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*International*



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the  
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experience

### Ask for more details

For comprehensive information of all that's going on, telephone 0347 838581 and ask to speak to Ken Richardson, BIGGA's education officer. He'll answer all your questions and send you a copy of "The Learning Experience". Event organisers are the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF. You can also request a copy of "The Learning Experience" by fax: 0347 838864.







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# GREENKEEPER

International

NOVEMBER 1994

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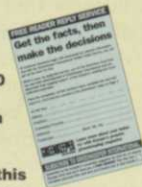
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Euan Grant, the new Toro/PGA  
European Tour Student  
Greenkeeper of the Year

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- PETER JEFFORD,  
Managing Director,  
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**FOR MORE DETAILS CALL:**  
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For a BTME '95 information pack call Louise Lunn on 0347 838581 - quickly! Only SIX stands still available!



# Preparing for the challenge

**Y**ou may not have heard of the European Golf Association Ecology Unit or indeed the Global Anti-Golf Movement (GAGM) but increasingly ecological issues will impinge on greenkeepers and the golf courses they maintain. In terms of developing an environmental strategy for golf in Europe we are some way behind developments in the USA whilst from an Association viewpoint there is a clear need for guidelines and for the adoption of a pro-active position.

The EGA Ecology Unit was established earlier this year and is based in Brussels. Funded by the R & A, the PGA European Tour and the European Golf Association, the Unit is headed by David Stubbs as Executive Director. He will be known to a number of you through his past participation in BIGGA seminar programmes. This body represents 26 Golf Federations and will act as a clearing house for information. It will be able to take the pressure off individual countries spending time and money building up their own defences against the likes of the Global Anti-Golf Movement, which is contracted to the intimidating acronym of "gag 'em", and claims a membership of 250 groups in 15 countries. One of their recent meetings brought together 300 participants from ten countries including the United Kingdom. This grassroots movement has signified its presence by declaring a World No Golf Day – and subsequently a World No Golf Year. It has also mandated for a moratorium on new golf course construction and called for a ban on the introduction of the sport into the Olympics. Have no doubt that formidable forces are lining up who believe that golf courses serve only to rob farmland, destroy national parks, waste precious water and increase the use of toxic pesticides and herbicides needed to keep greens green. Over the past six months there have been a record number of critical reports in the USA media about golf courses and pesticide use.

Both individual greenkeepers and the Association need to be prepared. We will need to accentuate the positive and to be in



## BIGGA in focus

BY NEIL THOMAS

possession of hard facts and detailed information which is where the Ecology Unit will be able to help. In recent discussions with David Stubbs, we are agreed on the need for BIGGA to adopt an increasingly high-profile role in environmental matters working closely with the Ecology Unit. There will be a need for research and to establish a European database on golf course management practices. Discussions are ongoing regarding an official Ecology Unit Survey in conjunction with BIGGA. On this note, beware of unsolicited surveys seeking to elicit often sensitive information without stating how the information will be used and for what purpose. Ultimately, it could well be used to your own and the profession's detriment.

### 'We need to know of good working practices – and of problems too'

The Association must move forward with the EGA Ecology Unit and the forging in recent months of close links augurs well for a united approach to ecological matters.

The R & A has recently agreed to create an R & A Golf Course Advisory Panel to replace the former Joint Golf Course Committee. The object of the Panel, which will consist of members invited from the Home Unions together with persons with specialist knowledge, will be to advise the R & A External Funds Supervisory Committee on the use of funds which they might make available for research and environmental concerns as they affect golf courses, and for bringing about a general improvement

in the construction and maintenance of golf courses. Amongst the Panel working parties under consideration is one to cover ecology in Europe and whilst at first sight there would appear to be some overlapping of function with the work of the Ecology Unit Management Committee, it is certainly encouraging that ecological concerns are now to the fore within the game of golf.

As individual greenkeepers you need to be alert and aware. You need to know the facts and communicate them to golfers, media and decision makers in your local community. You will need to participate in a grassroots campaign to build an influential lobby which supports golf courses as environmentally friendly. Let others know about the environmental benefits of golf courses, the safety of your practices and the testing and research required to register a pesticide product. Invite those with influence to visit your course and see your facility first-hand. Ensure that you apply environmentally sound management techniques on your golf course and seek to promote a positive environmental image of both golf and the golf course.

Together we must use our magazine, *Greenkeeper International* to promote the positive environmental aspects of the golf course and where you have practical examples please let us know about them. We need information, we need to know of good working practices and we need to know of problems too. The Association must commit itself to a process which will encourage every greenkeeper to conduct golf course management practices in a manner which respects the environment. The use of turf chemicals, the impact of water and soil quality, amounts of irrigation water used and disruption of wildlife habitat are all concerns which must be addressed by the golf industry. Your input is vitally necessary and in combining research, education and communication, BIGGA will seek to overcome public misconceptions of the negative environmental impact of golf courses which if left uncorrected will surely pose a serious threat to the vitality and integrity of the game.

## Boost for BIGGA's new library

More than £300 worth of books have been delivered to BIGGA's new library, courtesy of Lewis Publishers, a leading publisher of books on turf management.

The set of books includes: James Vargas' 'Management of Turfgrass Diseases: 2nd edition' (£52.50); Ann Leslie's 'Handbook of Integrated Pest Management for Turf and Ornamentals' (£61.50); the United States Golf Association's 'Wastewater Reuse for Golf Course Irrigation' (£45); Donald Harker et al's 'Landscape Restoration Handbook' (£65); James Balogh & William Walker's 'Golf Course Management and Construction: Environmental Issues' (£61).

Lewis Publishers, a US outfit which is making inroads into the UK and European golf scene, has also promised to provide BIGGA with a copy of Thomas Watschke's 'Managing Turfgrass Pests' (£57.50) when it becomes available later this month.

Then the Association's library, which was set up with funds from the R&A, will have a complete collection of turf management books from this publisher. After browsing briefly through the collection, one of the most interesting books looks to be the Handbook of Integrated Pest Management for Turf and Ornamentals as it looks at the latest developments in IPM, which is gaining ground as one of the most effective ways to limit pesticide use. This, and the other books in the collection, will be reviewed in a future issue by some of the UK's leading greenkeepers.

To find out how you can borrow the book from our library call 0347 838581. To order your very own copy send BIGGA a cheque (including £1.50 p&p).

## Filming continues

Filming of BIGGA's latest video, a guide to course preparation, has moved from Prestbury and Royal Liverpool courses to the House of Lords. Viscount Whitelaw, BIGGA's president, will introduce the video, which is funded by BIGGA's Education Development Fund and will be launched at BTME.



## Gleneagles, Ransomes link up for education scheme

# NEWS



The Gleneagles Hotel is doing its bit to help UK colleges supply high-quality qualified greenkeepers. The Gleneagles Excellence in Golf Award Scheme offers six students each year an opportunity to gain a comprehensive practical and theoretical extension to their training. The students are specially selected from nine associated colleges who offer a greenkeeper training sandwich course.

The award scheme focuses on two key areas, practical and the-

**Pictured from left: Simon Crawford, John Kelsey, Margeir Vilhjalmsen, Alan Johnstone, Jeff Hardcastle, Euan MacKenzie; seated: Lisa Gifford and Stuart Green**

oretical. Practical experience is gained through working with the operational team managing the golf facilities at Gleneagles, covering areas of the resort including golf operations, golf administration, the golf shop and retail outlets, the golf academy and golf event planning. Theoretical tutorials are provided with the assistance of

suppliers in the industry.

One of the industry's main suppliers of turf care machinery, Ransomes, together with distributor Scottish Grass Machinery Ltd, have entered into a three-year partnership to provide substantial student bursary awards based upon project and practical assessments throughout the year. They are also assisting the funding of additional library material at Gleneagles for the benefit of both the students and the permanent staff at the resort.

## FLYING DIVOTS

■ BIGGA has finalised the dates for three of its big events next year. The 1995 National Tournament will be held at the St Annes Old Links Golf Club, Lytham St Annes from July 31 to August 2. The 1995 final of the Hayter Challenge Tournament will be held at the West Lancashire Golf Club, Blundellsands on September 13 and 14. The 1995 final of the Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award will be held at Aldwark Manor on October 8 and 9.

■ The Association was saddened to learn of the sudden death of Stephen Dinsdale, a greenkeeper at Richmond GC, North Yorkshire, from a brain haemorrhage. He was 36.

■ Gordon Smith will take over from 67-year-old William Barrie, retiring head greenkeeper at Liphook GC, on January 1 1995.

■ Alex MacKay, 39, is set to take over as head greenkeeper of 27-hole Machrihanish Golf Club, Argyll, this month.



■ Mark De Ath, former marketing manager with Nomix-Chipman, has joined Headland Agrochemicals as part of its expansion in the amenity sector.

■ Saddleworth GC's Nigel Potter, 33, has moved from the Oldham area to take over as head greenkeeper at Meltham, near Huddersfield, with Gerald Walker as the deputy head.

■ MacDonald Turf Management has appointed Richard Hendry, formerly a greenkeeper at Forres GC, as a sales representative for the north of Scotland. Gordon Coventry, another former greenkeeper, has joined the firm to do contracting work on golf courses and bowling greens throughout Scotland.

■ Kim Macfie is sales and marketing director for Hayters, not manager, as we incorrectly stated in a picture caption last month. Sorry Kim!



■ Composts and fertilisers supplier Levington Horticulture has appointed Paul Nicholls national sales manager for the professional horticulture department. He was previously regional sales manager for the southern area.

## Americans buy Grace Sierra

Grace Sierra UK has changed its name to Scotts UK Ltd following its acquisition by The Scotts Company, USA earlier this year. Commenting on the changeover, Mark Hunt, UK turf and landscape manager, said: "The takeover by Scotts will complement our already successful coated fertiliser range,

enabling us to introduce new products based on technology unique to Scotts in the United States.

"This in turn will increase our service to our customers by providing a wider range of products suitable for application areas not currently served by our existing product range."



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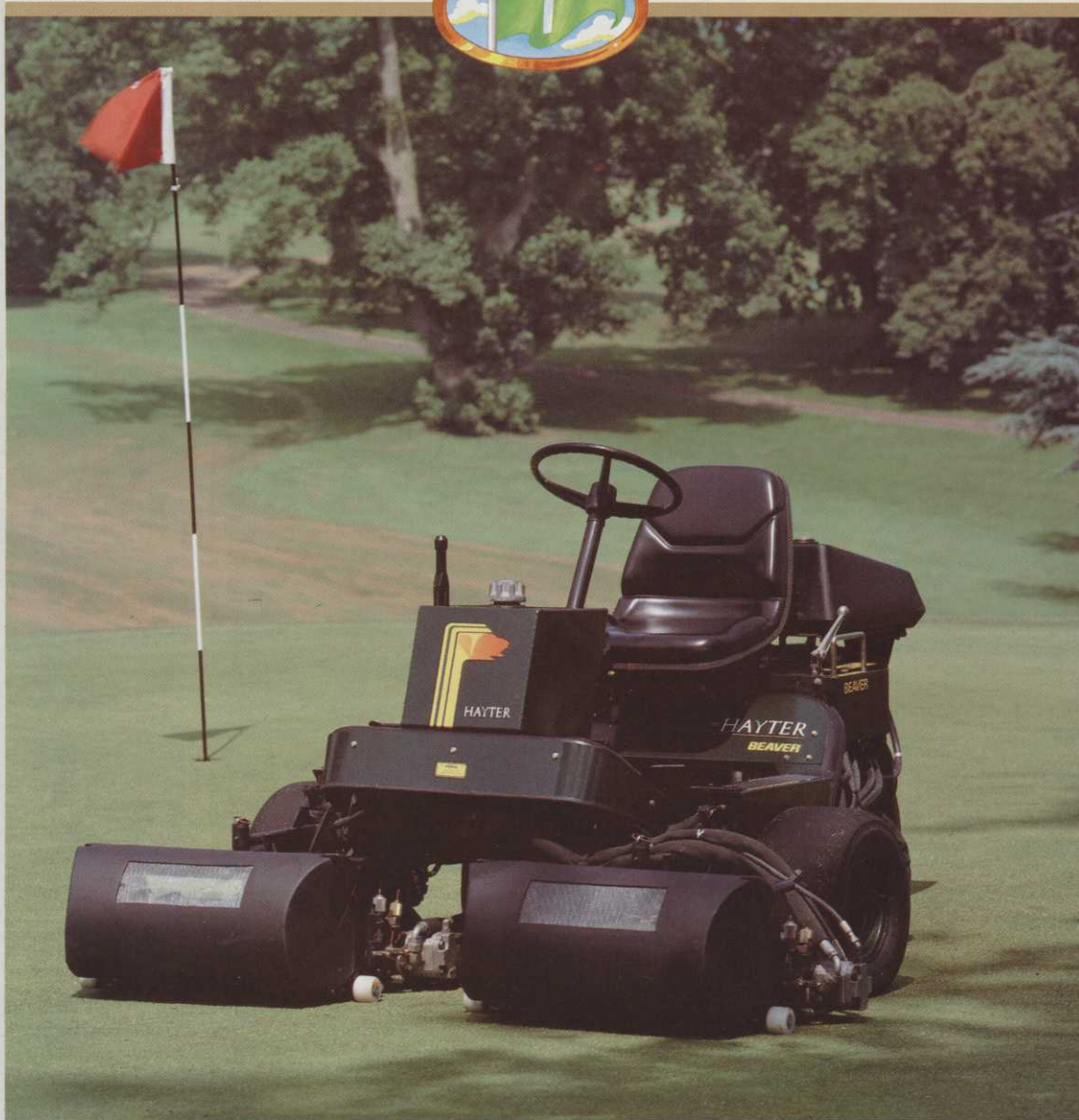
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# HAYTER

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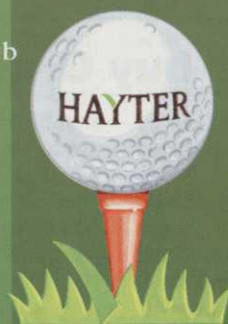
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# NEWS

## Muirfield tops chart of best British courses

Muirfield – now in the hands of the former deputy head greenkeeper, Colin Irvine – has been voted the Best Course in the British Isles by Golf World magazine. Royal Birkdale, the top English course, where Chris Whittle, Irvine's former boss, is now in charge following the retirement of Tom O'Brien, is number 6.

The rest of the top 10 looks like this: 2, St Andrews (Old), Scotland; 3, Royal Portrush (Dunluce), N Ireland; 4, Royal County Down, N Ireland; 5, Turnberry (Ailsa), Scotland; 7, Portmarnock, Eire; 8, Ballybunion (Old), Eire; 9, Royal St George's, England; 10, Carnoustie, Scotland.

New to the top 50 are Portstewart in Northern Ireland (38), St Enodoc in Cornwall (44), Woburn (Duke's) in Buckinghamshire (47), and Killarney (Killeen) in Eire (50).

This year's rankings, which are published in the November issue, have been extended from the top 50 to the top 100. Two of the courses listed have less than 18 holes. Suffolk's Royal Worlington & Newmarket, often referred to as "the finest 9-hole course in the world", is at number 61, and 12-hole Shiskine on the Isle of Arran, Scotland, is at number 100.

New courses making the list include Arnold Palmer's K-Club in Eire (93), Slaley Hall in Northumberland (90) and this month's featured course, Hanbury Manor (94).

In the same issue, Golf World also publishes its top 10 new developments (built since January 1992). These are: 1, Loch Lomond; 2, Chart Hills; 3, The Oxfordshire; 4, Monarch's Course; 5, The Buckinghamshire; 6, The European Club; 7, The London Club; 8, Carn; 9, Bowood; 10, Hever.



Keep-fitter Nicki Cund is Claymore Grass Machinery's new sales administrator.

## Cash bounty for Rolawn thieves

Enough grass seed to produce 40 acres of turf has been stolen from Rolawn's headquarters near York. The cultivated turf producer was able to replace the seed quickly but the directors are determined to see that the thieves are caught and are offering £1,000 reward for information that leads to a prosecution. Anyone with information should contact Ken Dawson, Rolawn's chairman, on 0904 608661.

## College's big plans

A year after celebrating its centenary, Writtle College in Chelmsford, Essex, is planning to build a £400,000 amenity landscape teaching centre which will include a 500m<sup>2</sup> workshop, new classrooms and staff offices when it's built next year.

## New distributor

Rhône-Poulenc Environmental Products has appointed County Amenity as a new distributor for Lancashire, Cheshire, Gt Manchester, Merseyside, North Wales, Shropshire, Derbyshire, Yorkshire, Tyne & Wear and Humberside. Tel: 0925 758886.

## Education update

BY KEN RICHARDSON



## Winners all

### Toro/Lely/PGA European Tour Student of the Year

The final of the Toro/Lely/PGA European Tour Student of the Year Competition was held at Aldwark Manor on Monday October 3, see pages 39-41 for full details.

After a long and difficult day of interviewing and deliberations, the panel of judges selected Euan Grant as the winner with Byron Thomas and Margeir Vilhjalmsjon taking the runners up prizes. I anticipated that the final decision would be difficult due to the very high standard of all the finalists and all participants should be proud of their achievement in reaching the final stages.

### Master Greenkeeper Certificate

The next Stage 3 Module Examination for the Master Greenkeeper Certificate will be held on December 2 at Aldwark Manor, or other venue by arrangement.

To prepare candidates for the examination, we will be holding an examination technique day on November 21, at Aldwark Manor. All those wishing to sit the examination in December or in the near future should find the day very useful. A review of the MGC will take place in early December and any members with ideas on how the scheme should, or should not be changed should submit them to me at Aldwark Manor.

### National Education Conference

A great deal of interest has already been shown in the 1995 National Education Conference. If you wish to attend what promises to be a varied, thought-provoking, educational event then book early. Full details were included in the October issue of *Greenkeeper International* and further copies of the Conference and Seminar timetable can be obtained from headquarters.

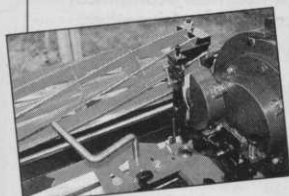
### Videos

The Toro-sponsored video titled "Raising the Standard of Mowing Management", has been distributed to all BIGGA course managers and head greenkeepers. Further copies can be obtained from headquarters priced at £14.95 for BIGGA members and £19.95 for non-members. The methods and standards of mowing practice shown in the video have been endorsed by BIGGA and the video should prove to be a useful training aid.

### ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year

In the last edition of *Greenkeeper International*, the dates for the Final of the ICI Premier Greenkeeper competition were given, incorrectly. The final will be held at Aldwark Manor on December 4 and 5.

## NEW PRODUCTS



■ Grinding machine manufacturer Supreme Mowing has developed a fully automatic system enabling unattended

relief grinding of precision mowing cylinders. Suitable for use with the company's Supreme System and Golf Leader cylinder grinders, the patented relief grinding attachment enables mechanics to apply a relief angle to each blade of a cutting cylinder automatically. Price is £230.

■ Roffey Brothers are planning to launch a new flagship fertiliser for spring '95 – Gypronit. The Bournemouth-based firm says Gypronit supplies good levels of sulphur and that in trials it "refined and encouraged the dominance of finer grasses within the sward." Price is £12.32 per 25 kgs. Tel: 0202 537777.

