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# ARID

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## Courses are well received



## Education Update

BY KEN  
RICHARDSON



Ken Richardson bids farewell to greenkeepers and course managers from Module 3 of the Management Course at Aldwark Manor.

November has been Supervisory Management month with three of the four Supervisory modules and the first of the level 4 management modules taking place.

The courses have been well received by all of the delegates with comments such as "Long may it continue" and "Very helpful, I have learned a lot" appearing in the course evaluation questionnaires. However, each course was, on average, only half full. Does this mean that all greenkeepers are fully trained in management skills or that the golf course do not want their greenkeepers to be trained or are there other reasons? I would be interested to hear from anyone who has an idea on how to attract more greenkeepers to future courses.

### Local Management Courses

Following the reasonably successful Supervisory Management two day course at Elmwood College in October, nine similar courses will be held throughout England and one course will be held in Killarney, southern Ireland. Full details can be found in the leaflet inserted with this magazine but if anyone needs further information then please contact me at Aldwark Manor. Applications are flowing in at a steady rate so if you want to attend one of the courses then apply NOW.

### Miracle Professional Premier Greenkeeper of the Year

The final of the Miracle Professional Greenkeeper of the Year was due to be held at Aldwark Manor on 4 December. Full

details of prizewinners will appear in next month's magazine.

### Library

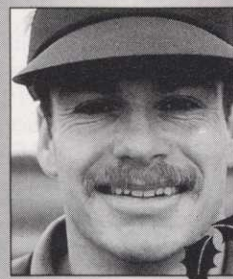
More books have been added to the list of BIGGA library books. Copies of the list are obtainable from BIGGA HQ or from Regional Administrators. Books can be borrowed by any BIGGA member for up to six weeks, at no cost to the borrower except return postage. Books can be requested by writing to me at Aldwark Manor.

### The Learning Experience

The Learning Experience, in association with Ransomes, takes place in Harrogate from 22-26 January. Applications to attend the National Education Conference, Workshops and Seminars are arriving at Aldwark Manor in increasing numbers.

Make sure that you can attend the session of your choice by booking NOW.

### WHAT I'D LIKE FOR CHRISTMAS



### Owen Browne, Duke's Course St Andrews:

"A sign which reads: 'Every third rep will be shot. The last two just left!'"





are raked.

The Buckinghamshire boasts £500,000 worth of equipment with £140,000 worth bought this year as part of a five year replacement programme.

Jamie Bennett of Grass Roots Ltd sponsored him to go to San Francisco last year for the GCSAA Conference.

"I went on a two day James Beard course on Basic Physiology and Anatomy of Turf Grasses and that was just brilliant. Americans are much more advanced and professional in their greenkeeping although I think were getting better at it.

"I now have enough points to do the Master Greenkeeper Award so might like to do it next year.

"During my visit to California I hired a car and drove down to Pebble Beach and the Monterey Peninsula Spyglass Hill, links at Spanish Bay. I walked around Cypress Point and it was just

## MACHINERY LIST

Three Jacobsen LF 100s	One Kubota 5450 with loader
Two Jacobsen Greenskings	One Kubota 4200
Two Jacobsen Trikings	One Kubota 1750
Four Toro GR1000 Pedestrian Greens Mowers	One Toro Fairway Aerator
Four Jacobsen 22" Pedestrian Greens Mowers (used for tees)	One Jacobsen Hollow Corer
One Toro 4500	One 2m Vertidrain
One Ransomes T51	One Sisis Twinplay with Brush and Spiker
Two Kubota F2400s	One Hardi NK600 Sprayer
Two Toro Sandpros	One Farmura Turf Iron
Four Jacobsen 810 Express Utility Vehicles	One Ryan Mataway
Toro Workman with deep slitter, Vicon Varispreader Top Dresser and box	One Ryan Turfcutter
Two Cushman Trucksters with Vicn Variaspreader and AMP 300 Hardi Sprayer	One Charterhouse 2m Overseeder
One Massey Ferguson 362	One Hayter Scarifier 308
	Two Sisis Drop Seeders
	One Richard Long Scarifier Collector
	One Woodchipper
	Two Fraser Trailers
	One Sorrel Roller

unbelievable, *Poa Annua* everywhere, including the greens, but the setting of the bay and the design of the course is just incredible.

"I pick up ideas from books and other greenkeepers. I keep in touch with Andy Wood at London GC and Martin Jones at The Oxfordshire a lot. They are similar types of golf clubs and operations – all Creeping Bent grass greens and fairways and we often get together and talk about the way we do things.

"Clubs are often too secretive. If we got together more perhaps we could help each other out a bit. Dealing with things like *Poa Annua*," he said.

