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■ The next edition of  
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# GREENKEEPER

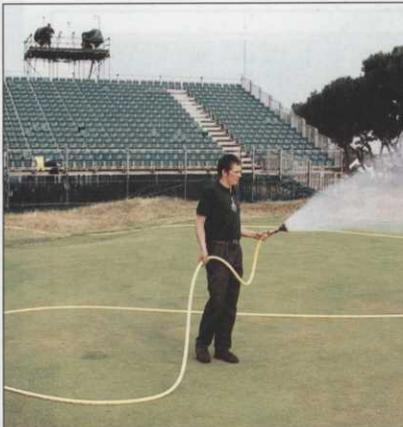
International

**AUGUST 1996**

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BIGGA's Greenkeeping Support Team at The Open Championship  
Picture by Scott MacCallum

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# GREENKEEPER

International

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### Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

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# It's all down to the Finnish

**W**e had known for some time of the Finnish Greenkeepers Association but formal contacts only began last October during the Swedish Greenkeepers Association Conference and continued with the formation in March this year of the new Federation of European Golf Greenkeepers Associations when Elise Jarvinen, Chair of the FGA, was nominated to the new FEGGA board. Elise was very keen to foster relations between BIGGA and the FGA and so it was in the first week in July that Scott MacCallum and myself ventured forth on our first visit to Finland.

It was not without significance that we went in early July for there are only some two to three months in any year when Finnish greenkeepers can show their golf courses at their best. One can only be impressed with what is happening in greenkeeping in Finland. The country currently has 89 golf courses while some 200 greenkeepers make up membership of the FGA. Essentially the FGA is represented at every golf club – a target which we in BIGGA are still some way from achieving. The FGA is led by a strong and purposeful committee



## BIGGA in focus

BY NEIL THOMAS

of eight members which meets around seven times a year whilst communication between committee members is constant by mobile phone. Indeed we were informed that Finland is the world leader in the use of mobile phones. The lasting impression is that of the close bonding between committee members and greenkeepers throughout the FGA. It is very much an association which has flourished under the principle of self help and its leaders are extremely knowledgeable. There is no formal greenkeeping education system in Finland, although the committee is well advanced in

its plans for the future being currently engaged in productive discussions with one of the horticulture colleges. Meanwhile seminars are arranged and there is much informal exchange of ideas and techniques. I was told that the simple and cost effective solution to a problem was often seen as more appropriate than the complicated and expensive one. Practicality is a feature of the approach by Finnish greenkeepers to their profession and symptomatic of a Finnish trait for efficiency, common sense and sound administration.

It was a pleasure to spend a few hours in the company of Osmo Saarinen, Secretary of the Finnish Golf Union, and to appreciate at first hand the strength of the relationship between the FGU and the FGA. Both organisations are forward looking and keen to move ahead in harmony. This can only augur well for the future of the profession in Finland. If one needed any proof that here is a progressive country it was to be found in a visit to the Vierumaki Golf Course situated within the country's National Sports Institute. The facilities not only for golf but sports in general were

outstanding and we were privileged to enjoy a presentation by Tapani Ilkka, Director of the Institute and President of the Finnish Olympic Team. This facility is supported by other smaller institutes around the country and demonstrated very visibly just how far we lag behind in this country in such provision.

In a four day visit we proceeded on a whistle stop tour of eight golf courses covering many miles in the process. Wherever we went the Head Greenkeeper ensured us a warm welcome and there was real pleasure that we had taken the trouble to visit the country and meet with the FGA. The hand of friendship was extended and as we travelled with our hosts, headed by Elise and supported by Pekka Nieminen, Kristina Laukkanen and Ilkka Kaivosoja we learnt much about Finland and Finnish greenkeeping as well as about the outgoing Finns and their sense of humour. Make no mistake Finnish greenkeeping is well organised, excellently led and going places. It is a land of short summers and long winters. The snow and ice confronts the greenkeeper with his greatest problems closing courses for six to seven months of the year. But this is also the land of the midnight sun when in summer as one moves north golf is available 24 hours a day. Indeed yours truly was spied hitting a ball at 1.10am as a new golf course experience! The extended daylight encourages growth and I was informed that cutting takes place three times as frequently as in this country. That is part of a story which Scott MacCallum will report on in a two part series starting in the next issue of *Greenkeeper International*. It will cover some excellent golf courses and feature Head Greenkeepers who are leading the way forward in Finland. For Scott and myself it was a great experience where we learned much about Finnish greenkeeping and the way in which the FGA is administered. To Elise, Pekka, Kristina and Ilkka and the other friends we made, a big thank you. I suspect a few of you will be making your way to the BTME in Harrogate next January – I hope so.



Time to relax: Round the table with members of the Finnish Greenkeepers Association

## As I see it...

BY DEAN CLEAVER  
BIGGA CHAIRMAN

**T**he highlight of the month for me, and no doubt a great many other people, was The Open Championship at Royal Lytham & St Annes.

I began the week at the Association of Golf Writers dinner in the R&A Tent on the Tuesday night. It was a great honour to be part of the evening and the terrific atmosphere certainly set the tone for the rest of the week.

I must pay tribute to Jimmy MacDonald and his team who set up the course perfectly and considering the weather the course stood up remarkably well. It was also nice to hear the kind comments of the Champion, Tom Lehman, about the course.

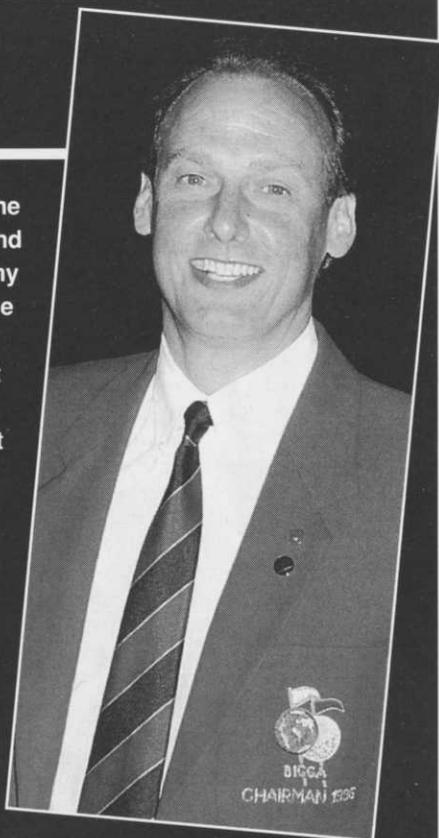
I'd like also to thank all the members of the Greenkeeping Support Team and the commitment shown by all the members throughout the Championship.

The recognition for the work done by the team is growing and it was nice to see Duncan Smith being able to assist the Championship officials in the confusion over a score at the 18th hole and the Chairman of the Championship committee visiting the marquee just to find out how many bunkers had been raked.

The information collected by the team and passed on to the media is also well received and becoming an increasingly valuable service provided by BIGGA.

Outside of The Open I attended a meeting about the possibility of forming a new Essex Section. It was a great success with over 60 greenkeepers attending and the green light being given to go ahead. I'd like to wish them all the best and hope that they become a successful section.

Elsewhere I attended the Hayter Regional Final at Abergele GC. I was lucky enough to play the course twice and found it to be in superb condition. I'm certainly looking forward to the Hayter Final at Fairhaven next month.



# NEWS



## BIGGA President hands out prizes

BIGGA President Viscount Whitelaw paid a visit to the Cumbria Cup sponsored by Course Care, at Penrith for the second successive year.

An excellent day's golf over John Berry's excellently conditioned course and Viscount Whitelaw arrived in time for the meal and presented the prizes.

Cat 0-9. 1. C. Leeming, 42pts,

2. J. Berry, 36pts, 3. B. Howarth, 36pts; Cat 10-18. 1. J. Eilsbeck, 36pts; 2. M. Haines, 35pts, 3. S. MacCallum 34pts; Cat 19-28. 1. B. McCrae, 35 pts, 2. S. Thomson 33pts, 3. M. Doano.

● Ian Holoran is pictured presenting Viscount Whitelaw with a token of the section's appreciation for attending the Cumbria Cup.

## New Essex section

A meeting took place on June 27 in Bury St Edmunds of all interested members with a view to forming a new Essex Section.

The outcome of the meeting, attended by over 50 greenkeeper members, was that the new Section will be formed and the boundaries of the current East Anglia Section redrawn. Both Sections will form part of the South East Region. This will take place following the AGM of the East Anglia Section in December.

During the next few months discussions will take place with the present East Anglia Section Committee and also with those members interested in sitting on the new Essex Section Committee to ensure that all matters are appropriately dealt with prior to the new Section beginning to operate.

Members wishing to sit on either of the committees should make this known through local contacts or to Janet Adamson at Headquarters within the next few months.

Executive Director Neil Thomas commented, "The formation of a new Section is an important stage in the Association's development and the interests of members will be protected. At the end of the exercise it is vital that two viable and forward looking Sections are in place and it is the intention of Headquarters, the East Anglia Section committee and the incoming Essex Section committee to work to this end."

Members are invited to contribute to the current discussions and details will be reported in *Greenkeeper International* in due course.



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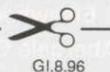
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# Coup for Ransomes as official supplier to PGA European Tour

Ransomes, Europe's leading manufacturer of professional turf-care equipment, has been appointed an Official Supplier to the PGA European Tour.

Under the agreement, Ransomes, Cushman and Ryan grass and turf maintenance machinery becomes a preferred greenkeeping product of the Tour and will be recommended for use at all PGA European Tour venues for the next three years. The agreement encompasses both the European Tour and the European Seniors Tour which comprise this year 50 tournaments including the Open Golf Championship and the Volvo PGA Championship.

As a preferred Tour supplier, Ransomes will make equipment available, as required, to help prepare Tour venues prior to all events. Ransomes will also hold special equipment familiarisation and discussion workshops for Tournament Directors. In addition, the company will co-sponsor an annual PGA European Tour Greenkeepers Conference and be involved in the presentation of conference sessions and educational papers.

"As a world-class supplier of



At the signing of the agreement: from left, Jeremy Hockham, Managing Director, Ransomes; Ken Schofield, Executive Director, PGA European Tour; Peter Wilson, Chief Executive, Ransomes and George O'Grady, Managing Director, PGA European Tour Enterprises

grass and turf machinery, Ransomes is delighted to be extending major support to the world-class series of tournaments comprising the PGA European Tour," commented Ransomes' Chief Executive, Peter Wilson.

"With St Andrews, Gleneagles and Pebble Beach already committed exclusively to Ransomes, this latest award demonstrates once again that we now have the full range of machines, the people and the resolve to compete for

and win business on golf courses the world over."

George O'Grady, Managing Director of PGA European Tour Enterprises, said: "The Tour welcomes this outstanding support from Ransomes.

"Their commitment and service is vital in ensuring that all Tour venues are offered the very best opportunity to improve playing conditions both for our tournaments and indeed their own members."

## HAYTER CHALLENGE

### Counting down to the big finish

The countdown is well underway for the final of the Hayter Challenge at Fairhaven and the inaugural Hayter International Cup which sees competitors and their supporters converging on West Lincs Golf Club from all corners of the globe.

With the Rest of the World tackling the Americas the event promises to have the excitement of the Ryder Cup coupled with the rare opportunity off the course to share greenkeeping knowledge with colleagues who cope with altogether different problems.

We all marvelled at the professionalism of the German soccer team which won the European Championships but it is not just in football that the German's display their flair for preparation. Matthias Ehser, representing the Rest of the World team was spotted at West Lincs GC getting a feel for the conditions.

"I am convinced that the Hayter International will become an established part of the greenkeeping calendar throughout the world and am thoroughly looking forward to both it and the Hayter Challenge Final which is already a popular and respected event on the domestic greenkeeping scene," said Neil Thomas, Executive Director of BIGGA.

Teams for Hayter International Cup: Americas: Samuel T. Williamson, Jim Dusch, Robert Heron, Douglas Meyer, Ricardo de Udaeta, George Renault, Dean Morrison, Paul McGinnis, Alejandro Young, Randy Nichols, Thom Charters, Gary Grigg.

Rest of the World: Cosme Bergareche, Fredrik Goa, Andreas Kauler, Derek McJannet, Ignacio Soto Alarcon, Peter Schumacher, Peter Frewin, Paul Bevan, Michael Dohlon, Ian Buckley, Matthias Ehser, Alexander Reid, Brian Mulholland.

## Toro links up with Disney for major sports complex

The Toro Company and Walt Disney World Sports have formed a corporate alliance for facilities maintenance and presentation at the Walt Disney World International Sports Complex, due to open in the USA next May.

The multi-million pound international sports complex will accommodate festival-type events, more than 30 different sports as well as professional-calibre training and competitions. It will serve as the headquarters for sporting events taking place throughout the Walt Disney World Resort near Orlando.

Toro will provide maintenance equipment and computerised irrigation systems for the 80 acres of turf throughout the sports complex. The environmentally-friendly "fertigation" system developed by Toro - feeding daily doses of liquid nutrients to the

grass through irrigation systems - will also be used.

In addition, Toro will present and name the four and half acre "town green" designed for ceremonies, celebrations and other public events in the heart of the 200 acre complex.

The company already supplies all landscaping equipment to Disneyland, Paris, and provides turf maintenance equipment to top sporting sites such as the Valderama venue for the 1997 Ryder Cup and Wimbledon. Toro has been represented in every major country in Europe since the mid 1930s.

Kendrick P Melrose, chairman and chief executive of Toro, said, "We are thrilled to be joining forces with Disney on what we believe will be the premier championship sports destination in the world for years to come."



Barenbrug has always maintained that staff should work closely together, to ensure a high quality service. Well, two members of staff have taken things a good deal further.

Andy Sadler, Production Manager, recently married Caroline (nee Townsend), Barenbrug's Sales Office Manager, before proudly carrying her over the threshold - of the Barenbrug warehouse! At least the happy couple begin their marriage with their feet on the grass!

Picture shows Andy and Caroline at Barenbrug.



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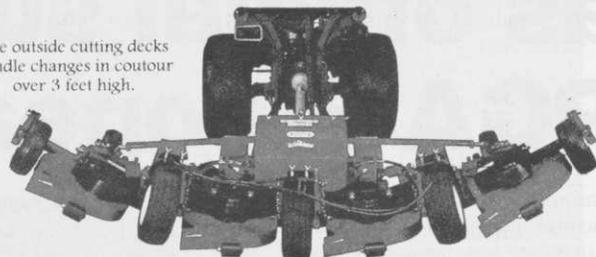
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## Praise for greenkeeper from highest source

Marriott Forest of Arden Course Manager Ray Hunt received some praise from no less a source than Europe's number one Colin Montgomerie during the Alamo English Open.

"We were here in March and since then I think he (Ray Hunt) has done a very good job," said Monty during a press conference at the tournament he came close to winning but which eventually

went to Australian Robert Allenby. Prior to the tournament Ray was asked to produce a course with a US Open flavour to it as it was the final European event before several of the field flew to Oakland Hills for the US Open - see April *Greenkeeper International*.

"The course itself, from a definition point of view, looks fabulous and plays like a tournament

course. It is tough, as tough a layout as we will find in Europe," explained Monty.

"I spoke with the Course Manager with suggestions to see how we could toughen it up and it's certainly as tough as I would like to see it. This has set a bit of a standard this week and hopefully other courses and tournament promoters can see that the players believe in this type of layout."



## Nigel is wired for sound

Nigel Potter, Head Greenkeeper at Meltham GC was the winner of the Sony portable CD player offered in a draw among respondents to the OPE golf machinery survey.

Our picture shows Nigel receiving the machine from Graham Dale, Chairman of the OPE Council.

The OPE Council is part of the AEA and covers all Outdoor Power and Equipment products, including those sold into land amenity, local authority and domestic markets as well as to golf courses. The OPE Council has over 80 member companies.

The golf machinery survey has been undertaken on behalf of OPE members supplying the golf market and aims at providing an indication of the total number of machines owned by golf courses and the age distribution of these.

Graham Dale commented, "We were very encouraged to receive replies to our survey from 600 courses and we hope that we can use the results to provide an ever improved service to this sector. The draw we offered was a small thank you for all those greenkeepers who helped us and we hope that Nigel will get many hours of pleasure from the CD unit."

# Root zones in seminar spotlight

Quality, consistency and availability were the main themes of a seminar on root zones held by Hepworth Minerals and Chemicals Ltd., Pro-Sport Product Group in June. Senior greenkeepers and groundsman from many parts of the country plus distributors' representatives attended the meeting at Mere Golf and Country Club, Knutsford.

George Sheils, consultant agronomist to the PGA European Tour discussed soil testing and the formulation of root zones. John Souter, who lists Manchester United Football Club among his clients gave case histories of problem solving on high profile sports pitches. Both speakers paid special attention to the problems raised by the increasingly high rate of usage of sports turf of all types whether golf course or sports pitch. They stressed the need for proper evaluation of the soil and sub-soil and the correct build up to the final root zone which alone can lay the foundation for a grassed surface which will withstand the demands of all the year round usage.

John Souter showed his simple but effective glass tube method of demonstrating to clients the

drainage properties of various turf construction materials. "It's simple," said John, "But when you are showing greens committees or grounds committees who are not trained greenkeepers or groundsman, what the problem is and what you are trying to achieve, a simple demonstration is always better than a 10 or 20 page report."

Pro-Sport Product Group Sales Manager, Tony Jacques, gave a summary of the various root zones, top dressings and sports sands under the Pro-Sport brand. He introduced the new Pro-Sport Green divot mix and was able to demonstrate the effectiveness of the product when many of the delegates played golf on the immaculate Mere course. This has been one of the courses where the product has been successfully tested.

The par 3 holes where using an iron from the tee is most likely to result in a divot being taken all have Pro-Sport Green divot mix boxes on the tees. Using the product greatly improves the look of the tee while grass is growing back. The Mere greenkeeper mixes seed with the green divot mix to speed up the repair.

## New marketing job for Les

Bob Andrews Ltd has appointed Les Cork as Marketing Manager, all products. Les has been working with Goblin McCulloch for the past five years as Area Sales Man-

ager and has had valuable previous experience with Sachs Dolmar (Area Manager) B.T.R., Markt (UK) Ltd and Solo Power Equipment Ltd.

## FLYING DIVOTS

■ Tom Brooks, Golf Course Superintendent at the K Club in Kildare, is leaving at the end of the year. Tom, a representative of the Arnold Palmer Golf Management Company, has been in charge of the course and grounds since 1992 during which time the entire course has been drained to the extent that it is now playable all year round.

Having put the K Club on a firm course management programme, it hosted the '95 Smurfit European Open and will do so again next month. Tom is returning to the USA to further his career with the Arnold Palmer Golf Management Company.

■ D&E Turf has announced the appointment of Colin Graham, pictured left, as Sales Manager. Colin was previously territory manager for Lely UK.



"Colin's wealth of experience will give the customer the dedicated sales and service they require," said Managing Director David Stephenson.

■ Co-sponsored by RE Rushbrook & Co, SISIS, Levington and Rhône Poulenc, the recent golf day at Brett Vale Golf Club, Suffolk was attended by members of BIGGA East Anglian section. The competition was a Stableford and was won by Richard Hickford, Newton Green Golf Club.

■ Sovereign Turf Ltd Sales Manager Steve Williams has moved office. He can now be found at Meadow View, Norwich Rd, Norwich, NR5 0LA. Tel/Fax 01603 746229.

■ Sherwood Forest Assistant Derek McJannet performed heroics on his way to victory in the Nottinghamshire County Championship.

Scotsman Derek was 60 feet away from the hole on the final hole at Coxmoor needing two putts to force a play-off for the title.

Just like Vicente Fernandez in the Murphy's English Open at The Belfry a few years ago who holed a putt the length of the final green Derek didn't risk a play-off however and holed the monster putt to snatch the title.

# Huxleys celebrate 50 years progress

More than 100 visitors representing golf clubs, local authorities, contract firms, schools, sports clubs, public and private parks, estates and gardens helped Huxleys celebrate its 50th Anniversary at Alresford Golf Club in June.

The day began with Managing Director, Paul Huxley, introducing his father, Edward, who founded the business in 1946. Paul went on to thank the company's many customers for their support over the years, pointing out that a number of those present had been associated with the firm for a quarter of a century or more.

"That in itself speaks volumes of the confidence and trust built up over the years between Huxleys and its customers," commented Paul Huxley. "Still wholly family-owned, the business was founded on the twin principles of straight dealing and good service, principles which hold true to this day."

He pointed out that Huxleys is one of very few companies within the turf machinery industry which has its own direct retail operation offering sales, service, parts support and local hire of the machines it manufactures and distributes throughout Britain and overseas. These facilities are available to professional customers located within a reasonable distance of Huxleys' New Alresford head office and its Scottish branch at Broxburn, West Lothian.

"Our retail operation helps provide a close understanding of cus-



In 1946 Huxleys sold the Allen Motor Scythe (top). Founder Ted Huxley, above, is pictured on the new all-hydraulic Teestar

tractors' needs while ensuring a fast and positive response to calls for assistance, service or repair," Paul Huxley explained. "Most of the machines developed and built by Huxleys over the years have benefited from the suggestions, comments and ideas of end users."

Following Paul Huxley's welcome and introductions came

product demonstrations and a hands-on opportunity to assess individual machines, followed by a golf competition in the afternoon. Ever popular, the golf attracted 80 entrants playing four ball matches around the attractive and immaculately-prepared Alresford course.

During the morning machinery demonstrations, Huxleys highlighted a number of its latest products. These included the quiet and exceptionally stable Teestar tees and surrounds mower, the remarkable Soil Reliever deep aerator and the Grainskeeper greens grooming brush, now suitable for use behind compact tractors and turf vehicles as well as fitting in place of the cutting units on most ride-on golf greens mowers.

Also demonstrated was the latest Turfblazer 1280 rotary mower equipped with 126in (3.2m) wide cutting deck, 61hp turbocharged diesel engine and four wheel drive option. This high performance machine features individually folded wing cutting units, enhancing work in confined areas and transport between different sites. Maximum transport width is just 70in (1.7m).

For those not playing golf, guided tours of Huxleys' manufacturing facility gave an insight into the teamwork involved in designing, developing, producing, demonstrating, supplying and supporting the wide range of professional grass and turf machinery carrying the Huxley name.

## Mike hits his quarter century

A quarter of a century of loyal service has been reached by one of the South West and South Wales Region's most respected greenkeepers.

Mike Pike of Elfordleigh Hotel, Golf & Country Club joined the club in 1971 when he was only 22 years old. Since then Mike has nurtured and looked after Elfordleigh's popular course and has turned it into one of the very best kept in the region.

After 25 years of service Mike has some very firm ideas about how a golf course should be run: "The secret of a good golf course is allowing the Greenkeeper to run his own course. I've always had this freedom at Elfordleigh which is probably why I'm still here and why I'll be hopefully be here for another 25 years."

"The feedback I get from members and visitors who play the course is that they most appreciate a firm and true putting service and I've always had very good remarks made about mine which makes me and hopefully the members very proud."

