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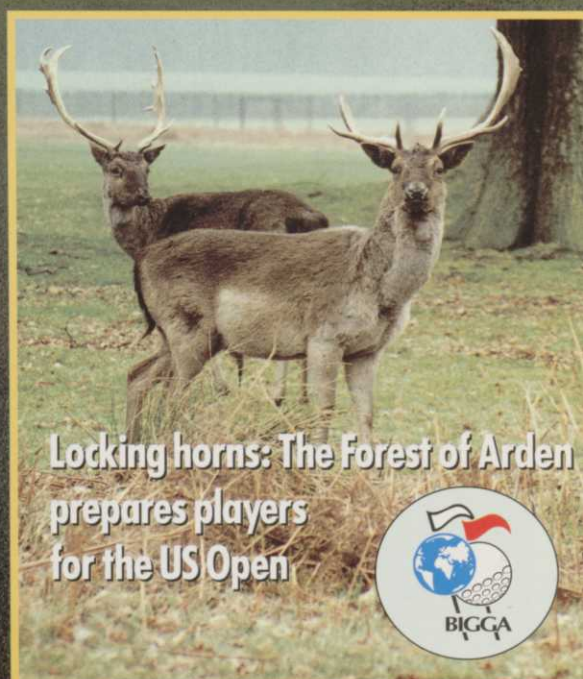
# GREENKEEPER

## *International*



# THE AMERICAN WAY

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Buchen at the Double Eagle



Locking horns: The Forest of Arden  
prepares players  
for the US Open





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**Where to contact BIGGA**  
Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne,  
York, North Yorkshire YO6 2NF  
Tel: 01347 838581  
Fax: 01347 838864

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**EDITORIAL**  
Editor: Scott MacCallum

**ADVERTISING**  
Senior Advertising Sales Executive:  
Carol Dutton  
Exhibition and Marketing Executive:  
Louise Lunn  
Telephone: 01347 838581

**PRODUCTION**  
Design and Production Editor:  
Tim Moat, telephone 01904 610611

**PRINTING**  
Hi-Tec Print, Unit 7, Universal Crescent,  
North Anston Trading Estate,  
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■ The next edition of  
**Greenkeeper International**  
should be with you by May 4

# GREENKEEPER

*International*

**APRIL 1996**

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Majesty of deer at the Forest of Arden; and the Double Eagle club in Ohio. Picture by Brian Morgan

**WIN £50 CASH IN OUR BUYER'S GUIDE COMPETITION: TURN TO PAGE 53**

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Use the post-paid Reader Reply Card facing Page 2 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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# Is there a spring in your heels?

It is a Monday morning early in April, the morning after the night before. Yes it's *that* Monday morning, when, like millions of others, you have spent the previous evening viewing the final exciting stages of the Masters from the Augusta National. The Golf Course was at its majestic best, the weather was glorious, the flowers in full bloom and the golf quite breathtaking on fast, true greens. If you suddenly have the feel-good factor then you can be assured that your golf club members have that very same feeling as they make their way to the golf club just hours after witnessing the idyllic setting of Augusta. So everything in the garden, or should I say golf course, is lovely, or is it? When you wake up on that Monday morning at the crack of dawn, the first you hear is a howling gale and the rain thudding against the window. It's the first signs of a bad day at the office. It's been a cold spring and the grass isn't growing, your maintenance budget has been cut and you've had to shed a member of staff. At the first tee a delay is already apparent as members grapple with the adverse conditions. Their enthusiasm, galvanised by the events of the previous evening, is rapidly being tempered in the wind and the rain. Out on the course the greens are already gathering water and then you spot the Captain and Chairman of Green in the second four-ball already held up. There is no longer any feel-good factor but an overwhelming feeling of stress. Spring may have sprung but this is a very different world to the one you witnessed only a few hours ago and where have the good times gone?

Why is it then that the coming of spring and the Masters Tournament is invariably accompanied by tension among the greenkeeping fraternity? For many greenkeepers it assumes the stressful proportions of the "Augusta Syndrome". In many ways, of course, this is purely illusory, and Augusta merely focuses attention on a particular time in the year when members enthusiasm and expectations are high for the new season, while greenkeepers under



## BIGGA in focus

BY NEIL THOMAS

pressure from budget and staffing restrictions are invariably coming out of a winter period which has been wet, cold and unyielding in terms of preparing the golf course to members' expectations.

On the one hand then, members expectations for their golf course, while on the other the trials and tribulations of the greenkeeping staff. It's not long before the Chairman of Green is under pressure on the one hand from members seeking instant solutions to transform their windswept, sodden, under-prepared golf course while on the other, the greenkeepers are seeking his understanding and support as they work within the limitations of weather and often inadequate budgets and staffing. In turn the Captain comes under pressure. An improvement in the weather can help but the climate cannot be guaranteed. If matters continue to deteriorate, it may well be only a matter of months before the die is cast and another Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper bites the dust. This all has an air of inevitability about it and yet is it really inevitable? Surely in this day and age these are issues which an enlightened golf club can tackle constructively and resolve. Alternatively are they in fact issues of this day and age with its pressures and demands which did not exist in anything like this measure in days gone by and where there is no will to resolve?

I come down on the side of the former and many of the problems can be alleviated through communication. This is needed throughout the club and it does

not begin on that notorious Monday morning in April. It is a 12 month process. Let's take the Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper first. How often does he speak with members in a social context – on the golf course, in the clubhouse or perhaps even the car park? Does he utilise the members' notice board to pass on information on course conditions, alterations and improvements? What provision is there for the holding of workshops for members where they can be informed of the capital and maintenance budgets, of the work programme and of any proposals for improvements to the golf course? Is there regular contact with the Chairman of Green and close liaison with the club secretary? Is there a good working relationship with the club professional for he is in regular contact with members? There are avenues then which can and must be utilised by the Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper to get his message across. If he and his staff are then seen to be working to the club's approved programme to the best of their ability within their budget and staffing resources and given that members have been provided with the facts, then much criticism will begin to dissipate.

Then there is the role of Chairman of Green and his Committee. It is their duty to communicate with the greenkeeping staff and subsequently through the club's committee structure to the general membership. They can also communicate with members in a social context while playing golf. The partnership of the Chairman

of Green and Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper is a vital one and must be worked at by both parties. Quite often it is the breakdown in this relationship which precipitates trouble. This breakdown can often be the result of member pressure which in turn undermines the Chairman of Green's position. He needs to be someone who shows an empathy with greenkeeping and greenkeepers and, who, without instant knowledge, is prepared to learn in his role. There needs to be a long term commitment by him and his club to that role for continuity is all important in a successful relationship with the Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper. Again, the Chairman of Green's communication with the Captain is important for the latter will change annually and his enthusiasm for all things to be perfect during his year must be tempered by a degree of realism not least in matters appertaining to the golf course.

It is my belief that poor and in some cases non-existent communication is the root cause of many of the problems faced by greenkeepers and the "Augusta Syndrome" merely highlights this fact in April each year. If the relevant people are prepared to work at this vital aspect of running a golf club then there will be much less stress and heartache all round. It certainly won't resolve all the problems but it may enable those charged with the responsibility for maintaining the golf course to sleep a little better at night and even to appreciate perhaps the first joys of spring.

## Meet Lisa, BIGGA's latest recruit



Lisa Walls is the latest recruit to the BIGGA staff at Headquarters at Aldwark Manor.

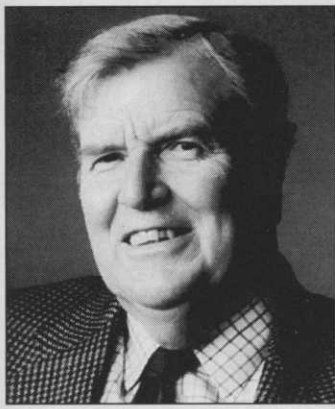
Seventeen year-old Lisa joined as a clerical assistant at the beginning of March and is combining her new job with an NVQ Level 2 Business Administration Course in York.

Although currently living in Linton-on-Ouse, where her father is in the

RAF, Lisa has spent time all over the country. She has also lived abroad and was living with her family in Kuwait when Iraq invaded. Lisa was among the children met by Saddam Hussain when he attempted his infamous televised propaganda exercise.

Now back home her interests are more mundane and include horse riding, swimming, reading, dancing and singing – where her Karaoke skills will be a superb addition to the BIGGA Girls at next year's BTME.





## Seed trade bids fond farewell to Jonathan

Jonathan Franks has retired after 20 years with British Seed Houses and a total of 32 years in the seed trade.

He joined SISIS Equipment Ltd in 1962 when the company was known as William Hargreaves Ltd and moved to Twyford Seeds, where he worked alongside Jim Arthur in 1967. He joined British Seed Houses in 1977.

Since then he has been responsible for advising on grass seed mixtures not only in the UK but also in mainland Europe and the Middle East. He is also credited with introducing Creeping Bents into the UK when the species was sown on the greens at Badgemore Park at Henley.

During his two decades with the British Seed Houses Jonathan has seen the company supply grass seed for 230 new golf courses, including major projects such as The Belfry, St Mellion, Collingtree Park, East Sussex National, The Wisley, The Buckinghamshire, The Oxfordshire and Bearwood Lakes.

In his retirement Jonathan has become secretary to the British Association of Golf Course Constructors and a judge for the Britain in Bloom competition. He also hopes to spend more time fly fishing.

# NEWS



**■** Martin Bond, of Elmwood College, Cupar, Fife, and a finalist last year in the Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year, has been awarded the Barenbrug Certificate of Excellence for his outstanding performance in his college work.

At the prize giving he was presented with the certificate and a book token by Barenbrug Area Manager Adrian Ellis while he was also congratulated on his performance by David Miller, Chairman of SCOTVEC, and Carol Borthwick of Elmwood College.

"It is reassuring to see colleges such as Elmwood and students such as Martin ensuring quality well into the next century. So it is always a pleasure for us at Barenbrug to reward particularly outstanding achievements whenever we can," said Adrian.

## Golf course owners form Association

The Association of Golf Course Owners has been formed to provide members with information on subjects ranging from VAT, clubhouse repairs, insurance etc.

The Association has been formed by golf coach and course owner Vivien Saunders and among its aims are to produce a bi-monthly newsletter; put together an advisory panel

covering aspects of managing a golf course; hold seminars in greenkeeping, golf course management, clubhouse management, food and drink, marketing and advertising; encourage machinery share or exchange between members and negotiate special discounted rates and special promotions in various aspects of the business.

It is a non-profit making organisation set up for golf club proprietors and operators, including pay-as-you-play courses.

It aims to provide them with a single voice and to promote member clubs to a wider golfing public, to help increase income and public awareness and encourage new golfers to the game.

**■** BTME 1997 is off to a roaring start with yellow forms flooding through the letter box at BIGGA HQ. Over 100 companies have already rebooked stand space. Remaining space is limited so please contact Louise Lunn Tel: 01347 838581. Don't miss out on Europe's largest indoor turf show. Book your space now.



## FLYING DIVOTS

**■** Following several attempts to misuse both the STRI name and logo, the STRI has taken legal action to protect the use made of both.

"It is not STRI's practice to state that it approves any product, and it is further practice only to allow any client receiving their results from STRI to use those results for promotional purposes only with STRI's permission and subject to a suitable undertaking being entered into by that client," explained Mike Canaway, Chief Executive.

STRI is sure that its clients recognise the importance of this, not only to the Institute, but for the industry generally. It therefore wishes to assure everyone that its protection policy will be rigorously applied and invites anyone to notify it if any breaches of this policy come to light in the future.

**■** Avoncrop Amenity Products has opened a depot at Eastern Way, Bracknell, Berks to service London and the Home Counties. The new depot holds a wide range of fertilisers, chemicals, grass seed, marking materials and sundries. For further details please contact the depot manager Johanna Feltham Tel: 01344 426600.

**■** Rolawn has opened a new depot on the Hillier Garden Centre at Sunningdale in Berkshire.

"Rolawn's delivery service will get even better because the M3, M4 and M25 will be easier to reach and therefore Rolawn Turf will get to our customers much faster," said Terry Ryan, Sales and Marketing Director.



**■** Richard Whyman, Head Greenkeeper of Bude and North Cornwall GC receives a BIGGA gift voucher for £150 from Allan Stow, Technical Sales Adviser for Vitax. Richard's name was pulled out of the hat by BIGGA Chairman Dean Cleaver at BTME 96 earlier this year.



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## Another 'Oscar' for BIGGA magazine

BIGGA's prestigious monthly magazine *Greenkeeper International* has again been praised in a trade journals competition, winning a Certificate of Merit award in the Magazine of the Year category against stiff competition.

It is the third year in a row that the magazine has collected an

accolade, this year at a regional awards ceremony in Manchester.

Judges were looking for editorial excellence and high standards of design, and with *Greenkeeper International* they were impressed with the direct way the magazine addressed its target audience. "Clearly it is giv-

ing readers what they want," said one judge. "Its pagination and paper quality give it a 'feel good' factor and a bright, lively cover adds to a favourable first impression. Any readership survey is likely to confirm that the magazine provides its specialist subscribers with a jolly good read."



## Space age arrives in Loch Lomond

Loch Lomond Golf Club has found a novel way to create a dry environment to drill greens when the Scottish weather is not being too cooperative.

A huge bubble, large enough to cover an entire green and inflated by a giant fan, arrived at the club at the beginning of February and has allowed Course Superintendent Ken Siems and his staff to work on greens in dry conditions.

At up to 10 feet high the bubble is large enough for a tractor to drive inside the bubble. Known as the Liquid Sod Growing Dome it is 500 metres square in size and was produced by Jesse Johnson, of Liquid Sod.

"It really has made a huge dif-

ference to what we have been able to do on the course," explained Ken, who is preparing for the Loch Lomond World Invitational on the PGA European Tour in September.

"We can take it down and erect it in three and a half hours so we are able to move it around quite easily."

The Loch Lomond bubble is the first to have been put into active, commercial, service although prototypes were tested at the London Golf Club, Stamford Bridge – home of Chelsea FC and one of the courts at the All England Tennis Club at Wimbledon.

"They were really tests to see if the air pressure could hold the

dome up and test the lightweight plastic."

The bubble is weighed down at the sides by water ballast and the whole structure is held together by powerful velcro, allowing it to be reduced or extended in size. It is also strong enough for a man to walk over.

As well as the ability to heat, the Dome can also be used in areas where the main aim is to keep an area cool by having a water mist going through the fan.

"The Dome will withstand up to 35 mile an hour winds and we can make them up to 30,000 square metres in size – about seven and a half acres," explained Jesse.

## HAYTER CHALLENGE

### Players continue to be named

Last month we announced that Derek McJannet, Alexander Reid, Ian Buckley and Brian Mulholland would be representing the four home countries in the inaugural Hayter International Cup at West Lincs Golf Club on September 16.

This month we can announce the names of the first international competitors to confirm their attendance.

The GCSAA element of the The Americas team will comprise: Paul McGinnis, GCSAA Vice President; George Renault III, GCSAA Secretary/Treasurer; Gary Grigg, GCSAA Immediate Past President; Randy Nichols, Cherokee Town and Country Club, Atlanta Georgia; Jim Dusch, Atlanta National GC, Alpharetta, Georgia and Sam Williamson, Ojai Valley Inn and Country Club, Ojai, California. The non-playing captain will be Bruce Williams, the GCSAA President, while Steve Mona, GCSAA Chief Executive Officer will also attend.

The Canadian element of the team will comprise Thom Charters, Robert Heron, Doug Meyer and Dean Morrison.

Other competitors will be announced as the event draws nearer.

With many bringing wives or partners to support their team a "Ryder Cup" atmosphere is guaranteed!

The first of the Section qualifiers for the Hayter Challenge are currently being played. Any newsworthy events should be sent to Scott MacCallum at Headquarters for inclusion in the Hayter column.

The final will be played at Fairhaven on September 18.



## Pat is new Vice Chairman



Pat Murphy, of Shipley Golf Club in Bingley, West Yorkshire, is the new National Vice Chairman of BIGGA. Pat, who

joined the Board of Management in 1995, is currently Chairman of the Education Sub Committee.

"It came as a complete surprise when Dean Cleaver phoned me

up and asked if I would be Vice Chairman. I nearly fell off my chair and was numb for quite a while after," said Pat.

"My golf club is absolutely delighted. The President of Shipley Golf Club got up at the Northern Section Dinner and said how please they were that I'd been invited to be Vice Chairman and that the club was right behind me."



# Prestigious deal goes to Ransomes

St Andrews Links Trust has appointed Ransomes as the exclusive supplier of turf maintenance equipment and light utility vehicles for its courses.

Under the rolling three year agreement the Trust will purchase only Ransomes, Cushman and Ryan equipment to maintain the six courses which form Europe's largest golf complex.

"We are delighted to have signed this exclusive agreement with Ransomes," said Links Manager Ian Forbes.

"A major factor in selecting Ransomes was the company's commitment to golf through the design, manufacture and supply of first class maintenance machinery."

The agreement was secured by Ransomes with invaluable assistance from local distributor, Scottish Grass Machinery which will be responsible for the installation,

servicing and maintenance of the equipment.

"This is a great achievement for Ransomes and for Scottish Grass Machinery," said Managing Director David McNroy. "With Gleneagles already committed to Ransomes, we have now secured exclusive agreements this year with two of the world's finest golfing locations."

The new agreement follows on from another signed with Pebble Beach.

St Andrews Links already has a number of Ransomes machines the most recent of which – a pair of Fairway 300 mowers – were used during last year's Open Championship. Among the first of the new machines to be delivered will be an E-Plex all-electric greens mower, which being virtually silent will enable an earlier start on greens close to the local hotels and houses.



## Mommersteeg turfgrass workshop was a sellout

Twenty two greenkeepers recently attended a one day Turfgrass Workshop, organised by Mommersteeg International. The training course, which was the first of its kind to be arranged by the company, was held at the Welsh College of Horticulture.

Course tutor Phil Davies, pictured above, who is Mommersteeg's amenity seeds specialist, was encouraged by the response from the attending greenkeepers. "The North Wales section of BIGGA asked us if we would be prepared to hold the course and it was an overwhelming success."

"We were over subscribed, and the interest and participation from the greenkeepers was very encouraging. It acted as a

useful refresher for many of the attendees who hadn't studied grass identification since their college days."

The workshop included details on the breeding of grasses, identification, and selection of mixtures for different golf course areas.

In addition to the overall success of the day, two attendees were assessed by an independent assessor and verifier in accordance with the Greenkeeper Training Manual regulations and were awarded passes.

Mommersteeg provided a manual on the course contents and presented everyone with a certificate of attendance. The company is investigating holding similar events for greenkeepers in other areas of the country.

## Cash boost

Regional Administrator Bob Lupton, left, presents BIGGA Chairman Dean Cleaver with a cheque for £1,000 – raised by the Northern Region for the Association's Building Fund.







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102



# BIGGA courses will help you develop greenkeeping career

**S**ome 250 greenkeepers have discovered that the BIGGA Supervisory Management training courses both at Aldwark Manor and in the Regions can provide them with skills and knowledge to make them better managers.

These courses are not just for those in positions of management but also for the Head Greenkeepers and Course Managers of the future. Several City and Guilds and N/SVQ qualified greenkeepers have spoken about the excellent practical skills that have been taught on these courses.

Because of the very positive feedback received, we have decided to expand the range of courses for 1996/97. Information on the Aldwark Manor five-day residential courses is described in an insert in this magazine, which also acts as an application form. These courses, where costs have been kept to 1994 levels, cover the work that would take several local courses to complete.

The courses are yet another



## Education Update

BY KEN RICHARDSON

Learning Experience provided by BIGGA so apply NOW to reserve your place.

The courses at level 3 N/SVQ are:

### October 7-11: Managing People Module 1

Computing for Greenkeepers, time management, team building, motivation, delegation, leadership.

### October 14-18: Managing People Module 2

Listening and Questioning skills, appraisal, assertive communication, constructive feedback, grievance and discipline, computing for greenkeepers.

### October 21-25: Managing Oper-

### ations and Resources

Resource planning, estimates, budgets, projects, quality care, competency based qualifications, portfolio development and computing for greenkeepers.

### October 28-November 1: Managing Information

Memos and letters, report writing, managing meetings, communication skills, presentation skills, computing for greenkeepers

These level 3 courses run from Monday lunchtime to lunchtime on Friday and include all food and accommodation. Delegates and employers receive a certificate of attendance.

### November 4-8: Managing Finance and Management of Health & Safety

Controlling Budgets, expense reports, reforecasting, cash flow forecasting, use of spreadsheets, computing for finance

This level 4 course runs from Monday lunchtime to lunchtime on Friday and includes all food

and accommodation. Delegates and employers receive a certificate of attendance.

The cost of each course, including, four breakfasts, five lunches four dinners and four nights accommodation plus all tuition fees is the very low £ 425 + VAT for BIGGA members; £490 + VAT for non BIGGA members

Details of the next series of local supervisory management courses will appear in June's edition of *Greenkeeper International*.

Planning is well under way for the Learning Experience 1997. In association with Ransomes, this event will comprise the National Education Conference, four Workshops and a full Seminar programme.

We will also run a chairman of green/secretaries course in cooperation with the STRI.

Do you have any suggestions for subjects, titles, themes or speakers for future events? If so, fill in the form enclosed with this magazine and return it to BIGGA HQ.

## Headland Seamac

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# the Learning experience

## Golf and nature can be made to work in harmony

**G**rowing public concern over the environmental impact of golf courses put the industry on the defensive in the mid to late 1980s.

A spate of new course developments, many situated in some of the most beautiful parts of the United Kingdom, provided support for the arguments of those who preferred to see the countryside remain as it was.

In some cases, the planning authorities agreed. In others, they listened carefully to both sides and realised that perhaps golf courses are not as damaging to the environment as pictured by the "anti's".

These battles, whether they were won or lost, had a major effect on the way in which golf courses now present themselves to the public. Instead of apologising for being there, clubs have moved onto the offensive and are actively demonstrating how a well managed golf course, rather than damaging nature, can actually provide substantial ecological and community benefits.

Faced with a hostile environmental activist, greenkeepers should remind the person that golf courses actually help conserve green spaces which might otherwise have been lost forever or fallen into total neglect.

In addition to providing a place for quiet recreation, a golf course enhances and protects wildlife habitats, giving flora and fauna a safe place in which to flourish. In virtually every case, a golf course will help improve the landscape by bringing professional land management practices to poor grade farmland, run-down parks and woodland, reclaimed landfill sites and other areas which, due to their location, topography or cost of improvement, would never otherwise attract sufficient investment.

It is often overlooked that course managers and greenkeepers are among the best educated and most conscientious users of chemical management aids in any industry.

