you should be concerned. If there is something you do not understand, ask questions. If you still do not understand, back away. Take as much time as you want to think things over. You should never be pressurised into taking on a commitment that you are not 100% happy with or fully understand.

The relationship with an IFA is potentially a long term one. The individual must therefore, be totally happy with the adviser ultimately selected. Trust is an essential ingredient. We suggest five questions you should ask yourself before choosing an IFA.

●First, is the adviser technically competent and able to demonstrate experience in his field. If he is a specialist in a particular area, make sure his specialisation fits your requirements?

●Second, do you think your adviser is enthusiastic and you feel you are able to get on with?

●Third, are you sure you feel comfortable with him, as it is in your interests to build a rapport with your adviser?

●Fourth, will you have continuity of contact with the same person and ask what back-up services he provides?

●Finally, the adviser will take his remuneration by either commission or by a fee. This should be disclosed at the outset. Do you understand the basis of your adviser's remuneration as this will avoid any misunderstandings arising later on?

Much has been made of the commission versus fees argument, but as long as the question is discussed openly, the client should be able to find an IFA operating a remuneration system that is suitable for you. The real issues for the client are an

understanding of the product purchased, the status of the adviser and having the confidence to deal with that adviser.

Today's advisers are regulated, and their clients protected, to a greater degree than at any time in the past. While better trained and more qualified than ever before, new training and competence procedures being brought in will ensure that tomorrow's advisers will be raised to an even higher professional level.

The field of personal finance is complex. Decisions made today could well determine the future financial prosperity and security of both yourself and that of your dependants. Remember, it pays to take an independent view!

●For further information complete and return the reply-paid card in this issue.

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Consider for a minute how much we have all come to rely on the internal combustion engine in our work and personal lives. Not until something goes wrong do we realise just how difficult it would be without it.

Over the last three decades virtually every operation carried out in golf course maintenance has been mechanised. An engine's function is often taken for granted – turn a key or pull a rope and it starts. That is until the day when nothing happens and the odds are this will occur when that particular piece of equipment is most needed. The petrol or diesel engine has become of paramount importance in enabling course managers and greenkeepers to fulfil their duties to the satisfaction of the golfing fraternities.

In this article we are looking at a number of aspects relating to the engine. These include engine emissions and the environment, replacing the power unit as an alternative to buying a complete new machine, plus tips on how to care for this important part of your equipment.

A cleaner environment

Engine technology has increased in leaps and bounds over the last decade, largely due to outside influences. Governments throughout the world have been pressurised into doing something about the way they protect the planet. As a result the pollution created from burning fossil fuels is very much under the

POWERFUL or POWERLESS?

PETER OAKFORD looks at engines

spotlight. Proposed legislation on this issue is being continually introduced. Engine manufacturers recognising this and their responsibilities have assigned vast amounts of money to research and development to produce cleaner and more economical power units.

Here in the United Kingdom every car owner knows unleaded petrol is cheaper. This is because of a government initiative to encourage us to use it instead of leaded fuel. As part of the policy for cleaner air the MOT now entails stricter tests on exhaust emissions. These are only the tip of the iceberg. Research carried out by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) in America has given engine manufacturers their biggest challenge to date. Stringent controls on the emissions from industrial engines fitted to all types of amenity equipment are on

the way. To understand what is involved it is necessary to look at the cause. Tests in the States revealed that pollutants from these units were pumping into the atmosphere at far higher levels than originally thought and action was needed to reduce it.

There are three main culprits produced by the combustion process that are harmful to health, carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons and nitric oxide.

Carbon Monoxide

This is generally considered to be the greatest health hazard. It is produced as a result of incomplete fuel combustion due to a lack of oxygen. The critical factor in avoiding production of carbon monoxide is the fuel and air mixture. A rich mixture produces this gas whilst a lean one keeps the level down. Badly

adjusted or worn carburettors are the main cause.

Hydrocarbons

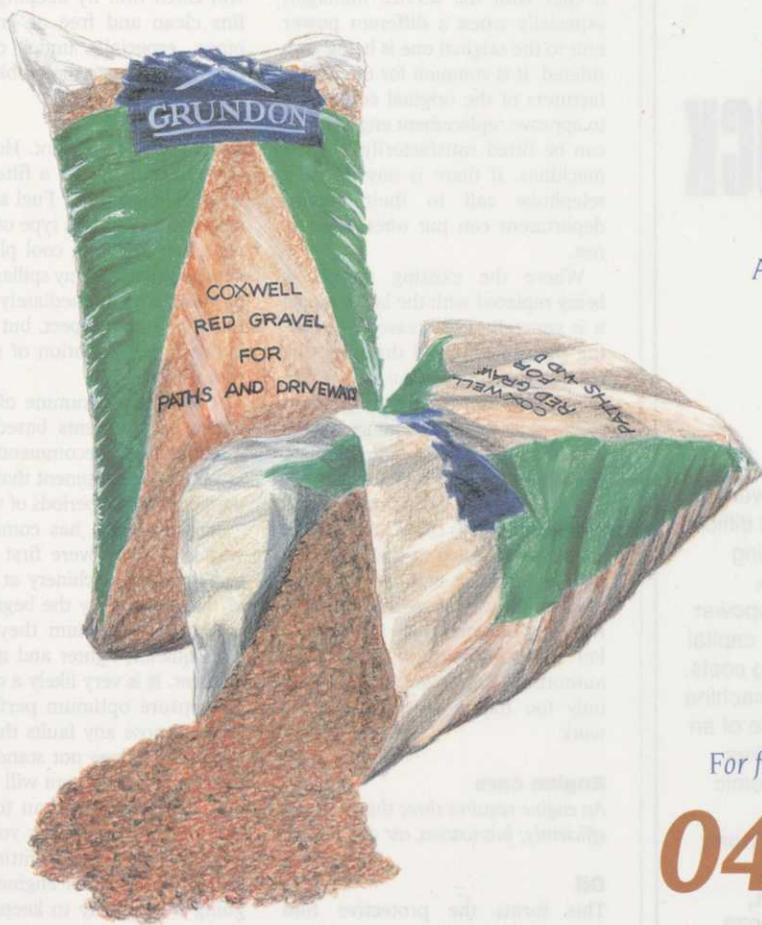
These are also formed by incomplete fuel combustion. In this case if the fuel mixture is too lean the engine runs erratically and emissions of hydrocarbons increases. Another source of hydrocarbon pollution that is often not taken into account is fuel evaporation from containers or spillage.

Nitric Oxide

This is produced as a result of oxygen and nitrogen combining at high temperatures. It is very dependent on the fuel and air ratio. The temperature of an engine can be lowered by retarding the ignition timing and re-circulating the exhaust gases. This will then reduce the formation of nitric oxide. Unfortunately this action also tends to reduce the power output.

Catalytic converters

These are increasingly being included in car exhaust systems, but they are still expensive to produce. The breakdown process entails oxidising the hydrocarbons and carbon monoxide at high temperatures. On small engines there is no oxygen in the exhaust system for the action to take place, this has to be introduced into the converter. Another problem at present is the amount of heat created. It is far greater than that produced from a standard exhaust



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'Fitting a diesel engine will, in the long term, represent a considerable reduction in fuel bills'

system and represents a potential safety hazard. However the experts are working on it and the signs are that a breakthrough is not too far away.

The above indicates the importance of maintaining an engine correctly, especially in relation to the fuel and carburettor adjustments. Vast amounts of money have been used throughout the world to find solutions to these problems. The result of all this research is the introduction of engines that conserve fuel and oil, run quieter and issue less pollution. In addition, a better power to weight ratio is commonplace and modern electronics ensure they start easier. Present manufacturing processes, plus use of the latest materials have contributed to a reduction in maintenance requirements. In a nut shell, today's engine is a vast improvement on its predecessor of ten years ago.

All this would be fine except that the workload placed on equipment has also changed. Workforces have been reduced to a minimum, tight budgets restrict the purchase of new machinery, so the life of existing equipment has to be extended. In addition, it is now working for longer periods. In some instances it

is not until it finally gives up the ghost that any decision is made on what to do with it. In these situations economical ways of keeping equipment going have to be sought.

Replacement engines

There comes a time when even the most cared for engine shows signs of wear and a decision has to be made whether to repair, replace or trade-in the complete machine for a new one. If repairing the old power unit looks like being extensive and expensive then replacing the engine may be a solution. Another possible reason for this course of action is the savings in fuel. The modern petrol power unit is less thirsty and more economical to run than its predecessor. Alternatively, fitting a diesel engine will, in the long term, represent a considerable reduction in the fuel bills.

Before deciding to replace the existing power source there are several points that require consideration. Carry out a full assessment of the condition of the whole machine. Has it been maintained on a regular basis? Have any major parts or components been replaced in the last year?

In the case of mowers, what is the present state of the cylinders and

bedknives? Have they been ground regularly, if so, how much life is left in them? Will all the components such as transmissions and drives withstand the increase in power a new engine produces? Components could have been under pressure and stress if the engine has not been operating effectively. These too may need replacing. Is the mounting frame sound, not rust eaten? This point is also particularly important if a heavier power unit is being considered as the replacement.

It is strongly recommended that this full assessment is carried out thoroughly either by your own workshops or a recognised service specialist, otherwise you may find within a short period of time other parts of the machine start breaking down.

Once all these aspects have been taken into account and fitting a new power unit is a viable proposition, a choice of which one has to be decided. Now is the time to seek help from the spare parts manager at your local specialist dealer. He will be able to supply prices and specifications and tell you whether an engine replacement kit is required.

Competition between engine manufacturers is keen, so it could be an advantage to consult more than one supplier. It is also worth having a chat with the service manager, especially when a different power unit to the original one is being considered. It is common for the manufacturers of the original equipment to approve replacement engines that can be fitted satisfactorily to their machines. If there is any doubt a telephone call to their service department can put ones mind at rest.

Where the existing engine is being replaced with the latest model it is generally just a case of removing the old unit and dropping the new one in place. Sometimes the dimensions may be slightly different to the older version so minor adjustments are necessary. If a complete change of engine is being carried out modification to mountings and change of pulleys could be required. These are supplied in a kit with the new replacement unit. In a majority of cases the changeover can be carried out by your own workshops. For those without this facility an authorised engine supplier will be only too happy to carry out the work.

Engine care

An engine requires three things to run efficiently; lubrication, air and fuel.

Oil

This forms the protective film between all internal metal surfaces and dissipates the heat that is built

up from friction created by the moving parts. Over a relatively short period of time oil will become contaminated and its lubricating properties diminished. As a result the engine begins to overheat. If oil levels are allowed to drop, the temperature rises. If nothing is done about this the engine eventually seizes-up which can be an expensive lesson to learn. Dipsticks require inspecting at least once a day. The manufacturer's recommendation regarding oil changes should be followed and a top quality lubricant used.