## Firm bought out

AM Russell, the 114 year old Edinburgh based Toro dealer, has been the subject of a successful management buy out led by new Managing Director Brian Goudie and Financial Director Joe Zawinski. The company which employs 33 people is the largest supplier of Toro equipment in Europe and has an annual turnover of £4 million.

## Beware of those rays...

A reminder to outdoor workers – that they should be aware of the health dangers from excessive exposure of the skin to the sun – comes from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

Mindful of last year's heat-wave, a statement from the HSE points out that undue exposure of the skin to the sun should be avoided, particularly during the three or four hours around the middle of the day, and especially for those people who are more sensitive to the sun than others.

Senior HSE health policy official Mike Shepherd said: "Too much exposure of the skin to

sunlight can be damaging. It can prematurely age the skin, leaving it wrinkled and leathery, and increase the risk of developing skin cancer in later life. However, these adverse effects can be almost totally avoided by following the guidance contained in HSE's free leaflet, "Keep Your Top On" which includes simple advice on how to recognise skin types most at risk.

"It is important for outdoor workers to realise the possible dangers from the sun and to take sensible precautions to protect their health. These include shading the skin from direct

sunlight by wearing a long-sleeved top and also a wide-brimmed hat – the latter will be very effective in helping to shade the face, head and the back of the neck."

The leaflet supports HSE's current "Good Health is Good Business" publicity campaign, which aims to reduce the number of people who suffer ill health caused or made worse by work.

Copies of the leaflet can be obtained free from HSE Books PO Box 1999, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 6FS. Tel: 01787 881165 Fax: 01787 313995.

## THE BIGGEST MISTAKE I'VE EVER MADE AND WOULD ADMIT TO IS:



"Asking advice from Ronnie Bunting, who's just over the hill from me at Kilmalcolm"  
Gordon Kerr, Glendoach

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Words and pictures by  
**SCOTT MacCALLUM**



**Communal Massage** seemed to be just the ticket for Ronan McKeown, Mark Ellis but particularly Neil Whitaker

**BIGGA's Greenkeeping Support Team**

saw more sand than Lawrence of Arabia at the 125th Open Championship at Royal Lytham and St Annes.

There are 185 bunkers on the magnificent Royal Lytham & St Annes course. That's an average of more than 10 a hole and by any stretch of the imagination an awful lot of sand.

BIGGA's Greenkeeping Support Team must have shifted every grain of that sand during the four days of The Open Championship because during that time between them the 52 greenkeepers raked an incredible 1618 bunkers – to put that in perspective at St Andrews last year the figure was a mere 701.

The work was appreciated by everyone from the Championship Committee Chairman, Peter Greenhough who made a visit to the BIGGA Marquee to find out the three day figure on the final morning, and BBC commentator Peter Oosterhuis, who also visited the marquee to collect results, to the caddies, whose job it is at regular Tour events to rake the bunkers. The general consensus being that slow play would have been a real problem had the caddies had to rake such a huge number of bunkers – the same player frequently visited more than one bunker on a hole. Indeed one player was in four bunkers on one hole.

For the second year

# BIGGA IN THE LYTHAM RHYTHM

## BIGGA ON THE INTERNET

BIGGA was launched onto the Internet during The Open and the new service will offer "surfers" a range of information on the Association's services.

The BIGGA Web site can be accessed on – <http://www.bigga.co.uk> – and will initially display five pages including information on Golden Key sponsors, BTME 97; Greenkeeper International.

"This is a new and exciting vehicle for BIGGA to utilise and we are sure that as the Internet grows the benefit from our involvement with it will increase immeasurably," said James McEvoy, Sales and Marketing Manager.

"This will enhance our reputation as a truly international Association and will enable us to offer our sponsors added benefits and spread the word about Association membership," said Executive Director Neil Thomas.

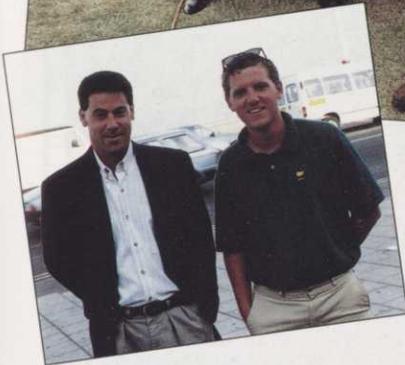


Iain MacLeod was called into action to rake the bunker Nick Faldo found on the very first morning



**Above: We've done it! Another successful Open and time to party. BIGGA's Vickie Peckham certainly isn't short of dancing partners!**

**Left: The Augusta National division of the Greenkeeping Support Team – Brad Owen and Russell Myers**



BIGGA ran the Great BIGGA Bunker Competition for the world's press and media for a daily prize of a bottle of whisky and an overall prize of a Hayter Harrier lawn mower worth over £600. This year the lawn mower was won by the end of the third day because the highest estimate by any of the press was lower than the three round figure of bunkers raked. That meant that Patricia Davies of *The Times* could relax on the Sunday safe in the knowledge that she and her husband Dai, golf correspondent of *The Guardian*, would take the prize.

As it was her estimate was 1113 more than 500 out but still better than everyone else, all but two of whom predicted under 1000.

If the top brains in the world of golf could be so far out how would the Support Team members fare in their own competition which was run in conjunction with the Media event. Well judge for yourself. The winner was Chris Sheehan of West Derby GC who as well as being an active member of the team on the golf course was also one of the designated mini bus drivers. Chris estimated 1620 – only two out!

The Support Team also had time to pick up snippets of news for circulation in the Press Centre, television and radio and to assist the scorers. Duncan Smith was actually called in by Championship officials to clarify one scoring situation.

Irishman Des Smyth had signed for a three on the final hole of the second round but the scorer had him down for a four. Duncan was called in and showed on his bunker form that Des had been in a bunker on the 18th. This evidence was accepted and Des, who would have missed the cut in any case, was disqualified.

For his efforts Duncan won the Editor's Prize for the Best Newshound of the week.



**Steve Evans (top) led the way with the first match on the first day at 7am while Alex Robertson (below) brought home the winner on the Sunday when he won the draw for the Nick Faldo, Tom Lehman match**

■ Dave Musgrove, who is caddying for Lee Janzen, was protecting his player's interests when he shouted "Quiet Please" at a man moaning on the left hand side of the 15th fairway. It was only later that it became apparent that the poor man had a broken arm – Information supplied by Howard McAddey of the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team.

■ Amateur Champion Warren Bladon had a magnificent first day but must have rued the three putts he took from two and a half feet at the 16th – Information supplied by Anthony James of the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team.

■ Michael Jonzon had an eventful time on the 13th. His tee shot landed in bounds but was inadvertently kicked out of bounds by a spectator. He was given a free drop and was able to continue – Information supplied by Richard Heaslip of the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team.

■ Tiger Woods used the hard running 7th fairway to launch a drive, his caddie measured at 390 yards leaving himself just 160 yards to the green – Information supplied by David Weedon of the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team.

■ Paul Azinger's fit of pique (he broke his putter over his knee) on the 9th and their implications didn't necessarily affect his performance on the greens. On the 10th hole, using his sand wedge he holed a nice 10 footer – Information supplied by John Wells of the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team.

■ The BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team, which has been raking bunkers and divoting fairways, had another use in game 50 when Duncan Smith, the Support Team member designated to the game, was called in to clarify a scoring problem which resulted in the ultimate disqualification of Des Smyth. Des had marked his score at the 18th as a 3 but his scorer had him down for a 4. To clear up the situation Duncan was asked to bring in the form upon which he was marking the number of bunkers he'd raked and it showed that the Irishman had been in a bunker on the 18th and that he couldn't have made a 3. "I was asked to recollect every shot on that hole," said Duncan.

■ The girlfriend of Tony Johnstone's caddie had an unusual way of marking the fact that "her man" was going to have the weekend off. Halfway down the 18th fairway and to the cry of "Well, I said I would if he missed the cut" she turned and "mooned" to the stands. As it was towards the end of the day the display did not have the size of audience it might have done – Information supplied by Alec Davies of the BIGGA Greenkeeper Support Team (who had an excellent view).



# MAN OF THE



Head Greenkeeper Jimmy MacDonald and his team won praise from all corners for the condition of the golf course which was a model of how a links course should be.

It brought out the best in the world's best golfers and despite perfect golfing conditions

ensured that the leaderboard by the end was a roll call of some of the world's finest golfers.

Jimmy is pictured visiting his friends in the BIGGA Marquee on the final day

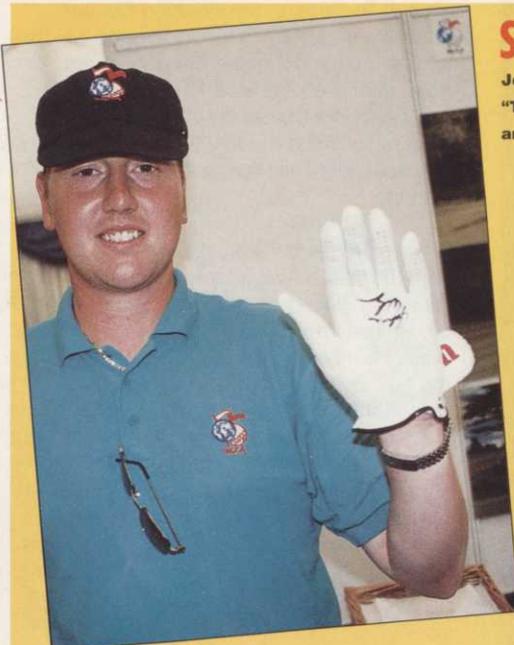
However, one woman spectator was not too

enamoured by a typical links golf course being overheard saying, "I've just returned from Spain where the fairways were wonderfully lush. I think it's a disgrace the way they've been allowed to die here."

What can you say?

## SOUVENIR TIME!

John Daly's glove being modelled by its new owner Robert Hogarth, Mark O'Meara's hat bearing the words "To Peter, Thanks for all your help. Your friend Mark O'Meara" now owned by Mark's friend Peter Biscoe and Fanny Sunneson's towel now in the safe hands of Jimmy Neilson.



# MOMENT



Mark Broughton, of Morecambe GC, was presented with his Master Greenkeeper Blazer by National Chairman Dean Cleaver during the Championship.

Mark, who spent some time at Royal

Lytham working under Jimmy MacDon-ald, and was part of Jimmy's own green-keeping team during the week, had family and friends on hand for the pre-sentation.



**THE WAY WE WERE**

The Greenkeeping Support Team from the last time The Open was held at Lytham – eight years ago

■ David Frost had a bad start to his second round. Standing on the 1st tee his brand new pair of golf shoes split and he had to send someone back to the tented village for a pair of size nine and a halfs. A marshal was presented with a pair of slightly damaged shoes on the 2nd tee – Information supplied by Gavin Kyle of the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team.

■ The hard running ground presented Hidemichi Tanaka with an interesting rules problem on the 12th. He was preparing to make a chip shot when his ball ran into a bunker. He was allowed to play it without penalty – Information supplied by Billy Merritt of the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team.

■ The work of the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team has been well appreciated by the caddies, whose job it is to rake the bunkers at regular Tour events. With so many bunkers raked over the first two days slow play would have been a bigger problem that it actually was if every caddie had to rake his own player's foot prints.

■ British Rail has its critics but Anthony Davies of the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team had reason to sing its praises. The head of his rake fell off and it was British Rail maintenance who came to his aid – Information supplied by Anthony Davies of the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team.

■ Vijay Singh played the entire second round with a cracked driver – Information supplied by Alec Davies of the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team.

■ The Duke of York took an interest in the work of the Support Team during his visit. He talked with Stuart Bridge of the Team on the 1st tee before the Ben Crenshaw and Tiger Woods match went out and then chatted with another member of the team, Neil Woolfrey, on the 8th tee during the Mark James and David Gilford match.

■ Stephen Curtis of the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team got more than he bargained for when he sat waiting for his match to hole out on the 13th. He was hit square in the back by Klas Eriksson's tee shot which was hit long and right.

■ Mark Calcavecchia showed rare baseball talent on the 9th tee. He bounced his ball off the tee marker and hit it with his putter. It bounced off the road, hit a house and bounced back on to the course – Information supplied by Alec Davies of the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team.

■ D.A Weibring took time to smell the roses during his final round. The American, who recently won on the US Tour having recovered from serious illness, stopped every couple of holes to have marshals take photographs of himself with his son and by the end the match had lost around half an hour on the game in front – Information supplied by Chris Sheehan.

# TURF TISSUE

**How turf tissue analysis is used to grow healthy golf greens. Robert Laycock reports.**

**T**urf grasses take up nutrients from the soil and their tissue can be analysed to determine its content of nutrient elements. Used in conjunction with soil analysis, the nutrient content of grass clippings (collected from the grass box of the mower) gives a more complete picture of nutrient usage than the conventional simple soil analyses usually used for this purpose.

Who uses it? Tissue analysis has been part of decision making in agriculture and horticulture for many years and now is becoming more commonly used on golf courses around the world. My own clients include golf courses which are old and new - 9 hole courses as well as championship courses - who use tissue analysis

on a regular basis.

Why use it? The thinking turf manager, interested in an integrated approach to managing his greens learns that by reducing turf fertiliser applications or applying nutrients in the appropriate proportions it is possible to avoid lush production of turf at the wrong times thereby cutting fertiliser costs and improving the health of the grass.

What does it add to what we already know from soil analysis? It is well known that the nutrients which can be extracted from the soil by turf grasses interact both in the soil and within the plant. This affects their availability for biochemical processes in the plant, and turf grasses often take up more of some nutrients than they actually need for growth. This may not be a problem unless the high level of that element affects the content of others. One of the best known examples of

this, well-known to grassland farmers, is that adding high levels of potassium fertiliser to grass depresses its magnesium content. Using tissue analysis this can be seen happening in turf. Other less well known interactions also occur, and it becomes clear that maintaining the nutrients in balance is essential to the good health of turf.

#### **Criticisms of tissue analysis**

Common misconceptions exist about the usefulness of tissue analysis and its use has been criticised for several reasons. Some of these criticisms are valid, but experienced users are aware of them and take them into account in their interpretations. It helps to have a good grasp of plant biochemistry and physiology and for this reason interpretation of the results by an experienced and qualified agronomist is essential.

Firstly, tissue must be clean. No

analysis procedure can distinguish top dressing particles, insects, or bud scales from trees from grass clippings and these must be removed before analysis. This is a very obvious factor, but one remarked on by a number of researchers in this field.

Tissue must be reasonably fresh. In practice, unless the golf course is within easy reach of the analyser, first class post can be used to ensure a fresh sample is analysed. The effects of decomposing plant tissue on analysis results are well known and documented (surprisingly enough) and again, experienced interpretation of the results will tell whether the sample is too old for analysis to give sensible results.

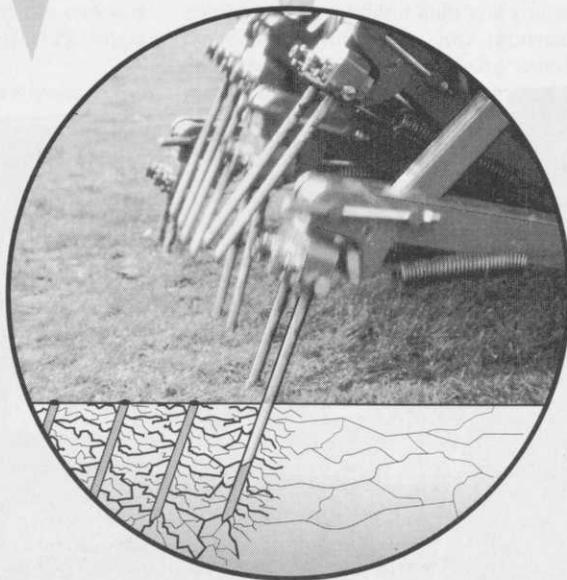
Results of tissue analysis must be interpreted in the context of soil analysis from the turf area. This means that a more detailed soil analysis is required than that often used by agronomists. How-

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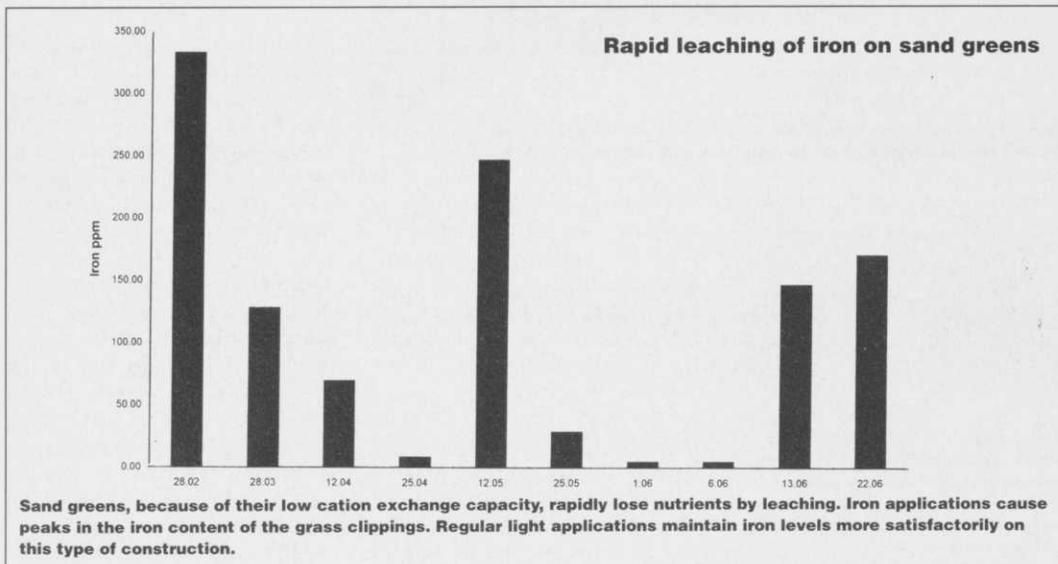
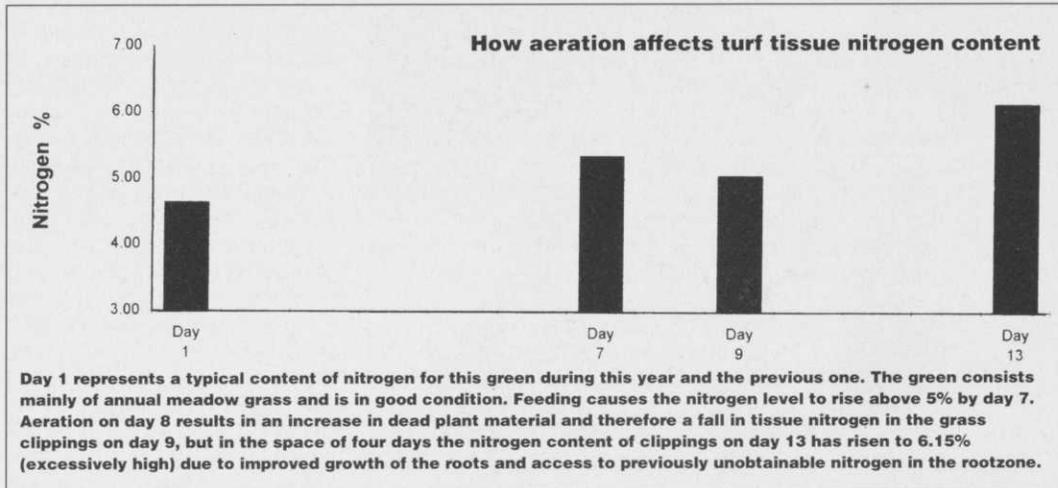
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# ANALYSIS



tors like these can be identified.

Modern technology means that results can be supplied very quickly. In my own case, I results of analyses are faxed back on the day I receive the sample, which means that the tissue results can be used to decide immediate fertiliser needs, for example.

## Advantages

There are two ways for a golf club to use tissue analysis. A single analysis, made in conjunction with soil analysis, can detect an imbalance in nutrient uptake by the turf which can be corrected. This approach can be used to help determine why, for example, two greens on a course are behaving differently. However, I have found by far the most popular way of using the technique in practice is as a management tool in long term nutrient tracking to monitor changes in nutrient content of the turf. This enables fertiliser applications to be planned and the response of the turf to be followed during the course of the year. In doing this, the turf manager learns the optimum amounts of particular nutrients to apply without putting on too much at a time and to regulate applications to avoid under or oversupply of fertilisers.

Some nutrients are more dynamic throughout the year. Iron (see graph) and nitrogen are examples of these, in healthy turf responding positively to applications of fertiliser which contain them. With experience, the turf manager can use tissue analysis to avoid alternating peaks and troughs of nutrient content, at the same time producing a more healthy turf, less prone to damage from disease or environmental stress.

The final question is: "Is turf tissue analysis essential to good golf course management?" The answer of course is "No, it is not essential" – but it is a major help in decision making. Once Course Managers have used tissue analysis they tend to continue to do so, finding it improves their understanding of the way the grass on their greens interacts with fertiliser applications and other management practices, and thereby improving the standard of their greenkeeping.

ever this is not a bad thing and in itself adds to the background information made available to the greenkeeper through his agronomist.

Tissue nutrient levels vary throughout the year. This is not necessarily a disadvantage, and provided frequent testing is carried out can be used to advantage by the turf manager. It is often overlooked that availability of nutrients in the soil varies with the season, particularly on modern constructions, so variation in the tissue is to be expected.

Other factors also affect the results, notably the age of the tissue and the species of grass being analysed.

Some of these supposed disadvantages are in fact helpful. For example, knowing that the levels of the various nutrients change

through the year gives a better understanding of the way the turf plants in the greens work. Fertiliser composition can then be selected to suit, reducing waste and cost.

There are many complications in interpreting analysis results and laboratories with little experience of turf tissue analysis should be avoided.

## Effects of turf management on tissue nutrient content

Tissue nutrient content is affected by a number of factors. Fertiliser application is the most obvious. However, other management practices also affect the results of the analyses. For example, vertical mowing introduces older tissue into the sample, causing an increase in those elements associated with older tissue, such as cal-

cium, and a decrease in nitrogen.

Aeration increases oxygen supply to the roots and thus enhances growth of roots into parts of the soil previously untapped. The result of this is the same as giving a dose of fertiliser. This is why on old greens aeration can encourage fusarium patch disease around the tine holes, a phenomenon often seen on golf courses. By integrating aeration practices and fertiliser use through the season, it is possible to cut down on fertiliser inputs and make a more healthy, less disease-prone turf. This effect is illustrated below with results taken from an actual green. Because of this it is advisable to perform tissue analysis regularly, so that changes in nutrient content can be followed throughout the year and variations due to fac-

# Continuing education: essential for us all

A number of Head Greenkeepers and Course Managers could be doing far more to help in the training and development of their staff, believes Nick Bisset, head of horticulture at Askham Bryan College, York.

As a first step along this path, Nick is looking for a major improvement in communications and a greater willingness by experienced turf professionals to share their knowledge, helping close the gap which he feels has developed between many managers and their staff.

Nick Bisset's observations stem from 20 years' experience with students attending block and day release greenkeeping and sports turf courses at the college, which is a BIGGA-recognised regional centre for greenkeeper training.

"Many of the trainees we see each year display a serious lack of knowledge in the most basic areas," he explained. "They come to us supposedly with some greenkeeping experience but it is obvious from their comments that important information and advice is simply not filtering down from the top."