Most of those responsible for course maintenance entered the profession because of a love of nature and the outdoor life and are totally committed to conserva-



Man and machine in harmony with nature at The Gleneagles Hotel

tion. Surveys carried out in the USA have shown that course superintendents give top priority to maintenance practises that do not have a negative effect on the environment. It would be safe to assume that the same aim applies the world over.

Environmentalists would do well to recognise that, in comparison with the surrounding industrial, farming or urban areas, a golf course is one of the most ecologically sound places on the planet.

Some will argue that flags, bunkers and closely mown turf are not part of a natural rural landscape, but surely these are preferable to a six lane highway, an industrial estate or an overgrown field of weeds "set-aside" as the answer to agricultural over-production?

While the recent mushrooming of new courses has dragged golf into the environmental spotlight, it is worth reminding the objectors that the industry has been commercially active for at least 100 years, playing its part as a tax-paying, land-improving, socially-responsible employer.

Anyone wanting a good example of how nature and a long-established golf course can walk hand in hand should be directed towards the environmental programme being pursued at Gleneagles.

Located in the wonderful countryside of the Perthshire hills, Gleneagles has established an integrated ecological management plan to preserve and enhance the delicate balance of nature within its 830 acre estate

and the surrounding area.

The plan works in harmony with Gleneagles' support for the Scottish Golf Course Wildlife Trust initiative, designed to create a greater awareness among Scottish golf clubs, their members and visitors of their responsibility towards good environmental and monitoring practices.

Planning and building of the newest course at Gleneagles – the Nicklaus-designed Monarch's – presented an ideal opportunity for the whole management of the estate to be considered while analysing maintenance practices and their impact on both the local and surrounding environment.

Studies began with a look back at pre-historic events and how the movement of ice and melt waters had helped shape the land mass, forming the stadium ridges which separate the fairways to create some of the finest natural grandstands in championship golf. Closer sub-surface examination revealed rich seams of sand and gravel beneath the turf – deposits which are preserved for perpetuity by golf.

Having examined the geological aspects of the area, attention focused on the many species of flower, grass, tree and shrub native to Gleneagles. Some rarities were found and these are included within a number of marked out areas where every species is counted and noted. Regular monitoring allows a close eye to be kept on how the flora responds to changes in management techniques, enabling the latter to be adjusted or altered to

maintain an ecological balance.

In the past, Gleneagles admits that it looked upon the management of its estate and golf courses principally in terms of whether they looked tidy, not really being aware of the real environmental issues.

Although Gleneagles has 20 sites of scientific interest, including one SSSI, all of which have been protected and cared for, they had been treated in isolation and not in relation to the whole estate.

This attitude has now changed with a balanced approach ensuring that the complete area is treated and managed as an entity. Management is needed because, left unchecked, nature would run riot with invasive species choking out those which support the more delicate and vulnerable eco-systems at Gleneagles.

"Conservation is not about leaving nature alone," points out Jimmy Kidd, Director of Turf Grass Management, Gleneagles Golf Developments. "It is essential that we lend a hand to maintain the balance. The alternative would be walls of gorse along every fairway, beech trees covering the King's, pines invading the rough on the Queen's, weeds running riot on the Monarch's and the Laich Loch within the formal garden becoming silted up."

The philosophy at Gleneagles, and one which can be applied in some way at every golf course in the world, is that it is much simpler to maintain a course in harmony with its natural surroundings than to create something totally unnatural.


This means that the course, its architecture, layout and maintenance must fit in with all else around. If changes are deemed necessary, consider them carefully and then make them gradually so that possible impact on the environment is minimised.


Native plants and trees and the natural lie of the land have been utilised since golf began to give a course its unique character while helping it harmonise with its surroundings. Removing or altering one or the other, or bringing in a species totally alien to the area, is likely to fuel anti-golf course sentiments far more than a few flag sticks or tee boxes.





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**Chris Knowles, Assistant Greenkeeper for Forest of Arden Golf and Country Club, reports on his impressions of the Double Eagle Club in Columbus, Ohio**

**A**fter graduating from Myerscough College in April 1995, with a BTEC National Diploma in Turf Science and Sports Ground Management, I was given the opportunity to participate in the Ohio State University's "Agriculture and Horticulture Intern Programme". Through the established relationship between Myerscough and the Ohio State University I undertook an eight month placement at the Double Eagle Club, Columbus, Ohio.

The Double Eagle Club is 25 miles north of the city of Columbus in an area called Galena. The golf course is quite a secret, with no signs indicating its presence, many local people are unlikely to be aware of it. Membership is very exclusive with 50 local members, 98 non local and only about 4800 rounds of golf are played each year. Membership is by personal invitation of the Double Eagle Club's sole owner, a very successful local business man, Mr John H McConnell.

McConnell purchased the land for the course eight years before construction began. During that time many meetings were held with the two designers, Tom Weiskopf and Jay Morrish, to determine how to create a truly top class golf course with the land that was available. The eight years deliberation and design certainly paid off, for between them, Weiskopf and Morrish came up with a masterpiece that certainly ranks up there with the Augustas and Pebble Beaches of this world. Construction began in 1990.

Double Eagle Club has an 18 hole golf course, a Bye Hole for settling ties, a driving range with Bent grass tees and target greens and a putting green outside a magnificent clubhouse. The course is truly spectacular and has characteristics of both park land and links.

The Course Superintendent is Terry Buchen, certified golf Course Superintendent and BIGGA Master Greenkeeper. Buchen has grown-in 11 new courses in the US and has worked with people such as Tom Fazio, Tom Weiskopf, Pete Dye and Jack Nicklaus. Buchen, who is a Pennsylvania State graduate, is also a committee member for the USGA and former PGA Tour agronomist. He also writes articles for several golfing and greenkeeping magazines and can often be found giv-



# A hide

ing turf related talks at many venues. In 1990 Buchen was approached by McConnell and was asked to take a look at the site. He liked what he saw and stayed to oversee the construction and the grow in, and subsequently became Superintendent of the club.

It is due to Buchen's unquestionable knowledge and experience and through the hard work and dedication of his well educated and trained greenkeeping crew that, in 1994, the Double Eagle Club was voted, by Golf Digest Magazine, 2nd best conditioned golf course in the States





Practice tee at the Double Eagle Picture by Brian Morgan

# en American treasure

after Augusta. In 1995 Double Eagle was ranked 44th in the States and 72nd World wide. These accolades are very impressive for a course that has only just finished its fourth season and is still little publicised. It is not hard to see why these accolades were presented.

- The greens are all Penn Links Creeping Bent grass and hand mowed daily with Toro 1000's at anywhere from 5/32" – 1/8", depending on firmness and moisture levels, usually double cut daily during normal summers.

- Tees are all Penn Cross Creeping Bent except for the 7th cham-

pionship tee which is Penn Cross oversown with Poa trivialis as the tee is in a very shaded area. The tees are cut at 5/32" almost daily.

- Fairways are all Penn trio and are cut at 3/8" with the Toro 5300, – 4 wheel drive.

- The rough is a mixture of Kentucky Bluegrass (smooth stalked meadow grass) or Rye grass and chewings Fescue.

The deep rough, or "Native" as they like it to be called, is very much encouraged to grow wildly as it consists of Tall Fescue, Timothy and Foxtails. Wild flower mixes are also incorporated into the Native which is very benefi-

cial to the local ecosystem and really enhances the aesthetic value of the whole course. The only drawback is that the "Native" is certainly lost ball territory!

There are 83 sand bunkers on the course and they must be among the best maintained anywhere. The bunkers are raked daily and edge trimming is carried out at least once a week using a strimmer held in an upside down position. I found this method to be most effective in creating a very tidy edge if done properly.

The hole positions on each

green were changed daily by the greenkeepers. A systematic approach was adopted in this operation in that the greenkeepers were provided with a scaled plan and chart which shows, on each green, nine viable locations for the flag stick. Consequently it is a full nine days before a flag position is repeated. This gives the new plug and old hole time to bind and of course provides players with variations in pin positions. Caddies also have copies of the charts and can advise the golfer of the daily hole position at each green.

Divots on all tees are repaired



# A hidden American treasure

daily with a Penn Cross seed and rootzone mix of 85% sand, 15% sphagnum moss.

Buchen operated an effective management control system through providing all the green-keeping staff with Motorola radios and speaker "mikes". This enabled immediate two-way contact between Buchen and staff and through previous time and motion studies it was demonstrated that 1/hour/man/day would be saved. I am sure that everyone knows how time consuming and frustrating it can be to locate a member of staff somewhere on the golf course. While, as yet, Buchen cannot control the elements he is certainly up to speed in the technology of weather forecasting. Using an 18" satellite dish Double Eagle is in communication with the national weather satellite and using "Golf Links" software has up-to-the minute weather charts displayed on the office monitor. This obviously assists in the planning of the work programmes for the

OPERATION	MACHINERY
Mowing Greens and Tees	Toro 1000s
Mowing Fairway	Toro 5300
Mowing Short Rough	National Triplex
Victory Laps around Fairways	Toro 3000s
Mowing Rough	Toro 455
Mowing around Bunkers	Stiener Triplex
Cutting Deep Rough	Toro 322 with 72" Deck
Raking Bunkers	Toro Sand Pro
General Purpose Machines	Cushmans and Kawasaki Mule
Spraying	Cushman and tractor attached Chempros
For Hauling	Ford Tractors, Toro Workman

course, particularly those that may be detrimentally affected by weather extremes.

Of particular value to me during my time in America was working with other "turf students" from various State Universities including Ohio, Michigan and West Virginia. It was very stimulating talking and swapping ideas and information with this knowledgeable peer group. Buchen was also keen to utilise and formalise this "knowledge" pool and hosted a "turf club" every Wednesday

afternoon where we would discuss course operational matters and problems. Buchen also seems a believer in "learning by doing" and I was given tremendous opportunities to use all the various machinery during my time at Double Eagle. I learnt a great deal using new machinery including Toro Hydroject on the greens, Cushman GA60 Fairway Aerifier, and Cushman Core Harvester.

Of particular interest was the week, in November, that I spent with the irrigation engineer when

we "blew out" the system in advance of winter conditions. This was a great opportunity for me and I now feel totally confident in performing an operation which I previously thought very complex. With regard to the irrigation system at Double Eagle, wall to wall watering is achieved using a PSI Flowtronex 1500 GPM Pump Station comprising of 25, 50 and 75 HP pumps. It also incorporates a chemical irrigation injector system, used for treating 'well' water and a Toro fully automated fertiliser irrigation injector system with 650 and 670 heads. These heads can also be controlled by the Toro VT4 satellites distributed over the course. Sprinkler heads are also used as 'yardage' markers for the benefit of golfers.

The Double Eagle Club is very well equipped with some excellent machinery and pretty well everything that could be needed to keep the course in pristine condition is available. Listed are the basic machines used for day to day course operations and these

## INTRODUCING THE NEW GREENSMASTER 3200-D.







Chris Knowles, right, and Terry Buchen at The Double Eagle Club

are supplemented with other specialist equipment including the Hydroject, Green and Fairway Aerifiers, Metermatic Green and Fairway Top dressers and an Olathe Core litimiser vacuum.

The course also has three excellent maintenance buildings with two full-time mechanics who operate a comprehensive range of repair and maintenance equipment. The main building also houses a first class staff room with a complete range of kitchen equipment and two drinks vending machines. Buchen and his two assistants also have their well organised offices in the main building. The other two buildings are used principally for vehicle

and material storage.

I would also refer to something that is of particular interest to me and that is the questions of "nature conservation". Over recent years, in Britain, there has been a continued growth in criticism directed at golf course development, from conservationists. The Double Eagle Club, in my view, epitomises how well a course development/conservation relationship can be achieved. Alongside the excellent, even manicured, presentation of tees, fairways and greens, the course has a high proportion of woodland, the 'Native' rough and several large water bodies. Flora and Fauna abound in the various

course environments and it was most exciting for me to see many new species of animal and birdlife, although the smell of skunk I could have done without!

I must also mention the accommodation that was made available to me during my stay. I shared a large bungalow with three other turf students. It was situated in a woodland glade, quite close to the course, and was fully furnished and provided with all mod cons. It also had its own fishing lake which also came in handy during the very hot summer of 1995 (regularly 95°F temperatures).

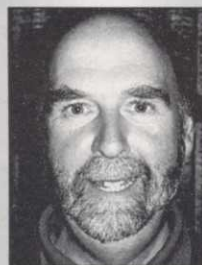
This was my first trip to America, it was a wonderful experience and I met many helpful people. The only real difficulty I found was the lack of transport, although I was able to organise lifts and, at times, course vehicles were available. I would therefore advise anyone considering a sojourn in America to plan for buying some appropriate transport.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity personally to thank

Terry Buchen and Mr John McConnell for allowing me to be part of the team running a wonderful golf course. It has left me with very fond memories, that will stay with me always and I made some new, genuine friends who I hope to see again one day.

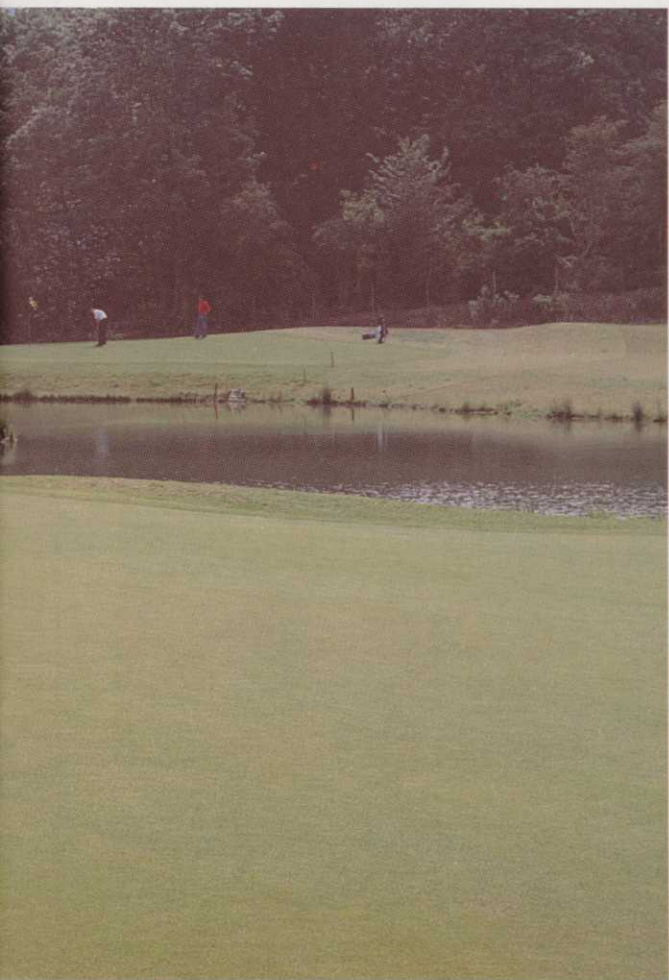
I wish Double Eagle a great future and I look forward to seeing a 'major' being played there very soon; it is certainly no more than it deserves.

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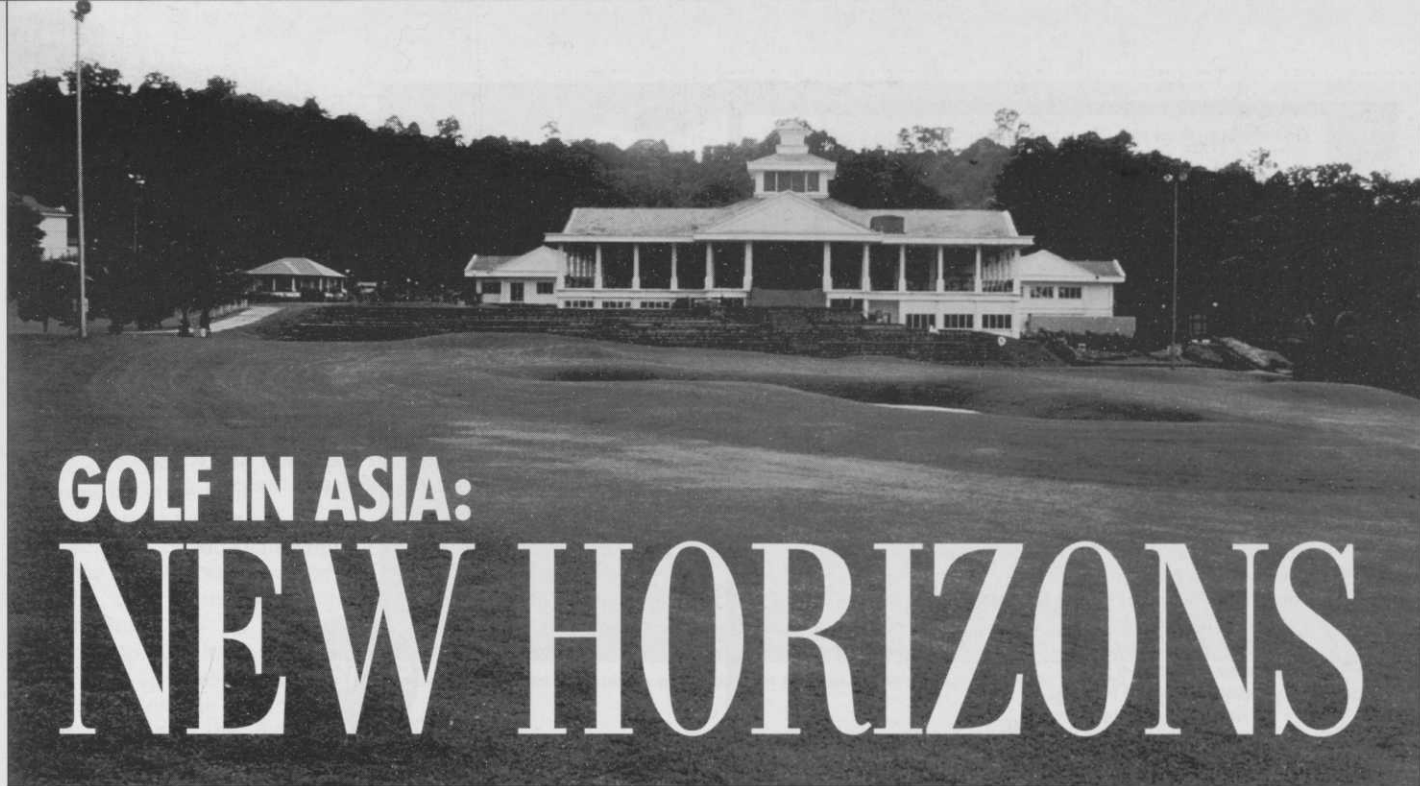


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The clubhouse at Serendah GC, north of Kuala Lumpur

# GOLF IN ASIA: NEW HORIZONS

**G**olf in Asia is a sleeping giant but it is stirring from its slumbers and when it wakes fully there will be some excellent employment opportunities for BIGGA members

Some British designers and suppliers have been working in Asia for some time – some have only recently taken the plunge. Golfconsult has worked there, and in Australia, since the late 1970s and took the big step of establishing a base in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in October last year – coinciding with the British Consultants Bureau (BCB) Mission to India, Myanmar and Malaysia led by its President, the Duke of Gloucester.

The company has a full portfolio of work, both for golf design and its consultancy expertise – principally golf investment appraisal for which, as in UK, viability problems have awakened a big demand.

Asian dynamism began in the 1970s with the emergence of the Pacific Rim economics zone. Historically, the rise and rise of Asia has been a four act scenario. The first was led by Japan, now ranked with the USA as one of the two most powerful economies in the world. Act two sees the rise of the four Asia tigers, South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore compressed into just three decades. Act Three added Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia – the former now the largest producer of air conditioners and exporter of televisions and telephone appliances.

The Fourth Act is under way with China, Philippines and Vietnam being sucked into the development whirlpool. Guangdong Province in China could well become the largest manufacturing centre in the world and India has emerged on the world industrial scene. The standard of living in the early "Tigers" is already fast approaching ours with growth ratio about three times the European average. Centuries of Western supremacy have left us ill-equipped to grasp to what is happening.

Not surprisingly the development of the Asia golf business – not least in economic terms reflects these rankings with Japan in the van. There is continuous growth in all Asian countries. However, very little research has been done and the supporting services sector,

not least for consultancies, hardly exists and design is dominated largely by Australians and Americans.

The "Tiger" league rankings (Asia/Pacific) on the basis of the latest golf course figures from a recent study are:

(population in millions) Total number of golf courses – 5058 in total.

Japan	(124)	2500
Australia	(18)	1600
New Zealand	(3.5)	425
Malaysia	(19)	160
Indonesia	(191)	135
South Korea	(44)	82
India	(800)	170
Thailand	(58)	160
Philippines	(64)	60
Taiwan	(21)	80
China	(1185)	38
Singapore	(3)	32
Hong Kong	(4)	15
Vietnam	(66)	1

The table could mislead. There are allegedly some six million regular club golfers in Asia/Pacific – roughly around 1200 per course. But there are an estimated 21 million "active" players without a course of their own – most will be range customers – in Japan alone some 4000 many of whom travel far to play a course abroad.

To appreciate the gross under supply the question is how many courses would meet the demands of the "active" and clubless 21 million – probably over 10,000!

Unfortunately for the clubless and the general public put off by exclusivity and high costs the fashion has been to follow the "expensive is best" watchword – a fallacy as greenkeepers know – with bankers too but they are very slow to catch on!

History tells us differently. A glance back at the inter-war years 1920 to 1930 shows that the golf architects of those days set the standards prevailing today. Their vision of duty was to create the best with minimum disturbance as economically as possible. Such stringent criteria is a test most designers today

would fail!

There are not only 21 million active golfers buying clubs, clothes and golf balls in Asia but also 300 million middle class with disposable income, many potential golfers among them. The mind boggles at the thought when entrepreneurs find out how to entice them into the Royal and Ancient game. Those who already know are not telling.

One part of the answer is, of course, no 7000 yard "monster masterpieces" – unplayable by the paying public.

This brief insight into the vast market of Asia might give greenkeepers an idea of the greenkeeping requirements. In truth ex-patriots now fill many posts because the education facilities for local potential greenkeepers are pathetic. There is a large market for the good greenkeeper – especially Head Greenkeepers and Course Managers. They command high salaries – but they must be knowledgeable about tropical turfgrasses and diplomats par excellence.

One solution to this shortage of affordable golf in Asia is the short course complex – several or which designed by Golfconsult are on the stocks in Malaysia. Their principle benefits are economic, use less land than 18 holes, far greater capacity and the economics enable owners to lower the cost of play to a fraction of that for the fashionable monsters.

As for working in tropical climates in high temperatures there are enough foreigners already there to show it is congenial. Pleasant people, English widely spoken in most countries and, with a degree of sensitivity to local customs, little risk.