Phil has become a close friend of Jamie Bennett and is a member of the recently launched Barenbrug/Grass Roots Go Parting team but he also appreciates the work that Grass Roots does.

"The benefit of working with

Grass Roots is great from a service point of view. When I first became Course Manager I was constantly on the phone to about six different companies chasing up materials, supplies, prices and quotes. I got Jamie in and talked through my whole programme in November '94.

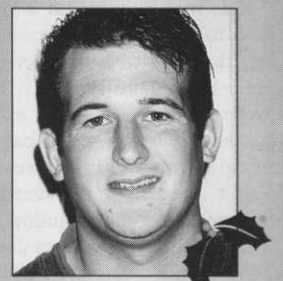
The benefits of working for a Japanese funded club are immense but they also lead to some extra work which wouldn't normally have been budgeted for.

"We're owned by Asahi Breweries in Tokyo and the Managing Director during one of his visits said he wanted the greenkeeping sheds painted because he didn't like the colour. We had to go ahead and get that done in a hurry," said Phil.



Phil (centre) with some of his team

## WHAT I'D LIKE FOR CHRISTMAS



**Dean Jones, Gerrard's Cross GC:**

"Either a machine which can pick up every single leaf from a green or getting a fat cat water boss as a member of our course."





One of the re-designed greens and bunkers at Hesse

weeks to complete nine greens," said Mr Hardaker.

Another avenue for business comes when the company is brought in to finish work which has been left incomplete through disputes between other developers and contractors.

"Mid Sussex - another of the company's recent works - was a case where the developer ran out

of money and the banks took over and sold it on to the company we worked for. We'd worked for him previously and he knew what we could do and wanted us to continue. He was the third owner and he's the one making the money. He has a great golf course," said Chris Foreman.

"It's a case of getting the course

in play as quickly as possible and it's a case of the devil you know and getting in people they know do a good job and not going out to tender," he added.

Another good provider of work has been the VAT windfall which is producing money for work on courses and an area which S&G has a policy of chasing.

"It is opening a large sector of

the market up and hopefully the big boys aren't interested in it. It's work that Chris Gilroy and I have been doing for the last six years," said Bob.

Speaking with the Bob and the two Chrises it is hard not to be impressed not just by their work ethic and commitment to excellence but by their ability to carve a place for themselves in a very competitive market.

WHAT I'D LIKE FOR CHRISTMAS

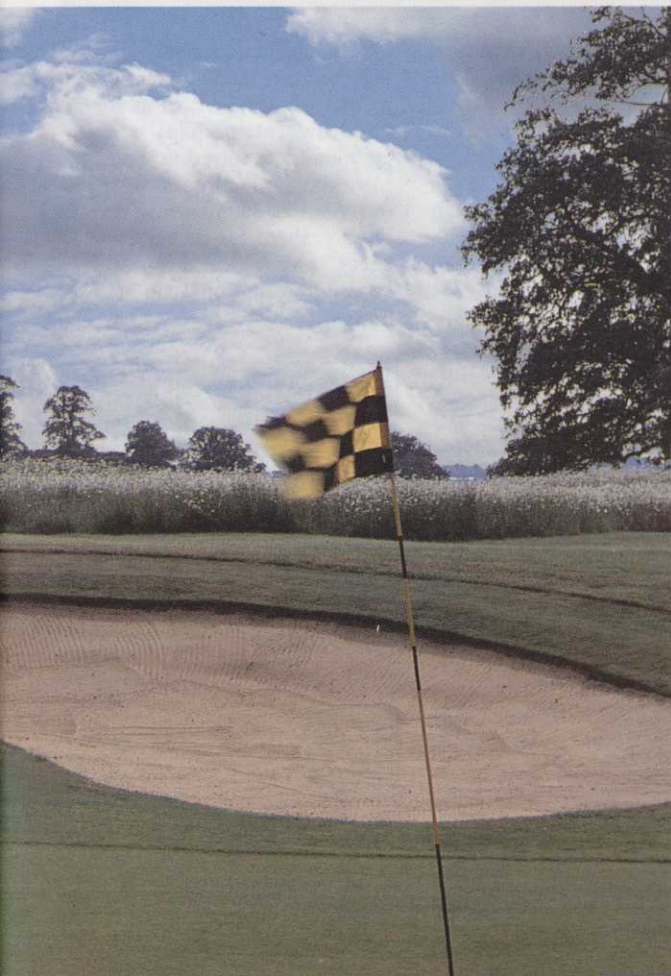


Paul Tatlow, Kedleston Park GC:

"To have all our members do the fairway divoting for a year."



