

'The experience was invaluable, very educational and a great eye-opener'

SAYS LAST YEAR'S WINNER, EUAN GRANT (pictured)

interest and notice. Young people can now enter the profession identifying a career path with job satisfaction, increasing financial reward and, if worthy, job security. In return, golf clubs must recognise the importance of an entire educated greenstaff. Increasing the awareness of the whole greens team, is more essential nowadays given the latest health and safety legislation, European directives and the fact

that course managers are unavoidably spending less time on the golf course and more time in meetings, writing reports, analysing budgets and planning ahead.

It is imperative that all greenstaff, through college learning, seminars, information days and learning from our colleagues and superiors, have educated answers, holding educational evenings for the golfers, question

and answer sessions, machinery demonstrations and just talking on the golf course we can aim to constantly improve our image, let the golfing public know that golf courses do not look after themselves and that we do actually know what we are doing.

Britain is not such a long way behind the USA in the greenkeeping profession. They have some huge advantages, eg. budget, with which most of us cannot compete but our skills, knowledge and organisation right through the greens team is not inferior.

I must give a massive thank you to the Toro Company for sponsoring my chance to study and travel in the States, for giving me the opportunity to visit its machinery and irrigation factories and headquarters. Witnessing the research, manufacturing and testing facilities and procedures were fascinating, as was the San Francisco show.

Most of all, I made a lot of friends and contacts from all over North America and Canada. I have significantly increased my knowledge and have matured in my outlook to golf course management.

The job I'm always glad to see the back of is...



"Hollow coring and top dressing"

— Raymond Day,
Sundridge Park GC

SO QUIET, YOU CAN HEAR A PIN DROP.



Early morning mowing is no problem for this greenkeeper. He knows there'll be no complaints about noise because he's operating a Greensmaster 3200.

With an exceptionally quiet engine it maintains its power for a full day's work.

An operator's dream, this new model is the latest in Toro's top-selling Greensmaster 3000 series. Its unique new cutting system gives a superb quality of cut.



The new cutting system

If you want to hear a pin drop, give us a call and we'll walk your course with you and recommend the best machine for your needs.

You can trust Toro expertise and quality.

Simply telephone 01480 476971 and we'll arrange for a local dealer to contact you.

Floating cutting units follow ground contours like never before, while the ability of the cutting units to steer prevents sliding and scuffing when turning. Liquid cooled and diesel powered, it is exceptionally quiet, gives minimal vibration, comfortable seating and single joystick fingertip controls.



Bringing perfection to play.

Congratulations to James Braithwaite of Hallgarth Golf and Country Club Hotel, winner of this year's Toro/Lely (UK) Ltd/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper award

TORO DISTRIBUTED BY LELY (UK) LIMITED, STATION ROAD, ST NEOTS, HUNTINGDON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE PE19 1QH TELEPHONE 01480 476971 FACSIMILE 01480 216167

The rise of the CLUB MECHANIC



John Deere Ltd

Manuals: Operator and technical manuals.
Videos: F1145 Operator Safety Video.
Training Courses: Available at the golf course or at their training facility at Langar. They include installation and safe operation, cutting units and adjustments and a two day course for golf course mechanics/greenkeepers.
Helpline Number: 01949 863204 or 863244.
Richard Charleton or Ivan Miller.

Hardi Ltd

Manuals: Sent out with each machine.
Videos: Available on machine operation.
Training Courses: In association with the dealer network or special training with BIGGA sections on request.
Helpline Number: 01455 233811 or 0831 430025 R.W. Oliver (Amenity Manager).

Kubota UK Ltd

Manuals: WSM available by ordering from dealer.
Videos: Can be loaned on request.
Training Courses: Can be arranged on request to regional sales manager or dealer staff.
Helpline Number: 0184421 4500 Ext 229.

Hayter Ltd

Manuals: Operator and workshop manuals, coloured maintenance charts, maintenance check list and maintenance schedules.
Videos: Just started producing safety and operator videos.
Training Courses: Four day Dealer mechanic courses, End user mechanic courses, basic maintenance courses, operator courses, safety courses.
Helpline Number: 01279 723444.

Charterhouse Turf Machinery

Manuals: Complete manuals available for all products.
Training Courses: Can be arranged for suitable parties.
Helpline Number: 01428 661222.

Ransomes Sims and Jefferies Ltd

Manuals: Operator, Parts and Service manuals.
Videos: Product Presentation Videos.
Training Courses: Service training courses held annually at the Ipswich factory for all professional equipment users.
Helpline Number: 01473 276443 Mike Prentice for service training or 01473 276286 Nigel Church for sales information.