But it is not just in the areas of turf grass management and course maintenance where Nick Bisset wants better communications.

"It is alarming just how little is known by some students about the club where they are employed," he pointed out. "Facts such as the number of members and rounds of golf played each year, the timing of important competitions and the age and design of the course is key information for any aspiring greenkeeper, influencing a whole range of jobs such as fertilising, spraying, aeration, hollow coring and top dressing. Better understanding can only stimulate greater interest in the work, leading to improved performance and results."

Nick stressed that head greenkeepers and course managers should make a point of talking frequently and openly with their staff. "It is vital that anyone allocated a specific course maintenance task is shown how to do it properly. Yet it is equally important that the person understands why it is necessary, why he or she



Sharing of knowledge will help make staff feel more involved, leading to a happier workplace and a better maintained golf course



Never assume that staff know why a specific turf maintenance task is necessary and how it should be carried out. Better education will produce better results

has been asked to do it a particular way and what benefits are expected."

By sharing their knowledge, experienced greenkeepers, managers and turf professionals will, he says, help make their staff feel more involved. This, in turn, will stimulate positive feedback, comments and suggestions, leading to a happier workplace and a better maintained golf course.

"All we can do at colleges such as Askham Bryan is provide students with the facts," pointed out Nick. "Armed with these, they can start making decisions and forming their own opinions. However, they cannot be expected to do it alone. They need continuing encouragement and education at the workplace."

Classroom discussions have revealed that the majority of managers take for granted the

fact that their staff know why they are doing a particular job. "This is a dangerous assumption," commented Nick. "Fear of being laughed at can make even the most able trainee clam up and not ask for help or advice."

"I believe the best approach is for the head greenkeeper to talk regularly to everyone about the specific management and maintenance actions being planned and carried out on the course. This can be done through a general briefing or individually for those who prefer a one to one approach."

While applauding the many clubs which encourage formal education for trainee greenkeepers, Nick stressed that there is an accompanying need for continuing training for more experienced people.

"New ideas and techniques appear with ever-increasing frequency and keeping up to date with the latest developments can be a problem, even for college lecturers," he observed. "Supplier open days, manufacturer demonstrations, trade journals, STRI bulletins and BIGGA conferences and courses are able to provide a wealth of information which no golf greenkeeper should ignore. Any club wishing to advance its standards of course management and maintenance ought to pro-

vide their staff with the means and the time to take advantage of the opportunities available."

In addition to its published programme, many colleges are happy also to lay on specialist courses if there is sufficient demand. Askham Bryan was asked recently if it did anything on golf course design and was promised six students if a specialist course was provided.

Having found a qualified lecturer, the college will be presenting its very first two day session on the subject next winter with places available for a further six students on the course. "First come, first served," notes Nick Bisset.

To support and advance the current level of education available to experienced and trainee greenkeepers, Nick says he would like to see a regular series of regional technical meetings, targeted at everyone within a golf club having responsibility for the management and upkeep of the course.

"Continuing education should not stop simply at those who maintain the course or service machines," he commented. "Club secretaries and chairmen of greens also need to understand why certain operations have to be carried out at specific times of the year, why they are necessary and what equipment is required."

"The majority of clubs want to see their course being well used by members and visitors throughout the year. At the same time, they want it presented in perfect condition, yet the two situations do not always sit comfortably together. Bringing everyone together within an educational or training forum should produce a better understanding throughout the club leading to greater harmony and improved playing conditions."

"BIGGA has made a great start with its chairmen of greens and secretaries course at the BTME event in Harrogate. I would like to see such sessions extended nationwide throughout the year."

■ Nick Bisset can be contacted at Askham Bryan College, York. Tel: 01904 702121. Many thanks to Coventry Golf Club for assistance with the photographs used to illustrate this article.

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**Ocmis Irrigation Tel. 01460 241939**



Ocmis has been quick to make an impact on the golf course irrigation market and now, as Golden Key sponsor, greenkeepers will be seeing even more of the Somerset based company which has an additional three offices providing service to the whole of England and Scotland.

When it comes to timing its introduction into golf course irrigation, Ocmis couldn't have done it any better if a crystal ball had come as part of the office equipment. The Somerset based company began installing golf course systems in the late 1980s and has strengthened its position to the extent, that as the need for improved water usage and conservation has become increasingly apparent few companies are better placed to take advantage of

# Preparing for an 'unrainy' day!

the increasing demand for irrigation systems. "For a long period the attitude towards irrigation in the UK was that it was used to top up natural rainfall," said Ocmis Managing Director, Chris Aplin. "However, grass is now much more technical than that nowadays, both in growing it and keeping it growing well."

But the change in the weather, although the experts say they need many more hot dry summers before it can be described as a significant trend, has marked water down as a precious commodity to be used wisely.

"The apparent change in the weather over the last few years in bound to have an affect on our

business. We've seen golf courses where the fairways have been so dry that golf balls have been disappearing down cracks and have seen a significant interest from clubs who are looking into full fairway irrigation."

Chris says it is difficult to make members comprehend that they need a system when it is perhaps only a month in middle of summer when it doesn't rain at all. "However, the damage which can be caused to the course in that time can be astronomical. It's the unfortunate greenkeeper who has to find five or six bodies to water by hand day and night to keep the course from burning up."

"The labour saving benefits of

having a fully efficient automated system are very high compared with manual watering but in many instances the members and the committee never see the work which is going on in the background by greenkeepers to keep the course up to their required standard."

Chris has also noticed a change in the way golf courses have marketed in recent years. "So many of the courses built in the late 80s and early 90s were in remote locations. Since then other courses have been built nearer population centres so the remote ones are finding it more difficult to survive. The only way they can is to make their playing condi-

tions better than the next club's. If it's burnt out it's not nearly as appealing as one which is green and lush and everything is growing." Much of the work Ocmis carries out is in the field is upgrading and refurbishments to existing systems.

"Unfortunately a lot of developers do not appreciate what makes a good irrigation system. If a course is being developed to be sold, price is paramount and even with a fully automatic irrigation system, whether it is good, bad or indifferent often does not become apparent until the new owner has taken over."

Ocmis is responsible for introducing the use of the superior polyethylene pipe system into the golf irrigation market.

"The golf market had always used UPVC pipe supplied in 6 metre lengths (jointed by glue or simply push fit) the biggest problems being bursts in existing UPVC mains where jointing occurs. The advantages with PE pipe are that you have only one joint every 100 metres, it resists intrusion by stones and it follows ground contours."

"We always use compression couplings which have a far superior reliability, galvanised manifold assembly rather than UPVC and brass valves, which are many times more expensive than plastic."

Obviously using the best quality products means greater cost overall but Ocmis is careful to ensure that golf clubs get the best possible results for their investment.

"We can rarely ever be cheapest because of the quality of materials we use but we never compromise. What we suggest is that the project is phased for the club if they don't have enough money for the full project initially. We also encourage clubs to spend a little more to put in the cable for an automatic system at the beginning, even if they just want manual system. Because if they want to upgrade at a later date for a little extra cost at the beginning, it can save thousands of pounds later and avoid causing major disruption to the course."

Chris explains that designing a system is the key to making it work and they have a team of five designers who give the customer



The Ocmis installation team in action. Far left, late evening irrigation

as much as they can for the money available.

"Ocmis prides itself on having the most up-to-date design department in the country with Computer Aided Design (CAD) to produce the complicated drawings required for golf and particularly landscape projects which tend to be more complicated than golf."

In addition Ocmis boasts what Chris Aplin believes to be the biggest service team in the irrigation market.

Ocmis offers a 24 hour call out service for a major system failure to all customers who have a service agreement and 30 service engineers are spread throughout the country who are all fully qualified electricians as well as being mechanical engineers.

"It means we can send one engineer to a site and he can cope whatever the problem. You never know, particularly in golf where there is so much computerisation, whether the problem is electrical or mechanical," explained Chris.

When Ocmis first became involved in the golf market a team was sent to America to learn about the equipment and their methods of design. "We also sent off five of our designers to Myrscough College to do the full BTLIA training course in irrigation."

"I honestly don't believe that many of the clubs get the greenkeeper involved enough in the decision making, when it comes to an irrigation system. Decisions which affect them directly and on which his technical input will lead to a better deal for the club."

Our company policy is that if we install or service a system is to make sure that all the greenkeepers at the club are trained in the way the system works and in basic maintenance. How to service the sprinklers and how to do small servicing jobs. It can save the club a lot of money. When we do a spring start up for the customer we check the whole system through, and when we shut it down in the winter, we blow the

whole system out using compressed air which no-one else in the industry does, this ensures the system is completely drained and avoids any possibility of frost damage.

Chris sees much development in the area of water storage in the future on the strength of last year's water restrictions. "It is relatively easy to get an extraction licence in winter from a river or a stream because it is flowing to excess, while it is nearly impossible now to get a licence to extract in the summer. It's even getting difficult to get borehole licences for extraction during the summer period, so ideally clubs should extract water in the winter, store it for use during the summer."

"We calculate the size of the

storage lakes for clubs, provide the liners to put in them, and any additional equipment such as aerators, borehole pumps, etc. in fact anything to do with pumping and storage. Clubs have got to be made aware of water storage and water usage. The annual average rainfall is approximately 30 inches in the UK and all that water soaks into the ground and runs off. Most golf courses have extensive land drainage systems but instead of draining the water into reservoirs, which would conserve the water to reuse, often it goes directly into an outflow, and off down the river. A totally wasted precious resource."

It's that type of thinking which will ensure that Ocmis continues to make advances in the modern golf course irrigation market and that golf clubs will make the most of the resources both financial and natural they have available to them.

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# Art,

**Muirfield Village member, Clayton Hoskins, is a man steeped in golf and he takes a tongue in cheek look at the work of the greenkeeper. Photograph of Muirfield Village by Brian Morgan**

I would never do or say anything to offend a British greenkeeper. I also would not go out of my way to insult an International greenkeeper, but as far as I know I have never met any.

Until recently, I didn't know there were British greenkeepers, or as we more often call you nice people in the US, greenskeepers. For at least 30 years I have sojourned in England and Scotland on a regular basis, to attend big-time golf tournaments and to re-arrange some of your turf myself, now and again. It never dawned on me that a greenkeeper could make a living on a typical Scottish golf course. I have told all my American friends for years that the wind seeds the courses in Great Britain, and the sheep contour the bunkers and provide the fertiliser.

To learn that you exist, and that you have institutionalised yourselves into an Association, with a Head Office, and an Official Publication complete with an Editor who, until now, has been my friend – well, I find all of that shocking. And so American-like. That's the sort of thing WE do.

For decades American greenkeepers (also widely known as Course Superintendents at our courses where the guest fees are \$100 or higher) have banded together and bombarded us golfers with relentless propaganda about how vital they are to golf. Through their organised efforts, they engage in vast, ongoing projects like turf research, environmental experiments and watering techniques. They sometimes favour us with turgid lectures on how to sharpen a lawn mower.

For the most part, all of this has fallen upon our deaf ears. We do replace divots, sometimes; and we might send our caddie looking for the greenkeeper if we come across a sprinkler head which has gone berserk and is flooding a fairway; but aside from things like that, we tend to take conditions as we find them and give very little thought



# not a science...

to any kind of keepers except scorekeepers.

The attitude of the typical US golfer is grass is grass. Dirt is dirt. Water is that stuff which has either red or yellow stakes around it. Environmentalists are people who do not play golf.

Everything I know about plants I learned as a schoolboy in the one and only botany course I ever had nerve enough to take. Surely I don't have to tell you experts that no matter what you call it, blue grass or bent, essentially all grass is identical. Like Gaul, it is divided into three parts: It has a root, a leaf and a section in between at the spot where the sky meets the soil, called a crown. Now that's about it. The rest is just saying the same thing over and over again.

How on earth can you keep grass FROM growing? My old aunt Minnie knows that if she scatters a little grass seed around in the bare spots and adds a little water now and then, she is going to get grass. If she adds a little fertiliser it will turn green and grow. And then Uncle George has to mow it. He knows that.

You can give these little plants Latin names if you want to, and you can mow back and forth until the fairways look like checker boards; but the fact remains that you guys are selling snake oil.

The above assessment is not universally true. I want to tell you about an exception to the rule, an American Course Superintendent (because it costs \$125 to play HIS course) by the name of Michael McBride, who for many years has been my personal friend. He is the best greenkeeper I ever met.

Mike is the head man at Muirfield Village Golf Club in Dublin, Ohio. You will recognise instantly that this is the US soil upon which, in 1987, the visiting team first won Mr Samuel Ryder's pretty little gold jug. We now share that honour with Oak Hill, in Rochester, New York, another of our very finest courses. Nevertheless, we at Muirfield Village were the first.

You haven't seen a well-kept golf course until you see Muirfield Village. Some of our grass may be "Bent", but it all stands upright, proudly and stately. Our bluegrass is not blue; it is green enough to make an Irishman homesick.

Botanically speaking, Muirfield Village never has up days or down days. Each day is more sensational than the last. It has to be that way, because if the place were to be visited by Jack Nicklaus, the founder, designer, builder and chief-taskmaster, on a day when it looked a little ragged, believe me heads would drop and roll like pine cones, and careers would come to a sad end. We are talking perfection here. Mr Nicklaus takes the golfing term "course management" seriously whether he is playing or surveying the scenery.

## About Clayton C Hoskins

Born and lives in Ohio, Great-grandparents came to the US from Scotland and Derbyshire in the 1840s. Served in World War II as a carrier-based Navy pilot. Practiced law in Columbus, Ohio for nearly 40 years. Represented Jack Nicklaus and served as attorney and PGA Tour player-manager for several other prominent golfers.

Served as Honorary Co-chairman of the 1987 Ryder Cup matches conducted at his home club, Muirfield Village Golf Club. Loses money regularly with a 9.4 Handicap Index.

In 1974 attended classes at the University of St. Andrews.

When you look out across our fairways all you see is sparkle. If a bare spot should develop, due to bad seed or perhaps a "hole made by a greenkeeper..." (see 1996 Rules of Golf, R-25. You thought only burrowing animals made holes, didn't you?), then one of Mike McBride's 25 or more full-time assistants will speed to the spot and re-sod an acre or so around the blemish so it won't spread like a tumour.

The fact that Muirfield Village always is dressed in her finest, is attested to by the touring professionals, who year after year claim that it is the best conditioned course they play. Even a golf writer, and surely a golf writer can not be a ninny, wrote in his recent book that our greens are "fast, true and carefully maintained." This may be the only time in history that a golf writer ever saw anything at a golf course

which he liked. I probably could cite you kings who have said the same thing; but somehow or other quoting a golf writer gives me more satisfaction.

Now, get ready. Here comes the stinger. No doubt you are thinking to yourself that Mike McBride is a distinguished horticulturist or agronomist, or a famed botanist, or a renowned plant pathologist or maybe even God, himself. Surely he must be a farmer of some kind. He probably has more degrees than a thermometer in the middle of August. He probably eats grass for breakfast, and sleeps on a sack of weed killer. He probably named his oldest son John Deere.

No way. Michael McBride, the top dog at the best conditioned golf course in the US has just one college degree and it is a degree in (eat your heart out)... political science. He doesn't know any more about agriculture than Picasso knew about anatomy.

So there. I rest my case. Green-keeping is an art, not a science. You don't have to know anything about when to spread lime or how to scatter around those little plugs all over the place, in order to be a greenkeeper. You have to be a politician. You have to be a hail fellow well met, who can win the confidence of the owner, and at the same time keep from being killed by the members.

Mike McBride and the hundreds of other truly successful greenkeepers of the world learned years ago that there is no need to worry about such things as whether the soil is acidic. It may be, at least in spots where someone might have spilled a little bottle of hydrochloric acid or something; but so what? Clean it up, and forget it.

The important thing for a greenkeeper to keep in mind, if he ever expects to become a Course Superintendent is that if you can't win the votes of the golfers who play your course it doesn't matter whether you set aside enough wetlands or maintain enough rough to keep the rabbits happy.

Environmentalists do not rule the world. Politicians do. Spiking the greens the morning of a tournament may make sense if you listen to a soil expert; but a politi-

cian would never do it. Riding around all day on a tractor and looking for trouble is a waste of time. You should spend your time in the grille room, buttering up the members. After all, if they are down on you, it doesn't matter how well your grass is growing.

While I certainly have been fair to all of you, it occurs to me that I am being a little unfair to my friend, Mike McBride. He may read this, if enough of you send copies to him. I should not leave the impression that Mike doesn't do anything but glad-hand all day long.

He is the hardest working Course Superintendent I ever met. He has surrounded himself with well-informed experts in all phases of golf course maintenance. He has attended every seminar ever conducted by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, especially those convening in Hawaii and Las Vegas. He is a family man, a gentleman, a scholar and a pillar in our community.

If you send this article to Mike, be sure to include that last paragraph. It may be the only paragraph he will read. It will be the only one he will remember.

Now that I know there is such an organisation as British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association, my next visit to your country will have new meaning for me. I shall look out across your dazzling fairways and say to myself, "Wow, look what Mother Nature has accomplished with the help of my friends at Aldwark Manor."

## THE BIGGEST MISTAKE I'VE EVER MADE AND WOULD ADMIT TO IS:



"Forgetting to reprogramme the irrigation system after testing it and having it come on at 11.30am and follow the golfers around the course."

Richard Whyman, Bude GC

# Communication

There are many examples of good conservation practice on golf courses. The benefits to the quality of the course and game can be considerable. At the heart of successfully balancing the needs of the golfer and those of the natural heritage, is communication.

For same time now, it has been shown that golf course management can be environmentally friendly. Across the UK, individual courses are taking steps to maintain the quality of their courses, in harmony with the natural heritage. For many of these clubs, this has been a proactive step based on a concern for golf. However, these clubs have also recognised that their positive actions will have had real benefit to their natural surroundings.

In other words, what is of benefit to golfing quality may also be highly valuable to our natural heritage. I say "may", because there is often a fine line between improving golfing and environmental quality, and having a detrimental effect on both. For example, improvement to a golf course may result from tree plant-



The Scottish Golf Course Wildlife Group was founded in 1992, a partnership of organisations from the environmental and golfing sectors.

In April of this year the Scottish Golf Union, supported by funding from Scottish Natural Heritage, The Scottish Greenbelt Company and the R&A appointed a Wildlife Advisor. The aim of the post is to work with the group in an attempt to bring together the interests of the golfing and environmental sectors. The post, the first of its kind in Europe, will look into all aspects of interaction between golf and the environment, including new golf course developments, greenkeeper training and conservation on existing courses.

In this article Jonathan Smith writes about the approach of the Wildlife Group in unlocking the potential of golf courses, and preserving their inherent value.

ing, pond creation or perhaps a change in rough or scrub management. However, it is also possible that such alterations can have a detrimental effect to the course. Tree planting may not always be the most suitable option, pond creation involves many considerations which may effect other aspects of course management; such as drainage or maintenance. Conservation is as much about what is not done, as much as what is done. There are many cases where clubs have acted in haste, only to repent at

leisure when the true implications of their actions became apparent.

This is one of many reasons why communication is vital. Communication with outside organisations and individuals, and communication within the club.

Many clubs are beginning to appreciate that by working to protect and enhance the natural value of their courses, they are conserving the quality of the golf course. Newtonmore Golf Club, in the heart of the Cairngorms, for example have been keen to work locally with, in their case, Scottish

Natural Heritage. Together, they have managed successfully to protect an area of rough which is rich in wild flowers, particularly orchids. Around eight different varieties of orchid have been found on the site. The Management Agreement drawn up for the site shows a commendable commitment by the club to assist in the protection of some of Scotland's most threatened habitat – unimproved grassland.

This positive attitude comes at a time of global concern for our natural environment. From individuals to large companies, people are accepting responsibility for their actions. Golf courses have a major part to play.

The knowledge and enthusiasm of the Course Manager or Greenkeeper and their staff can play a significant role in conserving many of our threatened habitats and species. They can have a tangible effect on issues of high sensitivity such as water quantity and quality. The potential, positive contribution by golf courses towards protecting the environment is vast.

Now is the time when more of that potential should be realised. Golf courses have the opportunity to establish themselves as leaders in industry and the environment. If we can demonstrate that clubs are taking sensitive, educated steps to integrate their activities into the needs of our natural and cultural heritage, then we will have done much to blunt the criticisms of those who see golf in a purely negative environmental light.

On the continent, for example, the anti-golf lobby is active in portraying golf course management, and new golf course development as a scourge of the landscape. In certain cases there is factual evidence of this, and therefore it would be wrong to assume that all golf courses and development automatically enhance the environment but the positive impact that golf can have should not be underestimated. All clubs should be aware that they can contribute in terms of conservation. They have the land and the equipment. Positive steps can range from erecting bird and bat boxes, to assessing the overall management of the course. What-



Balancing management techniques over the whole course can avoid over- and under-intensive management. Picture of Gineagles' Queen's Course courtesy of Scottish Natural Heritage

# s the key

ever the level of commitment, it is on the golfers' terms and thus can be integrated without disruption to the course. It makes sense though for clubs to seek expert ecological advice, in order to maximise the potential benefit that their actions could have.

There are many organisations and individuals who can provide constructive input to golf clubs. This may be in the form of information or advice, and perhaps even grant assistance. Whatever the level of input, it is the cooperative approach which will ultimately benefit golf and the environment in the long-term.

**'There is no reason why the current trend of golf course management, combined with environmental awareness, should not continue'**

The Scottish Golf Course Wildlife Group, through the Advisor, is in a position to establish and assist in this communication. We would like to see localised contact between golf clubs and environmental groups. We are aware that this may already take place, both cooperatively, and occasionally in conflict, and the Group are working hard to try to bring the thinking of the golfer and the conservationist ever closer together.

Let us not forget that many cases of conflicting interest could have been avoided through immediate consultation between parties.

We are realistic in terms of what we would like to achieve. As a partnership of environmental and golfing organisations, that realism is met by a desire to raise greater awareness of environmental issues across the golfing sector and to demonstrate how golf and nature can work in harmony in the future. An important step in achieving this is also to promote golfing issues across the environ-

mental sector. There is a need for mutual understanding.

There is no reason why the current trend of golf course management, combined with environmental awareness should not continue. Greenkeepers, at the heart of this concept are becoming increasingly aware that it is possible to manage their courses to benefit golf and the natural heritage, and are accepting the responsibility of their role. We would encourage clubs and managers to formalise this management in some way so that actions can be planned and assessed, and examples pulled together which show more clearly how "green" golf can be. Thus far, only a few clubs have taken this step. Linlithgow Golf Club, a lowland golf course in the agricultural landscape of West Lothian, has shown that environmental objectives can be integrated into an existing management plan at little extra cost. By looking at the course as a whole they have been able to establish management objectives which combine golfing and environmental quality.

Indeed it is often the case that clubs are over intensively managing certain areas of the course, eg. rough, ponds and ditches; and neglecting other areas eg. mature woodlands, hedgerows and ponds.

Linlithgow's efforts indicate that integrated management should not be confined to the larger, wealthier clubs and organisations, but is an achievable step for all clubs, with valuable results.