Air

Air is critical to the efficient running of the engine and it must be clean. This is achieved through an air filtration system. These are generally found in the form of a foam pad, impregnated with oil. Periodic cleaning, especially in dry dusty conditions, is a requirement. If they become blocked through neglect then the engine runs erratically and starting becomes difficult. Dirt is drawn into the engine causing damage to internal components.

Air has another function, that of maintaining the correct engine temperature. This is achieved by a flow of air over cooling fins. If these become blocked with dirt and dried grass the flow is obstructed and the engine gets hot. In extreme cases it will catch fire. By keeping cooling fins clean and free of grass clippings, especially under cowlings, this will eliminate the problem.

Fuel

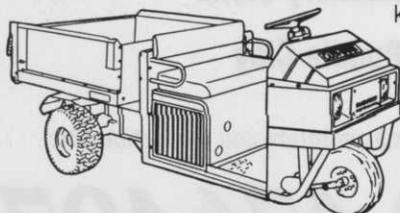
Clean fuel is important. How many readers actually use a filter funnel when filling a tank? Fuel should be stored in the correct type of labelled container and in a cool place with good ventilation. Any spillage's must be dealt with immediately not just from the safety aspect, but to avoid hydrocarbon pollution of the environment.

A weekly programme of maintenance requirements based on the manufacturers' recommendations is essential for equipment that is being worked for long periods of time.

Engine design has come a long way since they were first fitted to grass cutting machinery at the turn of the century. By the beginning of the next millennium they will be even quieter, lighter and more fuel efficient. It is very likely a computer will ensure optimum performance and diagnose any faults that occur. Technology does not stand still, so tomorrow's equipment will be better and more efficient than today's. It may not be possible for you to buy new machinery, but by fitting an up-to-date replacement engine you are going a long way to keeping your equipment operating at its peak performance.

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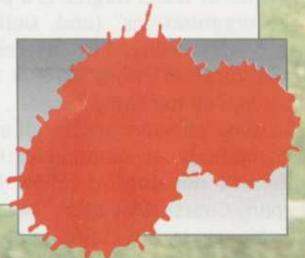
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- DTC-3 is not a detergent and has been specially formulated for pesticide spray tanks.



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AD REF 431

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We deserve a fair wage

As a qualified greenkeeper and a BIGGA member I feel I must express my concern over the wage scales that a lot of golf clubs are applying in Scotland.

The fact that many clubs won't even look at the BIGGA recommendations, let alone consider them, sums up the situation perfectly.

Throughout my nine years as a greenkeeper I have yet to be given a straight answer to the question, why?

Surely in this day and age when the role of the greenkeeper has come a long way from the 'old farm worker' or the 'glorified grass cutter', golf clubs could listen and appreciate how much more complicated the job has become.

I feel that communications between the club house and the greenkeepers' shed could be greatly improved by not only involving the 'committees' but also the ordinary members. This can easily be achieved by holding regular open nights where the members would be invited to put any questions to the greenstaff regarding the course. This would not only improve relationships, but also supply the answers that golfers frequently require after many a good or bad round.

Only when more people are aware of the job of the greenkeeper will they realise that we do deserve a fair wage and that we could possibly catch up with other skilled tradesmen.

Name withheld

It's all about teamwork

To the Executive Director

Further to the topic of your welcome article on communication, I'd like to contribute a viewpoint, extend the debate a little further, and possibly assist those seeking improved communication channels. The ability to project a professional image, in our industry as in any other, relies heavily upon effective communication.

As you rightly observe "communication, to a greater or lesser degree is a problem in all large organisations" (and, sadly in a great many small ones). But the criticism "poor communication" is in itself a negative critique, and all too easily aimed.

So, how effective are we all at our respective methods of communication? This is addressed not only to fellow Head Greenkeepers/Course Managers, but also to Golf Club Managers, Secretaries and committees.

The stress occasioned by "poor communication" is largely brought about by ambiguity – direction is unclear, the message or information to be conveyed is unclear, and often the messenger is even more unclear.

I doubt I'm alone in believing that the most effective communication method is still the spoken word followed by a written factual account of discussion and events. Yes, the perennial, much maligned and misunderstood

A FROSTY DAY AT ST ANDREWS

by WALTER WOODS

When winter comes and frosts appear
the grass turns white and the air is clear,
Greenkeepers arrive at their work each day,
Then decide – early – if golfers can play.

Damage to greens is caused by walking
and not by playing (if you hear them talking)
The leaves are broken all over the place
and the roots can't cope in keeping pace.

So, when spring comes and the greens should be good,
the ball starts bouncing – and golfers are rude.
"Why are the greens not smooth?" their song,
Just keep off the greens when the frost comes along!

Little Jack Frost can go and get lost
and give the greenkeeper some peace,
The golfers moan, jump up and groan
and invariably act The Beast.

No matter how you try – or effort apply
to protect the course for the season,
They will go and play – kick Hell and make hay
and ruin the course for no reason.

At first break of dawn, bedcovers are drawn
and out of the windows they peep,
They arrive at the tee – all cheerful and free
and stand in a crowd – just like sheep!

"Why does he do it?" they'll holler and shout
Especially loud when the greenkeeper's about.
He's doing it for you, to save the course
They would argue all day – even use physical force.

So think of one thing at the onset of spring
with the courses all pretty and nice,
If we'd played on the frost, all would have been lost
And the greenkeeper taking mental advice!

● Walter Woods BEM, is course manager at St Andrews

communication medium – the staff meeting. Be it weekly, bi-weekly or monthly it is a system I have long adhered to.

For the formulation and acceptance of course maintenance and development programmes; the introduction of quality initiatives, and determining clear collective goals and objectives, this "getting the team together" format is paramount in achieving success.

We begin with an agenda, all staff attend and the meeting is controlled and managed within two hours, each item or job is given a completion date and we all assign ourselves to the appropriate tasks. Next month we follow up, monitor progress, celebrate success (!) and set further milestones to reach, and new objectives to accomplish together!

This instrument of communication, involving all, builds team spirit, motivates, measures progress, shows tangible results and finds solutions ahead of problems. This also demonstrates a level of professionalism both in attitude to ones role as a manager – to colleagues and superiors – but also as an effective communicator.

The format will vary according to the priority of the agenda, i.e. short, medium and long term objectives. The ultimate aim being that of involving all, in following a clear direction – by the same route. Thus avoiding our old

enemy, ambiguity.

However, this process has not always been met with approval. One prospective employer listened to my rationale and agreed the principal but suggested that any such meeting including greenstaff should take place when it rained – because (obviously...) we'd have nothing better to do!

This of course was only one misguided opinion, and as we all know, opinions are like *poa annua* – we've all got some!

Anthony Black,
Golf Course Manager
(Formerly Golf Euro-Disney)

Not all and sundry

During the Christmas break I have had time to catch up with my workload, reading nominated publications advised by my tutors at Myerscough College where I am studying for a National Diploma in turf science. I have been a member of BIGGA since leaving school and starting in the industry in 1989.

One of the books I have read is 'The Way Forward'. Considerable space has been given to greenkeepers and the BIGGA organisation has been awarded both bouquets and barbed wire. One of the points that I would like to raise and feel quite strongly about is the morale of trainee greenkeepers.

Throughout my time at work and latterly at college it has always been instilled to us the importance of our professional nature, how we must strive to become the best. To quote the editorial: how 'There is now great opportunity for greenkeepers to make a concerted effort to project themselves as technically competent, qualified individuals in a skilled profession.' To feel part of this profession we are encouraged to join BIGGA and feel part of the team.

Now I find all sorts applying to join. Get in favour with a greenkeeper and he will give you an application form, once you are a member you can play most courses in the country for free.

Please can we stop this practice before it takes too tight a hold. By all means encourage membership but be sure we have members who have the profession at heart, those who are willing to help us establish our professional status and are willing to work for that end. Not golf club members who are in the right place at the right time wanting to take advantage of one of the only 'perks' of our trade.

You are doing a grand job. BIGGA is killing off the peak cap and string belt greenkeeper and the new image is gradually coming to the fore. Our profession knows BIGGA is there, we must now get the message across to clubs and golfers that we know what we are doing.

Tom Smith,
Myerscough College, Preston

● Editor's note: "All sorts" can't join. Each application is vetted at national and local level. And at least two applications have been turned down since November because the applicants didn't work where they said they did.

Thumbs-up for the BTME

To the Chairman

Many congratulations on a most successful event and my good wish for the continued prosperity of your Association, which means so much not only to greenkeepers but to all golfers.

Hugh Griffiths, captain of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews

To the Executive Director

Having just spent a most enjoyable week at the BTME, I would like to thank you most sincerely for the time and effort you put into this event to make certain that everything went smoothly and that it was a success.

I appreciate this was a team effort and I would ask you to convey my thanks to everyone at HQ for playing their part, but a team is judged by its leader and the success of the events at Harrogate prove that the Association has the right person in that position to take it forward to further successes and recognition within the golfing world.

John Crawford, BIGGA chairman

To the Executive Director

I thought I should write to thank you, your staff and the Board of Management for running such a successful exhibition in Harrogate. As always, the atmosphere was very good amongst the trade and members. The fact that the show has grown in stature through difficult times is a credit to yourself and your hard-working staff. We now have a show that can compete with all others. I personally believe that our show is now the premier show in this country, and one which all members should be proud to attend.

A lot has happened in the association since it was set up. I can remember you presenting your first ever talk to the Surrey section at Cranleigh on "The new Association" which at that time was only a number of weeks old. Many of our objectives and aspirations for the association discussed then have borne fruit since that time. Although there is still a great deal to be achieved we should be pleased with our progress to date. I am keen that the review about to be undertaken will set the way forward to greater achievements in the future. This will, I am sure, further the respect and recognition for greenkeepers.

One other matter. I would like you to consider in the review not bringing together the National Conference with the BTME. I and others believe that both have their place in our calendar of events. We must remember that education is one of our main objectives.

Ian McMillan, Hankley Common Golf Course, Tilford, Farnham, Surrey

● *Editor's note: The future of the National Education Conference is an important matter for the Association. In many ways it is in the hands of the members who can show their support by booking places for this year's conference at the University of Warwick, April 8-10. I wel-*

come the views of other members as it is essential that a wide consensus of opinion is sought before the Board of Management reaches a decision after this April's conference.

To the Executive Director

I felt I must write formally and congratulate you and all your staff on the success of the BTME. The whole exhibition was run with smooth efficiency and calm authority.

The atmosphere within the exhibition halls throughout the three days was one of professional purpose coupled with an enthusiastic expectancy, an exhibition atmosphere rarely experienced throughout the last few years.

Quality of the visitors was the highlight of the exhibition with delegates coming to the stand to seek out information which may assist them in their work rather than just browsing around collecting leaflets. For our part we had a constant stream of decision-makers to our stand eager to learn how Blazon could improve the uniformity and quality of their spraying operation.

You now have the best exhibition, the best magazine and the best training videos - what next?

Richard Fry, Marketing Link Associates, Basildon, Essex

To the Executive Director

Thank you for all your help and support during last week's exhibition in Harrogate. From our viewpoint, it was another success and I appreciate the effort put in by you and your staff in making it so. They are all a great credit to the Association.