■ British firm Cooper Pegler has celebrated its 100th year of trading by launching an all-new knapsack sprayer. The Series 2000 piston-pump sprayers have been designed to exceed previous standards for safety and efficiency, claims the Northumberland firm. Tel: 0670 522225.



The 5th



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Seminar 5: *Golf Club Management* forum

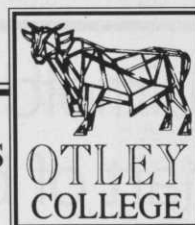
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BIGGA is adopting a new pre-registration system and employing the latest technology to ensure that visitors to next year's BTME at Harrogate (January 25-27) are whisked into the show within seconds of arrival.

At the last BTME, BIGGA was caught out by its own success and visitors were queueing to get in despite pre-registering. The new system should mean that even with the anticipated record numbers of visitors, there should be no delay in getting you into the exhibition halls.

For the first time, people who pre-register will get their badges mailed to them prior to the event. These badges contain a barcode. When the pre-registered visitor turns up at the Harrogate International Centre, this barcode will be 'read' by a light pen – a matter of seconds – as you enter the hall.

A light pen will also be given free to most of the exhibitors so they can make a note of who they've been talking to (name, job title, course, address) by simply scanning your badge. Your details will then be logged automatically for the exhibitor, so you won't have to hand out business cards left, right and centre or hang around while someone writes down all your details in a book.

Coventry Data Services, specialists in this field since the '60s, have been commissioned by BIGGA to operate this convenient system.

Of course the key to getting in faster is to pre-register by using the pre-paid card facing page 50 in this magazine. The cards from last month's *Greenkeeper International* have already started to arrive at BIGGA HQ. The first person to pre-register for BTME '95 is Paul Kellett, head greenkeeper at Norton Golf Course in Cleveland.

The forms to register for next year's National Education Conference, which precedes BTME, are also flooding in. First off the mark there was Paul Lockett, course manager at South Beds Golf Club, Bedfordshire. (And he's volunteered to take part in the Karaoke Night on January 25).

If all the high calibre speakers at the conference aren't enough to tempt you, the thought of Paul singing something like *My Way* should have you rushing to fill in your forms.

Among the greenkeepers performing in The Majestic Hotel during the National Education Conference – by giving lectures – are Duncan McGilvray and Joe Paulin. Duncan, pictured left, has been in greenkeeping since he left school at 15. He worked for ten years on Scottish courses before coming south to taken charge of three English courses – seaside links and inland courses. He has been greenkeeping in England for more than 16 years. The last seven years he has been course manager at Letchworth Golf Club in Hertfordshire.



He tells us his main aim is the reclamation of indigenous grasses and therefore the eradication of thatch and annual meadow grass, but at the same time managing the course in such a way as not to alienate either his membership or visitors to the course while that change is taking place.

His talk on January 24 is about one of his favourite subjects – communication: 'We thought we had it right and then came the AGM!' is his title.

He will be followed by Joe Paulin, courses manager at the new London Club. Born in Indi-

# Beaming you up into the show of the year

◆ The Association of Golf Club Secretaries are the latest newcomers to the show. They join a growing list of official bodies taking stands at Europe's premier fine turf trade show. Also exhibiting are the Greenkeepers Training Committee, Sports Turf Research Institute, National Turfgrass Council, British Institute of Golf Course Architects, British Association of Golf Course Constructors and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

◆ Have you won one of the prizes in our £750 BTME competition? Find out next issue as entries were still pouring in as we went to press.

◆ If you are thinking about coming to the National Education Conference, you'd better act sharpish. Rooms at the Majestic Hotel, where the National Education Conference is being held, are filling up fast. Late bookers may only be able to find accommodation in a less convenient hotel. So if you want to be where the action is, return your completed booking form today. Additional booking forms are available from HQ.

◆ Next month, details of Supaturf's new product launch competition at BTME. You could win a place on the BIGGA trip to the GCSAA's conference and exhibition, in San Francisco.

ana, USA, 34 years ago, Joe has a BS degree in agronomy and worked at three American courses before getting a job this side of the Atlantic – as courses manager at Clondeboy GC in Bangor, Northern Ireland. Then he worked at The Gleneagles Hotel in Scotland before joining the London Golf Club. His talk will be about 'The Evolution of the London Golf Club – Natural Resource Management'.

Other greenkeepers giving talks during the two-day conference include Martin Smith of Ramsdale Park Golf Centre, Andy Campbell of the Carden Park Golf Club, which recently went into receivership, Michael Wattam of the East Sussex National GC, Billy McMillan of Wildwood GC, and Geoff Allinson of Patsull Park GC.

These will be joined by experts from the worlds of agronomy, ecology and irrigation – making BTME week the best education programme outside San Francisco in 1995.



David Stubbs, executive director of the European Golf Association Ecology Unit, will kick off the conference with 'An overview of European Golf Course Ecology'.

David, at the moment, is responsible for coordinating and developing a Europe-wide environmental programme and policy framework for the golf industry.

He has worked in the golf-ecology field since 1987, first as conservation officer for the Golf Course Wildlife Trust and, since 1990, as man-

aging director of his own consultancy, Environmental Golf Services.

David is an ecologist with over 14 years professional experience in conservation biology and applied ecology at an international level. He obtained an honours degree in botany and zoology from King's College London in 1980. He is also a member of the Species Survival Commission of the World Conservation Union and in the UK he serves on the Council of the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management.

Bob Taylor, ecologist at the STRI, will talk later about 'Managing the Ecology of the Golf Course'. Bob worked for British Coal for 11 years before going to Sheffield University and graduating with a degree in botany. With a BSc honours degree he promptly joined the STRI in 1989 as an advisory agronomist. In addition to his general advisory work for a variety of sports clubs in the north of England, he specialises in ecological matters, particularly on golf courses where woodland management or sites of special scientific interest are involved.

Bob is a keen photographer and is actively involved in folk music. If he brings either of these skills into The Majestic, his lecture will be one not to miss. It's on Monday January 23.

Two Americans who are booked to speak, Dr James Beard and James F Moore, will also cover environmental issues. More about their talks and the talks on agronomy and irrigation next issue.

A wide range of subjects will also be covered during BTME with the seminar programme in the Harrogate International Centre's Royal Hall.

This programme is designed so that visitors to the exhibition, now in its seventh year, can pick and choose the subjects that most interest them. And there's plenty to choose from.

Cameron Sinclair, chairman of the British Institute of Golf Course Architects, will give 'A greenkeeper's guide to working with golf course architects'. George Brown, course manager at Turnberry, will talk about the '94 Open. Dr IG McKillop of the Central Science Laboratory will explain how to control rabbit and vermin. Dr James Beard will talk about international turfgrass trends and Douglas Shearer, a health and safety consultant, will give an update on this important aspect of course management.

Because there is so much going on, many greenkeepers, chairmen of green and club secretaries stay for several days. And show organisers BIGGA have arranged some attractive accommodation packages in Harrogate, which is easy to get to by road, rail, sea and air. For full details of these packages and the education programme, contact Ken Richardson at BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF. Tel: 0347 838581.

● BTME survey results: Page 22



**F**ive greenkeepers are beginning to get nervous. One of the most important days in their careers is fast approaching. They have intelligently answered their way through regional finals. Their courses have sailed through an inspection. Now they are preparing themselves for the national final at Aldwark Manor on December 5.

The winner will be crowned the ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year. This prestigious title should be reward enough, but the winner will also be given a free trip to the 1995 GCSAA Exhibition and Conference in San Francisco.

The two runners-up will get weekend breaks. One will receive a weekend for two at a top London hotel, with tickets for a West End show of their choice. The other will receive a weekend for two at Aldwark Manor Hotel near York.

Twenty-four greenkeepers from all over England, Scotland and Wales were nominated for the award by their sections. Each section nominee's course was then visited by representatives of ICI and BIGGA. They walked the course with the nominee and discussed various aspects of greenkeeping informally. After these visits five regional winners were selected for the grand final. Tom Murray represents Scotland, Paul Pearse represents the Northern Region, David Walden represents the Midland Region, Mark Webb carries the honour for the South West and South Wales Region, and Stefan Antolik is the choice from the South East Region.

*Unfortunately there can only be one winner. Last year it was Gordon Irvine. Who will it be in 1994?*



**STEFAN ANTOLIK**  
Age: 38. Head greenkeeper at Cooden Beach GC, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex

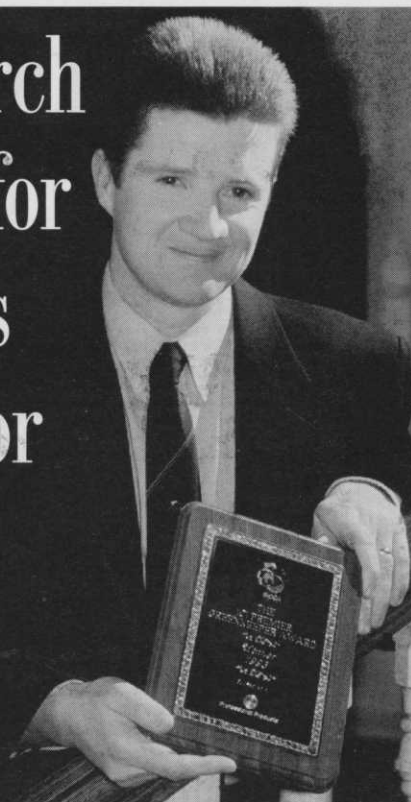
Stefan Antolik knows what it's like to win big. In 1990 he was a British motor racing champion. OK, so it wasn't Formula One, but the Triumph Sport Six Club, Class A Trophy is a tough branch of the sport. What's more, Stefan won in a car he built himself.

The mechanical skills he learned during his four years racing have helped him in his greenkeeping career. No, he doesn't have the fastest fairway mower but he does have some well maintained machines, as well as a well maintained course. When he came to Cooden Beach in August 1991, machinery was old and morale was low. He said it was in need of a shake-up, so that's what he did, leading from the front as usual.

"I am a strong believer in leading by example," he says, "and like the hands-on approach to work, so I set about returning equipment to safe running order with the help of

# The search hots up for Gordon's successor

**Who will be the new ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year? Chris Boiling looks at the shortlisted candidates, one of whom who will take over the title from last year's winner, Gordon Irvine**



mechanical skills I had picked up over the years. Once the membership could see what could be achieved with a little effort, and that the machinery would be used, it became easier to obtain new equipment."

A 12-handicap bandit, he says: "My interest in golf started when I was at school and earned pocket money caddying at weekends. My father had wanted me to follow in his footsteps as an engineer but, much to his disapproval, I left school at the age of 15 to work at Abridge Golf and Country Club as an apprentice greenkeeper."



**MARK WEBB**  
Age: 36. Head greenkeeper at Alresford Golf Club, Alresford, Hampshire

Mark Webb has been in greenkeeping for 20 years and has worked on five very different courses in Hampshire. Two were on clay overlaying chalk, one silt, one low lying silt/clay and one on ironstone sand with pure sand greens.

Mark's latest club is Alresford. He has been there for six and a half years.

"104 years ago when Alresford Golf Club was formed it would have been classed as a downland course," he says, "but over the years areas of trees - mainly oak and beech - have formed copses and only about a quarter of the existing course could still be classified as downland."

In 1990 Mark and his assistant extended the course from 12 to 18 holes. "We, over copious cups of coffee, designed and planned all the necessary changes that the club would need to undergo to allow

members to keep playing the existing course as much as possible, including the financial implications, and a four-year strategy of course reconstruction, complete with its funding, was then submitted to the committee for their consideration. With some further help from our course development committee, the whole package was presented to the members. Fortunately, this was very well received and in May 1993 a new layout of 18 holes was opened by John Jacobs."



**PAUL PEARSE**  
Age: 33. Course manager at Stockport Golf Club, Cheshire

Paul Pearse loves golf. When he's not working at Stockport, where he has been course manager for five years, he's playing the game. A member of Hazel Grove, he has a handicap of 2 and a list of golfing achievements that's longer than his CV. These include winning the Hazel Grove Club Championship and the Fourball Knockout last year, the Champion of Champions in '93 and '94, and he was a member of the scratch team that won the East Cheshire Scratch League this year.

Paul has been a greenkeeper since 1977, starting as a trainee at Heswall GC under Bill Lawson. In 1981 he won the Sisis Young Greenkeeper of the Year Award and moved to Helsby GC, where his father Norman is in charge. He has also worked at Effingham, as Kenny McNiven's deputy, and as course manager at Staverton Park GC, Northants.

"I feel fortunate to have worked

on a variety of golf course types and to have had a thorough practical education from excellent greenkeepers before attaining my first course manager position," he said. "I have also seen three of my staff from Stockport GC move on to become successful head greenkeepers at local clubs, and I am proud to say that they are using some of the working practices that they used during their time with me at Stockport."



**TOM MURRAY**

Age: 36. Head greenkeeper at Ratho Park Golf Club, Midlothian

Tom Murray has been at Ratho Park, a James Braid-designed parkland course near Edinburgh, for 20 years. He served three years as an apprentice, two years as an assistant, eight years as first assistant and for the past seven years he has been the head greenkeeper.

During his time there he has helped build and rebuild tees, rebuild greens, put new drainage in to various parts of the course, and helped plant many hundreds of trees and shrubs.

"I hope in the future to continue to keep the course to a high standard for golfers of all standards to enjoy," he says. "It is a job I love doing, and I hope I can pass on some useful experience to the rest of my enthusiastic greenstaff."

Tom is also a good golfer. He plays off 4 and recently won an East Section event.



**DAVID WALDEN**

Age: 50. Golf course superintendent, Nene Valley Golf Services.

David worked on a farm for ten years before joining Peterborough Development Corporation as a forestry and landscape operator. While there he gained City and Guilds phase I, II and III in amenity, decorative and turf culture and studied at home for the National Diploma in Turf culture.

In 1973 the Development Corporation had a golf course built and advertised for a head greenkeeper. "I was very fortunate to get it," says David. Over the years his job has evolved into that of golf course superintendent and he has been responsible for the construction of a new 18-hole course and 12-hole pitch and putt course.

In 1988 Nene Valley Golf Services took over the courses, but David kept his job. He is in charge of ten people and has also been involved in the construction of a new 27-hole private course. Chairman of the East of England section, David has just started his second year of distance learning at Elmwood College (greenkeeping and golf course management).



Q U E S T I O N :

# What do these men have in common?





# They all realise the benefit of BIGGA Membership



**Rod Hunter, assistant greenkeeper at The Belfry:** *"I'm a member because BIGGA is the professional organisation for greenkeepers and as a greenkeeper it's very important to have an organisation that you can go to for help and information."*

Here are the first 10 reasons for renewing your membership –

## 1. Greenkeeper International magazine

Twelve copies of the Association's official monthly publication are provided free to all greenkeepers as a benefit of membership.

The award-winning magazine has earned the reputation of being the professional journal for golf greenkeepers. Not only does it help you perform your job more efficiently, it also elevates the status of your profession.

Greenkeeper International includes in depth editorial features, an excellent recruitment section for greenkeepers looking for jobs, lively competitions and an exciting format guaranteed to maintain your interest throughout the year.



**David Norton, head greenkeeper at The Belfry:** *"I joined because it keeps you in touch with all the important things, especially through the magazine. We are professional people and we need to be in a professional body."*

## 2. Membership card

At the discretion of Golf Clubs, greenkeeper members can use their membership cards to enjoy the courtesy of the course. This privilege is only extended to Full Greenkeeper Members.

## 3. The sections

Every member is allocated to a section according to where they live or work in the country. Each section hosts a variety of events, such as golf days in the summer and lectures throughout the autumn/winter months. Regional seminars are also organised, providing a valuable educational opportunity for members in their own area.

Your section gives you a regular opportunity to mix with your peers and take part in a varied social and educational calendar of events.

**Martin Lothian, head greenkeeper at Turnberry Hotel:** *"It's an advantage for anyone wanting to get on. For example, you pick up a lot of tips through the*

*magazine and at golf days."*

## 4. Personal accident cover

In addition to capital sums to cover death, loss of limbs and eyes and permanent total disablement, there is a weekly income payment to members suffering temporary total disablement.

Additionally members enjoy access to a comprehensive range of insurance benefits at highly competitive rates.

## 5. Employment cover

(i) The defence of any claim brought against a member arising out of, or in the course of his employment.

(ii) The pursuit of a claim by an eligible member arising out of his employment, eg. unfair or wrongful dismissal.

## 6. Legal advice

Through a card facility, we offer a 24 hour telephone service to members and their immediate family to cover any type of legal problem that may arise.

## 7. Financial services

Independent advice over a wide range of financial services is available to members, with access to all the major life insurance and pension companies.

## 8. Membership package

Each new greenkeeper member receives an official Association tie and for the ladies a scarf embossed with the BIGGA logo. All members will receive a pen, a sticker and an attractive waterproof wallet in which to hold the membership card.

## 9. International members

We have an International Section with an ever increasing number of members as far across

the globe as Australia, USA, Thailand, Iceland and Turkey to mention just a few. All items of the membership package are available to International Members.

Users of the legal helpline card should note that advice will relate to either English or Scottish law. The card can be used when the member is visiting the UK, both for advice and in respect of any claims arising from such visits.

**Carl Hernstrom, course manager of**



**Ekerum Golf Club, Sweden:** *"When I first joined BIGGA, it was because there was no greenkeeping organisation in Sweden. However today it's*

*because Britain is the best place to see all the things that are happening in golf. I've learnt a lot through all the people I have met at Harrogate, the Open, the National Tournament and the National Education Conference."*

## 10. Benevolent fund

– allowing for payments to members suffering particular hardships.

As Clare Douglas, BIGGA's membership services officer, points out: "These are only the first 10 reasons for renewing your membership. There are lots more advantages most importantly linked to education and training."

**BIGGA has the future education and training of greenkeepers as its first priority**

All greenkeepers have access to education and training through colleges, 'in house' courses or short regional based courses. The options available from colleges are at varying



levels, which can be categorised as:

- Craft, Supervisory and Management level courses - National/Scottish Vocational Qualification
- National Certificates and Diploma
- Higher Certificate and Diploma and Degree level courses.

BIGGA arranges 'in house' management and supervisory courses held at Aldwark Manor. These include both specialist short courses and management courses. Further information on all courses is available from BIGGA headquarters.

The National Education Conference, which is held in the same week as the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition at Harrogate, is a major educational event. This provides an opportunity for members to combine the exhibition with an interesting and varied programme of speakers from home and abroad.

Seminar Programmes are arranged as part of BTME at a discounted rate for members. BIGGA Regions and Sections also arrange seminars during autumn and winter.