The examples cited are just two of many which show how different clubs are actively undertaking conservation practices on their courses. They may be different clubs, but they share one common technique - communication. At the centre of the valuable conservation efforts of golf clubs lies cooperation. The enthusiasm to take action, the desire to seek advice and the ability to accept assistance are vital in enhancing the game of golf and the natural environment on which it depends.

The Scottish Golf Course Wildlife Advisor is open to requests for advice on all aspects of golf course management, on any scale. This advice is free of charge and obligation.

## Drizabone?

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# AUGUST: Keeping busy during the golfers' summer holidays

**By Anthony Davies  
Head Greenkeeper,  
Prestbury Golf Club**

August is normally a quiet month in the way of major competitions for the club with many members taking their annual vacation. With this in mind we gear ourselves to carry out essential maintenance work on the course.

The course is still very busy with visitors and members guests so work programmes are worked around these players so as not to cause too much inconvenience.

In the first week of August all the greens will be hollow-cored using 1/2" tines with 2 x 2 spacing. As the cores are being removed they are pushed into collectible piles by eight men and then removed from the green.



When there are six greens cored, two men will then start top-dressing the greens, putting on as much as required. Around 60 tonnes will be used for all 19 greens.

This year we purchased a powered brush to help us fill up the

core holes. In the past we have used ordinary yard brushes to push dressing into the holes – not always a well-liked job and very time consuming – (just before the final brush I spread a bent only mix on the greens).

With cores removed on the greens this is an ideal opportunity to over seed, so before the final brush on the greens, I spread a complete Bent mix using a cyclone with the seed bulked up with topdressing. With the ground warm and plenty of natural sunlight, the germination rate is very high and the greens take on a peg board appearance but this soon disappears.

After a few days a small amount of dressing might be needed on the cored greens to keep the surfaces true. This is carried out as and when needed. The height of the cut will be raised after the operation with the greens being cut when the sun is up to enable us to get a dry cut.

After 10 or so days, if the weather has been kind, the greens will have made a complete recovery and the height of the cut will be lowered. By the third week of August competitions will recommence and the club will host its autumn invitation day. This is where members show off their course to their guests so it is imperative the condition of the course is back to the high standard required.

Another task I carry out on the greens after coring is to apply a wetting agent. What better way to get the wetting agent down into the soil profile with the surface open and ready to receive.

**Tasks carried out before coring:**

1. Obtain complete committee approval some six months in advance, in our case it is renewed every 12 months. This invites the Handicap committee to alter the fixture list accordingly.
2. I order the dressing, seed and wetting agents in plenty of time. Prestbury has soil sheds so I have the dressing in stock two weeks before the operation commences.

The first two or three days are extremely busy so you have not got the time to run around trying to get hold of seed or other requirements.

3. Place a suitable notice on the members board to inform them of the start time and the expected finishing time of the operation. Members like to know what is happening so I give them plenty of time in order that they can rearrange their activities if they wish.

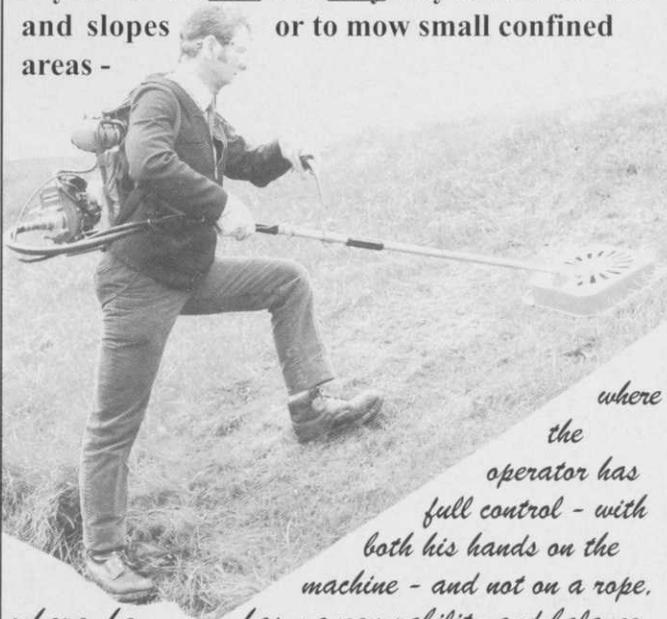
4. I spray at preventative rate a fungicide onto the greens. This is to protect them in case of wet weather during or shortly after the heavy top-dressing. With a heavy dressing and warm rain and you are unable to brush it in because it is too wet. You can imagine what could be happening under the dressing. Therefore, the fungicide application is hopefully to safeguard them against any attack of disease if the weather turns foul.

Coring in August is not a new idea as a neighbouring course have been successfully coring their greens for the past few years with great results. Mike Sheehan, Course Manager at Mere, is where I got my inspiration and it was he who advised me of what not to forget. A case of greenkeepers helping each other.

The coring of greens is the main activity for the month of August, but there are still plenty of other jobs to carry out on other parts of the course such as tidying pathways, strimming or fly mowing parts not normally touched as part of my weekly or bi-weekly routine.

We try to keep the course in as good as condition as possible with regular divoting of tees and fairways but there is still room for improvement, and coring of the greens is one of them.

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# ASSESSORS

WHO?  
WHAT?  
WHEN?

Ken Richardson, BIGGA's Education Officer and David Golding, Education Director for the GTC continue this series of articles with a closer look at assessors

## 1. What is an assessor?

An assessor is a person qualified to judge if a person is competent at his or her job.

## 2. Who can become greenkeeper assessors?

Any golf club with an N/SVQ candidate registered on the scheme, either through the GTC or one of its approved training providers, eg a college, may nominate a work based supervisor (normally a Course Manger/ Head Greenkeeper) for assessor training.

## 3. How are assessors trained?

Assessors trained by the GTC, attend an intensive one day of training at regional venues. Fol-



Sue Gudgeon: the GTC's N/SVQ National Coordinator

lowing this training day, the trainee assessors spend time practising assessment techniques before returning, approximately six weeks later, to be assessed, by the GTC, as assessors to national standards.

## 4. What exactly is the assessor qualification?

The assessor qualification is two units of a Level 3 N/SVQ in Training and Development, which is the National Standard of assessors in all industries.

However, to become an assessor of golf greenkeepers you must also prove industry competence, through qualification and/or experience.

## 5. Who pays for assessor training?

The GTC pays for all registration, training and certification costs.

## 6. How are assessors used?

The GTC, currently, has trained in excess of 200 greenkeepers as its industry assessors. Many are now assessing both GTC and college registered N/SVQ candidates on golf courses. Many are also assessing candidates at GTC approved colleges. These assessors are also available to golf clubs who, currently, do not have a trained assessor on their staff.

## 7. Who controls N/SVQ standards?

Awarding bodies such as City and Guilds, BTEC and SCOTVEC ensure that national standards are maintained by the use of internal and external verifiers and assessors.

## 8. What does my club get out of me becoming an assessor?

Becoming an assessor means that all greenkeeping staff can be assessed to national standards, on the golf course, so ensuring higher standards of greenkeeper and better staff motivation which in turn means better golf courses leading to improved image and greater profitability.

## 9. How do I find out more about assessor training?

Contact the GTC N/SVQ National Coordinator, Sue Gudgeon, on 01347 838640.

■ Next Month Ken and David will look at the role of training providers.

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Ideal wherever fungicides or fertilisers are applied

The Pro-Tee artificial tees are not only useful for protecting the natural grass out on the course, they can also be used on the practice ground with adjustable levelling devices to recreate uphill or downhill lies

Artificial tee mats are not everyone's kettle of fish but with the popularity of the game now reaching an all time high, the need to protect the playing surfaces on well-used courses leaves many Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers with few alternatives.

For their part manufacturers of the temporary tees are doing their best to use both the latest techniques and materials to ensure that the substitute tees both protect the natural grass and are user-friendly.

#### Links Leisure

Judging by the number that can be seen around golf courses in both this country and abroad the PRO-TEE produced by Shropshire firm, Links Leisure, seems to be one of the most popular with both greens staff and golfers alike.

Developed with the intention of creating the near perfect substitute for the grass tee the PRO-TEE mat has found favour with many greenkeepers because it not only protects the natural grass tees from damage during times when they are most vulnerable, but also because it is useful as a temporary measure during maintenance or reseeding operations.

The PRO-TEE is also being used on practice grounds again to insure against unnecessary wear and tear.

From the golfer's point of view the PRO-TEE is extremely stable and its surface is said to be totally user-friendly both in terms of footing and club protection.

It comes in two sizes two metres by one metre and one and a half metres by one and a half metres and consists of a durable glass enforced cement base and three replaceable artificial turf sections.

The base sits proud of the surface on eight integral feet to protect the natural grass below. At the same time drainage holes in the base prevent the tee from becoming waterlogged. The three artificial turf sections used for the playing surface are suitable for right and left handed players and the surface includes a tee-peg retention system which will not clog up with broken tees. It also comes with optional easy to adjust levelling devices which as well as being used on uneven ground can be used to recreate uphill or down hill lies on prac-



tice grounds.

Currently the PRO-TEEs are being used on courses all over Europe and are finding favour at both ends of the golfing spectrum.

They have been used on all 18 holes of Sherdley Park municipal course in Lancashire for the last three years where 2000 rounds a week are played.

"It is almost impossible to maintain and sustain good quality natural grass tees on a course that is played as frequently as Sherdley Park," said Brian Collins, Outdoor Facilities Manager for St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council.

At the other end of the scale the PRO-TEE is also used at the Wentworth Club on the practice ground which takes quite a bit of a pounding.

"I can fully understand the problems faced by many greenkeepers. At Wentworth for example the practice tees are almost in constant use - especially in the summer and natural grass cannot sustain that sort of treatment," explained Course Manager Chris Kennedy.

#### Easy Picker

More and more golf clubs are using winter mats for the first time due to the stress on grass tees over the last few years.

But what type of mat do you buy?

Easy Picker manufacturers the widest range of mat sizes using a spike resistant surface in different top cloths, including a three piece tee mat situated on a two metre by one metre concrete base, allowing each section to be replaced to reduce overall costs. Also available is the versatile winter tee mat measuring one and a half metres by one and a half metres on a galvanised steel frame, complete with adjustable legs. Easy Picker will also advise on what type of mat best suits the clients needs and budget. The company can also manufacture a mat to fit inside the base on an existing mat.

Reinforced tee holes cut down on the time taken to remove broken tees and will last longer than having slits in the mat.

For further information on Easy Picker Tel: 01367 860122 and ask for Jo Cholmondeley.

#### GMUK

GMUK is the designer and supplier of the renowned Dunlop All weather mat which is now in its sixth year having had three upgrades - each time improving the design by listening to customers comments and requirements.

"The success of the product is its adaptability and also that every part of the mat is replaceable with the heavy duty tee

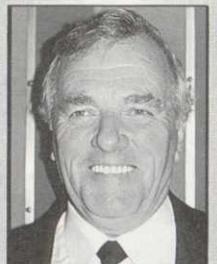
inserts costing only £29.99," said Peter McDowell, Managing Director of GMUK. "The Dunlop base retains a part exchange value enabling the customer to upgrade even after years of use."

The mat can be sited permanently with or without adjustable legs but most take the Dunlop WTI complete with detachable handles so the mat can be resited avoiding wear in the tee surrounding areas.

This season there are two new surfaces for our customers to choose from - a shot hit tee surface and a long pile stance mat to reduce slipping on frosty days.

A circular mat has also been designed for awkward tees where alignment on an oblong mat is difficult.

#### THE BIGGEST MISTAKE I'VE EVER MADE AND WOULD ADMIT TO IS:



"Becoming North West Section Secretary"  
Bert Cross, North West Section Secretary

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We may be biased but we believe that our Bar 2 mixture is rightly regarded as the very best for golf and bowls greens.

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# Ocmis

# 01460 241939

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360

# NEW PRODUCTS

Combidrive Ltd is now able to supply the American built SNPI range of forward/reverse transmission units. The gearboxes have been manufactured for over 50 years and currently are available in five sizes which cover the range 3 to 30HP. Ratings are based on four stroke diesel, petrol or gas engines and although the standard form comes with bare shaft and foot mounting, some models can be prepared for direct connection by SAE flange and coupling to an engine.

Forward, neutral and reverse are achieved by moving a lever through 30 degree steps. There is no possibility of "crashing" the gears as all wheels are in constant mesh. The change in direction is effected by applying one brake band and releasing another on an epicyclic gear train and can be done without any hesitation to speak of. It is claimed that "frequency of gear changing is unlimited".

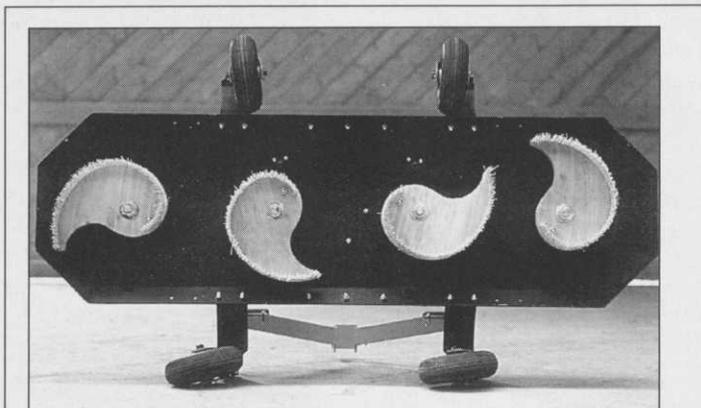
Each transmission also embodies a reduction gear of approx 3:1 in both forward and reverse.

The design is said to be compact, robust, simple in construction and easily field serviceable.

Information: 01558 823757.

From gardens to golf courses and rockeries to racetracks, Watermation has a new range of gear drive sprinklers to suit the job. This extensive new range which covers everything from small shrub heads to long range turf sprinklers suitable for sports grounds and golf courses have various options such as turf top, high speed and high pop on many models.

Watermation has always provided reliable, high quality irrigation equipment and this new range is certainly no exception. All the sprinklers in the range can be used as full or part circle operation by simple, visual arc adjustment, without using any key. They are vandal resistant, so that should the arc be forced outside of its pre-set position, the memory arc will return to its original pattern after only one turn. The entire gear drive range have exceptionally good sealing tops to keep out sand and a thick rubber cover to minimise damage



Looking from the top the Verti-Brush can look much like any other system for incorporating top dressings into fine turf. However, when viewed from underneath – as our picture shows – the discerning greenkeeper can see the unique "tear-drop" system which has been perfected for its special sweeping action. The gentle brushing action causes the top dressing to be moved both in a rotary and in a lateral way at the same time. This gives the sand the maximum movement and opens up the turf to receive the top dressing. As David Jenkins, Managing Director of Charterhouse Turf Machinery Ltd., said, "you have to see the top and bottom of the Verti-Brush in order to appreciate its full benefit." Information: 01428 661222.

from mowers.

Watermation's impact drive sprinklers are in use world-wide and with the introduction of the new gear drive range customers expressing a preference for gear drive sprinklers will have a real choice.

Information: 01252 336838.

Lempro has added pressure controlled variations of its established 'Sprayrider' range of ATV sprayers, pictured below. This allows operators to control the pressure of spray to suit the job in hand, the conditions and the spraying speed. These variants are available on the 100 litre Sprayrider models and give operators total control over the pressure of the spray. The new units are designated SR1 OOP (with 8002 pump) and SR1 O3P (with 8003 pump) and are suit-



able for spraying widths from one to four metres. An additional feature of the SR1 OOP is the re-circulation of chemicals achieved through the pressure regulator which provides some agitation.

The tanks on the new sprayers are manufactured from a high grade UV stabilised polyethylene and feature a low centre of gravity design which, when combined with an internal anti-surge baffle, enables their safe use on difficult terrain.

A left to right balance pipe enables the pump to draw liquid from either side and also allows the tank to be totally evacuated of chemicals.

Information: 01953 605151.

Turfmech Machinery has added a new higher velocity, tractor-mounted blower to its three model Tornado range of leaf, litter and debris blowers.

Known as the TM360 XL, the latest model is three-point linkage mounted and suitable for tractors of at least 40hp. It has been introduced in response to requests from customers wanting even greater air speeds and volumes to shift heavy, damp and stubborn material further distances.

Ideal for work in wide, open spaces such as parks, sports stadiums, golf courses, airfields

and landscaped sites, the machine has a 505mm (20in) deep fan housing, boosting significantly the rate, volume and breadth of air discharged from its delivery outlet. The high air flow moves more material further while extended exposure to the blast helps shift those really stubborn, sticky and damp materials.

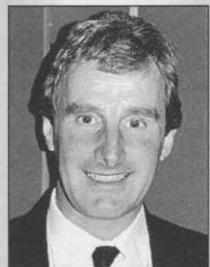


Supported by two height-adjustable castor wheels, the Tornado TM360 XL can be set to produce an air blast up to 128mm (5in) above the ground to suit the depth and quantity of debris to be moved. Twin skids are welded to the base of the fan housing and there is an anti-scalp roller to prevent scuffing over uneven surfaces.

At almost twice that of the powerful TM360 model, the air volume produced by the TM360 XL will be of major assistance to professional users having to clear-up large quantities of leaves, litter, grass, twigs, hollow cores, small stones and so on. Price is £2,950.

Information: 01889 271503.

**THE BIGGEST MISTAKE I'VE EVER MADE AND WOULD ADMIT TO IS:**



"Confronting a fourball which had played to a green before the group in front had finished and seeing 'Cleveland Constabulary' on the back of their sweatshirts. One of them was in the traffic division, too!"

**Ian Holoran, Middlesbrough Municipal Golf Centre**

BIGGA TURF MANAGEMENT EXHIBITION



**BTME<sup>97</sup>**

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**WELCOME TO THE 1997 BTME QUIZ!**

# Come to the show FREE!

★ This is your opportunity as a Greenkeeper to attend the 1997 show ABSOLUTELY FREE!

The BTME 97 will again be held in Harrogate, with the National Education Conference starting on Monday January 20 and the Exhibition and Educational Seminar Programme commencing on Wednesday January 22. The show represents the ideal forum for Greenkeepers to meet both the trade and other Greenkeepers.

All you have to do to stand a chance of winning one of the three superb prizes is to answer six questions – two in this issue, two more in September and the final two in October's issue. Then send in your answers with the entry form that will be printed in the October edition and you could be one of our lucky winners!

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

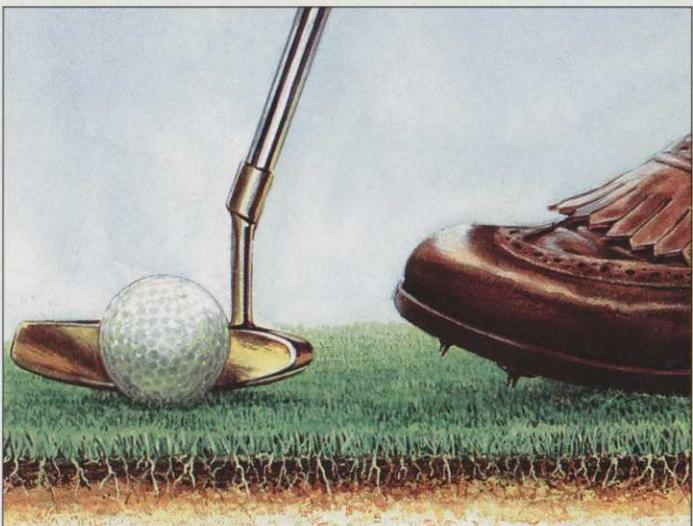
## AUGUST QUESTIONS

1. In which famous conference town is the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition held?
2. In which month is the BTME held?

**Don't miss your chance to attend the largest indoor turf management exhibition in Europe.**



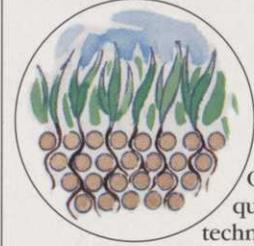
For more information about BTME 97 contact James McEvoy or Louise Lunn on 01347 838581



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

Address your letters to The Editor, Greenkeeper International, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF or fax them on 01347 838864

# How do I tackle Pearlwort?

Although I am not a member of the Greenkeeping profession. I have been a subscriber of your excellent publication for the last three years. My interest in greenkeeping stems mainly from the fact that I have converted both my domestic lawns into putting greens.

Each of the greens are managed similarly to that of a 'real' golf green ie. mowing with a professional Certes mower, aeration, fertilising etc. and to date the swards comprise mainly of the desirable Bents and Fescues. The Ph of the soil currently stands at 5.6.

However, over the last couple of years I have witnessed an alarming increase in the weed identified as Pearlwort. Despite various applications of lawn sand and

weedkiller, the Pearlwort continues to return, often as small patches that spread vigorously to become much larger.

I have contacted a number of organisations including the Sports Turf Research Institute, but as yet, I am unable to find a logical explanation for the appearance of this tiresome weed. I would be most grateful if you could print this letter in part or in full through your letters page, in the hope that one of your knowledgeable readers may be able to offer me advice on the cultural control of Pearlwort.

Thank you for your assistance.

**Cristian L. Jeffrey**

The Gables, 90 Burntwood Rd, Hammerwich, Burntwood, Staffs, WS7 0JW

# Forest Pines invests in John Deere kit

Forest Pines Golf Club, a new 27-hole championship golf course, in north Lincolnshire, has invested in a range of 16 John Deere

machines worth nearly £165,000.

The equipment was chosen, after tenders, by Forest Pines Course Manager David Norton and his team of 10 greenkeepers plus mechanic.

David was Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year in 1990/91, when he was at Beverley & East Riding Golf Club, and progressed via the Mid-Yorkshire Golf Club at Pontefract to The Belfry, where he was Head Greenkeeper for the 1992 English Open and 1993 Ryder Cup, before moving to Forest Pines.

He first used John Deere equipment at the Mid-Yorkshire, and has liked the machines' quality of cut and performance ever since.

Dr Wolfgang Kumpf, lawn & grounds care equipment director for Britain and Europe, flew across from Deere & Company's European Office in Germany formally to hand over the new machines to David.

Forest Pines' new range has been supplied by Ground care (Lincoln), one of John Deere's oldest grounds care dealers, and includes: a 3235 fairways mower; two 2243D diesel greens mowers; two 2653A diesel utility tees mowers; six 220 walk-behind greens cylinder mowers; one F1145 front mower with 1.8m rotary deck; two Gator 6 x 4 utility vehicles; two 1 200A bunker rakes.

# Turfgrass Council to close down

At the AGM of the National Turfgrass Council delegates voted unanimously that "the NTC must cease to function at the earliest practicable opportunity". This brings to an end a period of 15 very successful years of operation.

Over that period the main activities focused on training and education to representation on various official bodies. The need for such events has largely been taken over by other more specific organisations, often members of NTC anyway, and the objects for which Council was first established do not now meet the requirements of industry.

The balance in reserve account will be directed into a special fund to perpetuate the memory of the late John Shildrick, Chief Executive of the NTC from 1980-1994.

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# Here's how you can get that greenkeeping job

This month's article looks at the problems of finding a job and the process of job application.



