



# GREENKEEPER

*International*

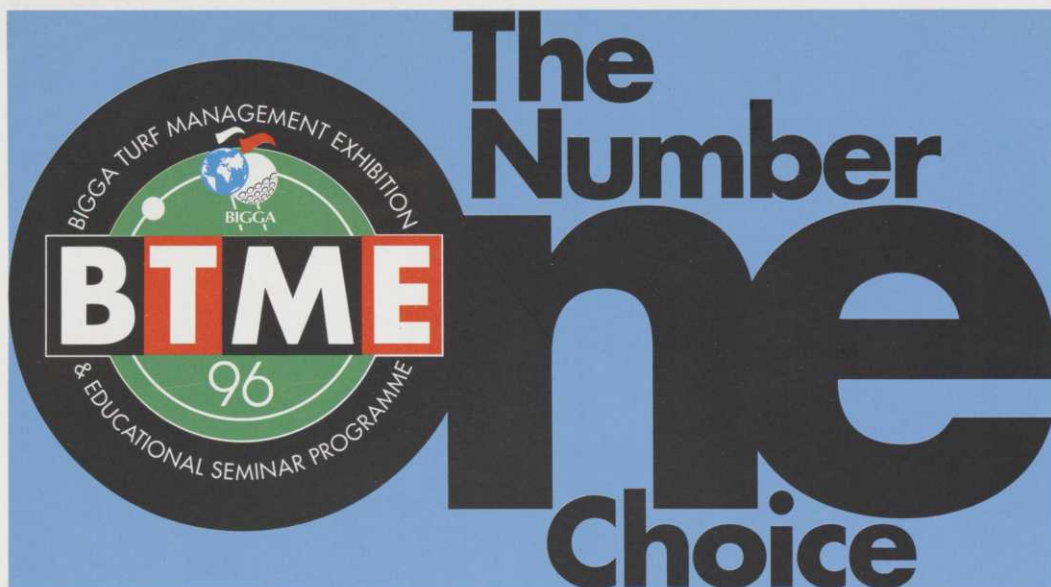


# WINNERS ALL



Meet the top greenkeeping teams from the Hayter Challenge and the Walker Cup





Working for the good of the fine turf industry

# Buzzing, Thriving, Main Event

It's bigger, it's more comprehensive and it's better than ever before – the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition and Educational Seminar Programme, January 24–26, 1996.

**Believe The Meaningful Experience** With over 150 exhibitors, the BTME is the biggest yet. Large and small companies, well known names and not so well known names combine to bring an exciting mix of all that's happening in the buzzing world of golf course maintenance.

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**Being There Means Everything** The BTME is for YOU if you're involved in any way with the fine turf industry – greenkeepers, groundsmen, local authority specifiers, contractors... If YOU'RE reading THIS, then BTME is for YOU!

**YOUR COPY OF THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE PROGRAMME, PLUS BOOKING FORM, IS INCLUDED IN THIS MAGAZINE**

**BIGGA National Education Conference: January 22–23, 1996**

**BIGGA Educational Workshops: January 22–23, 1996**

**Educational Seminar Programme: January 24–26, 1996**

**BIGGA International Symposium: January 25, 1996**

**Sports Turf Research Institute/BIGGA Chairmen of Green/Secretaries' Course: January 23–24, 1996**

the  
**Learning  
experience**

Use the **FREE Pre-Registration Card** in this magazine to stake your place at BTME. You'll beat the queues and you could **WIN £100-worth of merchandise** in our prize draw!

BTME and the Educational Seminar Programme is organised by the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF. For more details, or for an extra copy of "The Learning Experience", call Ken Richardson, BIGGA's education officer, on 01347 838581.



## Easy to get to...

**BY RAIL:** The comprehensive rail network means you can get to Harrogate very easily. For example, 25 trains run daily from London King's Cross to Harrogate and there are some 15 trains from Edinburgh, 16 from Glasgow and 30 from Manchester

**BY AIR:** Manchester International Airport is 56 miles from Harrogate and there's a convenient direct train via Leeds railway station. Transfer and direct flights are available from all over the world – including Canada, South Africa and the USA. Leeds/Bradford airport is 12 miles away and also has direct flights from major European cities

**BY ROAD:** From North and South – A1 exit Wetherby, nine miles from Harrogate. M1 and M62 to Leeds, which is 15 miles away

**BY SEA:** North Sea Ferries, from Rotterdam/Zeebrugge to Hull, 59 miles away.

# GREENKEEPER

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## GREENKEEPER

International

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## OCTOBER 1995

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The winning Scottish team at the Hayter Challenge Final and the Walker Cup squad, against a backdrop of Royal Porthcawl

**WIN** £50 CASH IN OUR BUYER'S GUIDE COMPETITION: TURN TO PAGE 49

### FREE READER REPLY SERVICE

Use the post-paid Reader Reply Card facing Page 58 for further information on the products and services advertised in this issue. Just state the companies' Ad Ref numbers, post the card to us and we'll arrange for further information to be sent to you direct.



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**Want to exhibit at next year's BTME? It's filling up fast: call Louise Lunn on 01347 838581 for an information pack**

### Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

The Fund provides the key to the future for greenkeeper, golf club and game. Individuals and companies can join the Golden Key Circle and Silver Key Circle. For details, contact BIGGA on 01347 838581.

**GOLDEN KEY CIRCLE COMPANY MEMBERS:**  
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– SIÓN PRICE, Manager, Rhône Poulenc Environmental Products

”

**FOR MORE DETAILS CALL:**  
Bill Lynch, Carol Dutton or Louise Lunn at BIGGA HQ on 01347 838581.

GCSAA Conference and Show,  
Orlando, February 5-11, 1996

# BIGGA's trip of a lifetime!

As in previous years BIGGA is offering you the opportunity to travel with us to the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's 67th International Golf Course Conference and Show at the Orange County Convention Centre, Orlando, Florida from February 5-11, 1996.

The BIGGA party will assemble at Gatwick Airport on Sunday, February 4 for departure to Orlando at 12.30pm. BIGGA is able to offer accommodation at the Holiday Inn, Gatwick at a cost of £39 per person for any members wishing to stay over the night before departure.

The Clarion Plaza Hotel, chosen by BIGGA to accommodate our party, offers excellent amenities including a heated swimming pool and whirlpool, three in-house restaurants, live entertainment and a night club. The Clarion Plaza has the added convenience of being a co-exhibitor hotel and is based next to the Convention Centre.

The GCSAA Conference and Show takes place between February 5-11 with the trade show on February 9-11. You will have the opportunity to attend educational seminars, programmes and the trade show bringing you up-to-date information on golf course management, technology and the latest trends in turfgrass management.

## ITINERARY

### Sunday, February 4

All participants will assemble at Gatwick Airport, for the 12.30pm direct flight with Virgin Airlines to Orlando arriving at 16.40 local time. The group will then transfer to the Clarion Plaza Hotel for a nine night stay on a room only basis.

### Tuesday, February 13

Transfer to the Orlando International Airport for the direct flight at 19.10 arriving at London Gatwick at 08.15am on Wednesday, February 14.



The trip to Orlando will also give you the chance to see the sights; but there's nothing Mickey Mouse about the GCSAA show - it's the best there is. Picture: Walt Disney Company

## PRICES

£530 per person based on twin shares or £710. per person based on single room accommodation.

Plus comprehensive travel insurance for the duration of £55. Included are: Return economy class flights Gatwick to Orlando, UK and US taxes, transfers to and from the airport to the Clarion Plaza Hotel, nine nights accommodation based on room only and US accommodation taxes.

Please note: Registration costs for the Pre Conference Seminars which run from February 5-8 and for the Education Programme which runs from February 8-11 are not included in the package and bookings need to be made direct with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. Details are available from BIGGA upon request.

Please forward full payment of £585 or £765 (unless travel insurance is not required), adding £39 if accommodation is required for the night of February 3, to BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York, YO6 2NF to arrive by Friday, November 17 at the latest, together with name, address and contact telephone number.

# A BIGGA Thank you



**BIGGA  
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and SILVER KEY  
CIRCLES**

...to the following companies, in recognition of their continued support for the Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

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great future for golf club,  
greenkeeper and game*

For details of how you can support the Education and Development Fund, Contact BIGGA at Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF. Telephone: 01347 838581 Fax: 01347 838864



**BIGGA: BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE**

# Moving forward with the industry

This month I would like to take a look at the turf industry which supports and works with our members in seeking to produce quality golf courses. It remains a small, compact and, in my relatively brief experience, friendly industry. Many greenkeepers come to know and respect those company representatives with whom they deal and much business is born out of a mutual trust and respect. Companies are fiercely competitive but come together for the good of the industry and the greenkeeping profession. The BTME Steering Committee is but one very positive example of companies co-operating and working with the Association for our mutual benefit in the form of an increasingly successful BTME. It is not easy for the Association to always deal equitably with all the many companies with whom it comes into contact but it is not for want of trying.

BIGGA's Education and Development Fund will shortly enter its fifth year and the Association's thanks are due to those loyal supporters of the fund, both companies and individuals. Thirteen companies are now golden key supporters with a further four in the silver key category. This year the fund has already seen the production of a new book on Ecological Management of the Golf Course together with a video on Golf Course Preparation. A further video on the Construction of a Golf Green will shortly be available. The first of our local Management Training courses takes place in Scotland during October with others planned for our other regions as well as Southern Ireland next February and March. Projects for 1996 will be decided shortly. All in all the fund is a success story but in addition to providing education and training benefits for our members it has a cohesive and positive role to play in cementing the Association's relationships with the 17 companies who currently support the fund. Those companies have the opportunity to meet twice a year with the Association and their views are taken on board. Their ideas for utilising the resources of the fund are welcomed. They



## BIGGA in focus

BY NEIL THOMAS

receive equal acknowledgement and benefits for their support of the fund while both they and other companies are not precluded from entering into individual sponsorships with the Association. The arrangements have largely worked well, epitomised by the fact that some companies are now in their fourth successive year of fund membership. The fund has therefore been a power for good in bringing the Association and the Industry together for mutual benefit. BIGGA places a high premium on positive, practical and lasting relationships with the companies within the industry.

At a local level the benefits of the education and training available to greenkeepers can be seen in their budget management and choice of products. Today's Course Manager is discerning in the choice of products for his golf course. Old friendships may die hard but the company representative with a suspect product will be given a hard time. So it is my view that, alongside improved training, better products are being made available and the vast majority of business deals are undoubtedly conducted for the benefit of the club's golf course.

Yet, as in other industries, there can be a downside. BIGGA's members are bound by the Association's code of ethics. One of the tenets laid down in this code is that a member will "refrain from encouraging or accepting considerations of any value which might be deemed an inducement to find favour for a particular party or influence decisions in relation to that party and at all

times avoid any exploitation of my Association, Industry or Profession". I am sometimes asked how often cases are brought to my attention which violate this code and the answer is few and far between. This is not an attempt to bury my head in the sand for shady dealing can and does occur. Unfortunately when the waters are muddied those prepared to put their head above the parapet and come forward with evidence are noticeable only by their absence. Suspicion is one thing, proof is another. Those of our members proven guilty of such conduct have no place within BIGGA or within greenkeeping at large. Equally BIGGA would need to examine its relationship with any company proven guilty of offering such inducements. I would like to think that such dealings have a diminishing role to play within our industry and I would welcome a debate on the subject through the columns of this magazine. Where there are undesirable practices those working within the profession and the

industry can combine to stamp them out. Again where golf clubs have proven cases they would benefit both the Association and the Industry in making details available.

Looking ahead, the Association will continue to work purposefully with those companies who support greenkeepers and greenkeeping. Where we can assist companies in the provision of information and advice we will do so. During 1996 we hope to publish a much needed Directory of Resources and we would welcome any suggestions from companies on format and content. Again we would hope that our exhibition and magazine will continue to be a show case for company products and we are always open to suggestions on how both can be improved. It remains my view that a continuing partnership of BIGGA and the Industry is essential if the objective of better constructed and maintained golf courses is to be achieved. Perhaps a case of "united we stand, divided we fall"?

## BIGGA CODE OF ETHICS

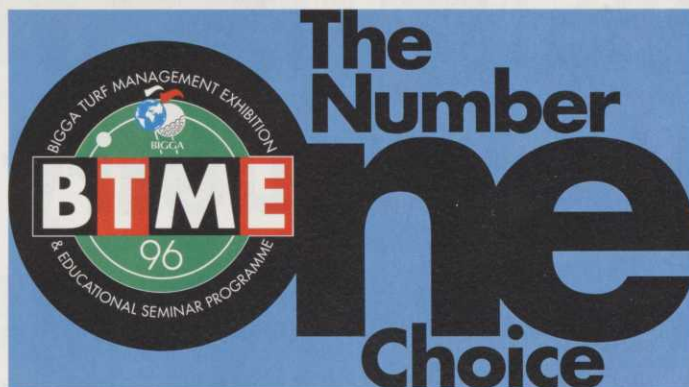
This Code is established to promote and maintain the highest professional standards of service and conduct among the membership of BIGGA. Through adherence to this Code, members will gain for themselves recognition of individual integrity, responsibility and professionalism whilst enhancing generally the respect and good will for both their profession and Association. As a member of the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association, I accept this Code and pledge myself to:

1. Set standards of personal conduct which will enhance the stature of the profession of golf course management.
2. At all times carry out my duties and responsibilities in such a manner as to reflect favourably on the profession and Association.
3. Seek to use every opportunity to broaden my professional expertise for both self-improvement and the good of the profession.
4. Follow, as a basic tenet, sound business and turf management principles in exercising the responsibilities of my post.
5. Observe the highest standards of personal integrity in my relationship

with fellow greenkeepers as well as other associated individuals and at all times, as far as I am able, assist my fellow greenkeepers as required of me.

6. Pursue job advancement only where vacancies arise and not at the expense of a fellow greenkeeper and abstain from any action, comment or communication not founded on truth which is likely to harm the professional reputation or practice of another greenkeeper.
7. Give endorsements of any kind only upon satisfactory personal experiences of the item identified.
8. Refrain from encouraging or accepting considerations of any value which might be deemed an inducement to find favour for a particular party or influence decisions in relation to that party and at all times avoid any exploitation of my Association, Industry or Profession.
9. Support at every opportunity the Association, its Regions and Sections in seeking to improve the public understanding and recognition of the profession of golf course management.
10. Report to the Association any evidence likely to be in violation of this Code of Ethics.

Over 150 exhibitors snap up spaces for BTME 96



Working for the good of the fine turf industry

Exhibition space at BTME '96 is all but gone with over 150 exhibitors confirmed.

Many are established companies who have attended every BTME but word gets round and '96 will see several companies making their first appearances.

Among them are Hepworth Minerals and Chemicals, British Sugar, which will be showing its new top soil, and Grass Roots, the one-stop greenkeepers' shop.

"I'm absolutely delighted to be welcoming so many new companies to the show and I'm sure once they have experienced the very special atmosphere at Harrogate they will become regulars," said Louise Lunn, Exhibition and Marketing Executive.

It is now the time of the year that companies begin to turn their attention to the show but one keen exhibitor was already

on the phone demanding the exhibition manual from Louise well ahead of schedule – "Guaranteed to keep me on my toes for BTME 96," she said.

"The entertainment has been confirmed for the BTME '96 Gala Dinner and delegates will be able to enjoy the delights of comedian Stan Boardman, singer Lyn Paul (ex New Seekers) and the City Lights Show Band."

Chance to learn in a stimulating atmosphere

The Learning Experience of 1996 will take place in Harrogate from January 22 until January 26. More than 20 speakers from seven countries will present papers on topics from Pest Management to Portfolio Development. Next year sees the return of training workshops which will enhance and expand last year's successful programme. Workshop 1 deals with the Design Construction and Growing in of a golf course and will be presented by Howard Swan and Simon Gidman, both members of the British Institute of Golf Course Architects. Workshop 2 deals with the Management of Stress and will be presented by Brin Bendon of Vector Training, best known for presenting the BIGGA management courses. A newcomer to Harrogate will be the STRI Chairmen of Green/Secretaries Course, which will be held in the Hotel St George on Tuesday 23 and Wednesday 24 January.

the Learning experience

Make sure that you book early for what promises to be the largest greenkeeper training event in Europe and take full advantage of the Learning Experience 1996.

"Considering the calibre of the experts and the range of education and training on offer, The Learning Experience will be the major European greenkeeping training opportunity of 1996," said Ken Richardson, BIGGA's Education Officer.

It's not all about education however as there will be ample opportunities to relax and enjoy yourselves in the evenings with the Conference Dinner which this year will feature special guest David Gunson, the former Air Traffic Controller, who has established himself as one of the top after dinner speakers in the country.

## £800-worth of prizes to be won!

★ Here is your chance to win a greenkeeper's dream holiday – an expenses paid trip to the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition. There is a huge £800 worth of prizes to be won! We will pay your rail fare, put you up in one of the best hotels in Harrogate and give you a free pass to the outstanding educational seminar programme.

All you have to do to stand a chance of winning one of THREE superb prizes is answer these six questions – two appeared in August's magazine and two last month so you should only have to think about the last two. Complete the form and return it to us by October 31, 1995.

### August questions

● Name one of the countries from which National Education Conference speakers are coming.

● In which hall will you find the BIGGA stand?

### September questions

● Which new company has recently booked over 20 square metres at the show?

● With which Institute is BIGGA holding a Chairmen of Green/Secretaries Course?

### October questions

● What is British Sugar going to be displaying on its stand?

● What returns to Harrogate this year as part of The Learning Experience?

Normal competition rules apply.

**FIRST PRIZE:** Return rail travel from anywhere in the UK plus three nights accommodation at a top hotel in Harrogate and entry to all the education sessions. **SECOND PRIZE:** Return rail travel from anywhere in the UK, two nights accommodation in a top Harrogate hotel and entry to all education sessions. **THIRD PRIZE:** One night's accommodation in a top Harrogate hotel and entry to all education sessions.

Name: .....

Address: .....

Send your completed entry form to BTME Competition, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Aine, York YO6 2NF. To be received by October 31. The first three correct entries opened after that date will win the prizes. Judges' decision is final.



Jemima  
Puddleduck  
saves  
thousands  
for golf club

# NEWS



When a 10,000,000 gallon lake at the Lambourne Golf Club in Burnham, Bucks, cracked as a result of the hot weather, greenkeepers took a leaf out of Beatrix Potter's book, bringing in "Jemima Puddleduck" and 22 of her friends.

In just three weeks the paper-white Aylesbury ducks, halted a 20,000 gallon a day leak and reduced the cost of repairs from

£75,000, for draining and lining the lake, to just £80, the price of an electric fence to keep foxes at bay.

"A time honoured country tradition has beaten all modern technology," said John Millen, Head Greenkeeper for ClubPartners International Plc which owns the course. "Aylesbury or 'puddle' ducks, as they are often known, have been used to maintain farm

ponds for centuries. In hot weather, the sun dries out the banks and leaves thousands of tiny cracks along the bank through which the water seeps away. Puddle ducks, with their big feet, keep the shore wet and compress tiny bits of mud into the cracks, cementing all the holes."

Staff and members at the exclusive club have put forward Jemima's name for the August Employee of the month award.

"She'll probably be the first duck in history to win a recognition award from a Plc but we don't see why not. She's down on the payroll for a sack of premium quality corn each month and has worked hard on several important areas including ecology, conservation, economy and good member relations - even if it did take a little gentle persuasion to convince her that a ball which landed near the shore once was not, in fact, an egg."