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AD REF 61

# In the clutches of pythium

**Royal Porthcawl Course Manager David Ward looks back at the disease which hits his course just before this year's Walker Cup match.**

Royal Porthcawl will go down in history as the venue for a magnificent performance by Great Britain and Ireland's amateur golfers who inflicted a rare defeat on their American cousins in the Walker Cup match in September.

The whole occasion was a triumph for all concerned not least for Course Manager David Ward and his team who survived an outbreak of disease which affected the Royal Porthcawl greens just before the event.

Now two months after the Walker Cup David can look back, reflect and analyse the events leading up to and after the match.

"Fortunately the disease affected the presentation of the greens but not the quality of the putting surfaces. The daily stimp-meter readings showed the greens to be running evenly at 10 feet," recalls David.

"A preventative spray had been applied three weeks earlier as the odd and feint yellowing patch – as with fusarium – could be seen on the 16th green. Taking no chances all greens were again sprayed but 72 hours later the disease had ripped through five greens with early signs of the disease showing on a further three," explained David.

"It was running randomly through the sward, sometimes forming into circular areas. The affected areas were a brown/orange colour and it was difficult to ascertain which grass species were affected most."

The agronomists appointed by the club and the R&A diagnosed the disease as Take-All Patch as the circular areas showed the classic signs of the disease but the extent and rapid spread were unusual and it was decided to send soil samples to a plant pathology unit for further diagnosis. In the meantime Rimidin was used at its maximum dosage rate.

The prolonged dry spell and the need for irrigation may have contributed to the outbreak.



David Ward (centre) with his team

"The club extracts water from an on-site bore hole and the pH of the water does not change dramatically even in drought conditions," explained David. "Water samples tested in September '95 had a pH reading of 7.3 while a reading of 7.6 had been recorded in August '94."

Pop-up irrigation was kept to a minimum and supplemented by hand watering. Ridges and the tops of greenside bunkers are the areas that stress out the most and where hand watering is most concentrated.

"These were the areas that were severely hit by the disease. We then stopped night time irrigation altogether and restricted hand watering even further in an attempt to reduce the spread of the disease," said David.

"In isolated areas the Catch 22 situation applied when turf affected by drought mingled with turf affected by disease.

"After 14 stressful days the disease finally stopped spreading. The fungicides used appeared to have had little or no effect while reducing the irrigation had certainly helped to slow the spread

and a drop in day and night time temperature did have a beneficial effect."

The orange colour faded to dull brown and the early signs of natural regeneration could be seen in some areas although other areas were completely lost.

Laboratory Diagnosis revealed that Take-All Patch was not detected but that the disease was the even rarer Pythium.

"Pythium is at its most destructive in hot humid weather and increases at an alarming rate. The Lab report concluded by saying that there is no approved product available in the UK to control Pythium," revealed David.

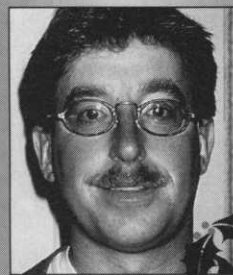
"It would appear that climatic changes, whether it be wettest winters or driest summers are bringing about problems in turf management which have not been seen before in this country.

"In my view it is important that information is pooled and therefore it would be interesting to hear from greenkeepers, plant pathology units and pesticide manufacturers about the problems they have encountered this year and how they see trends

developing," said David.

● If you have similar experiences to that of David Ward at Royal Porthcawl or perhaps are an agronomist involved in the identification and cure of unusual diseases this summer and would like to share his or her experiences please contact Greenkeeper International on 01347 838581.

## WHAT I'D LIKE FOR CHRISTMAS



**Norbert Lischka, Hamburger GC, Falkenstein, Germany:**

"More hand mowers and from a personal point of view that my family stays healthy."



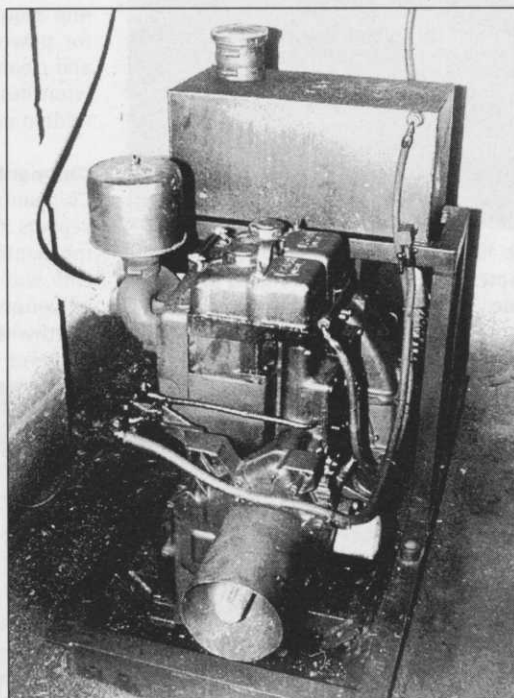
# REAL WORLD TEST PRESSURE WASHERS, COMPRESSORS GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