Kim Macfie, sales and marketing director, Hayters PLC, Bishops Stortford

To the Executive Director

Just a brief note to thank you and your team for all your efforts in making the BTME a tremendous success.

I have been at HIREX in Wembley and the word is certainly buzzing between those exhibitors who were at Harrogate and those who weren't that BTME and Harrogate was the place to be.

The vibes are definitely that we have a very successful show aimed at the right market, at the right time and at the right location. Whilst we should cooperate with any plans within the industry, at the present time we should concentrate on maintaining the steady growth of BTME.

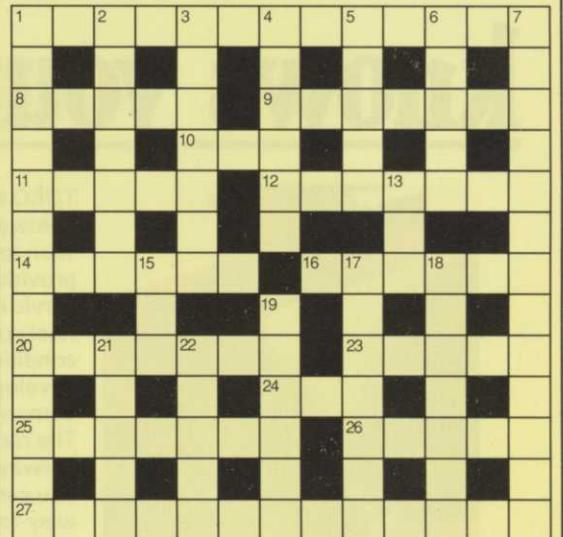
Michael Coleman, Fuchsia Exhibition Services, Great Dunmow, Essex

I write to congratulate the Association on holding an excellent exhibition at Harrogate. I don't think I have ever seen the hall so full and we were very impressed that so many delegates came from so far afield.

Jonathan Franks, Amenity Grass Seed Manager, British Seed Houses, Warrington

GREENKEEPER'S CROSSWORD

Compiled by Mark G Smith, first assistant at Frilford Heath GC



WIN A BIGGA BLAZER OR £50 IN CASH!

CLUES ACROSS

- 1(L Picea Abies) (9,4)
- 8 Why a tyre might be flat (2,3)
- 9 Cluster of leaves such as rose petals (7)
- 10 Yearly get together of members to discuss golf club business (1,1,1)
- 11 Apply another dose of Fison's "Turflex" (2-3)
- 12 Systematically watch as part of staff training (9)
- 14 Mowing implement with a large curved blade (6)
- 15 Fail to hole a putt (4,2)
- 20 State in which the 1991 USPGA Championship, Crooked Stick CC, Carmel, was held (7)
- 23 Small shoot or twig (5)
- 24 The grain on a putting green (3)
- 25 One named: the Course Manager's chosen successor perhaps (7)
- 26 Outer membrane of a pollen or spore (5)
- 27 An outsider holing a full two iron for the Championship maybe (4,4,2,3)

CLUES DOWN

- 1 The Country Club, Washington DC, venue of the 1964 US Open (13)
- 2 Hard surfaced area at the rear of the 17th green, The Old Course, St Andrews (4-3)
- 3 A golf handicap of zero (7)
- 4 To which church do former US Open Champions Billy Casper and Johnny Miller voluntarily donate a third of their earnings (6)
- 5 Manufacturer of aerators, mowers and scarifiers, etc. (5)
- 6 The rotating part of a motor or hover mower (5)
- 7 What shares the putting surface with the 7th hole on The Old Course, St Andrews (8,5)
- 13 Ernie, South African tour professional (3)
- 15 The white clover (L. folium Repens) (3)
- 17 What the Course Manager does to his greens every day (7)
- 18 Overlook or survey the whole golf course (7)
- 19 Tony, winner of the 1936 US Open Championship (6)
- 21 An evil spirit, particularly good with a putter (5)
- 22 The Common Alder (L. Glutinosa) (5)

★ Solve the crossword puzzle and you could win either a BIGGA blazer (worth £87.95) or £50 in cash! Send completed entries to: Crossword Competition, Greenkeeper International, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF.

Closing date March 4, 1994. First correct entry drawn after the closing date will win the prize. Photocopy your entry if you don't want to cut up your magazine.

Despite the absence of clue 11, there was a huge response to our first crossword (solution, right). And the winner is: James Johnstone, first assistant at Turnberry Hotel and Golf Club. He will receive his BIGGA blazer in the post soon. In case you wondered, the clue for 11 across was: Spanish nickname of Jose Maria Olazabal and the answer was "Chema".



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Strimmer, brushcutter and clearing saws are amongst the most useful power tools available to the greenkeeper for keeping things tidy. Fitted with a suitable head they can trim grass from the edges of bunkers, tees or greens, mow banks, clear around trees and shrubs or cut scrub and small trees. Call them what you will, and there are subtle differences between these names which depend on their designed use, there cannot be a golf course without at least one. The cutting head or blade, which mainly defines use and name, are in large measure interchangeable, thus the most important difference between grasstrimmer, brushcutter or clearing saw will be in power unit output or capacity, the larger more powerful motors generally being found on machines for clearing or thinning. Apart from price the main drawback from buying a larger machine than is necessary is weight – if you work for any length of time this will become apparent as the day wears on – a well balanced machine and good properly adjusted harness will alleviate a lot of fatigue.

The normal brushcutter consists of a two stroke engine driving the cutter through a long shaft and bevel gear but there are alternatives which may be worth looking at for specific situations, especially if you have a large volume of such work. There is a remarkable degree of interchangeability in brushcutters with many UK distributors using similar or even identical power units, drives or heads, nor should there be any reason other than cost and availability for not selecting whatever harness you prefer.

Knapsack brushcutters, while more expensive, offer greater versatility with an ability to cut high and a wider range of attachments available, such as hedgetrimmer, cultivator and hover mower. Several designs of edge trimmers are on the market and these may (but only may) be easier to use around bunkers. Large wheeled self-propelled rotary mowers should tackle larger clearing tasks faster and perhaps more easily. Chainsaws are often used at greater danger for scrub clearance. Little less dangerous is the use of hover mowers on ropes to cut steep banks. Hydraulic or electric trimmers are options which are severely limited by their leads.

Engine sizes on brushcutters range from about 20cc to 50cc, however cubic capacity only tells part of the story, as power output is also determined by other factors such as combustion efficiency and speed. Engines in the



The Nikon knapsack mower/brushcutter by Dixon & Holliday

JUST A TRIM

Strimmers and brushcutters, by HUGH TILLEY

25cc to 35cc range will probably be the most suitable for most trimming on most golf courses.

The use of knapsack machines on golf courses has been growing rapidly in recent years – and there are now several suppliers of these. One of the reasons attributed to this is the fact that the engine air intake on a knapsack machine is up and well shielded from the blade, thus significantly protecting it from flying sand when trimming bunkers – sand being a very effective abrasive when ingested by an

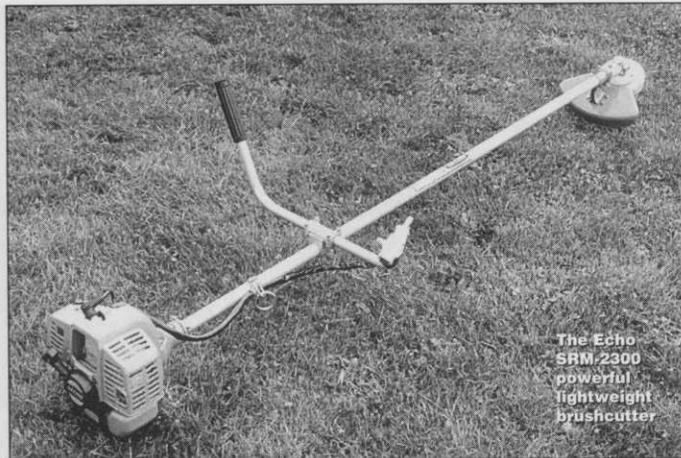
engine. Another important reason is that by carrying most of the weight of the machine on the back the user has better balance and can operate the cutter head more freely and effectively, nor is he as restricted over cutting angles or positions. This allows safer and less restricted use on banks and around bunkers.

Selection of trimmer heads or blades is one of the most critical factors in effective operation in any situation. Monofilament line has been hailed as akin to sliced bread – the greatest of inven-

tions, and it has the outstanding advantage of intrinsic safety of operation, nevertheless it will skin bark from trees or shrubs, nor is it pleasant to feet if they are not protected by substantial boots. Professional trimmer heads have two or four lines usually of 2.4mm diameter, but there is dissension over the best method of extending this line. The most usual semi-automatic method is 'tap and go' – the operator bangs the head down on the ground to release more string, however this does not work well if the line is worn or used too short – and many people like to use a short string for working around shrubs and in intricate areas. Screw or push button release mechanisms offer simplicity with reliability. Where grass cutting is the main requirement and there are a few solid obstructions a nylon bladed head will give great cutting power, while for long and heavy grass a single flat or three tooth steel blade will prove to be most effective. Obviously with these blades there is minimal protection against cutting trees, shrubs or fences etc., however stone, metal and other materials will damage the blade, even to the extent of breaking it.

Where the main target is scrub the ideal blades have three, four or up to about twenty teeth, the thicker or heavier the growth the more teeth needed. These slasher blades, often with back curving teeth can also be used for hedge trimming and most can be resharpened by hand with a file. Minimum maintenance is available - at greater cost - from tungsten tipped blades. For exceptionally overgrown hedges, for pruning, thinning and similar operations when thick woody growth has to be cut saw tooth blades are available which will cut timber up to 6" thick. Hardwoods require blades with greater numbers of teeth than softwood. Circular chainsaw blades are a fast and effective option for thinning and pruning in plantations, as they are sharpened on-site with a chainsaw file.

Control of the tool is a vital factor in use, and while precise control may not be critical for grass trimming, it is for hedge trimming or pruning. At the 'home owner' end of the market handle arrangements are fairly rudimentary, a grip on or around the motor with throttle and an adjustable stirrup or 'C' handle on the shaft. For the professional the more usual arrangements are handlebars or a 'bullhorn' with the cable con-



trolled throttle on one or other end. Most will have a 'harness' designed to carry the weight of the machine and provide a pivot point around which it is swung, the design of this is critical to prolonged effective use especially when trimming heavy grass. All elements in this harness, handle and operator relationship must be adjustable to cater for all individuals. Because adjustment is so important especially when trimming/mowing grass it may be advisable to have separate harnesses for every operator who regularly uses the machine. Most machines are intended for the right handed, however they should be adjustable for the left

hander, but beware of the exhaust which may not be.

Various options may be available to make operations easier or safer. A cup or dish under a grass blade to keep the head at a constant height off the ground can be useful, if may be an integral part of the design while various guards are available to protect the operator or plants and define the cutting circle. Not directly connected to the trimmer but nevertheless extremely useful is a non-spill fuel can. These are normally sold for chainsaw use with a second compartment for the chain oil, nevertheless they are invaluable to the greenkeeper and make filling a doddle.