Jemima's prize for her efforts is a beautifully framed certificate by the lake and her own nesting box on the small island, well away from the danger of troublesome foxes.

● Pictured: John Millen with the ducks which saved the day.



■ GTC Chairman Bob McLaren presents NVQ assessor certificates to the Course Managers/Head Greenkeepers from the North Wales golf clubs who have all successfully achieved the D32/D33 assessor units.

The presentation took place at the Welsh College of Horticulture in Mold.

The GTC has recently become a registered centre to offer National/Scottish Vocational Qualifications and all enquiries should be directed to the GTC Education Unit based at Aldwark Manor, York Tel: 01347 838640.

## FLYING DIVOTS

■ Otterbine/Barebo Inc., the aeration and water quality management product specialist, has announced that Rainbird Europe has been awarded the Otterbine distributorship for France and North Africa. "We're very proud to welcome Rainbird Europe to our distribution team. It an excellent company which enjoys a fine reputation," said Charlie Barebo, President of Otterbine.

■ Eamonn Wall & Co has appointed John Nicholson as Associate Consultant based in Durham. He is a keen ecologist with specialised knowledge of tree pests and diseases and is currently writing a book about trees on golf courses. He has undertaken studies in golf ball damage and its effect on tree health resulting in a knowledge of which species of tree are resilient to damage.

■ Nigel Tyler has been appointed Technical Sales Representative to the Amenity Division of County Crops Ltd. He was previously employed by Rufford Top Dress Supplies Ltd. He will cover the Midlands area.

■ Geoff Whalley has been appointed Head Greenkeeper at the shortly to open Mobberley GC.

■ Ian Greenfield, Head Greenkeeper at Goodwood GC, has retired after 28 year's service.

■ Applications are now being accepted for Pennsylvania State University's two year Turfgrass Management Technical Programme for the class beginning September '96. The application fee is \$35 and the deadline for applications is December 31, '95. Application forms can be obtained by calling United States 001 814 865 8301 or by writing to: Turfgrass Management Technical Program, The Pennsylvania State University, 306 Ag, Administration Building, University Park, PA 16802-2601.

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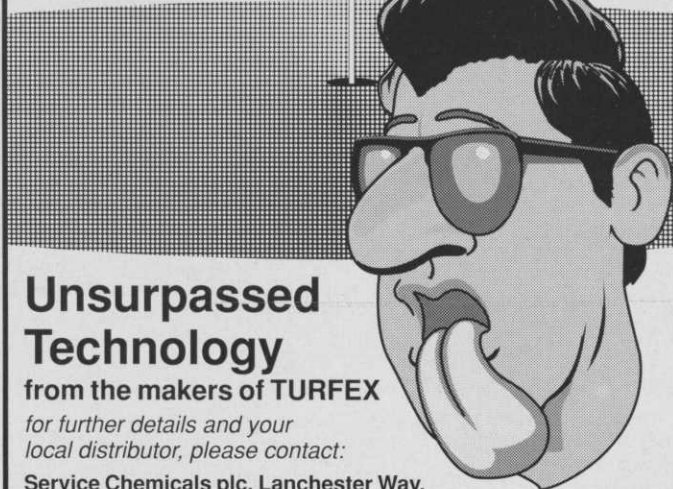
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# Michael is Britain's most wanted man

By Andrew Vaughan

This year's drought had many repercussions for most golf courses, not least the size of their water bills. As the privatised water suppliers in England and Wales now address the many years of under-investment in infrastructure the cost of water will undoubtedly rise with forecasts of three and four fold increases in the next few years. (Scotland soon to follow?)

"Pay as you use" is perhaps the tip of the iceberg, as it is not unreasonable to expect the most heavy water users to pay a premium for the quantities required, and golf courses must figure amongst them.

The solution to the problem is undoubtedly under your feet. Surveys in Scotland have shown that private ground water sources supply 13 million litres per day for a variety of uses, including chemical and manufacturing industry, foodstuffs, agriculture, as well as domestic consumption. In 1978/79 ground water provided 78 million litres per day (of a total supplied of 2800 million litres per day) – a drop in the ocean.

After complying with the various planning requirements, the next problem is how to find the water. Large numbers of dry bore holes indicate that it is not as easy as simply drilling a deep enough hole. Several golf courses have overcome this by calling on the services of a water diviner, Michael Cranfield of Dollar, Cen-



Michael Cranfield: Dowser

tral Scotland Tel: 01259 742744.

Mr. Cranfield, 72, has been dowsing since the age of 13 when he learned he had the knack from a naval commander experimenting on his parents' lawn in Sussex. Over many years he honed his skill by practising on various farms he visited while selling animal feed for Quaker Oats, and on retirement, took up water divining as a recreational occupation.

Due to advancing years, he prefers to pre-survey the particular site using a map on his dining room table. He then sweeps over the map with a crystal pendulum ("but a rusty nail would do"), which when passing over a likely site swings round and round.

After finding as many "hot-spots" as possible, he then checks the site using the well known

hazel dowsing rod, and has found the map surveys surprisingly accurate. The many years of experience also allow him to judge the depth and flow-rate of water present.

Any sceptic cannot be left unimpressed by his strike rate of 98.5% for over 450 clients. However, perhaps his most important skill is that he pinpoints exactly where the borehole is to be located, which could involve hitting a two foot wide target, 300 feet down.

Farmers make up 70% of his work load (often dairy farms that require regular and vast quantities), and to date only 12 golf courses have called on his unusual services. Undoubtedly this situation will change when clubs realise the potential rising cost of water usage, and the relatively quick payback period for installing your own bore-hole and pump. In some instances, the capital cost has been paid back after just three years.

Mr. Cranfield does not expect to be travelling the length and breadth of the country for many more years, but hopes that his dining room table will continue his amazing success rate well into his 80s, that is if the water companies don't outlaw him first!

■ Andrew Vaughan is a golf course woodland design and management consultant with Eamonn Wall and Co based at 15 West Burnside, Dollar, Clackmannanshire, FK14 7DE, Tel: (01259) 743212.



## Art editor gets mower out of The Open

Keith Jones, Art Editor of Golf Monthly magazine, winner of the Great BIGGA Bunker Competition at The Open in St Andrews earlier in the year, was presented with his prize at Saltex '95 by Kim Macfie, Sales and Marketing Director of Hayter.

The competition was run in the Media Centre at The Open and asked journalists to predict how many bunkers the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support team would rake during the course of the Championship. The final figure was 700 with one more coming in the play-off and Keith predicted 684 thus depriving Andy Farrell, Chief Reporter of Golf Weekly magazine, who had won each of the first three daily prizes with his uncannily accurate predictions only to be wildly wide of the mark on the Sunday. The final daily winner was Mike Kern of the Philadelphia Daily News.

Keith won a Hayter Harrier lawnmower valued at £600. He is pictured, left, receiving his prize kindly donated by Hayter from Kim Macfie as BIGGA Chairman Barry Heaney looks on.

## Swedish study trip

A group of 18 Swedish Head Greenkeepers is visiting Scotland this month to investigate the art of greenkeeping in the Home of Golf.

The group, gathered from the Swedish Greenkeepers Association will be visiting Fife and taking in the Alfred Dunhill Cup as well as visiting links courses in the area and studying how the education of greenkeepers is undertaken at Elmwood College in Cupar.

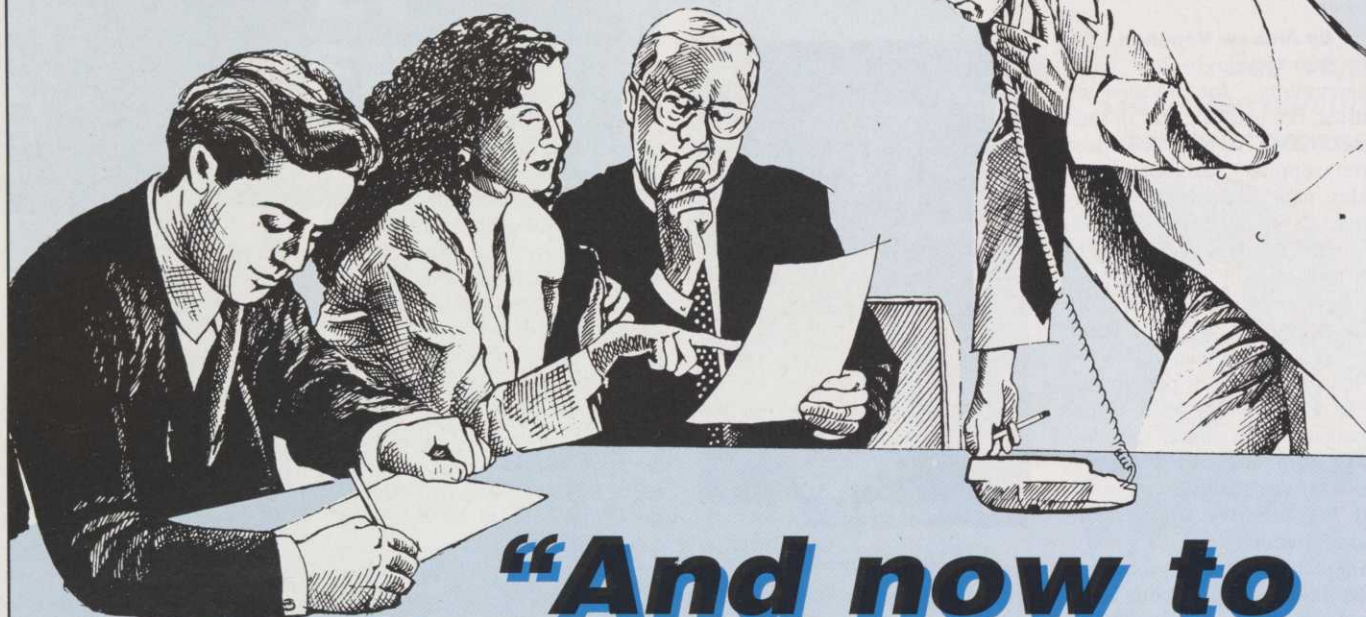
## One stop shop gears up for autumn

Wokingham-based Grass Roots is gearing up for a busy autumn as it caters for the needs of the greenkeeper. The one-stop shop for everything from turfcare consumables, machinery sales and service to furnishings and maintenance means the greenkeeper doesn't have to spend time shopping around for individual suppliers.

The company guarantees a definite time of arrival for any order and a daily 2.5% retrospective discount with be offered until the order is confirmed. The office is open to quote and take orders from 7am to 9pm six days a week and they can be contacted on Tel: 01734 771185 Fax: 01734 785116.



# AGENDA



## “And now to the Green Issue...”

“Ladies and Gentlemen, I have a formal request from our Greenkeeper that we discuss the benefits of purchasing our own grinding equipment. He has researched the market and concludes, without any doubt that Atterton grinders are the finest available...”

“In-situ grinding – huge time savings”

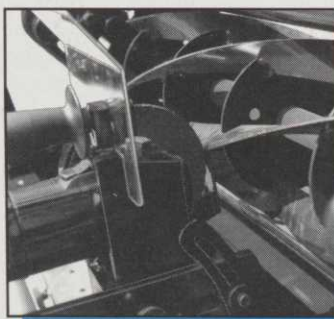
“Separate cylinder grinding – the ideal time to sharpen”

“The cutting unit sits on a flat bed – avoids angled set-ups”

“A single action foot pedal to set-up – simple one-man operation”

“No more high service cost outside sharpening – reduced costs”

“Choice of machines, Express Dual ‘1000’ or the new multi-featured ‘2000’, with new features as shown – a relief may be ground on the cylinder cutting edge and our heavy gang units can now be positioned on the grinding table by one man”

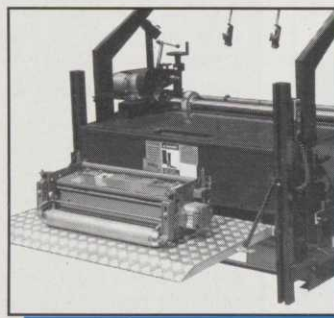


Relief grinding attachment

“Anglemaster the ideal partner for grinding bottom blades – simple set-up makes this the only choice for the job”

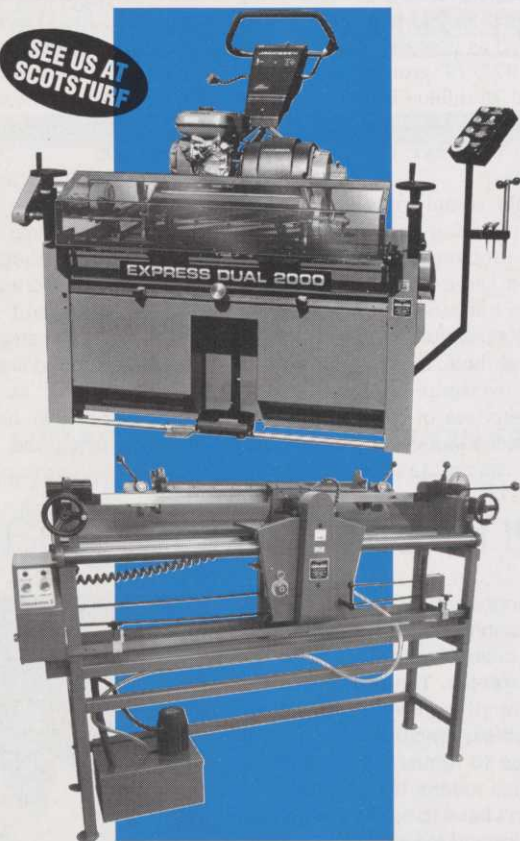
“Costs are reasonable and we’ll be able to keep on top with the grass cutting – the members will benefit and the GREEN ISSUE will be a thing of the past!”

“That’s a unanimous vote in favour I believe – I’ll advise the Greenkeeper to go ahead”



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## Excellence in golf awards at Gleneagles



The Gleneagles Excellence in Golf certificates and bursary awards have been presented to seven Higher National Diploma golf management students following their one year placement at Gleneagles.

Peter Lederer, Gleneagles' Managing Director, and Andrew Sunaway, Sales and Marketing Director of Ransomes the scheme's sponsors, presented the awards in the company of David

McInroy, Scottish Grass Machinery, and Robert McLaren, Chairman of co-sponsor the Greenkeepers Training Committee.

Stuart Green, Reaseheath College, was top student following practical, theoretical and project assessments by a panel consisting of James Kidd, Gleneagles Golf Developments, Martyn Jones, Myerscough College, Dennis Mortram, Reaseheath College, Tracey Samways, Gleneagles' training

officer, and Scott Fenwick, head greenkeeper on the King's course.

Stuart received a cheque to include a trip to the Golf Course Superintendents Association conference and show in Orlando, Florida, next year.

Other recipients of Certificates of Excellence and bursary awards were Jeff Hardcastle, John Kelsey, Keith Ratcliff, Lisa Gifford, Margeir Vilhjalmsson and Simon Crawford.

The 1995/96 scheme is to be extended with students representing nine UK colleges and one from Brisbane, Australia, who for the past year has been seconded to Shoal Creek Golf Club, Alabama.

The sponsors are committed to a three year bursary award and financing a research library at Gleneagles for the benefit of students and existing golf course operational staff.

## Go-Karting is sponsorship for greenkeepers with a difference

New for 1995 is a Greenkeepers' sponsorship with a difference. This month, a six-man karting team, competing in the 250cc class for national honours, will carry the Barenbrug colours.

The Barenbrug/Grass Roots Go-Kart team are getting ready for a winter of competition on their recently-acquired pro-karts, in preparation for a summer of higher profile championship racing.

The upcoming competition events won't be quite as glamorous as the summer championships but they will provide the team with invaluable, practical experience.

The six-man team, pictured, comprises of four golf club Course Managers - Cameron McMillan, Stockley Park; Gavin Kyle, Sutton Green; Phil Chiverton, The Buckinghamshire and Stuart McMillan, Leatherhead; one Managing Director - Jamie Bennett, of Grass Roots, and one Head



Greenkeeper - Tony Kyle, Stockley Park. It is Cameron who has assumed the duties of managing the team and developing it into a cohesive and unbeatable unit!

Selection for the team was determined strictly on racing merit. Those who were fastest

on the single-engine karts were allowed to progress to double-engine, pro-kart trials. All six team members are now holders of pro-kart licences and are currently practising on the two pro-kart machines which the team took delivery of at the end of August.



### If you're not already a member

...it must be because you're not aware of the many benefits of membership.

If you want to know what they are, you need to get hold of a copy of November's issue of *Greenkeeper International*. If you can't wait until then, ring Janet on 01347 838581 for more information.

### BIGGA - IT'S ABOUT YOU

# MEETING



## HAYTER CHALLENGE

### RESULTS

#### Regional Team Prize

1. Scottish 899; 2. Midland 909.5

#### Overall Winner

William Banks (South East) 102

#### Best Gross - 27 holes

Derek McJannett (Northern) 107

#### Category 1 (Handicap 0-9)

1. Alexander Reid (Scottish) 105.5; 2. Derek McJannett (Northern) 107; 3. George Brown (Scottish) 108.

#### Category 2 (Handicap 10-18)

1. Ray Hayden (Eire) 107; 2. Paul Harley (Northern) 107.5; 3. Alan Roberts (Midland) 112.5.

#### Category 3 (Handicap 19-28)

1. William Banks (South East) 102; 2. Ian Dunmore (Midland) 111; 3. David Mowatt (Scottish) 111.5

#### Over 55s

George Brown (Scottish) 108

#### Under 21s

Alexander Reid (Scottish) 105.5

#### Nearest the Pin

Charlie MacDonald (Midland)

#### Longest Drive

Ian Dunmore (Midland)

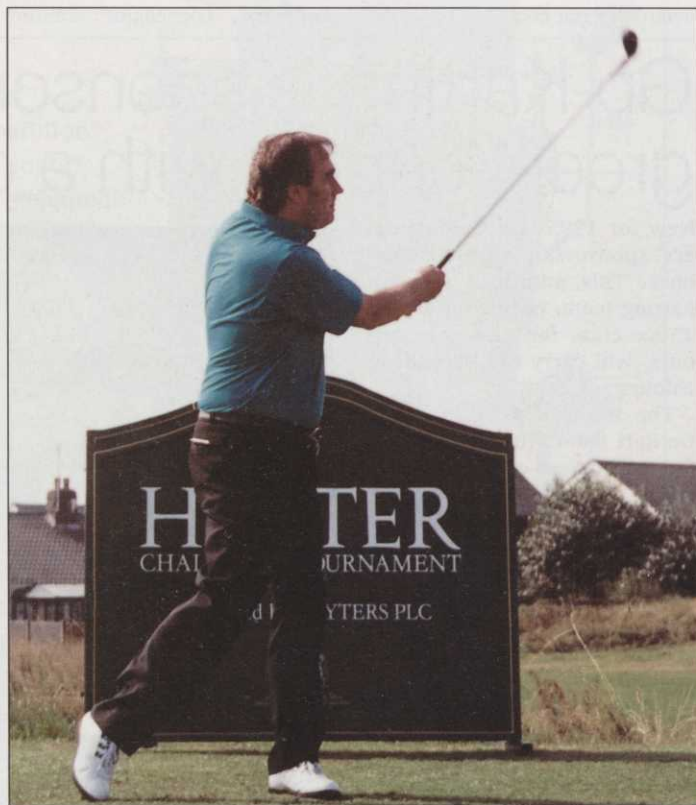
**Perfect conditions greeted the 63 Hayter finalists and, as Scott MacCallum witnessed, they produced golf to match the occasion.**

**T**he Hayter Challenge has a reputation for across the board excellence. The sectional and regional qualifying events bring out the best in those attempting to progress further; the courses used are among the best in the country while the magnificent sponsorship support at every Hayter day is second to none.