The Association awards the Master Greenkeeper Certificate which indicates that the recipient has reached the highest standards of excellence within the profession of greenkeeping. The award is designed to produce a well educated, experienced, practised greenkeeper, through a combination of credits awarded for

BIGGA 1995 SUBSCRIPTIONS STRUCTURE		
	New Members In 1995	Current Members If paying before 31 January 1995
Course Manager/ Head Greenkeeper	£65	£60
Deputy Course Manager/ Deputy Head Greenkeeper	£52	£48
First Assistant/ Assistant Greenkeeper	£45	£42
20 years of age or under	£30	£27
Associate/Company (including one year's subscription to magazine)	£52	-
Associate/Company without magazine	£27	-
Corporate	£580	-
International	£52	-

education, experience and practical ability. Credits are awarded for successful completion of educational courses, attendance at the BIGGA National Education Conference and Seminar Programme, Region and Section Seminars and for amount of greenkeeping experience. Additionally candidates have their golf course operation assessed and have to pass the BIGGA Module Examination. The Certificate is considered the premier award in greenkeeping.

BIGGA also organises a competition to find the Premier Greenkeeper of the Year in conjunction with Zeneca. The winner wins a trip to the Golf Course Superintendents Associa-

tion of America Exhibition and Conference in the USA.

For the new entrants to the profession BIGGA organises the Student Greenkeeper of the Year competition in conjunction with Toro/Lely UK Ltd and the PGA European Tour. The winner of this contest visits the University of Massachusetts to study with US greenkeepers and the two runners up join the PGA European Tour greenkeeping team at two major venues.

For further information on any of these educational opportunities please contact Ken Richardson, education officer, at BIGGA Headquarters, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York, North Yorkshire YO6 2NF or telephone 01347 838581.

**George Brown, course and estate**



**manager, Turnberry Hotel:**  
*"With golfers of all levels  
demanding the highest quality  
of courses all year round,  
greenkeeper education is  
becoming more and more important.*

***BIGGA is the body leading the way here,  
producing high quality videos, setting up  
a library, running regular management  
courses, regional seminars and, of  
course, the National Education  
Conference."***

**Associate**

## THE BIGGA RECOMMENDED MINIMUM SALARY/WAGES SCALE, 1995

The Association has updated its recommended minimum salary/wages scale, although actual figures remain the subject of negotiation between the Golf Club and Greenkeeping staff. Quoted rates apply from January 1, 1995.

	18 Holes	27 Holes	36 Holes
Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper	£19,144	£20,867	£23,354
Deputy Course Manager/Deputy Head Greenkeeper	£13,818	£15,057	£16,842
First Assistant	£230.00 pw	£230.00 pw	£230.00 pw
Assistant Greenkeeper	£216.30 pw	£216.30 pw	£216.30 pw
Apprentice Greenkeeper (all courses) Age 16/17: £108.15 pw; Age 18: £135.20 pw; Age 19: £162.23 pw; Age 20: £189.27 pw; Age 21+: £216.30 pw.			

NB: Where appropriate these rates should be increased to reflect Regional variations up to a maximum of 24% in the South East Region.

The First Assistant is a post designed to recognise a third-in-charge where appropriate to the size of the Club. In cases where the First Assistant is the recognised Deputy, the appropriate Deputy Course Manager/Deputy Head Greenkeeper salary scale should apply.

Staff in possession of recognised qualifications should have this reflected in an addition to basic salary.

### Basic conditions of employment should include:

1. Where accommodation is provided by the Club, it should be rent free with heating/lighting costs borne by the Club. The Club should compensate for Council Tax Liability.
2. Where accommodation is not provided by the Club, a suitable remuneration in addition to the above salary should be paid.
3. 40 hour week.
4. Retirement Pension Scheme.
5. Telephone costs on Club business.
6. Mileage allowance.
7. Time off to attend lectures, demonstrations, BIGGA functions and tournaments.
8. If not salaried, basic overtime to be paid at time and a half, with double time on Sundays and Statutory Holidays.

### Explanation

The recommended salary and wages scale effective from January 1, 1995 has been revised with reference to the Tax & Prices Index which reflects changes in retail prices, PAYE and NIC. The index therefore represents the changes in gross income which would maintain the level of real net income.

The recommended increase for 1995 has been calculated using the latest available figure for 1994 with an adjustment for the shortfall in the recommended rate for 1994 when compared to the actual Index change for the preceding year.

It is proposed to adopt this formula for future years.

Increases in the cost of the two main membership benefits, Personal Accident Insurance and Legal Helpline, have principally accounted for the increase in membership subscriptions. The Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper rate has risen by a greater proportion than other rates to part reflect the percentage difference in recommended salaries for this category of employment when compared to a Deputy Course Manager/Deputy Head Greenkeeper. In 1996 it is intended to fully reflect the percentage difference applicable at that time.





#### Associate

This category is for those having a close interest in greenkeeping without being specifically employed as greenkeepers. This category would therefore interest chairmen of greens committees, club secretaries, golf course architects and constructors and many others with a close affinity to greenkeeping.

#### Company

This membership is available on an individual or corporate basis for any persons employed within a company connected with greenkeeping or fine turf management.

**Terry Ryan, Rolawn's sales and marketing**



**director: "As the major producer of cultivated turf in the United Kingdom Rolawn views membership of BIGGA as essential because it gives us direct access to the ideas, views and opinions of the greenkeeping community. BIGGA manages to combine professionalism with old fashioned courtesy. The organisation is a pleasure to deal with."**

Benefits of membership

#### Greenkeeper International magazine

Twelve copies of the Association's official monthly publication are provided free to all Associate/ Company members as a benefit of membership.

The award-winning magazine has earned the reputation of being the professional journal for golf greenkeepers, which is the reason why the industry trusts and relies on it. Greenkeeper International is the "vital title" to keep you up to date with all the latest developments in the industry. Not only does the magazine help greenkeepers perform their jobs more efficiently, it helps elevate the status of the whole profession.



**Paul Pearse, course manager Stockport Golf Club: "Greenkeepers need a professional body to support them. The more members we have the stronger the Association will**

# Benefits too with Associate/ Company Membership

Corporate membership is available at a discounted price for companies who have 12 or more key personnel that would benefit from receiving the magazine.

#### The sections

All Associate/Company members are allocated to a section according to where they live or work in the country. This enables you to join in all section events, such as golf days in the summer and educational lectures throughout the autumn/winter months.

For company members this provides a relaxed and informal opportunity to socialise with greenkeepers in your area.

Associate members will also benefit not only from having a regular opportunity to mix with your peers but also from the educational aspects that the sections provide.

#### Reduced delegate fees

Delegate fees for all big events are offered at a discounted rate to all Associate/Company members. These include:

- ◆ The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition (BTME) and Educational Seminar Programme held in January each year at Harrogate, North Yorkshire.
- ◆ The National Education Conference which is a two day event held at the same venue. Again, the delegate fee will be discounted.
- ◆ Members can also take advantage of educational opportunities through regional seminars.

#### Membership certificate

All members are issued with a certificate of membership, which has to be produced to participate in sectional and national events. This certificate does not allow Associate/Company members to seek courtesy of the course – this is a privilege extended to greenkeeper members only.

#### Membership package

All Associate/Company members will receive the Association's lapel badge, a pen, a sticker and a waterproof wallet.

#### International members

BIGGA is truly an international association and we have a section for International Associate/Company members. All items of the membership package are included for international members and the magazine is sent at no extra charge to wherever you live in the world.

**Terry Adamson, sales rep for Gem**

**Professional: "I like this industry and I like being involved in it. I used to be a greenkeeper and I still like to be involved, especially with the educational and social programmes, which are BIGGA's biggest asset. Gem Professional believes that we're all in this industry together, we work as a team, there is no distinction between them and us."**

## Join the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association

Thank you for making the association what it is today. The membership has now more than quadrupled since BIGGA was formed in 1987, with current membership at over 5,500.

**be and the stronger the support will be."**

If you are already a member, you have nothing more to do at this point other than looking out in your mail later this month for the 1995 membership renewal pack.

If you are not currently a member, but you are now thinking of joining the Association, please complete and return the membership application card in this magazine.

For any further queries please contact Clare Douglas, membership services officer,

BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF, or telephone 01347 838581.



**Walter Woods BEM, links supervisor, St Andrews Links: "The British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association provides the stepping stones for education and knowledge and promotes opportunities for the improvement of individual skills applied to golf courses."**



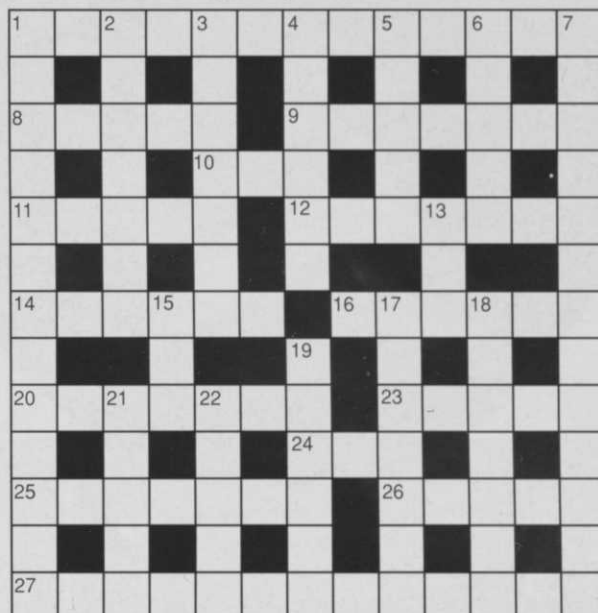
# 10 TIPS FOR SAFE TREE WORK

1. Always wear a hat. Things are constantly falling from trees as you work on them. It may only be a small branch but if it's coming from 50ft up, it can put you in hospital.
2. Protect your eyes and ears at all times. Small branches will poke your eyes, and blowing sawdust and woodchips are a constant irritation. If you get something in your eye just before you finish a major cut, you could be in big trouble. Chainsaws and chippers produce sound levels above 100dB, so be sure to wear hearing protectors to avoid hearing damage.
3. Wear chainsaw-resistant trousers, gloves, jackets and boots. They can reduce the chances of serious cuts.
4. Don't work too closely with a colleague. You should be at least 10ft apart when working with saws. And make sure no one is in the fall area when cutting branches and trees.
5. Use the proper stance, grip and position when using a chainsaw, ie. right hand on the trigger, left hand on the upper handle, left thumb below the handle, chain to the right of your arm, feet solidly on the ground.
6. Examine the tree carefully from the root up before climbing it. Check for power lines, structural defects, etc.

7. Check all your equipment. Make sure the saws are sharp (sharp saws are more dependable and less tiring), check ropes for wear, check ladders, etc.
8. Follow basic climbing rules. When tying in to the tree, put the line around the main trunk or stem. This way, if that limb breaks, you will fall only the distance to the next limb, not all the way to the ground. When climbing a tree, spread your body weight over at least three points, eg. avoid having both feet or hands on the same branch. Lines should be half-inch diameter with a breaking strength greater than 5,400 pounds. The metal links should be steel, not aluminium, with a breaking strength of 5,000 pounds.
9. Use ladders wisely. Extension and A-frame ladders are useful for getting into trees, but you shouldn't work from them. They are not stable enough to withstand rapid movement or being hit with falling limbs. You can use A-frame ladders for pruning hedges or small trees that won't support a climber.
10. Don't stand beneath the limbs you are cutting with pole runners or pole saws - stand to the side but remember, limbs fall tip first then flip back at you when they hit the ground.

## GREENKEEPER'S CROSSWORD

Compiled by Mark G Smith



### WIN A BIGGA BLAZER OR £50 IN CASH!

#### CLUES ACROSS

- 1 Commercial exhibition area at golf tournaments (6, 7)
- 8 Bob ....., USPGA Tour professional, winner of the 1994 Texas Open (5)
- 9 Some clubs do it to the hole as a concession to winter conditions! (7)
- 10 St Andrews' Golf Course opened in 1895 (3)
- 11 Sheep's Fescue, (L. Festuca ....) (5)
- 12 Regularity of green's cutting in summer (4, 3)
- 14 Height of cut in winter compared with summer (6)
- 16 ..... Tynning, Aerating operation where plugs are removed from greens, tees etc. (6)
- 20 Type of dismissal warranted by acts of gross misconduct (7)
- 23 "..... Slap", 15th hole at Carnoustie, recently depicted on the 30p stamp (5)
- 24 Egg, when taking in from 11 across (3)
- 25 Lightly strike the flag stick (4, 3)
- 26 Hardy deciduous tree genus from Germany's sapling, known as "Tupelo Gum" (L. .... Aquatica) (5)
- 27 Golfers who play for a living (13)

#### CLUES DOWN

- 1 Biennial match between lady professional golfers of Europe and America (3, 7, 3)
- 2 Physical means of keeping rabbits, badgers etc. at bay (7)
- 3 To trap animals (7)
- 4 Watcher of televised golf (6)
- 5 Common name of the shrub (L. Syringa Vulgaris) (5)
- 6 What greens are in the period following 16 across (5)
- 7 How often 1 down is played (5, 3, 5)
- 13 ..... Sutton, 1983 USPGA champion known as the "bear apparent" (3)
- 15 The strike in golf (3)
- 17 City in Florida where the USPGA Nestle Invitational is played (7)
- 18 Coastal change, for the club where the USPGA's Tournament of Champions is held (2, 5)
- 19 Usually removable from bunkers under the local rules of golf (6)
- 21 County of Western Ireland containing Enniscrone, Strandhill and County ..... golf courses (5)
- 22 Common fruit tree (L. Pyrus Malus) (5)

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Closing date November 24, 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. ➔ Last month's solution:

October winner: Gareth Roberts, deputy course manager, Hankley Common Golf Club. September winner: Alasdair McLaren, course manager, Abernethy Golf Club

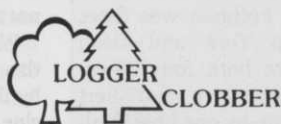
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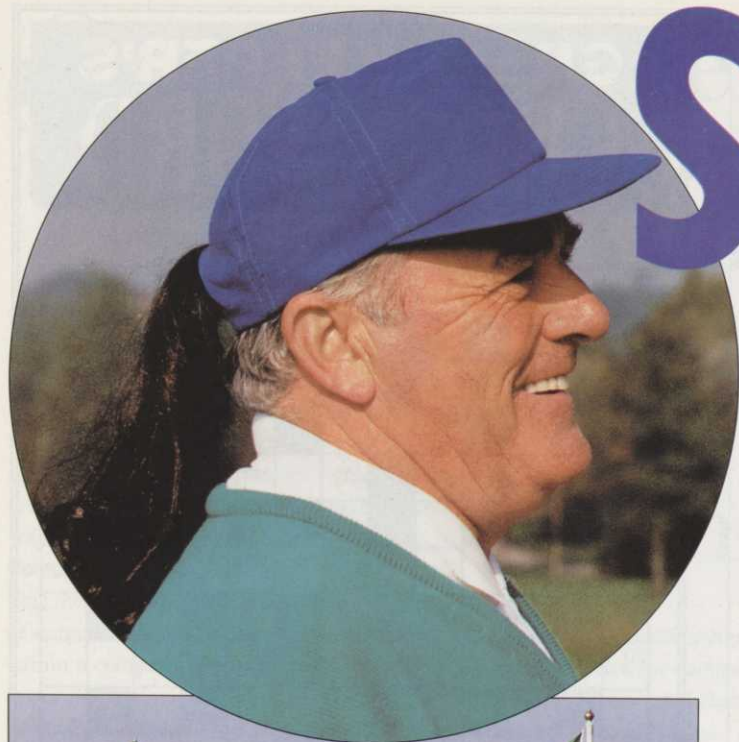
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# Second



**The greenkeepers notched up a rare defeat in the Kubota Challenge Trophy. Chris Boiling reports from The Belfry**

**D**rubbed. Trowned. Thrashed. Destroyed. Annihilated. Whipped. Licked. Walloped... There are some great words to describe defeats, and this was a great defeat.

Everyone expected the greenkeepers to retain the impressive Kubota Challenge Trophy. After all, they'd won it eight out of 11 times, and in the semi-final of this year's event at The Belfry they whipped the English Golf Union 6-2. But the Golf Foundation were also on form. They knocked out the Secretaries, the only other team to have won the Kubota Challenge, by the same margin.

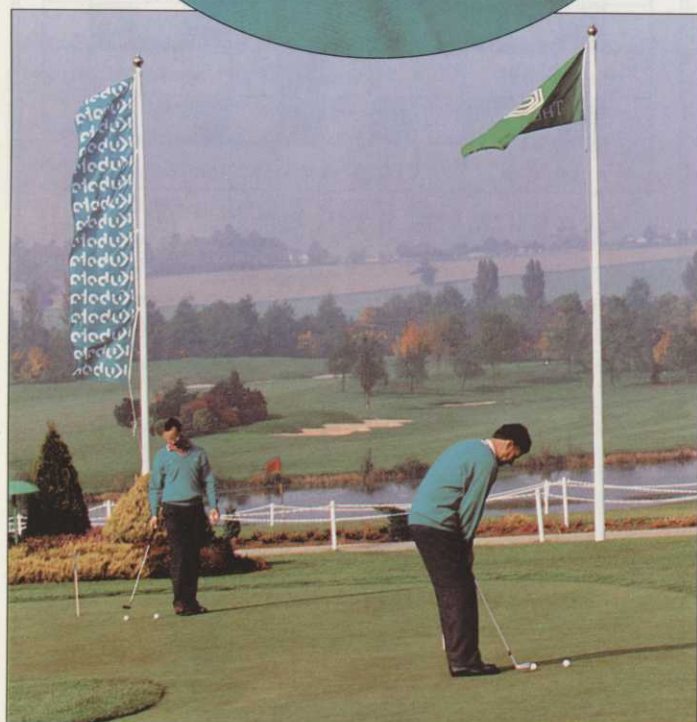
It was clear early on in the final that the Golf Foundation weren't going to be charitable to the greenkeepers. Paul Pearse came in after nine holes five down. Paul Loffman was three down. John York and Dean Cleaver were both four down. Only Duncan Gray and Bert Cross were up, by one hole. Malcolm Lathan and Roger Tydeman were all square.

Over the second nine, Paul Pearse staged a magnificent comeback and was standing on

the 18th tee all square. Then he drove into the water... Malcolm Lathan, in the match behind, offered the greenkeepers' supporters (well, me and BIGGA chairman John Millen) a glimmer of hope by posting a 3/1 victory. Then came defeat upon drubbing upon disaster. Duncan Gray squandered his lead and lost 2/1. Paul Loffman never recovered from his early mistakes and lost 3/2. Bert Cross lost by two holes. Roger Tydeman let things slip over the back nine and lost 4/2. John York never stood a chance against his opponent and did well to lose 4/3. Dean Cleaver was beaten 3/1.

This meant that in this competition's 12-year history, the greenkeepers had played 24 matches and now been beaten four times. Ah well, I suppose it's not a bad record.