Unfortunately as yet the greenkeeping bodies in Asia are not yet as well organised as BIGGA but nevertheless any ambitious members willing to try something very different should have little difficulty fitting in – provided he can find a position. Until more British take up the option it will not be easy at first.

Persistence will pay off in the end. They need us and our cost effectiveness!

■ The author, Bryan Griffiths, is Chairman of Golfconsult International Ltd.



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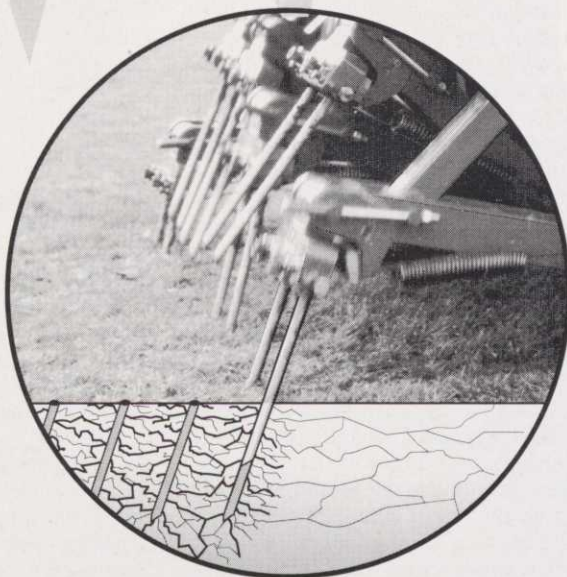
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**Having been at the forefront of amenity grass seed for many years Mommersteeg has decided the time is right to strengthened relations with greenkeepers by becoming a Golden Key Sponsor.**

**A**t times when relations with some of our continental cousins are, to put it mildly, frosty, it is refreshing to discover one country with which we are on the same wave length and where successful integration and co-operation is the norm.

Holland and the United Kingdom seem to get on rather well together and we can apparently work in close harmony to our mutual benefit.

Bergkamp, Gullit, van Hooijdonk have all made impressive impressions on the UK football fields – although the imminent arrival of the European Soccer Championships will split the loyalties of Arsenal, Chelsea and Celtic fans for a couple of weeks at least. Van Gogh is another from the flatlands to make a big impression in the UK, on canvas rather than turf, spending his early years working in England.

In fact those who have crossed the North Sea and failed to make an impact are about as numerous as British Wimbledon Seeds – there, I knew I could bring this introduction around to seeds eventually. It's not just BBC 2 continuity announcers who can contrive a link.

"The MM range was the first real national branded range of seed mixtures for greenkeepers and other sports turf managers," explained John Akers, Commercial Manager for the Mommersteeg Seed Company in the UK, which has become a BIGGA Golden Key sponsor this year.

The family firm was founded by Henry Mommersteeg in 1923 with its raison d'être grass breeding and multiplication of grass varieties for agricultural and amenity use.

The first Mommersteeg trading in the UK occurred in 1968 when a base was set up at Finedon in Northamptonshire. The commercial arm of the company is now based at Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, where the local MP is a certain John Major.

"We have a team of 11 people who cover both amenity and agriculture," explained John. "That's backed up by the group production facility in Sleaford, Lincolnshire, which services the three seed companies and is owned by Mommersteeg's parent company, the Royal Van Der Have Group, which employs nearly 1000 people around the world."



**Taking a closer look: Examining a trial base at Mommersteeg's headquarters in Holland**

# From little seeds great grasses grow



The original reason why Holland became such an excellent breeding ground for seed companies is open to debate but what is known is that in the modern age the Netherlands is ideally suited to the role.

"It is very flat and has excellent farmland which is good for its seed production capabilities. Also in terms of distribution Europort

Sleaford."

Mommersteeg's Head Office is in Vlijmen in the east central part of Holland not too far from the Second World War landmark of Arnhem, of a Bridge too Far fame it the way to the German border.

The Royal Van Der Have Group's Headquarters are at Kapelle in the south west of the country and they have operating

Smooth-Stalked Meadow Grass is sold as Kentucky Blue Grass in the States – so we have connections with many of the main turf business in America," said John.

The MM range has been a market leader for the last 20 to 25 years and Mommersteeg's position will be strengthened by some new variety coming through the breeding programmes which are highly rated by the STRI. "These are now being incorporated in our mixtures and we are aiming to regain the number one position in the market place for amenity mixtures," said John.

"Our business has always been very strong with golf clubs because we deal with amenity distributors whose main market is in golf. Companies like Stewart's, Gem Professional, Stabrite Supplies and John Lindsay in Northern Ireland."

In addition Mommersteeg has a team of four people who cover

## Mommersteeg



in Rotterdam is an ideal location for the distribution of seed throughout the world also the receipt of imports for other product areas such as Canada, America, New Zealand, and South America," said John.

"For the UK market much of our amenity grass is grown in Holland and Denmark but it is then assembled, mixed and dispatched from our base at

bases throughout Europe in France, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Poland and the Czech Republic and are currently expanding into the Russia and Ukraine.

"We've a fairly big operation in North America and the companies within the Royal Van Der Have Group use Mommersteeg-bred amenity grass varieties in their mixtures. So you would find that, for example, Cynthia



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## 'It is important that we do play an active role... and that is the main reason we want to support the education programme within BIGGA'

the UK in a technical support role to these distributors. They do some direct selling in certain sectors of the market and are available to give direct advice to distributors and customers.

The Golden Key Sponsorship will provide more opportunities for Mommersteeg to tap into the sort of feedback greenkeepers can offer on how grasses have performed to refine future mixtures.

"One area which is of particular interest to us at the moment is whether greenkeepers should oversow with an all bent mixture or with a traditional chewings fescue and bent mixture.

"There are two schools of thought on that and to canvas opinion from current greenkeepers on what they are doing and what success they are getting from each of the two approaches would be extremely useful," explained John.

"We've also got information we can impart to the greenkeepers on the technical developments our breeders are looking at on mixture formulation and new varieties which are coming forward. If the greenkeepers tell us what they are looking for and what responses the mixtures are having in a practical situation. If we need to we can realign our thinking to take on board information we get."

Another example where co-operation between Mommersteeg and the greenkeeping fraternity could reap benefits is in the use of fungicidal seed treatments in certain situations for oversowing of greens and tees where there is a threat from fungal attack.

"We use a seed treatment called Apron T not as standard but as a special application and there is quite a bit of work which can be done between ourselves and greenkeepers to help develop its use."

The advances made in seed development in the last 20 years, a relatively short period in seed breeding, have been quite extraordinary.

"You only have to look at the STRI Amenity Booklet and there are over 50-60 perennial rye grasses listed, 30-40 chewings fescues, 20 slender creeping reds and 20-25 smooth stalked

meadow grasses.

"It complicates the situation for the customer with so many to choose from. Choice is good as long as you make the correct choice," said John.

"What the STRI has done is very important as a guide for using the correct grasses for each situation. At Mommersteeg we have always provided a product which is genuine and true to itself and been open about what has been put into the mixtures. We specify individual cultivars rather than groups of cultivars so the greenkeeper knows exactly what he is getting.

"We're a founder member of AGMA - Amenity Grass Marketing Association - and the two main ideals of the Association are that the customer gets the right product for the right job and that he's sure that when he buys a bag of seed he is getting what he asks for and that it is of consistent quality."

John is keen that Mommersteeg forges good relationships with the bodies within the golf industry like BIGGA.

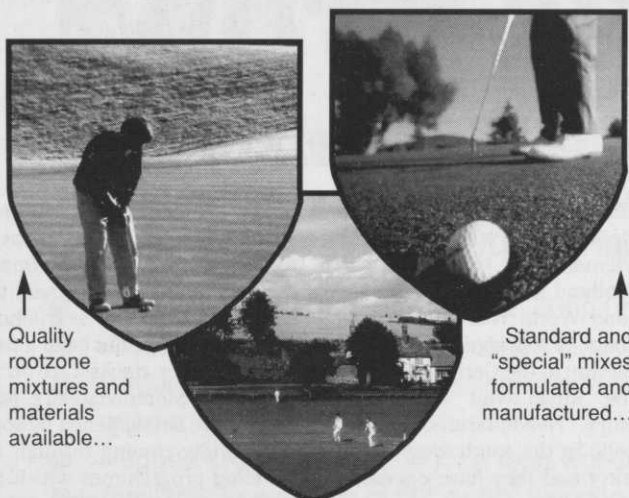
"It is important that we do play an active role in grass seed usage in the golf industry and that is the main reason we want to support the education programme within BIGGA.

"We believe that through things like the Turf Grass Workshops we have been running that we have some practical things to offer as well as a lot of expertise within the company and that a closer relationship between Mommersteeg will help to develop better greenkeeper understanding of grass seed mixtures and individual grass seed cultivars."

Mommersteeg, with its Dutch headquarters has also already been of practical support to greenkeeping acting as host to the inaugural meeting of the European Golf Greenkeepers Association..

"We were delighted to be invited by Neil Thomas and Dean Cleaver to host the first meeting in Holland and it gave us an opportunity to show off our trial and production facilities to Europe's greenkeeping bodies. We hope that it becomes a successful Association," said John.

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# Advances in turf production

**Derek Edwards takes a look at the improvements in the turf industry since the mid 70s.**

**T**he cultivated turf industry has seen many changes and much growth since the mid 70s, largely driven by advances in turf grass technology and better standards of greenkeeping/groundsmanship. Because of the wide variety of good quality turf now available, a huge increase in demand for high standard and specific products has been generated.

Twenty years or so ago the average greenkeeper would not

consider for one moment the use of turf for repairing or constructing a golf green. The choices would have been limited to buying turf from parkland, meadowland or coastal regions (seawashed) representing roughly 90% of the then turf industry. Only a mere handful of purpose grown cultivated turf producers existed with limited or questionable supplies. Invariably the greenkeeper would end up seeding or creating an on-course turf nursery simply because adequate material could not be readily purchased. Even if the grass was suitable, the soil types would

not necessarily be compatible and vice versa. If anything, seawashed turf, because of its fescue dominated swards was purchased in comparatively large quantities for those who wanted a fine textured sward for bowling, golf or luxury lawns. However, for most of these applications the grass quality and strength were questionable as was the soil type which invariably was silty.

In the late 70s a few turf growers began purpose growing turf for various specific applications. For example a lighter, stone free soil would have been chosen and a grass seeds mixture or say an

80/20 fescue/bent mixture would be drilled (grasses of known quality and availability) and then the area intensively managed to produce golf or bowling green turf. To begin with this was slow to catch on, mainly due to its relatively high price but more especially greenkeepers were sceptical; because of the historical bad record of turf supply quality they would not trust the description of the turf given by the grower to match the product. Invariably, however, the material would sell but the quantities were small and very quickly the continuity of supply failed and the turf



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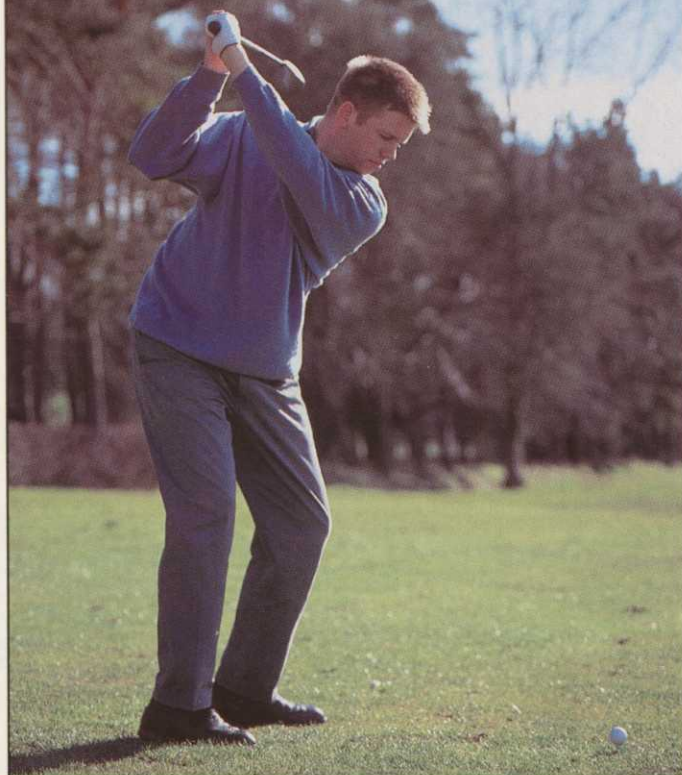
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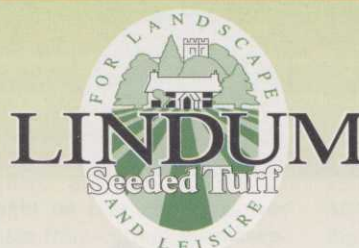
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# Advances in turf production

grower, lacking much experience, would resort to supplying material of an inferior nature which would then further disillusion the greenkeeper.

Gradually the increasingly discriminating greenkeeper was being converted and by shopping around could, by the early 80s, find reasonable sources of supply of turf which not only contained appropriate grasses but was grown on reasonable soil types and was produced with quality seed providing a very acceptable and attractive result. So it was catching on.

The boom in golf course construction during the 1980s fuelled the demand and as this coincided with an increase in agricultural land availability (thousands of acres taken out of crop production) a whole and significant industry was developing with many farmers turning to turf production as an alternative crop. Owing to the wide gulf between agriculture and horticulture many of these projects proved a disaster. However some farmers who took the trouble to learn the subject and to get advice from experts did and have succeeded in producing consistently good turf products.

This activity was being reflected throughout the whole of the country and abroad and encouraged turf machinery manufacturers, amenity seed producers and trade suppliers generally to increase production and introduce new and improved materials and equipment, further encouraging growth in the industry.

The first notable change was in the quality and reliability and choice of machinery specifically designed for turf growing (eg harvesters and mowers). To cope with the increasing acreages of cultivated turf, all these items were essential and the acreages since the 70s have grown from around 1500 to now well over 15000 acres of quality purpose grown material under production in the UK alone.

So advances in grass quality, improved growing techniques, better equipment and more knowledge have provided product availability, and demand has been born from this. Turf is now used in an amazing array of appli-



Harvesting turf tiles

cations – areas where turfing at one time would never have been considered. The main markets for cultivated turf are golf, bowling, tennis, cricket, football, landscaping and lawn usage, however we now see turf being used on industrial sites, roadside verges, river embankments airfields and so on.

Many planners, specifiers and especially end users today look for an immediate result, that is that the area is initially green and will quickly be ready for use – keeping the members or customers happy. Only by using quality purpose grown turf can these requirements be fulfilled.

For years the turf growers have battled against environmentalists who only see turf as denuding the area of its greenness and depleting the land of its rich topsoils. This has proved a nonsense in terms of modern high standard cultivations by skilled turf growers and emphasis is now being switched to the environmental benefits of turf. These benefits are too numerous to details in this article but briefly turfgrass provides erosion control, ground water recharge, surface water quality, chemical decomposition, soil improvement and restoration, heat dissipation, noise abatement, glare reduction, decreasing

pests and allergic pollens and probably most important of all to the environment, enormous quantities of oxygen that are given off into the atmosphere.

The one time “cowboy” image is rapidly disappearing and the launch of a turfgrawers trade association in 1995 for the United Kingdom has not only helped with the marketing of turfgrass benefits but has also taken steps to improve standards of the product and to improve the conduct of members growers who now total around 35. Named Turfgrass Producers International UK its members represent almost 80% of the total turf production in the country. With much work still to be done with the association barely two years old, already TPI UK has achieved the introduction of minimum standards of turf, a code of conduct for its members, a research and development fund and arranged seminars and talks for the industry in their regular meetings. All these from an association which has started off extremely successfully and provides the only group of turf growers with common and worthwhile objectives in the country.

Methods of turf installation or laying have also dramatically affected the industry in recent

years. We have seen the development of Big Roll turving systems (the original invented by Lawn Technology – now part of the Inturf Group). These systems allow mechanised handling of large sections of turf more accurately, less disturbing and several times faster than the traditional small roll of turf laying that used to be undertaken laboriously.

The industry has also seen developments in turf washing, where soil incompatibility could cause problems. Pressure jetted water onto the harvested turf removes the offending soil and the soilless turf is then laid on the prepared rootzone base, avoiding possible interface difficulties subsequently.

Reinforced turf – where soil stability can present problems such as in goal mouth areas on football pitches is also gaining in popularity. The problem with the modern rootzone mixture for say football pitches is that it tends to be designed for rapid drainage and therefore tends to be extremely sandy. The problem with sand is that it lacks stability and this is where the reinforced material can assist greatly. This stabilisation process is not, however, to be confused with turf or sod netting – sometimes referred



# Advances in turf production

to as reinforced netting. This netting merely assists the turf grower to harvest turf prematurely providing absolutely no benefit to the end user. It can be a hazard in certain applications. Beware.

Custom grown turf – this is where turf is pre-grown for a customer's exacting or unusual requirements. The specialist turf grower will import the specified rootzone spreading it to a predetermined depth according to the type of harvesting dimensions and transplanted when the facility construction has been completed. This turf can be laid by either traditional methods, big roll turfing or if there is not time remaining, the deep section turf tile can be employed and subsequently used also for instant repair work on damaged areas.

While many of these new developments are highly specialised and handled only by a very few growers the trend is



Installing big rolls

however, one of improvement of turf types and turf systems and associated services. The summer of '95 did cause a blip in the development and improvement of the turfgrass industry generally, leaving many growers with huge areas of droughted land, but it is accustomed to major variations in

climatic conditions and being a strong industry with innovative products and an ever growing demand for quality turf and services the future is both secure and exciting.

■ Derek Edwards is Managing Director of the Inturf Group and Chairman of Turfgrass Producers

International UK.

For more information about the Turfgrowers Association please contact Peter Adams, 12 Vixen Walk, Danewood, New Milton, Hampshire, BH25 5RU. Tel: 01425 638934 Fax: 01425 639195.

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# Slow down to move ahead

In all these years of maintaining golf greens the green speed has changed. The greens have become faster, but where is the end and how far can we go?

In my opinion, we cannot go any further, but we have to go backwards. First of all, green speed depends upon grass species and professional maintenance. However, we are cutting lower and lower to create fast greens for big tournaments or to have the fastest greens in the area. Being cut below 5 mm, however, fescues, brown top bent and creeping bent will not survive. What we are doing is encouraging annual meadow grass, and this is the opposite of what we want. After all, we would like to play golf in autumn and winter too. The worst thing, that happened was introducing the stimp-meter, and setting standards for faster greens.

In Harrogate, I was talking to a Course Manager and he said his greens were 13 feet on the stimp-meter and members were still complaining about slow greens. These ridiculous comments should be stopped. Also talking to Dr Joe Vargas, Plant Pathologist at Michigan State University, I said, that by raising up the cutting height of greens we would solve various problems like diseases, heat-stress wear and tear etc. He said: "Don't tell me. I know you're right. Tell your committee and members."

We are cutting too close to what grass species on greens can withstand. But what is the problem? If everybody start to make these changes at his golf course, committees will see the improvements in turf quality. Of course a Course Manager will say that by doing so he will lose his job. If that is the case he should wonder whether he is employed by the right club.

Because of the above argument, I would like to ask, and I seriously hope that are willing to, organisations which have influence on this matter, to help Course Managers in this never ending story of fast, faster, fastest greens. I am hereby thinking of organisations like the Royal and Ancient, the PGA., the STRI, BIGGA, USGA, Golf Monthly and people like agronomists, architects, and the top media commentators. I would like them to stand up and tell the world that the direction we are going in is the wrong one. We should give grass species a chance to survive, and with the parties mentioned above standing behind this matter, life for the Course Managers would be made a little bit easier.

As long as we have greens of smooth trueness and green speed adapted to the characteristics of the

available grass species of the green, it is all right. And a good professional golfer can adapt his game to the quality of the available green.

In my opinion raising up the cutting height enough to keep the required grass species alive is the way forward and not what we have been doing all these years.

**Arne van Amerongen**  
**Lauterbach**  
**Germany**

## Caution over cures

Through your magazine I am interested to find out how many Golf Course/Turf Managers, Green Chairman and Secretaries consider, like myself, that information about a large number of products leads us into tunnel thinking, especially when it comes to the understanding of grass and soil growing mediums, its requirements, tolerances, maintenance regimes etc.

More and more we see wonderful cures in bottles and bags which the turf manager is expected to buy as the latest developments. These cures quite often lead to another purchase to counteract the reaction of the first and so on.

Are we moving away from good cultural turf management? Do we as an industry agree what good cultural turf management is? Are sports clubs, golf clubs, realistic and consistent in their expectations of the turf they play on? Are these expectations leading the turf manager to look for the quick cure in the bottle?

These are a few of the questions that I feel need answering to enable those of us involved in turf care to produce the results that satisfy both the sportsman's need and the turf manager's needs.

This is too deep a subject to discuss in one letter so perhaps anybody with views on the subject would contact me to ascertain whether an open discussion would be justified at a venue.

**Steven Pell**  
**Course Manager**  
**Lansdown GC**

## First class event

I would like to thank BIGGA for the wonderful job of putting a first class conference together. As it was my first time there, and I hope it won't be my last, and I had such a great time, I will certainly recommend it to other greenkeepers in the North Section.

I have been in greenkeeping now for 31 years and I can honestly say it was

the best conference I have ever been to and the most friendly people I have ever met.

**Hugh McLatchie**  
**Head Greenkeeper**  
**Peterhead GC**

## Excellent value

Through the pages of *Greenkeeper International* may we thank the BIGGA delegation who attended the GCSAA Conference and Show in Orlando for their company and friendship throughout our visit.

We felt the organisation, hotels and plane seats from Gatwick to Orlando were excellent value.

Hope it is not too long 'till we all meet again.

**Craig and Mhairi Stewart**  
**Wittelsbacher GC**  
**Rohrehfeld-Neuburg**  
**Germany**

## A great week

I write to you to convey my thanks through your magazine to the North Section (Scottish Region) on my receiving the Patron's Award for the Section.

This enabled me to attend BTME '96 which I thoroughly enjoyed, also giving me the chance to meet many more friends from the greenkeeping profession.

I must also give a vote of thanks to Elliott Small for arranging another great but strip for everybody from Scotland.

I am surer I can say on behalf of everybody it was a great week.

Thank you once again.

**Gordon McKie**  
**Deputy Head Greenkeeper**  
**Eden Course**  
**St Andrews**

## Fair deals ignored

I am writing in frustration at the disregard that golf club committee's seem to show towards the BIGGA wage scale. In the four and a half years that I have been in greenkeeping, it has been laughed at, screwed up and usually totally ignored.