All those elements were to the fore at West Lancashire Golf Club for the 1995 Hayter Challenge Final.

The quality of the golf play was superb in all three categories, the course was one of the finest links in the country presented in excellent order and Kim Macfie and his Hayter colleagues were at their hospitable best.

There are some links courses which really do require a bit of wind to add steel to their defences and sharpen their teeth. The most famous links of them all, the Old Course at St Andrews can demand the power of Hercules and the touch of a safe cracker to break 80 if the wind blows but caught on a calm day



**The Palmeresque Kim Macfie swing**

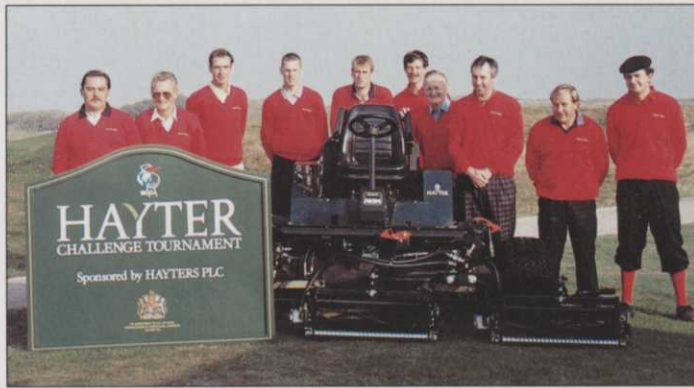
in October by Curtis Strange a few years ago even it gave up a 10 under-par 62.

West Lancashire isn't like that. It's a beast even on a calm day and the finalists should know

because they benefitted from a perfect day practice round and an equally calm competition day, a situation rare – if not unknown – on the north west coast in mid-September. Even at its most



Northern



Midland

# THE CHALLENGE



John Muir, centre, and his West Lincs greenkeeping team

benign birdies were as rare as copies of *The Sun* in nearby Liverpool – it's still banned in much of the city following its coverage of the Hillsborough Disaster.

As always, for every set of unlucky losers there is a multi talented victor and on this occasion it was the team from the Home of Golf which prevailed and broke its duck in the event.

Scotland, captained by BIGGA's answer to Bernard Gallacher, Elliott Small, romped home by over 10 shots with an eight out of nine scores counting 27 hole total of 899. The Midland region edged home second just ahead of

the Northern region.

It was a magnificent effort by the boys in blue whose spirit was epitomised by the performance of the "old man of the team", and adopted Scot, George Brown. Turnberry's finest was "nobbled" the night before the competition and forced to drink vast quantities of the aforementioned spirit by a former colleague. He came out the following morning somewhat sluggishly but by the afternoon was back to his best posting a gross sub-par total for the final nine holes. It was good enough to carry him to the over 55s prize with a score of 108.



Scottish



Eire



Northern Ireland



South West and South Wales



South East

# 'West Lancs tests every club in the bag'

His presence, and ability to come back from an excessively hard night, inspired the younger members of the team, particularly Alexander Reid of Letham Grange who shot a best of the morning nett 68 on his way to clinching the under 21 prize with a score of 105.5.

The quality of the golfer mustered by the teams was exceptionally high with many Category one players headed by Derek McJanett of Sherwood Forest GC who posted a gross one under par total of 107 off a scratch handicap. It brought him the best gross prize six shots ahead of Shaun Richards, the one handicapper who was the gross winner at the National Tournament at St Annes Old Links the previous month.

The top individual prize was



Hayters MD Tony Bourke, back left, with Barry Heaney and category winners William Banks, Alexander Reid and Ray Hayden

claimed by Willie Banks of Herne Bay GC and the South East Region. Willie, who has only recently returned to the game after a lay-off, posted a nett 72 in the morning but struck a purple patch in the afternoon nine holes completing them in a nett 30 shots.

Before a shot was played in anger there was a surprise for Bert Cross, the long time starter of the Finals whose work was recognised with the presentation of a magnificent Starter's Jacket to add a touch of sartorial elegance to the stylish way in which he has always sent players on their way.

Praise for the course was universal and a credit to Head Greenkeeper John Muir and his

team. John has been at West Lancs for 11 years and is reaping the rewards for his hard work.

Working together with his deputy, Mike Norman and the rest of his team of six John recently improved the dog leg left 13th 100% by building mounding to prevent the dog leg being carried from the elevated tee. The area from which the soil used to build the mounding was utilised by a new turf nursery.

An Open qualifying course West Lancs tests every club in the bag and the quality of the condition and presentation is matched only by the layout itself. While links courses in Scotland can have heather protecting their honour and snaring errant shots West Lancs has brambles which are just as effective as their Scottish equivalents at wrapping themselves round a clubhead.

The gala dinner in the spacious

West Lancs' dining room was a splendid affair with an excellent speaker in former Guards Sergeant John Welsh regaling tales from his past and a selection of his finest jokes – some of them repeatable. It was also an opportunity for Kim Macfie to reinforce Hayter's sponsorship of the event and announce a new "Ryder Cup" style event to be launched next year involving greenkeepers from around the world.

The Hayter Challenge Final was an ideal opportunity to display the qualities of the new FM514 Fairway Unit Mower to the assembled greenkeepers.

The midweight machine has five floating heads, a Kubota 35 hp diesel engine, power on-demand four wheel drive, seven or 11 blade cutter 26 inch heads. Cost of the FM514, which was launched in prototype form at Harrogate earlier this year and is now in full time production, is £23,995.

Already it has attracted much interest, including in the USA and Japan and the West Lancashire practice range was the ideal place for finalists to put the new machine through its paces.



George Brown, Course Manager, Turnberry:

"It's extremely manoeuvrable and very fast if required to be so. The steering and traction are also very positive and the fact that it is British is a big plus. I also like the fact that the machine is extremely simple to operate. I'm also pleased to learn that there are grass buckets because it's sometimes important to be able to present your course at its Sunday best."

## Ian Holoran, Foreman, Middlesbrough Municipal Golf Centre:

"An impressive machine.

It has a good turning circle which is great for going around bunkers and winter greens and it certainly scores over gang mowers because of its ability to present the course so well. You sit high up which means visibility is good. I do think the cab should be standard in this country (cab comes as an optional extra at £2,500). It has plenty of power and a good Kubota engine. It's also a UK company so parts back-up should be good and I particularly like the lever to drop the cutting blades which I much prefer to a pedal."

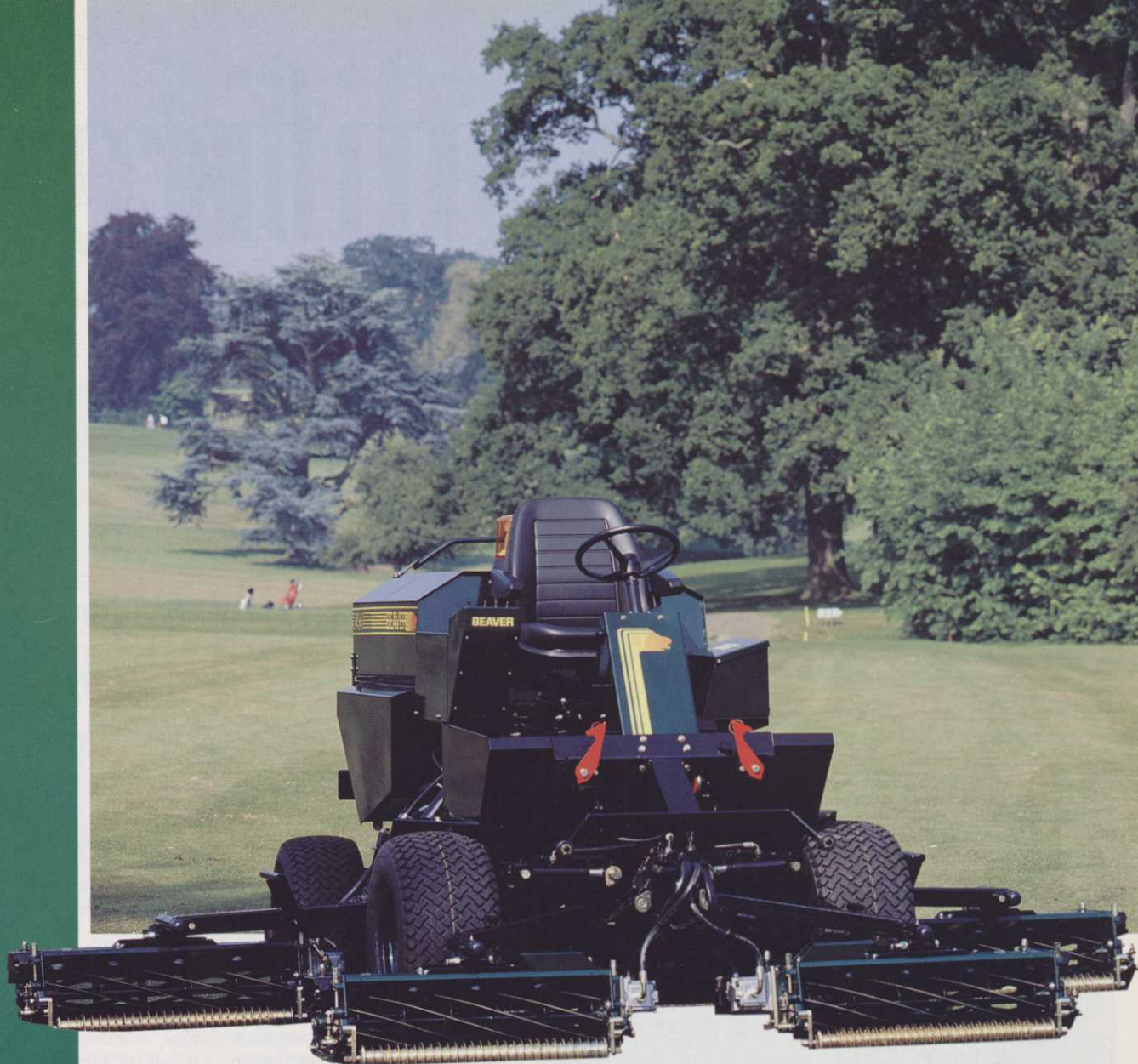


## Buster Lewer, Course Manager, Dainton Park GC:

"It's a super machine. The weight is right and it feels good. It's the lightest machine on the market. The visibility is great and overall I can't really fault the machine.

If there is anything it's that you've got to get out of the machine to move the cutting units up to their vertical position but that only takes a couple of seconds. Using this machine the presentation of the course would be excellent."





## Our greenkeeper.

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Ample power, advanced controls, weight transfer, four-wheel drive and differential lock combine to make this machine your perfect greenkeeper.

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## LETTERS

### Sensible way to tackle winter greens

In reply to September issue's article on winter greens I write in support of Richard Barker's views on the subject.

My experience of heavy land and annual meadow grass greens is to protect them for as long as possible in winter. Theoretically in January, February and March you should play winter greens but a very wet autumn can force greenkeepers onto winter greens earlier. A mild spell can allow full greens back in play but in winter drying out is slow.

Our programme is to go on to winter greens when forced to in December and stay on until mid-March. Any faults must be agreed on at the February green committee meeting and acted on in the last two weeks in March. This is to help plan for next winter.

I agree with the large hole cups and also on the good tee mats. Golfers never agree on anything and have to be led through skilled leadership to winter greens. When the decision is between closure and winter greens they prefer winter greens. Richard is right. He is not too cautious and I fully support him. April can also be a wintry month while May can be cold and dry.

The aim must be for better surfaces in the spring when we return to main greens.

Richard's approach is correct and sensible. Well done and keep it up.

**Bruce Burnell**  
Head Greenkeeper  
Eaglescliffe GC, Co Durham.

### Open thanks

On behalf of St Andrews Links Trust I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all BIGGA members involved with the tournament for their invaluable assistance which was greatly appreciated. Their contribution combined with the efforts of our own greenkeeping staff played no small part in the resounding success of this major event.

**Ian A. Forbes**  
Links Manager  
St Andrews Links Trust

# Magnificent

**Eight finalists have been chosen for the final of the Toro/PGA European Tour Student of the year.**

The interview panel has returned from its far reaching travels and as Loyd Grossman says "deliberated, cogitated and consulted" – or I think that's what he says – and come up with eight finalists for the 1995 edition Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year.

Such was the standard discovered within the 33 entries interviewed over five arduous days that Pete Mansfield, General Manager of Toro Lely UK, Dean Cleaver, Chairman of BIGGA's education sub-committee and Ken Richardson, BIGGA's Education Officer decided to activate the three wild cards they had their disposal to bring the final total up to a maximum of eight.

The finalists will gather at Aldwark Manor on October 8 and 9 where they will again be put under the microscope with the aim of determining the man, for they are all men, who will succeed Euan Grant the 1994 winner.

As is usually the case with something which requires more than the conventional level of effort the rewards for the winner, and indeed the runners-up, more than compensate.

The 1995 Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year will win the Toro Scholarship which includes a six week residential turf management study course at the University of Massachusetts in January/February '96. There will also be visits to the Toro Company headquarters in Minneapolis and the Toro Irrigation Division in California and possibly a visit to the GCSAA Show in Orlando. All expenses will be met by the sponsors.

The two runners-up will join the PGA European Tour at two Volvo Tour venues just prior to and during a tournament and they will be invited to the PGA European Tour's Greenkeeping Conference, held every two years.

The overall winner's senior greenkeeping tutor will also be offered a place on the BIGGA trip to the GCSAA Conference and Show in Orlando, Florida.



#### **MARTIN BOND**

**Representing: Scotland**  
**Age: 35 College: Elmwood.**

A major career change saw Martin move from the stock market to greenkeeping in 1993, when he became 1st assistant at the prestigious London Golf Club where he was involved from the construction, seeding and growing in period right through to the grand opening. It was while at the London Club that he first attended Elmwood when he completed a Scotvec National Certificate in Greenkeeping on block release. He has now decided to return to college full time to study the HND in Golf Course Management.

A keen interest in sport sees Martin, who is married with two children, playing off an impressive 7 handicap and enjoying such other pursuits as skiing, fishing and rugby.

#### **RICHARD MILLS**

**Representing: Northern**  
**Age: 23 College: Askham Bryan**

A 3 handicap golfer who has represented the East Riding of Yorkshire Richard is also a member at the club at which he is an assistant, Ganstead Park. At Ganstead Richard has been involved in the major work which has gone along with extending the course from 9 to 18 holes including planting

3,000 trees and building four large lakes.

Away from the golf course he is also a talented rugby league player playing for Skirlaugh ARLFC and representing Hull Schools.

#### **CHAS CAMPEN**

**Representing: Midland**  
**Age: 28 College: Cambridge College of Agriculture and Horticulture**

Chas has been learning at the feet of the master since he began greenkeeping three years ago as his boss, at Orton Meadows in Peterborough, David Walden, is the current Miracle (Zeneca) Greenkeeper of the Year. David is heavily involved in the training of greenkeepers and he can point to Chas as a star pupil.

Married with two children Chas also has national honours to his name as the 1980 National Junior Model Flying Radio Controlled Plane Champion.

Before entering greenkeeping he worked for a landscaping company for nine years reaching the position of foreman and experience from that career has helped him in his greenkeeping studies.

He also did a year's diesel fitting course at college and learned skills useful in the maintenance of greenkeeping machinery.



# eight head for Aldwark Manor

## STUART ADAMS

Representing: South West and Wales

Age: 19 College: Hartbury

Stuart has been an assistant at the Forest of Dean GC since '93 having worked on a holiday or part-time basis at the golf club since '87. He has completed Level 2 and 3 NVQ Amenity Horticulture/Turf and he is a qualified assessor.

His active sporting interests do not include golf but he is captain of his local darts team, both a Blue belt in judo and a Green belt in karate, and plays for the local football team. He also helps coach the local school team.

## DAVID RAY

Representing: South East

Age: 28 College: Plumpton

The gamble of a career change looks like working out for David who listed on his application form that his achievement was to secure a full time job in a year with no prior experience. That job, at Piltdown GC, Uckfield, helps fund his Level 2 Day Release studies at Plumpton College. Married with two children David has received the full support of his wife in his new career and his full time post comes after a seasonal job at East Sussex National.

Away from work he is a keen golfer and swimmer and also enjoys DIY and reading.

## STEPHEN GRANSBY

Representing: South East

Age: 36 College: Oaklands

Another who has made a career change Stephen worked in the building industry for 15 years but having been made redundant realised "with 30 years of work ahead of me" that he needed a job he looked forward to going to.

Since joining the profession he has worked at Hanbury Manor in Hertfordshire and is currently at Mill Green GC in Welwyn Garden City.

Off the course he is a keen swimmer and interested in the outdoor pursuits of walking and shooting. He is the proud holder of a bravery award, presented to him by Prince Charles, for chasing, catching and holding down a bank robber in North London.

## GERARD McCARTNEY

Representing: Ireland

Age: 33 College: Greenmount

Another late entrant to the profession Gerard has made up for lost time working at Colin Valley GC in Belfast for the last two years before being employed by Greenmount College as a greenkeeper. Married with seven children, stopping after the arrival of a second son, Gerard worked hard on the day to day running and renovation of Colin Valley and now the maintenance of the college sports turf teaching and training areas as well as maintenance of the fleet of machinery.

Off the course he is a voluntary conservation worker and interested in gardening and walking. He is also the current Donegal Celtic Golfing Society Player of the Year off his 14 handicap.

## JAMES BRAITHWAITE

Representing: Northern

Age: 29 College: Askham Bryan

Another who has found his way into greenkeeping via another profession James spent the first seven years of his working life in an Iron Foundry in Darlington achieving the position of Casting Department Superintendent.

When the foundry closed in 1992 he began working as a labourer/greenkeeper on the new course at Hallgarth Hotel and pushed to be sent to college.

James, who is married with two children, played Derbyshire Schools and County cricket until he was 19 and is also interested in golf, football, squash and photography.



Martin Bond



Richard Mills



Chas Campen



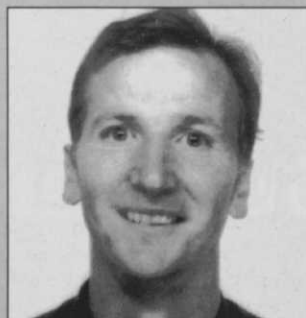
Stuart Adams



David Ray



Stephen Gransby



Gerard McCartney



James Braithwaite

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# Supreme Superlap

HIGH QUALITY LOW BUDGET MAINTENANCE FOR ALL TYPES OF GRASS MOWERS.



### STANDARD FEATURES

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- 2 Variable lapping speed 100rpm up to 200rpm
- 3 Reversible motor for right/left hand drive units.
- 4 Three assorted cylinder drives - customer's choice
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- 6 Universal cylinder drive sleeve.
- 7 12.7mm universal joint.
- 8 1/2kg drum backlapping compound.