While the boys were pondering this afterwards in Kubota's tent by the 10th tee, we were given a clue as to why the Golf Foundation won so convincingly. Organiser Peter McEvoy, twice British amateur champion, was challenged to drive across the water to the green on the short par 4



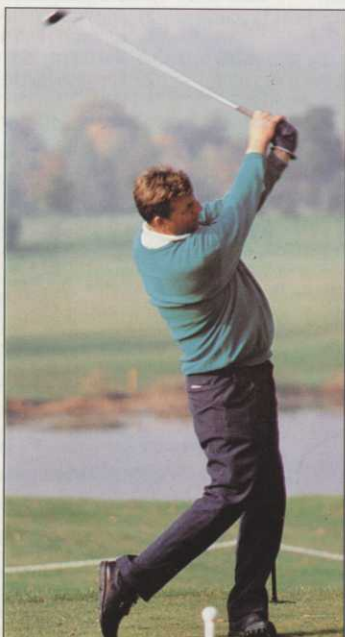
#### Pictures:

**Top:** hair we go - trend-setter Bert Cross

**Above:** Roger Tydeman and John York practising - obviously not hard enough!

**Near right:** Paul Loffman at the first hole

**Right:** Malcolm Lathan sinks a birdie putt on the 9th hole to square the match at the halfway stage. He was the only greenkeeper who went on to win





# best



10th. During the competition only Paul Pearse had made it to the putting surface. Peter had two attempts and failed. Then Golf Foundation's 15-handicap teenager Phil Cotton, whose father is a pro, had a go – and promptly smacked his ball on the green with a 3-wood.

One consolation for the greenkeepers is that they won the Drive and Pitch competition. Mind you, losing that would have been an even bigger embarrassment than losing the Kubota Challenge since it involves driving a tractor through an obstacle course and pitching into a bucket. The greenkeepers were handicapped by having larger tractors and Duncan Gray, whose hobby appears to be collecting cones. But at least he didn't crash his tractor into a barrier – that was left to Kubota's Brian Hurtley.

In the other match the Secretaries beat the English Golf Union 4.5-3.5.

## KUBOTA CHALLENGE

- 1 Golf Foundation
- 2 Greenkeepers
- 3 Secretaries
- 4 English Golf Union



**Pictures: Top: Paul Pearse stages a magnificent comeback – until the 18th  
Above: They think it's all over – it is now. Duncan Gray loses the 16th  
Right: Paul Pearse – a study of concentration  
Below: John York shows Phil Cotton how to take a divot**





**Peter Oakford goes through the reasons why a machinery care programme can pay handsome dividends**

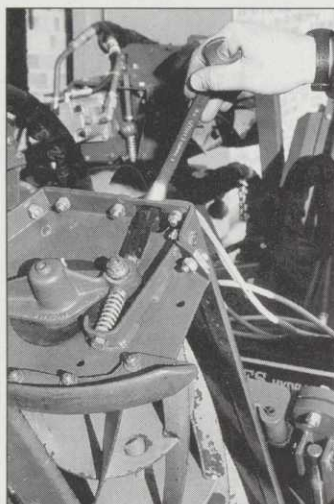
# MACHINERY

**W**ith machinery, especially grass cutting equipment, being used less frequently over the next few months, now is the ideal time to address the question of maintenance and overhauls. By being aware of the what can cause problems, steps can be taken both now and throughout next year's cutting season to limit the possibility of any down time. This feature aims to highlight the kind of things that can create problems. By being aware of these, action can be taken to stop them occurring in the future.

A comprehensive look at the maintenance schedules for the vast number of machines found on golf courses is not practical, so in the case of a specific machine the manufacturer's handbook should be consulted.

## Heat

When two surfaces are rubbed together, heat is generated from the friction that is created. In the



**Adjusting a cutting cylinder down onto the bottom blade on one side of the cutting unit of a hydraulic trailed gang mower**

case of metal, if this process is carried out long enough, fusion will take place. This is what happens when an engine seizes-up.

The problem is how to reduce

the friction and dissipate the heat. Apart from the actual design of the components, the answer is use of oil, grease, water and air.

## Oil and grease

By creating a film of oil or grease between the two surfaces the heat level is reduced. If this lubrication protection breaks down, either through shortage or deterioration, then problems start to occur. Likewise contamination with an abrasive material will result in the metal surfaces either being damaged or worn away. From this, the important areas to watch can be identified.

All oil reservoirs, such as sumps, need to be inspected regularly to ensure that they are maintained at the correct level.

Temperature fluctuations reduce the lubrication qualities and the oil becomes dirty.

Watering down of the lubricant can occur due to internal engine condensation.

To counteract all these requires a maintenance programme that includes constant monitoring, i.e. checking the level on the dipstick, and regular oil changes.

## Oil filters

If these are fitted they will need replacing periodically.

The recommended intervals between oil and filter changes will be found in the machine's handbook.

Cleanliness is important always, so steps need to be taken to ensure dirt does not enter the machine through the fillers or dirty funnels.

In the case of grease there are other aspects to take into consideration.

This mostly enters the lubricating area through a nipple, and is often enclosed in a chamber where it performs its function. Unless it leaks-out, the volume of grease is constant for a considerable time, so pumping in a fresh supply under pressure can push seals or bearings out. Any excess also tends to find its way out through the nipple or between the bearings, where it attracts dirt, sand and other abrasive substances. A lack of this vital compound causes excessive wear of shafts, and dried out bearings finally collapse. Check all grease points are functioning correctly,

then use a grease gun with controlled enthusiasm.

## Water

Another way of controlling the temperature is the use of water. On amenity equipment this is mainly found on diesel powered units, although there are some petrol engines that use the system. In the environment where such equipment is used, dust and dried grass are common problems.

For a water-cooling system to work effectively air must pass freely through the radiator. If the flow becomes obstructed, then the water temperature rises and the engine starts overheating. Pre-cleaning screens are standard on most models. These need to be inspected and cleaned regularly, especially in dry conditions. The use of high pressure water or air to clear debris between radiator cooling fins is not recommended.

The system must be flushed and the manual will detail how often this is carried out and the procedure used.

## Air

This performs two functions as far as an engine is concerned.

Firstly, like water it acts as a cooling agent. Most small engines are kept at the correct running temperature by cold air being drawn in by the flywheel across a series of fins sited around the cylinder block. The same system applies to hydraulic pumps and motors. If the channels between the fins become blocked and the passage of air restricted then the unit will run hot. It is important to remove any debris from between the fins, cowlings and guards, so that the correct running temperature is maintained.

The second use of air is in the combustion process, which cannot take place without an adequate clean supply. All engines have some form of air filtration. This is usually a foam or paper element – or in rare cases an oil bath. Whatever system is used it must be kept clean. The manual will outline the intervals at which air filter maintenance should be carried out, but in very dusty conditions they need checking much more often. If an element is heavily contaminated, worn, or damaged then fit a new one.

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# MAINTENANCE

## Fuel

Where equipment is not going to be used for a relatively long period then the fuel system needs to be drained. Not only does fuel go stale, deposits also form in the carburettor and pipes and when the time comes to use the machine, a full cleaning down of the fuel system will be required.

It is vital that clean fuel is used. Failure to ensure this can result in wear of internal components, poor starting or loss of power.

## Spark plugs

An engine's performance hinges on this vital item. Modern electronics will ensure a perfect spark every time, so transmitting this to the combustion chamber relies entirely on the condition of the spark plug. Because of its position, it is a good indicator of what is happening inside the engine. Problems can develop and more often than not these are attributed to carbon deposits. These then

become a path for electrical leakage. Insulation deteriorates and the spark is weakened, or in acute cases is non-existent. These situations can be avoided if the cause is identified.

The following outlines the type of conditions that lead to a carbon build-up:

1. A badly adjusted carburettor results in incorrect fuel mixture. In this case the setting would be too rich.
2. Over-use of the choke, or one that does not fully disengage.
3. Blocked or dirty air filters stop air reaching the engine. As a result the ratio of air-to-fuel mixture is altered.
4. Bad insulation within in the ignition system.
5. Wrong spark plug fitted.
6. Incorrect plug gap.
7. Engine timing is out.
8. A compression loss occurs due to damaged or worn gaskets, valve seats, or piston rings.
9. Extended running at low revs.

10. Fuel leakage during transportation. Some machines are not fitted with fuel taps. Neat petrol by-passes the carburettor and enters the combustion chamber where it evaporates leaving a sticky carbon deposit.

Any combination or one of these points can create a carbon problem that once established can only be rectified by de-coking the engine.

Fitting the right spark plug is important. If the reach is too short then carbon builds up in the recess created. In the case where it is too long there is the chance that the tip will hit the top of the piston or valves.

## Transmission systems

### Gearboxes and hydraulic units

Fluid levels need to be checked regularly. Where filters are fitted, these will require replacing according to handbook. It is essential that the correct grades of lubricant are used. If there are

any tell-tale signs of leakage on the storage area floor an investigation is needed immediately.

On units with cooling fins it is important to keep the channels free of dirt and dried grass. If a fan is fitted, check the drive to ensure it is operating correctly.

All hydraulic components are manufactured to a high degree of precision, so it is not advisable to carry out any repair that could introduce a minute foreign body into the system. Any work carried out on these units needs to be under clinical conditions. It could be a very expensive exercise, unless you can provide the right facilities plus technical expertise. If a problem occurs in these, a transmission system experts should be called in.

Having looked at the different areas that contribute to a machine's smooth and efficient performance, we now turn to other components that require attention. ➔ Page 21

## LET US GIVE YOU THE CUTTING EDGE THESE CLIENTS ALREADY HAVE IT!

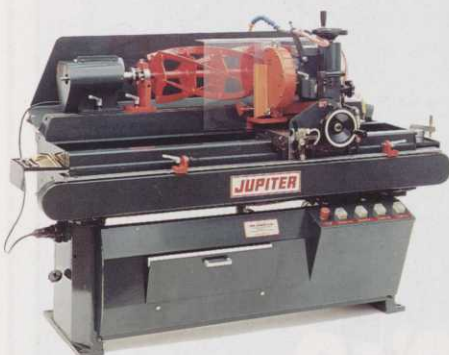
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- Chirk Castle Golf Course
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- Collingtree Leisure
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- Harpenden Golf Club
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- Leek Golf Club
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- Pineridge Golf Club
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- Royal Ashdown Forest Golf Club
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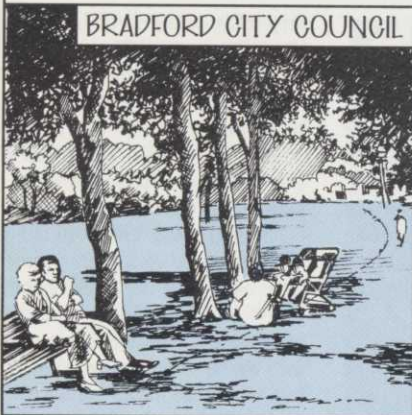
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# MACHINERY MAINTENANCE

## Drives: Belts

Modern belt drives usually have an automatic tension system – where these are not fitted the belt will require checking regularly and adjusting accordingly. New belts tend to stretch so should be adjusted to the correct tension once they have bedded in. A slack belt is not only an inefficient source of power transference it also generates a great deal of heat and in some instances catches fire.

## Chains

Like belts there is generally some form of adjustment, for taking up any stretch. Where a cutting cylinder is chain-driven the adjuster will need to be slackened before setting the unit. Once the blades-to-bedknife are correct then the chain can be re-tensioned. A chain can vary throughout its length, so before locking everything up, check there is no point where it over-tightens when the driver is turned. If this does occur then it

will need re-adjusting.

From the safety aspect, all belt and chain guards should be securely in place and any damaged ones replaced.

## Cutting systems

These come in four basic forms: cylinder, rotary, reciprocating and flail.

## Cylinder Mowers

As this system is similar to the action of a pair of scissors it is vital that the cutting surfaces match. Whilst back-lapping a cylinder helps to maintain this, grinding achieves the ultimate. Once the cutting system has been ground, then regular checking and adjustment are standard practice. A majority of readers will be knowledgeable and competent in performing this operation. A badly set cylinder, apart from producing a poor finish is more vulnerable to damage from small foreign bodies such as grit,



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stone or twigs, which can easily become jammed between the two surfaces.

## General

Most machines on the market have sealed units such as transmission systems and drives. Oil on the floor of the storage area is an indicator that an investigation is needed. Where hydraulic hoses are fitted, regularly inspect for signs of chaffing or leakages from

couplings and fittings.

Check all safety guards are not damaged and are secure, and make sure nuts and bolts are tight.

Throttle, clutch and brake cables will benefit from regular lubrication. Inspect the outer cover signs of any damage to which may impair the action of the inner cable.

Always be on the lookout for signs that could avert a problem.

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# 'A first class show... difficult to better but easy to spoil'

by Colin Hegarty of the Golf Research Group

BIGGA members don't want to lose what they've got at Harrogate. That is the clear message from a survey conducted by an independent research organisation, the Golf Research Group.

BIGGA commissioned me to survey members' wishes after the Association was approached by P&O Events with a proposal to combine the BTME with other grounds maintenance sectors and move the new 'unified' show to London's Olympia.

A two-page, 10-question survey was mailed to 1,474 members who are head greenkeepers. A covering letter asked them to consult with their staff, who are members, before replying. Twenty-five percent (370) of these questionnaires were returned within the deadline – considered by pollsters to be an excellent response rate.

The survey found that:

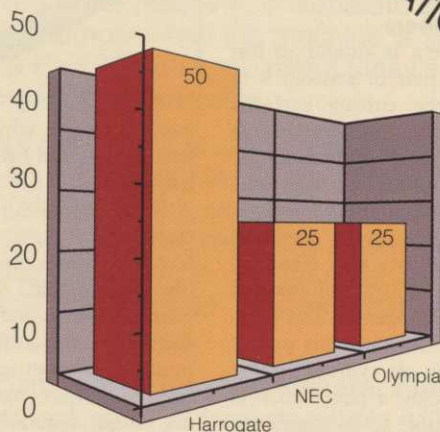
- ◆ 70% of BIGGA members have visited the BTME at Harrogate at least once;
- ◆ Half the membership are in favour of continuing the exhibition at Harrogate, compared with 25% whose preferred location was Olympia;
- ◆ Of those members who have been to Harrogate, 64% said it was their preferred location, while only 16% said they would like to see it moved to Olympia;
- ◆ Of the members preferring Olympia the vast majority, not surprisingly, came from the south. But it is interesting to see that their second choice was Harrogate and not the NEC at Birmingham;
- ◆ 67% of northern greenkeepers would prefer the show to be at Harrogate, and only 8% of northern greenkeepers want it to be in London;
- ◆ A question about 'where and how members learn' at the BTME showed that 36% of their time is spent talking to the exhibitors on stands, 32% of their time is spent talking and learning from other greenkeepers, and 32% of their time is spent learning more formally from the seminar programme which is run in conjunction with the show;
- ◆ Nearly a quarter of members who attend the BIGGA week stay for three days – 19% stay for one day, 14% for two days, 22% for three days, 5% for four days and 11% for the full five days;
- ◆ Of the 56% of members who have visited the IoG's show (this year called SALTEX), most go for just one day and only 1% attend on all three days;
- ◆ 9% of BIGGA members are also members of IoG.

Members were also given the opportunity to expand their views.

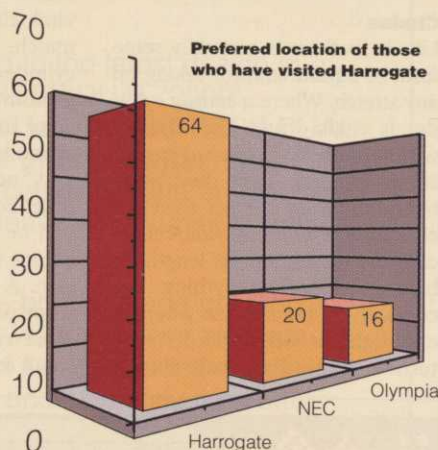
Typical comments from members included:

"Harrogate is a compact, friendly venue and has a good reputation. The NEC could

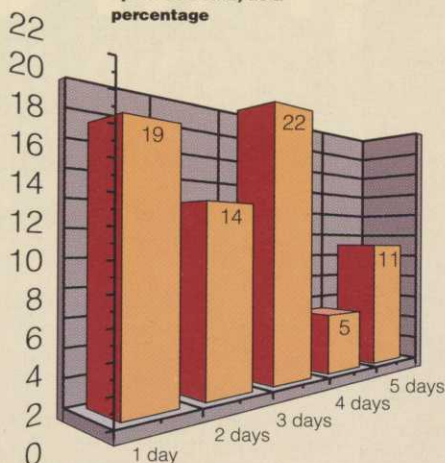
## What BIGGA members thought of the proposals to change BTME



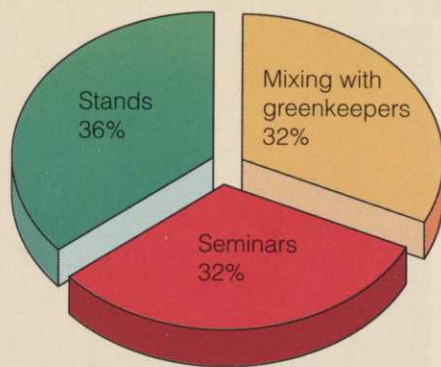
Above: Preferred location for BTME – percentage of BIGGA members



Below: Number of days spent at BTME, as a percentage



Below: Learning forums at the BTME – where members learn



be a bit impersonal – and what about accommodation? Olympia has parking problems, expensive accommodation, even travelling from the outskirts of London can be a problem."

"Olympia is much closer to my home address but I am not sure the accommodation would be available to keep the close-knit companionship which is always available at Harrogate."

"Why oh why should we greenkeepers 'North of Watford' have to succumb to the industry's notion that London is the best

venue for everything? Harrogate is centrally located for all greenkeepers, making it more likely that our Scottish 'cousins' will attend. Harrogate is a success, I don't ever remember sitting on a motorway slip road there for over an hour watching the exhibition from afar."

"I see this proposal as further erosion of our independence."

"A first-class show marked on every greenkeeper's calendar. Difficult to better but easy to spoil."

● See also Grass Notes, Page 50





Send your letters to The Editor, Greenkeeper International, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Aine, York YO6 2NF or fax them on 0347 838864

# BTME formula is just right: the correct decision has been made

To the Executive Director,

I have just received a copy of your press release regarding the decision to continue with the BTME in Harrogate.

May I just say how pleased I am that this decision has been taken – your formula for your show is right.

As a company we look forward to another successful exhibition with you in 1995 and many more in the years to come.

**Lance Bassett, sales director, Allen Power Equipment Ltd, Didcot, Oxon.**

● Editor's note: We look forward to seeing you and the other 130 or so exhibitors at next year's BTME – and even more companies the following year. The number and location of shows seems to be the big issue at the moment and we'd love to hear the views of other companies, especially if they are members of the AEA.

## Occasion to remember

May I take this opportunity to say a very big thank-you to everyone involved in the Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year finals at Aldwark Manor. Both the sponsors, Toro and the PGA European Tour, with the support of BIGGA, laid on a very memorable few days for myself and fellow finalists: bucks-fizz; smoked salmon sandwiches; fresh fruit in the rooms; what seemed like a very long, brandy assisted, wait leading to the eventual results; 8p a car toll bridges; and friendly debates with Bruce Jamieson of the European Tour on new courses, POA! and fertiliser programmes (do greenkeepers ever stop talking shop?)

I feel very honoured to have been chosen as the winner of the Toro Scholarship to the Turf Grass Managers Course at the University of Massachusetts in January 1995 and am looking forward to the experience immensely. I would also like to thank Effingham GC and course manager Peter Broadbent for their continued support and encouragement.

