

## Pocket-size guide to pests and diseases is launched

A new all-colour pocket-sized guide to help greenkeepers identify major diseases and pests of fine turf is now available from BIGGA. And thanks to the Association's Education and Development

Fund, which is supported by members of the Golden and Silver Key Circles, it's free.

The guide is designed to be used out on the course in all weathers with each sheet plastic coated. Alternatively it can be incorporated within the GTC training manual. Diseases covered include fusarium patch, anthracnose, take-all patch, fairy rings, thatch fungi, red thread, seedling diseases, and insect pests.

Future guides in the series will cover dry patch and disorders, turfgrass weeds and grass identification.

The first guide was prepared by a BIGGA working group comprising Geoff Yelland of Rigby Taylor Ltd, Gordon Irvine of Mill Ride Golf Club, Mike Drinkall of DowElanco Ltd and Neil Baldwin of Service Chemicals plc.

## Cameron's story

A computer glitch meant that the final paragraphs of our Stockley Park feature last month were missing. Here's a recap of course manager Cameron McMillan's story, including the missing lines, with our apologies.

Then, last June, when Stockley Park opened, the father-to-be moved round the M25 – and was impressed with what he found: the flat landfill site had been turned into a pretty country park with some of the newly-made hills giving excellent views of the City in one direction, Windsor Castle in another and Concorde taking off in another.

Director of golf Peter Oosterhuis, 46, joined Stockley Park in the winter. The site has a lot of potential and he believes he could see 45,000 rounds a year being played there in a few years. But he's unlikely to see any of his customers from the Riviera Country Club. These included Dean Martin, James Garner and Columbo star Peter Falk, whom he once had to tell to play quicker.



## A touch of Florida in Sussex

A 'Florida style' course has opened in Sussex. The Cathedral course at the new Chichester Golf Centre, Hunston, boasts huge rolling greens, big expanses of water, winding streams, trees and enormous bunkers. There are long holes like the 605-yard 5th and spectacular holes like the par 3 15th with a bank of Portland stone behind the green and a small lake in front.

Consultant Jack McMillan MBE, pictured centre, and owner Brian Langmead, far right, joined the greenkeeping team at the opening for this photograph.

## Award-winning Bridie's 'brilliant' time in America

Bridie Redican, the first woman greenkeeper to carry off the coveted Toro-PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award, has returned to Ireland after her sponsored trip to the USA. And she has joined the newly-formed greenkeeping team at the Adare Golf Club, a new Robert Trent Jones 18-hole design being constructed close to Shannon Airport on the south-west coast.

Recalling her recent experiences in America, Bridie, pictured right, says she was "knocked for six" at the size of US greenkeeping budgets – and greenkeeper's salaries. They're about double what they are here.

Describing her six weeks turf management course studies at the University of Massachusetts as "brilliant", Bridie teamed up with the only other female (an American) attending the residential course "to reduce the odds. There were two of us (women) and over 60 male greenkeepers!"

After completing her studies, Bridie visited the Toro Mower Division's complex at snowbound Minneapolis, before flying to the Californian sunshine.

In addition to touring the Toro Irrigation Division's offices and production lines at Riverside, south of Los Angeles, Bridie spent a day looking over golf courses in Palm Springs.

"The Toro-PGA scholarship

really is the chance of a lifetime – I would urge any young greenkeepers to work hard at their college work to ensure that they are nominated for this year's (October) finals at Aldwark Manor," she said.

Organised by BIGGA, the Student Greenkeeper Award is sponsored by Lely (UK) Ltd, Toro mower distributors and the European office of Toro Irrigation – plus the PGA European Tour.



## EUROPEAN OUTLOOK

### Vigilance needed

Golf has been lumped in with other sports as the Committee for European Normalization tries standardising natural sports surfaces. Of course this is crazy, but fortunately deliberations are going at the sort of pace that would make the slowest golfer look like Harry Weetman.

'Our' man there, Eric Shiel of the Joint Golf Course Committee, says: "A lot of time has been taken up trying to get agreement among different nations on 'standards for test methods', therefore there has been no direct impact on the game of golf so far. But watch must be kept upon these non-golf boffins since, for example, when deciding a test method for 'ball roll' I had to tell them that the Stimpmeter had been used in golf for over 40 years, something they knew nothing about. Otherwise they would have invented something else to be used for all sports."

In addition to ball roll, imminent standard test methods being developed which will impact on golf include: organic matter, particle size, determination of thatch depth, sward height and ground cover, saturated hydraulic conductivity, water infiltration rates and angled ball behaviour. Thankfully it was decided that golf did not need a test method for a vertical ball bounce, so at least that was eliminated.

■ The European Golf Association Ecology Unit management committee, which met for the first time recently in Brussels, is putting together a document detailing the positive environmental attributes of golf courses. The director, David Stubbs of Environmental Golf Services, says it will be for distribution to the golfing community and will serve to counter opposing claims about the environmental impact of the game. A long-term scientific study is also to be undertaken comparing the impact of golf courses before and after construction and/or reconstruction.

The EGAEU is funded by the R&A, the PGA European Tour and the European Golf Association.