S U P R E M E  
M O W I N G

# FRESH FROM SALTEX

**Saltex '95 provided many of the major companies in the industry with an opportunity to unveil new products.**



**Ransomes Bob-Cat**

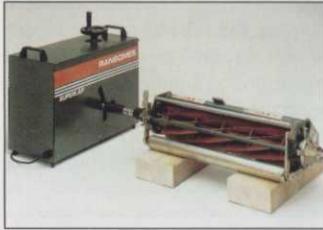
**Ransomes** launched four new products including a portable machine designed to restore keen edges to cutting cylinders from Ransomes company, **Supreme Mowing Ltd.**

The Ransomes T-Plex 213 is an economically priced lighter-duty triplex mower designed for high output cutting or regularly maintained areas. It produces a seven foot cut from three 30 in wide cutting cylinders and being four wheeled it has superb balance and stability. Boasting front wheel drive and rear wheel hydrostatic power steering with the drive to the wheels also fully hydrostatic and a single foot pedal giving infinitely-variable

forward speeds up to 10.6mph.

The Bob-Cat is Ransomes first hydrostatic drive walk-behind rotary mower. A principle feature is the hydrostatic transmission which allows the user to select the ideal ground speed up to 6mph. Two fingertip levers control the drive independently to each wheel for instantaneous forward and reverse, steering and braking. The power-turning facility gives a zero turning radius..

The Cushman Hawk is a four-wheeled, two seater vehicle which comes with the option of electric motor or petrol engine drive. It features a heavy-duty steel frame, all-round suspension and hydraulic brakes.



**The Supreme Superlap provides a portable drive for mower cutting units**

The Supreme Superlap, introduced by Supreme Mowing Ltd is ideal for those wishing to backlap cylinders from mowers which do not have a reverse drive facility on their cutting units and will give a restore a keen edge quickly to blades between major regrinds. The Superlap's electric motor also has a reversible drive to enable left or right hand cutting cylinders to be backlapped.



**Jacobsen's Greens King V**

**Jacobsen** launched its Greens King V which is an up-dated version of its successful original version. The new machine is fitted with a Kubota 19HP engine and new "FlashAttach" reels which can be changed in seconds without the aid of tools and each is left hand drive making them interchangeable. There is also power steering and tilt wheel feature.

**John Deere** unveiled a series of new products at the show.

Among them were Europro



**John Deere's Howard Storey demonstrates the Turfchek I Tool on a golf green**

mid-price lawn tractors, a diesel-engined Gator utility vehicle, 55 HP to 85 HP tractors equipped with turf tyres, 48in rear-discharge mower deck and front loader from lawn and garden tractors, precision tools for checking mower performance and quality of cut and the first public



**Lindum Turf** launched its latest new product Lindum Squayrs.

Made from BAyr Root Washed Turf grown into a Netlon Advanced Turf Rootzone the Squayr can be lifted using a specialist grab and placed accurately into badly worn areas.

The product is the latest to come from the association between Lindum and the Australian company, StrathAyr which has patented both the BAyr Root Washed Turf and the SquAyr systems

## top GRADES

Full marks to Lindum for their ever expanding range of turf grades and specialist services.

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# FRESH FROM SALTEX

showing of the 2653A diesel-engined utility mower.

One of these, Turfchek is used to measure the height of cut in grass as an aid to checking

mower performance and quality of cut. It is placed on the grass and measures from 0.05 in up to 2.5 in using a prism for high levels of accuracy.

**SISIS** launched the Eroll fine turf roller at the show.

Electrically powered to forward and reverse drive the Eroll has its own in-built battery charger

Also launched was the SISIS Rolaspik 180, a tractor mounted sarell type roller with two independently floating hearts to follow ground contours and the SISIS sportsturf drainage machinery comprising a range of specialised compact machines, ideal for in-house operation.

#### **Amenity Technology Ltd**

unveiled its second generation formulation Roots2 concentrate which promotes rapid root growth and regeneration for seedlings and which in US tests has shown a 53% improvement. Among the related new products were NoburN natural wetting agent and soil penetrant which is guaranteed not to scorch and AGRIplex micro-mix which is declared ideal for sand-based greens.

**Etesia's** Diagnostic Unit for the Bahia MBHE ride-on mower scooped the Best New Product Award at the show.

The unit was selected for its ability to save valuable downtime in speedily and easily locating electrical faults.

"Etesia is a very innovative company and this award gives recognition to our advanced and practical approach when developing new mowers," said Patrick Vives, Managing Director of Etesia UK Ltd.

#### **Renault Agriculture**

unveiled its Groundsman range. Available in either two or four wheel drive the new range comprises the three cylinder 52HP Renault 55-12 (2WD) and the 55-14 Groundsman (4WD) and the higher powered four cylinder 67HP Renault 70-12 (2WD) and 70-14 (4WD) Groundsman.

Although small in size both models have an impressive life capacity ranging from 2.5 tonnes for the shorter 55-12/14



**Charterhouse** launched its new Turf Tidy which de-thatches dead and deteriorating turf, helps to bring new life to soil and grass while thatch clippings and sweepings are hoovered up into its 2.5 cubic metre hopper.

## INTRODUCING THE NEW GREENSMASER 3200-D



Groundsman to 2.8 tonnes for the 70-12/14 model.

**Kubota (UK) Ltd** launched its new 14 HP petrol ride-on mower.

The new machine, the T1560 – pictured below – features a special operating platform suspension system to support the operator's deck which combined with the high backed cushioned seat maximises operator comfort.

"The new machine is an innovative step forward for both ride-on mower design and operator comfort," said Brian Hurlley, Vice-President Director of Kubota (UK) Ltd.

It was Brian's final Saltex Show as he will be retiring next June.



**Toro** launched five new machines – four entirely new and one an up-dated version of an existing machine.

The Groundsmaster 3000-D is an out-front rotary which boasts a new design and several new features including a implement-disconnect system which allows the cutting deck to be removed from the power unit within minutes by unlatching a level on both lift arms. With a 35hp Peugeot diesel engine and 12 gallon tank the machine can operate all day on one fill-up.

The Greensmaster 3200-D is the latest model to join the GM 3000 series and claims to have the quietest combustion engine in the industry – an 18hp Perkins diesel. Features include fully floating and steerable cutting units that follow the ground better than anything previously; the rear roller height of cut adjustment; an independent grass box ensures that there is no carrier frame roller influence so height of cut uniformity is ensured and new, easier to empty, grass boxes.

The Reelmaster 2300-D is a



**Toro Greensmaster 3200-D**

dedicated tees mower totally new in design, engine, drive, cutting units and mainframe. It has a new hydraulic-drive reel system with variable reel speed which enables it to work in all kinds of grass and terrain including wet early morning grass. It also incorporates the new Toro L-I-N-K-S cutting unit suspension system and an adjustable spring counterbalance for enhanced ground contour following with no extra down pressure.

The Reelmaster 6500-D also boasts the L-I-N-K-S system and an ACE (Automated Control Electronics) system which automatically adjusts reel speed to mowing speed and can also be programmed to control mowing speed – maximum mowing and transport speeds are 7.5 and 10mph respectively.

The new version of the existing machine is a four wheel drive version of the Toro utility vehicle which joins the Workman 4000 series.

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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*

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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.



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# The worm TURNS

Counting the number of surface casts on the STRI acidification trial using a frame quadrat

**The banning of Chlordane has raised the threat of earthworms causing course closures. The STRI is working on alternative means of combating them. Dr Stephen Baker, Senior Research Officer, reports.**

**E**arthworm control on golf courses has an interesting history. In the 1920s and 1930s earthworm casting was recognised as one of the biggest problems facing golf greenkeepers. Heavy casting brought about problems in wet weather of smeared and slippery fairways and approaches. The profusion of casts made putting surfaces uneven and the expelled soil also formed ideal seedbeds for weed invasion and this contributed to a further reduction in the quality of the playing surface. Indeed it was problems such as this that contributed to the foundation of the Board of Greenkeeping Research (now the Sports Turf Research Institute) in 1929.

Even before the foundation of the Institute there were a number of methods that were recommended for earthworm control. For example the famous Charles Darwin in his book *The Formation of Vegetable Mould Through The Action of Worms* published in 1881 refers to gardeners using lime water to remove earthworms from their lawns.

In the first 30 years of the Institute's history a lot of research effort was devoted to problems of earthworm control. In 1929 the first volume of *The Journal of The Board of Greenkeeping Research* was published and included an article on the use of four materials for earthworm control on golf courses. Methods were described for using perchloride of mercury, mowrah meal (seed residues from an East Indian tree), copper sulphate and mowrah meal plus acetic acid.



Derris dust, which has rotenone as its active ingredient, was also used for earthworm control during this period.

In the 1960s chlordane was introduced and along with materials such as lead arsenate, this gave effective control of earthworm casting for three or four years and sometimes more. However these materials are toxic to many other soil organisms and there were concerns about long term environmental effects because of persistency of these chemicals. Initially lead arsenate for earthworm control was banned and it has been illegal to use chlordane since December 31, 1992.

The wheel has almost turned a full circle and we are rapidly approaching a situation reminiscent of the 1920s and 1930s where the quality of many courses could be substantially affected because of heavy earthworm casting. It has already happened in Germany where the use

of chemical control is even more restricted. After a major tournament there, former Open Champion Tony Jacklin was quoted as saying, "Last year, in Stuttgart, I found a total infestation. It was unbelievable, worm casts everywhere."

#### **EARTHWORM CASTING**

There are about 25 different species of earthworm in Britain but only a small proportion of these are responsible for problems of casting. The culprits are primarily the deeper burrowing species that ingest large quantities of mineral soil, rather than near surface dwelling species which feed on material of high organic matter content. The three main casting species are: *Aporrectodea longa*, *Aporrectodea caliginosa* and *Lumbricus terrestris*. However other species have been recorded as producing surface casts, ie. *Aporrectodea rosea*, *Allolobophora chlorotica* and *Lumbricus rubellus*, particu-

larly in compacted soil condition. Compacted soils have fewer large internal pore spaces in which earthworms can cast therefore they are forced to cast more frequently at the surface. This is of course of relevance to sports areas because of continual trampling that they receive.

In natural grassland, densities of 250-500 earthworms per square metre are not uncommon and in these circumstances around 40-50 tonnes of soil per hectare can be brought to the surface by casting. This is equivalent to a layer of three-four mm of soil per year. In Connecticut, USA, Schread estimated that over two tonnes of soil were cast on the surface of a 465m squared golf green.

#### **CULTURAL CONTROL**

If chlordane and other persistent worm control chemicals are not available, the first control measure that must be considered is the manipulation of soil condi-

# The worm TURNS

tions to ensure that they do not favour heavy earthworm activity. Research on management methods during the 1920s and 1930s indicated that it was possible to modify the soil and turf environment making it less attractive for earthworms. There are two main factors influencing earthworm populations which can be controlled, these being food supply and soil pH. It was shown that the supply of food could be reduced by boxing off mown clippings and using inorganic fertilisers. Observations in the 1930's indicated that heavy dressing of organic fertilisers such as poultry manure, rape or castor meal should be avoided as they were a source of available organic matter. Removing clippings undoubtedly decreases earthworm activity. R.B. Ferro, writing in the 1937 Journal of the Board of Greenkeeping Research, showed that boxing off of clippings on bentgrass turf reduced the rate of casting by 58%. Reduction of thatch by regular aeration and scarification should also further restrict the supply of food.

A reduction in soil pH generally results in a lowering of the earthworm population, as well as encouraging the more desirable bent and fescue grass species. Work by Jefferson given in Figure 1 clearly shows the theoretical response curve of earthworm numbers to soil pH. In particular the important casting species *Apporectodea longa* and *A. caliginosa* known to be intolerant of acid soil conditions.

The use of acidifying fertilisers such as ammonium sulphate or ammonium nitrate will tend to decrease soil pH and hence reduce earthworm activity. Conversely fertilisers such as nitrochalk, sodium nitrate or basic slag induce alkalinity or a neutral reaction and should generally be avoided on sites where excessive earthworm casting is likely to be a problem. Iron sulphate also tends to reduce earthworm casting and in some circumstances sulphur and aluminium sulphate can be used to manipulate soil pH.

Addition of lime will normally

increase earthworm numbers and thus lime-rich top dressing materials should be avoided. The early work by Ferro (1937) showed that rates of casting on plots top dressed with a lime-rich sea sand were almost double that of turf dressed with a lime-free river sand. In general rootzone mixes and top dressing materials should have a calcium carbonate content <0.5% otherwise they can raise pH causing problems with weeds, disease as well as earthworm activity.

## RESEARCH TRIALS

Thanks to financial support from the R&A we have already started a number of trials to start examining methods of earthworm control now that the use of chlordane is illegal. Firstly, we are examining methods of chemical control that can still be used. Three chemicals (carbaryl, carbendazim and gamma-HCH plus thiophanate-methyl) are still approved for use in earthworm control. We are evaluating the effectiveness of these chemicals at three sites and in particular examining the required application frequencies.

Secondly, we are examining acidification techniques. As mentioned above, earthworm activity is strongly influenced by the pH of the soil and for example the over zealous use of lime on golf fairways in the past undoubtedly contributed to problems of casting. Certain earthworm species eg. *Dendrobaena octaedra* and *D. rubida* are tolerant of acid conditions but two of the main casting species *Apporectodea longa* and *A. caliginosa* will not tolerate acid conditions. A pH of about 5.0 represents their lowest tolerance and this can be used as a method of cultural control on golf courses. If the pH gets too low it will obviously affect grass growth but a balance with a slightly acid soil which permits the healthy survival of the finer turf grasses but decreases earthworm activity is an advantage. To this extent we are examining the use of sulphur and aluminium sulphate to modify the pH of fairway soils looking at both application rates and application

frequency. For example two applications of sulphur and aluminium sulphate at the highest rates in the trial in autumn 1993 and spring 1994 brought the surface pH down from 5.8 to 4.5 and casting rates from October to December 1994 were typically only 25% of those of untreated plots. However care has to be taken on application rates because of problem of scorch and weakened grass growth so further work is still required on this trial.

A second trial is examining surface acidification by iron sulphate, in particular its application frequency and interaction with carbaryl, carbendazim and gamma-HCH plus thiophanate methyl.

## EXPELLANT MATERIALS

In the past expellant materials, eg. Mowrah meal and potassium permanganate were used, being applied to turf and thoroughly watered in. The material acted as an irritant causing the earthworms to rise to the surface where they could be brushed into piles and remove by wheelbarrow. If future legislation on earthworm control becomes even more stringent we may be forced into adopting these time consuming

and undoubtedly messy procedures. We have thus started some preliminary investigations of expellent techniques using potassium permanganate, formaldehyde, mustard and even vindaloo curry powder, but contrary to some press reports, we are still a long way from the stage of recommending a visit to the local Indian take-away as a source of worm control materials!

## REMEMBER THE ADVANTAGES OF EARTHWORMS

On areas other than greens, earthworms have many advantages most notably with respect to the development of soil structure, soil fertility and the breakdown of organic matter. If a decision is made to control earthworm activity, careful thought should take place beforehand to ensure that the advantages of reduced casting outweighs the potential disadvantages of structural deterioration and thatch development. Nevertheless heavy rates of casting bring problems to the greenkeeper and golfer alike and it is hoped that this research will lead to more environmentally acceptable methods to reduce the casting problem.

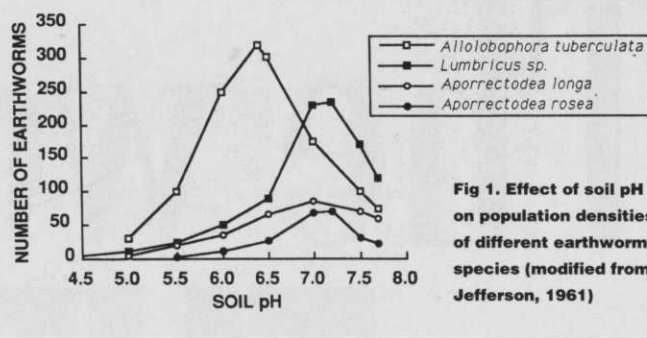


Fig 1. Effect of soil pH on population densities of different earthworm species (modified from Jefferson, 1961)

What's the *Best* thing about being a Greenkeeper?

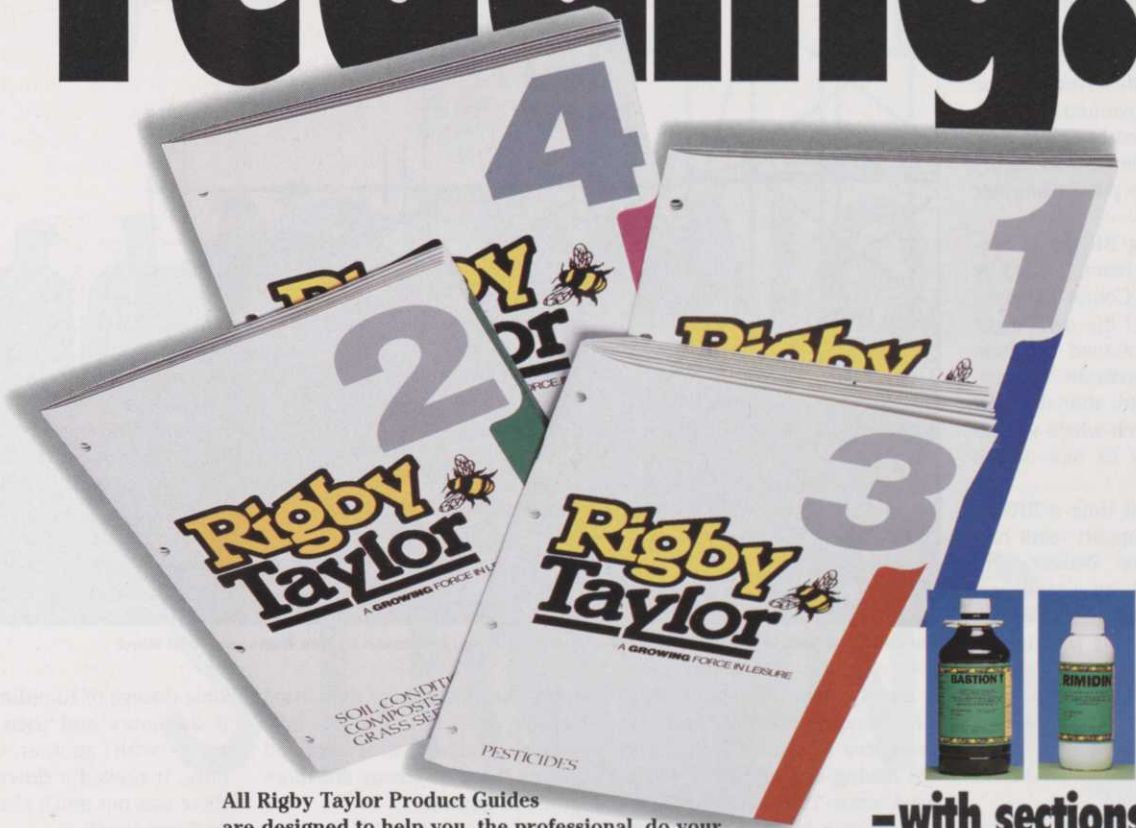
Shaun Richards...

"If you've got a love of the game it's great to be involved working in it. Also seeing the fruits of your labours coming together when competitions are played on your course."





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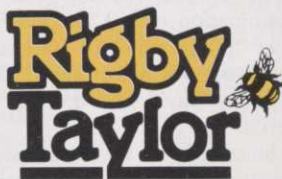
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AD REF 127

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Scott MacCallum reports from the Walker Cup at Royal Porthcawl on a historic victory and a wonderful BIGGA team.