**Euan Grant, Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year**

## From bad to verse

Working for a club that has never had, or will consider, a No Start Before Time rule to allow greenkeepers an uninterrupted pair of hours in the morning to complete our greens cutting programme and be off the 'front nine' thus not annoying or interrupting the golfers' morning round, it has inspired me to compose the following verses of the daily confrontation between greenkeepers and the 'O-Dark 100' golfing set.

I hope it will bring a knowing smile to the

faces of other greenkeepers who are in the same position or a sigh of relief from those who are lucky enough to enjoy the luxury of a No Start Before Time cushion in their daily toil.

### A KEEPER OF THE GREENS

*The sun was just out, there's no one about  
as the greenkeeper cut the first green  
His Ransomes it flew and with a good heavy dew  
it was easy to see where he'd been.*

*When out of the blue, a golf ball flew  
down the line on the green he was cutting  
had the wind covered 'Ore? the Yell of a "fore"  
or was the golfer a rush to be putting.*

*At the end of the line he stood as he should  
waiting for the golfer to putt.  
How nice it would be, to be sat drinking tea  
with all the greens finished and cut.*

*With putter in hand the golfer did stand  
assessing the borrows and breaks  
Be sure to be up, just right of the cup  
don't want to make any mistakes.*

*He took up his stance, this was a par chance  
and struck the ball at the hole.  
But he hit it too hard, no par on the card  
as on and on it did roll.*

*Now by the way of compensation,  
there's a fact known by golfers all  
that the noise of a greenkeepers mower  
affects the roll of a ball.*

*So glaring at the offending greenkeeper  
to the next tee he strode away  
loudly muttering that green cutting  
shouldn't be done at this time of day.*

*The greenkeeper walked down the line he had cut  
from his pocket he took out a tee  
and removed the pitchmark from the green  
that the golfer had left, unintentionally!*

*I could have joined the Army, the Navy or  
Marines*

*But I volunteered to soldier here  
as a "keeper of the greens".*

**GOD GIVE ME PATIENCE**

**J MacGregor, greenkeeper, Exmouth**

## Wormkiller plea

**An open letter to chemical companies,**  
Please make a wormkiller as good as Chlor-dane.

To the powers that be, a reprieve for Chlor-dane would be the best news possible to all British golf clubs.

**Bruce Burnell, Cleveland section**

## Using Nortron to control Poa?

If you are, Jon Allbutt offers this warning

As the fight to maintain pure bentgrass and fescue/bentgrass swards approaches desperation, many greenkeepers are using some herbicides 'off label', sometimes based on established practises in other countries, to curb the march of Poa.

It is true that there is an approval for the use of Nortron (ethofumesate) in amenity turf, but before you rush out and place your order pause a moment and look at the product label. There are currently no label recommendations for the use of Nortron in amenity turf; its use for this purpose must therefore be at the risk of the user. The amenity approval was based on work that established a broad tolerance to the product by *L. perenne* in established ryegrass swards. However there is, as yet, insufficient field trial work to be sure of its phytotoxic effects on fine turf grasses. As with many pesticides there will be variation in the tolerance of the cultivars within a given species. Trial work is needed with different cultivars, at different rates, in different soil types, and also at different stages of growth before a label recommendation can be given with confidence.

What is clear, however, is that Nortron must not be used on non-ryegrass swards established for less than 12 months, or at the full label rate on even established fine turf species.

Ethofumesate is absorbed by both shoots and roots. As it is non-volatile, uptake always occurs from the aqueous solution. For some susceptible species, the most effective route of uptake is via the emerging shoot as it passes through the layer of treated soil. However, for other species root uptake of ethofumesate is also important to give effective control. As for all soil applied herbicides, the activity of ethofumesate can be affected by soil conditions. Ethofumesate activity may be reduced where there is insufficient soil moisture or by a high soil organic matter content.

Ethofumesate has a reasonable degree of residual activity (several weeks depending on conditions) and it is also effective against some broad leaved weeds.

Some preliminary work would suggest that there is good control of *Poa annua* with sequential treatments at lower rates, but the approval holder AgrEvo is adamant that more work is needed here to establish varietal tolerance in the many cultivars used in fine turf seed mixtures.

So greenkeepers take note, you run the risk of causing significant damage to your precious turf when experimenting with application rates; remember too that dose rates found to be successful in, say the USA, cannot be safely applied under UK ground conditions. Soil formation and moisture content are critical factors for the successful use of this type of herbicide.

You have been warned!



# Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

## DEVON AND CORNWALL

Our Christmas meeting will once again be held at Okehampton GC on Wednesday December 14. As last year, numbers will be limited to the first 80 members who reply by the closing date. The day will commence with a greensome stableford competition for the PJ Flegg Trophy. As usual our non-golfing members will have the now customary tour of the course before returning to the clubhouse for some festive spirit!

The comedian this year – back by popular demand – is Tank Sherman.

Once again your region has been able to offer its members a Westurf-subsidised trip to the 1995 BTME which is held in the splendid town of Harrogate. If you haven't been able to attend the show and seminars in the past and are considering attending the regional trip but would like to know more about it, please give me a call. I'm sure you will feel you can't afford to miss this event which will only cost members of our region £99 for three nights B&B, entry to all seminars and return coach travel.

RICHARD WHYMAN

## SOUTH WEST

A warm welcome is extended to two new members – David King, assistant greenkeeper at Woodspring GC, and Leonard Bates, an assistant from the Manor Golf Company. The section anticipates your future support with an invitation to forthcoming events.

As some people start their greenkeeping careers so it is time for others to take life a little easier. I am referring to Les Johnson from Salford GC who reached retirement recently. Les joined Mangotsfield GC in 1974 where he assisted in its

## EVENTS DIARY

November 9-10: Scotsturf, Ingleston, Edinburgh

December 1: Scottish Region North Section one-day conference at Craibstone Estate, Bucksburn, Aberdeen

January 23-24, 1995: National Education Conference, Harrogate

January 25-27: BTME '95, Harrogate International Centre

original construction before moving to Woodlands GC again helping in its setting out and establishment. He left in 1980 to join Lansdown GC where he spent 11 years before taking an assistant's position at Salford GC. On behalf of us all, I wish Les best wishes in his retirement and look to his continued support to section events as has been the case over the previous years.

By now, every member should have received information on, and application forms for, both the regional seminar at Cannington College on November 30 and the four-day visit to BTME at Harrogate in January. Both events take up a considerable amount of Gordon and Marion Child's time in organisation for the betterment of education throughout the region, and so it is up to everyone to show their support in attending, if possible. The BTME package is being offered at a heavily subsidised price (just £99 for members) compared to the figure for other regions, thanks to its sponsorship from funds from Westurf earlier this year.

Congratulations to the South West Region on the third place achieved in the Hayter National Finals at Pannal GC.

Our final section event for '94 is the Christmas Tournament on December 15 at Burnham & Berrow GC. A morning round of golf will be followed by Christmas dinner, a raffle and, for the first time, a comedian to round off the day's festivities. See you on the 15th!

KEVIN GREEN

## CENTRAL SCOTLAND

The section's first five-a-side football tournament proved to be a huge success with 11 teams taking part. The football was fast and furious with everyone trying to prove that they were fitter than each other, but the games were played in the best of spirits and no yellow or red cards had to be used. The eventual winners were Aberdour Athletes who defeated Downfield GC in the final, with the other semi-finalists being Tulliallan Terrors and The Pars. Following the success of this tournament it is hoped to make it an annual event.

Congratulations go to Willie (Whitty) and Mairi Whitfield on the birth of their first child, son Jack. All three are doing well and Whitty is coping well with his new role as proud Dad.

With the news that the Open is returning to Carnoustie, congratulations are due to course superintendent John Philp whose efforts to present a course worthy of hosting the world's no1 tournament are at last being rewarded. There is no doubt that John and his staff will produce a course which will make the world's elite golfers realise what they have been missing by being away from Carnoustie for so long. Well done, John!

Two men on the move are Gavin Graham and Colin Wade, both from Haggs Castle GC. Gavin is going to the new course

## JOHN DEERE



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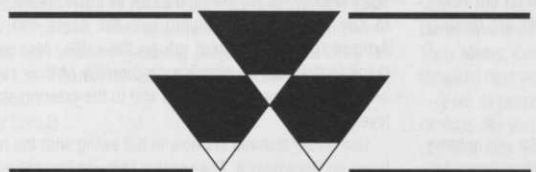
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at Loch Lomond and Colin is going to Alloa GC. Every success in the future, lads!

This is quite a busy month for events in the section with the lecture by British Seed Houses at Aberdour on the 8th, the annual dinner/dance at Alloa on the 25th and the STS lecture and the AGM again at Aberdour on the 29th.

Please remember that all prize draw tickets, sold or unsold, must be returned to me before the 29th.

JOHN CRAWFORD

## SUSSEX

Our penultimate golf tournament saw us once again at Mannings Heath GC. Our last visit was some five years ago and, as then, the course was in fine shape. Thanks to Roy and his lads for all their efforts. Hopefully on our next visit we'll be able to play the new course which is currently under construction.

The format of the day was a morning medal followed by a stableford competition in the afternoon. The prizes for all the events were kindly sponsored by Parker Hart.

Medal results: Greenkeepers – 1, Raymond Day, 69; 2, Bill Francis, 72; 3, Roland Hughes, 74; Trade/guests – 1, Jim Coppen, 73; 2, Jeff Atkinson, 77.

Stableford results: Greenkeepers – 1, Jameson White, 41pts; 2, Jon Hill, 36pts; 3, Chris Reed, 36pts; Trade/guests – 1, Phil Clark 37pts; 2, Steve Darlington 35pts.

The day was thoroughly enjoyed by all, the course being a joy to play and the food provided by the catering staff was excellent. Our thanks to them. Our appreciation also goes to the committee of Mannings Heath for allowing us the use of their course, and to the Antoliks for doing all the donkey work.

Our next meeting will be the AGM and all members will be informed in due course (hopefully before the AGM!) This will be followed in December by the foremost event of the year, the Turkey Trot at Littlehampton GC. This ever popular event will once again be on a first come basis, so when the invites go out get your money in fast. Don't forget the committee rule: priority goes to those members who played in at least one other event during 1994.

MARK WILTON

## NORTH WEST

In March of this year I happened to call on Tom O'Brien at the Royal Birkdale GC and during our conversation I asked him how he felt about his imminent retirement in October. He replied that he was looking forward to it but he would have liked the greenkeepers to have held a tournament at Birkdale before he retired. I immediately wrote to Birkdale requesting permission to hold our Autumn tournament there and almost by return of post courtesy of the course was granted. Understandably I suppose, we had the biggest turnout of greenkeepers in the NW for golf for many years. The weather was terrible with non-stop rain through the previous night and during the day, but the course was in great condition. The new greens (which have knitted well) really are difficult to read with more borrows in them than a building society, and when the Open is played at Birkdale in 1998 and a short putt is missed, I will understand why.

Although everybody got soaked through the scores returned were good and the main prizes were: best gross – Trevor Foster, 74 playing off 1; best nett – Chris Ball; over-55s – Bill Shipley; guest prize – Tony Cundall; Aggregate Trophy – Paul Pearse, 216 nett; nearest the pin – Frank Platt; Longest drive – Trevor Foster.

The prize list went to 15th nett due to gifts from the following companies – Cheshire Light Tractors, Rufford Topdress, Burrows, Rite Feed, Turner Groundscare, Cheshire Sand, Richard Campey, Martin Bros, Acorn Supplies, Gem, Sisis, Hayters, Sharrocks, Rigby Taylor, Turfmech, Garry Worral Groundcare.

After the dinner and presentation, the N/W section presented Tom O'Brien with an original watercolour painting of the view towards the clubhouse from the 18th fairway. One added attraction on the day was meeting Howard Keel who was playing golf with Johnny Mathis and other stars. I shook hands with Howard Keel who said to a group of us: "I have great respect for you guys and what you do. I am a member of Bel Air and was greens chairman for a couple of years, and I realise what a great job you guys do." Wouldn't it be nice to have more greens chairmen like that – who spent most of his time in Dallas with Miss Ellie and just called in occasionally.

I have just returned from my annual pilgrimage to the Hayter Final (not as a finalist, as bus driver and starter) and although no N/W section members qualified, the Northern Region won the team prize – £500 which will be used towards education in the region.

# Around the Green



In closing I would like to wish Tom O'Brien a long and happy retirement and his successor, Chris Whittle, all the best in his new appointment.

BERT CROSS

## CLEVELAND

Ron Butler at Wilton GC now has a new £61,000 shed. This is an example to other clubs. A new shed is five per cent of a new clubhouse. Staff cannot only work safer but also more efficiently, ie in bad weather.

The centenary year for Bedale, Bishop Auckland and Saltburn clubs has been successful, and Bedale were winners of three club competitions. But Bishop Auckland continues to have anaerobic conditions under greens.

New turf purchased as greens turf at two other local clubs has anaerobic black layer half an inch from the surface and when cut and played on, ie at 3/16, areas are dying off. The question now is what do we call quality? Old fashioned greens with Poa annua or fescue/bent are easy to look after in comparison.

South Shields now have Glen Baxter as head greenkeeper. Billingham have taken on Chris Mathews from Dinsdale Spa GC as head greenkeeper under manager Bob Lawton. Other staff members are Ray Mathews and Lee Cadwallader.

We hear that David Malcolm near Frankfurt in Germany has a new tiptop course under his direction. With sand greens and tees like billiard tables he has an excellent standard. He is respected and has no green committee to contend with. What he says goes!

Cleveland section committee would like a close link with our European members and would welcome an exchange visit, or adopt a club from another country. We would welcome visitors here to compare course maintenance and the amount of golf we have, ie wear v compaction on our heavy soil. Middlesbrough Municipal GC, for example, are heading for 80,000 rounds.

BRUCE BURNELL

## SOUTH WALES

There was a somewhat disappointing turnout for our autumn competition at Clyne GC, Swansea. Only 20 golfers competed for the Jacobsen Cup, Presidents Shield, Presidents Cup and a share of the superb prizes, compliments of the sponsors, Keith Morgan Mowers, our local Jacobsen main dealer.

Our sincere thanks to Keith for his continued support and outstanding generosity and for making what was in all an extremely enjoyable day.

Our compliments to Henry Fry and his greenstaff for providing as always an extremely well presented course with greens as tricky as ever. Our thanks also go to the caterers for an outstanding evening dinner, to Kim Davies, Colin Murphy and everyone at Clyne GC for their hospitality, support and courtesy of the day.

Winners: Jacobsen Cup – Andrew Roach, Haverfordwest GC; Presidents Shield – Nick Arnold, Clyne GC; Presidents Cup – John Phillips, St Davids City GC; Longest drive – John Phillips, St Davids City GC; nearest the pin – Mike Jones, INCO GC.

At the end of the evening a presentation was made on behalf of the members of the section by our chairman, Idwal Morris to the retiring head greenkeeper of Clyne, Henry Fry. Henry accepted as a gift an engraved wall clock in recognition of all the hard work and commitment that he has shown the associations over the years. Henry's late father, Harry, was also head greenkeeper of Clyne but unlike Henry he started his greenkeeping career at the nearby Pennard golf course. Harry moved to Clyne in 1923 where he remained until 1962. Henry started under the wing of his father at Clyne in 1958 and has remained there throughout. He will retire at Christmas. Add also to the fact that both Henry and Harry have been chairman to both the Welsh Golf Greenkeepers Association and the British Golf Greenkeepers Associations and this must be some kind of record.

John Deere's fourth annual roadshow was held at Oaklands Mansion, Carmarthen, home of 'Power Cut'. More than 80 people showed up to view and test an ever increasing sta-

ble of John Deere equipment. New at the show was the diesel greens mower, a tees/surrounds mower, a light/medium fairway mower, an all-new hand mower, various tractor units, Amazone equipment and also Dori cutting units.

The weather remained dry, so with old acquaintances renewed and plenty of refreshment, a good day was had by all. Our thanks to Malcolm Rees and all at Power Cut for their hospitality.

Congratulations to 20-year-old Byron Thomas of the Morlais Castle GC for winning the regional final of the Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year, and for coming runner-up in the National Final.

Congratulations also to 27-year-old Neil Smith of the Royal Porthcawl GC. Neil was recently appointed head greenkeeper of the Clyne GC and will take up his new position early in the New Year. We wish him well.

Dates for your diary: November 30 – The annual South West and South Wales seminar at Cannington College, Bridgewater, Somerset, sponsored by Levington Horticulture with talks by David Golding and Jim Arthur; Wednesday December 14 – Christmas competition and AGM at the Pyle & Kenfig GC with evening entertainment by comedian Colin Price.

PETER LACEY

## SHEFFIELD

Our Autumn Tournament took place at Retford GC, a very testing course in good condition after all the rain. The new half of the course was well laid out with some very good holes. Our thanks to Andrew Hepenstall, the head greenkeeper, Nigel Storey, his deputy, and the rest of the staff at Retford.

The event's main sponsor was Purdy's of Retford and we thank, in particular, Les Purdy and Chris Bryden for an excellent prize table. Contributions were also received from: Peter Fell of Aitkens, Mike Brear of Trident, Alan Dyson of Gem and Steve Burroughs of Amenity Turf Supplies. Also present were Mark Osbourne of Jacobsen, Ivan Seaman and our president, Mr Arnold. We thank you all for your continued support.

The weather was nice and sunny which enabled us to have a round of golf in shirt sleeves for a change, although the course was testing, there were a few good scores in: 1, Colin Hopper, Town Moor GC, 37pts; 2, Kevin Hazlehurst, Lindrick GC, 35pts; 3, Ian Collett, Brough GC, 35pts.

We had a great day at Retford and a big thank-you goes to Barry Heaney for organising it all for us again. Thank you also to Kevin Atherton for helping with the cards and Graham Armsen for doing a good job on the raffle. Also we must thank Retford GC for allowing us courtesy of their course as well as making us feel welcome and to the catering staff for a lovely meal.

Our winter lectures are now in full swing with the next one being on December 8. The speaker is David Stansfield of PSD Agronomy. There is another lecture on February 2. Please support your section at these lectures as they are for your benefit. Also please note that you will have to attend at least two lectures to qualify to play in the golf competitions next year. When attending lectures at Rotherham GC, please wear suitable clothing – jacket, collar and tie – at all times.

New members this month, whom I hope to see at forthcoming lectures, include: Michael O'Brien, David Williams, Gary Collier, Michael Newton, Richard Stanley, Derek McJanet, Simon Harley, Colin Fretwell, Paul Wylie, Nathan Taylor, Paul Green, Jason Williamson, Ryan Binns and Andrew Chapman.

IAN COLLETT

## EAST SCOTLAND

Congratulations to Tom Murray of Ratho Park GC who has won through to the finals of the ICI-sponsored Greenkeeper of the Year. This is a great honour for Tom and to Scotland, and is the second year running that an East Section course has reached the final stages. Last year it was Graham Wood of Dunbar GC. Everyone who has played Ratho Park realises that the course is always in first-class condition. Set in a woodland area, its main feature is the clubhouse which stands majestically in the background. Tom has been at Ratho since leaving school. He started as an apprentice and worked his way up to head greenkeeper. A three-handicap golfer, he is married with a family and a member of the East Section Committee. We are all delighted for him and hopefully he will go all the way as the ICI Greenkeeper of the Year. Good luck Tom, even though it means missing the annual dance.