Protective clothing should be thought of as integral to brushcutter or trimmer operation, and while it is not such a head to toe concept as with chainsaws both heads and toes do need protection. Steel capped boots are strongly recommended especially with slasher or saw type blades, shoes leave ankles vulnerable, but waxed cloth leggings should be sufficient protection for legs and keep mulched rubbish and water off clothing and out of your boots. Head protection must include eye and ear protection, and it is convenient to mount these on the hard hat which is essential if you are pruning or thinning trees. Goggles are often advised, however a mesh visor, if a few pounds more expensive, won't steam up, furthermore it protects the entire face.

The other vital dimension in brushcutters is dealer support, and while the reliability of most machines is good, most greenkeepers require spares from time to time as well as someone who can clean or readjust the power unit as necessary. Buying cheap may not buy you this essential support, and a machine which is not working or not working properly is a pain which far outweighs savings made by going for a purchase of least cost.

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Conference will be an education

Seventeen fascinating talks are lined up for the National Education Conference at the University of Warwick, April 8-10.

Speakers include top greenkeepers from both sides of the Atlantic as well as leading consultants.

Subjects to be covered include 'Top Dressing Successfully' (by Professor Paul E Rieke of Michigan State University), 'Everything You Will Ever Need to Know About Annual Meadow Grass Control' (by Kevin Munt, course manager at Buckinghamshire Golf Club) and the 'Restoration and Conservation of a Links Golf Course' (by Philip Baldock, head greenkeeper at Royal Portrush).

Joseph Baidy, president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, will present a paper entitled 'Golf Course Management Now and In The Future'.

Duncan McGilvray, course manager at Letchworth Golf Club in North Hertfordshire, will discuss 'Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper - What's In a Name?'.

Dr Iain Campbell, a horticultural scientist and former president at Long Ashton Golf Club near Bristol, will tell us about 'The Selection, Planting and Management of Trees For Golf Courses'. Having been responsible for planting more than 7,000 trees at Long Ashton Golf Course, he is more than qualified to give this talk.

Other speakers include Master Greenkeepers Gordon Irvine and David Whitaker, soil expert Dr Bill Adams, and David Oatis, director of the USGA's north-eastern region's green section.

Entertainment includes a quiz night and a banquet with an after-dinner speech by Stan Taylor, a former submariner and Life President of the Comedians' Golf Society.

The price for BIGGA greenkeeper members is £188 including VAT, £164.50 for spouses. This includes accommodation and meals.

For further information call Samantha Flint at BIGGA HQ on 0347 838581.



National Education Conference

8-10 April 1994

University of Warwick
Warwickshire

For the sixth consecutive year, BIGGA's National Education Conference in the spring will feature a programme of international speakers.

Topics and speakers are:

Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper - What's In A Name?
Duncan McGilvray, Course Manager, Letchworth Golf Club

Top Dressing Successfully
Professor Paul E Rieke, Department of Crop and Soil Science, Michigan State University, USA

Everything You Will Ever Need to Know About Annual Meadow Grass Control
Kevin Munt, Course Manager, Buckinghamshire Golf Club

The Role Of Higher Education In Greenkeeper Training
Nick Rigden, Head of Horticulture, Cannington College

Looking At A Bad Year In A Good Light
David A Oatis, Director, Green Section, Northeastern Region, USGA

The Restoration And Conservation Of A Links Golf Course
Philip Baldock, Head Greenkeeper, Royal Portrush Golf Club

The Selection, Planting And Management Of Trees For Golf Courses
Dr Ian Campbell, Long Ashton Horticultural Consultants

Where Does All The Money Go? - A Review Of Maintenance Costs At Collingtree Park
Peter Jones, Course Manager, Collingtree Park Golf Course

Golf Course Management Now And In The Future
Joseph G Baidy CGCS, President, Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

Soil Analysis: Why, How And What For?
Dr Bill A Adams, The University College of Wales, Aberystwyth

The Ups And Downs Of A Mill Ride
Gordon Irvine/MG, Course Manager, Mill Ride Golf Club

Under Pressure
Barrie Gregson, Course Supervisor, Mottram Hall Hotel

From Farmland To Golf Course In 1993
Alan Mitchell, Course Manager, The Hampshire Golf Club

Fitting Cultivation Programs To Your Needs
Professor Paul E Rieke, Department of Crop and Soil Science, Michigan State University, USA

Concept To Completion - A Case Study Of The Wisley Golf Club
David Whitaker MG, Course Manager, The Wisley Golf Club

Conservation And The Golf Course Working Together
Guy H Woods, Course Manager, Castle Combe Golf Club

Winners And Losers: How US Turf Fared In 1993
David A Oatis, Director, Green Section, Northeastern Region, USGA

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Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

CENTRAL SECTION

The final social event of 1993 was held on December 10, at Alloa Golf Club, when some 70 members and guests enjoyed a great night at the annual dinner/trophy presentation. Guest speaker Tim 'Tiny' Wharton was in fine form, proving that football referees are human and that they do have a sense of humour.

The dinner was followed by a disco, which was enjoyed by everyone into the early hours of Saturday morning.

Our sincere thanks go to the committee, members and staff of Alloa Golf Club, for granting us the use of their facilities. Here's looking forward to this year's dinner and another great night's entertainment. Section Chairman, Jim Easton, has even promised to learn some new jokes, so this will be an event not to be missed.

For those of you who wish to gain points towards your Master Greenkeeper Certificate, remember that they can be gained by attending section educational events, so make it a dual gain by giving your committee some support for their efforts in organising lectures etc., and gain yourself those vital points.

A list of some of the section events should be in your possession by now, but just in case you have not received it yet, here is note of the earliest ones: Tuesday February 8, visit to Scottish Grass Machinery premises in Edinburgh; Tuesday March 25, revisit the Monarch's Course at Gleneagles and Tuesday April 26, Spring Tournament/Hayter Challenge qualifying event. Where entry forms are required please ensure that they are returned in plenty of time prior to the event.

To end this month's report on a disappointing note, 85 members have failed to return their allocation of prize draw tickets, valued at some £650, which is quite a loss to section funds.



JOHN CRAWFORD

SOUTH WALES

On Wednesday December 15, the Pyle & Kenfig Golf Club played host to our Christmas Competition and Annual General Meeting. The whole day was well attended, but some 36 hardy golfers endured the freezing cold and gale force winds to "do battle" for the Vitax Shield.

The course was in as excellent condition as ever, with the weather making for an even harsher test of golf over the normally demanding links.

Results: Overall winner Gareth Beck (Trade) 35 points, winner of the Vitax Shield Chris Thomas (34 points), 3rd our old favourite Ted Thompson 33 points, 4th Tony King 32 points, 5th Malcolm Davies 31 points.

Our thanks to Paul Robinson and his merry team (They were by 9pm!) for the condition of the course, it brought much praise and rightly so!

The AGM was held in the clubhouse at 3pm, after everyone had thawed out, with some 47 members in attendance, which was good to see. Vice Chairman Idwell Morris chaired the hour-long meeting and fine job he did, standing in for the Chairman Tony King.

The four course Christmas dinner that followed was an absolute feast, this was a unanimous decision passed by the 51 present who indulged themselves - and why not!

So to the finale, an hour-long, non-stop, laugh-a-minute, by the ever-funny, Bryn Philips. Bryn

EVENTS DIARY

March 5-8: Canadian Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show, Calgary, Alberta

March 8: Scottish Region Annual Conference, Elmwood College, Cupar

April 27: Westturf, Turf Care Trade Exhibition, Long Ashton Golf Club

June 29: Southturf, Turf Care Trade Exhibition, Mottspur Park

September 6-8: Saltex (previously IoG) Trade Exhibition, Royal Windsor Racecourse, Berkshire.

returning from last year by popular demand and who again kept us thoroughly entertained for a full 60 minutes.

Our thanks to Don Booth, Chairman of the green at Pyle & Kenfig who represented the club and presented the prizes, the Captain who in his absence, fueled the top table with wine, the caterers and everybody associated with the golf club. Thanks also to all those individuals and trade members who furnished the prize table, many were there: Alan Stowe, Colin Murphy, Rigby Taylor, Tacit, Liquid Turf, Sisis, Peter Hampton, Birds, Avoncrop, Hayters, Ted Hopkins and Pro Turf. There were so many I apologise if your name's not mentioned.

To finish on a sombre note it is with great sadness that I must inform you of a sudden, untimely death of Mrs Pam Murphy, wife of Colin Murphy, who passed away on Sunday, December 19.

Both at the church service in Pentwrch and at Thornhill Crematorium, Cardiff, many friends and family gathered to pay their last respects. Pam's kindness and popularity was plain for all to see, by the sheer numbers that were in attendance. Our sincere condolences go out to Colin and his family at this sad time.



PETER LACEY

SOUTH COAST

At last the winter is well along but there are still treats in store in the form of our remaining two winter lectures at Alresford Golf Club. On February 2 we have Ken Barber for the East Sussex National Golf Club telling us about the maintenance of his courses. Then if that isn't enough to make us all green with envy over large budgets, David Whitaker MG is coming on March 2 to talk about the maintenance of the Wisley complex. Both meetings are at 7pm, don't miss them.

On December 7 a most enjoyable day was held at the Royal Winchester Golf Club. The weather was much better for the golf than last year when the game had to be abandoned due to rain. At the AGM three committee members, Ian Greenfield, Ian Rickman and Joe Burdett did not seek re-election and we would like to thank them for the work that they have put into the section. A special mention must be made to Joe Burdett who has been untiring as the tournament organiser. Also Bob Dennis stood down as the Hon Secretary after nine splendid years. However, new faces appeared in the committee with Jeff Drake of the "Hampshire" Golf Club and Bob Cully of Lee on Solent being elected. Bob has come on as the new tournament organiser. Good Luck Bob!

So on into spring with our spring tournament at the Test Valley Golf Club (polish up your sand wedges) on April 21. "Where is Test Valley"? you

all cry. It is near Basingstoke on the road between Micheldever and Overton.

See you all at Alresford!

ALAN MITCHELL

EAST ANGLIA

Our travelling band met at Bury St Edmunds Golf Club for the traditional Turkey Trot/AGM. We managed to pick a good day for the Trot and as everyone got a prize, even me, a good day was had by all. I'll mention the top four as it was Christmas: 1st Peter Howard 41 points, Andrew Arbon, James Morton, Roger Plummer - 39 points each. Our thanks to CMW for the Turkey and Sisis, Rigby Taylor, Kings, Hayter, Collier, Rushbrooks and Stabrite for the raffle prizes.

The AGM was quite lively. It was election time and few changes are in the pipeline. Sam and Mike who both do a great job, have given notice that they won't be doing so much in the future - winding down is the term.