At the end of the 1995 Walker Cup the scenes of euphoria and joy were so overwhelming they could not be diluted by the rain which had fallen incessantly for the entire second day of the match.

Who could blame the huge crowds which had flocked to the south coast of Wales and the magnificent links of Royal Porthcawl, to witness only the fourth victory by a Great Britain and Ireland team – and the biggest ever winning margin of 14-10 – in the 35 matches which had been played.

Clive Brown's team of 10 good men and true deserved all the adulation for a wonderful effort but there was another team, less well heralded but no less highly regarded, which put in another superb effort.

The 20 strong BIGGA Greenkeeping Support team, headed by Royal Porthcawl Course Manager David Ward and his own eight man team, guaranteed a course fit for such an occasion and was on hand to ensure that the rain didn't ruin a match which will go down in history as one of the finest.

It was the first time a BIGGA Greenkeeping Support team had operated at the Walker Cup although it has been a vital part of The Open Championship since 1986 and such was the impact made it would seem set to become a similarly important element of the biannual amateur match between Great Britain and Ireland and the USA when it is on this side of the pond.

The ultimate triumph of the whole occasion must have felt a million miles away for David, though, when disaster struck the course a month before the start.

#### Take All Patch on greens



# Magnificent team effort



The BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team, headed by Royal Porthcawl Course Manager David Ward

David, who became Head Greenkeeper in 1990 and was promoted to Course Manager in '93 having been at Royal Porthcawl since 1988, arrived at the course on a Monday morning to discover Take All Patch spreading over his greens like wildfire.

"In the dry spell we were forced into using our bore hole to

water the greens more than usual and the water from the bore hole is more alkaline than is ideal and means that the greens are more prone to disease.

"It was a Catch 22 situation either don't water the greens and have them burn up or water them and risk disease," he said.

We used the maximum permis-

sible dosage of Rimidin once, left it 24 hours and then hit them again with another maximum dose. It slowed it down a bit but there was not much else we could do," said David.

Fortunately the greens were of such quality that the Take All, although doing nothing for their appearance, did not affect their playability.

"They putted well, at around 10 on the stimpmeter, and the R&A and both teams said they were perfectly happy with them," added David.

Ironically just over a week later the greens were beginning to return to normal.

The Walker Cup had seen the culmination of a £200,000 five year programme of intensive work on Royal Porthcawl Golf Club by David and his staff of seven.

Since 1990 all 96 bunkers were revetted, the irrigation system upgraded, the greenkeeping sheds relocated, the 12th and 13th tees re-sited to lengthen the holes while several other existing tees

# 1 YEARS ON



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**BIGGA GOLDEN KEY CIRCLE**

AD REF 59

**FOR A TOP PERFORMANCE, USE THE TOP PERFORMER. ROVRAL GREEN.**

# Magnificent team effort

have been rebuilt and a new practice range purchased and developed.

"R&A Agronomist David Stansfield said that we had effectively completed a 20 year programme in five years," said David.

In addition to the programmed work the 2nd green had to be rebuilt in '91 after it was lost through flooding in a storm.

Royal Porthcawl is one of the finest links in the country and a worthy site for one of the foremost international golf matches, professional or amateur.

In the Walker Cup programme, Peter Corrigan, enthused about the view from Royal Porthcawl across the bay to Swansea. Peter, a Welsh golf writer who should know about these things, said, "The arrival of the Walker Cup to our treasured course will ensure that thousands will be sharing that view with us – unless it is raining in which case you'll have to take our word for it."

Prophetic words indeed because although the weather on the first day was ideal with sun and a light breeze the second day had latter day Noahs rolling up their sleeves and digging out their tool boxes.

It was then that the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support team showed its true worth. Gathered from clubs in the immediate area – with others from Hereford,



A rare sight: Sun on the opening day

Birmingham and two from America, Ed Walsh, from New Jersey and Peter Cassidy (allowed on the team only if they didn't cheer for the opposition!) – the team was able to adapt to the additional work brought about by the conditions. While conventional weather saw two bunker rakers accompanying each morning foursomes match and one with each of the eight afternoon singles the torrential rain called for squeegy operators to walk with each match and a scout, Paul Rosser,



What's the *Best* thing about being a Greenkeeper?

Bob Lupton...

*"I enjoy presenting the course for the members and building it up to a peak for a specific occasion. There is a certain amount of satisfaction seeing the benefit of all the hard work."*



to walk ahead of the matches.

In the main the course continued to play well and survived the onslaught from above and the squeegy team was not called into action until the final match of the day to go the distance reached the 18th green and a huge puddle had to be forceably removed to the cheers of the galleries before the approach shots could be played. By that time, however the Cup had been won

and celebrations were well under way.

"I was delighted with the professional way our members worked and I know the work was appreciated by the organisers and especially the players. I also received a visit from Royal Porthcawl's Chairman of Green who asked my to pass on his thanks to the team," said Peter Lacey, the local section secretary who co-ordinated the team.

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# BOURNE AMENITY

# Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

## West of Scotland

Winter is coming and everybody will be busy hollow coring, verti draining and topdressing after the summer, in readiness for winter rain. The nights draw in faster and members can start to relax, or so they say. The social events are nearly ready for notification, but two events require special mention.

The AGM is arranged for 14th November and a letter will soon be on its way with time and venue. A good turnout is required for a change, if only to let the committee know what is needed by the membership. So please come along and support your committee.

The second event is the Annual dinner, with a special speaker, comedian Gary Davis. The night should prove a great success with such a well known television comedian entertaining members. Don't miss the night and get your tickets early as only a limited number will be available at the special price of £12.50. The date is 24th November at the Admiral Bar, Glasgow, with a meal included, what great value.

Football, the five-a-side tournament response has been very poor with only five teams entering so far. Another seven teams required for the Round Robin competition. The format would be four sets of three teams playing round robin, then semi finals, and final all in one night, so better get fit lads (remember its only for fun). Entries close at the end of October, with a view to playing some time in November. If you have five members interested, they don't need to be at the same club, then phone 0141 942 5554 at any time and leave a message.

Welcome to some new section members Andrew Wilson, and Alec Glaeham both of Cameron House Hotel, Ross McLeish (Eastwood GC) and Duncan Farrell. A warm welcome is extended and we look forward to seeing you at the various social occasions. Remember and notify me at the afore mentioned number if you have any interesting information.

S Taylor

## Mid Anglia

Our annual match against the Midland Section took place on August 3rd at Letchworth GC. After missing out last year, it was nice to renew ties with the Midland team, in what was a very closely contested match, on a very hot day. Our team came out on top 6.5 - 5.5 and we retained the Ashfield Toro Trophy. Thanks to all members who turned out, to Ronan for organising the event, and to Letchworth GC for allowing the event to take place.

Members of our section also had some success in the National Tournament held recently at St Annes Old Links. Robert Pearce, Mark Ellis and Mark Whittle won the Jubilee Cup together for the best team score of 661 over 54 holes. Robert also came 3rd in the Nett. (15-28) handicap competition with a score of 214. Well done lads, it was nice to see some familiar faces in last month's magazine holding trophies up!

Our Autumn Tournament is being held this month on the

26th at Brocket Hall, followed by the section's AGM. Closing date for entries is October 5th. Finally I would like to welcome the following new members to the section; W. Spencer, Briggens House GC; T. Cook, Beds & County GC; J. Winterbottom, Aspley Guise and Woburn Sands GC; S. Nightingale, Pavenham Park GC; M. Oakey, Pavenham Park GC; J. Stanley, Met Police Sports Club; L. Welford, Aylesbury Vale GC and M. Boshier, Kingsway Golf Centre.

Paul Lockett

## South West

There have been mixed fortunes for Section members throughout a summer season now firmly registered in the history books as one of the hottest.

On a happier side, it has been a good golfing season for Shaun Richards from Taunton & Pickeridge GC who not only won the Hayter Regional Final at Carmarthen GC by coming first in Category 1 but then won the Hardi Amenity Sprayers Trophy for Best Gross for 54 holes with a score of 222. By the time this report reaches you he will also have competed in the Hayter National Final where hopefully he will have achieved further success.

Events this year however, have not been so fortunate for Derek Eves now formerly of Painswick GC. After 17.5 years as Club Steward including the last seven in a dual role with that of Course Supervisor. Derek was dismissed from the club after failing to agree to what he viewed to be unreasonable contract changes. At a subsequent industrial tribunal where he claimed unfair dismissal, Derek funded his own costs and accepted a financial settlement after half of the first day's hearing. The moral of this unfortunate story has to be - What price loyalty? On behalf of the Section we wish Derek every success in finding future employment.

This year's Regional Seminar will be held at Cannington College on 29th November. Barenbrug is sponsor of the event with speakers including Dr Anne-Marie Brennan, Ecology Advisor to the English Golf Union and John Linneker, Manager of the Royal North Devon GC. Good attendance from members has graced this educational day over previous years and your presence this year will help to continue the trend.

Congratulations to Robin Greaves of Thornbury Golf Centre who is the Section nomination for the Premier Greenkeeper of the Year Competition sponsored by Miracle Professional. Robin now takes part in the Regional Final with the winner participating in the National Final at the end of the year.

As part of their ongoing educational programme, Headquarters and particularly Education Officer Ken Richardson has arranged some Management Courses at Section level this winter. See Education Update on Page 33. A venue and date are yet to be agreed but will be advertised on finalisation.

To conclude, I wish you a successful autumn renovation period to put right what has been an extremely stressful five months for your courses, and yourselves the people

employed to maintain them.  
Kevin Green

## Surrey

Looking back to August 3rd the McMillan Tankard was played at Sunningdale GC as usual there were maximum entries for this our most popular event. It was encouraging to see a lot of new faces present we hope this will be a regular thing in the remainder of the year's events as your support to such events is critical for their continuing existence as poor response in the past has led to cancellation, so please support all your sections events if possible as an awful lot of hard work and time goes into their organisation so don't make the McMillan Tankard and Sunningdale the only event you enter this year. All the courses we play over the course of the year are equally as good in their own way as well as the company you are likely to be in on the day. Results: 1st - Jim Russell (Lingfield Park GC), 2nd - Kevin Humphreys (Cromham Hurst GC), 3rd - Mark Todd (Lingfield Park GC) all scored 36 points so the results were decided on a count back.

Thanks go to Sunningdale GC and the Artisans Section for accommodating us, to Jack McMillan for supplying the Tankard and to Lawson Bingham for as usual turning out the Course to its usual high standard, and Ron Jobson for doing the cards - thanks to you all.

Use of membership cards, please abide by the courtesy rules on the reverse of your membership cards as this will avoid disappointment upon visiting other clubs for a round of Golf and also shows good manners of which shouldn't spoil things for others in the future.

Tickets are now available for the Surrey Section Dinner Dance on November 10th to be held at Reigate Manor Hotel, tickets are priced at £18.00 and can be purchased from any of your committee members.

Venues for tournaments for the coming year and 1997 are still required so if you wish to host a BIGGA event please contact Derek Walder on 01737 246088.

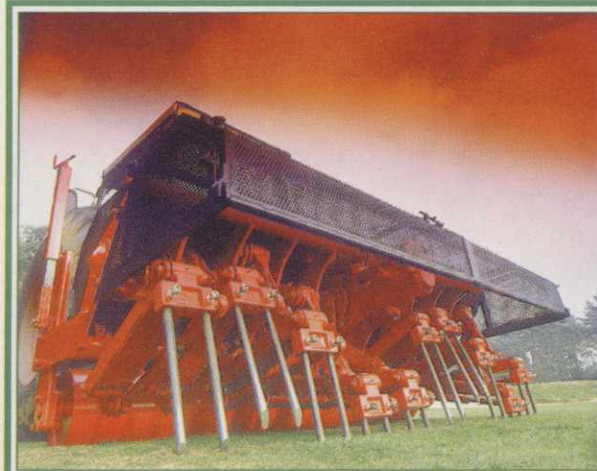
The first of our winter lectures has now been organised for November 13th where Gordon Jaaback has agreed to give us a talk at Kingswood G&CC 7-7.30pm.

Forthcoming events include the Autumn Tournament, October 12th Home Park GC 27 Holes Ploughmans/evening meal £22.00, the Turkey Trot December 6th Effingham GC followed by the AGM.

Derek Walder

## Berks, Bucks & Oxon

There are two golfing events forthcoming the first is the Autumn Invitation to be played at Hadden Hill near Didcot on the 9th October. This event has proved very popular in the past so I hope to see a large turnout on the day. The second is the Rigby Taylor knockout competition, this is a fourball event which is going to run through the winter months. The first names out of the hat will receive home advantage



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(bribes welcome!), throughout the rounds up to the final which will be played on a neutral course to be decided at a later date.

Any member who has not received an entry form for the above events please contact me by phone immediately. I could do with some input from section members to help fill in these articles when news is quiet, so if you have anything to contribute to the articles I would appreciate it, ie. People on the move, births etc. Finally I think its about time we had another football match between the three counties so if you are interested then give me a call and we will organise an evening soon (don't be put off by the injuries to a few last time).

Lindsay Anderson

### Northern Section

As you are probably aware August has been a very busy month for some of our section starting with the National Tournament. Our section team did very well but just got pipped into second place. I would like to thank those members of our section who took part and hope they enjoyed the three days as much as I did.

The next event was the Roses Match held at West Bowling GC. Yet another scorching hot day but our lads, now accustomed to the heat, did the business and won back the trophy from the Lancashire team. Many thanks to Ben, the Head Greenkeeper, and his team for the superb presentation of the course and all the hard work put in on the day. Thanks also to the caterers and to Patissons for sponsoring our event once again.

Invitation Day was next on the agenda. The tournament took place at Oakdale GC, Harrogate. As we passed through Leeds we experienced some unusual weather, torrential rain. "Wet weather gear" we thought, but as we approached Harrogate the sun came out and another hot day was in store. The course was in super condition and we all looked forward to the day ahead. The day went very well and the standard of golf was excellent, reflected by some of the scores that came in. The winners were as follows:- 1st - J. Baxter & Partner,

2nd - S. Dalton & Partner, 3rd - D. Storey & Partner, 4th - M. Hannan & Partner, 5th - K. Purdy & Partner, 6th - R. Smith & Partner, 7th - J. Waite & Partner, 8th - A. Baxter & Partner, 9th - M. Cordingley & Partner, 10th - S. Payne & Partner. The trade prize was won by N. Schofield & Partner, nearest the pin was won by S. Dalton.

Many thanks to Oakdale GC for allowing us to hold our tournament there and to the Head Greenkeeper and staff for all their hard work. The food was superb, thanks to the caterers and thank you very much to Yorkshire Mowers for sponsoring the event once again.

Any members wishing to take part in the Autumn tournament at Easingwold GC on 25th October please contact me asap as numbers are limited.

Marcus Cordingley

### East of Scotland

Welcome to this month's report, I hope you have now started to get over the drought. Looking at the courses around Edinburgh everybody is suffering even with automatic systems, but the rains have arrived in the last few days and things have started to green up again so all the prayers have been answered. (roll on winter).

Well we had our annual Willie Woods Memorial Tournament at Kingsknowe GC on 30th August and what a great day it was, with 20 teams competing for the silverware. The format is a fourball with a greenkeeper and a committee member of your club in each pairing. Thanks to the Captain and Council of Kingsknowe for courtesy of the course also to

Steve Dixon and staff for the condition of the course (considering the dry spell we have just gone through), and last but not least Huxleys Grass Machinery the sponsor for the day, many thanks to them for providing lunch and the magnificent crystal on the prize table. Also to the sponsors of the sponsored holes, many thanks. Results: 1st - A Holmes/J Stevens - Seahouses 68/11.5/56.5, 2nd - S Dixon/D Hastings - Kingsknowe 70/10.5/59.5, 3rd - G Stavert/G Davidson - Peebles 77/17/60.

Tickets for the annual dance at the Kilsplindie House Hotel on December second are selling fast so if you want to be there be quick and don't miss out for the night of the year, give Robert Hogarth a call also send back your forms with the money for the tickets.

Friday October 20th there is a skittles night at the Right Wing, Willowbrae Road, Edinburgh from 7.00 - 11.30, price £4.50 with basket supper included, so give myself, Chris Yeaman, or Robert Hogarth a call asap with numbers and names. We have a menu to choose from so ask when you phone as we have to let the venue know what everybody wants four days in advance.

The 100 Club has been withdrawn due to lack of interest from the members of this section. So if you have any comments give us a call because everything we try fails unless it is a golf tournament. So what is happening to this section? The committee is working hard on your behalf, but you are not supporting us. Everybody that sent money/cheques etc; (all eight of you) will receive them back shortly. Sorry, but what can we do?

We are starting to finalise winter lectures so details will be in your hands soon. (Winter already!)

Well that is about all for this month but I would welcome anything from members so I can put more into these reports. So come on give me a call on 01875 870485 or drop me a note about anything, that includes other sections like football matches as the champs of the East are ready and waiting, so come on let's hear from you.

The Autumn Tournament results from Prestonfield GC will all be in next month's report, so keep an eye out.

So that's it for October see you in November. Your roving reporter.

(P.S. Stuart Greenwood - Hope the ankle's on the mend and we see you at the Hirsell GC, to take on the lads from the North-East of England Section this month and we hope it hasn't affected the right arm!)

Chris Yeaman

### Devon & Cornwall

With the nights now well and truly drawing in our thoughts turn to winter meetings which start only days away on Wednesday 25th October at St Mellion with golf being played over the course that Jack built, non golfing members will have their usual guided tour of the course and after lunch retiring Head Greenkeeper, Roy Battishill, will be speaking on his management of the complex. If you haven't booked yet you could be too late as golfing numbers are limited.

Our November meeting will once again be the section's AGM meeting which this year will be held at The Manor House Hotel and Golf Complex, Moretonhampstead on Wednesday 22nd November, as usual the mornings four-some competition will be for the Toro trophy with prizes being kindly donated by Devon Garden Machinery & Lely, non playing members will have the usual guided tour of the course during the morning, with the AGM following lunch.

As usual our Region will be holding a Seminar at Cannington College on Wednesday 29th November, also on the regional scene a reminder that the region has again organised a trip to the 1996 BTME held in Harrogate with the coach

leaving our area on Tuesday 23rd January and returning on Friday 26th January. Included in the price: three nights B&B with entry to the exhibition and all seminars for the cost of only £99, if you haven't booked your place yet for either the seminar or the BTME trip contact Gordon Child on 01803 844056.

Richard Whyman

### London

Our autumn tournament was held this year at Arkley GC in August and as usual the attendance was very good. The course was in excellent condition and as the first players approached the tee it started to rain. Everyone wished the rain would continue as we all needed it desperately, but the rain soon stopped as I took my umbrella out of the car, so you can all blame me! The first three players all tied on 35 points and the result was decided on the back nine scores for the three players. The result was as follows: 1. Ronan McKeeown with 20 points, 2. Edward Dickinson with 19 points, 3. John Jackson with 18 points. The guest prize was won by the club Captain, Duncan Munro with 31 points and I would like to thank Duncan for presenting the prizes and also for making us all feel so welcome. The longest drive was won by Ronan and the nearest the pin prize went to David Wall. I would like to thank the trade for all its support and once again a special thank you to Arkley GC for its hospitality.