Still on the congratulation side: Chris Yeaman and Andy Forrest are the section's nominees for the Patrons Awards. Chris and Andy can be seen at every event on the section calendar, including the BTME at Harrogate which they have



never missed. This year, lads, your fares will be paid for.

The annual Autumn Tournament was held over Uphall Golf Club. A very good attendance on a very wet day. Head greenkeeper Peter Ormiston and his staff had the course in first-class condition. This is the first time that the Association has played here, but hopefully it won't be the last. Our thanks as always go to the captain and council for the courtesy and to the bar and catering staff for the excellent food and drink. During the presentations it was announced that our old friend Richard Dugan had recently retired after long service at Glencourse GC. A presentation was made on behalf of the members and for the first time in his life Richard was stuck for words. May we all wish him a long and happy retirement. The new head greenkeeper at Glencourse is Ian Bell, formerly of Duddingston GC and we all wish him well in his new job.

Pat Hamburgh, late of Dalmahoy, has also moved to Milton Road. Good luck, Pat.

Another season has now gone. Hopefully it has been a good one for all, but don't forget the full calendar of events still to come during the winter. Check your fixture cards for all lectures etc. The annual dance on December 3 is a complete sellout with a waiting list for tickets. The social committee has done an excellent job on choosing the venue. Almost all the rooms have been taken over – I wonder who booked the four-poster bed? Our guest of honour that night will be our Scottish chairman Gordon Moir and his charming wife Pauline. Gordon has never asked the format of the dance, just where he can get a game of golf.

WILLIE BLAIR

### **SOUTH WEST AND WALES REGION**

Several things are happening in the South West and South Wales Region of BIGGA, but here are just one or two reminders before you start thinking about the Christmas crackers to come.

Our regional seminar to be held at Cannington College, Somerset on November 30 is sponsored by Levington Horticulture Ltd. At £10 per member, including lunch, it offers not only a good programme, but value for money. If you are not a BIGGA member – then you should be – you will have to pay £15 per person.

Thoughts are turned to the BTME in Harrogate in January 1995, and our popular coach trip and package deal sponsored by Westurf is offered again at £99 per member. Wives are welcome at a reduced rate and for non-members the cost is £125 per person. This will include coach travel, three nights bed and breakfast, seminar programmes and entry to the exhibition. Please ring 0803 844056 for further details of both events.

GORDON CHILD

### **NORTH SCOTLAND**

The autumn outing at Murrayshall was a great success. Glorious weather greeted the 71 golfers on the day and the winners were as follows: Scratch – I, J Urquhart, Tain 72; 2, G Tough, Montrose 73; Class One – I, K Peace, Inverurie 76-5=71; 2, W Robertson, Blairgowrie 78-6=72b; 3, E McLaren, Blairgowrie 76-4=72; Class Two – I, A Reid, Letham Grange 79-11=68b; 2, S Griffiths, Tain 77-9=68; 3, S McBain, Nigg Bay 82-10=72; Class Three – I, L Rae, Montrose 92-24=68; 2, P Wood, Newmachar 89-20=69; 3, M Rodgers, Fraserburgh 99-26=73b; Veteran – I, A Grant, retired 86-9=77; 2, W Forsyth, Duff House Royal 90-12=78; Apprentice – I, B Cameron, Inverurie 82-10=72; 2, B Cocker Jnr, Alyth 89-16=73; Trade – P Allan, Stewarts 73-5=68; Guest – M Brown, Newmachar 74-5=69 (apologies for missing you out on the day, prize in the post); Booby – G Asher, Kemnay; Longest drive – G Tough; Nearest the pin – G Burrell, Forres; Aggregate trophies – Meldrum, K Peace 141; M & M Veteran, W Forsyth 152; Committee Trophy – G Moir, St Andrews 81-6=75; The BIGGA Blazer was won by Morris Rodgers, Fraserburgh, who was making his last outing appearance before moving south to a new job, we wish him well.

The 200 Club winners were as follows: May £30 – Jim Hamilton, Inverness; June £30 – Isobel Walker, Stonehaven; July £40 – Colin Forbes, Aboyne; August £100 – Steve Simpson, Fraserburgh. It was great to see a lot of new faces at the outing and thanks must go to all at Murrayshall for helping to make the day so good.

AGM notices should be out and about now. The format for the day is the annual golf match in the morning, free lunch lecture and the AGM at 3pm. Anyone wanting to stand for committee must have the nomination in to me one week prior to the AGM.

There may be a few places left for next month's one-day conference in Aberdeen so if you have forgotten and still want to go, give Alisdair McLaren a ring on 0479 873365 to check

# **Around the Green**



availability.

Finally, the two section recipients of the 1994 Patrons Award are I Macleod, Tain, and D Duguid, Westhill. Each will receive £200 to be used to finance an educational course or a trip to Harrogate in January.

IAIN MACLEOD

### **SURREY**

The Parker Sawyer was played at Purley Downs GC. Congratulations to David Andrews and his staff for presenting the course so superbly. After a bad start to the day with fog and light rain, the competitors then played in brilliant sunshine for a change. Unfortunately entries were very low but those who played thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Thanks go to Purley Downs GC and Ron Jobson for his usual valued services.

Results: 1, Derek Walder, 37pts; 2, K Boxall, 37pts; 3, David Wyborn, 35pts.

A belated congratulations to Robert Brewer, previously of Sunningdale GC, upon his appointment as course manager of Dukes Dene GC.

Any members wishing to attend the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition in January at Harrogate, please contact your section secretary as numbers are needed to warrant a coach.

Forthcoming events include the Turkey Trot at Kingswood Golf and Country Club on December 8. Price: £18. Please support this event and the AGM that follows. Also, a further winter lecture is being organised for January/February.

DAVID GIBBS

### **NORTHERN SECTION**

Following the Hayter Challenge Final at Pannal Golf Club, near Harrogate, I am pleased to inform you that the Northern Region were successful once again. The team that represented the Region: Garry Potter, Alan Baxter, John Waite, David Spurden, Chris Powley, Chris Fiddell, John Jones and Tony Mears. Congratulations to you all and I hope this feat is repeated next year.

I am at present formulating a programme for the coming months. So you will be receiving a letter soon. One date you can put into your diary is Saturday March 11, 1995. This being the date for our Annual Dinner which is being held at Pannal GC, more details will follow later.

We welcome to our section another new member – Anthony John William Stone from Barnsley MBC.

Any member requiring information contact me on 0274 568128.

PAT MURPHY

### **AYRSHIRE**

The Autumn Outing, held over Glasgow Gailes, was a great success. The highest turnout of members for several years, including a good number of very welcome new faces, played on a lovely day over a course in very good condition. Scores were high only because of the severe heather rough which made finding the ball difficult, never mind playing it. Our thanks to Glasgow GC, to the excellent caterers, and to Brian and his staff of greenkeepers for an excellent day.

Congratulations to Keith Hardie on his move from assistant at Wigtown Country club to head greenkeeper at Newton Stewart GC.

Hopefully by the time you read this, a winter programme will have been formulated and forwarded to all section members. Please attend to ensure their success.

Finally, hard luck to our representatives in the Hayter Final. Ian McNab and Steven Knaggs found that the Irish are unbeatable. Try the golf next time, lads.

DUNCAN GRAY

### **BUCKS, BERKS AND OXON**

Risboro Turf provided a day's golf at Badgemore Park GC coupled with a splendid display of machinery. Many thanks to Mark and staff for an enjoyable day. Results: 1, C Mitchell, Maidenhead GC; 2, P Howard, Stanmore GC; 3, R Tydeman, Crowham Hurst GC. Sadly the wooden spoon went to A Milton of Windmill GC. No doubt it will be displayed with pride in the bothy.

The next event on the calendar is the Turkey Trot at Mapledurham GC on December 6 followed by the AGM in the evening. It would be nice to see some new faces so please make the effort to attend.

Congratulations to G Butler and D Jones of Gerrards Cross for making it through to the Hayter Final.

A personal thanks from Ray at Temple for assistance during their celebrity day.

If you have anything to contribute to this column please call me on 0491 578147.

LINDSAY ANDERSON.

### **MIDLANDS**

Our last tournament, played at Robin Hood GC, produced some very low scoring. Mike Hughes was the eventual winner with a score of 103 nett over 27 holes, six under par. Second was Trevor Morris and in third place was Vince Lee. Mike Hughes also won the gross prize with a score of 109 over 27 holes. Ivan Toon won our trade prize which still remains as competitive as ever.

Many thanks to the many trade reps for again supporting our section events. Many thanks also to Robin Hood GC for allowing us the use of their facilities and course which was prepared in such good condition by David Brazier and his staff.

Our next tournament is our Xmas tournament and will be held on December 7 at Little Aston GC. Closing date for entries is November 7.

Our AGM this year will be held at Edgbaston GC on December 15 at 3pm and not at our Xmas tournament. As I said previously, we are looking for a new secretary as from the AGM. If you are interested and would like further information please give me a ring on 0789 762912. Minutes from the last AGM are available to our members and will be issued on the day, however if you would like a copy forwarding to you please contact me.

DEAN CLEAVER

### **WEST SCOTLAND**

Fereneze GC was the venue for the autumn outing. Once again it was well attended with more than 50 greenkeepers and trade. Congratulations go to John Scott and his staff for presenting the course so well.

Results: Cat 1 – 1, G Bruen, East Kilbride GC, 79-8=71; 2, D Montgomery, Cawder GC, 81-9=72; 3, S McCrindle, Paisley GC, 76-3=73; Cat 2 – 1, A Brawley, East Kilbride, 84-16=68; 2, J McCormack, Cawder GC, 91-18=73; 3, A McDowall, Torrance House GC, 91-16=75; Cat 3 – G Nisbet, Kilmont, 99-26=73; 2, M Carey, Balmore, 95-21=74b; 3, N Hendry, Langlands, 99-25=74.

Members are reminded that the ever popular BIGGA annual dinner fast approaches and the date has been set for Friday December 2 at the Admiral Hotel, with three fantastic speakers already lined up it's sure to be a great night, so book your tickets now to avoid disappointment.

Section secretary Sandy Bulloch has a new address: 82 Dumbreck Road, Glasgow G41 4SN. Tel: 041 4274701

SCOTT BALLANTYNE

### **NORTH WALES**

The section held its Autumn Tournament at Porthmadog GC on what proved to be a beautiful day – hangovers aside. The course was in excellent condition thanks to the efforts of Bronco and his team and we would like to thank everyone at the club for allowing us to use their facilities and for their help on the day.

The winners were: Gem Professional Shield – A Peel, 34pts; Major Owen Trophy (best gross) – A Hughes, 72; 3 – Terry Adamson, 34pts; Guest prize – Val Wickens, 39pts; 2, HR Williams, 35pts; Acorn Shield for nearest the pin – Tony Evans. The sweep winners were Val Wickens, A Padmore, Les Parry, L Povey and G Williams.

The evening's entertainment included celebrating Bronco's birthday and the lady provided by Terry Adamson to give some corrective treatment certainly turned in a performance to match anything witnessed on the golf course and with considerably less attire. We hope the wounds heal soon, Bronco.

Our thanks as always to the prize donors – Gem Professional, Acorn, Major Owen, Mommersteeg, Richard Campey, Sisis, Fraser Turf, Martin Bros, N Kelly, Pro Turf, John Osman and Portmadog GC.

On November 14 we will be holding a one-day seminar at Abergele GC. The cost is £5 and the day's proceedings will start at 11am. All members will be circulated shortly but any members of other sections who wish to attend should contact me on 0829 250556 before November 10. Non-members are also welcome and the cost is £7 including lunch.



# Around the Green



The Christmas Competition will be held at Llangollen GC on December 1. The cost is £11 for members and £16 for non-members. All entries should be sent to Terry Adamson, 27 Berwyn Ave, Penyffordd, Chester by November 25.

Finally, congratulations to Northop Country Park on the success of the Welsh Open held there recently.

ANDY CAMPBELL

## MID ANGLIA

The section had three representatives in the Midland Regional team which came second in the Hayter Challenge Tournament final at Pannal GC. These were Jon Moorhouse and John Blair of Bocket Hall GC and David Forsyth of Mid Herts GC. Jon also managed to win his handicap category (0-9) and finished second overall on the day. Well done, lads!

The Midland regional seminar will be held on November 30 at the same venue as last year, Sketchley Grange Country Hotel and Conference Centre, Hinckley, Leicestershire. Speakers include David Golding and David Stansfield, and the cost is £20 which includes a meal.

By now all section members should have received a fixture list for next year, and an entry form for the Christmas Texas Scramble. If, for any reason you haven't, please get in touch with Gerald and I'm sure he'll send you one.

Events for next year include a safe handling course with Jon Allbutt in January and a course visit to Bocket Hall, hosted by John Wells, course manager, in February. The spring and summer tournaments are at Royston and Brickendon Grange respectively, both over 36 holes. The former is the qualifier for next year's Hayter Challenge Tournament. All entries for the Christmas Texas Scramble on Tuesday December 6, at the Family Golf Centre, should be sent to Chris Brook at the usual address. This will however be Chris's last tournament as fixtures secretary as Richard Saunders is taking over this position. Please get your entries in early and ensure all your team members bring a gift for the prize table. The Family Golf Centre is situated at Gravely, just off the Stevenage junction (A602) of the A1.

PAUL LOCKETT

## EAST MIDLANDS

Our section's Autumn Tournament, held at well maintained Wellingborough GC, attracted 38 competitors. The category winners were: 0-9 - R Barker, Kirby Muxloe GC, 79-5=74; 10-18 - A Foulds, Uttoxeter GC, 85-10=75; 19-28 - A Bindley, Kirby Muxloe, 88-20=68; best nett and gross - C Chamberlain, Glen Gorse GC, 78-10=68; longest drive - R Barker; Nearest the pin - M Bindley.

This was certainly a day for being Bindleyed.

A thank-you goes to all at Wellingborough GC for their kindness and hospitality in making our day so enjoyable. Also thanks to all the trade for their kind donation of prizes

for the day, especially Charnwood and Highmeres Lawnmower Services, our main sponsor. Also a special thank-you to all the committee members for all their hard work on the day.

Our next section event is the Texas Scramble at Ullesthorpe Golf and Country Club, followed by the AGM, on November 16.

Congratulations go to P Tatlow of Kedleston Park as this year's winner of the Supaturl K/O Cup, defeating D Leatherland, also of Kedleston Park, in the final. Finally, the Christmas Tournament will take place on Wednesday December 14 and not the 16th as printed on your entry forms.

ANTONY BINDLEY

## SOUTH COAST

The section AGM is only a month away at 4pm on Tuesday December 6 at Royal Winchester GC. Could anyone wishing to stand for the committee please contact me as soon as possible at 45 Constable Close, Sholling, Southampton SO19 1EN. My home telephone number has changed to 0703 360195 or you can try 0264 334269 or 0585 400529.

The Christmas Stableford will be held on the same day as usual. All entries to Bob Cully, 63 Upper St Helens Road, Hedge End, Southampton SO3 4LS or telephone 0489 782976.

The Hampshire GC opened a new 9-hole par 3 course in addition to the 18-hole course and driving range already open. Pop in if you are near Andover.

ALAN MITCHELL

## EAST ANGLIA

A cold and frosty morning gave way to a pleasant afternoon with a light breeze. And this was the scene that greeted East Anglian section members at Gog-Magog Golf Club near Cambridge.

Head Greenkeeper Lyndon Uphan and his trusted staff produced an excellent course and also a difficult putting competition, which was highly praised by the captain of the Gogs, Norman Benton and the rest of the group during the excellent evening meal.

As usual the trade were there in force and donated many prizes. We would like to thank: Pattissons, CMW, Rushbrooks, Parker Hart, Turfacent, Sta-Brite, Rhone-Poulenc, Ernest Doe's, Tollidays and all officials and staff from Gog-Magog for making it a memorable day.

The winners were: The Shield - S Pigott 39 points; 0-15 - 1, A Carter 35 points; 2, P Howard 34 points; 3, S Sylvester 30 points; 16-28 - 1, S Pigott 39 points; 2, I Willett, 35 points; 3, P Mallow 35 points; Guest - K Bunn 36 points; Putting - A Carter; Longest drive - J Shelton; Nearest the pin - M Day.

The next meeting will be the Turkey Trot and AGM at Aldeburgh GC on December 8. Members are reminded to bring a prize not more than £5 in value. Also, please come to the AGM so that any points you have to make about your section are heard.

IAN WILLETT



# Now for

**Hanbury Manor in Hertfordshire was once a convent school. Now seven years and £28million later there is a luxury hotel, restaurant, conference, country club and clubhouse complex with a challenging 18-hole golf course. But the work (and expense) hasn't finished yet... the greenstaff are embarking on a massive tree-planting programme.**

**T**here are 16 greenstaff at Hanbury Manor, an 18-hole golf course near Ware in Hertfordshire. This is down from a summer high of 22.

But golf course superintendent Simon Klausner, 36, needs every one of them as they strive to bring perfection to the three-year-old Jack Nicklaus Jr designed

course, tweaking it here, replacing poorer quality turf there, extending a water hazard here, reshaping a green or fairway there.

But, at the moment, the main thing on their minds is trees. They have started a programme that will see them planting 38,000 trees and shrubs on the 7,011-yard par 72 course over the next two years. The project will cost about £20,000 but they hope to get a half to two-thirds of this back in the form of grants.

Believed to be the biggest planting scheme of its kind, the trees are necessary to fulfil a dream. It was in 1985 that Hertfordshire businessman Paul Leach and local developer Jim Anderson had the idea of turning a convent school into a top-class leisure and golf resort, a London version of Gleneagles.





# the trees

Hanbury Manor, as it is now known, was already comfortably nestled in mature parklands but, before its ultimate goal could be reached, adjoining acreage, much of it in the form of cavernous gravel pits, had to be reclaimed.

Construction of the course began in 1987 and the next couple of years saw hundreds of thousands of tons of fill being transported to the old gravel pits, and mountains of earth being moved, moulded and contoured into what has become a highly acclaimed, aesthetically pleasing championship-standard golf course. By 1990, the first nine holes had been established on the original parkland site where, earlier this century, Harry Vardon had designed a course. The following year, the other nine holes (which are now the front

nine) emerged triumphant from the old gravel pits.

Now, three years on, the next stage of the development is under way. With one eye firmly on the environment and the other on the expectations of the golfer, Hanbury's management looked to horticultural consultant Brian MacDonald of Boxwood Gardens for a tree planting programme that would provide more depth and form to each of the 18 holes and encourage wildlife to establish on the 206-acre site.

The final design – created in consultation with Jack Nicklaus Jr and Simon Klausner – will see the existing woodlands and coppices being extended and new coppices being created in the ex-gravel pits. They do not want to plant long lines of trees. Where there are thin rows of mature trees, such as round the boundary

of the front nine, the straight lines will be broken up and given shape by strategic planting.