Office holders for 1994 are as follows: President, Ernie Hart, Vice-President, Bob Cheswane, Chairman/Treasurer for new Sam Sylvester, Vice Treasurer Mike Peters, Secretary, Dave Wells. Regional Board: Dave Wells, Sam Sylvester, Mike Peters, Handicap Secretary, Alan Carter. Scribe, Mick Lathrope.

Steve Freestone is no longer Assistant Handicap Secretary as he's just popped over to Australia to get married. He said we could all go and he'll buy the first round. All we've got to do is get there. Good on ya cobbler or did I say cobblers? He should be back soon.

It was also Toddy's birthday. Congratulations to him and at the other extreme one of the Bury team, Andrew Cooke became a father. Both wife Emma and daughter Marnie are doing fine. We've also got some new members, Messrs Curtis, Hickford and Morgan.

Dates for 1994: Rochford, April 19, Raymeston, June 14, Thetford, August 10, Gog's, October 4. Thanks again Bury for a super day.

MICK LATHROPE

DEVON AND CORNWALL

Seventy-six members and trade members attending our Christmas meeting which was held once again at Okehampton Golf Club on Wednesday, December 8.

Despite the rain and gales over 40 members competed in the morning 18 hole golf competition for the P J Flegg trophy. With all the rain gripping the golf club got very difficult with Wyndham and yours truly having to climb trees to retrieve our clubs, with all the banter we received from our partners, made our day even more enjoyable.

Our congratulations to Richard Wisdom and his staff who had the course in excellent playing conditions despite the weather.

After an excellent Christmas dinner, Patrick Flegg of P J Flegg presented the golf prizes for the morning's Greensome competition to:

1st, T Ramsden (Budock Vean) & A James (Tehidy), 41 points; 2nd, G Tamblin & D Manley (Mullion), 38 points; 3rd A Woolnough (Teignmouth) & W Potter (East Devon), 37 points.

After our golf presentation we were entertained by the superb comedian Graham Gadd, who kept us laughing to our raffles which concluded the day. The first raffle being for two hampers, kindly donated by Avoncrop and Peter Andrewartha and won by Mike Pike and Wyndham Potter. The sec-

ond raffle was for prizes kindly donated by members and the trade.

Our thanks to Patrick for donating and presenting the day's golf prizes, also thanks to our President, John Palfrey for supplying the wine with lunch.

The Section would like to express its gratitude to Okehampton Golf Club for allowing us use of their facilities once again.

Our section seminar was held once again at the superb venue of Fingle Glen on Wednesday January 12, which attracted some 75 members and trade.

With the weather conditions still only being fit for ducks, only the more hardy members took to their flippers to play water golf for the morning's 9 hole Devon v Cornwall match.

As usual the trade supported the section by taking up eight trade stands in the reception area which proved very successful because of the awful weather outside.

Our thanks to Avoncrop, Devon Garden Machinery, Fisons, P J Flegg, Rigby Taylor, Roffeys, Vitax and Willcocks for taking trade stands.

After an excellent lunch Richard Minton of ICI presented the golf prizes to: S Milne (Exeter) 22pts, T Gooch (Torrington) 20pts, E Barber (Teign Valley) 19pts.

With all the recent floods, the River Tamer was running high which prevented most of our Cornish members being able to bring their golf clubs across the border! When yours truly (a Cornish member) decided to cancel our annual Devon v Cornwall match, there was no truth in the rumour that the Cornish had forgotten their clubs due to three defeats in three outings!

Our afternoon seminar was held in the ICI sponsored conference room, with members being treated to two excellent papers being presented by Peter Winter of the STRI on "fertilisers and what the analysis means" and Richard Newman of Cannington College on "Preparing your COSHH assessment".

Question time finished the afternoon programme

Around the Green



which was of great educational value to all who attended. Our thanks to Peter Winter and Richard Newman for presenting excellent papers and to Bill Pile, Course Manager and all the Fingle Glen staff who made our day so successful.

Our gratitude to Mr E Pugh and his management team for once again allowing our section use of their facilities, also to Richard Minton of ICI and to the trade companies who had sponsored the day.

On behalf of all the section members who took advantage of this year's regional package to BTME at Harrogate, I would like to thank Gordon and Marion Child for once again organising a superb educational trip.

Members please note: Our next meeting will be held at Padbrook Park Golf Club on Wednesday March 23, this will also be our Hayter qualifier, please make sure your entries are returned to me with correct monies by the closing date.

Your help is needed to promote this year's WESTURF trade show to be held on Wednesday April 27 at Long Ashton Golf Club, Bristol. Many of you will know groundsmen and committee members of your local sports club, so why not invite them to the show, anyone in the turf care industry will be most welcome.

We also need your support at WESTURF so I look forward to meeting you all on our stand.

RICHARD WHYMAN

CLEVELAND

David Cook now has City & Guilds Phase 2 and is

now on Phase 3. Shaun Carnell has passed Phase 3 and is studying Phase 4. Nicky Dawson attended BIGGA management course Year 2.

Eaglescliffe Golf Club staff are thinning out trees in copses to aid cutting equipment, keep grass under control. The object is to keep major hardwoods ie. oak, ash beech with some Scots pine. After 10 years progress is satisfactory.

Spraying greens with soluble iron during winter months is beneficial. The grass leaves as strengthened against disease attack and greener colour is welcome. Frost seems to stop disease activity.

Stimpeters would be more accurate if the 20°, was built in with a support at one end of to 20°, otherwise one is not consistent. Everyone can have a different reading.

Tony Mears, finalist in ICI/Premier Greenkeeper of the Year deserves our congratulations for doing so well. He is also a qualifier for Master Greenkeeper Certificate.

A quiz - Cleveland versus IoG Teeside sponsored by Turf Care Products (ie. Terry Charlton and Barry Clemwell) - was a great success and entertaining winners were IoG by a short head.

Gary Munro is confirmed as new secretary, Keith Lough is treasurer, Ian Holoran, regional rep.

Outings pending, the Gem Professional new compost depot South Yorks, also to Jacobsen HQ at Kettering.

Spring golf to be at Dinsdale on May 12.

Ian Harrison says he is holding his own against Take All Patch disease on his greens. He used a holecutter to remove diseased areas and brought in plugs of bents for surrounds. Alkaline soils encourage this disease. Nitrin Doyer installed, hope to hear more in 1 year.

Divotting of tees commences this month and aeration and top dressing of greens. April here is always a month of discontent. Players watch Augusta on TV and expect similar conditions. We have low soil temperature in April. I believe all we can do is very light verti cutting to remove coarse grass, ie. Yorkshire Fog. Short cutting is disastrous

STRENGTHEN



L3250

when too early. We need to be patient, good tryers and hard skinned. Good results arrive in May. Alternative is return the greens and golfers object to work on greens but keep complaining. Club houses are like palaces and if £10,000 per green was spent, golfers would then have nothing to blame! or would they? When we are closed we should be open and visa versa. If in doubt keep the course closed.



This is a business and should be run so. Decisions regarding closure of open of the course should be by one man and respected by all.
BRUCE BURNELL

NORTH WALES

It's many years since I last wrote the Section notes and I hope you will bear with me whilst I attempt to rediscover the skills of successful scribe!

On December 6 the Christmas competition was held at the Vale of Llangollen Golf Club. Many thanks to all at Llangollen and to the committee for providing us with a very enjoyable day. Winners were: 1st - Aled Hughes (Portmadog) 33pts Brucra Trophy (back nine), 2nd Pat Valentine (Abergele) 33pts, Lee Hinks-Edwards (Wawarden) 33pts. Guest prize: H E Williams (Pwllheli) 40 pts.

A special word of thanks to Terry Adamson who somehow managed to ensure that everyone present went home with at least one bottle. The work that this man does on behalf of the section should never be underestimated and he epitomises all that is good about committee work.

Following the golf the AGM was held and the committee re-elected en bloc. Officers for the next year are as follows: Chairman - Brian Anderson (Abergele), Treasurer - David Proctor (Barron Hill), Golf Admin - Terry Adamson, Administrator - Andy Campbell (Carden Park).

Congratulations to Len Sproston on his appointment as Head Greenkeeper at the new Eaton Golf Club. It's good to see you back Len and wish you every success.

Around the Green



Members will be circulated shortly with details of functions and events, but in the meantime, if you have any ideas or comments to make I can be contacted on 0829 250556 or 0836 785751.

I look forward to serving you and would only ask for your support both in recruiting new members and attending the functions already planned.

It only remains to wish you all the best for the New Year and here's to a slightly drier one.
ANDY CAMPBELL

AYRSHIRE

In this first report of 1994 from Ayrshire I wish all our section members a happy, prosperous New Year, and hope to find the celebrations have loosened a few tongues and writing arms to send a few bits and pieces for the monthly report. It is meant to be your column, with your local news, so let's hear a little more from you in future.

Congratulations go to Ian McNab, Head Greenkeeper at Dumfries and Galloway Golf Club and Section Vice Chairman, on winning this year's award for services to the section, the prize being a trip to the Harrogate Conference. This is a new award which will be given annually, so let's see some fierce competition in '94.

Looking back over '93, one trend that many in our profession are becoming more and more disturbed about is that of these advisory bodies springing up all over the country, many giving greatly conflicting advice, particularly the construction specifications, this year which will most certainly

result in serious long term problems. It is time BIGGA got involved in this area! I am also concerned about the fact certain golf course architects are running our profession down by advising their clients that greenkeepers are overpaid.

In Ayrshire we are looking forward to the Open at Turnberry this year which I am sure will be one of the courses in excellent order. We hope to meet you all in the tent as usual.

Please phone me with anything for next month on 0292 70929.

DUNCAN GRAY

SURREY

In the absence of Roger Tydeman who stood down from the Committee at the AGM I am writing this month's article.

May I take this opportunity of thanking Roger and other members of the committee who also stood down at the last AGM; Robert Brewer for his work as Treasurer and Terry Huntley who has been Chairman for the past two years and was on the committee prior to that.

Our Turkey Trot and AGM were held at Ashford Manor Golf Club. Both were well attended.

I would like to thank the Captain, Committee and Secretary of Ashford Manor for allowing us to use the facilities. Many thanks also to Terry and his staff, for the fine conditions of the course. A good time was had by all.

All Surrey members will shortly receive a list of this year's golfing fixtures and other events. I hope these will be well attended and hopefully we will see a few new faces.

Our next winter lecture is at NESCOL college on March 2 at 7.30pm. Hope to see you there.

DAVID ANDREWS

EAST MIDLANDS

May I take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new secretary for our Section, and to say thanks to our retiring secretary, Tony Howorth for all the hard work he did whilst in office.

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Our Section AGM was held at Glen Gorse Golf Club in Leicestershire on 18 November with the winner in our bogey competition being P Forshaw 5 up, then on to the serious business of the AGM with the following members duly elected:

Chairman: S Goode, Vice-Chairman: T Allard, Secretary: A Bindley. Committee Members are: G Arnold, P McCarron, R Barker, A Porter, D Leatherland and G Robson. Regional Representatives: R Barker and A Bindley.