A Dunstan

### East of England

The first match between East of England and East Midland Greenkeepers for the Toro Shield was played at Market Harborough GC. The outcome saw EOE take the shield home with a 3-2 victory over our neighbours. A close match with the outcome being decided by the last pair going down the 19th. EOE pair John Scotney and Phil Wilkinson winning 1 up to secure the win. Other EOE scores were: Captain G A Macdonald/M Wood won 1 up, K Hodges/P Wright won 2/1, I Ross/F Cobb lost 1 down, P Down/D Welberry lost 4/3, J Scotney/P Wilkinson won 1 up (19th). Three games to two. Thanks to Market Harborough for courtesy and a great conditioned course. The food was excellent and thanks to Jim Carr of Chandlers of Grantham for sponsoring the event.

Our summer meeting saw EOE visit Carholme GC, Lincoln, for the Rigby Taylor Cup. The walk away winner was James Birkett 41 points. (Handicap adjustment Kev). Nigel Marshall broke his duck of never winning a prize and was second on 38 points. The rest of the scores were: 3rd Simon Piggot - 37 points c/b, 4th Ian Ross - 37 points, 5th Fred Cobb - 36 points, 6th Ian Morton - 36 points. Guest prize - P Wilkinson. Thanks to Carholme for courtesy and Ian Morton for organising the day in my absence. A special thanks to Stuart Jeffs of Rigby Taylors for the usual excellent prize table and the other sponsors.

Two events to go, Spalding - 28th September and match versus Secretaries Association at Sleaford on the 12th October. AGM in November and the EOE Education Conference at Kenwick Park. All for now.

G A MacDonald

### Midland

Where has all that lovely sunshine gone! It's hard to remember what the temperature was like all those weeks ago.

The summer tournament was a sizzler. The temperatures were in the 80's by the afternoon, with 47 players finding the course easier than its reputation due to some of the water hazards drying up, allowing players to play from the muddy areas. One such player had bad luck and turned into a mud monster, due to playing a very thick wedge. Better luck next

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Comment From Walter Woods  
St. Andrews Links Golf Course supervisor

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time. Drinks were most welcome by the half way stage, our thanks to John Hammond (Batgate Sand). We would like to thank Ivan Toon (A.L.S.), for the wine with the meal, Bridge-stone for the prize and all the people concerned at the Warwickshire for making the day a great success.

The results were as follows:- 1st Gross - M Hughes - 106.5, 1st Nett - A Roberts - 106.5, 2nd Nett - R Thomas - 110.5 back 9, 3rd Nett - J Wood - 110.5, 4th Nett - P Loffman - 111, 5th Nett - T Evans - 111 back 9, 6th Nett - M Cutler - 112, 7th Nett - S McDade - 113, 8th Nett - M Jones - 113. The trade prize was won by Tim Webb - Tacit 106.

It was nice to see so many friendly faces at Saltex, I enjoyed my day immensely, but I found I would really need to make my Capital Budget four times larger than it is!

I hope to see you at the Regional Seminar on the 29th November 1995. Details will be sent through the post. If members would like a coach to be provided to take them to the Seminar, please could they contact myself as soon as possible. If enough are interested it may be possible.

Will you please note that the next golf tournament is a Worfield GC on the 7th December 1995. The closing date is the 6th November. All monies and entrance sheets must be with R. Thomas by the 6th November, as late entries will not be accepted. Also, will you all provide a prize to the value of £5.00 or more, so that everyone can win.

The AGM will be held at 5.30pm at Worfield GC. Any non golfers wishing to attend are most welcome, and could attend the evening meal, the cost to be advised.

Kim Blake

### Cleveland

Ian Pemberton, Head Greenkeeper at Bedale GC, has a new baby son named Samuel James. Congratulations.

Future events - 19th October Norman Sheddon on Fertilisers, 16th November Gerald Brady of Rhone-Poulenc on food additives also our Annual General Meeting, 20th December Quiz vs Institute of Groundsmanship (sponsors Turf Care of Consett). Quiz at Mount Oswald GC, Durham City. 18th January 1996 Chris Peel of ADAS. All meetings at Houghton GC, Darlington at 7.30pm.

Congratulations to David Cook Assistant Greenkeeper at Eaglescliffe GC, on passing Phase 4 Management Course at Askham Bryan College.

Bruce Burnell

### Scotland North

Well what a summer that was, long hot sunny days, no rain and water restrictions even in the Highlands! Unfortunately those without watering systems or inadequate ones would have had a torrid time trying to keep their courses good in very difficult conditions, I just hope members were patient and appreciated the circumstances that their green staff were under. I have worked at Tain for 19 years and cannot remember a summer like it. In fact older members at the club cannot remember one either. Someone once said that the weather has a way of equalising itself out so be prepared for a long cold winter!

No new members to report this month but there is a drive on from Headquarters to try and recruit past members back into the Association. Letters have been sent to them with a questionnaire for them to fill in giving reason for not rejoining to try and find out if we can improve things and get them back into the fold. Anyone who knows someone who falls into this category could help things by speaking to them and trying to persuade them to rejoin, the more members we have the better to help the Association go from strength to strength. Leading this recruitment drive is our Membership Services Officer Janet Adamson who joined us back in mid August and we hope has settled in now.

Retired member Donny Dingwall from Strathpeffer is still swinging well as I hear he holed in one at the Strath recently.

The Annual Patrons awards will be announced shortly and two lucky Section members will receive £200 grants for educational purposes. They could use it to go to Harrogate on the Regions bus trip. The cost this time will be £132.50 to include travel, B&B accommodation, and entry to all seminars, a ticket for the banquet (recommended) is an optional extra. The slight increase this year is because it was felt better to go to a slightly better hotel, Grants Hotel being booked this January. Going by last year's trip early booking would be advisable.

This month sees the Kubota Challenge at The Belfry and your's truly, as Scottish Champion, will be a part of the BIGGA team, I hope to play well and bring the trophy back to Aldwark Manor once more.

Iain Macleod

### North Wales

The following Greenkeepers are on the move: Dave Proctor from Baron Hill is going to Stoneys Benelch GC, Geoffrey

# Around the Green



Whalley from Sandiway is going to Moberly GC. Steve Edwards from Llanfairfechan is going to Baron Hill and Richard Walker from Mile End is going to Royal Liverpool and into the capable hands of Derek Green. We wish them Good Luck for the future. Our congratulations, although we will require a blood test, go to Haydn Jones of Chirk GC whose wife had a little girl and Noel Hynes of Northop Country Club whose wife had a little boy. Both babies were born in August and it is quite obvious to me that far too much celebrating is going on at our Christmas get together. All members who participate are asked to take the necessary precautions.

Congratulations must also go to one of my staff, Andrew Gwilliam, who passed his level 2 at Northop College and who I am sure is eager to go on to the next stage.

A last reminder now of our Autumn meeting at Chirk GC on the 11th October, anybody who is not participating and who wishes to come will be made very welcome. Everything is organised and George and his staff are doing a tremendous job. It is showing all the signs of a good day out.

Our Christmas meeting will be at Prestatyn GC in December and more news should follow in the November issue. Also our AGM will be taking place after the presentation. Forms will be sent to anybody wishing to sit on the committee next year. See you all soon.

T P Evans

### North West

I must apologise for not having any section notes in the last month's magazine, this was due to being too busy with jobs at home, involvement with The Open, and the National Tournament at St Annes Old Links. In any case no news was received so nothing to write about.

With regards to the National Tournament, I would like to say a few thanks to the people who helped to make the tournament a success. Firstly, many thanks to St Annes Old Links for allowing the tournament to be played on their course at short notice, and for making us so welcome. Thanks to Peter Ray, the Secretary, for being so patient with us. Thanks to Geoff Whittle and his staff for the excellent condition of the course, especially during the difficult conditions greenkeepers have had to endure this summer, (although I would like to suggest that the pot hole bunker front right of the first green is filled in - for personal reasons). Many thanks also to the Miracle Professional boys, Clive Heginbotham, Richard Minton, and Roger Mossop, for their help and sponsorship for the tournament. Thanks to Mike Sheehan for his help with the score cards, and I would like to thank Tom, the club Steward, for his help, especially for the Lancashire evening which was very entertaining, with an excellent group and even better food. Finally I would like to thank the competitors who made it all worth while.

The results of this year's team matches for the N/W are N/W vs N/Wales. (Win for the N/W). N/W vs GC Stewards. (Halved match). N/W vs Northern Section. (Win for Northern Section). The game against the Northern Section was poorly attended with a team of 16 required and only 13 turned up, in future if you are down to play and you find you cannot make it, ring me in plenty of time so that a reserve can play. It can be very frustrating waiting for players who do not turn up, and very unfair on those who do.

I have received a letter from Nigel Potter informing me that his wife Pauline gave birth to a baby girl called Olivia on 22 July, who weighed in at 6lb 14oz, a sister for Jamie. Best wishes to you all. Nigel goes on to tell me that he has just attended a GTC/NVQ, awareness day at Askham Bryan College, and is now doing the D32/D33 greenkeeper assessors training. More greenkeepers are required to train as assessors, and if you are interested please give me a ring (0151 724 5412), and I will advise you on who to contact.

Finally the North West section AGM will be held on Thursday 12th October at West Derby GC, Yew Tree Lane, Liverpool, commencing at 7.30pm, with a talk by Clive Heginbotham of Miracle Amenity Care. Please make every effort to attend.

Bert Cross

### South Wales

The annual match verses the GC Secretaries was held, as always, at the Southerndown GC during August and the course was in excellent condition thanks to Gary Johnston and his staff.

The Greenkeepers had a team of 22 - their largest for good number of years and a marvellous achievement after last year's dismal turnout, and it was good to see new members Mark Doyle and Ray Everson turning out for the first time. We hope to see them and others more often.

Adrian Panks, our team Captain, collected the Shield from the Secretaries' team Captain Alan Jefford after a convincing win by seven games to two.

This year we tried a running buffet, perhaps a bit of a shock for those expecting the renowned Southerndown gammon steak, but nevertheless a success and a little more appropriate because of the hot weather. Our thanks to Jan Williams and her staff for a superb spread.

The day ran smoothly without a hitch and for this we have to thank Fred Crossman, Secretary of the secretaries, for his splendid organisation. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Lastly, a sincere thanks to the committee at the Southerndown GC for allowing us the courtesy of the course for this eagerly awaited and contested annual match.

Peter Lacey

### South Coast

On August 11th our summer tournament was held at Parkstone GC. This proved to be an excellent venue and our thanks go to all concerned at Parkstone.

The results were as follows:

1. Ian Noble and Toney Stevens, Moores Valley GC, 49 pts;
2. Alan Rideout and Ray Rideout, Solent Meads GC, 47 pts;
3. Paul Brine and David Brine, Crane Valley GC, 44 pts.

Parker Hart and Roffey Bros kindly sponsored this event and we very much appreciate their continued support.

Bob Cully

### East Midlands

I'm sure all greenkeepers will be glad this season has finished with all the problems the dry summer weather brought. Still, looking on the positive side we must have been the envy of many inside workers who were unable to enjoy all the sunshine that we were privileged to have.

All eyes will be on the television sets this coming winter with section members cheering on Dave Leatherland in the BBC Great British quiz programme. Dave has had to pass an interview where he was told he is a quiet character. Is this the Dave we know? I'm sure all section members would like to wish him all the best and hope that he has a great day.

Our golf match against the East of England section was a great success, apart from us losing the Toro Trophy. The last match of the day was halved leaving both teams on 2.5 pts each but unfortunately for us we lost the extra hole. Despite our loss it did not stop the East of England for being Bindleyed with Mark and I winning the fourth game 4&2. Our section was represented by Gordon Mitchell, Steve Goode, Dave Mitchell, Adie Porter, Roger Willars, Ian Needham, Antony Bindley, Mark Bindley, Gavin Robson and Tim Allard. Our thanks go to Market Harborough GC for its courtesy and hospitality and to our sponsors for the day. Hopefully we will fare better next year on East of England soil.

This year's annual match against the Midland section will be hosted at The Warwickshire GC on October 12, courtesy of Rigby Taylor. Good luck to all those members who qualified successfully and please do try to arrive in good time.

All members should have received their entry forms for the two remaining fixtures of this year - the AGM and Christmas Tournament. Anyone who has not can give me a ring and I will gladly forward them a form. See you all next month.

Antony Bindley

### Northern Region

After two successive victories this year the Northern Region were kind enough to allow someone else to win the annual Hayter Challenge Tournament and Scotland were the lucky team we chose. I must admit they did play well and congratulations to Elliott and his conquering team. Everyone had a thoroughly good time at the West Lancashire GC and our thanks to them and our hospitable sponsor, Hayter.

I would also like to mention that the Northern Region will be holding two two-day management courses in different parts of the region. They will be at Chester on February 12 and 13 and York on February 14 and 15. The cost, including accommodation, will be £50. Places are limited to 12 on each course only and as I already have some provisional bookings I urge you to contact me as soon as possible if you are interested. Tel: 01782 750539.

Bob Lupton





## Education Update

BY KEN RICHARDSON

# BIGGA courses will keep you up to date

This month we include a further reminder for those greenkeepers considering attending this year's supervisory and management courses, at Aldwark Manor and Elmwood College, information on next year's supervisory and management courses in Ireland, the Midlands, the North, the South East and the South West, and information on the 1996 Massey Ferguson Machinery Workshops and news of the Learning Experience 1996.

### BIGGA SUPERVISORY AND MANAGEMENT COURSES

Places are still available on this year's BIGGA Supervisory and Management Courses. The courses, which proved to be very popular last year, provide greenkeepers with important supervisory and management skills. You might just have time to book a place if you can contact me straight away and forward a cheque for £117.50. Head greenkeepers who have not received any formal supervisory or management training should advise their clubs that grants of £150 may be available from the GTC to help with the cost of sending their greenkeepers on one or more GTC endorsed management courses.

The 1995 series of BIGGA Supervisory and Management Courses has been designed not only to meet the underpinning knowledge requirements of S/NVQ Level 3 Units but also to introduce elements S/NVQ Level 4. BIGGA courses are open to all greenkeepers who need to improve their supervisory and management skills. The courses are:

- Module 1: Managing People 1. October 16 – October 20. Covering team building, interpersonal skills, leadership, time management and computers in greenkeeping.
- Module 2: Managing People 2. October 30 – November 3. Covering assertive communication, influencing skills, grievance and discipline and computers in greenkeeping.
- Module 3: Managing Opera-

tions and Resources. November 6- November 10. Covering planning and organising, estimating cost, budgets and project management.

■ Module 4: Managing Information. November 13 – November 17. Covering writing memos, letters and reports, communication skills, collecting and recording information.

■ Module 5: Management Techniques. November 20 – November 24. Covering level 4 management techniques. Topics include maintenance and improvement of service and operations, project management, negotiation skills and quality assurance.

All course delegates and employers will receive an end of course summary. This could be used to provide evidence for N/SVQ assessors.

Attendance at each year's course qualifies for eight credits towards the Master Greenkeeper Certificate.

The cost per week, including accommodation, all meals and tuition fees is £420 + VAT for BIGGA members and £475 + VAT for non-members.

If you need advice on which week to attend or have any other queries call me on 01347 838581.

Send your application NOW.

### Regional Supervisory and Management Courses

A few places on the Scottish Region two-day supervisory and management course are still available. These residential courses, which will be held on October 16/17 and October 18/19, have been introduced to make management training more accessible to all BIGGA members. Each course costs £50 for BIGGA members and £150 to non-members. Reserve your place by sending a deposit of £10 to BIGGA HQ.

The Northern Region two-day supervisory and management courses will be held in Chester on February 12 and 13 1996 and in York on February 14 and 15 1996.

The Midland Region two-day supervisory and management

courses will be held in Kettering on February 5 and 6 1996 and in Birmingham on February 7 and 8 1996.

The South East Region two-day supervisory and management courses will be held in Brighton on February 5 and 6 1996 and in Dover on February 7 and 8 1996.

The South West Region two-day supervisory and management courses will be held in Bristol on February 12 and 13 1996, in Bournemouth on February 14 and 15 1996 and in Plymouth on February 19 and 20 1996.

The Southern Ireland two-day supervisory and management courses will be held in Killarney on March 7 and 8 1996.

These courses have been designed to introduce supervisory skills to those greenkeepers moving into supervisory positions for the first time and for experienced supervisors who are having to cope with change and include time management, oral and written communication, team building, discipline and motivation. Each course is limited to twelve delegates and costs just £50 per delegate (thanks to a large subsidy from the BIGGA Education and Development Fund), which includes

all tuition meals and one night's accommodation. Reserve your place now.

### Massey Ferguson Machinery Workshops

The 1996 Massey Ferguson Machinery Workshops will take place at Elmwood College, Cupar Fife on April 1 1996 at Warwickshire College, Moreton Morrell Warwickshire on February 19 1996 and Oaklands College, St Albans Hertfordshire on March 11 1996. Each workshop will run from Monday lunchtime until Friday lunchtime and will include sessions on the selection, use, maintenance and running costs of mid mounted, front mounted and compact tractors and will give delegates practical "hands on" experience.

Colleges will, shortly, be invited to nominate up to two students to attend the course, however places are limited to 12 delegates on each course and some selection may have to take place.

Delegates will be allocated a place on the workshop nearest to their home/college. All travel, accommodation and tuition costs will be met by Massey Ferguson.

Watch out for further details in future editions of *Greenkeeper International*.

## What's the Best thing about being a Greenkeeper?

Keith McCartney,  
Dumfries and Galloway GC  
"I enjoy it when visitors who have come to the course take the trouble to come up and say that it is in good condition and that they enjoyed playing it."



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AD REF 431

# Managing STAFF

**Duncan McGilvray, Course Manager at Letchworth GC, continues his series on effective golf course management.**

**M**anaging staff – easily said – easily written about – extremely difficult to carry out successfully and effectively.

In every advertisement for the post of Golf Course Manager, you will read the words “must be capable of managing/motivating/leading staff”.

Without doubt, your employer views this aspect of a Course Manager’s work to be by far the most important – so we have to get it right.

It has often been said to a newly appointed Course Manager that the staff which he/she is about to inherit, are lazy/untrainable/stupid or ever worse!

In my experience, I have found very little fault with the staff – the fault lay more with the way they had been/were being treated.

To the Apprentice/Assistant Greenkeepers who are at present working in this sort of working environment, please do not despair. Remember how you are being treated and learn from those experiences – you will then know how not to manage staff when you are in that position yourself.

You do in fact learn a great deal from bad, as well as good, managers.

I do not believe that there are any secrets or hard and fast rules in managing staff, but what I hope to convey through this month’s article is what I have learned so far through personal experiences, advice from colleagues, relevant management trainers, and even psychologists.

## **SUPERVISING AND ASSISTING IN THE TRAINING/DEVELOPMENT AND RECRUITMENT OF STAFF**

The “supervision” of staff is so often mistaken for “watching over” staff, which I have already stated in a previous article to be a total waste of the Course Manager’s time and, therefore, the Golf Club’s resources.



**Staff at Letchworth, from left, Barney Wright, James Sherwood, Paul Hoffer, Peter Deazley, Gary Hyde and Brian Allonby**

Supervision is about ensuring staff carry out tasks successfully, safely and within the limits/restrictions the Course Manager sets.

It is important to remember that all Green staff are under the Course Manager’s supervision and responsibility at all times, including periods when the Course Manager is not there for whatever reason – that is why it is vital that staff are managed in a way that encourages them to be self-motivated.

This reflects very well on the Course Manager, but is still not fully understood by some.

## **TRAINING**

The training and development of all the Green staff is the responsibility of the Course Manager.