Isn't it about time that somebody stood up for the greenkeeper and made the wage scale a compulsory minimum, as it is in agriculture, on which the BIGGA rate is based? I really think that the BIGGA Board of Management should start to think about the ordinary greenkeeper, instead of concentrating on the top few greenkeepers who may be earning a decent wage. I also think that a craftsman's wage sys-

tem should be introduced to reward greenkeepers who take the time to learn new skills and who gain recognised qualifications, but until the golf clubs are told that they must pay for the time and skill put into the preparation of their golf courses, I'm sure they will just carry on paying derisory wages and in some cases letting people work in dangerous conditions under the health and safety laws. Maybe it's about time for less bowing and scraping to the golf clubs and a bit more effort being put into the welfare and earnings of the membership of their Association. After all it is the humble greenkeeper who makes up the majority of the membership.

**Name and Address Supplied**

## Appreciated

I have been requested by my fellow students who attended the Massey Ferguson Tractor Appreciation Course at Oaklands College to convey our heartfelt thanks to all those concerned with the organisation of this course.

We all feel that the instruction given to us by Guy Stewart of Massey Ferguson was of the highest quality in explaining the nuts and bolts approach to tractors and other grass machinery.

We would also like to thank the Principle and Chris Bishop of Oaklands College for the hospitality shown to us during our stay.

We all hope that this type of course will be available again to greenkeepers who, like us, would find it a very rewarding experience.

**Mark Anderson**  
**Head Greenkeeper**  
**Newbury Racecourse Golf Club**

## Generous gift

May I thank the Northern Section of BIGGA for its generous gift of £84 donated to Kasisi orphanage. The orphanage that my wife Marie and I help to support is situated in Zambia, approximately 30 kilometres east of Lusaka and at present there are 140 children there with ages ranging from one day old to teenagers.

Part of the orphanage houses 40 babies suffering either from the HIV virus or AIDS. These children do not live very long, but with the help of donations received from caring people and the love given to them by the Sisters running the orphanage it does allow them to die with dignity.

Once again many thanks to you all for your generosity.

**Bert and Marie Cross**  
**Liverpool**



# New on the market

After 23 years marketing Billy Goat outdoor vacuums Bob Andrews Ltd has signed up with new American partners **Giant Vac Inc**, from New England.

The new range includes push and power driven pedestrian vacs from 5-11hp; blowers of 5, 8 and 11hp; tailgate loaders and truck loaders from 11-20hp.

Giant Vac vacuum machines are designed on a modular basis and a range of options including engines, snouts, wheels or wanderhoses can be attached to the basic wheeled chassis.

Bob Andrews will arrange a trial anywhere in Britain free and without obligation. Tel: 01344 862111.

**Farmura** is launching a spring promotion offering a free wax body warmer to help increase awareness of its Liquid Organics and Liquid Concentrates as part of balanced turf management.

Spend £350 on selected Farmura products between now and May 31 and you will be sent a

free body warmer.

The Imperial Cancer Research Fund has developed its own range of sun care products – **Sun Safe** – which is unique in that it is the only range of the market with no products which actively help people to tan.

"We do not want to encourage people to seek a tan and we are very concerned about giving the public the right message on sun protection. This is why the lowest factor in the Sun Safe range is SPF 15. But to avoid burning, people must follow the pack instructions carefully," said Dr Julia Newton Bishop, the ICRF skin cancer expert who guided the development of Sun Safe.

All profits from the sale of Sun Safe products will go to the Imperial Cancer Research Fund and its research programme and even 1% of the of the sun care market would be worth up to £1.5 million per annum.

This year over 40,000 people in the UK will be diagnosed with

skin cancer yet many could prevent the disease by taking simple precautions against the sun – such as wearing protective clothing and a high protection sunscreen or sunblock on exposed skin.

The ICRF recommends the following tips some of which could be utilised by greenkeepers, others not!

- Stay out of the sun between 11am and 3pm.
- Keep in the shade where possible.
- Cover up. Wear loose-fitting close-weave cotton clothes which protect the shoulders and neck, a wide-brimmed hat which shades the face and sunglasses with a UV filter.
- Cover exposed parts of the skin with sunscreen or sunblock which is at least SPF 15.

**Hayter** has re-designed and up-graded its Condor after an extensive campaign to canvas opinion from customers.

Among the advances this has



brought about are easier more comfortable controls, a strengthened deck and a fuller skirt.

The new Condor Elite, pictured above, is available in two models – the Hydrostatic and the Bank. The Hydrostatic is driven by a Honda GX340 11hp engine with hydrostatic transmission and allows infinite speed variation

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The Bank model is purpose-built for negotiating difficult slopes and embankments. It is powered by a Kohler Magnum M8T 8hp engine and has a ratchet-driven transmission to ensure positive traction on steep gradients.

Both are available with the option of 30" and 36" rotary attachments or a 30", three and five bladed cylinder verge attachment.

On the well worn premise that "Every new development in the States inevitably crosses the Atlantic and becomes a trend in the United Kingdom" we can soon expect **Softspikes** to be the accepted norm for anchoring golf shoes to turf.

Softspikes were introduced in the USA in 1993 and already more than 175 courses throughout the States have banned traditional metal spikes, as tests have proved that softspikes



reduce damage to turf, carpet and may even be easier on the human body.

The non-penetrating urethane spikes have a plastic flange with ridges fashioned in a fan-like design to provide traction.

Literature from the American manufacturers of Softspikes gives the enlightening statistic that a fourball "leaves approximately 500 footprints, which translates into 6,000 spike wounds on each green. For most courses that's about a million spikemarks a day. The company also claims that the spikes reduce the spread of Poa Annua and other grass diseases and saves the club money on fer-

tiliser and fungicides.

"The theory that metal spikes somehow aerate the turf is largely disproved," said Jim Snow, National Director of the USGA's greens section. "Metal spikes actually increase compacting."

Since their initial launch the company -Softspikes - has introduced a new improved version aimed at providing more traction.

The company also provides information on how to implement metal spike bans at golf clubs.

The current cost of the new spikes is currently around \$7 to \$9 for a set of 24.

So we wait with bated breath for the arrival of the Softspike revolution which will consign traditional metal spikes to the same footnote in history as the Great British roast dinner.

A new seeding machine, recently used at Gog Magog GC in Cambridgeshire, has helped to reduce seed waste and bare patches due to wind drift.

The new machine, the **Pro-seeder TP1700** from Denmark, and bought from Greensward Engineering Company of Leeds, discharges the seed at such a low height that it eliminates wind drift while it also gently rakes the seed into the surface and covers it with a thin layer of soil which was scattered by its special mesh rear roller.

At Gog Magog the process was so successful that despite problems with wind erosion on the fairways the seed stayed in place and excellent germination was achieved.

The TP1700 is the largest in a range which also includes the TP1100 for small compact tractors and the HP600 pedestrian seeder.

Greensward said that one customer has reported saving £400 on seed with his HP600 and that the machine paid for itself in the first few months.

Further information can be obtained from Greensward on 0113 267 6000.

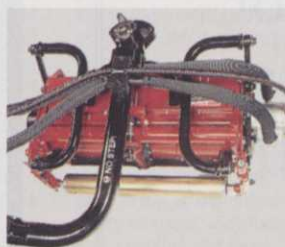
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# Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

## Scotland East Section

Welcome to this month's report. Hope everyone is well into their spring renovation work as the weather has taken a turn for the better. Well not a lot to tell you about this month but here we go.

We had a day out at Souter's of Stirling and a great day was had by all 16 members who made the journey – yet again a very poor turnout. What do we have to do to get our members interested in these days that we organise for you? If someone could let me know it would be much appreciated. So thanks again to John Souter and his company for a great day.

The East Section played host to the Scottish Conference at the Edinburgh Airport Stakis Hotel. I could not make it due to work commitments but I got all the details from Steve Dixon and Robert Hogarth who informed me of the good turnout, speakers etc. Also it was good to see our Chairman, Dean Cleaver, in attendance and our Executive Director, Neil Thomas, also made the trip north to be with us.

We hope to see a good turnout on April 11 at Longniddry GC for our first outing of the new season which is also the second round of our Hayter Qualifier, so you had better get some practice in if you wish to qualify for this year's Scottish Final.

You will soon have your fixture card and a social committee newsletter with all details of upcoming events for the first time this year.

Well that's it all for this month folks and I'll speak to you all next month. Chris Yeaman

## Scotland North Section

Well it is April and next month at the superb links of Cruden Bay near Peterhead we have our Spring outing. You better get your entry in quickly as I am sure there will be a big demand for places. You have been warned!

While on the subject I must mention that the first four draws of the 200 Club will take place at Cruden Bay so it is imperative that all tickets are sold prior to the day to maximise the funds raised. Please buy the ticket sent to you to support your Section, or at least return it in good time so that it can be sold on to someone else. If you are going to pay for it on the day that is fine but let a member of the committee know to save time consuming and costly phone calls. There should really be no need to chase people in this matter. A simple yes or no as soon as the card is delivered is all that is required. 200 Club organiser Gordon McKie has moved into his new flat in Cupar now and can be contacted on 01334 653995.

As forecast last month here is the anticipated influx of new members to the Section. Royal Dornoch has two new trainees to welcome, Marcus Ross and Gary Gruber from Huntly; we have Stuart Angus, Alford's new

trainee John Morton joins us as does Boat of Garten's James Hutchison. From the new Craggan course at Grantown-on-Spey we welcome assistant Mark Brennan and finally, for this month anyway, joining us is Richard Cutler, assistant at Montrose Links. Keep them coming. The more the merrier.

Good times and not so good times for a couple of members to report. The good news concerns Westhill greenkeeper Bradley Wood who married his first love, Donna, at the venue of his second love (I hope that is the right order) Pittodrie Stadium, home of Aberdeen FC. We wish them all the best for the future. The not so good news is of Hopeman greenkeeper Stevie Dunn, who in his other role as goalkeeper of Rothes FC, just failed to help them reach their first cup final for many years when they went down 2-0 to Inverness Clach in the North of Scotland Cup semi-final. Better luck next time Stevie.

Congratulations to Mike Wilson on his appointment as Head Greenkeeper at the newly privatised Forres GC.

Another group of North members went through their D32/33 training at Nairn recently and should be building up their portfolios for assessment now. All Head Greenkeepers should go through this so that they can assess their trainees in the future. Details are available from the GTC or by contacting Section Education conveners, Stewart McBain on 01224 733347 or Kevin Peace on 01467 623125. Iain Macleod

## West of Scotland

On a sad note I must mention the recent death of Richard Aitken Snr, a respected businessman and life member of the Association. Richard Aitken started his business in 1963 when the company he worked for decided to uproot from the west and move east. The father of two, son Richard and daughter Grace, our best wishes and thoughts are with them at this time. Richard was a great supporter of the West Section and was well respected within the trade. I'm sure a good friend has been lost to all who knew him.

Recently a football match was arranged between the West Section and a Kevin Brunton Select under the guise of Central Section. The West came out on top winning 7-3. The first half proved to be the battle for supremacy with a 3-2 lead to the West, although keeping errors were about due to myself. Finally the West's strong legs got the better of Central and goals came fast and furiously. The goal scorers were Brian Hillan, Peter Cowan, two from George Nisbet and a hat trick from "Mr Greed" Stevie McGeachie. Well done everybody and thanks to the opposition for a well contested and enjoyable game. Special mention to Ronnie Miles, Helens-

burgh, for refereeing the match so well and making the boys tow the line so to speak. Brian Hillan should be thanked for supplying the team with strips on the day, even if they had us worried. They looked the picture, maybe that helped them play better.

The Spring Outing forms will be issued by now so be sure and enter quickly. There's sure to be a large entry at such a good course. Remember the winners qualify for the Hayter Challenge in May with the opportunity to go south in September. Something to look forward to.

The Scottish outing looks as though Elie will be the host. So another good venue!

Balmore has confirmed the Autumn Outing and I'm sure it will be in great condition. I wonder if this year quick greens and nice pin placements will be the norm.

The proposed trip to Royal Lytham had to be called off due to difficulties with bookings and arrangements for the time.

A warm welcome is extended to the following new members of the Section: Gavin Rutherford, Strathendrick GC; Andrew Cairns, Drumpellier; Stuart Ferguson, Stuart McDonald, Alan Hay, Edward Dully and Colin Shanks, all Bonnyton. We wish them well and hope to see them at the Section events.

Remember please, if there is any information for the Section please phone on 0141 942 5554. James S Taylor

## Scottish Region

Once again the Scottish Region Conference was a successful day, 160 including the speakers, enjoyed a varied and interesting programme. With the sun shining and a lovely dry working day, concern that some of the delegates might be tempted to stay on the course was expressed, but obviously all the hard work had been done in the good weather before the turn of the year.

We were delighted to have our National Chairman Dean Cleaver and Executive Director Neil Thomas with us for the day. Along with the fact that they might have learnt something, it gave many of our members an opportunity to speak with them as they mingled at coffee and lunch breaks.

It was a great turnout covering from as far north as Dornoch to Seahouses southward and from Fort William on the west to St Andrews on the east. As well as the greenkeepers we had the largest turnout of club officials ever, most of whom expressed how much they had enjoyed it. We also had a representative from the Scottish Golf Union and from the IOG. It is good to see more and more clubs appreciating that the golf course is the most important part of any club and that the continual improvement of the standards of their courses is essential.

It was not all plain sailing as firstly the room temperature soared and the heating had to be adjusted, the microphone developed a squeal now and again and when a workman in the next room started up with his drill I thought "Oh no. This is not going to be my day". However all these little things were sorted out as they arose. As to the speakers themselves, after a few words from the BIGGA Chairman we were off on the morning session under the chairmanship of Alasdair McLaren, Education Convener for Scotland. Our regular Education update was ably delivered by Steve Miller, from Oatridge College, and he was followed by Ken Gordon from Filpumps on Golf Course Irrigation with emphasis on the design of systems. Gordon Moir, Head Greenkeeper at the Eden Course, spoke next of how he and his staff reconstructed the pond on the Eden to give it a more natural look. The morning was finished off by David Roy, Course Manager at Linlithgow GC, on Conservation, how important it is, how it is not as difficult to implement as some may think and how it must fit the needs of the golfer.

The afternoon session was chaired by Stephen Dixon, Chairman of the East Section, and started with Iain MacLeod from Tain, on working on a big project with a small budget on a highland course. Ian Henderson of Ian Henderson Finance gave an interesting talk on financial leasing and how to achieve the optimum fleet. Buying Time, Buying Turf was the title of Graeme Forbes, MD Stewarts & Co, talk.

Explaining the problems of turf nursery production and also giving handy hints on how to look after your turf once it is in place. The last speaker of the day was John Souter MD, Grass Technology International, on Golf Course design and construction and with the use of slides of courses all over the world showed the difference between natural and artificial courses. All in all an excellent conference finished off by a vote of thanks from Jimmy Neilson, Vice Chairman of the Scottish Region. The Region wishes to thank all its patrons for their marvellous support, not just at the conference but through the year as well.

My thanks to Robert Hogarth, East Section Secretary and his team of helpers and especially to Edna for all her work before, during and after the event.

I will just close the conference with one point. Lunch will definitely be seated next year.

The Hayter Region Final will be held this year at Royal Aberdeen GC on Wednesday May 29. The Scottish National Tournament will be held at Elie Golf House Club on Tuesday June 18.

## Northern: Sheffield

Our Spring competition will be held at



Sherwood Forest GC on April 15 at 2pm. This will be the Hayter qualifier and Hayter will be the main sponsor at Sherwood.

I would like to congratulate Barry Lax on the completion of 25 years service as Head Greenkeeper at Workshop GC in February. The club presented Barry with a watch as thanks for his loyal service. Barry also received a commemorative plaque from the English Golf Union in recognition of his 25 years service after an EGU event at Workshop last autumn. One EGU official was amazed that Barry had been the Head Greenkeeper for 25 years. He had never heard of anyone serving that long at the same club.

New members this month include Darren Hayes and John Wilson of Oakmere Park; Gary Marsh, Hickledon GC; Andrew Lomas, Matlock GC and Gary Chafer Ashby Deroy GC - formerly known as Scunthorpe GC. J.V. Lax

### Northern

At our AGM last month the following officers were elected. President Bill Mountain (reelected); Vice-President, Mel Guy; Chairman, Alan Gamble (reelected), Vice Chairman, Robin Smith; Secretary/Treasurer, Simon Heppenstall. The rest of the committee is made up as follows:- Telford Jarvis, Denis Cockburn, Ian Thomson, Mick Hannon, Colin Garnett, David Thackray, John Waite, R. Harris and P. Mitchell. Thank you to all members who attended. It was a good turnout.

As you may have noticed we have a new Secretary and very best wishes and good luck to Simon, Course Manager at Pontefract GC, in his new post. I am sure he will do an excellent job.

Our annual dinner dance at Shipley GC recently was a great success with 92 members and guests present. Thanks to our colleagues in the trade who provided prizes for the raffle, Martin Brothers, Henton & Chattel and also Ken Christie. The raffle raised £84 which was given to Bert Cross, Secretary of the North West Section towards the Kasisi Orphanage he supports in Zambia.

On to the golf now and a reminder that the Hayter Qualifier is on April 24 at Scarborough South Cliff. All bookings, together with £10 deposits must be received a week before the event.

We were sorry to hear that Bill Mountain's wife has unfortunately been taken ill again and our best wishes from all in the Section to them both.

## Around the Green



On a happier note, it was very good to see Alan Gamble looking fit and sprightly at our dinner dance after his recent illness.

In future all queries, news correspondence, bookings for golf etc should be addressed to Simon Heppenstall, at 2 Newby Walk, Kirkheaton, Huddersfield, HD5 0LQ Tel 01484 519829. Do give him a call with any information or gossip for him to pass on. I am sure he will be pleased to hear from you. Bob Lupton

### Cleveland

The Annual General Meeting took place on February 15 at Darlington GC. Reports were given and we have a healthy balance sheet. Thanks to Secretary/Treasurer Gary Munro and Regional Representative Ian Holoran for sterling work during the past year. Thanks to Bob Lawton for being golf event organiser. We hope to have better attendances at meetings and request help before arranging speakers for next autumn. We have over 100 members which is very good but we want to have your presence gentlemen.

We are to have only one golf event in December for greenkeepers, which you can all afford. Gary will announce the venue in a newsletter.

We send best wishes to Alan Gamble and hope he gets fully fit and active again.

One vacancy on our Cleveland committee was taken by Tony Mears. Welcome Tony and thanks for your teaching efforts at Houghall College, Durham, on a part-time basis.

See you at the Spring Golf Tournament at Ramside Hall Hotel GC, Durham on Wednesday May 15. Bruce Burnell

### North East

The Autumn competition has now been confirmed and will be played at the City of Newcastle GC on September 19.

The Section welcomes the following new members - Garry Batson, Burgham Park GC; Garry Bolton, Crook GC; Cliff Bunn, Stocksfield GC;

Edward Curry, Bellingham GC; Simon Dobson, Prudhoe GC; Neil Irvin, South Moor GC; Thomas Moore, Allendale GC; Simon Reid, South Shields GC; George Wright, Crook GC and Ian Kerr, Tynemouth GC.

Congratulations to Craig Kilgour on his recent appointment and move from Ponteland GC to Hexham GC. Jimmy Richardson

### North West Section

The theme of the N/W Seminar at Mere Golf and Country Club "Forward Together" was planned to involve everybody in the golf business. It was an excellent day with 100 delegates in attendance and six very knowledgeable speakers. The seminar started with Neil Thomas taking us from the inception of BIGGA in 1987 to the present day, sharing with us some of the teething problems that occur when starting a new association. David Golding, of the GTC, spoke on the need for education and NVQs. David left little doubt that the GTC is doing everything possible to educate, not only the greenkeeper but also the golf clubs in allowing their staff to attend the colleges.

The role of the Course Manager was the title for the following speaker, and Duncan McGilvray spoke on this subject admirably. Speaking as a Course Manager, Duncan referred to his own position and how forward planning, budgeting, communicating and training, are all part of the job, as well as the most important thing - maintaining the course.

The first part of the afternoon was shared by, Peter Dutton and Dr Frank Harkins, who are both involved with the English Golf Union. Peter Dutton spoke of the role of the EGU and their involvement with the GTC. Dr Harkins spoke about training junior golfers through the EGU and how difficult it is for those young golfers to eventually become professionals.

John Hacker was the final speaker and the subject was Communication on the Golf Course. John, who is a former lecturer at Myerscough College and is now an agronomist spoke well on the subject and how important it is for greenkeepers, club officials, and members to communicate with each other and eradicate the us and them ideas of the past.

I would like to thank all the speakers for giving us an excellent educational day, Bob Lupton for chairing the seminar, Mere Golf and Country Club for use of their marvellous facilities, members of the trade for their

support and the delegates who make you feel it is worth all the hard work.

The N/W Section has gained many new members since the BTME and I would like to welcome you all into the Section. Any new members who have not received a fixture list for the year, please contact me on 0151 724 5412 and I will send you one immediately.

The Spring Tournament this year will be played at Morecambe GC on Thursday May 30. This is also a qualifier for the Hayter Regional final and the closing date for entries is May 24. So send off your entries to Bill Merritt, 225 Utting Avenue, Clubmoor, Liverpool. Tel: 0151 284 4416 including your deposit of £10. That's it for now and I hope you have a good golfing season. Bert Cross

### Midland Section

To start with this month all Midland Section members should have received their entrance sheet and fixture list for the coming season's tournaments. If anybody has not yet received theirs, then please contact me so I can send one to you.

The first winter lecture was held at Walsall GC on February 14. Unfortunately, it was not very well supported with only 22 members in attendance. The talks were given by David Golding, of the GTC, and Peter Jefford, of Rufford Top Dress Supplies. Both were very informative. The committee would like to thank both speakers for given up their time to come and speak to us.

The next item of news is the sudden illness of David Franks, formerly of Avoncrop Amenity Products. Dave had a heart attack and has been very poorly. As of writing these notes he has greatly improved and is hoping to leave hospital in the foreseeable future. From all the members who know Dave we wish him well and a speedy recovery.

Still on a sad note, I have informed of a sudden death of fellow greenkeeper Darrell Cooper. May we send our condolences to his family and friends.

On a happier note, Steve Mucklow is now a proud father. Congratulations to both Steve and his family on the new addition.

And finally, I have been asked to attend liaison committee meetings at the Warwickshire College. At the last meeting it was felt that a questionnaire should be circulated around the Course Managers/Head Greenkeepers asking what levels of training they



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would like to see the college provide. If you receive one please fill it in and return it to the college.  
Kim Blake

### East of England Section

The final event of our winter programme before the golf season commences was a visit to the John Deere factory at Nottingham. A good turnout of 27 was greeted by Howard Storey of the organisation. We then had a guided tour through the various sections of the John Deere Company. We examined the running of he stores and parts division and were shown how quick it was to order a part. I must say, the back up is second to none.