Thanks to Glen Gorse Golf Club for their kindness and hospitality.

Then on to Longcliffe Golf Club for our Christmas tournament which was held on 17 December (sorry I was unable to attend). The eventual winners being P Tatlow in the 0-9 and B Gostinski in the 10-18 stableford competition. Thank you again to all at Longcliffe Golf Club.

A thank you should also go to all of the trade for their kind support throughout the year.

It is with regret that I report the death of Len Wood, a popular Section member who had worked at Kirby Muxloe Golf Club in Leicestershire for 22 years. Our condolences go to all his family.

On a brighter note, we welcome the following new members to our Section: Richard Johnson and Michael Fitzgerald, both from Rugby GC; Christopher Clarke, Sion Poyser, Matthew Seaborn and Frank Allsop, all from Branston Golf and Country Club; Hector Muir from Mickleover GC; Neil Swift, from Rushcliffe Borough Council; Maria Lawrence, a student at Moulton College; Kevin McAdams from Purley Chase GC; David Bevan, Collingtree Park GC; Jason Barrington, Park Hill GC; Peter Higton, Westwood GC and Danny Brown, from Lingdale GC. It is hoped the new members will introduce themselves at Section events, where they will be made most welcome.

On March 16 we will be holding our first winter lecture at Lingdale GC. It is hoped that as many members as possible will come along. Speakers will include Mark Hunt and Valerie Holt.

Finally if anybody has any information for me they can reach me on 0533 890301.

ANTONY BINDLEY

KENT

A belated 'Happy New Year' to all our members and many apologies from yours truly for not getting around to entering our news for a short while, but to say things have been a bit hectic on the work and home front would be an understatement. I trust that by the time you read this your course has at least the high spots and mounds rising as islands from the sea. I dare say that if the waters subside to expose just one green your members will be clamouring to play. Yes rain, rain and a bit more rain. I suppose I can still smile as at this time I have no members and being on gravel the course has been open for play - proper greens and all.

Well back in the far off days of early December 1993, 50 or so members took the opportunity to make a follow-up visit to the London Golf Club to view the progress made during the growing in period when we last visited in March. The results were very impressive and we thank the staff at the LGC for their time and hospitality during our visit, especially Joe Paulin, the Course Manager and his assistant, Steve Marsden. Steve, if you ever need a reference to join the London Transport as a bus

Around the Green



driver, just give us a call. Finally thanks to Liquid Sod for laying on the lunchtime spread, it was most welcome and enjoyable.

December 16 saw our AGM and Turkey Trot at Darenth Valley Golf Course. The course was in fine fettle and we were blessed with bright, although cold blustery conditions. I must admit that this is my favourite competition of the year, as it is the only one at which I ever win a prize, but first pick of the prize table went to that bandit from Haynes, Chris Dale with 38 points (more points than he ever scored runs)! The chasing pack, hot on his heels, with more realistic tallies in the 30 point bracket, were David Wood, John Millen, Peter Biscoe, Gary Ogilvie and Paul Copsey. The catering staff did us proud once more by serving us a superb Christmas dinner. I hope that Nigel Stapley will pass on our thanks to them once more and to his Greens Staff for their sterling efforts on what is a very busy course in what has become one of the wettest winters for years. I suppose we could give Nigel some credit as well. The only disappointing part of the day not only for the golf, but also the AGM that followed was the poor turnout, bearing in mind that we have some 170 members. Two reasons immediately spring to mind, one, that they are all wimps and not man enough to run in near freezing conditions from the Portakabin housing the showers to the one containing the changing room with no more on than a smile, or two, that they are so pleased and happy with the way our Section and Association are run they feel no need to voice their opinion on any subject whatsoever. Apologies for absence were gratefully received for the meeting by Tenterden's Jim Cameron. We wonder what happened to the other 130 or so.

Anyway, the long and the short of it, for those of you interested, is that two new members have been press-ganged onto the Kent Committee, namely Peter Biscoe and Chris Sharp, with Andy Arther having his arm twisted to make a return. A brief run down of the past and forthcoming year's activities was given by our Secretary, David Wood, with much attention paid to the hosting of the Southturf show to be held at Motspur Park on June 29. With the organising of this event and his other Regional Administration activities eating into his time, I understand that David is keen to off-load his Section Secretary load onto a willing volunteer. It will probably take at least a year to find one!

John Millen gave a brief insight on developments within the Association at National level and in the educational field. Our warmest good wishes go to him when he takes on the prestigious honour and mantle of BIGGA Chairman. The meeting wound down in its usual speedy manner, the lure of the bar the extraordinary possibility of one of our Scottish comrades buying a drink being too great.

Finally congratulations to Willie McConville as he succeeds Derek Gould as Head Greenkeeper at Langley in Norfolk and we wish him and his wife all the best for the future. Also congratulations due to Gary Mills as after five years as First Assistant he succeeds John Atkins as Head man at Chestfield. Sadly John has had to finally retire from the post through ill health after 26 years with the club. I am informed that John's condition is slightly better at

present and we wish him all the best. The Atkins' tradition lives on at Chestfield, however, as John's son has joined the staff. As far as the course is concerned I understand that there is still no news on the Thanet Way ploughing its way through the course. With typical planning, they have built each end of the road, but still cannot decide on where the middle bit should go.

PAUL COPSEY

LONDON

It is with regret that I inform members of the recent death of Hugh MacGillivray. He will be remembered for his efforts over the years and our condolences are passed onto his family.

The winter seminar was held at Oaklands College in December and 132 delegates attended. The day proved to be a great success and I would like to thank all the speakers for presenting excellent papers. Various subjects were covered and the response from the delegates afterwards was encouraging. I would like to congratulate Donal Penn-Howard for winning the day trip to the BTME and I hope you enjoyed your visit. I would also like to thank Oaklands College for all the support and especially Ian Merrick for his help in the organisation. The trade as always supported us and we thank G Browns, CMW, Gem, Parker Hart, Rpk, Rigby Taylor and Turf Management Systems for digging deep and helping the day run so well.

The first chainsaw course was held in December and Oaklands College was the venue. Over two consecutive Saturdays, four local lads trained for chainsaw maintenance and cross cutting modules and it proved to be extremely beneficial. Finally, I would like to thank Rpk Supplies for the recent presentation by Dr Neil Baldwin on Service Chemical

Products and for providing the go-kart entertainment that followed. Everybody that attended enjoyed the day, well done.

Please remember to call me with any news or ideas on 081 959 5629.

TONY DUNSTAN



MID-ANGLIA

Our last golf fixture of the year took place on December 3 at Ashridge Golf Club. The format was the same as a Texas Scramble, but the venue was changed after seven consecutive years at South Beds Golf Club. The weather was kind to us, so we could enjoy to the full the superb setting at Ashridge.

Jim Cassidy and his team must be congratulated on the condition of the course and our thanks go to Ashridge for their courtesy and hospitality. A great day was had by all. The results were as follows; (the winners received £20 vouchers each, 2nd £15 and 3rd £10):

1st, B Wright, J Wright, T Lucas, M Bird; 2nd, R Saunders, J Burton, N Stewart, C Hardwick; 3rd, C Brook, J Wells, R Archer, G Snell.

Our thanks once again to our main sponsors of the day Kingston House Mowers, and to all the other trade members who donated prizes and supported the occasion.

John Glyn-Davies of Kingston House Mowers presented the 'Kingston House Cup' to Jon Moorhouse of Bocket Hall Golf Club. The cup was donated last year, to be awarded to the player with the best result over the Spring, Summer and Autumn tournaments, combined. Congratulations Jon!

Finally, Neil Thomas, the Executive Director of BIGGA visits our Section on March 8 at the Family Golf Centre, Graveley, Stevenage. This begins at 2pm, so let's have a good turn out for Neil, as I'm sure you all have questions about BIGGA and where it is going in the future.

PAUL LOCKETT



NORTH SCOTLAND

The first new members to welcome to the Section for 1994 are Alexander James Reid from Pitlochry - a full time student at Elmwood College, the first of



SCOTTISH REGION CONFERENCE

on March 8th, 1994 at Elmwood College, Cupar, Fife, 9am to 4pm

Speakers: Carol Borthwick, Elmwood; Steve Isaac, STRI; Eddie Sheret, Lothians Golf Association; Kevin Stables, Professional, Montrose; Douglas Dalgleish, Scottish Golf Union; Ian McMillan, Balbirnie Park GC; Douglas Shearer, Consultant Agronomist; Keith McKee, Fisons. Cost including morning coffee and lunch: £14 BIGGA members, £16.00 non-members.

The conference is sponsored by the Scottish Region patrons.

More details from Elliott Small, Tel: 0259 731445

many I feel judging by their enthusiasm at Ingliston last November. Also we welcome Fraserburgh Apprentice Mark Maclean and Grantown's Deputy Head Greenkeeper, Alexander Fowler. I hope to see them at Section events this year.

Anyone venturing onto the Links at Dornoch or Nairn this year had better be hitting the ball true and straight. Major bunker revetting has taken place over the winter at both courses. I have witnessed some of the finished articles at Royal Dornoch and superb they look, especially as you walk past to your ball safely on the green! I may be biased but there is no finer sight than a revetted bunker. The revetting programme at Nairn is in its second year, part of the preparation for this year's British Amateur Championship to be held there in June. We wish Ian Carson and his staff all the best for the tournament on a course which I'm sure will both test and bring pleasure to all who enter.

I recently went to visit Alick Mackay again at the Carnegie Course, Skibo Estate. The course is settling in well and should be opening this summer. It looks likely that the 1995 Scottish Greenkeepers Championships will be held at Skibo so everyone will get the opportunity to play there next year.

It is February now and members will be thinking of spring and the opening of the golf seasons. It has certainly been the worst winter up here I can remember. As I write this we have not seen the grass here for a fortnight and the snow is showing no signs of thawing. Let us just hope for a good early spring and some warmth to get the grass growing.



IAN MACLEOD

NORTH WEST

Not a lot to report this month but I would like to welcome any new members to the North-West Section and remind all members that membership fees should now be paid for 1994. If your fees are paid by your golf club you must pass your invoice into your Secretary, as the golf club is not invoiced. On 8 March 1994 the North-West Section is holding a seminar at Mere Golf and Country Club, and with the list of speakers we have available, we are in for a good day. The programme for the day is:

9am: Registration and Coffee; 10am: The Reconstruction of the Greens at Royal Birkdale, by Martin Hawtree, Course Architect, John Greasley, Course Construction; 11.20am: Construction of Water Features, by Mike Sheehan, Course Manager, Mere Golf and Country Club; 12noon: Lunch; 2pm: The Belfry Five Year Plan, by Derek Ganning, Course Manager, The Belfry; 2.40pm: Through the Green Management, by Bob Taylor, Sports Turf Research Institute; 3.20pm: Greenkeeper Training, by David Golding, Education Director, Greenkeepers Training Committee; 4pm: Question Panel; 4.30pm: Close.