## Education Update

BY KEN RICHARDSON

### Finding a job

There are three main ways of finding a job, whether it is your first job in the industry, whether you are looking for promotion or just a change of scene. These are:

- **Networking.** Networking involves 'putting yourself about' ie talking to as many people in the industry as you can and letting them know that you are looking for work.
- **Advertisements.** Greenkeeper International has a recruitment section which not only contains job advertisements but also allows greenkeepers to 'sell themselves'. Local newspapers are also a useful source of job advertisements.
- **Speculative (Spec) letters.** This involves writing to all golf clubs that you are interested in joining and asking if they have or may have a job available.

### Applying for a job

Unless you are very lucky, you will, without doubt, have to write letters of application and produce a curriculum vitae (CV).

### Curriculum Vitae

Your CV should be a brief but concise history of your working life and it should also give your personal details. There are many ways of producing CVs and I have given an examples below. However, there are some simple rules that should be followed no matter what type of CV is required. These are:

- **Spelling.** Always make sure that your CV is spelt correctly, it is worth taking time to check it.
- **Style.** Always type your CV or get someone to type it for you.
- **Print Style (Font).** Do not use fancy fonts and print in, at least, 12 point. Print in black ink on white paper.
- **Accuracy.** Do not tell lies on a CV. Anything may be omitted but do not be tempted to include particulars that are untrue eg education qualifications that you don't have.
- **Brevity.** Keep your CVs short as possible, two pages should be the

maximum.

Before starting on your CV, you should spend some time analysing yourself, noting down your experience, qualifications, training and education.

### Points to note are:

- Career summary gives prospective employer a 'potted' history of applicant. Should be related to job advertisement.
- Career to date should start with most recent position and work backwards. Make sure that only relevant experience is included.
- Education and training qualifications should start with most recent and work backwards. Again, only relevant qualifications need to be included.

Remember, that this is only one example of a CV, there are several other styles and layouts that can be used. However, try to avoid the 'tombstone' CV which starts with your date of birth and ends with what you are achieving currently. Several books are available on how to write CVs and letters of application. A copy of 'The Perfect CV' by Max Eggert, is available from the BIGGA library or it can be bought from most bookshops for £5.99. For further help and advice, please contact me at BIGGA HQ.

RIGHT: A typical greenkeeper's CV

**Education and Training**  
Continuous professional development including:  
Developing as D32 assessor in 1994, through GTC.  
Finalist in Greenkeeper of the Year award of NVQ level 3.  
Qualified to Stage 2 in BIGGA Master Greenkeeper Scheme.  
Attending NVQ level 3 Supervisory and Management Course in 1996.  
Attending BIGGA conferences and seminars in 1996, 1995, 1994, 1993.  
Attending GCSAA conferences and exhibition 1994.  
On the job training at Toro Irrigation, Riverside, California in 1990.  
Attended Gorseheath college from 1981-1985 gaining City and Guilds Phase 2,3,4 in Golf Greenkeeping.

**Interests**  
Section secretary for BIGGA North West Downs section  
Play golf to handicap of 8.  
Bricklaying  
Photography  
Environmental issues.

**Personal**  
Married with two sons 11 and 14  
Date of birth 6 June 1955  
Full clean driving licence.

Tim Morris  
6 Oak Road  
Sittingham  
MO1 9BA

01665 444884

### CAREER SUMMARY

A Senior greenkeeping professional with significant experience of golf course design, construction and maintenance of 9 and 18 hole golf courses in Spain, Scotland and England. An effective manager with experience of recruitment, project management, budget control and management of large and small teams. Qualified in pesticide control and application. Extensive knowledge and experience of irrigation systems, machine maintenance and golf course construction.

### CAREER AND ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

#### Course Manager Sittingham Park Golf Club

Responsible for management of greenkeeping team of six, maintaining 18 hole golf course including redesign and reconstruction of 3 greens. Preparation of course for major championship. Coordination of drainage installation, management of budget, maintaining computerised records.

#### Head Greenkeeper Thistledown Golf Club Edinburgh

Head Greenkeeper managing team of four greenkeepers maintaining 18 hole golf course and project management for construction of 9 hole pay and play golf course.

#### Deputy Head Greenkeeper Whistlestop Golf Club

Deputy Headgreenkeeper in team of four greenkeepers maintaining 18 hole course. Individual responsibility for full, computer controlled irrigation system.

#### First Assistant Greenkeeper Cabo Cometa Golf Club Spain

Member of eight man team maintaining 27 hole championship golf course on Costa Blanca.

#### Trainee Greenkeeper Royal St James Golf Club Lancashire

Member of seven man team maintaining championship links golf course. Trained on the job by Mr John Boots and attended Gorseheath College, on block release, studying for City and Guilds Phase 2.



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- Promotes increase in root development
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- Fully chelated therefore reduced leaching
- Buffers tank mix to pH6-7 and is fully tank mix compatible



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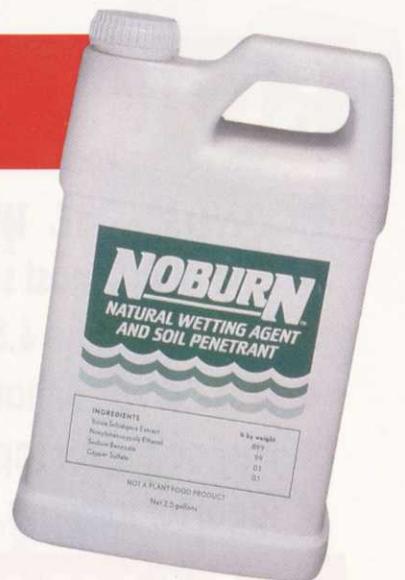
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- Encourages plant growth



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- Complete micronutrients
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# Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

## SCOTLAND

As I am now the Scottish Magazine Liaison Officer I would like to hear from anyone about any matters that we could put into the magazine. Whatever it may be, club centenaries, people on the move, new courses, etc etc. Just anything you can think of that may be of interest to the membership of BIGGA. You can write with details/photographs to Chris Yeaman, 12 Craigiellaw Cottages, Aberlady, East Lothian EH32 0PY Tel: 01875 870 485 Mobile 0802 623 065. Chris Yeaman

## North

A bit of catching up on the new members to do this month, so here goes. From Murcar we have Head man Chris Pearson and Assistant Bill Paterson rejoining, and bringing with them Chris Murdoch and Alex Cowie. Gary Nicholl from Panmure also rejoins, while from Monifeith we welcome Scott Rennie, Alex Buik and Alan Paterson, from Insh comes Andrew Tait, from Cullen we have Martin Dodds and last but not least from Tain comes Ross MacLeod. We certainly seem to be going from strength to strength so keep them coming.

Despite the area final being in our section at Royal Aberdeen, we only have Newmacher Assistant George Mitchell going forward from the Section to play in the Scottish team at the Hayter finals in September.

A good turnout of North members at Elie for the Scottish Greenkeepers tournament meant we retained some of the trophies collected at Royal Dornoch last year. Sean Jaffrey, Strathmore, won the overall nett trophy, Kevin Peace, Inverurie, won Class One and Gordon Mckie, St Andrews, won Class Two. We also retained the St Mungo Trophy for the Section. This year saw the introduction of a new trophy donated by Rhone Poulenc in memory of Norrie Whytock. The format was three members from each Section selected in advance with their scores added together. The North trio of Kevin Peace and Barry Cameron from Inverurie and Sean Jaffrey from Strathmore won the trophy by eight shots! It was a great day on a great golf course and would have been better if David Seaman had kept his legs shut at Wembley in the evening!

Stevie Macintosh followed up his recent North District triumph by winning the Ross-shire County Champi-

onship and rounded off the month by landing the First Assistants vacancy at Blairgowrie, Well done Stevie.

A date for your diaries members, the second Section dinner/disco will be held at the New Inn Hotel Ellon on Friday November 29. Tickets cost £12.50 per person with a double room at the hotel, for those staying over, available at £33. Anyone wishing to book tickets can do so by sending a cheque to Hughie Mclatchie at 24 Whitehill F Peterhead AB4 6FU tel: 01779 470173. Let's have another great night so start booking your tickets now.

Finally good luck to any North member playing in the National Tournament this month at Seacroft, Lincolnshire. Iain Macleod

## West of Scotland

This month there are only a few things to mention, hence the reason for missing out last month.

I hope everybody has returned their questionnaire with as many new ideas for events as possible.

Congratulations to the West Section at the recent Hayter Challenge for winning the team prize, especially on the North's home ground (that's one for Sam and the Boys). The West section succeeded in the two areas. Brian Hillan won the second class section and Tom Hindmarch won the second prize in that same section. Then Graeme Shearer won the third class section. Well done to them and every success when playing at Fairhaven.

The Scottish outing held at Elie proved to be a fine choice of venue – good weather, excellent course and likewise for the food. Thank you to Elie Golf and Clubhouse for allowing use of the course and facilities. The West challenge came from seven people, which really is a poor turn out, but of those two winners emerged. S. Taylor won the Head Greenkeeper's prize and C. Scott won second in third class.

Five a side Tournament – all entry forms for those wishing to participate should have been received by now. The venue and date will be confirmed shortly. Over 50 golf courses have been lettered. Even if only half play then some 150 will take part (assuming six in each team). So let's hope everything goes well.

Congratulations to Robert Hogarth on his appointment as Head Greenkeeper at Cathcart Castle. Best

wishes and we look forward to seeing you when you start in September.

Nothing else to mention except that I wish everybody well and hope that the summer has been good to them.

J.S.Taylor

## East

Welcome to this month's report. Quite a lot to get through so let's get started. I hope everyone is getting through this dry spell that we are having. Hopefully we will get some rain soon, but what a year so far – very cold spring, a few weeks of ideal conditions then drought conditions and not long to winter. What a thought.

In June we had our half day tournament – doubles, greensomes – for the Richard Aitken Trophy at Innerleithen GC and what a great day was had by all who were there. It must have been one of the hottest days of the summer – too hot to play golf. Many thanks to the Captain and council of Innerleithen GC to the courtesy of the course, the caterers for the great meals, Richard Aitken and company for providing the prizes and last but not least Robert Hogarth and staff for providing us with an immaculate course to play on – especially when you consider there is just himself and an apprentice. Well done lads. Results:

1. R. Hogarth, Innerleithen GC, T. Murray, Ratho Park GC; 2. K. Anderson, Longniddry GC, T. Brannan, Souters; 3. S. Ramsay, Harburn GC, N. Lawson, Ocmis.

Congratulations to them. So the half day tournament is back in its new format and it is here to stay. Roll on 1997.

On a sad note we are losing our Secretary Robert Hogarth, who is leaving Innerleithen GC to take up the post of Course Manager at Cathcart Castle GC in Glasgow. We will be very sorry to lose him as he took on the job of secretary at a very difficult time and did a great job of turning it around and we now have some money in the bank. The committee and the members of the East Section would like to take this opportunity to wish Robert and his wife Haley all the best for the future in the west of Scotland. As Robert will be in the West he will be joining the West Section so we will have to arrange this football match against them as Robert will be playing for the opposition – Robert, shinpads will be

needed! So don't forget all your friends in the East, Tickets for Ibrox would be appreciated anytime (CY).

On the subject of secretaries Steve Dixon is taking over from Robert and we wish him all the best in this, a new venture for him – as from July 22. If you need to contact him his number is 0131 660 3965.

There is also some slight changes to the committee. Social Convener, A. Forrest (0131 339 1315) Social Committee, S. Dixon, P. Ormston, C. Yeaman. I am standing down as Social Convener as I am now the Magazine Liaison Officer for Scotland. I thought it fair to hand the social on to someone else.

The annual dance at Kilsplindie House Hotel, Aberlady on Saturday December 7 – Tickets are now on sale at a cost of £18.

There is also rooms available at a cost of £20 per person B&B so get booking your tickets now as there are only 96 and this will be strictly adhered to and all money will have to be paid four weeks before the dance.

Get you applications for tickets in now or call S. Dixon 0131 660 3965, C. Yeaman 01875 870 485, A. Forrest 0131 339 1315. So get your's soon as they will go quickly as they have done in the past.

Next golf on the calendar is the Willie Woods at Seahouses GC on August 22. Entry forms should be with you now so get your Captain, Secretary or Committee along to play in this great tournament – so we will see you there?

Next on the agenda is the autumn tournament at Murrayfield GC on September 10. Entry forms will be out soon so get them in quick as this will be a big turnout as it is their centenary this year and also the first Hayter Qualifier.

It was good to see the BIGGA team at The Open at Royal Lytham around the green at the last at the presentation ceremony. Some very good comments were made by the TV commentators so well done lads, C.J. Yeaman

## NORTHERN Northern Region

The Hayter Northern Regional Final was held recently at Abergele & Pensarn GC in North Wales. The qualifiers for the National Final are: Division 1 – Paul Pearse (N. West), Alex Russell (Cleveland), Mark Hodgson (Cleveland); Division 2 – Robin

Smith (Northern), A. Allsop (Sheffield), Colin Hopper (Sheffield): Division 3 - Tony Cheeseborough (Cleveland) J Paul Neve (Sheffield), John Jones (N. Wales). Well done, lads!

On behalf of all who took part I would like to thank Brian Anderson and his team at Abergele for producing an excellent course for this event, Bert Cross and Ian Holoran for starting and marking the cards; our generous sponsors, Hayter and the staff and committee at Abergele for their hospitality and co operation.

We are now looking forward to the Final and I would like to ask Elliott Small to make sure the trophy is well polished when he hands it back to us in September!

Congratulations to Andy Law of Martin Brothers and his wife Sharon, who are now the proud parents of an 8lb baby daughter, Emily. She had a rather unpleasant first few minutes of life though, as her delighted father rang round family and friends to spread the good news on his mobile phone he set off all the fire alarms in the hospital. Best of luck with Dad, Emily!

Sara Lupton

#### North West

June has been a quiet month in the N/W due to no tournaments being played, and little or no information being passed around. One problem in the N/W, as in many other sections, is that although many new courses appear to be springing up all around us, we still have trained greenkeepers out of work.

I receive telephone calls regularly, from greenkeepers asking if there are any jobs available in the N/W, but unfortunately, I have not been in a position to help them. Can I ask you therefore, if people are on the move, and vacancies become available, please ring me so that I can pass on the information to the unfortunate ones who are out of work.

By the time you read these notes we will have had The Open over and done with at Lytham, and Jim McDonald and his staff will face the job of returning the course to nor-

## Around the Green



mality, which I should imagine must take a couple of years, judging by the amount of vehicles, cables, scaffolding, and pairs of feet, that help to compact the ground. I visited Jim recently and the course looked great. This will be Jim's fifth Open, and I am sure that from his cool calm attitude, there will be no problems that he cannot deal with.

Regarding section golf tournaments, the committee has made the decision that the cost of all tournaments will be £15. If the costs for the day prove to be higher, section funds will cover the excess. If costs are less, the money over will be used to purchase extra prizes. The Autumn tournament is at Wilpshire GC, on Wednesday September 11 and all applications must be in by Friday September 7 with your cheque for £15 made payable to BIGGA N/W, and sent to: Bill Merritt 225 Utting Ave, Walton, Liverpool L4 9RB.

Any news, views, complaints or otherwise, please contact me on 0151 724 5412.

Bert Cross

#### North Wales

The Northern Region Hayter qualifier has been held at the Abergele and Pensarn Golf Club. After a cold, wet, windy start to the day the weather improved and by the time the first of the 48 golfers started their round they were able to enjoy a good clear day, ideal for golf. John Lloyd Jones of Abergele qualified and we wish him the very best of luck as he goes forward to represent the North Wales section in the UK final of the Hayter Competition which is to be held at Fairhaven Golf Club. Our Autumn competition will be held at the Chester Golf Club, Curzon Park, Chester, on October 16 and entry forms should be with you in early

August. As stated in last month's notes this competition will have pre-arranged Teeing times. It is hoped that wherever the competitions are held the "local" greenkeepers will request early starting times. This will enable those that have a fair distance to travel may take advantage of a later starting time, thus allowing them to complete their essential morning rounds at their own club before setting off for the competitions. Please ring me on 0151-336-6675 if you have anything that may be of interest to your fellow greenkeepers.

Trevor Johnston

#### Cleveland

Nick Dawson, assistant greenkeeper at Eaglescliffe, has trapped a nerve in his left leg calf, with pins and needles under the foot and going up to the spine. The most effective treatment has been physiotherapy and rest. Now almost better.

Bill Rank, Head Greenkeeper at Thirsk and Northallerton, states that his club is busy extending their course from a nine to eighteen holes.

Future event - December 11 at Mount Oswald Golf Club, Durham, Quiz v N/E Zone of I.O.G. at 7.30pm. Sponsors are Turf Care of Leadgate, Co. Durham.

We send our best wishes to Barry Clennell who is improving from his broken ankle.

We are enjoying warmer and good growing conditions in Cleveland. All for now.

Bruce Burnell

#### Northern

President's Day was held at Howley Hall GC on June 12. Many thanks to Jeremy and his staff for the way in which the course was presented. Thanks are also extended to Mr Mel Guy, acting President, for putting so much effort into making the day run smoothly, together with all the other attending committee members.

Results for the day were as follows:

Cat One: 1. S.Midgley (Bill Mountain Trophy), 2. D.Collins, 3. M.Hannan.

Cat Two: 1. Robin Smith (Jubilee

Cup), 2. A.Court, 3. J.Waite.

Cat Three: 1. L.Kirkbright, 2. Richard Smith, 3. D.Cockburn.

I would like to thank Mr Andrew Mountain, son of the late Bill Mountain, for attending and presenting the prizes. Hopefully Andrew will continue to attend in the coming years.

Congratulations to Dave Mullholland, who has taken the position of Head Greenkeeper at Lofthouse Hill GC. Hope everything goes well Dave.

At the last committee meeting it was reiterated that on invitation day, members are to invite their greens chairman or secretary. If this is not possible, a club official may be invited - not the club champion or pro!

Finally, I would like to congratulate Tim and Ann Balcombe on the arrival of their baby girl, Kate. A few more sleepless hours! Simon Heppenstall

#### MIDLAND

##### East of England

The Purdys Cup was played at Newark Golf Club on a testing and well manicured course prepared to a high standard by Charlie Macdonald and his staff. Many thanks to Newark for courtesy of the course and the catering staff for a fine meal. The eventual winner with 36 points was Michael Wood, Thorpe Wood. Second place was a tie on 33 points between five players, Phil Belton, Fred Cobb, Josh White, Peter Down and Graeme Macdonald. The day would not be the same without the trade members who support the section and donate prizes. The main sponsor was Les Purdy who brought along some excellent prizes. Many thanks Les. Gerald Brady of Rhone Poulenc sponsored the nearest the pin at the long 2nd. Thanks also to Jim Carr, Chandlers, and Pete Fell, Aitkens for donating prizes. The order of merit for the BIGGA blazer is down to the last singles event at Luffenham Heath and could be won by a handful of players.

Finally I wish Charlie Macdonald a speedy recovery to his back problem and see him back playing golf soon.



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That's all for this month.

I can be contacted on 01733 260297.

G A Macdonald

### East Midlands

A new golf fixture was played on June 25 with the Greenkeepers taking on a side made up of Trade and Associate members. On a fine summer evening at Morley Hayes GC. Five teams of a Four-Ball better ball format competed. After some very good golf from all players the match resulted in a very hard fought draw, with both sides winning 2 games each and 1 being squared.

A special thanks should go to Dave Leatherland for his stalwart support in helping to organise the day. Also I would like to thank all the Trade and Greenkeeper members for supporting the event, not forgetting Morley Hayes GC, for hosting the event.

The Section's next event, is the annual section match versus the East of England Section. This will take place at Greatham Valley GC. on August 14 where we shall hope for revenge after last year's very narrow defeat. Forms for this year's Autumn Tournament to be held at Ramsdale Park on September 12 will be sent out by the middle of the month Any member who has not received their form by then, can give me a call and I shall only be too pleased to send them a copy. Please remember to return your form and cheque to me before the closing date.

Antony Bindley

### Midland

Following last month's notes, the Second Tournament of the year was played at Shifnal GC on July 1. Unfortunately I could not be there due to being on my annual holiday with my family. The results were as follows; 1st Gröss M.Hughes 76 Nett - 1st J.Wood 69; 2nd J.Guest 70; 3rd D.Fellows 71; 4th C.Lee 71; 5th J.Palmer 73; 6th M.Jones 73; 7th. M.Hughes; 8. PHoltman 74 9th M.Bryan 74; 10th A.Cutler 74.

R. Jones did nett 70, but it was only his second tournament. Good luck next time. Longest drive was J.

Browne and nearest the pin, V Gilroy. The Trade prize was won by N. Tyler. Congratulations Nigel, it was a long time coming.

Many thanks to Ritefeed for sponsoring the main prizes, Acorn for the wine and all the Trade members for their support and prizes for the raffle. I am told there were some new faces playing, who enjoyed the day. The Midland Section Committee would like to thank the Clubhouse and the Greenstaff at Shifnal GC for their hospitality and helpfulness on the day. Everybody had an enjoyable day.

New members to welcome this month are M. Jennings, P. Williams and D. Kelly.

Finally may I wish R. Surdo and A. Lane all the best in their new employment.

If anyone has any news or tidbits for me to put into the notes please do not hesitate to give me or Sue a ring Tel: 01527 S24217.

REMINDER The next Tournament is on October 2, 1996. The closing date is September 3.

Kim Blake

### Mid Anglia

It is the Midland Section's turn to host our annual match against 'them' and this year it is being played at Copt Heath GC on August 12. If you would like to represent the Section, then please contact Ronan McKeown, who is organising the match. Ronan can be reached on the following numbers: 0181 440 2264 or 0402 524491.

The match against the London Section is also being organised by Ronan. This takes place at Panshangar GC on Monday, September 2 at 2pm, so, should you wish to play, then again, give him a ring.

This month also sees our Summer Tournament taking place at Berkhamsted GC on the 21st, so please make sure all entries are in by the time you read this.

We have two confirmed bookings for 1997 golf events. These are the Spring Tournament, which will be held at Wellingborough Golf Club on April 17, 1997 and the Christmas Texas Scramble to be held at Family

Golf Centre on December 4, 1997.

We are also in the process of trying to book Andy Cole of the STRI to do a talk for us during the winter. It was suggested that the Section hold a social event in early 1997, without any golf, to perhaps involve members of the Section who do not play. If any Section members have any ideas as to what format such an event should take, please contact a committee member with your idea and we will endeavour to arrange something.

Finally, congrats to Ronan McKeown who won his Club Championship recently at Arkley Golf Club. Gerald Bruce

### Bucks, Berks and Oxon

The summer golf day was held at Henley G.C. - results to follow in next month's article. The next golfing event is the National Tournament at Skegness 5-7 August. Good luck to any competitors from this section. One of these years I will make it to this event. It's supposed to be an exciting three days with greenkeepers from all over the country battling it out for the prestigious trophies.

At present we are in the process of putting together an Education Seminar. This is planned for this coming winter. If any members have ideas on the sort of subjects they would like eg. COSHH Assessments, construction etc, please contact me with your views. I know winter is a long way off, but to enable us to get lecturers booked we need to act quickly.