Such an ambitious scheme meant extensive research into the best species in terms of aesthetics, durability, transport, handling, short-term storage, and planting hardiness – no easy task. The answer was eventually found through a supplier which specialises in large scale production of trees grown from UK seed sources – Alba Trees. With its seed nursery in the rain shadow of the Lammermuir Hills, close to Edinburgh and the North Sea, this company consistently produces thoroughly hardened plants, well able to withstand the rigours of harsh conditions.

Using the latest methodology, Alba raises its trees in uniform cells called Rootainers which, because of their compact nature,

## What's being planted

Forest trees	Mix
Oak	15%
Lime	10%
Hornbeam	5%
Ash	5%
Total	35%

Lesser trees	
Shade Field Maple	5%
Fast Wild Cherry	10%
Silver Birch	20%
Light Crab Apple	15%
Total	50%

Understorey	
Yew	5%
Hazel	10%
Total	15%

Coppice	
Dry	
Centre Oak	10%
Ash	10%
Hazel	10%
Hornbeam	10%
Field Maple	10%
Sweet Chestnut	10%
Edge Birch	10%
Crab	10%
Gean	10%
Woody Shrub Mix	10%
Total	100%

Wet	Centre Willow	25%
Edge	Dogwoods	75%
Total		100%



# Now for the trees

Marking the spot for future trees at Hanbury Manor

enjoy many advantages over traditionally raised bare-root plants. Roottrainers result in fibrous, well protected root plugs incorporating a slow release, temperature sensitive fertiliser which releases nutrients only when conditions are warm. This technique has the effect of avoiding leaching out, wastage and additional fertilisation, as well as contributing to a remarkable establishment rate.

At Hanbury Manor, all the trees are being planted at about 1.8m spacing in a Tubex Quill which not only offers protection against rabbits and weed killer but also encourages vigorous growth in the first growing season. Extremely compatible with the Roottrainer plug, the Quill offers highly cost effective protection in that no ties or stakes are required for support.

With Alba's uniform cells, simple storage and handling systems, the trees are easy to plant. Han-

bury Manor's greenstaff are undertaking the programme, with the areas marked out by Mr MacDonald. Austrian-born Simon Klausner then checked these from the maintenance point of view (ie shading of tees and greens and that they didn't interfere with the irrigation system). Jack Nicklaus Jr then came over to see how strategy would be affected.

Simon is used to working with Golden Bear Design Associates as he worked at Mount Juliet in Ireland and Muirfield Village in Ohio before coming to Hertfordshire three years ago.

With a degree in agronomy from an agricultural college in Salzburg, Simon believes in doing everything in-house. As well as tree-planting, his staff – which includes seven qualified greenkeepers and a full-time mechanic – have also constructed the buggy path, carry out extensions to the irrigation system, look after the



country house hotel's gardens and even chop wood for the hotel's fireplaces. The ordering, invoice-checking and many other jobs which keep course managers and head greenkeepers tied to a desk are performed by Simon's own secretary. "It doesn't make sense to have a highly trained superintendent spending all his time in the office. He's better employed on the course doing

what he's been trained for," he points out.

For a young course which has already seen more than 30,000 rounds this year, Hanbury Manor is in excellent condition. The new trees will only improve its appearance, enhance the environment, offer a new challenge to the players, and give the developers' grandchildren the inheritance of a fine dream.



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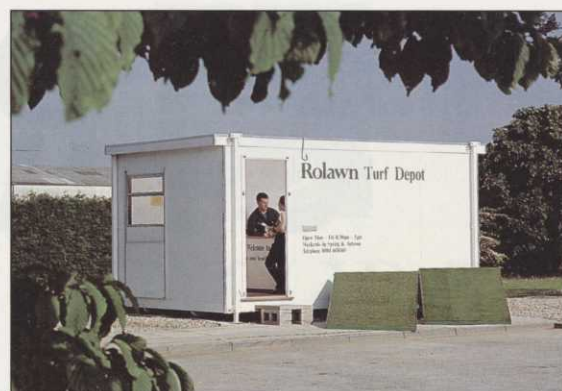
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# Keeping up with irrigation technology

**Today's computer systems can cut irrigation chores as never before**

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Irrigation technology has improved tremendously in recent years and any golf course with a system that is more than 10 years old should seriously consider updating it to take advantage of these advances.

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efficient and waste much less water. Irrigation manufacturers have responded to the demand for conservation by producing sprinkler heads and controllers that conserve not only water, but also time, labour and energy.

Computers incorporated into irrigation systems is one example of the advances. Computer and software capabilities are



Image manipulation: Tim Most

continually expanding and computerised control systems can be updated to reflect that.

Things are moving so quickly that some people are calling for a slowdown so that operators can

catch up. But greenkeepers who are worried about buying a high-tech system need not be concerned. Many are actually getting easier to operate. There's one we saw earlier this year at the

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## Water point

Saudi Arabia's first all-grass golf course opened earlier this year – and at least three more projects are being planned. The first is the Dirab Golf Club, about 30 minutes drive from the Kingdom's capital, Riyadh. As you'd expect with a development where grass is being grown in a desert, irrigation is vital. Dirab has valve-in-head Toro 730 pop-ups, an LTC controller and satellites supported by TENA back-up services. Incidentally, it's too hot to play golf on the course during the day, so it's floodlit and the golfers go out after sunset.

GCSAA's show in Dallas where you can pull up a graphic illustration of one of your greens and activate one of the heads by moving your mouse to it on the screen and clicking. No more remembering numbers.

With this software, the whole irrigation system is digitally scanned into the computer as it is built. This has other advantages: in the future when you need to locate a pipe you can just print out this illustration.

Most of today's products are quite sophisticated, offering a range of features that enhance and simplify water management. A modern central control system can record the irrigation run times of individual stations, project the irrigation usage for a defined period and efficiently manage the flow to reduce wear and tear caused by hydraulic surges.

Here are some of the benefits derived from features available in

most top-of-the-line computer controllers, such as multiple repeat cycling, individual-station programming, flow management and two-way communications.

- Multiple repeat cycles apply the water needed by the turf in short cycles, which helps to reduce runoff and improve infiltration rates.

- Individual station programming is used to evaluate each station and determine the appropriate application rate with consideration of such factors as slope, pH and soil type. An appropriate irrigation schedule that will prevent flooding and runoff is then assigned to the station;

- Flow management also improves efficiency by monitoring the flow throughout the system and ensuring that the volume of water for each flow zone does not exceed its optimum capacity. The goal is to reduce strain on the system by not overloading it and at

the same time maximise the pump station's potential;

- Two-way communications give operators assurance that the commands they type into the computer are actually being implemented out on the course. A response from the satellites will appear on the screen to indicate when the system is activated. Some controllers have the additional capability to display a message that relays malfunctions and pinpoints where in the system they occurred.

A weather station, although optional, is another feature that many course managers/head greenkeepers consider to be a necessary addition to the modern setup. Weather stations gather weather information and upload it to the computer controller which uses it to calculate the ET rate. Sensors measure wind speed and direction, air temperature, solar radiation, relative humidity

## IRRIGATION WINTERISATION

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# point at the screen and click

## Water point

Remember, dirty water kills turf. Actually, it's not the water it is the bacteria-laden mud particles that does the damage. Warning signs are patches of green algae or "bloom" on the surface of your lake or reservoir. If this goes unchecked, it can consume all the available oxygen near the surface. Starved of its lifeline, the algae dies and sinks, repeating the process deeper in the water. If you apply chemicals to solve this problem, remember the water cannot be used for irrigation purposes for some time afterwards.

■ When was the last time you read the small print in your water abstraction licence? The NRA is tightening up and has imposed some severe penalties on clubs which have failed to observe the rules. "Licences only allow for watering at specific times during the day," warns Robin Hume of TIS Sandbach. For example, if you are licensed to abstract water for, say, 20 minutes each 24 hours, you cannot add another ten or 15 minutes just because there's a heatwave.

and rain. Compatible software enables the user to store daily and historical ET data, monitor and display current weather conditions and graphically display weather parameters.

Not only have the manufacturers loaded the systems with high-tech capabilities, but they've made them more accessible, too. Major irrigation manufacturers offer multiple communication options, including hard wire, telephone and radio, or a combination of all three. Wireless communication by radio transmitters appeals to designers who are retro-fitting a course because it eliminates the need to dig trenches for wire.

Another control option becoming more popular is the hand-held radio remote controller. Designed to give a greenkeeper more freedom, a hand-held unit can turn on and off individual stations, groups of stations, start flow management programmes and advance/pause irrigation functions from almost any location on the course.

A hand-held radio remote still must access the central computer, but field units also can be computerised to become independent controllers of a group of stations. Computerised field controllers have an added advantage in that they can help alleviate costly damage caused by broken pipes or a defective valve by measuring flow in gallons per minute and reacting to excessive flow. One new system we've seen has an alarm threshold and when the flow exceeds that threshold, the system assesses

each individual valve to detect the faulty one. When it has isolated the bad valve, it will shut it off (but the rest of the system will remain running), report the incident to the central computer and then notify the greenkeeper of what has occurred.

But no matter how much you fine-tune the controller or the original design, how you place your heads and how well they distribute the water will have the most impact on your system's effectiveness.

Uniformity is the goal of a good head design and that's not always easy to achieve. But, again, tremendous improvements have been made in recent years and if your budget doesn't stretch to a new controller your irrigation system may be improved by installing the latest heads.

● *Parts of this article are reprinted by permission of Golf Course Management, official publication of the GCSAA.*

## INTERNATIONAL OUTLOOK

■ An £80million golf complex is being built in east Germany, in the grounds of a hunting lodge where the East German defence minister used to live.. The Golfpark Schloss Wilkendorf, about 30 miles east of Berlin, includes an 18-hole championship course designed by Sandy Lyle, another 18-hole course, a PGA teaching academy layout, a driving range and three practice holes for beginners. Jointly financed by German and Swiss investors, it is being built by British firm Southern Golf and is due to open next June.

■ First they blamed the greenkeepers for their missing balls – the grass was too high! Then the golfers at Virvik in Finland thought it might be the ghost of a one-legged farmer who was spiriting away up to 40 balls a day. Then they discovered it was actually a fox making off with thousands of pounds worth of balls. A big search is now on to find the foxhole!

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## NEW PRODUCTS



### Jacobsen lays claim to lightest greensmower on market

Jacobsen has unveiled some exciting developments, including new power for its GreensKings and a new truck that will compete against compact tractors.

We're all familiar with GreensKings in their Kubota diesel or Kohler engined form, but now there is a GreensKing IV with a Briggs and Stratton Vanguard engine. The result, according to Jacobsen, is the quietest and lightest powered greens triplex.

Features of this £13,480 machine include an 11-blade unit that gives 220 cuts per metre, units that steer to allow follow into all the undulations of a green, a roller base that is 1in shorter than rival machines when the groomer is fitted, a Turf-groomer with intersecting knife and roller and spiral pattern to the blade reel, individual reel control to give handmower-style finish by turning off the centre unit, and variable speed back-lapping.

Jacobsen claim the GreensKing IV Vanguard is the lightest greensmower on the market.

Another new product for greens is the 418 Pedestrian Greensmower. This unit is pictured with the existing 422 PGM and the new 426 greensmower for larger areas and tees. (The numbers refer to horsepower and width of cut, eg the 418 has a 4hp Honda engine and an 18in cut.)

The 418 has been designed for very undulating greens and has a clip rate of 253 cuts per metre. Prices start at £3,850.

Jacobsen's other new product is the Workhorse SV (systems vehicle), a top-of-the-line full-spec truckster with tractor power

and robustness and truckster manoeuvrability. Two models are available, the SV3422 petrol and the SV2322 diesel. As with all Jacobsen products, the first two numbers give the product horsepower and, with trucks, the second pair of numbers give the truck's total payload, eg 2,200 lbs.

The 3422's power comes from a front-mounted 34hp, four-cylinder Ford petrol engine while the 2322 uses a 23hp, three-cylinder Kubota diesel engine.

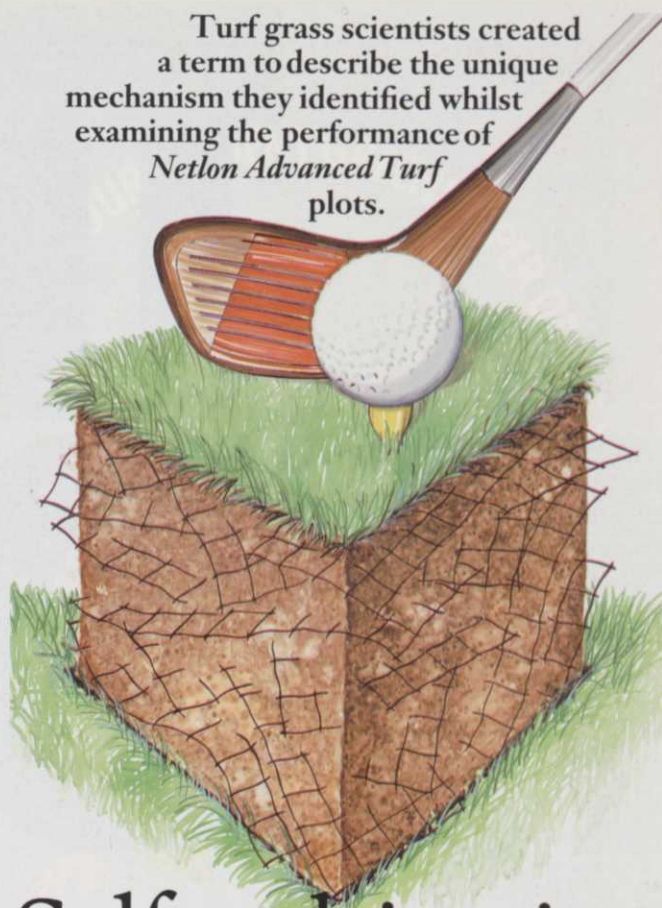
Features include an 8-speed gearbox, allowing greenkeepers to mount a full-width topdresser with 18 cu ft capacity, 200 gallon sprayer, or full-width slitter. It will tow a 3 drag gang mower on any course and a 5 drag gang mower on a flattish course, says Jacobsen. But they reckon its best feature is its manoeuvrability - rated as 30in internal radius between rear wheels and an external radius of 17in. Prices start at £13,230.



■ Sisis has upgraded its Hydro-main tractor unit to 32hp with a Kubota diesel engine and added a four-wheel drive model to the range.

■ H Pattison & Co Ltd has a new driving range brochure, featuring products that offer "durability and reliability at a competitive price."

Turf grass scientists created a term to describe the unique mechanism they identified whilst examining the performance of *Netlon Advanced Turf* plots.



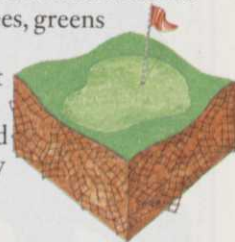
## Self-cultivation

**Self-cultivation** (n. the effect of small polypropylene mesh pieces as they flex within a free-draining rootzone material to create and maintain voids and to resist soil compaction. The mechanism takes place as the surface is compressed during play, maintenance or by other activities.

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# Next stop America

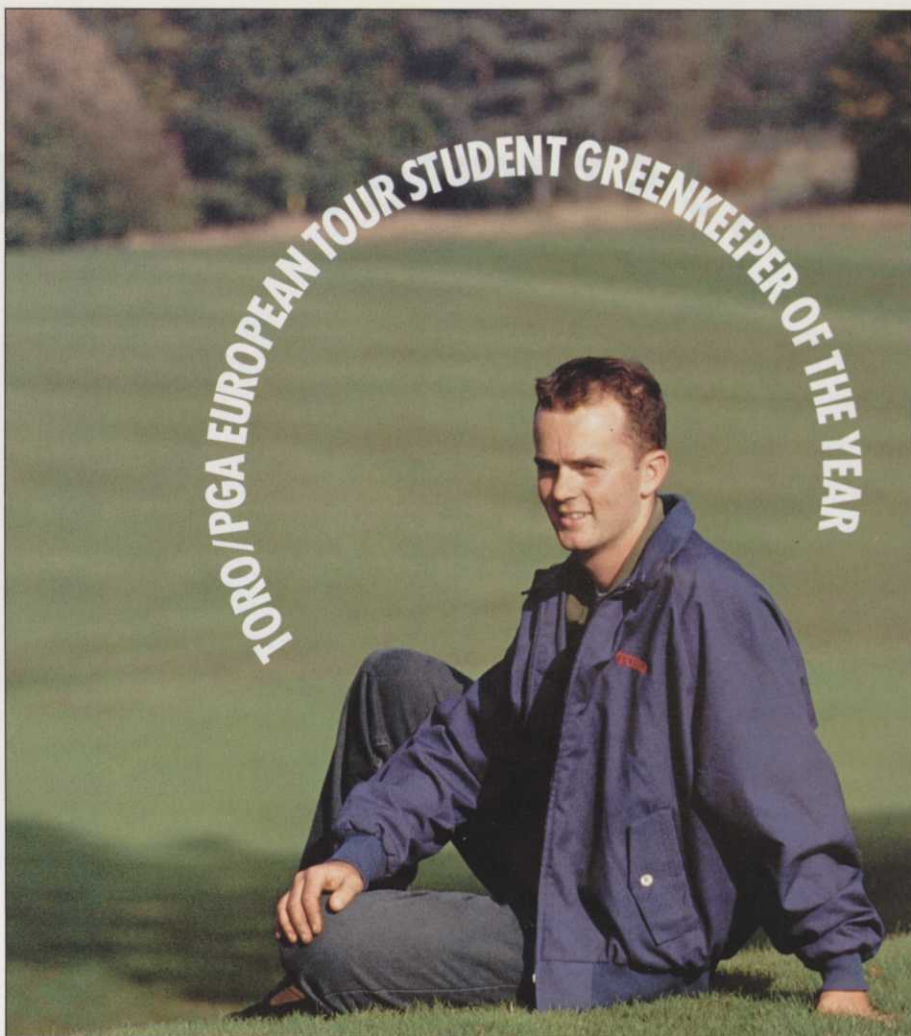
Originally Euan Grant went to university because he wanted to manage a gym or leisure centre. He could end up managing something much more impressive – a championship golf course.

Euan, 24, pictured right, is currently working at Effingham Golf Club, Surrey. He has been there two years and says he is very lucky: "They are a very forward thinking club regarding education, sending me to Plumpton College to study City and Guilds phase II greenkeeping and sports turf management, PA1 and PA2, plus basic health and safety seminars, and an irrigation course at Water-mation."

His parents and friends were surprised, to say the least, when Euan, who has a honours degree in sport and leisure management from the University of Leeds, said he wanted to be a greenkeeper.

But it's a job he loves. "I look forward to each day and each new challenge," he says. And he has big ambitions. "I want to manage a championship course or become an agronomist to the European Tour."

He is definitely on the right tracks and his



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# Judge's praise for tomorrow's course

career has just received a major shot in the arm. He has been named as the Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year. His prize is a Toro scholarship – a six-week residential turf management study course at the University of Massachusetts in the USA this winter, plus visits to Toro's headquarters in Minneapolis and the Toro Irrigation Division in California, plus, if there is time, a trip to the GCSAA's show in San Francisco.