Cost for the day is £20 and due to a limited number of places being available, you are advised to apply early. All applications to Bert Cross, Harthill Lodge, Harthill Road, Liverpool, L18 3HU, telephone 051 724 5412. I am at the moment in the process of completing the golfing calendar for 1994 and this, when competed, will be in the March section news.



Please remember the Section needs your support for the seminar and any other organised events.

BERT CROSS

SHEFFIELD

On December 1 our Christmas golf competition was held at Wortley Golf Club. A fine day was had by all and the weather wasn't so cruel. 1st place went to P Lyons, W Bagshaw was second and M Lake third.

Our thanks go first to B Heaney, our Competition Secretary for organising the day and with his staff preparing the course. Also our thanks go to Wortley Golf Club for allowing us courtesy of the course. Our thanks go to Brian Booth of Rigby Taylor who was our main sponsor. Other contributions were made by Peter Dell of Aitkens, Steve Burroughs of

Around the Green



Sports Turf Services and John Price of Yorkshire Mowers. Sorry if I missed anyone out, but without you all our prize table would be very small. Thank you all again. Finally a big thank you goes to the steward and his staff for feeding us all so splendidly with our Christmas meal.

The following day we had our December winter lecture at Rotherham Golf Club. Unfortunately, due to a misunderstanding our lecturer didn't arrive but has now been re-scheduled for April 1994. Without a lecture we went straight into our AGM where the Committee was elected:

President: Mr Arnold; Chairman: Neil Maltby; Vice-Chairman: David Milbourne; Secretary: Ron Ullerthorne; Competition Secretary: Barry Heaney. Other members of the Committee are: Ian Collett, Derek Neve, Ron Graham, Steve Hird and John Lax.

Dates forthcoming in your diary are Thursday March 3 when Purdys of Retford will be organising a demonstration of Jacobsen equipment at Rotherham Golf Club. Then on Thursday, April 7 our lecture will be given by Paul Wakefield of Supreme



Mowing on cylinder and bottom blade maintenance. This meeting will begin at 1pm with soup and sandwiches courtesy of Supreme Mowing, followed by the lecture at around 2pm.

IAN COLLETT

SOUTH WEST

A new greenkeeping year begins and with it a change of Secretary for the South West. After ten years as Section Secretary, Paul Worster stood down at last year's AGM and handed the responsibility to myself. It would be foolish of me to let this opportunity pass without thanking him on behalf of everybody connected with the South West for his immense efforts over his time as Secretary. A lot of the success of the Section (now nearly 230) can be attributed to Paul's organisation and drive when it comes to organising section events and education courses. It will be a very hard act to follow, particularly regarding the very original and amusing monthly reports but despite less responsibility now, we look forward to his continued presence and valuable advice to myself at forthcoming fixtures.

Talking of fixtures if it hasn't already reached you a full list of fixtures courtesy of T H Whites should be arriving through your letter box in the near future with many events listed for the coming season. The Section's success depends on your support so please try and attend as many as possible.

Wednesday, November 10 saw a visit to Ransomes factory at Ipswich. Many thanks go to Pat Smith and T H Whites, Tetbury for their sponsorship and hospitality on the day and to Ransomes themselves who gave us a very informative day on the production of their machinery, ranging from the original planning to a tour of the factory floor and inside as to how the machinery is constructed.

It was a very windy and latterly very wet Weston Super Mare Golf Club that we gathered for 1993's Christmas tournament, sponsored once again by

Roffey Brothers. A good attendance saw first place in at Extended Foursomes Stableford competition go to Peter Connert (Lyme Regis Golf Club) and Derek Eves – a prize winner again! (Painswick Golf Club) with 41 points. Second place to David Neale (Henbury Golf Club) and Peter Baynton (Long Ashton Golf Club) with 38 points. Third place to Ron Barrett (Minehead and West Somerset Golf Club) and Steve Gallier with 35 points. Myself and Peter Hampton were fourth with 34 points. As previously mentioned Roffeys were this year's sponsors providing trophies, the main prizes and wine for the meal. Their participation is much appreciated along with other trade members who donated prizes. Many appreciative comments were made about the excellent quality of the course and thanks are extended to Kevin Wroe and his staff in its preparation and also to the catering staff.

Last but by no means least congratulations to Neil Turner from Yeovil Golf Club and his wife on the birth of their son Larry – many disturbed nights' sleep await, I am sure!

On a final note, if you have any queries you wish to discuss please do not hesitate to contact me on 0272 793127.

KEVIN GREEN

EAST SCOTLAND

On January 9 I had the honour of returning to Dunbar Golf Club, the scene of the 1993 National Tournament. This invitation, from the Captain of the club, was extended to John Crawford, chairman of BIGGA, Ailsa, and myself, to attend their annual presentation of prizes and social evening.

After meeting with Graham Wood, the Head Greenkeeper, and his charming wife Helen, we took our places at the top table. Our Chairman made a presentation to Dunbar on behalf of BIGGA to commemorate their staging of the National Tournament.

Next stop was BTME where I and many others spent a great week. I was one of the lucky ones who took in the Health & Safety workshops and COSHH regulations – Jon Allbutt certainly made me sit up and think. The show itself was its usual well-organised event and yes, we have a great deal to thank Neil Thomas and his staff for. The speakers were simply excellent and this is a show which I for one would never miss.

Not a great deal going on from the Section's point of view, although this will change shortly. Our annual spring tournament and Hayter qualifying will take place on April 12 over Gullane number 2. Notices will be out in plenty of time for this event so don't miss out – make sure your subs are paid and we'll keep you up to date.

As I have said in past reports – let's make a big effort this year to attract new members. There are many clubs in the East who have staff who are not members – let them know what they're missing. If they wish me to come along and explain this to them, just give me a call.

My number is 031 443 3214 and I'll be delighted to give the reasons why all greenkeepers should become members.

WILLIE BLAIR



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★ Better off to the tune of five crisp tenners is Mr A Thornton from Beeston, Nottinghamshire, as our first eagle-eyed winner of 1994. Start looking NOW and it could be YOUR TURN for success next month!

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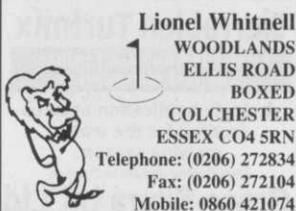
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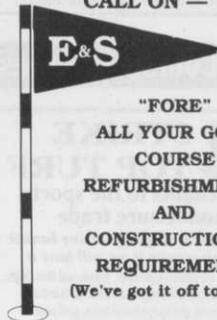
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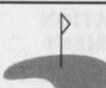
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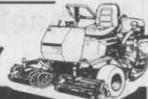


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Ely City Golf Club

require a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicants should be fully qualified and conversant with modern techniques and machinery maintenance.

Apply in first instance with full particulars to:

**The Secretary, Ely City Golf Course Ltd,
Cambridge Road, Ely, Cambridgeshire CBY 4HX.
Telephone: 0353 662751.**

Accommodation is not available.



Newbury & Crookham Golf Club

require a

DEPUTY COURSE MANAGER

Applicants must have suitable qualifications and experience in all aspects of course management. A thorough knowledge of machinery and maintenance is essential together with the ability to motivate and direct staff.

Salary negotiable depending on experience.

Golfer preferred.

Accommodation available.

Applications in writing to include full CV to:

The Secretary, Newbury & Crookham Golf Club, Bury's Bank Road, Greenham, Newbury, Berks RG15 8BZ



Abbeydale Golf Club

require a

DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicants must have suitable qualifications and be experienced in all aspects of course management.

The ability to motivate and direct staff together with a practical knowledge of modern greenkeeping practices and equipment maintenance is essential.

Accommodation is not available. Salary negotiable.

Please reply in writing with full CV to:

Mr Jack Copeland, Chairman of Green, Abbeydale Golf Club Limited, Twentywell Lane, Dore, Sheffield S17 4QA

Royal West Norfolk Golf Club

require an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Applicants should be experienced in Links Golf Courses, and modern machinery.

Please apply in writing with CV to:

Secretary,

**Royal West Norfolk Golf Club,
Brancaster, near Kings Lynn,
Norfolk PE31 8AX**



require an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

This busy 9 hole parkland golf course are looking for an ambitious assistant greenkeeper (qualified or nearly qualified) to help further his/her career.

No accommodation • Salary negotiable.

Excellent opportunity for young, ambitious person.

Please apply in writing with CV to

**Neil Burke, Horsham Golf Park, Worthing Road,
Horsham, West Sussex RH13 4AX**



Abridge Golf & Country Club

Applications are invited for the position of

ASSISTANT HEAD GREENKEEPER

The successful applicant should have at least five years experience in modern greenkeeping and a thorough knowledge of machinery maintenance.

No accommodation, salary negotiable.

Written applications in strictest confidence, including CV to:

**Secretary/Manager, Abridge Golf and Country Club,
Epping Lane, Stapleford Tawney, Essex RM4 1ST**



HEAD GREENKEEPER

An experienced Head Greenkeeper is required for the above position.

Applicants must be fully experienced in all aspects of greenkeeping with appropriate qualifications and have knowledge of modern equipment and the ability to direct and motivate staff.

Accommodation is not available. Salary negotiable according to experience.

For further particulars and application form apply in writing to:

**P. Eliot Soutter, Secretary, Hamilton Golf Club,
63 Almada Street, Hamilton ML3 0HH**

GREENKEEPER

An exciting opportunity has arisen for a fully qualified greenkeeper to join a team of staff caring for the prestigious 18 hole Wike Ridge Course, 9 hole Oaks Course, driving range and David Leadbetter Golf Academy practice areas.

Must have practical knowledge of computerised irrigation systems, modern machinery and the latest developments within the industry.

Competitive salary.

•LEEDS•
GOLF CENTRE



Apply in confidence with full CV to:

**Mr R E D Bailey
Leeds Golf Centre**

Wike Ridge Lane, Shadwell, Leeds LS17 9JW

RECRUITMENT

Cambridge Meridian/Abbotsley Golf Club

require a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

and

DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER

For two of their top class golf courses in Cambridgeshire.

Both courses enjoy an exceptional reputation in the area.

Applications are invited from dedicated, highly qualified and experienced staff with a sound knowledge of modern greenkeeping techniques, including machinery maintenance and irrigation systems. Must be able to motivate staff.

Send CVs in confidence to:

Jenny Wisson, Managing Director,
Abbotsley Golf & Squash Club Ltd, Eynesbury Hardwicke,
St. Neots, Cambs. Tel: (0480) 474000 Fax: (0480) 471018



HEAD GREENKEEPER REQUIRED

For this recently constructed 18 hole, potentially 27 hole, course set in beautiful Cheshire countryside.

Applicants must have recognised relevant qualifications and have proven ability in all aspects of course management.

It is essential that they have the ability to lead and motivate staff and organise work programmes. They will have a full knowledge of modern maintenance and irrigation equipment.

No accommodation.