Then on to the service section and then a detailed breakdown of the latest machinery in the turfcare range and finishing off with a hands on practical demo on the front lawns.

A thank you presentation was made to Sharon Hornbuckle, Company Secretary for our work on behalf of our section. When we were all fed and watered our Chairman, David Walden, thanked Howard and staff for a great day.

A lot of orders were placed.

New members this month are Adam Britton, Gedney Hill, Keith Fletcher and Ross Tomblin, Belton Woods and on the move is Alan Buckley coming from North Wales to Newark.

Diary Dates: April 23, Ramsey GC, PGM Trophy; May 21, Market Rasen GC, Rigby Taylor/Hayter Qualifier; June 26, Newark GC, Purdy's Cup; July 16, Peterborough Milton, Hayter Regional Final.

Graeme Macdonald

### East Midlands

Not a lot to report this month as not a great deal is happening. I will start this month by informing all members that as well as being your Section Secretary I have now been appointed as your Region's Chairman.

Congratulations this month go to Chris Butlin on his appointment as Head Greenkeeper at Cosby GC.

I would like to remind all members that their entry forms for this year's Spring Tournament must be returned to me before the closing date of April 11 along with a cheque should you wish to attend this day. Also on offer is a chance to qualify for this year's Hayter Regional final, held at Peterborough Milton on July 16.

I keep seeing Richard Barker's name appearing in the magazine.

Sorry to have to say this Tim but I think Richard has made more appearances in this year's Greenkeeper International than yourself so far. Keep trying though.

Finally I would like to appeal to all Section members to phone or write to me if they have any snippets they would like to see in this column.

Antony Bindley

### Mid Anglia

In early March a course visit to Ashridge GC was arranged and was well attended with 25 members turning up. Jim Cassidy, the Course Manager, gave us a short tour of the course followed by a look around the workshop and staff facilities which, it must be said, were of an exceptional standard. Gerald Bruce, our Section Secretary, presented Jim with some wine to show appreciation for his time and effort. It was certainly an interesting time spent there and let's hope that the standards set by Ashridge GC, particularly the staff facilities provided, become the norm in the future.

Just a short reminder about our Spring Tournament on the 29th of this month.

All entries should be in by now, by form and cheque only please.

This event is the Sectional qualifier for the Hayter Tournament, the regional final of which will be held on July 16 at Peterborough Milton GC.

The Lodgeway fourball Tournament should be underway by now, would all players ensure their matches are played by the date shown, it helps Chas run things smoothly if this is done. Many thanks.

Paul Lockett

### Bucks, Berks and Oxon Section

It's been a long hard winter and I'm glad that spring has arrived at last to wipe the cobwebs off the golf clubs. That's if I can remember where I dumped them. I expect the wife has sold them at the local car boot sale.

The first event of the season is at Southfield GC on April 30. This is also the Hayter Qualifier. I hope everybody has received their entry forms for this event along with the Rigby Taylor Knockout form and fixture card for the season. What about the launch of the newsletter for the Section? I'm sure everybody has an opinion to share on this new venture.

I hope this proves to be a successful way of keeping all you members informed of what's going on in our area.

Also if you have a point of view you would like to share then put pen to paper and who knows your letter may find its way into the next newsletter.

Congratulations to Russell Lucas whose name came out of the hat at Harrogate for a free holiday.

Finally as we approach the start of yet another season I think it's a good time to remember an old friend. My last memory of Bob Plain was at last year's Spring Tournament.

His old friend John Nudds has written this tribute which I'm sure you will agree is very fitting.

He walked the path of righteousness

He walked the path of good

This man who knew his destiny

This man who understood

Well liked and well respected

Well thought of on the green

His humour not forgotten

His golf swing never seen (too quick)

This man Bob Plain has left us

But our memories linger on

As work mates are indebted

For the knowledge he's passed on

And all of us who knew him

Will quietly offer prayer

Hoping we'll be lucky

Seeing more Bob Plains appear

Lindsay T. Anderson

### South East Region: East Anglia

On February 29 a seminar was held at Bury St Edmunds GC (and the previous day at Channels GC), sponsored by Turf Actant Products. Richard Davies and Edward Clarkson welcomed 30 greenkeepers and grounds-men, before introducing the speakers who had travelled to give us a further insight into their companies' development work and the products they supply. Neil Baldwin of Service Chemicals gave an interesting talk on the subject of "Dry Patch" and, with the help of slides, explained some of the trials that had been carried out on golf greens to combat this problem.

One of the latest products on the market Alleviate was discussed in depth and a look at the unique way it works on "Dry Patch" contaminated soil particles. "It is not a wetting agent," said Neil. Guy Longshaw, who then took us through the Symbio products. These are a range of growth activators used in a biological maintenance programme. The aim? To produce quality, healthy turf without the use of high levels of fertilisers and fungicides. Following this Guy was joined by Neil Baldwin in a joint effort to answer questions from the floor.

After a short break for coffee, Chris

Davy, of MB Bark Supplies, gave us an idea of the type of products MB supply. These include the Hepworths Minerals Pro-Sport range of rootzones and top dressings.

John Pemberton, the Administration Manager of BIGGA, gave an informative talk on the Association, "All you ever wanted to know but were afraid to ask!" Following questions and lunch, a round of golf was played by those keen to take advantage of the spring-like weather.

Many thanks to Turf Actant Products for a very interesting day.

Welcome to Reg Pooley, Bury St Edmunds, who has recently joined the Association.

The list of known fixtures for 1996 for those of you who many not have seen the list in February's issue of Greenkeeper International are, April 18, Waldringfield; June 18, Caldecot Hall; October 9, Stableford Abbots.

Anyone wishing to play in any of these competitions who fails to receive an entry form around two weeks before the competition date should contact David Wells 01702 522202 or Andy Sheehan (I don't have his number at present) to register. ALL SECTION MEMBERS WELCOME. Make a note in your diary of the dates and be prepared to make that call. "It's good to talk."

It is with sadness that we learnt of the passing away of Geof Hills, South East Regional Administrator. Those who met Geof when he visited us at Thetford GC last August will know how much he had to offer the Section with his friendly approach to the tasks in hand. On behalf of the East Anglia Section we send our deepest sympathy to all his family.  
Stephen Millard

### Surrey Section

The last of the winter lectures was held back in February at Walton Heath Artisans Club. The speaker was Jonathan Franks, from British Seed Houses, and a big thank you to him for a most informative lecture and slide show.

Also a big thank you to Paices for supplying a coach for the Section to attend a tour of the Ransomes works in Ipswich. Eighteen greenkeepers from the Section attended and from all reports it was a most enjoyable day. Thanks again to all those involved in the day's organisation, especially Paices, Ransomes and Clive Osgood.

Congratulations to Paul Weston upon his promotion to Course Man-

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Comment From Walter Woods  
St. Andrews Links Golf Course supervisor

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## COURSES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD



ager at the Drift GC and to Mark Belarmy, also of the Drift for his appointment as Head Greenkeeper.

Upon speaking to Terry Huntley, providing numbers of would-be assessors come forward, the GTC are prepared to run an assessor training day in the not too distant future. There is room for up to 15 Head Greenkeepers or First Assistant and the day will be free and will contribute towards obtaining D32/33 Assessor Awards. Please consider this proposition as Middlesex and Surrey are in great need of qualified assessors.

Contact either the GTC or Terry Huntley on 0181 337 1395 ASAP.

Forthcoming events include the Spring Tournament on May 1 at Foxhills -pm only 18 holes. The Cresta Cup at Cropham Hurst GC, June 10, also pm, 18 holes only. Please support these events to ensure their continued existence.

David Gibbs - 01737 832 015 for any relevant information.

### London Section

This month is the start of our golfing events and our tournament will be held at Hendon GC on Wednesday April 24 starting at 11am. This is the Hayter qualifier and a good turnout is expected.

Our summer tournament will be held at Mill Hill GC in June and the date will be finalised soon. This is an alternative to the venue that was booked previously, because of problems with the advanced booking arrangement.

The Autumn Tournament will be held at the London and Hatfield G&CC on Wednesday November 13.

This year we will be running on a trial basis a team inter club challenge which will be held at Dyrham Park G&CC in the June/July period. This event is organised for local Course Managers and their club officials. The club will provide a team of four players to include, for example, the Secretary, Chairman or Ladies Captain and the Course Manager. The tournament will be sponsored by Miracle Professional and the main team prize will be one tonne of fertiliser or goods to the value for the club. Other prizes will be available and the cost for the day will be £62 per team. The golf will be followed by an evening meal with a prize presentation. The main purpose of this event is to increase the harmony of local clubs and to improve the communication between all Course Managers and club officials. If you are interested in this event then please contact Don Wilson on 0181 440 3361 ASAP.

We are currently in the process of organising our golf fixtures for 1997/8 and if anyone is interested in hosting an event would they please contact Don with the details. Barry Moggridge

### Kent

Firstly I would like to thank David Wood for filling in as scribe for the last two magazines.

Secondly by now you should all have had your letters for Sene Valley, as well as an information sheet for the next few months. Please read it and take note about behaviour and dress. You all have a duty to uphold the standards of the Association.

In March the Gentleman's Dinner was held at Walton Heath on a very

## Around the Green



cold wet day and our Section was well represented. On a well presented course scoring was very good. Most embarrassing the winner was yours truly with 40 pts off 8 handicap. My Captain, Kevan Dougal won the guest prize with 39pts off 9 handicap. Other prize winners were Callum Arthur and Mike Smith. Well done lads.

I would like to thank Walton Heath for a wonderful day and George, Ray, Ian, Don, Rob, Mike and Mike for inspiring me to the win via those £5 notes. Cheers lads.

If anyone has any news or comments please contact me on 0860 260 240 or 01732 465363.

Huw Morgan

### South West and South Wales: Devon and Cornwall Section

In the past our February meetings have been renowned for their inclement weather conditions - just ask our Executive Director about his visit six years ago to Newquay.

This year members were treated to a glorious Cornish day with just a slight nip in the air at our venue of Newquay GC on Wednesday February 21.

During the morning our golfing members competed for the Avoncrop Trophy with our non golfing members having their usual guided tour of the excellently prepared links course by Head Greenkeeper Paul Bullen. We were delighted to have the company of our afternoon speaker David Ward on the walk. David was recovering from being a passenger of our advance driver's short journey to Newquay!

After an excellent lunch John Paley of Avoncrop presented the Avoncrop Trophy and prizes for the morning's bogey golf competition. Results: 1. Tim Ellis, Mullion, level; 2. Gordon Tamblin, Mullion, -2 on back nine; 3. Tony James, Tehidy, -2.

To conclude a most successful day our afternoon educational talk was presented by David Ward, Course Manager at Royal Porthcawl on his preparations for the Walker Cup. David's talk was most interesting as he covered revetting work carried out on bunkers, tee construction, width and height of fairways including semi rough, rough, green speed for the tournament and the problem of disease just before the event. Many thanks, Dave, for your excellent talk.

The Section's thanks and gratitude are extended to Newquay GC and Secretary Mr Binney for allowing our Section use of their facilities. Also our thanks to Paul and John Bullen and the crew who had the links looking great and to Mr Boyle and the catering/bar team who looked after us so well.

Don't forget May 1 is Westurf Day. The Day when you could win £200 worth of travel vouchers just for attending!

Westurf should be in the minds of all greenkeepers in our Region as this local turfcare show is put on for you.

This year the layout of the show has been changed which sees the demonstration area moving into the middle of the showground, with announcements being made over the PA system about demonstrations and products. Don't forget to pop into the Region's tent and enter the free raffle, you could be walking away after the show with £200 worth of travel vouchers. Westurf will be held once again at Long Ashton GC, Bristol on Wednesday May 1. Just follow the RAC signs from the motorway and when you arrive parking and admission is free.

All the main local and national dealers will be there to answer questions and take your orders, with all the latest turf care products on show. You can't afford to miss Westurf '96. I look forward to meeting you all at Westurf.

Richard Whyman

### South West

Stinchcombe Hill GC was the venue for the first golfing fixture of the year together with an afternoon talk, and was well supported with approximately 35 people in attendance. The weather for this event is normally a lottery as last year's snow at Lansdown proved. However, this year we were treated to glorious sunshine with perfectly still conditions which made for a very enjoyable morning's golf. For those who had not visited Stinchcombe before the course proved somewhat difficult to find but on arrival we were made to feel most welcome, with Lawson Products, the day's sponsor presenting everyone with three complimentary balls. As well as these there were some excellent prizes to be played for which led to some tough competition.

Victorious on the day were: 1. Mark Powell, nett 63; 2. Anthony Knight, Kingsdown GC, nett 64 back nine; 3. Steve Francombe, Tracey Park GC, nett 64; Best gross Paul Worster, 71. Price for best hidden nine holes, Paul Worster.

The afternoon talk was given by Michael Dyer from the National Rivers Authority who gave us an interesting insight into the procedure required for application for a bore hole licence.

Thanks are given to Stinchcombe GC and in particular Secretary Ken Johnson for their hospitality, to the Steward and Stewardess for lunch and to Lawson Products for its generous sponsorship.

The management course held in February at Thornbury Golf Centre was well supported with eight people attending the two day course. I understand from those present that the presentation from Brin Bendon was extremely informative.

Miracle Professional is once again sponsoring the Premier Greenkeeper of the Year competition this year. Those who attended at Stinchcombe will have been given an application form. However, if you require one please contact me. The success of this event depends on our support so please send your nominations to Headquarters by May 31. The winner of the final in December will win a trip to Las Vegas for the 1997 GCSAA Exhibition and Conference. A prize of £500 will also be awarded to the winning Head Greenkeeper's staff.

As mentioned last month, Westurf at Long Ashton GC on May 1 is just around the corner. Help is always

required for its preparations, running and dismantling. If you can spare some time for helping at this event then please contact me in advance. But most importantly, be there on the day.

A pesticide application foundation course (PA1) was held on February 28 at Filton GC for six people who will hopefully have passed their subsequent examination by the time you read this report. A reminder again that legislation has changed recently meaning that anybody in the last 18 months who has received their (PA2) qualification is not now qualified to use a knapsack sprayer legally and needs to take a separate training day and examination (PA6). If anyone requires training then please contact me so that a course can be arranged.

Finally, Oake Manor GC on Wednesday April 17 is the venue for the Spring Tournament/Hayter Qualifier. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on the day.

Kevin Green

### South Coast Section

February's winter lecture was held at Alresford GC. Taking into account the bad weather, and the reports from the radio to stay indoors, we had quite a good turnout.

Ed McCabe, the Course Manager from Brockenhurst Manor gave us a presentation on Communications. Ed started off by telling us about the Club Policy Document. He then went on to talk about Communications between the golf course staff, the committee and the members. He then told us about the seminar that he and his staff presented to the club members.

Judging by the questions after the presentation it was felt that lessons had been learnt. It was satisfying that Communications were working at Brockenhurst and that this can be followed by other golf clubs.

The South Coast Section is looking for speakers for the forthcoming Autumn/Winter meetings and if anyone would like to give a presentation on their course or any other greenkeeper topic please let me, or any other committee member, know.

A suggestion for a meeting is a Quiz Night when members can bring along guests. If there are any other items which you have please let us know.

A final reminder for Westurf 1996 on May 1. Westurf has been revamped to attract a larger attendance and this is the ideal time to encourage your Greens Committee members to attend this exhibition.

This year a new public address system is being installed, the stands are being repositioned and the demonstration area will now be in the middle so that everything is more accessible. Also a free draw is being held for all attending members and the prize will be well worth having.

The South West and South Wales Region is funded mainly by the proceeds of Westurf and this is how we are able to subsidise events such as the coach fare to BTME and the Regional Seminars. Without this funding these events may not take place due to the cost.

Please, gentlemen, make a big effort to attend this year and, as stated previously, if there is a problem with transport please ring me on 01329 282362.

Ken Lodge



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SUPATURF SS/P

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SUPAHIGH N+

SUPATURF AW/P

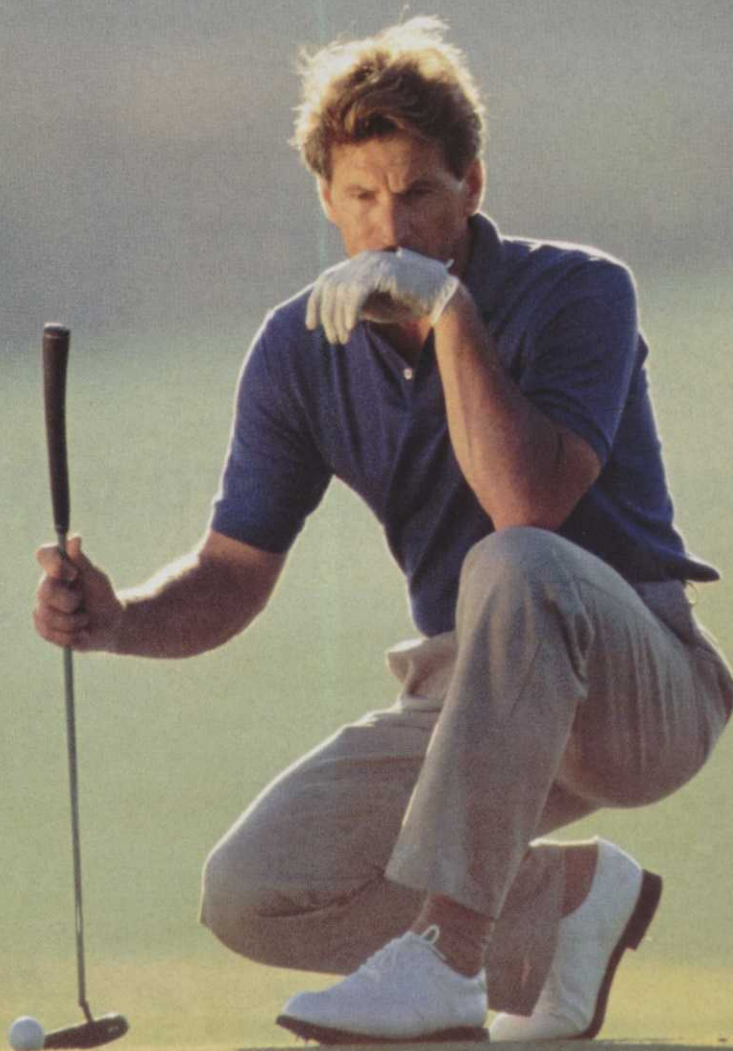
SUPATURF SS/G

GREENEX

OMG 10

OMG 11

SAN IRON



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*This new fertiliser complements our more traditional products such as the industry standard SS/D and represents a different means of achieving controlled growth. The wider choice now available from Supaturf provides probably the most comprehensive range of turf care fertilisers available*

## ....AND RIGHT UP TO DATE

*MU fertilisers as such are not new, but unlike other fertilisers, Intafaze is produced in an average 2mm compacted granular form. This is a major product benefit as the fertiliser will dissolve very quickly after contact with the soil and watering in, eliminating the chance of product being removed during mowing or on golfers' or players' shoes. The 2mm, (average) sized, compacted granules are also the best size to ensure an even distribution when spreading. The recommended application rate of 25gm per sq. m., or roughly half a bag per green, means less product per application and less applications per season.*

***Supaturf Intafaze, a frontier technology fertiliser with unique product benefits.***

GRADE	PRODUCT TYPE
20 - 5 - 10 + 0.1Fe + 0.03B	7% MU Compacted Granular 1-3mm - Spring & Summer
14 - 6 - 15 + 2MgO	5% MU Compacted Granular 1-3mm - Summer & Autumn



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**20:5:10**  
**25 Kg net**

- Slow Release Methylene Urea
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# Performance Fertilisers

## WHAT ARE MU FERTILISERS AND HOW DO THEY WORK?

Most traditional NPK fertilisers deliver the required nitrogen in an immediately available and leachable form. There is a surge in plant growth as it takes up the nutrient but this supply once consumed needs replacing by another application.

Unlike traditionally formulated fertilisers, Intafaze holds its nitrogen in two forms, being the traditional ammonium sulphate for fast release and methylene urea for a slower phased release, providing all the benefits of a traditional fertiliser but with the extra feature of extended feed. Some of the nitrogen applied as MU will take up to 3 - 6 months to release after application.

MU is a chain of urea molecules linked together by methyl groups. These chains can be manufactured in different lengths which due to their structure break down at different rates when in contact with the bacteria in the soil. Intafaze contains chains of 2, 3 and 4 urea molecules long and as the time taken to break down the chain is linked to the length of the chain the effect is a

phased release of the nitrogen. This is the major benefit that MU offers - one application replaces several applications of traditional fertiliser.

The nitrogen in Intafaze will continue to be released for up to 10 weeks and over, with the longer chains lasting 3 - 6 months. You simply apply it and leave it, the technology and soil bacteria will do the work and exceptional and consistent results will be apparent throughout the period. Supaturf Intafaze offers a formulation to suit all needs. Spring, summer and autumn grades are available, all suitable for fine turf, fairway and outfield applications. An interesting feature with Intafaze is that the bacteria that break down the MU are more active in warm conditions, so the product won't release the nitrogen until conditions are warmer, thus the nitrogen will be available as the grass requires it and there will not be excessive top growth in winter. The fertiliser can be applied and lie in wait for the correct conditions to come along before releasing its nitrogen.