Before I finish this report I would like to thank Roger Willars for all the hard work he has put into his role as Regional Administrator and also for the help he has given me in my role as Secretary.

Lindsay T. Anderson 01491 578147

### SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH WALES

South West and South Wales Region Recently a newsletter was sent to the members in our Region. Unfortunately an error was made about the date of our annual seminar at Cannington in November. It is Wednesday 27th and not the 29th as stated. Marion Child

### South Coast

The Hayter Regional Qualifying Tournament was held at Salisbury & South Wilts.GC on June 12. I have been told that it was a great day, the weather was good, the food was good and everyone was made so welcome.

The course was in excellent condition, our thanks must go to Kerran Daly and his staff for all the hard work they put in. We also had some Qualifiers: Gordon Paine - Cat One, Phil Wentworth - Cat Two and Adrian Archer - Cat Three.

Gordon, Phil and Adrian will be representing the Region at Fairhaven GC, near Blackpool, on September 18. We wish them all the best of luck.

The Section prize was won by the South West Section. I know the Section would like me to thank Gordon and Marion for all their hard work, the helpers on the day and everyone who took part in the Tournament. Last but not least, we must thank Hayters and in particular, Kim Macfie for their continued sponsorship of the event.

Good news on the Education front, we have three more Assessors in the making. Mark Webb from Alesford GC, Andy Hill from Salisbury and South Wilts. GC and Jeff Drake from the Hampshire GC all attended a day at Cannington College with David Golding. They are now all working towards their D32's. Good luck to them all.

In next month's report I will publish a list of all Assessors in our Section, anyone wishing to obtain their NVQ's will then know who they can contact.

We are still looking for more Assessors. Anyone interested should contact Kerran Daly on 01722 742898 for further details. It is hoped that in the not too distant future all Course Managers/Head Greenkeepers will be Assessors and will be able to carry out Assessments for Greenkeepers obtaining their NVQs. Ken Lodge

### Devon and Cornwall

I am pleased to be able to report this month that John Mitchell, who was

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# COURSES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

suddenly rushed to hospital on Monday 10 June, was allowed back to work the following week after tests. Arrangements for the Hayter regional final were well in hand with Guest house accommodation arranged for 13 members who were travelling up the day before, eight of whom travelled up in the mini bus provided by the section and kindly driven by our President John Palfrey of Avoncrop, all was set for the event but with just days to go our whole arrangements were but in turmoil as four members of our party had to pull out for various reasons, after a number of phone calls John Breyley kindly agreed to fill one of the places with yours truly taking another, which left the section one short on the day.

The section's thanks are extended to Margaret James of the Cricket field guest house for handling our change in arrangements so effectively and for providing excellent accommodation.

I highly recommend the guest house to anyone wishing to stay in the Salisbury area. Before I forget we had one more hiccup with Eric missing the mini bus and having to catch the train to Salisbury, after meeting up with the rest of the party at a local pub Eric returned to the Guest house later on and woke everyone up trying to find his room. As usual the Hayter final went without a hitch due to Gordon and Marion's superb organisation, this excellent event is not only just a golfing occasion but social as well with the chance to meet old friends, our thanks to Hayters for their continued support of the event also to Kerren Daly and his staff who presented the course in superb condition as I am sure they do every day of the year. Congratulations to all who qualified for the final especially to Carry Rawlings & Wyncham Potter, also congratulations to the South West team who won the team trophy.

Our next summer meeting will be held at the new development of Roserrow GC Wadebridge on Wednesday August 21, If you would like to attend please call Steve Evans on 01208 863647 by Wednesday August 14.  
Richard Whyman

### South West

Salisbury & South Wilts proved to be a successful venue for many of the South West team which took part recently in the Hayter Regional Final held on June 12.

A full strength team performance produced a qualifier for the final in each of the three categories. Congratulations go to Nigel Pring of Oake Manor GC with a nett 69 in Category 1, and who was also overall winner on the day. Anthony Knight from Kingsdown GC qualified in Category 2 with a nett 73 and John Barr from Bristol & Clifton qualified in Category 3 also with a

## Around the Green



nett 73. These qualifiers will play in the national final to be held at Fairhaven GC on September 18. The 12 best round scores for the South West team totalled 924 which meant that for the second time in three years the South West Section received the winning team shield for the event. Salisbury & South Wilts Course Manager Kerran Daly produced an excellent course for the day and thanks are given to him for his presentation, to Hayter for their continued support of the event and also to Gordon and Marion Child for the lengthy preparation involved in organising the day.

Regarding future events, bookings for BTME at Harrogate in January 1997 will soon be available. £125 will secure your place on the coach to cover three nights bed and breakfast, accommodation and entry to all seminars and the exhibition. Judging by the interest this year you will need to book early and so look out for the booking forms over the next few months.

Slightly prior to BTME on November 29, Cannington College will once again host the Regional Seminar which promises to be as interesting as in previous years.

Among the speakers will be George Brown, Course Manager at the Turnberry Hotel GC. The cost of the day including lunch will be £12.50 for members with application forms being available shortly.

The next Section event for everybody will be the Autumn Tournament and Annual General Meeting, this year to be held at Bristol & Clifton GC on November 14 1996 and not November 7 as on the fixture card.

I will also be standing down as Secretary for the Section at this year's AGM and would encourage anybody interested in undertaking the position to contact me as soon as possible - don't all rush at once!  
Kevin Green

### SOUTH EAST Surrey

Looking back to June 10 the Cresta Cup was held at Croham Hurst GC and as usual the course was superb. Thanks must go firstly to Croham Hurst for allowing us to use the course, again in such large numbers. Also to Head Greenkeeper Roger Tydeman for the condition of the course and his unique use of the Cushman which was parked by the 11th tee loaded with refreshments, which I might add, were all paid for by Roger himself. Thanks, it was

much appreciated on such a warm day.

Thanks from our section also go to the following trade. Firstly, Driving Force Leisure for supplying the main prizes of which the first prize was an all expenses golf trip to France.

Other members of the trade that contributed so generously to what was a most successful day include John Hobbs, Sta-Brite, Avoncrop, Parkers, (Richard Gooding as Starter), Bournes, Golf & Turf, Pattisons, Grass Roots - Thank you to you all.

Results are as follows: 1. I. Sutcliffe; 2. A. Freeman; 3. A. Donlevy

A new South East Administrator has been appointed, his name is Derek Farrington. May we take this opportunity to welcome him into our Association. Derek can be contacted on 01903 260956.

Two weddings to report. Firstly, Adam Carter of Dukes Dene GC to Julie and Gerry Hind of West Surrey on his marriage to Lisa. Congratulations to you all.

An item of interest is that next year's National Tournament is to be held at Cooden Beach in Sussex. Support from our section would be appreciated so make a note in your diaries.

If any member of our section would like to lecture for us this winter, please telephone Derek Walder on 01737 246088.

Forthcoming events include:

The Parker Salver Invitational Event at Addington Palace GC on September 12; the Autumn Tournament at Effingham GC on October 3; The South East Region Seminar T.B.A; The Turkey Trot and AGM at Guildford Golf Course on December 3.

David Gibbs

### London

The Summer Tournament was held on June 25 at Mill Hill GC. I would like to thank my golf club for allowing us to use the facilities and especially the Captain, Mr. Alec Edge. The Captain mingled all afternoon with our members and he provided the liquid refreshments throughout the evening meal and on behalf of our section. I would like to thank him.

The evening meal was excellent and I would like to thank Jack Keen for preparing the food. I would also like to thank our Regional Administrator, Derek Farrington for attending the event.

The results for the day were as follows. The winner with 40 points was Douglas Roberts from Mill Hill and the runner up was Ian Semple with 33 points. In third place with 31 points was Peter Creeber. The nearest the pin was won by Edward Dickenson and the longest drive was won by Tim Webb.

I would like to thank Johnny Beck form Miracle Professional for provid-

ing the half way refreshments. Finally I would like to thank all the trade for their support and help throughout the day.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank Barry Moggridge for his service on the committee as he leaves our section to take up a new post as Course Manager. Ian Semple takes on the role as our Section Secretary.  
Tony Dunstan

### East Anglia

It's been so long I don't know where to start. Doesn't time fly? Well, maybe not.

This time I have two gatherings to write about. The first was at Brett Vale, a bash organised by some of the trade ie. Rushbrooks, Sisis, Rhone Poulenc and Levingtons to say thank you to their customers ie. greenkeepers, groundsmen, local authorities etc. As usual it was a first rate do even if we had to wear Sisis hats. It was worth being there if only to see the three desperados Bob, Brian and Colin enjoying themselves. If only all reps were like them.

Richard Hickman won first prize with 42 points. Robert Crist and Malcolm Partridge came second and third. The longest driver was Cyril Stammers. Nearest the pin on the 3rd was Richard Hickman. Nearest the pin on the 11th was Steve Piggott. £41 was raised for 'Save the Children' and the course was in very good nick, thanks to Tim and Clive. Our thanks to Rushbrooks, Rhone Poulenc, Sisis and Levingtons for organising a super day and to Brett Vale for putting up with us.

The second gathering was at Caldecott Hall. It was an excellent turn out even if England were playing Holland that night! Davis Wells was also 50 but we won't go into that except to say his speech at the end was something else. I don't know what it was either. I didn't even know he had a 'lishp'.

He did however manage to present the prizes with the help of Mr. P. Riches, Caldecott Captain to: Richard Pride, Alan Carter and Peter Howard in the 0-9 section: Michael Peters, Brian Lemon and Ian Willett in the 9-18 section; Steve Millard, Richard Mitchell and Stevie Davidson in the 19-28 section. P. Riches won the guest prize and R. Greer won the trade prize. Stevie Millard won the Summer Shield.

Prizes were donated by Colliers, Parker Hart, Turf Actant, Avon Crop, Links Horticultural and Tuckwells. Mr. Riches made a very good speech at the end in which he praised Steve Davidson, Head Greenkeeper, and his men for presenting the course so well under extreme conditions. Hear, hear to that, Mr. Riches.

Our thanks to Caldecott Hall for a most enjoyable day, even if we did miss the football.  
Andrew Sheehan

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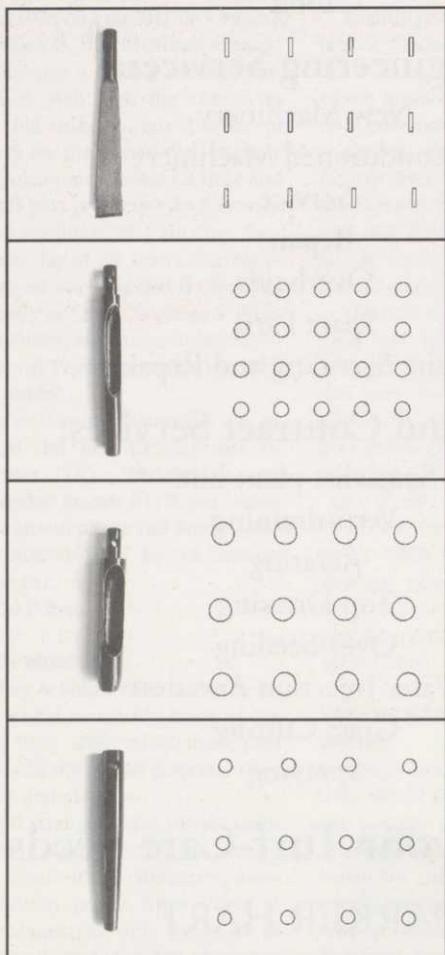
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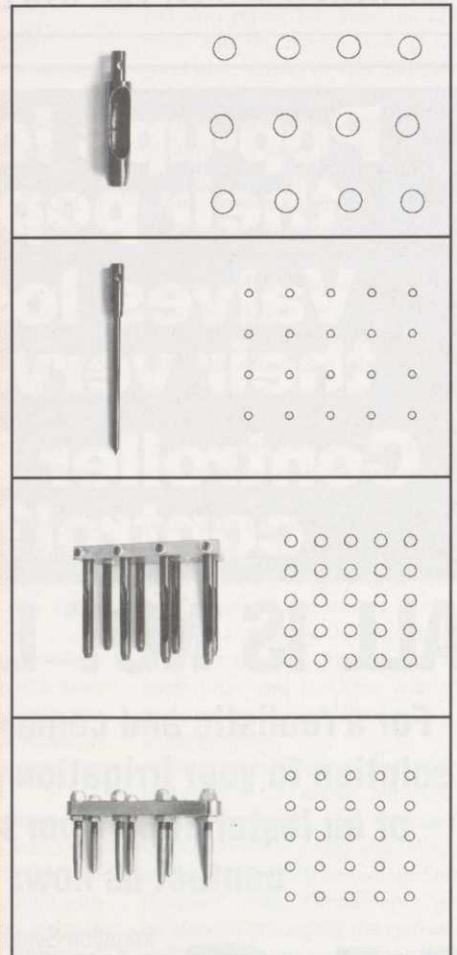
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# SALTEX

96

## Sports, Amenities, Landscaping

3-5 September '96 Royal Windsor Racecourse

Over 370 exhibitors have booked their places at the SALTEX 96 show 3-5 September, at the Royal Windsor Racecourse.

"Space at SALTEX has been in increasingly high demand since the show returned to Windsor two years ago," said Jon Gibson, the SALTEX Event Manager. "Space for last year's show sold out, with over 380 exhibitors covering close to 50,000 m<sup>2</sup>, which was a 12% increase over 1994. In fact, only the construction industry can boast a bigger trade show in the UK."

According to Jon Gibson, "Stand sales this month have been buoyant, and SALTEX '96 is now set to beat last year's record-breaking success." Some of the companies recently signed up include JCB, which has increased its stand size this year, and Renault Agriculture, a new exhibitor to the show – testimony to the strength and breadth of the exhibition.

The growth in the number of exhibitors is in part due to the dramatic increase in the number of visitors to the show, which has gone up by 250% in the last two years. Last year 14,946 visitors came to SALTEX, making it an increasingly attractive way for suppliers to meet potential customers with the power and intention to buy.

SALTEX '96, as in previous years, will bring together buyers and suppliers across the breadth of the open space management industry. One of the new features this year will be a free seminar programme, in which exhibitors at SALTEX will share their expertise in new trends and developments affecting the industry. Speakers will include representatives from Jacobsens, Charterhouse, Farmura, Sisis, Industrial Power Units and Sportsground Irrigation. "There are continual changes within our industry – it is obviously very important that the operators become aware of the latest products, services and techniques, all of which can be seen at SALTEX," commented Gibson.

For free tickets to the show, call the SALTEX ticket hotline on 01954 230710.



Steady as you go: There's lots to see at SALTEX '96

### SELECTION OF EXHIBITORS

From here to Page 56 *Greenkeeper International* presents profiles of some of the exhibitors at SALTEX '96

**Rufford Top-Dress Supplies – stand A19** – will be offering a new service this year at SALTEX 96. Prospective customers are invited to bring along a small sample (150 gms/50z minimum) of rootzone from their greens. Rufford will analyse the material, recommending the most compatible top dressing from its range.

Also on show this year will be a new software programme which can help design top dressing or rootzone mixes for customers.

For further details, telephone 0161 877 8550 or deliver the sample at the Rufford stand.

**Hayter – Stand W14** – will be launching its latest triple turf mower, the LT324 (pictured) featuring a 4 wheel drive "on demand" system and GRP moulded body which provides an attractive, modern look to the unit. Hinged access to all major compo-



nents make maintenance easy. The machine has been developed to complement the successful LT312 which will also be on display.

Our FM514 Fairway Mower, launched last year, award winning gang units and also the Double 3 pedestrian machine which recently was awarded Best Product of 1996 by Amenity Management are among the many in the impressive line up of quality machines on show.

**BIGGA – Stand G1** – brings a

strong team to SALTEX with Executive Director Neil Thomas, *Greenkeeper International* Editor Scott MacCallum, Membership Services Officer Janet Adamson and the entire Sales and Marketing Department of Sales and Marketing Manager James McEvoy, Sales and Marketing Executive Louise Lunn and the Sales and Marketing Assistant Amanda Freeman on hand to offer a warm welcome to anyone who visits the stand.

A full range of BIGGA merchandise will also be on show as well as information on Association membership and the education courses, videos and literature which is available.

There is a difference between simply grinding and sharpening mowers as visitors to **Eric Hunter Grinders Ltd – Stand R39** – at SALTEX will see.

Hunters leads the field in the method of accurate 'Relief Angle'

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Stand V43

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98

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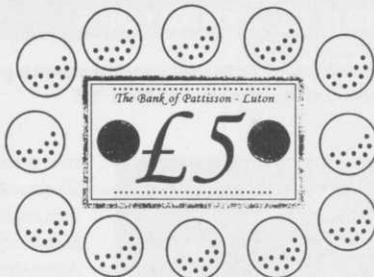
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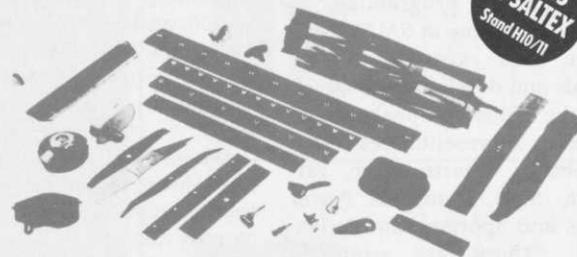
## Mower Accessories Ltd

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See us on Stand H10/11 at SALTEx

AD  
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118

grinding. 'Relief' grinding is simply grinding each blade of the cylinder with a clearance angle. When performed correctly, it results in mowers that are easier to set, produce a cleaner cut and creates hardly any friction between cylinder and bedknife thus causing less wear. blades are known to last up to four times longer after being 'relief' ground.

Among the grinders being demonstrated, are its popular Jupiter and Juno machines.

Hunters well engineered products have acquired an excellent reputation over the last 25 years for a 'quality' grind and are used at numerous leading Golf and Sports Clubs, Local Authorities, Turf Grower and mower repair workshops throughout the world.

This year at SALTEX **Rhône-Poulenc - Stand P2** - will be exhibiting its extensive range of products for autumn use such as the ultimate contact fungicide, ROVRAL GREEN and the dual purpose pest management product CASTAWAY PLUS for casting earthworm and

leatherjacket control.

New to the Rhone-Poulenc total herbicide range is RESCIND. RESCIND contains 500 g/L diuron and has full CDA recommendations on the label. RESCIND is marketed through Chemlock Environmental Services.

We also have several exciting new products pending MAFF approval.

In its 50th Anniversary year, **Huxleys - Stand S9** - will be exhibiting several new products which illustrate the company's progress since it began selling the Allen Motor Scythe in 1946.

The new Huxley Teestar is an all-hydraulic ride-on triple mower for precision mowing of golf tees and greens surrounds, as well as sports-ground and amenity areas. British built, the Teestar has already been exported to Japan.

Other new products include the Soil Reliever Junior, a heavy duty deep tine aerator with 48" working width, and the Turfblazer Hydro Power 1280, which is a high performance 126" cut rotary mower with Turbo charged 61 hp diesel engine. A rear mounting ver-



sion of the popular Grainskeeper Greens Brush, for fitting to suitable tractors and turf vehicles, will also be displayed.

On the stand will be examples of the full Huxley range.

Pictured above is the new Huxley Teestar.

**Supreme Mowing Ltd - Stand V15** - is renowned for its world famous range of precision built grinding machines and backlapping units and of course an extensive range of quality replacement parts for all leading grass cutting machines.

For more information and/or a free demonstration of our grinding machines please feel free to visit us at SALTEX '96.

**Standard Golf (UK) - Stand P327** - will exhibit the finest range of Golf Course equipment manufactured in the USA by the world's largest manufacturer. Standard Golf offers a wide choice of colours, product and quality at affordable prices. From Japan will be the only synthetic grass Winter Tee Mat where the golfer can tee up in any position. A wide range of UK manufactured Tee information signs will be shown, made in various materials to suit every taste and budget.

Details of the ENVIROGREEN chemical container disposal services will also be available - the easy way to obey the Law.

Duncan, Paula and Andrew will be on hand with a warm welcome.

Come and talk to the experts at the **Rigby Taylor - Stand M1** - Staff will be on hand as always to offer friendly help and advice. In addition you'll also have the opportunity to meet guest experts from major manufacturers who will be more than happy to provide more specialist assistance and information.



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**SALTEX**  
Sports, Amenities, Landscaping  
3-5 September '96 Royal Windsor Racecourse

Our stand will again offer a warm welcome and comfortable hospitality as well as exhibiting the latest products together with comprehensive reference literature.

All of us at Rigby Taylor look forward to meeting friends both old and new.

**The Course Care - Stand T45** - range for Groundsmen and Greenkeepers continues to grow. Lubricants, Fuel Treatments, Equipment, Environmental Services, Clothing and Footwear all form part of the specialist Course Care range to keep the workshop fully operational. They will all be on show at Windsor.

New products for 1996 include the Greenguard non turf-burning hydraulic oil starter pack complete with a supply of flushing oil to ensure that all traditional hydraulic oil is fully flushed out.

The Course Wear clothing and footwear range covers knitwear, foul weather clothing, chain saw trousers, insulated boiler suits and much, much more.

For details and information contact John Wood, Marketing Director, on 01535 611103 or fax on 01535 611543.

**Farmura - Stand E80** - will be displaying its full range of environmentally sensitive turf care and landscape products which are available throughout the United Kingdom and the E.U. from a network of specialist distributors making access to the products easy and quick wherever you are.

Of special interest with Autumn approaching, is Inhibitor for strengthening the turf against fusarium attack and Ferrosol Liquid Iron for greening and hardening the plant against disease.

With the highly successful range of Farmura Liquid Organic fertilisers, the advanced Super Concentrates, Superpaver Grass Reinforcement, Turf Irons and the winners of the Blazon Spray Indicator Draw being announced together with the usual Farmura hospitality, Stand E80 will be well worth a visit. Come and discuss integrated feed programmes with our technical staff and pick up our latest literature.

**Grass Roots Construction Ltd - Stand P13** - a sister company of Grass Roots Trading Co has established itself as the cost effective solution to construction needs.

Specialising in the golf course sector a wide range of diverse services are offered. Recent projects include new build greens and tees, lakes, ponds, waterfalls, ball stop perimeter fencing as well as bespoke clubhouse barbecues. For winter considerations it can help with turfing, pathway construction and all manner of fencing. Recent growth in the maintenance market has seen a market increase in contracts for bunker maintenance and general presentation work. Whatever your construction needs you'll discover the solution is to get back to Grass Roots.



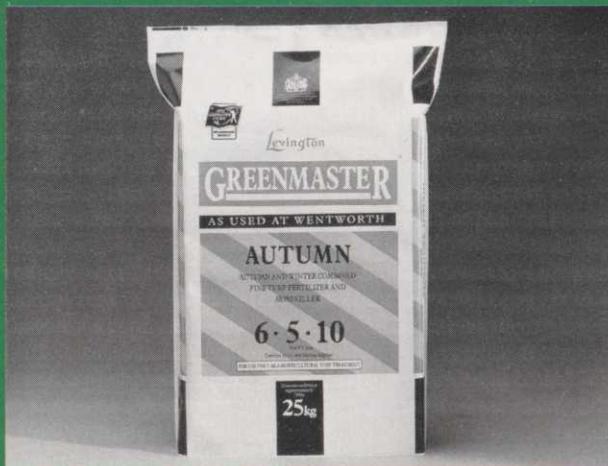
At Saltex this year **Watermation - Stand P8** - will be introducing its exciting new range of gear drive sprinklers (pictured). This extensive range covers everything from small shrub heads to long range turf sprinklers suitable for sports ground and golf courses.