New Holland UK Ltd

Manuals: Operator, Service/Repair and Parts manuals for all models available through New Holland dealers.
Training Courses: Operation and daily maintenance procedures.
Helpline Number: 01268 292573 - Peter Bray.

Huxley's Grass Machinery Ltd

Manuals: Operator and Parts manuals supplied with all new machines.
Training Courses: An in-house Training Centre for regular customer and dealer training.
Helpline Number: 01962 733222 - Ray Chant, Service Manager.

SISIS Equipment

Manual: In duplicate with all new machines and available free of charge on request even for obsolete machines back to the 1950s.
Training Courses: On application.
Helpline Number: 01625 503030.

Multi Core Aerators Ltd

Manuals: Full and comprehensive manuals detailing all aspects of routine maintenance.
Training Courses: Upon delivery full operator instruction is given and all routine maintenance jobs are covered with the mechanic/greenkeeper.
Helpline Number: 01257 231861 - Ian Waddington Mobile 0374 488508.

Massey Ferguson

Manuals: Operator instruction books.
Training Courses: BIGGA training courses covering safety and critical tractor maintenance at key greenkeeper training colleges. Customer training on site and at in house company training centre.
Helpline Number: 01203 851243.

The job I'm always glad to see the back of is...



"Clearing leaves from ditches"

- Kevin Peace, Inverurie GC

IRRIGATION SYSTEM'S Toughest test



The 3rd hole at Ifield Golf and Country Club

ing system and re-wired the course for well under £30,000," explained Alastair.

Ifield also saved water and cut down on their water charges by high spot watering with a hose and with wetting agents.

"We used a spray to spot treat dry patch with non burning wet-

ting agent which was put on by a hand lance from our Cushman sprayer," said Alastair.

"We also verti drained the greens with half inch tines to a depth of three inches which left no surface damage or heave from the verti drain. This helped cut down the use of wetting agent.

We did this four times in the height of the drought."

The experiences at Ifield show that it is possible for all golf clubs, whether they be wealthy or not, can have an irrigation system which will do an excellent job and cope with the most searching of weather conditions.

The job I'm always glad to see the back of is...



"Divotting"

- Gerry Byrne, Luttrellstown Castle G&CC

NORTH STAFFS IRRIGATION

An Independent Company

At North Staffs Irrigation we can offer a range of equipment suitable for your irrigation project. A full design and installation service is provided ensuring an effective and efficient system tailored to your individual needs. We offer:



- ★ Fully automatic Irrigation Systems (including greens, tees, approaches, etc.)
- ★ Manual Control Irrigation Systems
- ★ Phased Installations (allowing a basic water supply to be built upon to achieve full automatic irrigation over a period to suit your available finance)

Recent contracts include: Bangor, Sherwood Forest, Fairhaven, Beau Desert, Prestatyn, Accrington, etc, etc.

Contact us on 01785 812706, Fax: 01782 395734 or at Ivy Mill, Longton Road, Stone, Staffordshire ST15 8TB

We are founder members of the BTLIA.

AD
REF
217

MIST
IRRIGATION
SYSTEM
CONTROLS LTD

IRRIGATION

Suppliers of Irrigation Equipment to Golf Courses, Bowling Greens, Landscapes, Horticulture.

- ★ Manufacturers of Irrigation Equipment
- ★ Existing Systems renovated and upgraded

SPARES – REPAIRS – SERVICE

Call now for your Irrigation needs

MISC LTD

Unit 18, Hightown Industrial Estate,
Ringwood, Hants BH24 1ND

Tel: (01425) 474614 Fax: (01425) 471296

AD
REF
357

KEEPING EVERYONE INFORMED

to our own golf course" followed by question and answer sessions.

Smaller presentations by the Course Manager to sections of the Club (25 - 30 people maximum) on various subjects. This is a better way to develop two-way communication because the emphasis is placed on discussion and not lecture and much is learned by all concerned (and that includes the Course Manager).

General Communication

A large area must be made available in a prominent area of the Clubhouse for Course Information to post reports, programmes and schedules and any other relevant information.

It is important that this area is up-dated regularly and kept "fresh" to keep interest. Illustrated drawings and photographs are an excellent way of attracting attention and should be used as often as possible.

Videos both professionally produced, e.g. the BIGGA career video and home-made on subjects such as course etiquette, can also keep the subjects interesting.