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### SUPATURF SS/D

Product code	Specification	Bag size
1001	8-0-0 +2Fe	25Kg
1010	8-0-0	25Kg

Data safety sheet DS1001 Information sheet I1001

### SUPATURF SS/P

Product code	Specification	Bag size
1003	12-6-6	25Kg

Data safety sheet DS1003 Information sheet I1003

### SUPATURF SS/G

Product code	Specification	Bag size
1017	11-9-10	25Kg

Data safety sheet DS1017 Information sheet I1017

### SUPATURF AW/P

Product code	Specification	Bag size
1004	3-10-10	25Kg

Data safety sheet DS1006 Information sheet I1006

### SUPA MG+

Product code	Specification	Bag size
1008	12-0-8 +2Fe	25Kg

Data safety sheet DS1008 Information sheet I1008

### GREENEX

Product code	Specification	Bag size
1040	5-0-3	25Kg

Data safety sheet DS1040 Information sheet I1040

### SUPAHIGH N+

Product code	Specification	Bag size
1006	18-0-0 +2.4mg + Trace elements	25Kg

Data safety sheet DS1006 Information sheet I1006

### SUPASAN

Product code	Specification	Bag size
1002	5-0-0 +3Fe	25Kg

Data safety sheet DS1002 Information sheet I1002

### OMG 10

Product code	Specification	Bag size
1007	12-6-4	25Kg

Data safety sheet DS1007 Information sheet I1007

### OMG 11

Product code	Specification	Bag size
1009	4-3-8 +2Fe	25Kg

Data safety sheet DS1009 Information sheet I1009

### SAN IRON

Product code	Specification	Bag size
1005	3-0-8 +3Fe	25Kg

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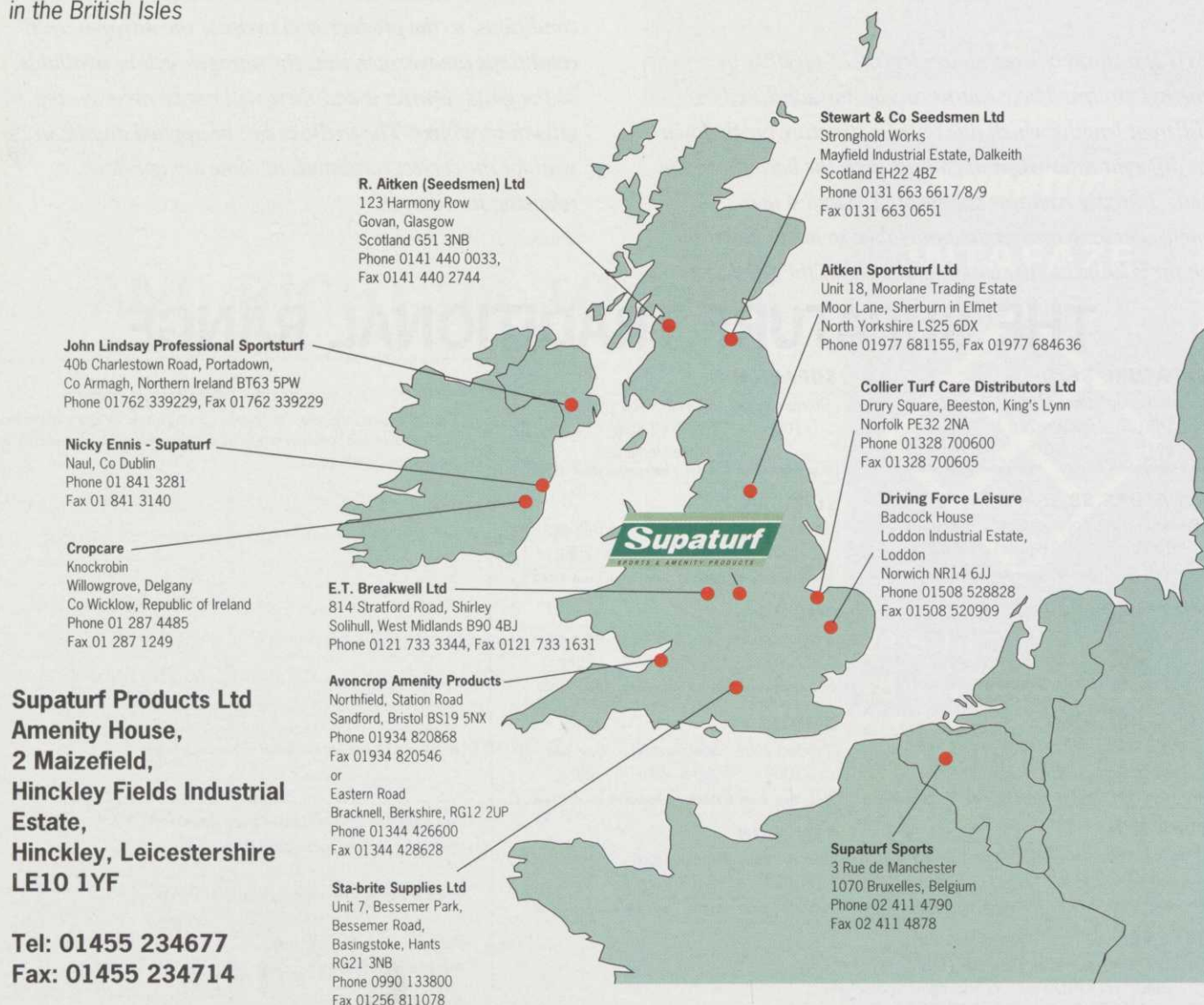


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**Raymond Hunt is charged with creating US Open like conditions for the Alamo English Open in June. Scott MacCallum found out how he is going about it.**

**H**osting a European Tour event on your course is a pressurised situation for any greenkeeper. The exposure a top tournament gets, with the world's best players competing before large galleries with television cameras recording every move, can make a course's reputation and the subsequent financial benefits it can bring are massive. Alternatively if it doesn't go well...

Raymond Hunt, Course Manager for the Marriott Forest of Arden Hotel and Country Club, knows all about the pressures as he goes about preparations for his fourth English Open Championship.

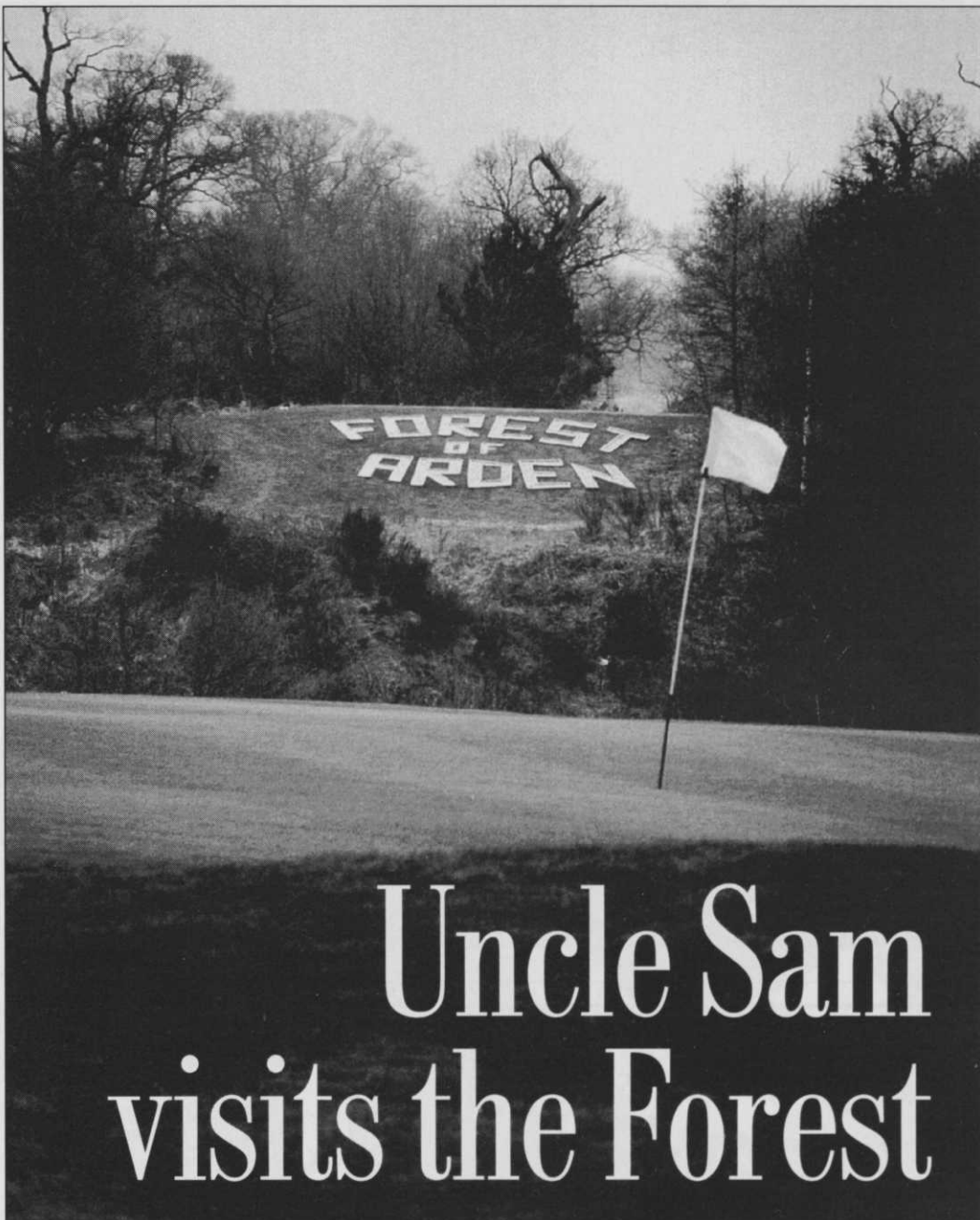
If that were not enough to keep him on his toes it was announced at the pre-tournament press conference that he will be expected to provide "US Open-like conditions" so 15 of the European Tour's top stars, led by Colin Montgomerie, can get some practice in before flying out for the US Open the very next week.

We've had three English Opens already and they've all gone very well and obviously it's got to grow and go on from there otherwise it'll become stale. It's a challenge to see what sort of test you can provide for the players."

The US Openification was first mentioned to Raymond and his team by the Tour about six months ago.

"The idea was to give players better preparation for the US Open and also to make it more tough and more interesting," explained Raymond, from the modern magnificence of the Hotel which over looks the spectacular par-3 18th.

The extent of the problem it sets can be seen when you con-



# Uncle Sam visits the Forest

sider that the US Open is invariably contested in temperatures which exceed 100 degrees, and that just 11 weeks before the Alamo English Open – it was the Murphy's English Open until this season – the thermometer was barely stirring and certainly in no

fear of developing vertigo. Raymond also has to keep the course open for members and important corporate golf both of which form the bread and butter business for the Marriott Forest of Arden Hotel and Country Club.

"Coming out of winter our

growth is particularly backward and we are badly affected by wildlife – Canada Geese on the front nine and deer on the back nine where the course forms part of a deer park," said Raymond, as, right on cue, a group of deer posed for pictures on the side of

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the 14th fairway.

"Having said that I'm fairly happy with where we are now because on average you are going to get some good weather in May and knowing the course, and how it is going to react, we should achieve what we want," explained Raymond, who is employing a special cover on his 5th green to attempt to inject some warmth and speed growth.

Although that means only six to eight weeks of really intensive work on it Raymond knows that being in June things won't be burnt up as they might be later in the summer and the course will be really fresh.

So what does "US Open style" actually mean for Forest of Arden?

"We have to promote growth to get where we need to be for early June. So at the end of the day the main difference is going to be cutting.

"We will have a collar two width of a pedestrian machine, then a fringe which, although we haven't talked about a definite height yet, I think we'll be looking at around about two and a half to three and a half inches. This could be as close as a yard off the green."

The rest of the course will also have thicker rough.

"I don't see that as a problem

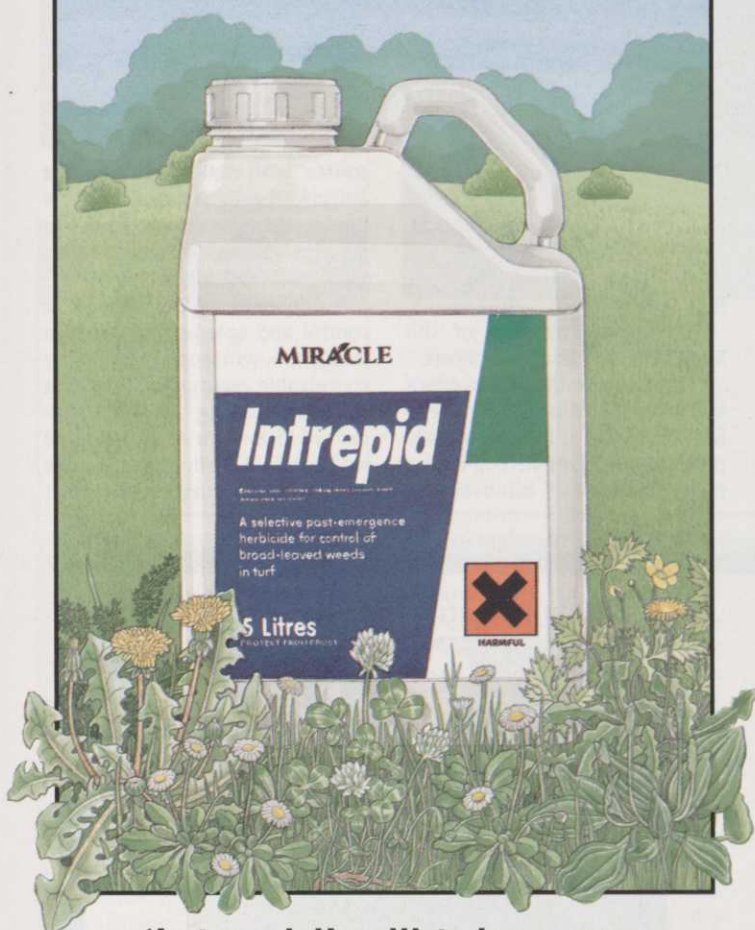


**Course Manager Raymond Hunt and, above, activity at his club, the Forest of Arden**

because the rough here grows well and is quite consistent which is what the Tour wants – you don't want poa annua at the bottom and the ball nestling down in it. In general I think the rough will come up to scratch. The difficulty we will have is around the greens, getting the sort of consistency and the sort of rough we want when you have traffic moving over it all the time and we don't enjoy US Open weather. We can only do what we can do if we've got weather on our side."



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Meet the team: Greenstaff at the Forest of Arden

If the pressure leading up to the event is bad Raymond feels that the pressure through the week itself is even more intense.

"I have 22 staff (Raymond pulls in other experienced greenkeepers from courses in the Marriott group) out there all of whom have machinery and something can always go wrong. So not much time to relax through the week itself.

"I'm in complete contact with

the Tournament Director through the week through radio and I'd see him two or three times through the day generally to discuss how things are going."

Some of the things which can crop up are quite bizarre including last year a complaint that the hole was misshaped.

"This was two thirds of the way through the day. That was a new one for me. I got a call over the radio and had to go down to the

7th green. I spoke with the rules official, stopped play and had a look at it and although it didn't appear out of shape to satisfy the players we reshaped it with a hole setter."

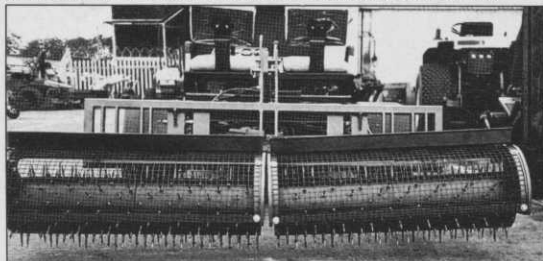
The unpredictability of the British weather also plays a part.

"On the Saturday of last year's event we had a heck of a lot of heavy rain and it became a fairly pressurised situation. You've got to get your staff all over the

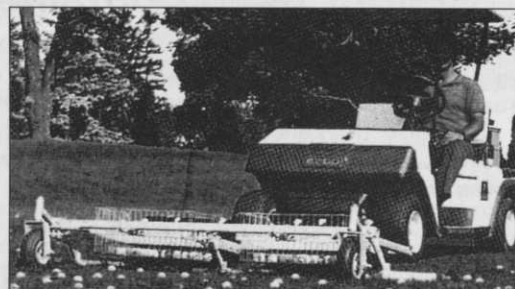
course with squeegees and act quickly. The TV is on, the players don't want to wait, you've got to get through the crowds and all the time it's pelting down."

If Raymond appears well in control and gives off the air of a man who will cope with every conceivable eventuality it perhaps comes from living through a Baptism of Fire when he first arrived at Forest of Arden just a few months before the course's first

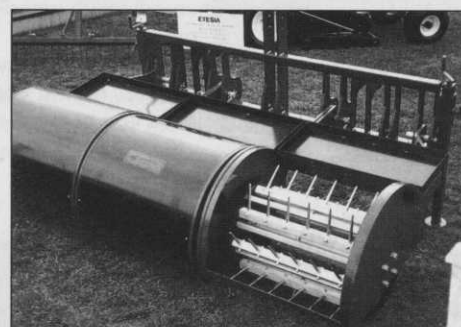
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'We had a heck of a lot of heavy rain and it became a fairly pressurised situation. You've got to get your staff all over the course with squeegees and act quickly.'

English Open.

"When I arrived there was about 50% grass cover on the greens and tees and lot of scarring to repair on the fairways where the irrigation and drainage had gone in.

"So we had an awful lot to do in three and a half months to make it playable for the first tournament which we did. A 1000 rolls of turf went done on the fairways up until the end of July and it was hot as well so we had to keep it wet. There was a lot to achieve that first year and since

#### Marriott Forest of Arden Golf and Country Club Machinery Inventory

6 Lloyd's Paladins  
5 Toro GM3s with Grooming, Verticut, Vibra spike units and 11 blade competition cylinders.  
5 Toro 216s  
2 Toro 5300Ds with Verti-cut units  
1 Toro 4500D  
1 Toro 455D Groundsmaster  
1 Toro Workman with attachments including Hardi Sprayer, Top dresser  
1 Lloyds Leda Gang mower  
1 Massey Ferguson 240 Front Loader  
1 Massey Ferguson 240 Tractor with Trailer  
1 Kubota B7100 Compact with Trailer  
1 Fiat Tractor with Trailer  
4 E-Z-Go Trucks  
2 Cushman Trucksters with Attachments including Slitters, Brushes, Top Dressers and Sprayers  
1 Tractor Mounded SISIS Slitter  
1 Verti-Drain  
1 Howard Rotovator  
1 Tractor Mounted Fertiliser Spreader  
5 Scotts Fertiliser Spreaders  
1 Wessex Leaf Sweeper  
1 Wessex Grader, Rake  
5 Flymos  
5 Strimmers  
4 Waterpumps  
2 Leaf Blowers  
1 Chain Saw  
1 Ryan Overseeder  
1 Ryan Turfcutter  
1 Turf Iron  
1 Mole Plough  
1 Core Master



then we've built on it.

"Everybody enjoys the buzz leading up to the tournament the week itself and then the Sunday afterwards.

Michael O'Dyer, General Manager at Forest of Arden, is also in no doubt as to the quality of his Course Manager. "He is a perfectionist and it shows," is his ringing endorsement.

Raymond began is greenkeeping career at Bidston on the Wirral before joined Bill Lawson at Heswall GC.

"I spent six years with Bill, four years as his Deputy, and I learned everything from Bill. If you can't learn anything from that guy you can't learn anything at all. All my greenkeeping and man management skills can from him and he also directed me in the route I should be taking."

He then went to Royal Porthcawl adding good links and championship experience before joining Goodwood and the Country Club Hotel group as it was then.

**IF I WASN'T A GREENKEEPER  
I WOULD PROBABLY HAVE BEEN:**



"A seaman"  
- Oliver English, Dundalk GC

Since '93 and his arrival at Forest of Arden he has helped improve the course to the extend that Colin Montgomerie, whose input into course design has been acquired as part a contract Europe's number one has signed

with the Marriott Group, was quoted as saying, "The aim is to make this the best course there is on the European Tour."

It's a challenge that will be met with relish by Raymond and his excellent team.



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**Hugh Tilley takes a look at brush cutters and hedge trimmers.**

**T**here are always many areas around a golf course which need trimming but cannot be mown with conventional mowers. The standard machines for tidying up such areas is a strimmer or brushcutter, however these are not ideal for bunker edges and many greenkeepers have tried alternatives to edging shears such as motorised edgers and reciprocating cutters.

The conventional power edger has the disadvantage of not being sufficiently light or manoeuvrable for bunker work, especially as the edge is seldom flat or level. Other major problems are that sand destroys cutting edges rapidly and there is a requirement for a neat tidy finish.

For mowing banks the usual tool is the hover, or air cushion

mower, while for hedge trimming there are a range of machines from tractor mounted units to electric hand power tools, but the more usual option is a two stroke engined hedgetrimmer as this gives versatility and flexibility. As these are used only once or twice a year and usually only for short lengths of hedge around the clubhouse, where wear isn't a problem but neglect may be. For anyone with greater length, especially of boundary hedge, the simple and cost effective answer

seems to be to hire a contractor.

Most clubs carry "spare" small engine machines, this usually reflects past experience of unreliability. Many people look on these machines as they look on a Kleenex – use it and throw it away. One or two seasons is not unusual as the lifespan of either a brushcutter or air cushion mower, but there are differences between models and the engine fitted as well as the use and abuse they get. Greenkeepers generally look after their kit con-

siderably better than local authorities and contractors.

When it comes to air cushion mowers the JLO motor is almost exclusively used as experience suggests that it lasts longer and provides greater power for its weight.

The main differences between strimmer, brushcutter and clearing saw are the head, and of necessity, the size of the motor. There is some interchangeability between heads except on the smallest and cheapest models. Most greenkeepers use the trimmer head mainly with motors of between 30-45cc capacity. Under powering is an expensive economy, but large machines are tiring to use and control.

The strimmer or string trimmer uses monofilament line to cut vegetation, however, there are other types of head which use nylon or similar dense plastic blades, these should have similar attributes of

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## Brushcutters/hedgetrimmers

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# A cut above... or below

not being destroyed when they contact stone, concrete or steel. Neither should trimmers be as devastating should they come in contact with the trunks of trees, or tree guards, however, this "friendliness" is something of a myth and caution is needed when close to obstructions – in other words a loosening of the throttle finger is still required. Most machines have alternative heads and blades available to allow them to cut heavier vegetation. A steel blade is more efficient for cutting grass, making the machine in effect a rotary mower, but to get height accuracy and safety it may need a special guard plus skid or dome fitted under the centre of the blade. Such skids may have height adjustment. For cutting small trees and dense undergrowth or grass the clearing saw comes with greater engine power and an ability to operate slasher and saw type blades.

The dust hazard around bunkers and often elsewhere on a golf course is a very real one, and this probably accounts for the early demise of most of these small power tools – it does not do a lot of good for the operator either! There is often acceptance that these and hover mowers do not last more than a season or two, thus there are many attractions to using a different form of cutter, one which does not rely on a fast impact with the grass to cut it. This applies particularly to bunker edges as, of necessity, these require the trimmer to operate virtually in the vertical position – try this with a brushcutter and you get grass, debris and dust thrown everywhere.

The manoeuvrability of the hover or air cushion mower makes them virtually the only tool for steep banks, however, standing on the bank is often not easy or even possible – although shoes with spikes or studs help.

A common practice is to tie a rope to the handle and dangle the machine down the bank while standing at the top – a somewhat dubious practice in terms of safety.

Hedge trimmers while normally seen as single purpose tools are also available as attachments for the knapsack type of brushcutter,



Dixon & Holliday Hover Hood

and this may be more cost effective when there is relatively little hedge to trim.

Recently, long reach hedge trimmers have become available and these are a real saver when it comes to trimming very high hedges. Hedge trimming does not require a great deal of power, which is just as well as having to a manhandle machine with a heavy power unit would soon tire the operator.