Apply in writing with full CV and salary expectation to:

Mr C N Bridge BSc (Hons), General Manager, Heyrose Golf Club,
Budworth Road, Tabley, Knutsford, Cheshire WA16 0HY



HEAD GREENKEEPER

A vacancy will occur from 28 February 1994 for an experienced Head Greenkeeper on a 27 hole golf course now in its third year since opening.

Full time greens staff employed including a qualified First Assistant and fitter.

No club-owned accommodation available but plentiful local housing is for rent or sale.

Please apply in writing with CV to:

The Proprietors, Chirk Golf and Country Club,
Chirk, Wrexham, Clwyd LL14 5AD

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Derbyshire

Carsington Water Golf Course is situated by the new Severn-Trent reservoir at Carsington, near Wirksworth, Derbyshire. The first 9 holes are due to open in summer 1994 as a quality pay-as-you-play course with a limited membership.

Applicants must have suitable qualifications, "high-calibre" course management experience and the ability to work and lead a team.

You must be interested in helping shape the course during construction, and be prepared to live locally.

Salary by negotiation, accommodation could be available.

Apply in writing with CV to:

Coussell Associates Ltd, 13 Swinfen's Yard, High Street,
Stony Stratford, Milton Keynes MK11 1SY



The Ridge Golf Club

require a

DEPUTY

COURSE MANAGER

Applicants should be qualified and have sound practical experience and the ability to motivate staff.

Excellent prospects with modern machinery for enthusiastic applicants seeking career progression.

Apply with CV to:

The Course Manager, The Ridge Golf Club, Chartway
Street, East Sutton, Maidstone, Kent ME17 3DL

Coombe Wood Golf Club Ltd

invite applications for the position of



WORKING HEAD GREENKEEPER/COURSE MANAGER

The Club is an 18 hole parkland course 5296 yards par 66 established 1904.

Applicants must be fully experienced in all aspects of greenkeeping with appropriate qualifications and have a practical knowledge of modern machinery and irrigation systems and good organisational and management skills.

Salary negotiable according to experience.

Please apply in writing, stating whether accommodation is required, with full CV to:

Secretary/Manager, Coombe Wood Golf Club Ltd,
George Road, Kingston Hill, Surrey KT2 7NS.

YOUNG AMBITIOUS GREENKEEPER

to become Head Greenkeeper sought for new 9 hole P.A.Y.P. golf course being constructed during this year together with twelve bay driving range and Clubhouse at Kinsale Hall Hotel and Country Club Ltd., Llanerch-y-mor, Nr. Holywell, Clwyd CH8 9DT.

Experience of course construction ideally required, particularly seeding and bringing into play of greens and tees, forming and finishing bunkers. Sound knowledge also of irrigation and machinery required. Salary is negotiable according to qualifications and experience.

All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Apply in writing enclosing CV to GK Smith at the above.



HEAD GREENKEEPER required

- 30 bay floodlit driving range opened August 1992
- Newly constructed par 3 golf course August 1993
- Proposed new 9 hole course to be constructed April 1994

The successful applicant must be young, fit and keen to look after our golf development. Must have had at least five years experience in golf course maintenance.

Apply in writing with CV to:

S. P. Langmead, c/o Rustington Golf Centre, Golfers Lane,
Rustington, Nr Littlehampton, West Sussex BN16 4NB

Telephone (0903) Shop: 850790 Office: 850786

Golf clubs today are the haunts of many a varied character, transcending social barriers and attracting both working class and aristocracy alike. In fact, regardless of your social history and given the right connections, just about anybody has a good chance of being accepted into an established golf club. The only qualifications required are a small knowledge of the game, a friend who is already a member, a willingness to part with a few readies and the patience to endure many years of waiting.

It has always amazed me how in this day and age of turbulent economies, business strategies and cut-throat competition that the golf club sees fit to maintain a never-ending waiting list. Surely the number one rule of business is to ensure the price fits demand. If demand is high then so should be the price. True, a golf club is not strictly a business, but it does provide a service to paying customers and the quality of that service is dependent upon financial input. If people are not prepared to pay the necessary money for that standard of service, then they do not get in the club.

Assuming a golf club is efficiently run then the member pays the money and he or she has no right to complain "Why is that society booked in today just when I want to play?". Because we must subsidise your annual dues. "Why then is the rough not cut on the fourth?". Because you are not prepared to pay for enough greenkeepers or equipment to have this done on a regular basis. "Why does it take me five hours for a round of golf?". Because the course is saturated with golf in an effort to keep down the subs. It's a bit like someone buying a Metro and then complaining to the manufacturers that it will not do 180mph. Well, of course it won't, you've bought a Metro and not a Ferrari.

No doubt many club members reading this will at this point be somewhere between slightly irritated and extremely angry. "But I pay a bloody fortune!" they will explode, as if that gives them the right to complain. Well, I will concede that in some circumstances that is the case, but in those cases standards are very high and there is therefore little to complain about. Generally speaking though, this fortune theory is somewhat debatable.

For example, if I want to play snooker it will cost me £4 an hour even though I am a club member. Let's call it £2 because I will split the cost with my playing partner. If I then play for as long as it takes me to play a fairly quick round of golf it will cost me 3 x 2 = £6. Quite cheap when you think about it. But if, like a typical club golfer, I play twice a week then my annual budget for snooker is £600, or more than the vast majority of golf clubs' annual subs. Six hundred quid just for the hire of a snooker table. But what if, like many a club member, I play four times a week. Twelve hundred pounds! I'd be better off buying my own table, which is a lot easier than buying my own golf course.

Strangely, the same thing applies directly to golf. If I find the cheapest "pay and play" in the area, queue up for an hour and then take five hours to hack round a course filled with divots, novices, unraked bunkers and greens that would do Twickenham an injustice, it would still cost me ten pounds. If I then decided to endure that 200 times a year I would be paying £200, or roughly three times the annual subscription of the Royal what-do-you-call-it just down the road. No wonder it's got a waiting list that goes into the next millennium.

Now having explained my argument that the average club has got a proverbial "right result", I will admit that

TALKING HEADS

BY MARC HARING

The start of a new series in which head greenkeepers and others are given a chance to voice their opinion on matters important to them

some members have indeed got cause to complain, eg. the member who plays infrequently and who perhaps joins the club as a status symbol, or a means of entertaining clients. He or she may only play ten or twenty times a year, but still pays the same as our old friend who whinges his way through 200 rounds a year.

Now surely, looking at this system rationally, something has gone drastically wrong. Why on earth don't golf clubs charge green fees to members? Not necessarily the full amount but perhaps five or even ten pounds should suffice. New golf clubs giving the golf business a fresh outlook often adopt this system, after all it makes sound business sense. To the best of my knowledge, no established members' club has yet adopted this system and are surely therefore sentenced to a life of catering for the daily fourball, where shoes are changed in the car park and where a half pint of shandy is only invested in on the rare occasion of a hole in one.

I am not advocating driving the avid golfer off the course, but surely golf is an expensive game. It involves the upkeep of a vast expanse of sports turf and if someone wishes to spend their life on it they should pay the appropriate dues. Besides, by charging a green fee to members, annual subscriptions could even be reduced and some members will actually pay less for their golf.

Now how did this peculiar state of affairs ever come about? Well, I have a theory. As we are all aware, golf in those far off days of the twenties was a game for the proverbial toff. Back in the days of PG Wodehouse and before, plus fours and hunting tweeds were the order of the day. I will strongly contend that at that time when so many of our golf clubs were being established, the subscriptions were actually higher than they are now. They may only have been four or five guineas but that would equate to an average man's monthly salary or the equivalent of something in excess of £1000 in today's money. Rural golf clubs and clubs in Scotland had annual subscriptions that were within range of the working class, but at these clubs overheads were extremely low. One greenkeeper, who may also have been the professional, together with a flock of sheep for mowing duties and fertiliser application, was quite sufficient for the upkeep of the course. A steward, his wife and a part-time secretary took care of catering and administration in the clubhouse. The golf courses received considerably less play than they do now and it was common practice to close the course for the winter months. Courses were thus well able to cope with the odd obsessive golfer and so such individuals were not considered a problem. Annual subscriptions were therefore the simplest and most practical means of financing the club. They would have been fixed, as they are now, by the committee and it is there that the problem lies. Although the courses, traditions and the game's popularity have changed immensely the system of financing the operation has not for two reasons:

1. The committees are loath to change for fear of public opinion, amongst other things;
2. In the main, committee members are the very people who would lose out if a members' green fee system were brought in.

After all, committees are elected because they are respected members of the club and that respect is gained by regular attendance. Their faces are seen all the time. If you don't believe me think of your own club committee, are they not regular golfers, Saturday and Sunday and perhaps the odd afternoon and evening during the week? Not only that, but are they not in regular contact with the more frequently visiting member? The result is that the members who play less frequently are the ones who have less say. The whole system encourages more and more golf from every quarter and the inevitable consequences are more and more problems. Golfing traditions have changed drastically over the years and I believe the subscription system will have to do likewise.

Now before I am tarred, feathered and expelled from society as some sort of militant revolutionary, let me speculate on the consequences of this fairer means of paying for one's golf. In my opinion, one of two things will happen. Either the regular golfer will not play so frequently or he will accept the additional cost and pay more for his or her golf.

In the first case, the course will be significantly less busy. This will result in improved course conditions, reduced maintenance costs and quicker, more enjoyable rounds. Alternatively, the powers that be may decide to make up for this shortfall in golf by introducing more members, thereby eating into the waiting list and increasing revenue.

In the second case, where the member continues to get his daily shot of golf but at a higher price, the club's revenue will be increased – to be spent no doubt with great foresight by the elected committee.

"But what about the potential champion, or the county captain who just happens to be a member, they need somewhere to hone their skills?" Well, of course there is the practice ground, that is the place to hone any latent talents they may have. Hopefully they do not practise on the course anyway.

"Ah! But what about the golfer who merely requires a bit of exercise in his retirement?" you may argue. "Surely it would be a sin to expect him to pay the additional fee?" Well, if the committee is worried about being labelled the slayers of the frail and needy, may I suggest a bit of diplomacy. A reduction for the odd minority group would be a tactful decision under certain circumstances.

I am not advocating a huge green fee for all members that would result in mass resignations, simply a change to a fairer system. I believe that all reasonably perceptive members will acknowledge that membership of a club that requires a five or ten pound course usage fee is infinitely preferable to the local pay and play, or to putting down a £2000 deposit for membership of a club that hasn't even been built yet.

Golf doesn't have to be prohibitively expensive, in fact for many it should be even cheaper that it is now. I do, however, believe that clubs ought to start recognising how popular the game has become and start changing to a fairer system of paying for it.

■ Marc Haring is head greenkeeper at Camberley Heath Golf Club.

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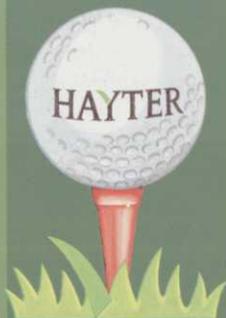
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