Watermation has always provided reliable, high quality irrigation equipment and this new range is certainly no exception. All the sprinklers can be used as full or part circle operation by simple, visual arc adjustment without using any key. They are also vandal resistant and return to their pre-set arc even if forced out. This new range added to Watermation's world famous impact drive sprinklers give the customers a real choice.

**Levington Horticulture - Stand X 11-12-13** - will be concentrating on the key products for fine turf renovation after the stresses of summer heat and physical wear on its stand at SALTEX.

Levington Greenmaster will be prominently featured on the stand, as the ideal autumn treatment for fine turf. Greenmaster Autumn contains ferrous sulphate to control moss through the autumn and winter, and has a 6:5:10 NPK formulation to help toughen the sward and improve rooting without encouraging

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GREENMASTER AUTUMN (6:5:10) contains 6% iron as ferrous sulphate.  
GREENMASTER is a registered Trade Mark and THE LEVINGTON DIFFERENCE is a Trade Mark of Levington Horticulture Ltd. © Levington Horticulture Ltd 1996

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REF  
102

excessive, frost susceptible, top growth.

**Ransomes - Stand V15** - will be launching a seven-unit fairway mower at SALTEX '96. Known as the Fairway 405 it is believed to offer the widest cut of any mower in its class.

Engineered for optimum performance and productivity, the Fairway 405/s seven steerable/ floating cutting heads give a maximum mowing width of 4m (158in), with selectable lift of the two outer cutting units.

Powered by a 46.5hp turbocharged diesel engine, the Fairway 405 combines the durability of heavier machines with the manoeuvrability and low ground pressure of a light-weight mower. The 405 features variable reel speed control, in-situ backlapping and robust hydrostatic transmission providing permanent four-wheel drive in work with two wheel drive for transport. The cutting units can be specified with 7 or 11 blades and all have Ransomes variable weight transfer system/ ensuring a close/ even finish over undulating turf.



Operator comfort and convenience are enhanced by the high-back suspension seat, "walk-through" platform and ergonomic control layout. Both the engine and hydraulics are easily accessible for service and the reel to bedknife adjustment can be made by hand.

Equipped with hydrostatic steering as standard and with the option of Ransomes Turf Protector hydraulic oil leak detection system, the Fairway 405 offers a cutting performance in excess of 9 acres an hour (3.6ha). Price of the machine will be announced at SALTEX '96.

Pictured is the Fairway 405.

**Jacobsen - Stand W38** - is very pleased to announce the appointment

of Browns, Geo Browns Implements Ltd as Jacobsen dealer for the area of Herfordshire, Bedfordshire and some of the North London Boroughs. Browns are a well established company with depots at Chesham and Leighton Buzzard.

Browns are at this year's SALTEX show and will have on display products from Jacobsen, Kubota and Charterhouse. The area representatives covering the new Jacobsen are: Peter Hopkinson - Chesham and Steve Lee - Leighton Buzzard.

**Toro Commercial Products - Stand W50** - is continuing its run of new product introductions with the announcement at SALTEX of two new mowers, a new and improved model of its Greens Aerator and a new, trailed version of the walk-behind Hydroject water injection aerator. There is also a new injection system for the Hydroject, allowing it to be used for applying wetting agents and soil conditioners.

The new Reelmaster 2600-D (pictured) is an all-purpose triplex mower for a precision cut on sports fields and



amenity areas as well as around golf bunkers, greens, tees, collars and approach areas. It features the all-new design, engine, drive, cutting units and mainframe to be found on the Reelmaster 2300-D announced last year, but is fitted with wider cutting units to give an 85-inch cut for greater productivity.

The new Greensmaster 1600 has all the best features of the well-known Greensmaster 1000 but offers a wider 26 inch cut and, for a better quality cut on tees, an extended height-of-cut range from one eighth to one-and-a-quarter inches.

Claimed already to be the fastest, most durable greens aerator about, Toro's Greens Aerator is now equipped with a state of the art Briggs & Strat-

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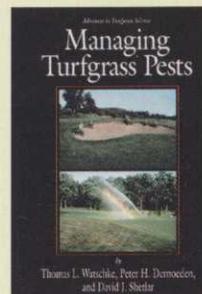
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This reference is a complete compilation of all the pest management practices currently in use. It contains an abundance of methods for diagnosing, identifying and controlling pests, and emphasises management, rather than the use of chemicals, as the major component of pest control.

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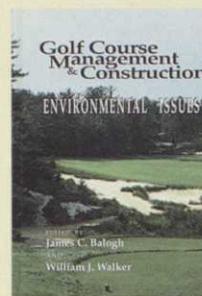
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The intensive management of turfgrass, whether on golf courses, parks or lawns, has many potential environmental effects. 'Non-point source' environmental impacts of turfgrass management are fully explored in this volume.

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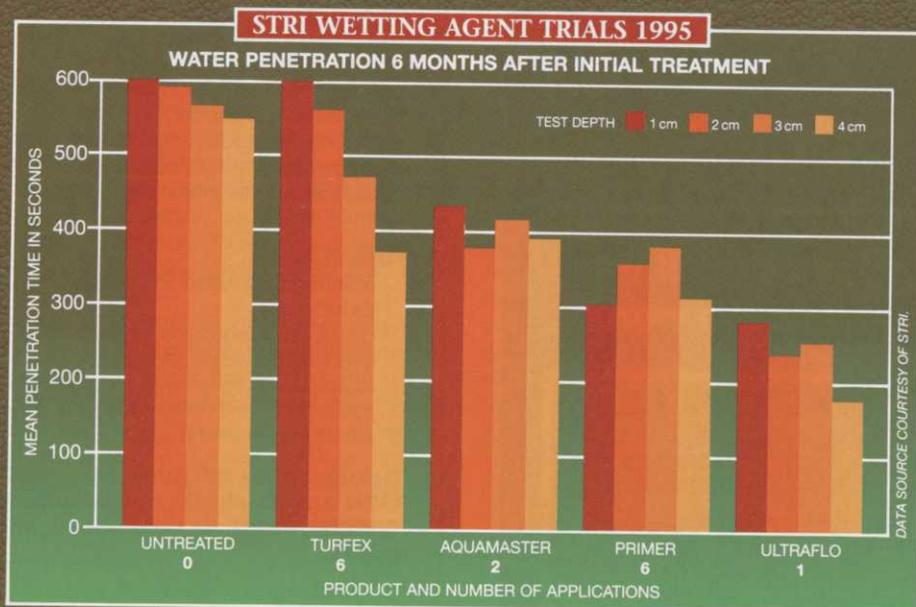
Return to BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Airedale, York, North Yorkshire YO6 2NF, UK.

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ton, Vanguard V-Twin engine that is known for its smooth, quiet and efficient running. Other notable developments include a quadrupled fuel capacity, with a 4.5-gallon moulded tank giving up to six-and-half hours operation and cutting down on refuelling delays.

Another new aeration product is the Hydroject 4000, a trailed version of the 3000 water-injection model which, when towed behind a utility vehicle with onboard water tank, gives users the flexibility and convenience to aerate areas that are not served by a mains water supply. Typical applications include golf greens, tees, isolated dry spots and high traffic areas.

Lastly, Toro is launching a new injection system that enables its Hydroject 3000 water injection aerator to apply recommended wetting agents and soil conditioners beneath the turf's surface.

Since the **ProSport range - Stand R35** - of root zones, top dressings and sports sands was launched at Saltex 1995, two new products have been added to the range.

ProSport Green divot mix is a golf course repair product for use either by greenkeeping staff or players themselves as a more effective and almost invisible way of repairing divot marks than trying to heel in the divot. The product has been successfully tested at selected golf courses.

ProSport Equestrian sand is a specially selected grade of sand for use in either indoor or outdoor riding establishments.

At SALTEX '96 there will be ProSport experts on the stand to give advice on sports pitch construction and maintenance and the choice of base aggregates, root zones, top dressings and sports sands.

Divot mix boxes are widely used on golf courses in the USA. Replacing divots on tees and fairways is frequently unsuccessful, especially in dry weather. Using a properly formulated divot mix the success rate is much higher on the course.

Conventional divot mixes are dark in colour and 'cosmetically' do not improve the look of the repaired divot. ProSport Green uses sand which has been treated with a harmless but per-

manent green dye. This does not inhibit the germination of seed or the grow through of grass. It does not wash out and it does not stain. The mixture encourages rapid regrowth and until new grass shows through the course is not disfigured by divot marks.

**Tildenet - Stand F40** - will again be exhibiting its complete range of netting products specifically designed for the Sport, Leisure, Grounds and Greens Industry.

New products on display will include the Tildenet Rugby Practice Cage, Economy Grass Germination Sheeting, The Unique Golfing Green "The Epic", Bunker Membrane and Indoor Golf, Cricket and Sport netting.

All information and literature will be available from the Tildenet and several of Tildenet products will be assembled for display and demonstration purposes.

Launched at this year's BTME, the SubAir system from **IPU - Stand W35** - has already won the Amenity Management Award for innovation.



This unique concept is designed to control oxygen, moisture and soil temperature in the root zone. It provides the plants' roots with an ideal microclimate which will ultimately result in strong healthy turf. Traditionally, all aeration has been carried out using machinery on playing surfaces which can disrupt play. SubAir uses the existing USGA drainage system to introduce air into the root zone or to extract excessive amounts of moisture, so there is no disturbance whatsoever to the surface. By circulating air, soil temperature can be regulated to provide the right growing conditions, especially during long hot or cold periods. SubAir can also be used to draw water and nutrients from the upper

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- Cavendish Golf Club
- Cawdor Golf Club
- Charleslands Leisure (Co. Wicklow)
- Clitheroe Golf Club
- Collingtree Leisure
- Cottesmore Golf & Country Club
- Crompton & Royton Golf Club
- Delapre Golf Complex
- Eaton Golf Club
- Fortrose & Rosemarkie Golf Club
- Gleneagles Hotel
- Goring & Streetley Golf Club
- Harpenden Golf Club
- Harrow School Golf Club
- Hellidon Lakes Golf & Country Club
- Hirsel Golf Club
- Kinross (Green Hotel)
- Leasowe Golf Club
- Leek Golf Club
- Lingfield Park
- Lymm Golf Club
- Malone Golf Club
- Massereene Golf Club
- Mere Golf & Country Club
- Milltown Golf Club (Dublin)
- Mold Golf Club
- Mount Murray Golf Club (IOM)
- Muirfield (Gullane) Golf Club
- Nairn Golf Club
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- Newcastle-under-Lyme Golf Club
- Omoneid Fields Golf Club
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- Pineridge Golf Club
- Ponteland Golf Club
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- Ramsdale Hall Golf Club
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- Royal Ashdown Forest Golf Club
- Royal Dornoch Golf Club
- Royal Liverpool Golf Club
- Royston Golf Club
- Rye Golf Club
- St Andrews Links Trust
- Sherborne Golf Club
- Slaley Hall Golf & Country Club
- South Moor Golf Club
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- Telford Park Golf Course
- Telford Golf Club
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  - Reykjavik Golf Club (Iceland)
  - Royal West Norfolk Golf Club
  - The Roxburgh Golf Course
  - Tsada Golf Club, Paphos (Cyprus)
  - Wolstanton Golf Club

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- "Hunter's relief grinding is far superior to anything I have ever seen, each blade cuts true, the savings are substantial and the cost is minimal." Mr. Roger Shaw, Course Manager, Ramsdale Hall Golf & CC, Co Durham.
- "Our sole plates/bottom blades are now lasting between 2-3 times longer than when we were spin grinding." Mr. Philip Baldock, Head Greenkeeper, The Royal Portrush Golf Club, County Antrim.
- "It is the best piece of machinery this course has ever invested in, a fine machine that I would recommend to anyone." Mr. John Bashford, Head Greenkeeper of the Green Hotel Golf Course, The Kinross Estate.
- "A quality machine that gives a superb finish to our cylinders, and saves money." Mr. Derek Green, Head Greenkeeper of Royal Liverpool Golf Club.



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With our unique and accurate 'Relief angle' grinding method which: ● Reduces contact between cylinder and bedknife (blades can last up to four times longer) ● Reduces drag which means less friction, less fuel, less problems, less maintenance ● Makes cutting units easier to 'set' ● Blades cut cleaner and stay sharp longer.

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The New "VERDI" perennial rye, the highest combined shoot density and wear tolerance (under high N) available today

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soil levels down to the root zones. While SubAir does not eliminate the need to aerate for compaction, once the soil has been opened it will control oxygen levels and remove poisonous gases such as methane and carbon dioxide.

The new Hoaf range of equipment from IPU provides effective and safe weed control without the use of chemicals.

The Hoaf Infraplus system has been specially developed and engineered to control weeds on paths, paved and firm areas. Through the combination of infrared radiation and hot air, a short burst of heat exposure destroys photosynthesis and causes interruption of sap to the root system.

At SALTEX for the first time will be the Grillo Beefly 20hp diesel model. A major feature of this new machine is the easy access to the front-mounted mower deck and chute. Grass cutting on areas where there are a number of obstacles to manoeuvre around is time consuming and not always cost effective. Grillo's Beefly zero-turning-mowers are designed for just such applications.

Visitors to SALTEX will see a new look **STRI - Stand CA11**. In line with structural and staff changes, STRI will be sporting a new corporate identity and exhibiting a fully revised range of sports and amenity turf services, training programmes and publications.

Part of these activities involve STRI's educational programme. STRI in conjunction with GTC have taken the initiative in introducing a new concept in greenkeeper training. STRI will now offer a series of short three week courses to cover the theoretical knowledge required for NVQ Craft Level 2, Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping). The programme will include a comprehensive manual covering all aspects of the theoretical course, written and produced by STRI. This new manual on a greenkeeper training theory, also opens up possibilities for distance learning for greenkeepers already established in their field. Details will be available at SALTEX.

New revised editions of both "The Care of the Golf Course" our best seller, and "Fertilisers for Turf" will be launched at the show. A full range of STRI publications can be seen and in

the IOG Bookshop being run during the exhibition.

It's all change at STRI for SALTEX '96.

Sports and amenity grass seed varieties and mixtures which meet the demands of today's increased usage and changing weather patterns will be the theme of **Mommersteeg International's** Saltex display - **Stand F22/23/24**.

Demonstration plots of the company's three new varieties - Amadeus, Gerona and Mocassin - together with MM60 - a special mixture for over-sowing winter games pitches with ryegrass - will form the centre-piece of the exhibit.

Mommersteeg will also be unveiling details of its re-formulated seed treatment Improved Headstart. The new formulation for this natural, non-toxic seed coating has been devised to add even greater advantages in terms of disease reduction and help for less aggressive species to gain a good start in competition with more dominant grasses.

All three new grass varieties have been bred to provide users with hard

wearing turf. Amadeus is a dwarf variety perennial ryegrass which is tolerant to dose mowing and has a high shoot density and good cleanness of cut.

Gerona was bred specifically for use on winter sports pitches and features in MM60. Mocassin is the company's new slender creeping red fescue. Another variety with good disease resistance and high shoot density.

MM60 is a mixture of four Mommersteeg perennial ryegrass varieties - Master, Gerona, Danilo and Mondial. The varieties have been chosen to provide a turf that is able to withstand high levels of wear and tear and good powers of regeneration after damage.

**Mower Accessories Ltd - Stand H10/11** - is very proud to be one of the leading manufacturers of all types of bottom blades rotary blades and cutting cylinders. Since the '95 Exhibition it has increased its vast range of blades and cylinders and is developing and producing new products to customers requirements all the time.

It will be exhibiting a cross section



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| Books ✓ Clothing ✓   | Measurement ✓      | Drainage ✓ Help ✓     |
| Course Accessories ✓ | Casual Staff ✓     | Tools ✓ Tanks ✓       |
| Construction ✓       | Irrigation ✓       | Line Marking ✓        |

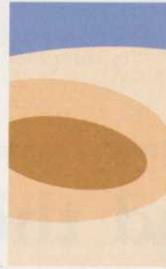


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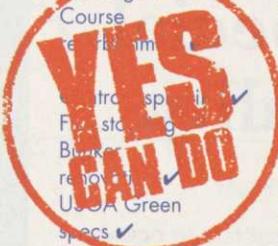
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AD REF 527

of products at SALTEX'96. The company's aim is, as always, high quality at low cost. 1996 is proving to be another successful year in both the home and overseas markets. We are also proving to be a leading supplier to the original equipment manufacturer.

We look forward to meeting old and new customers where a warm welcome will be given.

The new **Vitax Sport Amenity - Stand F54/55/56** - and key range product guide will be available at SALTEX '96. This incorporates for the first time the full technical information for all the sport amenity chemical range of products.

Prominently featured on the Vitax stand will be Vitax Ultraflo, fast establishing itself as the UK's number one wetting agent. This claim has been substantiated by the results from recent STRI wetting agent trials. Complementing Ultraflo will be the full range of high quality, cost effective Vitax Amenity Products for today's discerning turf manager.

From the tee to the green **Pattis-**

**sons - Stand T17** - has been able to offer quality products for 100 years. With a wide range and variety of products Pattissons offers a choice to suit any golf clubs requirements or budget.

From the tee area Pattisson's wide range starts with simple aluminium tee sign to the more popular exclusive resin tee marker. As an alternative Pattissons also offers the Newbury or Chichester Tee Consoles, which can come complete with litterbin, shoe brush, yardage information, hole layout and the concept also lends itself to allow advertising. The Royale Ball-washer made from cast aluminium and launched in 1995 is proving to be a great success. This product is also the main feature of the tee console.

For the greenkeeper comes the DewMaster II with a cleverly concealed switch tip in the handle for those places the DewMaster brush just cannot reach! This ingenious product seems to have taken the greenkeeper and groundsman market by storm and is probably the product for 1996. Another new product for 1996 is the Pattisson Holecup Extractor, which

allows a greenkeeper to remove holecups easily without bending down.

For the golfer Pattissons has small unobtrusive distance markers clearly indicating the yardage to the next hole.

The green PVC bunker rake, that was re-launched last year has been updated again, and can also be obtained with a screw fitting head and fibreglass handle, available in white and green. On the green, Pattissons has upgraded the bogey and antimud holecups, the new designs allow for a 'snug-fit' for the flagpin ferrules.

Flagpins can be ordered in a number of colour and size variations depending on the customers requirements. All Pattisson flags are manufactured in-house and again in typical Pattisson style can be produced to any specification that the customer requires.

All this and our continuing improvement to our other product lines is enabling Pattissons to remain the number one supplier to the UK market.

**Bourne Amenity - Stand B42** -

will be displaying two unique products in a unique way at Saltex '96. Geoblock Grass Protection System will be laid down next to Haraden Redtrak pathway material so that the visitor can walk on both to see how effective they both are.

Geoblock is becoming increasingly popular both with golf courses and local authorities where an invisible strengthening system is needed yet grass cover is essential to make the area as natural as possible.

Harden Redtrak is now well known as a hard wearing, quality pathway material which requires little maintenance and is being used by many clubs in the South East.

Bourne Amenity has an excellent reputation for an efficient delivery service of top quality products including top dressings, root zones, amenity sports sands and Symbio biological products.

**GM UK - Stand H34/35** - is a company renowned for its unnovative products and idea are introducing a unique club and grip cleaning system to the UK.

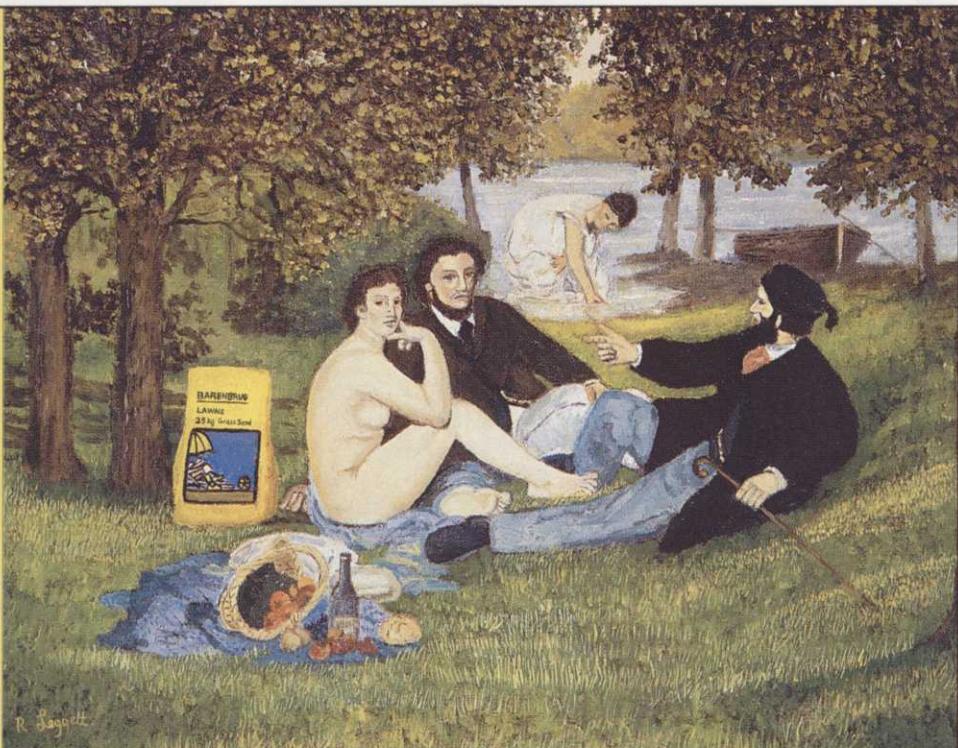
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by Manet 1862-3.

To stand the  
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Until you've had a few scorching hot summers, the odd attack from pests or plague and a chance to calculate maintenance costs, the wisdom of your seed selection will never be known.

That's why you need the Barenbrug promise of quality.

By combining the best of tradition and technology we've created some of the best varieties around - Barclay, Bargreen, Baruba and the exciting new Barkoel and Barlinda - making them available in a range of quality mixtures that takes the guesswork out of selection.

*Get your grass off to a healthy start  
next spring and ensure maximum  
recovery this autumn*

*with one application of*

## *Sierrablen® Autumn/Winter Controlled Release Fertilisers*

Photograph taken at The Oxfordshire Golf Club  
highlights spring carryover from previous autumn  
application of Sierrablen 15.0.29

**Sierrablen® NK**  
**15.0.22+Fe**

**Sierrablen® NK – Fine**  
**15.0.29**

**For use on tees, fairways, approaches, wear  
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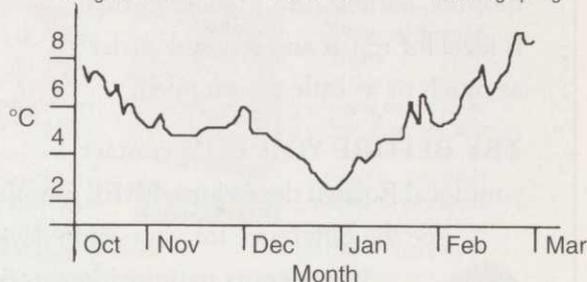
**Features:**

- ◆ Scotts' unique resin and Poly S technology
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- ◆ Coarse or fine granules to suit cutting height
- ◆ Safe to use and easy to apply
- ◆ Spreader setting chart available.