## The Dixon & Holliday knapsack brushcutter and hover hood at Cranleigh School in Surrey

Grounds manager Peter Woodhead saw the D & H knapsack brushcutter/hedge trimmer advertised and considered that it looked right. The 700 pupil public school has a 9 hole course as well as considerable lengths of high Leylandii hedge. Safety was the prime consideration in purchase, with the hoverhood attachment enabling gardens supervisor and greenkeeper John Pope to cut his greens and tee banks with greater control and less fatigue. Previously the school had cut these banks using the hover mower on a length of rope method, a practice which Peter commented did not stand up to

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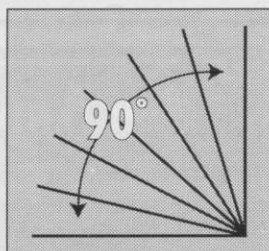
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**REAL WORLD TEST**  
Brushcutters/hedgetrimmers  
**GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL**

risk assessment under the health and safety audit now necessary. Cutting tall hedges in the past had required steps and trestles, but the D & H long reach hedgetrimmer had removed the need for these and more than halved the time taken to cut the hedges, and because the operator always keeps his feet firmly on the ground the job has become significantly safer with less risk of accident - to man, machine or hedge.

Commenting on the machine itself John said that he has found it easy on the back, although he as not used for longer than three or four hours at a stretch - others have used it for a full working day and say they are far less tired at the end than when working with conventional power tools. He said that it is easy to use and reliable and changing heads is only a few minutes work.

## Ahresty and other machines at Manor House Golf Club at Castle Combe

A recent acquisition to the Manor House machinery fleet is the Ahresty from Bob Andrews, this is described in the brochure as a "new type of brushcutter". It uses

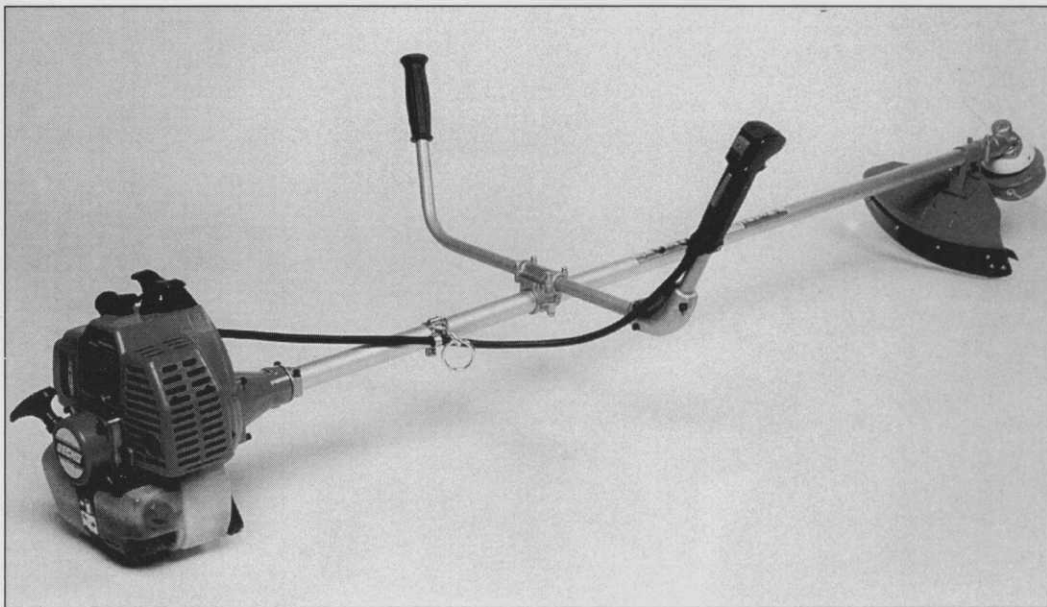
a relatively slowly rotating blade which cuts against a star shaped fixed blade so giving a better cut while reducing the danger of debris, sand and bunker edge being ejected. The design of the blades is such that there is little danger of cutting into the actual edge. Course Manager Paul Bishop first saw the machine at Windsor and then had it demonstrated on several of his bunkers by Handy Garden Machinery of Swindon last autumn. He was satisfied that it would do the job, just cutting grass without damaging the edges and thus the club bought it. He admitted that as yet it has not had a full season's use but to-date it has worked well, cutting only grass, and he sees no reason to regret the purchase. He commented that "it does a very nice job". However the club is retaining its Allen Reciprocator.

For bank mowing the club uses Flymo air cushion mowers and an Allen, however, Paul specified all as "professional" with JLO engines which he considers the only one suitable for intensive professional use and likely to last two or three seasons. Having some commonality between all



Paul Bishop, Course Manager at Manor House Golf Club, with Bob Andrews' Ahresty





The Echo SRM343SL brushcutter

the machines, air cushion and trimmers is expected to allow him to stock, interchange and/or cannibalise parts so extending life and reducing overall cost.

For trimming around trees and other areas where mowers cannot go the club has two E P Barrus Lawnflite SS2590s with Kawasaki motors and an Allen Pro 43 with a 41.5cc Zenoah motor. However Paul does use the chemical Touchdown to reduce the workload, he commented that it was

also good arboricultural practice to have a vegetation free area around each tree. Various types of trimmer head have been tried, unfortunately not all are interchangeable between differing makes or models, but Paul said that his preference is for manual line adjustment where each line can be adjusted independently rather than the automatic or central release systems as in his experience if you snag the line it breaks off at the drum and then

with no line exposed it cannot pull out by centrifugal force, thus you have to dismantle the unit to get more string out.

#### Allen Echo trimmers at Marlborough Golf Club

Two machines do all the work of bank and bunker trimming as well as hedge and sundry cutting at Marlborough. Danny Dobie, Head Greenkeeper, manages to make these machines last for about three seasons, but he

admitted that they do look after them and use the heavy duty machine for the heavy work. They have had very little trouble and apart from regular replacement of plugs little had been needed in terms of maintenance. Danny did comment that using good clean two stroke mix at the right strength was vital. He also tends to replace rather than repair as parts and labour can often exceed the cost of new. The club has very limited hedge to trim, and what they have is soft privet, so the smaller machine is used regularly with either line or blade to cut it.

#### Stihl FS220 Brushcutters at Wanstead Golf Club - N London

Course Manager, Peter Dawson's machinery fleet at Wanstead, includes two Stihl brushcutters and a HS61 hedgecutter as well

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Stihl brushcutter at work

as a chainsaw and two blowers from the same maker and two Flymo GT2 air cushion mowers. Life expectancy for the brushcutters is about four years, however they are not expected to edge bunker banks or cut large amounts of bank for which there are specific tools. In fact, not having found a really satisfactory means of trimming edges, these are still cut, about once a month, using traditional hand edging shears. Peter also sprays around his trees with a long acting herbicide so avoiding the need to trim these areas. Thus most of the trimmer work is tidying up path edges and around posts and fences.

The trimmer heads are of the two string type with a screw release for manually extending the line. The Stihl machinery has all proved extremely reliable only requiring spark plug and filter cleaning or replacement. Peter expressed himself perfectly satisfied with the performance of the Flymos – both are 21 inch professional machines with the JLO engine, but he accepts that theirs is a short life span by virtue of their use.

**Husqvarna Brushcutters – Exeter Golf & Country Club**

Exeter is exceptionally well organised in using its brushcutters, it has four machines of which the oldest is about five years old, and the policy is to change one every other year – thus giving a life expectancy of up to eight years.

Head Greenkeeper is John Parr and he said that the club is very disciplined in its use of the machines. For a start it has a full time mechanic and a spare machine so that he is able to maintain the machines on a regular basis and keep all in A1 condition. John commented that previously brushcutters at Exeter had short lives and less reliability, however he is happy that this is in the past, and that the current machines will have a long and virtually trouble free life.

Possibly another reason for this change is the disciplined system of use, John sends two people out with two machines when trimming round the course, they work a two hour shift when they are relieved by two other greenkeepers with the extra machine.

All four machines are fitted with monofilament two line heads with manual (screw lock) string advance. Very little work

is carried out with a blade – perhaps only 1% in total. The machines are used around trees and on tee banks and similar, but not for bunker edges for which hand edging shears are used exclusively – Exeter buy two sets a year and consider this a cheap investment.

Outside bunkers and on other banks air cushion and hover mowers are used, all three machines using the professional rated JLO engine. Cutting these banks is a monthly task for one man and one machine. However, there are also a few other areas within the Golf and Country Club jurisdiction which have to be hand mown. The club has a limited length of hedge to cut.

#### **Allen Power Reciprocators at Chippenham Golf Club.**

Chris Sealey at Chippenham uses the Reciprocator for trimming his bunker edges, approximately

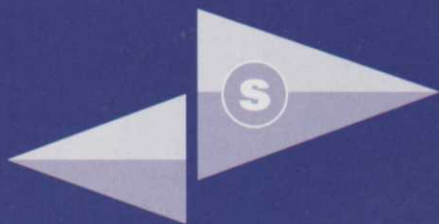
monthly. This machine is a purpose made tool which has two star shaped blades one of which reciprocates to give it a shearing action.

The unit is three or four years old and has further life ahead of it. The motor is a 22.5cc Zenoah which has proved itself reliable and of sufficient power. The blades are normally moved around to present new cutting edges every few holes, there are four positions, and once all four sectors are blunt the blades are removed and resharpened.

Chris reckons to replace these cutters annually – at a cost of about £30.

“What I like about the machine,” Chris said, “is that it gives a definite and very clean cut.”

For general trimming the club has two Allen Zenoah brushcutters and its banks are cut with Allen JLO engined hover mowers.



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# May Day celebration for eighth annual Westurf exhibition



**A** visit to the new look Westurf '96 Exhibition should be incorporated into the May Day celebrations of everyone within striking distance of the Little Ashton GC involved in the turf maintenance industry on May 1.

While May Pole dancing might not be on the agenda there is plenty which is and the new layout of the eighth Westurf Show makes it far more user friendly for exhibitor and visitor alike.

The Demonstration Area has been moved into the centre of the site to become more of a focal point of the show with a PA system being used to announce demonstrations and give product information.

Many of the new products first launched at BTME 96 will be demonstrated publicly for the first time at Westurf.

Among them are the Ransomes T-Plex 185 and Ransomes Fairway 305; the Hayter Greens mower FH514 and the Toro 6500 Fair-

way Mower and Toro 3200.

Last year Pro-Seed Equipment launched and sold a brand new Core Harvester at the Show while another company Roffey Brothers took more than £30,000 worth of orders.

Don't forget to pop into the South West and South Wales Region's tent and enter the free raffle, you could be walking away after the show with £200 worth of travel vouchers. Just follow the RAC signs from the motorway and when you arrive parking and admission is free.

All the main local and national dealers will be there to answer questions and take your orders, with all the latest turf care products on show.

You can't afford to miss Westurf '96.

"It is always one of the friendliest dates on the calendar and we are looking forward to meeting many old friends and having an excellent show," said Marion Child.

**A total of 67 exhibitors will be there to pass on information or display products. They are:**

Amenity Technology  
Avoncrop Amenity Products  
Barenbrug  
Bennett Engineering  
Better Methods Europe  
BIGGA South West and South Wales Region  
Bioseed  
RS Birds  
Bourne Amenity  
Bowcom Ltd  
Boyd Golf Course Accessories  
British Seed Houses  
BS Mowers  
Cannington College  
Complete Weed Control  
Course Care  
Devon Turfcare Equipment (Devon Garden Machinery)  
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# EAR DEFENDERS

What every  
greenkeeper  
should know

## 1. THE EFFECT OF EXPOSURE TO HIGH NOISE LEVELS

The main difference between mankind and animals is our advanced ability to communicate. Language and speech intelligibility would be impossible without a very intricate hearing mechanism. Our ability to convert the minute variations of the dynamic air pressures and frequencies of speech into electrical impulses to the brain is a wonderful process. It is without doubt one of the most important human faculties. This priceless process is at risk for millions of people who are working in a noisy environment.

Exposure to high levels of noise can permanently damage hearing. It is an insidious process because it is so gradual and frequency selective. Victims of noise induced hearing loss (NIHL) are not conscious of a general lowering of the overall sound which they hear. NIHL causes a severe notch in our hearing sensitivity in a very narrow frequency band. The overall sound in the form of

signals to the brain has only reduced by a very small amount and does not give a warning of deafness. Unfortunately the permanent damage occurs in a critical frequency band for the intelligibility of speech. Very often those who have had their hearing damaged blame the speaker for not speaking clearly. By the time they realise that their hearing is irreversibly damaged they have a severe injury which many sufferers consider to be as bad as loss of vision. Restricted ability to communicate can deprive people of the things which give them the greatest happiness and satisfaction in life. It can also detrimentally affect their work, family life and general health.

At The Noise and Man International Conference in 1993, Willy Passchier-Vermeer stated that 50% of industrial workers are exposed to potentially hazardous equivalent sound pressure levels of 80 dB(A) or above, and that similar noise exposures occur in

other occupational situations. According to ISO 1999, long term exposure to these sound levels could cause permanent hearing damage.

It is absolutely right that medical doctors, scientists and concerned people should campaign to make our elected representatives legislate to protect the hearing of employees by all reasonable means.

## 2. THE LAW

The main noise legislation which affects those responsible for golf courses, parks, grass verges etc are:

- The Noise at Work Regulations (1989);
- The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (1992)
- The Supply of Machinery (Safety) Regulations (1992).

### 2.1 The Noise at Work Regulations (1989).

The most important requirements for employers in the Noise at

Work Regulations are as follows:

- Employers must do everything reasonable and practicable to reduce the exposure of employees to high sound levels so that hearing protection is not required;
- Noise assessments and investigations to reduce noise must be carried out by a competent person where there is a risk of hearing damage;
- A suitable person must be delegated to have responsibility for ensuring compliance with the legislation, including keeping records, instructing employees on ways to reduce the risk of NIHL, checking hearing defenders, etc.;
- Action levels (85 and 90 dB(A) daily exposure levels and 130 dB peak sound pressure level) are specified to control the use of hearing defenders for the protection of personnel as a means of protecting employees pending noise reduction to acceptable sound levels;
- If the first action level is exceeded employees must be warned of the NIHL risks and

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# EAR DEFENDERS

advised to wear hearing defenders which must be available;

- If the second action level is exceeded employees must be instructed that hearing defenders must be worn in the designated ear protection zone or while operating the machine; records must be kept and be available for inspection;
- Personnel should seek advice from a medical doctor before using hearing defenders if they have an ear infection or earache;
- HSE, in items 31 and 32 of their Noise Guide No.1, state that spot checks should be made for new machinery, and that the interval between check noise assessments should be a maximum of about two years.

The full details of the requirements for employers and employees are contained in the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) Noise Guides.

## 2.2 The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (1989).

Under the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (1992) employees exposed to high noise levels should be provided with health surveillance. The main objectives, concerning noise, of this legislation are to monitor the hearing health of employees and to take early precautions to reduce injury.

Health surveillance is not a substitute for measures to reduce and control noise and to inform and protect employees, as required by the Noise at Work Regulations. It is a very useful part of a hearing conservation programme and an important indication for putting into place further measures to reduce noise.

More detailed information on audiometric testing can be obtained from the HSE publications listed at the end of this article. The HSE do not consider that it is compulsory for employers to provide health surveillance. They do, however, consider that it is good practice and serves the best interests of employees and employers.

## 2.3 The Supply of Machinery (Safety) Regulations (1992)

The Supply of Machinery (Safety) Regulations (1992) and 1994 Amendments apply to the manufacturers, suppliers and importers of machinery for the maintenance

of golf courses and parks. The instructions for the machines must give the following information concerning airborne noise emitted by the machinery:

- The equivalent continuous A-weighted sound pressure level at workstations, where this exceeds 70 dB(A); where this level does not exceed 70 dB(A), this fact must be indicated;
- Peak C-weighted instantaneous sound pressure value at workstations, where this exceeds  $130 \text{ dB re } 2 \times 10^{-5} \text{ Pa}$ ;
- Sound power level emitted by the machine where the equivalent continuous A-weighted sound pressure level at workstations exceeds 85 dB(A).

In the case of very large machinery, instead of the sound power level, the equivalent continuous sound pressure levels at specified positions around the machinery may be indicated.

The EU Directive states the following two essential requirements:

- Machinery must be designed so that the risks resulting from noise are reduced as much as possible, making full use of state-of-the-art technology;
- Details of the sound pressure and power levels must be made available by the manufacturers.

The acoustic performance data must be in the machine instructions before authority to use the CE mark can be obtained. Without the CE mark the equipment can be prevented from being sold in the enormous EU market area.

The original requirement to publish acoustic performance data in sales literature was deleted in the 1994 Amendment. This downgraded the importance of noise and would have the retrograde effect of decreasing the investment and effort to reduce noise at source by research and development.

Failure to comply with the machinery directive could result in prosecution and, if convicted, a fine of up to £5,000 and imprisonment for up to three months, or both.

## 2.4 Proposed New Legislation

The European Commission's pro-

posals on Physical Agents, published in July 1994, includes much more stringent legislation. If these proposals are ratified, employees will have to be informed of possible hearing damage risk at a daily noise exposure level of 75 dB(A). At 80 dB(A) employees will have the right to audiometric screening. At 90 dB(A) systematic audiometric screening by or under the responsibility of a medical doctor must be carried out. Employees and workers' representatives must be given copies of noise exposure assessments and the programme of measures for noise control.

## 3. HEARING DEFENDERS

Hearing defenders – muffs or plugs – can protect the delicate hearing mechanism from damage caused by exposure to high

sound levels. However, they have many disadvantages, shortcomings and failings, including the following:

- It is not always possible for managers or supervisors to ensure that employees wear hearing defenders in conditions when the second action level is breached. This is a particular difficulty

for golf course, park and grass verge maintenance staff who may be working out of sight of supervisors.

- Even when fitted by specialists in laboratory conditions there is a very large difference in the measured performance of hearing defenders for repeat tests. This could be as high as 10 dB in one of the octave bands. Hence even the assumed mean octave values minus the standard deviation could over-estimate the actual attenuation by several decibels for the BS5108 tests. In practical use in the field or shop floor the true attenuation of the hearing defenders could be considerably lower than specified by the supplier.

- Operators using hearing defenders may not hear urgent warnings of pending danger.

- Most people find wearing ear muffs or plugs very uncomfortable, especially for long periods in hot weather.

- Ear muffs are not suitable for

people with glasses or long hair.

- Ear plugs could be a risk to health if very careful hygiene precautions are not always adopted.

- Hearing defenders prevent circulation of air in the ear.

- Most medical doctors would not approve their use if the operator had an ear infection or earache.

- Sometimes it is not easy to detect damage to the ear muffs which could detrimentally affect their noise safety performance.

- Some people, particularly young men, are macho about using hearing defenders. (They do not think high noise levels could damage their hearing and are therefore reluctant to wear hearing defenders).

- Some types of hearing defenders do not allow equalisation of the pressure on either side of the plug. Hence the ear drum could be at a different pressure from atmosphere and the other ear drum.

These are some of the reasons why the use of hearing defenders is a last resort. The main effort and investment must be to reduce the machine generated sound pressure levels and the noise exposure times.

It is wrong for a manager to instruct all ground maintenance staff to wear hearing defenders while operating all the noisy machines. It is not possible to determine which machines breach the first or second action levels without careful sound measurements and an exposure assessment based on the maximum operating time per day. Taking this arbitrary approach could be forcing operators to wear ear muffs for very long periods when it is not necessary. This flawed administration policy undermines the basic strategy of the legislation.

## 4. GENERAL COMMENTS

It is a fallacy, and dangerous misconception, to think that the responsibilities of managers, committee members and senior executives are upheld by buying hearing defenders and telling the ground maintenance staff to use them.

To comply with the noise legislation, to make a positive contribution to noise reduction and to reduce the risks of hearing damage to acceptable levels require not just a technician who can

**'These are some of the reasons why the use of hearing defenders is a last resort'**



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# EAR DEFENDERS

read a sound level meter, but a qualified engineer with in depth acoustic experience.

The fact that the sound pressure levels generated by many grass maintenance machines are still very high, is directly related to a poor feedback by users to the manufacturers who therefore do not consider noise to be an important factor in product sales. If HSE had sufficient funding and resources adequately to enforce the legislation, the market driven manufacturers would soon get the message and invest in research to improve the acoustic performance of their machines. They would also speed up the development of battery powered electrical machinery which is much quieter and more environmentally friendly.

The average equivalent sound pressure level at the operators head for twenty recently tested brush cutters (strimmers) was 99 dB(A). It would only take operation for one hour for the second action level (90 dB(A)) to be breached with this average sound

level. For the highest measured value of 101.4 dB(A) the exposure time to breach the second action level reduces to thirty six minutes!

Many types of strimmers, flymos, hedge cutters, chain saws, pedestrian mowers, tractors, triple mowers, turf cutters, soil shredders, aerators, top dressers, quad bikes, edgers, blade grinders, hammer drills, disc grinders, etc. cause a breach of the second action level. The operators of these machines are vulnerable to permanent hearing damage. Their risk of NIHL would be considerably decreased by properly conducted noise assessments.

Equivalent sound pressure levels should be measured near the operator's head with each noisy machine at normal speed over grass. If fitted, blades should be rotating. For at least one of each type, octave band sound pressure levels should be recorded to ensure that the hearing defenders, if required, attenuate the sound to a level which eliminates

the risk of hearing damage. Unusual or inconsistent sound measurements should be investigated.

After the supervisors have had time to read and study the comprehensive report, the acoustician/engineer consultant should spend some time explaining the results and analysis to those concerned.

The noise consultant should also provide a telephone advice service for the managers and supervisors.

It is essential that the noise consultant convinces the user to rate acoustic performance as a crucial parameter in the decisions on which machines to phase out and on which machines to buy.

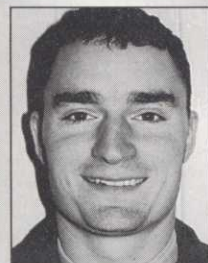
For normal golf courses the first noise assessment project would cost about one pound for each club member.

Two years later the cost of a recheck noise assessment would be much less. This is a relatively small price to pay to protect the hearing of those who maintain our parks and golf courses. It

would cost a great deal more if HSE prosecute those responsible for breaking the law or if one of the ground maintenance staff sues them for causing hearing damage.

Advanced planning and decision making on noise is not only a responsible social attitude, it is also good business practice and a substantial cost saving strategy in the long term.

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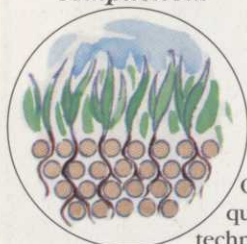




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## Dinner was a big success

The annual Gentleman's Dinner at Walton Heath was a resounding success although the hardy souls who competed, particularly at the back of the field, were given ample opportunity to test the waterproof qualities of their clothing.