Public Relations/Semi-Social Communication

Staff golf matches against different sections of the club and even the Committee. Visits to the workshops by Committee and members to look behind the scenes. These two measures bring the rest of the greenstaff into the equation as well as the Course Manager which is important.

Having lunch in the Clubhouse periodically and playing golf with members to a small degree help us to understand and get over individual views in an amicable way.

Using all these different ways of communicating will "get the message across" better than previously and the membership will begin to understand what we are trying to achieve on the golf course. After all, we all want the same thing - a well maintained, well presented golf course of which we we can all be proud.

TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF THE STAFF AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The last and vitally important responsibility of every Course Manager is basic safety. With the assistance of the Health & Safety

Executive, the local Authorities and the many competent safety consultants working within the industry, this area is not so frightening as once it was.

The one piece of advice which I can pass on is to contact the relevant authority first and request assistance in setting safe systems in place and not waiting until they come knocking on your door.

In this way you are demonstrating your commitment to ensuring safe standards of work in your workplace and also ensuring a good future working relationship with the relevant authority.

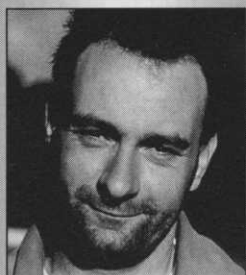
■ *During the course of this series of articles I have had some feedback regarding content. Some destructive but mostly constructive.*

One point which has been made is "It's okay for these big money 36/54 hole complexes and golf clubs which can afford these highly trained Course Managers but we are just a 9/18 hole private member's club - we can't afford a Course Manager" or even "We don't need a Course Manager".

My answer to that is - you cannot afford not to employ a fully trained Course Manager. It is he/she who will analyse/assess what you have and devise efficient systems which will ensure that money is not wasted.

I would guarantee in the long term you will enjoy a better maintained and presented golf course and therefore a more contented membership for the money available - that is after all what efficient management is all about.

The job I'm always glad to see the back of is...



"Putting in drainage ditches"

- Richard Gamble
Aldwark Manor

A big thank you

May I take this opportunity to thank all those BIGGA members who formed the Walker Cup Support Team for their help in the preparation of the course.

Your efforts were much appreciated by both Royal Porthcawl and myself.

David Ward
Course Manager
Royal Porthcawl GC

In search of age record

I am writing to you to see if you can find out how old the youngest Head Greenkeeper in Britain is.

I am 18 years-old and a Head Greenkeeper on an 18 hole private course - Sandilands GC in Sutton-on-Sea, Lincolnshire. I have just finished my National Certificate at Elmwood College and have been greenkeeping since I was 12.

If you could do this for me I would be very grateful indeed.

James North
Sandilands GC

■ *Editor's Note: Our investigations suggest that as you were born on December 18, 1976 you are the youngest Head Greenkeeper in BIGGA. However if we are wrong we'd be delighted to hear from anyone younger.*

The job I'm always glad to see the back of is...



"Hollow coring"

- Glenn Millar
Ullesthorpe GC

Send letters to The Editor, Greenkeeper International, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Aine, York YO6 2NF or fax them on 01347 838864

Tournament magic

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody at BIGGA Headquarters for the marvellous two days I enjoyed at the West Lancashire GC competing in the Hayter Challenge. I thought that the tournament was extremely well organised and it was a great honour to take part.

The kindness and hospitality shown by the golf club was also of a very high standard, as was the setting and the condition of the golf course - which was a credit to the greenstaff.

I would also like to thank our sponsor Hayter for making everything possible and I am most grateful to them for such a fine competition. I'm sure everybody who took part would agree with these comments and will look forward to next year's tournament, hoping they are fortunate to qualify again.

Antony Bindley
Kirby Muxloe GC

Peter Alliss' explanation appreciated

The following was first published in Golf Weekly magazine:

May I publicly thank Peter Alliss on behalf of greenkeepers, Chairmen of green committees and Club Secretaries for his invaluable assistance while commenting on the Walker Cup. For many weeks we have been trying to explain to members why the grass is being lost on the greens only to be met with disbelief and accusations of poor greenkeeping practices.

Alliss' explanation of Take All Disease will hopefully make the many doubters realise that this problem is totally outside the control of greenstaff and is a direct result of weather conditions.

Mike Penny
Secretary
Worlebury GC, Avon

■ *Editor's Note: Peter Alliss was provided with information regarding the disease of the Royal Porthcawl greens by BIGGA.*