It is his/her duty to ensure that there exists sufficient funding and provision for “on course” practical training, as well as supplying the theory or “underpinning knowledge” (using approved Colleges where necessary) so that each member of staff can advance to his/her maximum potential and capabilities.

It is not fair to the staff or to the Golf Club not to do so.

The favourite excuse not to train staff is “why train them – they will only leave for a better job”.

This is an extremely blinkered and narrow-minded view which is thankfully being said less often these days.

The advantages of good training are numerous in terms of staff commitment, self motivation, enthusiasm, good working atmosphere and work output, which all combine to give a better maintained golf course – it is therefore very cost effective!

With the Government’s directive on National Vocational Qualifications (please do not believe the sceptics – NVQ’s are here to stay) and the recent Education Authority’s official recognition of the Greenkeepers’ Training Committee as an Assessment Centre, the GTC’s network of assessors (D32/D33) and advisors (D36) will ensure that the training of Greenkeepers will be much more secure, relevant and industry specific in future.

## **RECRUITMENT**

Having been involved on both sides of the table, as well as being trained in interviewing techniques, I feel I have some relevant suggestions to pass on in ensuring this important aspect of the job is carried out properly.

When recruiting Green staff from Deputy Course Manager down the Course Manager is the most important interviewer – he/she will, after all, be the successful applicant’s future Department Head.

I do not believe, however, that the Course Manager should interview and recruit on his own.

Following the selection process, three people should inter-

view (fewer than three is thought to be not enough for accurate assessment, and more than three to be too intimidating).

These three would ideally be:  
1. Course Manager (Department Head) – Technical Detail /Education and Candidate Capabilities.  
2. Secretary/General Manager (Head of all Staff) – Employer Conditions and Golf Club input.  
3. A.N. Other (Suggest Liaison Officer/Chairman of Green/Committee Member, etc.) – General Questions of a more personal nature and should help to put the interviewee more at ease.

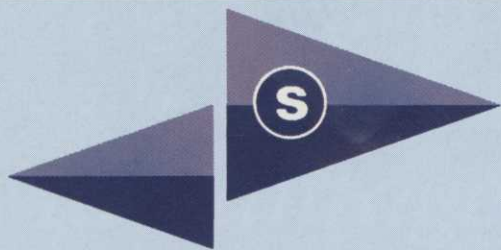
In this way, the right person for the position offered is more likely to be selected, and when the successful candidate takes up their position, they will have a clear understanding of how the Club is managed and to whom they will be responsible.

## **ENDEAVOURING AT ALL TIMES TO IMPROVE SUPERVISOR AND STAFF RELATIONS**

On Golf Courses, small groups of staff varying from 2/3 to 7/8 are very often the situation.

This in itself seems to create problems which large groups do not experience, for whatever reason.

The Course Manager must be continually aware of this, and indeed set in place systems which will lessen the chance of underlying friction/tension becoming a serious threat to the

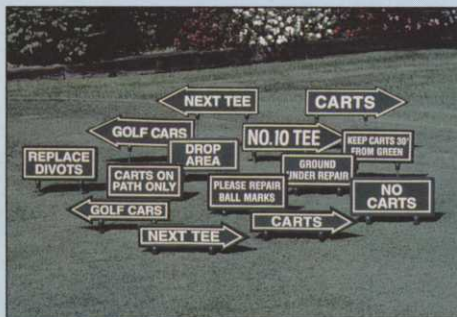


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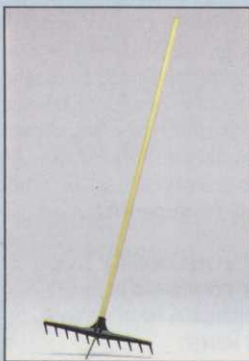
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# Managing STAFF

efficiency of the Green staff as a whole.

A Staff Appraisal System (not to be confused with an assessment system), which has been brought in to many industries over recent years, works extremely well in small staff group situations, and in my view should be a requirement at every golf course.

In short and simple terms, an appraisal is time set aside for Managers and staff to communicate in a positive way, in an atmosphere such that both parties can speak freely without fear of intimidation.

Usually held on an annual basis, appraisals are extremely valuable in improving many things including a good staff working atmosphere which reap rich rewards in work output, which in turn improves golf course conditions.

I have always found the working atmosphere following such appraisals to be very positive because everyone has had an opportunity to air his or her views.

Although staff and Managers will never agree totally on every issue, there is a general acceptance to whatever is discussed/decided, and a way is found to move forward together.

PLEASE NOTE - Staff Appraisals should only be carried out by suitably trained Course Managers - advice on training may be obtained from the GTC.

### DELEGATING EFFECTIVELY

How effective you are as a Course Manager will depend largely on how successful you are at delegation.

Let me first start by stating what delegation is not.

DELEGATION IS NOT - passing on work to others which you choose not to do yourself, because you cannot be bothered.

DELEGATION IS - to entrust or assign a duty or responsibility to another member of staff, who is suitably qualified.

Those who are able to distinguish between what is, and what

is not, delegated enjoy a great working relationship and understanding with both employer and staff.

In using delegation effectively, staff visibly rise to meet new challenges and tasks, and the Course Manager is released to do what only he/she is capable of doing, as well as staff operating efficiently when the Course Manager is not there.

Delegation is a management tool which if handled badly leads to disaster, but if handled properly, has a profound effect on the staff and the way they view their position, which helps to create a good positive working environment.

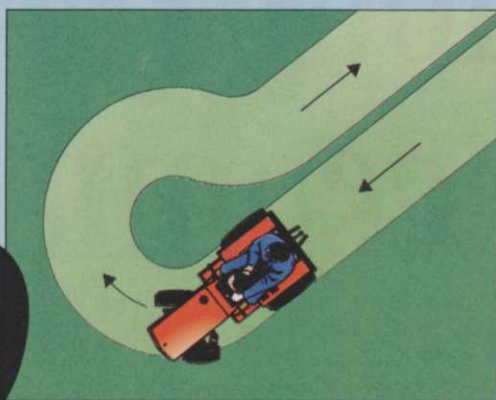
To conclude, I have put together a list of various truisms aimed at Managers in general, which I have collected over the years from various sources.

They make, in my view, a good deal of sense which is what managing staff is all about, especially in the natural and practical setting of a golf course:

### Management tips

- Always lead by example.
- Respect has to be earned.
- Never ask anyone to do what you would not do yourself.
- People are not machines - they should therefore not be treated as such.
- Involve all staff in relevant decision making and problem solving.
- You cannot motivate staff - you can only create an atmosphere in which staff choose to motivate themselves.
- The stick or carrot method only ever works in the short term.
- You are only as good as your staff allow you to be.
- Take the time to listen.
- Never blame staff for any deficiencies - you are after all the one who is responsible for managing and training them!

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# Your rights in tied accommodation

One of the major questions that arises from persons occupying "tied" accommodation with their employment is what are their rights in the property once their employment ceases?

The answer to this is not always straight forward but depends upon the type of arrangement you have with your employer.

An employee in occupation of premises belong to his employer may be a tenant or a licensee. Such a licensee is often referred to as a "service occupier", which is an employee who occupies his employer's premises in order to perform his duties as an employee. If it is made clear either in your contract of employment or otherwise that you are required to reside in the premises for the better performance of your duty it is therefore highly likely that you will have a licence only.

Obviously it is often the case that a greenkeeper will be required to reside in the employer's accommodation in order to better perform his or her duties.

The position if you have a licence only to occupy is that your right to reside in the premises terminates at the same time as your employment. However, the landlord must still obtain Court Order to evict you if you refuse to leave. However, he does not have to show grounds for possession other than that your licence has terminated with your employment.

You are likely to have a lease of tied accommodation rather than a licence if you occupy the



premises merely as a perk of the job or by way of payment or part-payment for your services.

The position, if you have a lease, is governed by the Rent Act 1977 if your tenancy commenced

prior to January 1 1988 or the Housing Act 1989 if your tenancy commenced after that date.

Under both Acts the landlord can only obtain possession if firstly the Court considers it is

reasonable to make an order for possession. What is reasonable is a question of fact for the County Court but relevant hardship to either party will be taken into account.

Under the 1977 Act the landlord must also show that he requires the premises back for occupation by another person in his employment. Under the 1988 Act he only had to show that you have ceased to be in his employment.

Whether you have a lease or a licence the landlord must obtain a Court Order for possession. He will automatically obtain an order if you have a licence but will need to show the above grounds in you have a lease.

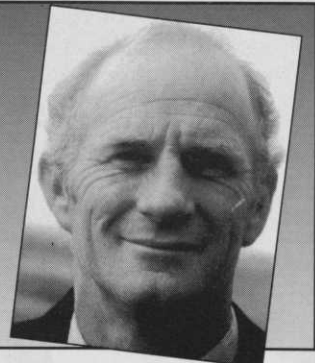
It is worth noting that a local authority housing department will not often treat you as a priority case for rehousing unless you have a Court Possession Order against you. If you wish to be rehoused by the council it may be advisable to remain in the premises until your employer obtains a Court Order for possession.

In conclusion, if you are in any doubt as to whether you are a "service occupier" or a tenant of your employer you should consult Hambro Legal Protection Ltd or a solicitor before agreeing to leave your premises on termination of your employment.

■ In the event of a member having any legal problem then it is extremely important that Hambro Legal Protection Ltd be contacted without delay. Hambro Legal Protection Ltd's telephone number is 01206 867775 and the service is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

What's the *Best* thing about being a *Greenkeeper*?

*Chris Allan... "There is a certain amount of satisfaction seeing members playing decent golf and good players who have learned their trade on a course which I have prepared."*



# Clean sweep

**Hugh Tilley bids summer goodbye and canvasses opinion on some of the sweepers and collectors around.**

Autumn or "Fall", as our friends across the Atlantic more descriptively call it, means leaves on the course, on paths, around the clubhouse and in the car park. Removing these is a priority task, especially when they fall on greens or tees so most clubs have equipped themselves with powered tools and machinery. However some machines have other uses such as scarifying, grooming, litter collection, drain cleaning, core collection and even dew dispersal. Blowers are frequently seen as an adjunct to a sweeper collector, although in some cases they can be used on their own to blow debris into the trees or shrubbery. Most hand

operated blowers also have a vacuum mode and a collector attachment which is useful in restricted areas.

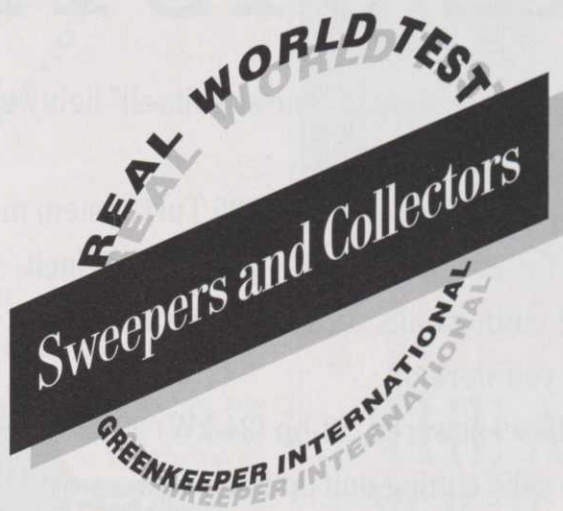
There is a wide range of machines available, early sweeper designs mostly used ground

wheel drive to rotate brushes and lift debris into the collector, but this had several important limitations. An independent drive improves performance and allows heavy concentrations to be lifted, but unless there is extra draft or a

mulching fan these collectors tended not to fill very efficiently.

The Amazone Groundkeeper was perhaps the first of a new design and could be said to have revolutionised the task adding a scarifying ability. Since its introduction other machines of similar design and ability have come onto the market. The Billy Goat range from Bob Andrews Ltd is also well known and respected, having become almost generic. The name encompasses a wide variety of types and accessories, from pedestrian operated push and self propelled vacuum sweepers and blowers to truck tailboard mounted machines.

The following should not be considered as anything other than a representation of the machines available and the ways in which certain machines are being used by their respective clubs. Selection was mostly on the basis of asking manufacturers



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**GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL**

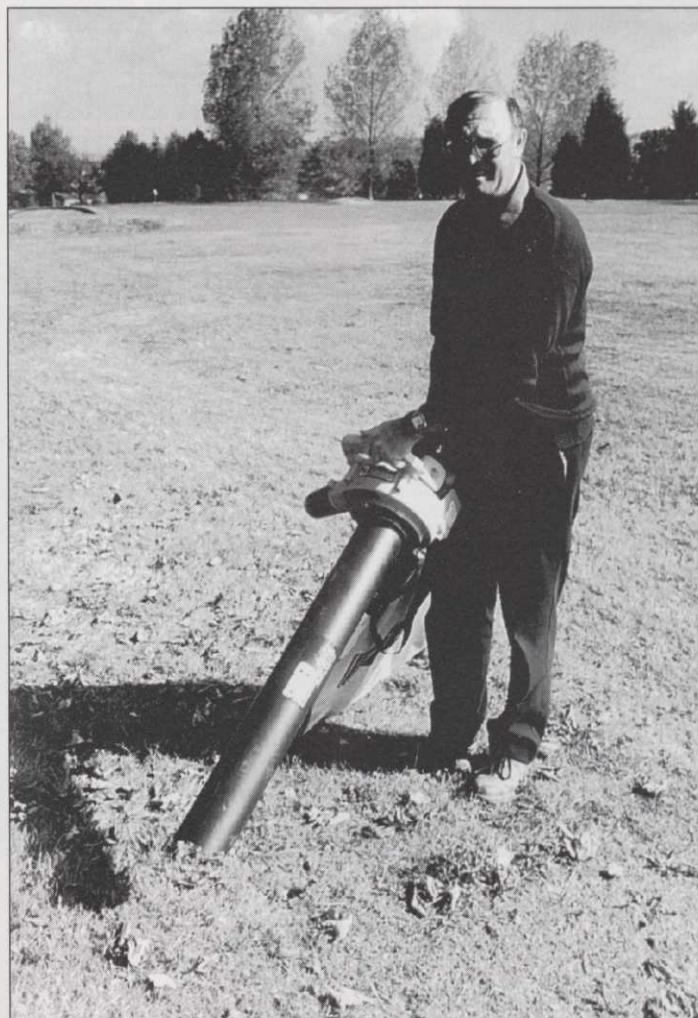
for a greenkeeper contact, and they had no other control over the questions asked or the answers given. Several makers failed to respond. Two of the machines considered were early production models and as such did experience teething problems, however buying an "early" machine is a double edged sword because usually the manufacturer looks after it well and expects to learn from problems. One greenkeeper admitted that he would have preferred another make but there was no effective dealer back-up in the area. Interviews took place in

mid September before the main leaf fall.

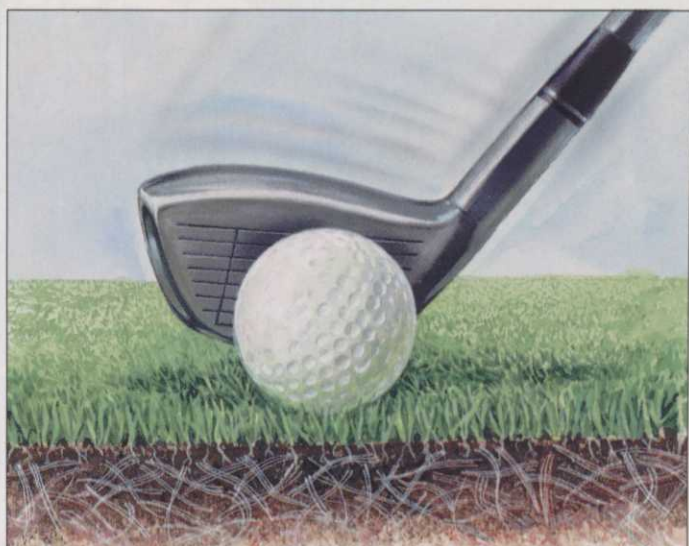
**Echo Shred 'n' Vac at Saltford GC.**

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The Echo ES1000 is hand held with a 21.2cc motor having a cen-



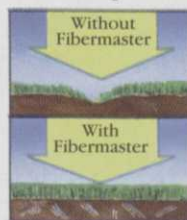
Ian McFarlane with the Echo Shred 'n' Vac



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trifugal fan direct mounted to it. It is very light, under 5kg, and easy to operate. Both suck and blow modes are available, with pick-up tube fitted to the fan housing in place of the grill and a 64 litre bag replacing the blower pipe without tools for the vacuum mode, a shoulder strap carries the bag. The unit is remarkably quiet.

Head Greenkeeper Ian McFar-

lane, prefaced his remarks by stating that it is used in conjunction with an Amazone Ground-

keeper (pictured below) and that obviously it would be inappropriate to consider it alone except for limited areas. Having said that, he said it does do a good job clearing leaves and debris from bunkers, off banks and from around the base of trees and shrubs. Its lightness and portability means that it is easy to carry around in the tractor cab so that the operator can move leaves into the open from inaccessible areas before he uses the Groundkeeper. Although Salford mostly used the machine as a blower it does have the vacuum nozzle and collecting bag and occasionally uses

this for borders around the club house and for the putting green and for other inaccessible areas.

Operating on two stroke mix has not been a problem and the tool has proved reliable and easy to start. Ian said that should it be stolen, or otherwise become unavailable, he would replace it. The machine was supplied by John Miller (Corsham) Ltd.

**Amazone Groundkeeper - also at Salford GC**

Salford's Amazone Groundkeeper, now about three years old, suffered some teething problems with the PTO, however dealer TH White Ltd was extremely efficient and helpful in sorting these out without cost to the club and ultimately fitted a heavy duty shaft. Since then it has performed without trouble or cost and is even still using the original tines.

Ian uses the machine for leaf



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collecting (of course) as well as for scarifying the fairways and roughs. The machine is also used occasionally for cutting some roughs. The scarifying operation is normally carried out once in spring, however Ian used the machine again this autumn to open up matted dead turf to enable him to apply seed in areas that have been badly affected by the drought. The machine is not operated to maximum depth even for scarifying, it has rollers front and rear for depth control, which perhaps accounts for the lack of tine wear. Saltford has found that its normal tine configuration gives ample air flow to fill the hopper even with wet leaves.

Maintenance is quick and simple and no problems were reported over this. The drive line includes a gearbox and twin vee belts, these are original and trouble free with a sprung loaded

jockey ensuring a constant belt tension. Ian did say that he would buy another but next time would go for the high lift model.

#### Sisis Fibagroom at Wilmslow GC

Now in its third season, the Sisis Fibagroom at Wilmslow is an early production model and Course Manager, Stephen Oultram, admitted that it has had its share of teething problems. However Sisis has been extremely ready to accept responsibility for these and sort them out. These problems have included some

cracking of welds, two bearing failures and chain failure, none of which made Wilmslow wish they had another make of machine. Stephen (and Sisis) believe these problems are in the past.

The main reason for buying the Fibagroom instead of more established competitors was its twin independent headed approach. Each unit is carried on two rollers giving it better contour following and less possibility of scalping than competitive machines. During the interview Stephen commented several times on how well the machine followed the contours.

The machine is 6ft wide, has an unladen weight of 652kg and a 2m<sup>3</sup> capacity so it is no lightweight when tipping the full hopper which hinges at the top back edge. Stephen said it loads well and holds a considerable quantity of material when full, this is helped if the material is slightly damp, however it is also due to the reel configuration which has scarifying blades interspaced with brushes which provide some mulching and ample air to carry the material.