Despite the damp – and it could have been worse because during the dinner itself snow fell and was two inches deep by the time it

came to depart – some excellent golf was played over the New Course, magnificently prepared by Clive Osgood, with 40 pts being required to secure the honours.

The victor was Huw Morgan, of Wildernes GC in Sevenoaks, off a handicap of 8 and, as our picture shows, he was congratulated on his achievement by Walton Heath Captain John Jessop.

## First winner sees the sights at GCSAA show



Stuart Green, of Reaseheath College, the first winner of the Gleaneagles Excellence in Golf Award used part of his £1,650 bursary prize to visit the GCSAA Conference and Exhibition in Orlando in February.

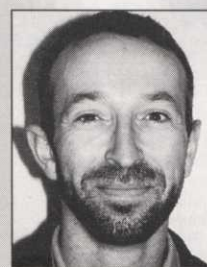
The Award scheme, which is now in its second year, enables students to study for a year at Gleaneagles as part of their three year HND college course and Stuart was one of six students selected by Gleaneagles to take part in the inaugural year of its Excellence in Golf Awards.

The students spent a year studying and carrying out all aspects of course design, management and maintenance under the direction of Jimmy Kidd and the Head Greenkeepers of Gleaneagles' three championship courses. At the end of the year, the students faced practical, theoretical and project assessments and all six were judged to have reached the required standard and received Certificates of Excellence and

cash bursaries.

Stuart is pictured (second from left) with his certificate of excellence on the stand of award sponsor, Ransomes. Also pictured are, from left, Peter Wilson, Chief Executive Ransomes plc; Jimmy Kidd, Director of Turf Grass Management, Gleaneagles Golf Developments and David McInroy, Managing Director of award co-sponsors Scottish Grass Machinery.

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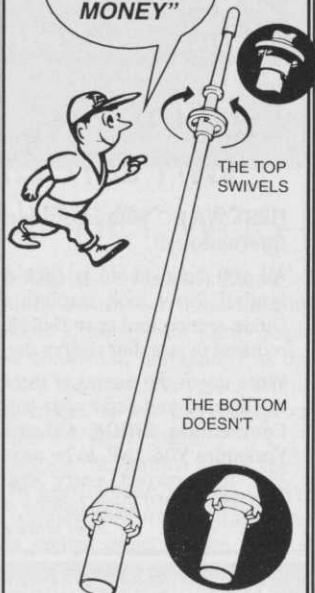


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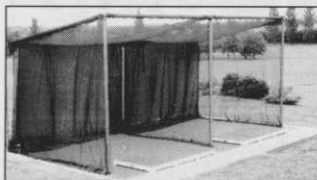
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Contact Katharine,  
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01257 231861

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01625 503030

## RECRUITMENT

### North Lincolnshire Council Commercial Services Department Grounds Maintenance Services

require a

# HEAD GREENKEEPER

for established 18 hole and 9 hole (29 par) golf courses located within the town of Scunthorpe.

Applicants must possess appropriate qualifications and a proven track record in all aspects of course maintenance, the ability to lead and motivate staff.

Salary - NJC Local Authorities, APTC Scale 4/5  
(£11538-£14472 pay award pending)

Application forms are available from:

Contracts Manager  
Grounds Maintenance Services  
76 Station Road, Scunthorpe DN15 6RQ

Tel: (01724) 297843

Closing date: 7th May 1996

## TRACTOR

Ford 1210 Dec 1986,  
4 wheel drive,  
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5 speed gear box

**£2,500 +VAT**

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Ransomes Super Certes Ex-Demo condition...£1250  
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All prices inclusive of transport but subject to VAT.

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FAX: 0131-663 0651

## Job Shop

### Assistant Greenkeeper job wanted.

21 year old, qualified to NVQ Level 2, also with PA1 and 2A spraying qualifications. Anywhere considered. References and qualifications available. Accommodation preferred but not essential.

Box No JS 36/96, BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Aline, York YO6 2NF

### Scottish Greenkeeper seeks Deputy Head position in Central Scotland.

29 years old, 8 years experience in all aspects of greenkeeping. City & Guilds Phase 2 and 3, PA1, PA2A. Good knowledge of machinery.

Box No JS 37/96, BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Aline, York YO6 2NF





## Redlibbets Golf Club

require an

## ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

for the grow in and subsequent maintenance  
of this new 18 hole golf course.

Applicants must:

1. Be qualified to Phase 2 City & Guilds
2. Hold spraying certificates in PA1/PA2A
3. Have a broad practical experience and the ability to play golf would be an advantage.

Please apply in writing with full CV to:

**Neal Carter, Course Manager,  
Red Libbets Golf Club,  
Gay Dawn Offices, Fawkham, Longfield,  
Kent OA3 8LY**

This position is for an immediate start. BIGGA rates apply.



## Worsley Golf Club

requires a

## HEAD GREENKEEPER/ COURSE MANAGER

for an 18-hole parkland course established in 1894.

The successful applicant will be responsible for all aspects of course management and preparation. He or she should have suitable qualifications and possess a proven track record in course management, budgetary control, greenkeeping machinery and Health and Safety regulations.

The ability to lead, motivate and organise effectively an established team of greenstaff is essential.

Salary will be commensurate with experience.

Apply in writing with curriculum vitae to:

**The Secretary/Manager, Worsley Golf Club,  
Stableford Avenue, Monton Green, Eccles,  
Manchester M30 8AP**

## Langland Bay Golf Club Langland, Swansea

invites applications for the position of

## COURSE MANAGER

Applicants must be qualified greenkeepers,  
self motivated with proven ability in organising and  
carrying out work programmes.

A sound and practical knowledge of automatic  
irrigation systems and the use of greenkeeping  
machinery is also required.

The ability to lead, motivate and manage an established  
team is essential.

Salary by negotiation.

Applications in writing with full CV including  
current salary to:

**The Secretary  
Langland Bay Golf Club,  
Langland, Swansea SA3 4QR  
Tel: 01792 361721 Fax: 01792 361082**

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ST ANDREWS

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GOLF RESORT & SPA

## FIRST ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Applications are invited from persons of proven ability with appropriate qualifications and experience, who possess the necessary skills to lead and motivate an enthusiastic team under the direction of the Course Manager and Deputy Course Manager.

A sound knowledge in the use and maintenance of modern machinery and irrigation systems will also be required.

## ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Applications are invited from persons with appropriate qualifications. Experience is not essential but applicants holding PA1 and PA2A certificates are preferred.

These positions offer excellent rates of pay and a generous benefits package.

Please apply in writing with full CV and photograph to:

Owen Browne, Course Manager, Duke's Course,  
Craigtoun, St Andrews, Fife KY16 8NU

## HEAD GREENKEEPER (GERMANY)

### Golf Club Aschaffenburg

9 hole course, 40 mins from Frankfurt,  
top grade machinery.

Good salary.

6 weeks annual leave.

Previous experience in Germany an advantage.

Contact: Declan McCollam

Golf Club Aschaffenburg

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Germany

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We cover West and East Sussex for the above franchises and previous experience of this type of equipment and market would be a distinct advantage.

SCATS is a long-established business with an excellent reputation. We look for employees who want to build their career and skills with the company.

Please apply in writing enclosing your CV to:  
R W Bird, General Manager - Machinery,  
SCATS, Frenches Corner, Billingshurst,  
West Sussex RH14 9LR.

# SCATS

... working with Farmers for Farmers



City Centre Leisure  
(Holdings) Limited

## HEAD GREENKEEPER

DEANGATE RIDGE GOLF COURSE  
HOO, KENT

City Centre Leisure has recently been awarded the contract to manage this well established golf course in Hoo, Kent.

The 18 hole course now has the benefit of a new irrigation and drainage system. Other facilities include an 18 hole pitch and putt course and a new driving range as well as a new professional shop – due to open in April 1996.

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

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

If you would like to join the CCL team send a full CV with covering letter to:  
Denise Rickards, Personnel Manager,  
City Centre Leisure (Holdings) Ltd.,  
5th Floor, Carolyn House, Dingwall Road,  
Croydon, Surrey, CR0 9XF

Closing date for applications: Friday 26th April 1996.  
CCL is an equal opportunities employer.





## Buckinghamshire Golf Club

invite applications for the position of

### CHIEF MECHANIC

to join our team of hard working, conscientious staff.

We operate an extensive range of equipment which is housed in first class facilities.

The successful applicant will be required to be able to undertake the following tasks:

- Carry out preventative and curative maintenance and repairs on agricultural machinery and mowing equipment
- Organise service schedules, maintenance records and parts controls
- To aid in the training of all staff
- To participate in the formulation and action of the work programmes, budgets and controls that will ensure the golf course equipment is managed in accordance with the agreed management policies.

This is an excellent opportunity for an ambitious and competent mechanic who can demonstrate positive management and self motivation.

Please apply in writing enclosing your CV to:

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

Closing date for applications: 26 April 1996

**Golfclub Sinsheim Buchenauerhof, Germany**

### HEAD GREENKEEPER



required for a relatively young 18-hole course with a 6-hole short course and a practice area consisting of a driving range, two putting greens and a pitch-&-chip-area.

Applicants are expected to possess managerial, leadership and motivational skills, to have sound knowledge of work programmes and of the use and maintenance of modern machinery.

Apply in writing with full CV and two references to:

**Golfanlage Sinsheim Buchenauerhof AG, Sonja Woermann,  
Buchenauerhof 4, 74889 Sinsheim, Germany. Tel: 00-49-7265-7258**



### GOLF COURSE/ESTATE MECHANIC REQUIRED

Donnington Grove Golf Club currently seek a self-motivated person who possesses the relevant skills which go with this important post, ie:

1. Control of a suitable maintenance program
  2. Maintain a parts inventory and service records
  3. Must have familiarity with welding equipment
  4. Servicing includes a wide range of golf course machinery, tractors and cars
  5. Must be conversant with all Health & Safety Regulations
- If this post interests you, please send your details or CV to:

**The Course Manager, Donnington Grove Golf Course, Donnington House,  
Donnington, Newbury, Berks RG14 2LA**

**The London Golf Club**

### 1st ASSISTANT

On the Jack Nicklaus designed Heritage Course.

This post will give the successful applicant an opportunity to join a dedicated maintenance team working from one of the most modern facilities within the industry.

We are looking for a highly motivated person to progress within the company.

The above position requires the ability to be able to motivate and supervise up to 14 staff, therefore man management skills and a sound practical knowledge in golf course greenkeeping with associated qualifications is a minimum requirement.

Please apply in writing enclosing full CV and contact references to:

**Andy Wood, Courses Superintendent, The London Golf Club,  
Ash, near Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 7EN**

Closing date: May 14th 1996



**Golf Club Wiesloch,  
Germany**

invite applications for the position of

### HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicants must be suitably qualified with proven experience in all aspects of course management.

The ability to enthusiastically lead, motivate and organise a small team of greenstaff is essential.

Salary and conditions negotiable.

Knowledge of the German language would be a distinct advantage.

Please apply in writing with full CV to:

**The President, Dr W Gutermann, Golf-und Landclub Wiesloch,  
Hohenhardter Hof, 69168 Wiesloch (Baieral), Germany**

**Eyemouth Golf Club**

require a

### HEAD GREENKEEPER

for their new 18 hole course under construction on the east coast of Berwickshire, Scotland.

Applicants must have a suitable qualification and experience in all aspects of course management including the Health & Safety Regulations.

A thorough knowledge of machinery and maintenance is essential together with the ability to motivate and direct staff.

Salary by arrangement.

Applications in writing with full CV should be sent by 30th April 1996 to:

**Hon Secretary, Mr M Hope, 7 Johns Road, Eyemouth, Berwickshire, Scotland**

**QUALIFIED, EXPERIENCED**

### ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

wanted for a new 18 hole Championship Links Golf Course in North County Dublin.

Reply enclosing CV to:

**Head Greenkeeper, Portmarnock Hotel and Golf Links,  
Strand Road, Portmarnock, County Dublin**



# Land used to play golf is in good hands

I am proud to be a greenkeeper and feel privileged to be part of this vibrant and ever changing industry. I would make it very clear at this point I have never met anyone wish all the answers, that is why I am writing. By pulling together we all can be of benefit to each other and on occasions like this, share our experiences good and bad. Golf clubs have increasingly become more business like than ever before and I am always looking for new more professional and cost effective ways to prepare our golf course in tip top condition. I have, at all times, a healthy respect for the client ie the golfer, because without them wanting to play on our course I would be out of work.

Greenkeeping is, in my opinion, applying basic skills to a greater or lesser extent, depending on your course's needs at any given time. I try at all times to keep things as simple as possible! However it's not a case of black is right and white is wrong, we have to employ certain shades of grey from time to time if we are to be totally successful.

I am, as a Head Greenkeeper, totally dependent on my staff, because without their help and dedication it would be impossible to maintain and improve the condition of our course. We all must expect to earn our keep, from when we get to work to when we leave, we are a team and must perform as such. I always try to deploy staff on the course away from the golfer as this will cut down time and increase productivity. It's important that when we do come into contact with the golfer, we are able to communicate on a level pitch, there must be a mutual respect from the golfer and ourselves. Things are on the mend and greenkeepers are becoming more accepted within the club environment. Keep up the good work and remember we are all our own best ambassadors.

## IRRIGATION: MY INTERPRETATION

First a story. Many years ago I was a young headstrong, Head Greenkeeper. I suppose I thought I knew everything there was to know about greenkeeping. I had just fed all the greens with Sulphate of Ammonia and Iron, one hot July day as I remember, I packed up shop and went to visit my mum and dad for the evening, some 60 miles away. We were discussing work and dad said what I'd been up to, I explained the day's work and he asked if I had given the greens a good water, I replied, "No, because it was going to rain, they'd said so on the weather forecast." "Son," he said, "it's raining when you're getting a wet head. Now get back and give them a drink." I did as I was told and, you know what, it didn't rain that night, nor for the next month, contrary to the weather forecaster's report.

Irrigation is only one of the tools available to us as greenkeepers. It's not the be and end all to successful course management, however, when well designed and maintained, it is without doubt an asset. It must be used in conjunction with a healthy aeration programme, because it would be no good throwing this valuable resource (water), onto a surface too compacted to accept it. It has great value, when we are using fertilisers, topdressings, wetters etc, because it releases us from the constraints of the weather. If you have an automatic system (not everyone has you know) it allows you to water the course during the night removing the problem of inconvenience to the golfer and, of course, cutting down evaporative loss etc.

How much water should we use on our golf course? It's worth noting that you may experience some restriction due to cost, if coming directly from a water board or extraction limits, from a natural source on site.

Some golfers, bless them, would have us apply sufficient water that would allow a well struck 3-iron from 200 yds, to stop a ball dead. On the other hand greenkeepers have over the years, me included, applied so little amounts that the playing surface has been as receptive as an airport runway. Please remember golf is a game played on grass, not bare ground. We must apply just enough water to maintain a healthy sward and a moist soil profile, remember I said moist and not soaking. Each golf course will, in my experience, require different amounts of water to achieve this end, depending on its climate, location, topography and soil conditions. It's up to us, as the greenkeeper, to determine when and how much to achieve the best possible results.

I have over the years under used water in an effort to maintain a bent fescue dominant sward and with hindsight it may have been our cutting policies, in an effort to maintain high levels of pace for long periods and the dramatic increase, in the volume of play on our golf courses that have been the main villains.

Water is an increasingly valuable commodity, your irrigation system is an expensive tool, look after them both. It may be a stand pipe and a hose or the most expensive system around, nothing is more sure, greenkeeping would be extremely hard without them.

## AGRONOMY

I don't confess to the dizzy heights of qualification of an agronomist, however have over the years met a few, I am always keen to absorb their words of wisdom. It will be of no surprise to you all, that the club committee are always pleased to have the security of their blessing, for all operations carried out on the golf course. If the agronomist is employed by your club, I am sure that you will find him or her to be more of an asset than a hindrance to your operation. Please don't be against using them as part of your team, you never know they may learn something from you, about this business at the sharp end.

In an ideal world we would all have golf courses covered with bents and fescues, no wear and tear from golf etc, however, the reality is not as simple as that. We now have levels of play on our golf courses that have walked of these ideal grasses to some extent. We all, I am sure, have to contend with poa infestation on some part of the course. The most likely situation is that we have a percentage of poa on greens and at worst we have poa dominant greens. I am not advocating that this is the best situation to find ourselves, however the reality is we have to manage what grass we have got, rather than to worry about the grass we haven't in most cases got. We have been advised over the years by some experts that creeping bentgrass will not grow well in the UK, I would just say that in my present position I am working with this grass and I must say the observation by the experts has not been true, in our case I have been very impressed by this grass. The most important factor is does the golfer like playing on it? Well again in our case they all seem very pleased with our bentgrass greens.

With golf in the region of 50 to 60 thousand

rounds being the norm, it will be of no surprise to you that soil compaction is now the main enemy. The skill is in carrying out an intensive aeration programme within the constraints of these high levels of play. Machinery manufacturers have had a great impact in making available, the tools to do this work quickly and efficiently. A well planned operation will be well received by the golfer. I know of no more unacceptable topic to the golfer – well maybe frost – if we are to have any hope of producing first class playing surfaces, the golfer will have to accept aeration, is a very necessary and rewarding operation.

I have in the main managed turn of the century greens with a heavy soil growing medium, their requirement for fertiliser, water and aeration has been worlds apart from the USGA greens that I am now managing.

If I applied the same minimum feeding policy to my USGA greens as I have used over the years on older heavy soil greens, I am sure, I would have no grass on them and I would soon be out of work. In the early years of management of a USGA green the only available nutrition is what we have applied to them and in my experience the requirement on both systems are quite different and remember we must take these factors into consideration if we are to be successful.

Golf courses over the years have had a bad press, we are told that we are a selfish user of the land and we will use pesticides at the drop of a hat. Our acres, they would have us believe, are totally void of any fauna or flora. It's crazy.

Golf is a game played through a natural landscape and we do coexist with nature in abundance. The older I get the more passionate I have become about this part of golf course management. I asked a golfer recently if he had had a good game, he replied, "My golf was xxx but the walk around this golf course was fantastic. I have seen deer, rabbits, pheasants, I have strolled through bluebell woods, I saw a heron at work and, to cap it all, the sun is shining. A perfect day."

He was, I am sure, not alone we all see things like this every day on our courses. We must, as custodians of the land we manage, embrace nature, work with it and not exclude it because it would be to the detriment of the sport. The amount of land on the golf course used to play the game in most cases is less than 60% of the total land available, leaving a sizeable amount for nature to flourish.

## SOME POINTS TO CONSIDER

- If you have to use pesticides, use only approved products.
- There is no need to cover out of play areas.
- Only use certificated personnel when using pesticides and comply fully with guidelines for their safe use.
- Retain local species of timber when planting.
- Compile an ecological survey you will be amazed what your course can sustain.
- Have a healthy respect for nature, the rewards are very special.

I have been afforded this opportunity to bite back and say to the pessimists, land used to play golf on is in good hands. We can and will embrace the natural landscape and preserve it into the future.



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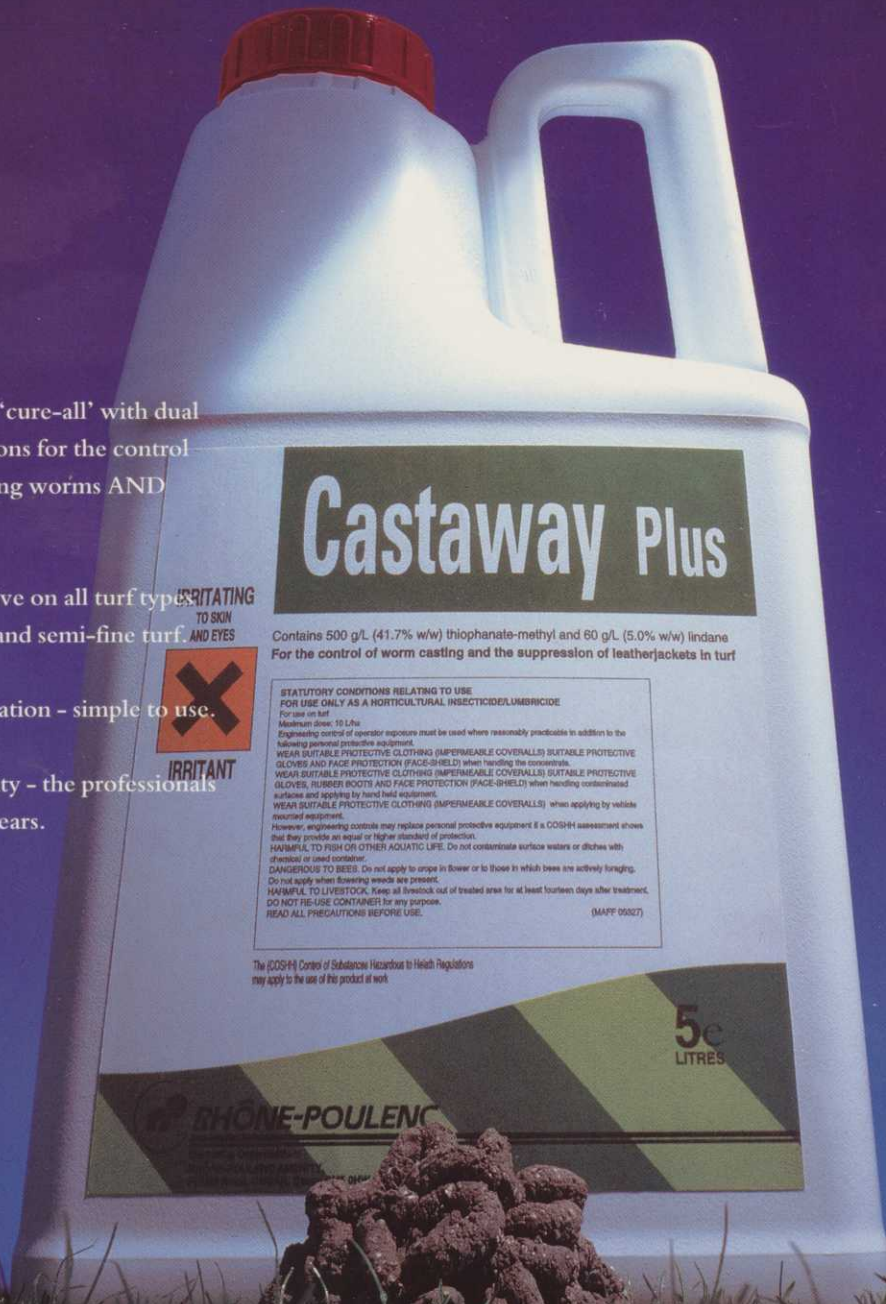
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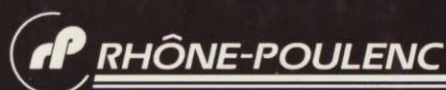
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