Euan is very excited about his prize, but is quick to praise his club. "They have been brilliant," he says. Brilliant is an understatement. Effingham Golf Club have promoted Euan to first assistant and will pay him this increased wage for the two months he is away, even though they know they may lose him next summer when he seeks to move up the ladder to a deputy's post.

His course manager, Peter Broadbent, says Effingham GC believes in education and is very proud of Euan's success.

## Hard decision

Judging panels always say choosing a winner was difficult because of the high calibre of the

## THE FIVE JUDGES

Graham Dale, managing director of Lely (UK) Ltd

Ted Riley, Toro sales and marketing director for Europe

Bruce Jamieson, PGA European Tour's director of agronomy

Neil Thomas, executive director of BIGGA

Dean Cleaver, chairman of BIGGA's education sub-committee

## THE OTHER REGIONAL WINNERS

Simon Heppenstall, from the Outlane Golf Club, Huddersfield

Vincent Lee from the Great Barr Golf Club, Birmingham

Ken Moore from Shandon Park, Northern Ireland

Stephen Pellatt from Lee-on-Solent Golf Club, Hampshire

candidates. Having sat in on some of the interviews at Aldwark Manor, I know how difficult a decision the five judges had.

Graham Dale, managing director of Toro

distributors Lely (UK) Ltd, believes all seven of the regional winners who were invited to the national final will one day go on to make excellent course managers or head greenkeepers.

But, in the end, they had to pick an overall winner and two runners-up. The runners-up were Margeir Vilhjalmsson, who is currently working at Gleneagles on their Excellence in Golf Award Scheme (see page 3), and Byron Thomas, the first assistant at Morlais Castle Golf Club near Merthyr Tydfil.

Their prize is provided by the PGA European Tour. Margeir and Byron will attend the Tour's greenkeeping conference in La Manga in January and then help out at two PGA events, one in the UK and one on the Continent. "They will help with the preparation of the course each morning and evening," said Bruce Jamieson, the PGA European Tour's director of agronomy.

They are both delighted with their prize. "I'm looking forward to working with the European Tour, it's going to be a good experience," said Byron, who completed City and Guilds phases I and II in greenkeeping and sports turf management at Pencoed while



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# managers

working at the mountainside course which has just spent £550,000 on a new clubhouse but still has no irrigation system.

When the results were announced, he said: "I was shocked but I thought I deserved it. It's a shame there weren't enough prizes for all the finalists. They've all done well to get here."

Margeir, a 22-year-old Icelfander who's been studying at Elmwood College in Scotland, says he was just pleased to make the final. "I really didn't believe I would get through the regional finals," he said. But winning the tough Scottish final and winning the PGA prize vindicates his costly decision to become a greenkeeper.

Margeir and his fiancfe came to Scotland so he could achieve his dream of not only being a good greenkeeper, but one of the best. To pursue this dream they had to take out a bank loan which grew to about £10,000 before Margeir went back to Iceland last summer and worked hard at the Homsvollur course, reducing the loan to about £3,500 before he returned to Scotland.

"I've invested a lot of money in myself but it's been worth it, definitely, I don't really

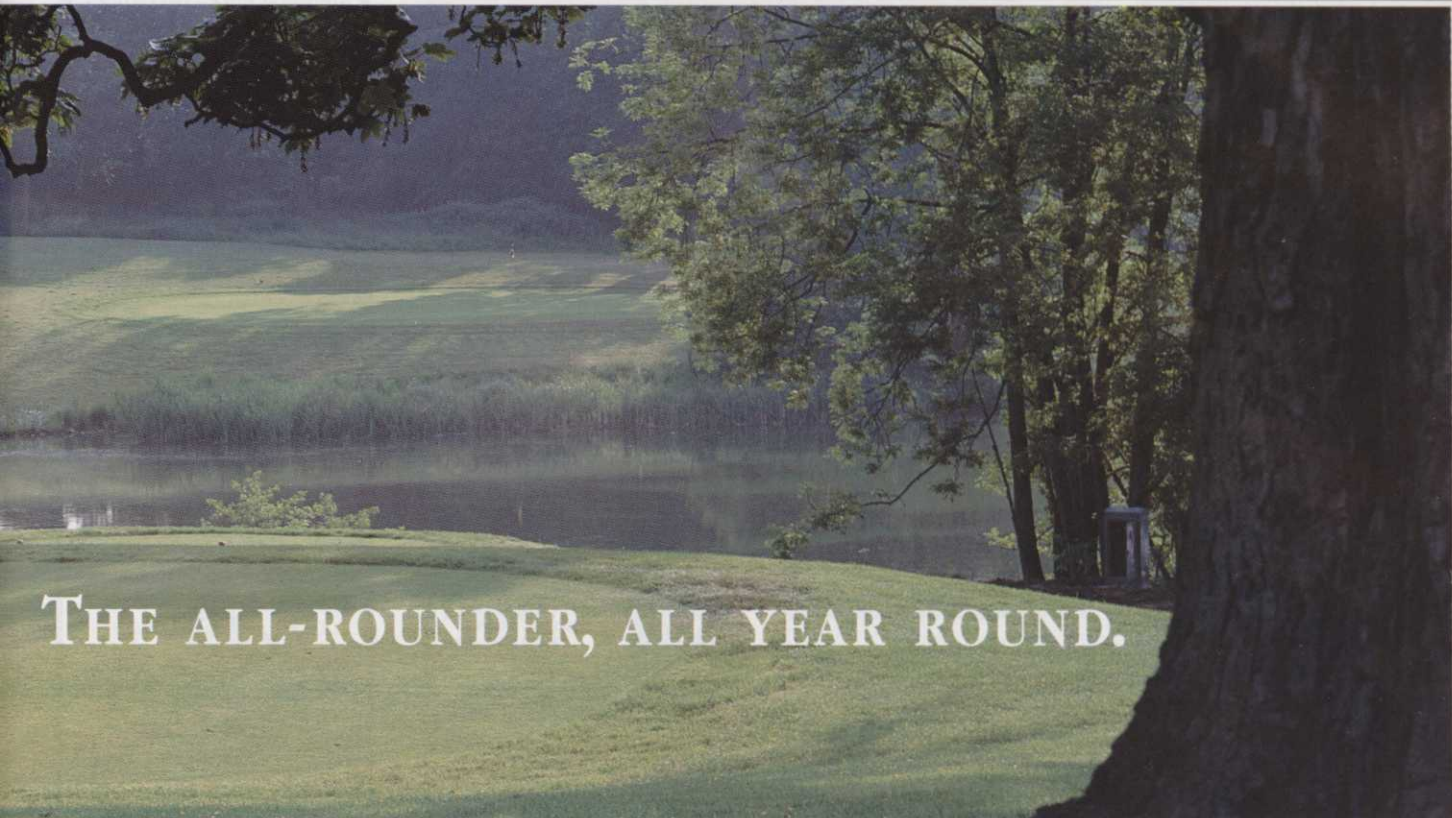


**Happy with the result: from left, Bruce Jamieson, Margeir Vilhjalmsen, Graham Dale, Euan Grant, Ted Riley and Byron Thomas**

worry about the money because it shouldn't be a problem. I know I'm in debt now back home but when I went home at the summer to work for seven weeks I made quite a lot of money because I was working all the time," he told us.

When he finishes his placement at Glenea-

gles he wants to get a job in Europe or America. "I want to get there at some point because it's so different. I've seen the top here at Gleneagles, I would like to see the same in America. If I can combine the two it will be good for me, and I want to be good at my job."



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Judges' decision is final. Not open to BIGGA staff.

★ The lucky winner from a bulging postbag last month was Lee Strutt, deputy course manager at Richmond Golf Club. Lee scoops the £50 cash prize. Will it be your turn for success next month? Get searching - note the notes and be a winner!

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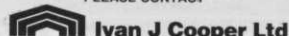


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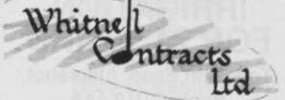


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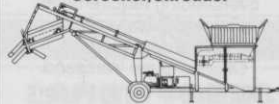
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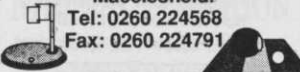
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## RECRUITMENT

## Upminster Golf Club requires an EXPERIENCED HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicants must be suitably qualified and possess the necessary management and supervisory skills with appropriate greenkeeping qualifications and detailed knowledge of the use and maintenance of modern machinery.

The Candidate must have the ability to lead and motivate staff, organise work programmes and maintain health and safety requirements.

Salary negotiable. Accommodation available.

Apply in writing with full CV to:

**The Secretary**  
**Upminster Golf Club Ltd**  
**114 Hall Lane, Upminster,**  
**Essex RM14 1AU**

## Buckinghamshire Golf Club

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## HEAD GREENKEEPER

to join our team of hard-working, conscientious staff.

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The successful applicant will be required to motivate and supervise staff, and take responsibility for programming and overseeing the day to day maintenance of the Golf Course, under guidance of the Golf Course Manager.

This is an excellent opportunity for an ambitious and confident greenkeeper who can demonstrate sound and positive team management, and self motivation.

Please apply in writing enclosing you CV to:

**Mr P. Chiverton, Golf Course Manager,**  
**Buckinghamshire Golf Club,**  
**Denham Court Drive, Denham, Bucks UB9 5BG**



## **Brampton Heath Golf Centre**

situated at  
**Church Brampton, Northampton**  
requires a

# **HEAD GREENKEEPER**

for this new enterprise opening on 18th May 1995.

The centre will comprise an 18 hole course, driving range, 9 hole "pitch and putt" and an "eccentric" putting green. It is situated three miles from the centre of Northampton.

The successful applicant will probably currently be a First Assistant Greenkeeper and must have greenkeeping qualifications including PA1 and PA2.

The ability to motivate and organise staff is important, as is the interest and enthusiasm to assist in the ongoing development and improvement of this exciting new venture.

Accommodation is available.

Please apply in writing with full CV to:

**Brampton Heath Golf Centre,  
c/o Haselbech Grange, Northampton NN6 9LF**

## **The Golf-und Land-Club Regensburg e.V.**

is looking for a new

# **HEAD GREENKEEPER**

to take control of the course and manage the existing team.

The successful applicant must also have a good knowledge of machinery repair and maintenance, if needed.

Please send CV to:

**Frau Margot Robitschko, Secretary,  
Golf-und Land-Club Regensburg e.V.  
Jagdschloß Thiergarten,  
93177 Altenthann, Germany**

or fax to 01049 09403/4391

## **Golf Club Darmstadt Traisa/Germany**

requires

# **HEAD GREENKEEPER**

Picturesque 9 hole course 20 miles south of Frankfurt in Central Germany.

We require a qualified greenkeeper experienced in all aspects of turf and machinery maintenance with the ability to manage, control and motivate staff.

Salary and conditions negotiable.

Apply in writing with full CV to:

**The Secretary  
Golf-Club Darmstadt Traisa  
Am Dippelshof 1 A  
64367 Mühltal/Germany**

**Fax: 01049 6151 148521**

## **Liphook Golf Club**

invite applications for the position of

# **HEAD GREENKEEPER**

For an 18 hole Heath and Heather Course situated in North East Hampshire. Applicants must be fully experienced in all aspects of modern course management and maintenance techniques.

The ability to manage, control and motivate staff is essential, as is the ability to use computers and prepare and control budgets. The Head Greenkeeper will have responsibility for the maintenance and presentation of the course under the direction of the Chairman of Greens and Committee.

An attractive package, which includes a 2 bedroom bungalow adjacent to the course, pension and other benefits commensurate with a club of this standing is negotiable.

Written applications with full CV to:

**The Secretary, Liphook Golf Club, Wheatsheaf  
Enclosure, Liphook, Hants GU30 7EH**





## REIGATE HILL GOLF CLUB require a **WORKING COURSE MANAGER**

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management and the ability to motivate and  
direct staff essential.

Applications in writing, including a full CV, to:

**Steve Savage,**  
**Bletchingley Golf Club,**  
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**Surrey RH1 4LP**

**Telephone: 0883 744987**

## **St Mellons Golf Club** **HEAD GREENKEEPER**

required for established 18 hole golf course. Applicants must  
possess recognised qualifications as well as a proven track  
record in course management and irrigation systems. An ability  
for hands on management combined with motivation and  
leadership skills is a high priority.

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Please reply in confidence to:

**Mrs Kenvyn Newling, St Mellons Golf Club,**  
**St Mellons, Cardiff CF3 8XS**

## **Hickleton Golf Club**

require a

## **HEAD GREENKEEPER**

Applicants must be fully experienced in all aspects of  
modern greenkeeping methods, have a practical knowledge  
of modern machinery and irrigation systems.

- Ability to motivate a small staff essential
- Salary is negotiable
- Accommodation not available.

Apply in writing with CV to:  
**The Secretary, Hickleton Golf Club, Hickleton,**  
**Near Doncaster, South Yorkshire DN5 7BE**

## **Prenton Golf Club** invite applications for the position of **COURSE MANAGER**

Applicants are required to be fully experienced in all aspects of  
greenkeeping, budgetary control and machine maintenance.

An ability for hands on management combined with motivation and  
leadership skills is a high priority.

Applicants must have formal qualifications and a proven track record.

Salary negotiable but will not include accommodation.

Applications in confidence with full CV and two referees to:

**Secretary/Manager, Prenton Golf Club, Golf Links Road,**  
**Prenton, Birkenhead, Merseyside L42 8LW**

An East Lincolnshire Golf Course requires an

## **EXPERIENCED GREENKEEPER**

for its 18 hole long established course.

The successful candidate will have working knowledge of  
maintenance of links as well as parkland and be experienced in  
personnel leadership and motivation, irrigation, turf maintenance  
and machine maintenance.

Applications in writing with full CV (including remuneration  
package) and the name of two referees to:

**Box No R4, BIGGA,**  
**Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO2 2NF**



## No 2: The New Show for the Landscape Industries

**Age:** Due to be born January 16-18, 1996

**Oh no, not another trade show?** Precisely! The original idea behind this show was that it would replace shows such as BALI, SALTEX and BTME, but now it looks as if it will be an additional show for the landscape and amenity horticulture market.

**Whose idea was it?** The Agricultural Engineers Association's Outdoor Power Equipment Council (OPEC) has long been campaigning for one big international 'umbrella' show for this sector and has persuaded P&O Events, which organises exhibitions like the Royal Smithfield Show at London's Olympia, to come on board.

**P&O are in for a rough ride, then?** Following extensive consultation with members, BIGGA's Board of Management has decided to continue with its exhibition in Harrogate for the foreseeable future. Executive director Neil Thomas says: "It was a difficult decision as there are many varied views within the industry on the need for shows, the number of those shows and their location. BIGGA will continue to consult and to listen and to remain open-minded as to the future. But it will also seek to ensure that the BTME remains the pre-eminent show for our industry. The 1995 show is eagerly anticipated, the 1996 show will be even bigger and more comprehensive."

**What about the other shows?** Andy Cénér, marketing director of Independent Exhibitions, which runs SALTEX for the IoG at Windsor, told us: "SALTEX is a living breathing manifestation of an 'umbrella' event for our industry. It has pulled together visitors and exhibitors from across the entire spectrum of the sports, amenities and landscaping trades. There can be no doubts about the future of a show which more than doubles its audience to over 13,500 and whose exhibitors have already snapped up 74% of its 1995 floor-space."

**So BIGGA and the IoG aren't throwing in the towel?** It wouldn't seem so. Their shows are going from strength to strength. And senior figures from both organisations were seen lunching together during SALTEX.

**Does this mean anything?** It's too early to say, although a joint statement from BIGGA and IoG is expected soon.

**What do P&O have to say about all this?** They're continuing with their plans to stage an international exhibition for the landscape and amenity horticulture sector at Olympia in January 1996. Robin Hicks, P&O Event's show director, says: "While we understand and respect their (BIGGA's) position, we will continue with our plans for a new show. This decision is based on the results of the detailed



market research which confirmed the need for a truly international event and on our ongoing discussions with senior industry figures."

**Detailed research?** Their pollsters quizzed 406 (1.19%) of their claimed 34,000 potential visitors and 292 companies.

**How many of those questioned were greenkeepers?** 103.

**P&O say the manufacturers want an international event.** A lot of people have trouble believing that anything outside London has international appeal. But Harrogate plays host to numerous major international events. This month there is the Sino-British Trade Fair with many delegates coming from as far away as China and Hong Kong. Just before BTME, there is the International Toy and Christmas Fair. In February there is the International Wine Fair and in September many international medical experts will be coming to discuss cytokines, whatever that is. This year's BTME will have a more international flavour, anyhow. There is a large party of greenkeepers from Sweden coming, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America is exhibiting for the first time. The Third European Forum will take place on January 26 in the Royal Hall, with speakers including Joe Baidy, president of the GCSAA. And with the best speaker programme in Europe lined up for the National Education Conference, which precedes BTME, and the BTME seminar programme itself, more European visitors than ever are expected at BIGGA's seventh show.

**What high-calibre speakers are you referring to?** Speakers at the National Education Conference include the world renowned Dr

James Beard, David Stubbs, executive director of the European Golf Association Ecology Unit, Bob Taylor, ecologist at the STRI, and James F Moore of the United States Golf Association. The seminar programme also features Dr Beard and Mr Moore as well as Cameron Sinclair, chairman of the British Institute of Golf Course Architects, Master Greenkeepers Kerran Daly and Anthony Davies, Turnberry Hotel's course manager George Brown, health and safety consultant Douglas Shearer and Dr IG McKillop of the Central Science Laboratory who will discuss rabbit and vermin control.

**Education is a big part of the greenkeepers' show, then?** Yes, BTME is more than just an exhibition. Independent research by the Association shows that nearly a quarter of the visitors stay for the full three days and another 11% stay for five days. This means a great deal of discussion and view-exchanging continues after show hours in the bars and restaurants of Harrogate. This is one aspect of the show that greenkeepers who attend each year were frightened of losing. Plus the fact that the hotels, bars and restaurants in London are a lot more expensive.

**It sounds as though there is a great atmosphere in Harrogate during BTME?** There is. You should try it.

**I'd love to but Harrogate is too far away.** It's only 12 miles/20 minutes from Leeds/Bradford Airport which is served daily from many major European cities as well as numerous domestic airports; there are 25 trains a day from London King's Cross and 15 from Edinburgh (changing at York or Leeds), and by road it is 9 miles from the A1 and 15 miles from the M1.

**OK, so it's not that hard to get to, but it'll be expensive.** B&B ranges from £15 per night to as little as £33 per night at a good hotel (see the booking form in last month's *Greenkeeper International*). Because of all the education that's on offer many clubs pay for their greenstaff to go. Have you asked your club?

**But with all these shows on offer, why should I go to BTME when Windsor, Stoneleigh and London are much closer?** BTME is the most focused event, aimed specifically at the fine turf industry and in particular at the golf industry and greenkeepers.

**So what's going to happen in 1996, then?** Lots by the look of things. BTME is definitely happening on January 25, 26 and 27. SALTEX will also be happening – the IoG and Independent Exhibitions has signed a five-year deal with Windsor Racecourse. As far as we know, BALI will also happen (although we're still waiting for them to return our phone calls). And P&O Events says its show will happen. Only time will tell...



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