The machine is used twice a year as a scarifier on fairways and surrounds and occasionally on some of the large tees. Stephen said that it was also used at about six weekly intervals over the fairways as a groomer and verti-cutter removing a large quantity of thatch as well as loose divots and sundry rubbish.

#### Trilo SG450 Mini Sweep at Stanmore GC

The Trilo Mini Sweep is a vacuum sweeper of no mean performance, but Stanmore in Greater London has more than its share mature trees around its 18 holes, thus a machine of more than usual capacity is essential. Head Greenkeeper, Donal Penn-Howard, said that before the club got the Trilo they looked at a number of similar machines,

however discounted them all for a number of reasons. In particular Donal said the very large diameter to the suction hose on the Trilo (350mm) was an important factor in selection because it reduced the possibility of blockages caused by sticks or twigs. None of the other machines had remote control of the hose either. During the autumn one greenkeeper is kept fully occupied clearing leaves with the Mini Sweep, and he is augmented if necessary by colleagues with a back pack machine, pedestrian Billy Goat and/or a Litamisa.

As well as removing leaves the Mini Sweep is used for clearing ditches, collecting the thatch after scarifying fairways and approaches, and occasionally to remove cores – which are moved to the edge of the green first, but Donal said they do need to be dry. The machine is seldom used for scarifying because the head will scalp, but the machine is used regularly for “grooming” particularly of roughs before competitions, when it is set “high” so that it pulls out all the rubbish and “sets the grass up”. This operation is usually followed by a cut with a rotary mower.

After the first year of use the club invested in the remote control kit which allows the hose to be operated by one man from the tractor seat. These controls operate lift and lower, slew and reach so that the driver is able to place the end of the vacuum hose with some precision. The Mini Sweep has several modes and options, and another of these is a 6m long wander hose, this is designed for pedestrian control and gives the machine further versatility to reach more inaccessible spots. Donal said the machine is very effective for emptying rubbish bins, although this ability is not needed at Stanmore, and as an aside he added that it didn't pick up golf balls which made it even better.

The capacity of the hopper at 4.5m<sup>3</sup> is large, and because the fan mulches the input it does hold a considerable amount of material. This has to be considered when tipping as the hopper hinges at the rear back, this makes it essential to only empty when the machine is stood on



The Sisis Fibagroom

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level ground. However the high tip does make filling trailers, trucks or skips easy and effective, although for Stanmore the most significant advantage is that it allows the debris to be piled very high so minimising the ground area needed.

On servicing the club is meticulous over greasing and washing daily, as the fan is so powerful and runs so fast. The machine also needs to be kept clean, the fan because if this is clogged it makes it hard to start, the hopper mesh because any back pressure reduces the efficiency of operation and filling – a fact common to virtually all machines not just the Mini Sweep. There have been few breakdowns, two bearings and a shaft, but the response from MJT Contracts, the UK distributor, was extremely fast and efficient and maximum delay in getting the machine “back on the road” has been 48 hours when a

part had to be obtained from the Dutch manufacturer. Donal said the liaison between MJT and Van Loen Techniek is exceptional, but MJT keep a good level of spares and always respond fast with a personal service. Overall Donal said the machine has been extremely effective and worth every penny – and the members seem to think so too.

**Turfmech Tornado at East Berkshire GC**

The Turfmech Tornado TM360 is a powerful fan which East Berkshire operates on the linkage of

a MF362. It is driven from the PTO and when at full speed it has the power to remove almost anything that is not fixed to the ground, including golfers, a comment made with feeling following the dispersal of several shell paths by a student. It was suggested that the blast could carry leaves as much as 70 or 80 yards, especially if working with the wind. Nevertheless throttle control allows it to be used selectively by intelligent operators to move debris with considerable sensitivity.

East Berkshire is in many respects a heathland course with

considerable stands of heather. A number of years ago the area of heather was declining and it was realised that this was due to the dead material building up at the roots, thus the club bought the Tornado to strip this out and blow it back into the woods and scrub. In addition the machine is used to remove leaves, acorns, pine needles and etc., from the course, car parks, paths and anywhere else. It has also been used to dry out specific areas where there is casual or standing water. Another use is to strip loose divots out of the ground prior to divotting. With the power of the machine it is also normally possible to clear greens and tees without having to take the tractor onto them.

Marc stated that main drawback to the machine is the need to time operations so that no one is around and playing. Mostly the debris is blown into the surrounding woodland, however it is possible to use the throttle and produce a swath or even a rough pile which can be collected with the Litamisa in two passes.

Maintenance is minimal, part of the reason for selecting the Tornado was its simplicity with no engine and minimum moving parts. Fan and PTO, are the only parts which are greased regularly, grease is avoided for the two height control castor wheels as it only picks up dust and drops on the grass.

During the 18 months that East Berkshire has had the Tornado Marc said he has been very impressed with it and what it can do, he said that it has paid back the £2,000 cost within a year, has incurred no on-costs and has saved considerable time and effort.



The Trilo Mini Sweep

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# Selsdon Park scoops promotion's top prize

The Farmura stand at SALTEX '95 was the venue for the presentation of a brand new Hardi AMK 300 Tractor Mounted Sprayer to Selsdon Park Hotel Golf Club, Surrey, winner of the Blazon Spray Pattern Indicator 'Better-Way-To-Spray' promotion.

Selsdon Park Managing Director, Michael Sharpe and Simon Osborne, Head Greenkeeper, attended the presentation and received their prize from Barry Heaney, Chairman of BIGGA and the Association's Executive Director, Neil Thomas.

Ten runner up prizes of Hardi RY2 20 litre knapsack sprayers were also awarded and these were won by: Lockerbie GC, Royal Dornoch GC, Old Thorns GC, Wyboston Lakes GC, Tewkesbury Hall GC, Singing Hills GC, Stapleford Abbots GC, St. Margarets GC, Royal Dublin GC, and Sheffield Wednesday FC.

All clubs participating in the promotion received a free "Caution - Spraying in Progress" sign



At the presentation: from left, Richard Fry, Barry Heaney, Simon Osborne, Neil Thomas and Michael Sharpe

to inform on the activity taking place.

Commenting on behalf of promotion sponsors, Richard Fry said, "This is the third year that the promotion has been held and it continues to encourage an

increasing number of clubs throughout the country to experience the many benefits that can be gained through the use of Blazon spray pattern indicator in their spray management programmes."

## Middlesex course is all set to open

The new Stanmore Park driving range and nine hole par-3 course in Middlesex should be completed by the beginning of this month (October).

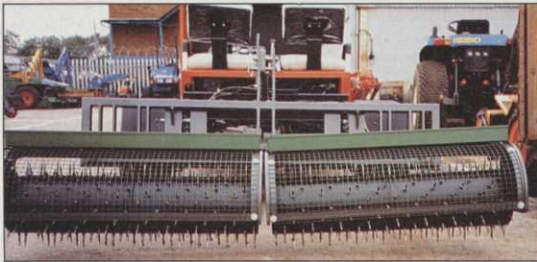
Covering an area of 9.2 hectares, the project has been designed by Martin Gillet and constructed by Golf Landscapes Ltd for Delaport (Park Lane) Investments, which already owns Redbourne GC and Aldwickbury GC.

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★ Many congratulations go to Mr C J Parry, Deputy Course Manager, Arrowe Park Golf Club, Birkenhead, Merseyside – he's the lucky £50 winner of last month's competition. Get searching straight away and who knows, it could be YOU getting the big money next month!

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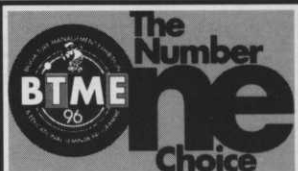
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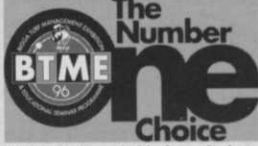
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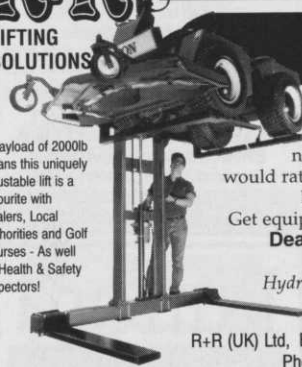
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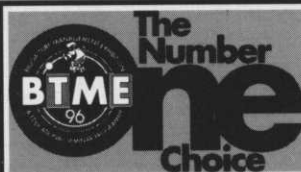
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Please telephone:-

**Mr. K. Symons,**  
 Estate Manager/Golf Secretary on:-  
 (01372) 273091 for application form



## **Golfclub Hechingen-Hohenzollern (Germany)**

invites applications for the position of:

### **HEAD GREENKEEPER**

for our 18 holes golf course established 1955 in Southern Germany between Stuttgart and Lake of Constance.

Applicants must have formal greenkeeping qualifications, several years experience in similar position, good knowledge of machinery, irrigation systems and maintenance as well as the ability to motivate and lead an enthusiastic team.

Basic knowledge of German is a must, a good standard of golf would be an advantage.

Contract to commence March 1, 1996.

Please apply in writing, CV and photo to:

**Golfclub Hechingen-Hohenzollern  
Mr. Florian Groz  
Postfach 1124  
D-72379 Hechingen**



## **Carnoustie Golf Links**

invite applications for the position of

### **DEPUTY LINKS SUPERINTENDENT**

Applicants must have wide greenkeeping experience, proven man management capability, and relevant qualifications.

The 54 hole complex at Carnoustie includes the world famous Championship Course together with the Burnside and more recent Buddon Links Courses.

The Scottish Open in 1996 followed by the Open Championship in 1999 will be played on the Championship Course and therefore this post is one of the high profile greenkeeping jobs in the UK and the responsibility of the position along with the high level of commitment required is reflected in the salary – circa £20,000.

A Contributory pension scheme is operated and re-location assistance will be given.

All applications enclosing full CV to:

**Links Superintendent, Carnoustie Golf Links, Links Parade,  
Carnoustie, Angus DD7 7JE**

## **Trentham Park Golf Club**

Applications are invited for the position of

### **HEAD GREENKEEPER**

Applicants must possess recognised qualifications and be experienced in all aspects of Golf Course Management, including maintenance of machinery.

The ability to lead and motivate staff, organise work programmes and maintain health and safety requirements is essential.

Practical knowledge of modern greenkeeping methods and budgetary control is also required.

Trentham Park Golf Club offers excellent prospects to persons with a minimum ten years-experience.

Applicants should send hand written applications together with CV to:

**Mr R N Portas, Secretary/Manager,  
Trentham Park Golf Club, Trentham Park,  
Stoke on Trent ST4 8AE**



## **Isle of Purbeck Golf Club**

requires a

### **FIRST ASSISTANT**

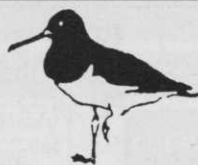
and an

### **ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER**

Applicants should possess relevant qualifications, have experience of intensive Turf Management, and the use and maintenance of modern golf course machinery.

Applications with details in writing to:

**Managing Director,  
Isle of Purbeck Golf Club,  
Swanage, Dorset BH19 3AB**



## The Machrihanish Golf Club

require a

# HEAD GREENKEEPER

For an 18 hole championship links course and a 9 hole ladies course situated in Argyll.

Applicants must be fully experienced in all modern techniques of course and machinery maintenance and have formal qualifications.

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

Salary negotiable. No accommodation.

Apply in confidence with full CV to:  
The Secretary, The Machrihanish Golf Club,  
By Campbeltown, Argyll PA28 6PT



## Sunningdale Golf Club

require a

# COURSE MANAGER

for two Championship Courses

We require a Course Manager who is experienced in all aspects of greenkeeping techniques to maintain the Old and New courses to the highest possible standard.

Applications are invited from persons of proven ability and with the confidence and experience to lead an enthusiastic team.

Accommodation is provided, salary by negotiation.

Applications in writing please to:  
Stewart Zuill, Secretary,  
Sunningdale Golf Club, Ridgemount Road,  
Sunningdale, Berkshire SL5 9RR



## West Essex Golf Club Limited (Est. 1900)

invite applications from Head Greenkeepers for the position of:

# HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicants must be suitably qualified, experienced and self motivated with proven ability in organising and carrying out work programmes, preparing and working to budgets and working to health and safety requirements. A sound and practical knowledge of automatic irrigation systems and the use and maintenance of greenkeeping machinery is also required. The ability to enthusiastically lead, motivate and organise an established team of greenstaff is essential.

Remuneration package will reflect the importance of the position.

No accommodation available.

Applications in own handwriting with full CV to:

D A Peacock, Secretary Manager,  
West Essex Golf Club Limited, Bury Road,  
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Closing Date: 31st October 1995

## Wilderness Club est. 1890

require an

# ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

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The suitable candidate must hold minimum C&G/NVQ Phase 1 and have a first class attitude to work. BIGGA rates of pay plus additional supplements are available to the right applicant.

Apply in writing with full CV to:

Huw Morgan, Course Manager, Wilderness Club,  
Seal, Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 0JE

Closing Date for applications:  
Tuesday 31st October 1995





## Churston Golf Club Limited

Due to retirement, after 16 years excellent service, applications are invited for the position of:

# HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicants must possess recognised qualifications and be experienced in all aspects of course management, including maintenance of machinery.

The ability to lead and motivate staff, organise work programmes and maintain health and safety requirements is essential.

Practical knowledge of modern greenkeeping methods and budgeting control is also required.

Salary and conditions by negotiation.

No accommodation is available.

Applicants should send their applications, together with CV, to:

**The Chairman, Churston Golf Club Ltd,  
Churston, Nr Brixham, Devon TQ5 0LA.**

**Closing Date: 27th October 1995**



**Bedford & County  
Golf Club**  
requires a

## DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER

The successful applicant will be fully qualified, he must demonstrate sound knowledge and practical experience at good greenkeeping and equipment maintenance.

Salary negotiable – No accommodation.

Apply in writing with CV to:

**Mr E. Bullock, Manager, Bedford & County Golf Club,  
Green Lane, Clapham, Bedford MK41 6ET**

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**National Golf Club, Antalya**

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Apply in writing to: **Ian Oram, Arcadian International PLC,  
Gatton Place, St Matthew's Road, Redhill, Surrey RH1 1TA**

## Skibbereen & West Carbery Golf Club



have a vacancy for a

# HEAD GREENKEEPER

Experience necessary.

Apply with Curriculum Vitae to:

**The Captain, Skibbereen Golf Club,  
Licknavar, Skibbereen, Co. Cork, Ireland**

**Closing Date for application: 5pm Monday 23rd October 1995**

## Stoneham Golf Club

require

# ASSISTANT HEAD GREENKEEPER

Qualifications to include PA1 and PA2 Pesticide and Spraying Certificates and experience necessary.

No accommodation. Salary negotiable.

Apply in writing with full CV to:

**R G M Bennett, Secretary, Stoneham Golf Club, Monks Wood  
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## Matfen Hall Golf Club

requires a

# COURSE MANAGER

For an 18 hole Parkland course opened in Spring 95 with a further 9 hole par 3 course opening in 1996.

The successful applicant will be responsible for bringing on this popular new course and must possess all relevant greenkeeping qualifications and demonstrate the ability to lead and motivate staff. Experience of course construction and development an advantage.

Salary negotiable and house available.

Apply in writing with CV to:

**Director of Golf, Matfen Hall Golf Club, Matfen,  
Northumberland NE20 0RQ**

## Doncaster Golf Club

require the services of a

# HEAD GREENKEEPER

who should be experienced in all aspects of greenkeeping and have the ability to manage and motivate staff.

No accommodation available.

Please apply in writing with full CV:

**The Secretary, Doncaster Golf Club, Bawtry Road,  
Bessacarr, Doncaster DN4 7PD**

# Things that go bump in the wet

This is a message about machine operator safety. It is written from personal experience about an incident that happened to me in Germany about five years ago.

The location is the 11th fairway of the Japanese Golf Course on the outskirts of Dusseldorf, The time is approximately 9.00am on a dull drizzly Saturday morning. Present are me and our solitary ride-on greens machine – a Toro GM 3000.

I had the sad task of cutting the 18 greens that fateful day in spring. Not so bad a task normally, but today there is a constant, if light, drizzle. The kind that slowly but surely gets you soaked over a number of hours. I had been cutting the greens that day since 6.45am and had been chased all the way round by two keen Japanese golfers whose sole task was to get around the 18 as quick as possible, and then to retire to the Japanese baths in the clubhouse. Thus having set the scene of a wet and miserable golf



By Alan Walton  
of Sennelager  
GC, Bad  
Lippspringe,  
Germany

course, equally wet greenkeeper, I shall continue with the story.

I had cut 10 greens by 9 o'clock. I then arrived at the 11th tee to start my approach to the 11th green. Approach is the right

word because what I haven't mentioned is that the 11th is not very long, 100 metres maybe, but has a gradient of at least 1:3. It's so steep that in the dry you can putt off the tee and watch the ball roll down to the green if you wanted to. Sat on the Toro, I had the choice of attempting to take the long way round past 13 and 12 and risk being caught by the banzai golfers behind me. It only took a few seconds to make my decision – I'll go the long way. Gravity however, in conjunction with Toro slick tyres and wet grass had other ideas! Before I had chance to reverse, the machine had started to slip down the 11th fairway towards the 11th green. I tried to reverse to no avail, it went faster if anything. Brakes were useless, and I doubt if ABS brakes would have made a difference.

Things were getting tricky so I ditched my wish as I needed all hands to control the situation. The machine had adopted a 45 degree angle of attack to the green and I was now sliding diagonally down the slope at a gentle pace. One of the problems of the slope is that it not only goes down but also slopes off to the right to a copse of trees and a gully that is about 15 feet deep. Panic sets in! Controlled panic that is because at this moment I still kept a cool head. My only chance to get out of this situation was to attempt to out accelerate the ever increasing slide and head towards the left and try and run aground in the hard rough.

This manoeuvre was only partially successful. I temporarily regained control of the machine and managed to get it to steer away from death valley. My attempt to reach safety in the hard rough was scuppered by lack of traction from my super slicks. So near and yet so far, at an ever increasing rate of knots, I raced past the hard rough and continued my journey down the 11th!

Once again the GM 3000 had adopted a 45 degree stance on the slope. Steering had no effect and all seemed lost. I was now in the hands of gravity and in big trouble. The thought that now went through my mind was not the landing on the green, but the two diagonal running two feet high ridges in front of it that had been designed to divert surface water run off into the copse on the right, what kind of job would they do in diverting a Toro complete with operator? I decided not to find out. Unlike the tradition of great seafaring captains, I decided to abandon ship. Not a big problem as the low slung 3000 lends itself quite well to emergency exits. My tortuous journey was however not at an end. Not long before this incident we had all been issued with lovely blue rubberised rain suits. The drag coefficient of a greenkeeper's bum clad in rubberised polyester and sliding on grass, is about the same as a greased eel on a water slide. I now found myself parallel with my machine sliding at the same rate of knots towards the ridges that now resembled "Beecher's Brook"!

The Toro and I reached the first ridge neck and neck and flew over the Toro doing a pathetic impression of a low flying Red Arrow jet.

The hard landing was immediately followed by the launch on ridge number two. This time the result was not so good but far more spectacular. The Toro decided to get rid of its boxes in readiness for the meeting with terra-firma. Rubber clad greenkeeper and Toro landed side by side on the green. Me with a few bruises, the Toro minus its cutting units but otherwise undamaged.

Seconds later, Al, my mate, came round the corner on the sand-pro. His question of "What's going on?" received a curt reply!



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