**SEE US AT SALTEX ON STAND H15**



**Nutrient release pattern from Sierrablen granule**



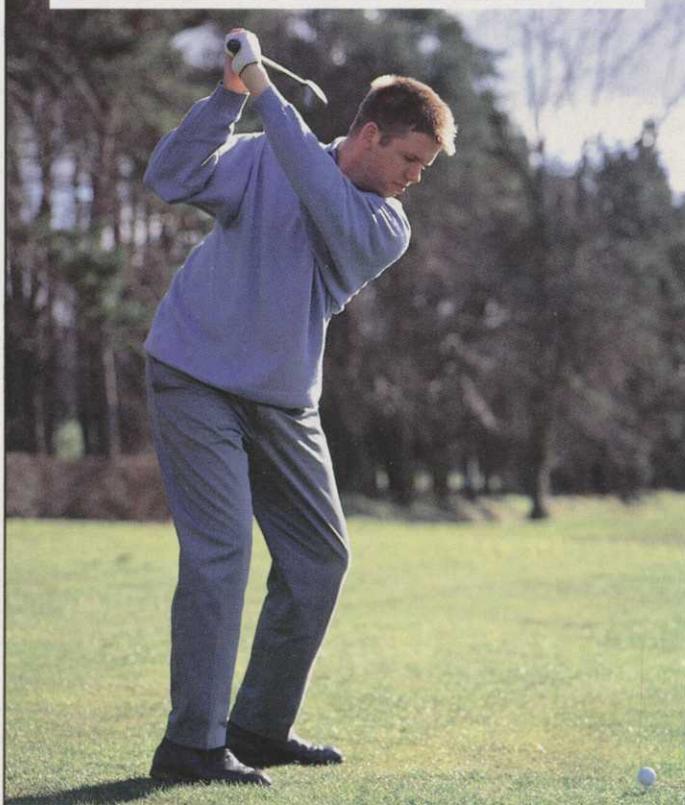
**Graph of soil temperature  
over autumn, winter, spring**

For details contact: Scotts UK Ltd, 61 Loughborough Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 7LA Tel: 0115 9455100 Fax: 0115 9455311

**The Scotts company is a leading researcher, manufacturer and marketer of products for consumer, do-it-yourself lawn care and gardening, professional turfcare and commercial horticulture**

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## GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL SHOW PREVIEW



**SALTEX**  
Sports, Amenities, Landscaping

3-5 September '96 Royal Windsor Racecourse

The system cleans both the club head and the grips in about two minutes by using ultra sonic waves in water. It removes dirt and grease revitalising grips and cleansing the grooves to ensure that maximum spin is imparted on the ball.

The success of the GM sonic cleaner is that it combines an excellent service for the golfer while creating important revenue for the club. Demonstrations are free and please call the office on 01704 571271 or visit the stand.

Star attraction on the **Kutoba** stand - **Stand W40** - is its new range of tractors. Following months of field trials and end-user research, the new tractors look set to further strengthen Kubota's dominance in the compact tractor market.



Also featured on the stand are the latest Kubota "F" series out-front mowers, the 25hp F2560 (pictured) and the 30hp F3060. Both these units were launched earlier in 1996 and are making strong impact in the contractor sector.

Other tractors on the stand include the three Grandel machines in the 35hp-45hp class and a line up of attachments including backhoe loaders, grass collectors, trailers, rotary and flail mowers.

Shropshire-based golf course equipment manufacturers, **Links Leisure** - **Stand E60** - will be showing off not only its now well-established PRO-TEE all-weather golf mats at this year's SALTEX but also its latest range of golf driving bays and attractive course markers.

Developed specially to create the ideal substitute for the natural grass tee, the PRO-TEE golf mat is already widely used on courses both in this country and in Europe.

The Links Leisure PRO-TEE golf driving bays - also on show at SALTEX - are a single or multiple bay system which measures 3.5 by 3.5 metres in single bay multiples. Designed to allow the maximum use to be made of

the space available for practicing facilities, the bays are easily erected and they consist of a rust-resistant frame either galvanised or coated in green plastic to require little or no maintenance - and long-life baffle nets.

Developed to be informative, while at the same time adding to the aesthetics of the golf course, the PRO-TEE course markers are individually produced in either a standard or tailor-made range of styles and designs, and they can be finished in a choice of colours. Manufactured from glass reinforced cement for durability, the markers can be supported on elegant metal posts or, alternatively, supplied complete on free-standing GRC bases. Tailor-made, the markers can include not only course and hole information, but also individual logos or motifs.

The PRO-TEE all-weather golf mats, golf driving bays, and course markers will all be on show at SALTEX. Alternatively, full details can be obtained direct from Links Leisure Limited, Unit 22, Civic Industrial Park, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 1TT. Tel: 01948 663002 Fax: 01948 666381.

**Hardi** - **Stand B27** - will be exhibiting its complete range of amenity spraying equipment together with greencare turf aeration products and Rogers Environmental Spray Booms.

New products in the Hardi Turfcare Range include Rogers Root Zone Injector and Wood Bay Greensiron.

Homburg Drain Cleaning equipment will also be featured.

Cooper Pegler acquired by Hardi in June '95 will be in attendance on a separate stand, showing its complete range of compression knapsack and small motorised sprayers.

**Headland Amenity** - **Stand X23** - will launch two novel iron products at Saltext.

Both products - Headland F227GC and Sustain Fe - offer significant turf safety advantages over conventional fertiliser applications and are persistent for up to eight weeks - eliminating the need for repeat applications. In that way the risk of scorch can also be eliminated according to the company.

"Iron sprays are notorious for causing leaf blade blackening," says Mark De Ath, National Amenity Manager for Headland Amenity.

**Evergreens (UK)** - **Stand U2** - is pleased to be exhibiting a wide and varied range of its quality products.



## THE DEEP DRILL SERVICE FOR SPORTS TURF

Why suffer turf problems associated with compacted soil?

Our Deep Drill machine will create a pattern of sixty 5/8" holes, up to 10" deep, on a 5" spacing, in one movement, leaving an unmarred surface.

**RESULTS IN** • Relief of compaction • Improved aeration and percolation of water to the root zone • Deeper, wider and more vigorous root development • Holes offer a way of introducing fresh media to the soil • Healing time of three to four days • Drills through dry patch.

**BENEFITS WITHOUT SIDE EFFECTS FOR** GOLF FAIRWAYS, GOLF TEES, GOLF GREENS, RUGBY PITCHES, BOWLING GREENS, HOCKEY PITCHES, CRICKET SQUARES, CROQUET LAWNS, AND FOOTBALL PITCHES



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Stand B43

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For speedy, efficient and economical collection of grass cuttings, leaves and litter, Trilo's SG 400 is the perfect solution.

From golf courses to recreation grounds, this versatile machine is ideally suited to all applications.

There are now nine models in the Trilo range, and with numerous options available, you can trust Trilo to make your job easier and more efficient. For hire or sales contact:



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382



**SubAir green aeration.  
Raising the quality of greens  
without interrupting play.**

To keep greens in perfect condition it's important that they are aerated on a regular basis. In the past this has meant major interruptions in play and losses in course revenue.

SubAir, from America, is a revolutionary idea to help keep greens in perfect condition all year round with no loss of playing time.

Designed to work at the source of the greens growth, SubAir is the only aeration system on the market that can accurately monitor the amount of Oxygen, Carbon Dioxide, Methane, and Hydrogen Sulphide at the root zone, while the machine is running.

When in it's reverse mode SubAir can also be used to remove

excess water, trapped gases, salt build ups and impregnate the turf with fertilisers and pesticides.

The Sub-Air system can be permanently located below ground in a protective housing or a portable version is available which can be moved from green to green.

This new method of caring for golf greens has been used most successfully at the "Augusta National" Golf Club in the USA and its benefits will soon be seen in the golf clubs of Great Britain.

If raising the quality of your greens while keeping the members playing is high on your score card, call Robert Beebee today on 01902 452138 and find out how SubAir can reduce your courses handicap.



SubAir Gas Analyser



**SubAir™**

A Breath of Fresh Air for your Root Zone.

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SEE US  
AT SALTEx  
Stand W35

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528



These will include a full range of winter mats and portable tees, bowls ditch surfacing, locker room, pro shop, spike bar, pool and jacuzzi, carpeting, tee signs and boundary posts.

On show for the first time will be the range of Victorian style street furniture that includes six and 12 feet ornamental seats, planters, bins and bollards. The range is in cast iron, fibre glass and hardwoods.

Starring on the **Barenbrug** stand - **Stand K73** - this year is the heavy-duty sports mixture, BAR 7. Newly formulated for 1996, BAR 7 is composed of top quality amenity ryegrasses, giving it rapid establishment and high wear tolerance - ideal for rugby and football pitches. Indeed, 80% of professional sports grounds use BAR 7.

The appearance and hardiness of BAR 7 is enhanced by the inclusion of Barlinda, dwarf perennial ryegrass, the "iron lady" of heavy duty sports turf. Quick recovery from wear and excellent disease resistance also single out Barlinda for praise. Barlinda shows, along with the BAR 7 mixture,



Barenbrug's mastery of the "Art of Grass."

**Wiedenmann (UK) Ltd - Stand V42** - will unveil for the first time at SALTEX 96 the biggest deep spiker in the world which is an addition to the successful Terra-Spike range. The new P260 has a working width of 2.60 m and is modelled around the existing range.

Other Terra-Spike models will be

exhibited and the M135 will be displayed fitted to the new trailed hydraulic carrier frame.

Also new for '96 and being displayed for the first time at SALTEX is a range of rotary gang mowers which can be fitted with Widenmann patented unique mulching kit. With working widths from 4.2 m to 5 m these mower combinations deliver both high performance with quality finish.

Together with these products Wiedenmann will be displaying a full range of collection equipment.

**Perryfields Holdings Ltd - Stand K1** - will be exhibiting the pro range of amenity grass seed mixtures, wild flowers and fertilisers. Perryfields are one of the UK's largest seed suppliers being the first to attain ISO 9002 quality assurance.

They supply to many of the UK's top sporting venues, turf growers and landscape contractors.

To cope with the increased demand for conservation areas Perryfields offers a range of native wild flower seed mixtures and wild flower

plantlets.

Pro range mixtures are available directly from Perryfields on free national next day carrier.

Technical staff are available to answer any questions and to provide quotations.

**Supaturf - Stand E16** - will display its latest range of sport and amenity fertilisers called Intafaze.

For over 30 years Supaturf fertilisers have been the favourite choice of many groundsmen and greenkeepers. New Intafaze is designed to complement the company's more traditional products to offer a wider range of options to suit individual circumstances needs and approach.

Intafaze is a compacted granular phased release fertiliser available in two formulations and holds its nitrogen in two forms - the traditional ammonium sulphate for fast release and methylene urea for up to three to six months after application.

Spring, summer and autumn grades of Intafaze are available all of which are suitable for fine turf, fairways and sports field applications.

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AD REF 421

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AD REF 516

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Root Zone is one of a new range of sand and top dressing products from HMC under the Pro-Sport brand for use in the construction and maintenance of modern sports and leisure facilities.

Formulated to provide a variety of grades to suit all applications, HMC Root Zone benefits from the same quality criteria applied to all HMC products.



The HMC high quality standards ensure that the product has a consistent performance each and every time. Nationwide availability supported by fast and efficient delivery means that Root Zone is always available.



**HMC Pro-Sport Root Zone is available in three specific blends:**

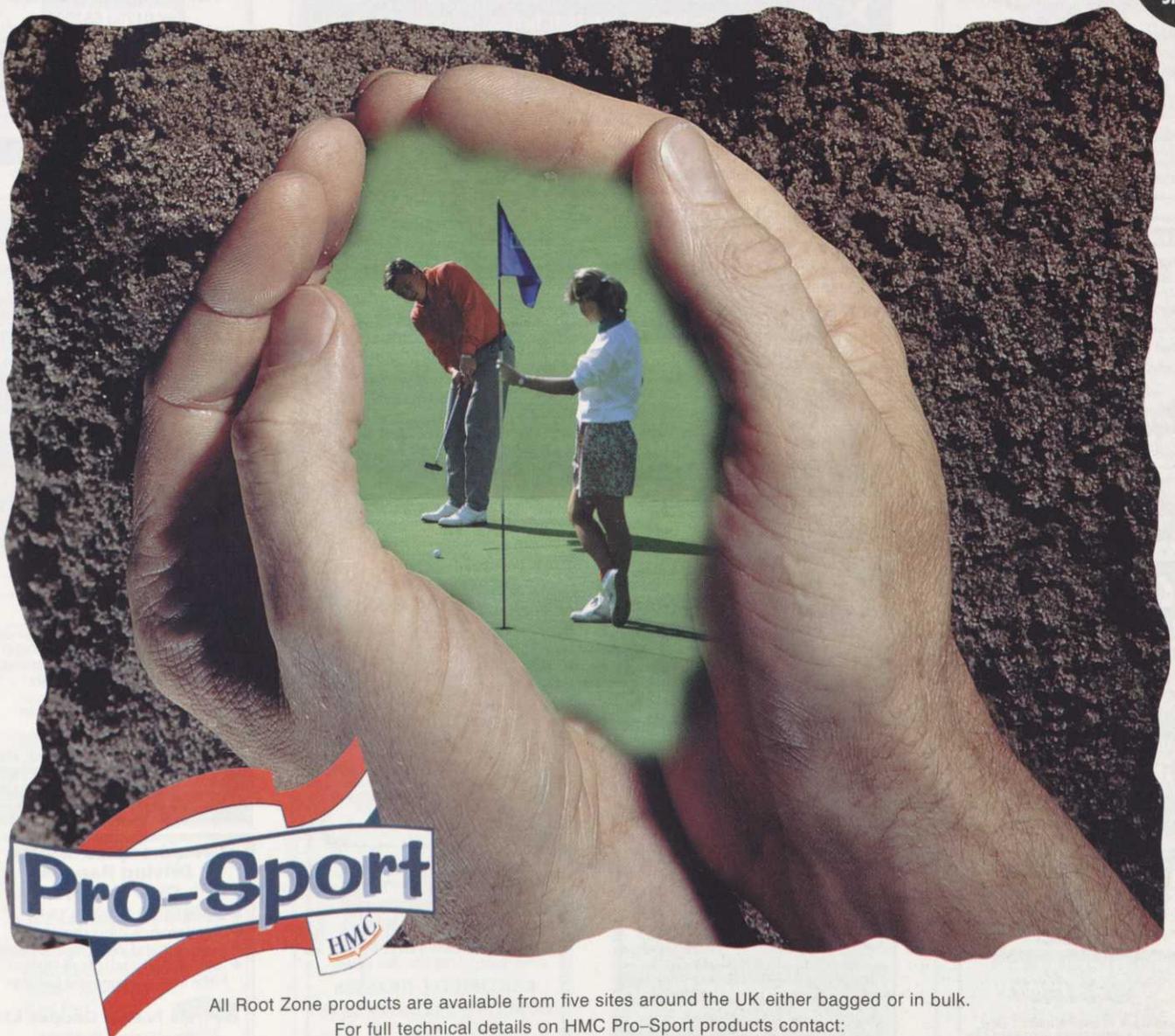
**USGA** – top of the range, designed to achieve water permeability at the highest levels. Tested to meet the stringent USGA recommendations.

**Golf** – a blend formulated to suit the majority of prestige golf course developments.

**Sports Pitch** – the ideal formula for hard wearing surfaces.



**SEE US  
AT SALTEx**  
Stand R35



All Root Zone products are available from five sites around the UK either bagged or in bulk.

For full technical details on HMC Pro-Sport products contact:

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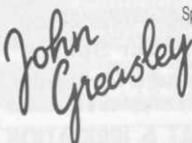
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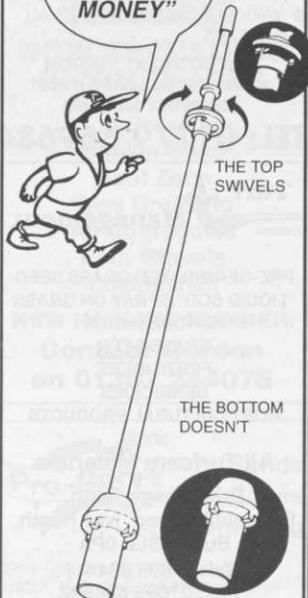


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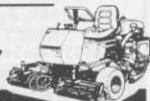
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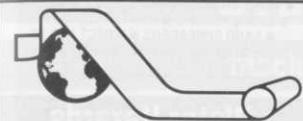
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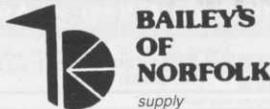
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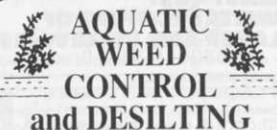
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The applicant will need to be experienced, qualified and self motivated.

Please apply in writing to:

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### Welshpool Golf Club

requires

## WORKING HEAD GREENKEEPER

18 holes upland course designed by James Braid.

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Please send a full Curriculum Vitae by 30 August 1996 to:

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### Hayling Golf Club

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to maintain this traditional championship links course operating in new facilities and with modern equipment.

The successful applicant must have:

- Previous experience as Head Greenkeeper
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Applications, together with CV, should be addressed to;

**The Secretary  
Hayling Golf Club  
Links Lane  
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## Bramley Golf Club

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- course maintenance
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- ability to control and motivate staff

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Salary will be commensurate with experience and qualifications. No accommodation available.

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Applications must be received by  
31st August 1996 to:

**The Secretary,  
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## Powfoot Golf Club

Invites applications for the post of

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This well-known golf club seeks the services of a qualified, working Assistant Head Greenkeeper. The ideal candidate will demonstrate a sound knowledge and have practical experience of all aspects of greenkeeping and course maintenance and should have the ability to manage, supervise and motivate staff. Possession of a spraying certificate, experience of machinery and automatic irrigation systems are also required.

There are excellent promotion prospects for suitable applicant, salary negotiable commensurate with experience.

Applications, in writing by 24 August 1996 together with CV should be sent to:

Mr NA Wilson  
Secretary and Treasurer  
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DG12 5QE  
Tel/Fax: 01461 700276

## Golfclub Herford (Germany)

wishes to appoint

# HEAD GREENKEEPER

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

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The Club require to fill the vacancy of

# HEAD GREENKEEPER

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Closing date: 14 September 1996

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Please apply in writing with CV to:

Basil Warren, Secretary, Ilfracombe Golf Club, Hele Bay, Ilfracombe, North Devon EX34 9RT

This year is the diamond anniversary of the Midland Section and Scott MacCallum meets up with a Greenkeeper who was there from Day One

# It only seems like yesterday

In March 1936 25 year-old Reg Pugh was one of 30 greenkeepers who attended a meeting in the Hope and Anchor Hotel in Edmond St, Birmingham, with a view to forming the Midland Section.

Sixty years on Reg's recollections of the meeting are as if it were only yesterday.

"It was Chaired by Mr E.G. Hawtree and our first President was Carl Bretherton, first Chairman was George Hart of Gay Hill – coincidentally the course at which current National Chairman Dean Cleaver is Course Manager – and the first Secretary was Ernest Collingwood of Sandwell Park," says Reg, without recourse to records or diaries.

"I'm the last remaining of the original members who formed the Midland Section. It's a shame really. Where the meeting was held doesn't exist either any more because of the restoration of Birmingham. There's a place called Fletcher's Wharf where it used to be."

The Midland Section was the second section in the country to be formed, following on from the Southern Section, but was the first to allow assistants to play in tournaments. It grew quickly to the extent that there were over 100 members by the early 40s.

"Initially the main purpose of the Section was to hold and run golf events but education became a part of the Section in the mid 50s. We were going to make a presentation to F.G. Hawtree for services to the Association but it was decided that we should form the Apprentice Scheme for green-

keepers as a tribute to him instead," explained Reg who was Midland Secretary and Competition Secretary for 20 years and who is still now Senior Vice President of the National Public Courses Association for England.

Reg's memory stretches back to the days when horses pulled carts around the golf course and the special shoes they wore to prevent them digging up the turf.

"When I first started work I used a scythe and a sickle and we only had one push mower to cut the greens. Someone cut nine in the morning and someone else cut the other nine in the afternoon – everything else was horse drawn triples.

"Equipment wise there is no comparison now. If people had told me years ago that someone would sit on a machine to mow a green I wouldn't have believed them.

"The greenkeeping profession has come on leaps and bounds. I think it's marvellous. There is a huge number of people involved in it now whereas before we were working in isolation."

As a reminder of the uncertain nature of the profession he can recall an incident at Halesowen Golf Club.

"I had the misfortune to break a mower when I was crossing a brook – one of the cast iron sockets at the front snapped – and I lost my job because of it."

An excellent golfer he played to scratch or one for 15 years from 1939 and was still playing to seven when he finally gave up three years ago, regularly beating his age comfortably.



"I was noted as a long hitter. When I was in the RAF police in the war I was able to play free at Royal Lytham and I can remember driving the green at the 16th and another occasion when, because of a hard frost and the ground was so firm I hit the clubhouse wall from the tee at the 18th.

"I didn't play county golf because I was a member of a municipal course. If you didn't have a wallet they didn't want to know," he says matter of factly.

Reg was also Head Greenkeeper at Sandwell when the first tournament to have a first prize of £1000 was played in Britain.

"It was won by Peter Butler who was born and brought up in these parts," said Reg who lives in Warley in the West Midlands.

The aftermath of that tournament saw the end of Reg's greenkeeping career.

"It rained all that week and I had to go back at the end of the day in the tractor and tow cars out of the car park. I got wetter and wetter, caught pleurisy for a year and had to retire from ill health."

After a lifetime in the industry Reg has some advice for the greenkeepers of today.

"Their first and major thought should be for the turf. I had to

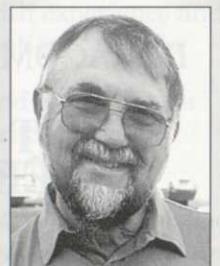
find all my own formulas for dressing, changing sulphurs to get the correct mixtures etc.

"I could write you a formula to mix on your own lawn, I don't care where you live, and you'd be tripping over the grass in a fortnight. It is no trouble to me to get grass to grow."

Looking back at his career and the progress since that meeting in March 1936 Reg has no regrets about his career.

"I've had a wonderful life in greenkeeping and it's remarkable the amount of change that's happened in the job."

## THE BIGGEST MISTAKE I'VE EVER MADE AND WOULD ADMIT TO IS:



"Coming into greenkeeping too late in life because I've had more happiness in the last 10 years than I had in the previous 37"

Peter Biscoe, retired

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