had insufficient capacity, however one of the members had a redundant Lister/Newage generating set and about five years ago he gave this to the club for the cost of removal. This twin cylinder diesel skid mounted unit has a rated output of 7kVA at 240 volts, a not inconsiderable output which allows Course Manager Chris Sealey to run most of the equipment and lighting he needs without restriction. This unit is now bolted on a concrete pad in a small shed behind the main building. Noise level is not significant, however Chris tries not to use it when golfers are on nearby holes and in fact, the major use is for lighting in the winter months, however it is also used to run power tools, and more importantly, (to most of the greenkeepers), a microwave. The power available means that it could be used to run a small arc welder. However Chris tries to minimise the amount of work carried out as the building is also used for storing sand, and he reckons sand and machinery repair don't fit well together.

Little is known of the past history of the set and there are no manuals nor servicing recommendations, however it has been totally reliable, although it now needs a little servicing to fix the various oil leaks. It is hand cranked to start, fuel use is low – “about a bucket a day when on tick-over” – which is about all that is needed for lighting. As the club lease is up for renegotiation shortly no consideration for the future is being made.

The club uses a foot pump for most of its tyre inflation, however it also has a Zetor 5211 tractor and like many European tractors this has a compressor built in. To access this feature, which is a requirement for trailer braking in some countries, all that is needed is a length of hose and the correct fittings. Chris admitted that he would have like to have a small electric compressor, and he may have to invest in one when the Zetor is replaced he had not considered a PTO driven compressor option.

Chippenham bought a Krcher K1750G cold water pressure washer in May from local dealer John Miller, it is portable and



A Lister/Newage gen set at Chippenham GC

powered by a 5hp Briggs & Stratton Quantum engine. When Greenkeeper International visited it was awaiting repair having burst a seal, but it is normally used every day to clean off greens machines. This machine has detergent incorporation and both degreasing and traffic film detergents are used. The brush attachment has been used but proved not to be robust enough.

#### Manor House Golf Club at Castle Combe near Bath

Manor House is still using shipping containers and other temporary housing while their new greenkeepers facility is being built. Mains electricity is laid on and a full time mechanic, Charlie Gaisford, is employed, however Paul Bishop, Course Manager envisages significant upgrading of the equipment when they shortly move into the new building.

Currently there is a ‘Snap-on’ air compressor manufactured in

1983 with a tank of about 100 litre and little history (it should have a written maintenance and safety record). Paul anticipates moving this to the new workshop and having it tested. Charlie has recently replaced the pressure switch the previous switch having become unreliable, and it now maintains pressure at around the 100psi mark. Rated working pressure is 10 bar – about 150psi. The main service requirement is to drain any condensed water, and check the oil level in the compressor.

Apart from the obvious use for tyre inflation the system is used extensively for running impact drivers and ratchet drivers, however Charlie also has a small drill which he uses for smaller tasks when it is more convenient than an electric drill. For larger and more extensive drilling an electric drill is used, mainly to avoid the nerve stressing of having the compressor constantly cutting in

and out. With fitting out the new workshop there will also be a pneumatic tyre changer and a paint sprayer. The use of an air jet to remove dry grass is seen a better and safer option than using water where possible.

KEW 17A2K Pressure washer is a handy mobile 230v cold water machine about eight months old and has a maximum 150 psi pressure. It has operated during that time without trouble, it is used on a regularly daily basis when mowers and other machines come in. It is also particularly useful for removing the paste after backlapping.

Manor House has the chemical injector kit and a washing brush. The injector kit is used with a traffic film detergent which is bought ready for use in a 25 litre drum. Paul said that prior to the KEW the club had a ‘steam cleaner’ however when the boiler he did not see the need to replace this ability although he admitted that ‘steam’ could be useful for some cleaning jobs. He found that used carelessly or by inexperienced operators it will remove paint.

With the new building there will be three hose points running from the club’s irrigation system which operates at 10bar. These will be placed alongside a specially build wash bay so that all grass clippings, sand and other rubbish will be collected in a sump for weekly removal while the water is taken to a soakaway. The pressure washer will still be needed and in any case the irrigation is off for the winter.

#### WHAT I'D LIKE FOR CHRISTMAS



Chris Carpenter, Brookmans Park GC:

“To wake up on Christmas morning and have a bunker free course.”

